

4-H

Dairy Goat Proficiency Program

A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The 4-H 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 University of California Davis has free resources available online by visiting: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/4HYouthDevelopment/>. This site lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- The Solano County 4-H Resources and Lending Library at our 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 is a breeder's organization in your community that conducts educational activities and shows. Local breeders are excellent sources of help and information.

There are five levels in the Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- ◆ Level I – “Explorer”, you begin to learn about 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.
- ◆ 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 each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your leader will sign the Certificate of Achievement.

DAIRY GOAT Level I - Explorer

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. Identify three breeds of dairy goats and their production.
- _____ 2. Identify parts of a dairy goat from a diagram or live goat.
- _____ 3. Identify how to properly and safely handle and transport a dairy goat.
- _____ 4. Describe the basic housing and equipment that a beginner needs for health, care, and safety of a goat.
- _____ 5. Explain the daily nutrition 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 a dairy goat project.
- _____ 13. Find out the regulations to raising/keeping animals where you live. Explain at least two courtesies expected from animal husbandry in your community and neighborhoods.
- _____ 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 or cold weather.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

DAIRY GOAT Level II - Producer

Date _____
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.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

DAIRY GOAT Level III - Consumer

Date
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 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, protein, carbohydrates, 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 2.
- _____ 9. Report on a secondary aspect or by-product of the dairy goat industry.
- _____ 10. Keep a personal reference library or 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 Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

DAIRY GOAT
Level IV - Leader

Date
Completed

- _____ 1. Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year.
- _____ 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 or judging event, or train a junior team for a judging activity.
- _____ 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 or ring master, or assist with set up, registration, etc.
- _____ 7. Teach younger members about learning a specific topic in the project.
- _____ 8. Develop your own special project-related activity. Chart your progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and problems, and report on your accomplishment to your club.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

DAIRY GOAT
Level V - Researcher

Date _____
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:
- 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 for market, how marketed and used
 - Keeping and using records as a basis for improving your animal project
 - Other
- _____ 3. Prepare a speech or illustrated talk to orally summarize your findings and present at a club, project meeting or other educational event.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

has completed the Dairy Goat Proficiency

in Solano County.

Explorer

Producer

Consumer

Leader

Researcher

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Initials

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