

4-H

Dairy Goat Proficiency Program

A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The **Dairy Goat Proficiency program** helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project.

Your project leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. You will learn the basic principles of animal science by owning and/or caring for and keeping records on one or more head of livestock. You will acquire information and an understanding of dairy goat production. You will have the opportunity to learn and practice principles of cleanliness and sanitation as applied to the production and care of milk production. You will learn about the marketing, processing, distribution, consumption and use of dairy goat products.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- ✦ The **4-H Publications Catalog** lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- ✦ The **4-H Educational Resources and Lending Library** at your county 4-H office includes other books, videos and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.
- ✦ Check to see if there are any local dairy goat groups or organizations in your community. These groups often conduct educational activities and sponsor goat shows. You can get more information on dairy goats from bulletins, magazines, and books. 4-H programs in many states, the federal government, and many major feed companies distribute informative publications on various phases of dairy goat management. Local dairy goat breeders can be an excellent source of help.

There are five levels in the Project Proficiency Program. Levels must be completed in consecutive order. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- **Level I - “Explorer”**, you begin to learn about the many different aspects of raising dairy goats.
- **Level II - “Producer”**, you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising dairy goats and producing milk.
- **Level III - “Consumer”**, you become an experienced dairy goat raiser.
- **Level IV - “Leader”**, allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- **Level V - “Researcher”**, you carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of dairy goats, and prepare a paper or portfolio.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date and initial each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, place the form in your record book, turn your record book into your club leader. Your club leader will notify the 4-H office you have completed a level. You will receive your proficiency award at the Annual 4-H Achievement Program. As each level is completed a Certificate of Achievement may be also awarded by the project leader or club.

Dairy Goat

Level I - Explorer

Initial & date
as completed:

- ____ 1. Identify and describe three breeds of dairy goats and their production.
- ____ 2. Identify parts of a dairy goat from diagram or live example.
- ____ 3. Demonstrate how to properly and safely handle and transport a dairy goat.
- ____ 4. Describe the basic housing and equipment that a beginner needs for the health, care, and safety of a goat.
- ____ 5. Explain the nutritional requirements of a goat at each development stage (how, when, what, how much, kind of feed)
- ____ 6. Explain how to tell when a goat is ill and when to call for assistance
- ____ 7. Demonstrate how to prepare a goat for milking and how to milk.
- ____ 8. Explain these terms: buck, doe, chevon, dam, kid, and sire.
- ____ 9. Explain why and how to permanently tattoo, mark, or tag a goat for identification.
- ____ 10. Submit management records for a minimum of 90 days that indicate how often you provided fresh water, clean feed, clean housing, and general care of a goat.
- ____ 11. Demonstrate basic grooming techniques and equipment necessary for a goat.
- ____ 12. Define fifteen important, basic terms used in your dairy goat project.
- ____ 13. Find out the regulations to raising/keeping animals where you live. Explain at least two courtesies expected for animal husbandry in your community/neighborhood.
- ____ 14. Describe three health and safety issues related to a dairy goat project.
- ____ 15. Share one aspect of your project with other project members.
- ____ 16. Describe or demonstrate what you can do to protect your animal during hot and cold weather.

Member's Name & Signature _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's and & Signature: _____ Date: _____

KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH YOUR PROJECT RECORDS.

Dairy Goat

Level II - Producer

Initial & date
as completed:

