

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

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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.

Member's Name & Signature: _____ Date: _____

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.

Member's Name & Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

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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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Leader Tips for Utilizing the 4-H Project Proficiency Program

The goal of the Lake County 4-H Proficiency program is to give members recognition and rewards in a timely manner and in a variety of ways to meet the diverse needs of today's youth.

It is also designed to assist youth in measuring themselves against 'standards of excellence' Each proficiency is comprised of five skill levels and should be designed to increase in scope and difficulty. The levels are:

- ◆ Level I – Explorer
- ◆ Level II – Producer
- ◆ Level III – Consumer
- ◆ Level IV – Leader
- ◆ Level V – Researcher

The proficiencies are three-fold in purpose:

- 1) To provide youth opportunities to sample abroad array of experiences, measure personal progress, and become self-directed learners.
- 2) To provide a standard of excellence where members are recognized for knowledge and skills they have mastered.
- 3) To provide guidelines for leaders to enhance and expand project content and experiences.

The Proficiency program is **not** designed to be an award, or a prize for the best in competition. Instead, members are **rewarded** for their personal progress. The intent of the proficiency program is to increase performance, while allowing members to be motivated, to be creative and to take risks.

The proficiencies are not a test. Youth should not be quizzed at the end of each 4-H year to determine how much they have learned. The proficiencies should be given to each youth member as a set of goals that they, as individuals, can work toward over one or more years. Completion of all five levels of a proficiency indicates "mastery of a subject.

The proficiency program is voluntary. Not all youth will find this type of activity rewarding. Many youth enter projects with their own goals. They join to learn a specific skill or group of skills, but not to achieve mastery of a subject. Additionally, not all project leaders will choose to go into such depth for each subject area. Completion of Level I – **Explorer**, may be all that is offered by a particular project leader.

We encourage leaders to give proficiency guides to members sometime during the first or second year in a project. At this point, the leader allows the member to determine which skills and/or knowledge areas he or she wants to master. Youth members can work on skills in several levels

at the same time. The leader's job is to check each item in a level when the member has completed it.

For the skill areas which require demonstration, youth members may demonstrate individually to the leader (project or teen), the group, or the club at a local meeting. Members are not required to demonstrate in front of a group as we are measuring mastery of a subject, not public speaking ability. Some leaders leave time at the end of each project meeting for members to work on their proficiencies.

Leaders are cautioned not to accept a questionable answer. This indicates an incomplete mastery of the particular skill or body of knowledge. If the youth member is unsure of the correct method or term, use this time to teach the individual and allow member a month to think about it and review. The youth member will return with the knowledge learned and present it with confidence.

Allow a significant amount of time (one month) to lapse between the time a skill is taught and a member demonstrates mastery. This allows time to practice and achieve mastery, not merely reflect on a newly learned skill.

Reward immediately! Recognition is most meaningful when it is presented immediately following a learning experience. Initial and date each item as the member completes the skill. When all items in a level are completed, sign the Certificate of Achievement and notify your County 4-H Office.

A Proficiency medal, will be sponsored by the Lake County Council and awarded at the county achievement program when a skill level is completed. Youth may receive more than one medal per year. They may do this by completing two or more consecutive levels in one project area, or by completing one level in two or more projects.

For members to qualify for proficiency awards they must complete all the requirements below and give a 4-H presentation during the 4-H year.

- ❖ Have up-to-date and complete enrollment packet and enrollment fees on file at the 4-H office.
- ❖ Attend 80% of club and project meetings.
- ❖ Members must provide 4-H Records to the club leader for project completion verification. Records must include **Personal Development Report** and **Annual Project Report** form for each project a member is applying for a Proficiency Award, and the completed Proficiency Form.