



# Animal Science 4-H Goat

## North Dakota 4-H Project Sheet

In the 4-H goat project, you can select from a dairy animal or a market animal. Dairy animals allow you to start your own herd while market animals produce meat products for people.

- Learn basic principles of animal science by owning and caring for and keeping production and financial records on one or more head of livestock.
- Demonstrate knowledge of sound breeding, feeding and management practices.
- Learn the value of scientific research and its influence on animals and the meat industry.



**Pass it on!**

Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

### Communication

- Teach someone the important traits in a goat.
- Create a poster showing goat products and proper uses.
- Share a presentation on the importance of following drug labels.

### Citizenship

- Volunteer to do goat promotion presentations.
- Provide goat product testing at a local vendor.
- Volunteer to help at the county fair.

## Here's what you can do all year!

### Starting Out Basic/Level 1

- Know your goat breeds.
- Select your animal.
- Identify parts of the animal.
- Train your goat to lead.
- Feed your animal.
- Learn to show your animal.
- Groom your animal.
- Learn about all the different goat byproducts.
- Determine quality yield and grades of goats.
- Recognize a healthy animal.
- Learn about milk grades.

### Learning More Intermediate/Level 2

- Ramp up your judging and milk-grading skills.
- Make ethical decisions.
- Understand the digestive system.
- Identify common external parasites and other health issues.
- Understand medication uses and storage, how to administer the medication and how it relates to food safety.
- Learn the appropriate handling techniques and housing for goats.

### Expanding Horizons Advanced/Level 3

- Learn about EPDs and select a sire for your animals.
- Balance a goat ration and understand feed quality.
- Learn about breeding and reproduction techniques.
- Identify and learn to treat common diseases.
- Evaluate meat breed carcasses and market your product.
- Evaluate dairy breed products.

### Leadership

- Arrange a tour of your farm.
- Lead a dairy and meat goat grooming and showmanship clinic for other 4-H members.

### Entrepreneurship

- Learn how to make and market products from dairy goat milk.

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Learn more at [www.ndsu.edu/4h/](http://www.ndsu.edu/4h/) or contact your county NDSU Extension office.



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### Opportunities to explore goats:

- Learn about goat quality assurance.
- Visit a local feed mill and see how feed ingredients are mixed, weighed and blended to make a complete ration.
- Learn how to evaluate meat cuts, quality and yield grade, and how these affect taste and cost.
- Compare feed tags from different companies.
- Ride with a local veterinarian to learn about animal health.
- Attend a livestock show to listen to a judge give oral reasons and witness the differences in judging livestock species.
- Exhibit at or attend local, regional, state or national goat shows and conferences.
- Attend livestock camp as part of the ND 4-H Camp and bring your goat, or participate in the community service project, bringing ideas back to your community.
- Take a class on making dairy goat milk products.
- Is it fair time? Consider showing in your county fair goat show or the North Dakota State Fair.
- Contact your county NDSU Extension office for other local workshops, activities and events.
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine? Schedule a visit with North Dakota State University to explore those majors ([www.ndsu.edu](http://www.ndsu.edu)).



### Exhibit Ideas

- Participate in the 4-H goat show.
- Consider an exhibit, notebook or display showing what you've learned in a related topic:
  - ⇒ Nutritional goat value of dairy goat products
  - ⇒ Goat meat cuts and proper preparation
  - ⇒ Feeding rations
  - ⇒ Preventive vaccinations
  - ⇒ Photos of different goat breeds
  - ⇒ Daily routine in caring for animals
  - ⇒ Making a rope halter
  - ⇒ Grooming techniques
  - ⇒ Developing a foundation goat flock
  - ⇒ Best care techniques for newborns
  - ⇒ Goat byproducts
  - ⇒ Display of feeds or ration contents or analysis
  - ⇒ How to tattoo
  - ⇒ Research on how check-off dollars are used
  - ⇒ Video on fitting a goat
  - ⇒ Make a scrapbook of your animal(s)
  - ⇒ Continue exhibiting the same animal(s) to show the progression and how they've changed

#### 4-H Resources

##### [National 4-H Curriculum](#)

##### **Dairy Goat**

- [Getting Your Goat \(GBG141\)](#)
- [Stepping Out \(GBG142\)](#)
- [Showing the Way \(GBG143\)](#)
- [Helper's Guide \(GBG246\)](#)

##### **Meat Goat**

- [Just Browsing \(GBG144\)](#)
- [Growing with Meat Goats \(GBG145\)](#)
- [Meating the Future \(GBG146\)](#)
- [Helper's Guide \(GBG247\)](#)

#### Other Resources

- [Goat Showmanship Manual \(GBG091\)](#)
- [Goat Learning Lab Kit — Educational Trunk](#)
- [Educational Videos and DVDs for checkout](#)
- [American Dairy Goat Association](#)

#### Recordkeeping

- [4-H Dairy Production Record \(GBF095\)](#)
- [Market Animal Project Record \(GB096\)](#)
- [Planning for My Project Adventure \(PA093\)](#)
- [ND 4-H Project Plan \(PA095\)](#)
- [ND 4-H Plan of Action \(PA096\)](#)
- [ND 4-H Participation Summary \(PA098\)](#)