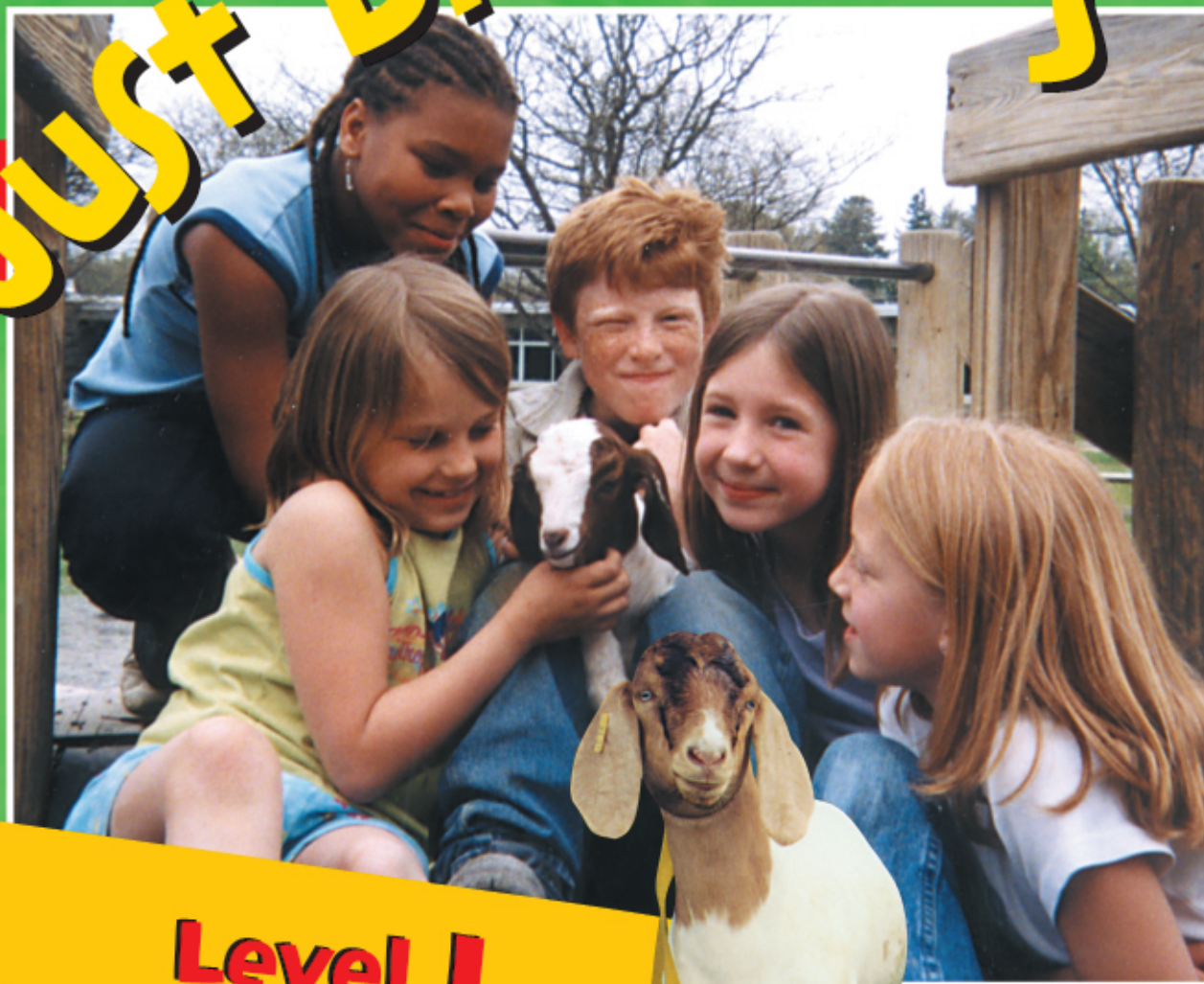




National 4-H Curriculum
BU-07909

Just Browsing



Level I

Meat Goat Activity Guide

Name _____

County _____



REVIEWED & RECOMMENDED
National 4-H Curriculum

Note to the Helper

Congratulations! A young person has asked you to be his/her meat goat project helper. As a helper you are in a great position to help youth grow and develop in positive ways as they learn about meat goats and about themselves. You can nurture and cultivate their interest in this project by guiding their planning, helping them carry out their projects and recognizing them for a job well done.