- ____ 1. Describe some differences between six breeds. Identify how/why color is important in the standards of these breeds.
- ____ 2. Demonstrate how to properly use and sanitize milking equipment.
- ____ 3. Describe the desirable characteristics in the conformation of a dairy goat. (pointing out desirable and undesirable points and any visible blemishes and unsoundness)
- ____ 4. Describe desirable characteristics in the mammary structure of a goat.
- ____ 5. Participate in the permanent identification process of a dairy goat or goat herd.
- ____ 6. Participate in the care or preparation of facilities for production, breeding, or birthing.
- ____ 7. Demonstrate basic grooming techniques and equipment necessary for a dairy goat.
- ____ 8. Describe how to feed a dairy goat throughout one production cycle (from breeding to weaning)
- ____ 9. Describe and give control measures for at least five diseases or problem conditions.
- ____ 10. Visit an established operation and learn how the animals are housed, fed, watered, bred, how young are cared for, and what and how products are marketed.
- ____ 11. Demonstrate competency in dairy goat showmanship.
- ____ 12. Identify which breeds are raised in your area and why.
- ____ 13. Identify the parts of the hoof, and demonstrate/explain proper hoof care.
- ____ 14. Keep an account of cash expenses for equipment and materials and at the end of your year compare your cost to the value of your project.
- ____ 15. Do something creative with your project, or display your goat outside of your project group.
- ____ 16. Help someone else by sharing your knowledge or by giving away a product from your project to demonstrate positive citizenship.

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Dairy Goat

Level III - Consumer

Initial & date
as completed:

- ____ 1. Demonstrate how to read and complete one of the management records required in dairy goat operation (example: pedigree, registration, production record, etc.)
- ____ 2. Contact a local, state, or national goat breed association and report what it has to offer.
- ____ 3. Report on the requirements for selling milk or milk products to the general public.
- ____ 4. Make a chart that explains how good selection can improve your stock. Explain in breeding, line breeding, out breeding, and the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- ____ 5. Invite and introduce a guest speaker at one of your meetings.
- ____ 6. Describe the digestive system's anatomy and physiology, for a goat and how it differs, from other animals.
- ____ 7. Explain the different types of feeds/diets and their nutritional components (fat, Carbohydrates, protein, minerals, vitamins, water) and nutritional values.
- ____ 8. Explain or describe five diseases or health conditions, and the treatment and/or preventions not covered in level II.
- ____ 9. Report on a secondary aspect or by-product of the dairy goat industry.
- ____ 10. Keep a personal reference library of literature that will be helpful in your project.
- ____ 11. Demonstrate at least three methods of administering medications.
- ____ 12. Demonstrate how to take and record the normal vital signs (temperature, respiration, heart rate, etc).
- ____ 13. Describe five ways to save money and management strategies in raising dairy goats.
- ____ 14. Develop an advertisement or marketing strategy for your animal or animal by-product.
- ____ 15. Alone or with a group, plan and complete a community service activity related to your project.

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Project Leader's and & Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Proficiency Level IV - Leader

Initial & date
as completed:

- ____1. Complete one year as junior or teen leader in this project.
- ____2. Assist younger members in designing and constructing needed equipment
- ____3. Prepare teaching materials for use at project meetings.
- ____4. Develop and put on a demonstration of a judging event or training a junior team for such an event.
- ____5. Speak on a project-based subject before an organization other than your 4-H group.
- ____6. Assist at a show as a clerk, secretary, recorder, assistant to the judge, ring master, with set-up, registration, etc...
- ____7. Assist younger members in learning a specific topic in the project.
- ____8. Develop your own special activity. Chart your progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and problems, and report on findings.

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Proficiency Level V - Researcher

Initial & date
as completed:

- ____ 1. Carry through and report on the results of a demonstration comparing measurable differences in management procedure. (experiment)
- ____ 2. Prepare a paper of 300 words or more on one of the following subjects. Orally summarize report at project meeting or other educational event.
- Management of animal
 - Feeds, feeding, and nutrition
 - Diseases, prevention, control, and general sanitation
 - Markets and methods of marketing
 - Reproduction, breeding, and genetics
 - By-product preparation of market, how marketed ,and used
 - Keeping and using records as a basis for improving your animal project
 - Other

Member's Name & Signature: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's and & Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

has completed the _____ Proficiency

in _____ County.

Explorer

Producer

Consumer

Leader

Researcher

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

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