You have a key role. Girls and boys can't do this project without you! You can help young people get the most out of this project through your enthusiasm and ability to ask thought-provoking questions. With your help, youth can set goals, identify resources, practice presentations and evaluate their own progress as they complete the Meat Goat Achievement Program.

Your Role

- Become familiar with the material in this activity guide and the *Helper's Guide*
- Support youth in their efforts to set goals and complete each Achievement Program
- Date and initial the activities on the Meat Goat Achievement Program as the youth completes them and the two of you discuss them
- Help them to get to know themselves, including their strengths and weaknesses
- Encourage the use of the experiential learning cycle described on this page

The Meat Goat "Skills for Life" Series



This guide, *Just Browsing*, is the first in the series of three for youth that also includes Meat Goat 2 *Growing With Meat Goats*, Meat Goat 3 *Meating the Future* and the *Meat Goat Helper's Guide*. The three youth guides have been designed to be developmentally appropriate for grades 3–5, 6–8 and 9–12 respectively, but may be used by youth in any grade based on their project skills and expertise.

All activities have several parts: A description of the skills to be practiced, discussion questions, suggestions for additional activities and other helpful information. The success indicator listed for each activity is an excellent way to evaluate the youth's success. Each of the guides also includes an Achievement Program to encourage youth to learn more about meat goats while developing important life skills. In the *Helper's Guide* you will find another evaluation piece titled "Evaluating the Impact." Use this before beginning each level and after the youth has completed each level.

Acknowledgements

2003 Design Team:

Cynthia Higgins, Florida
Amanda Howell, Washington
Hubert A. Wilkerson II, Louisiana
Jeff W. Howard, Texas
Sakett Howard, Texas
Mark Heitstuman, Washington
Mike Yoder, North Carolina
Sonya Lindsey, Oregon
Stephen Schafer, Wyoming

Susan Schoenian, Maryland
Susan Truehart Garey, Delaware
Tatiana Stanton, New York
Susan Kerr, Washington
Jerry Newman, Washington
Cheryl Williams Cosner, Washington
Linda Williams, Washington
Ashley Conway, Washington

Design Team Coordinator:
Susan Kerr

Writer and editor:
Kate Veristain

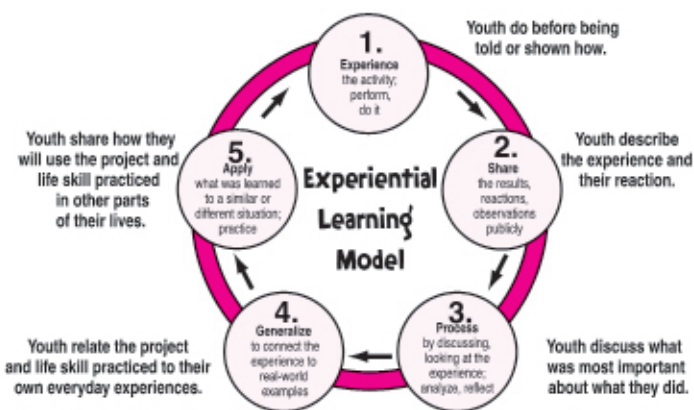
Design and Production:
Northern Design Group, Minnesota

Each activity is designed so the young person has an opportunity to learn by doing before being told or shown how. Your challenge is to stay in the background while the youth explores the activity and learns from the experience, even when it doesn't work the way it's expected to. You can help most effectively by listening as the young person considers the questions and draws conclusions. At times the activity may call for you to be a resource person for content or ideas.

The fourth publication in this series, *Meat Goat Helper's Guide*, provides additional learn-by-doing activities that can be adapted to the family, the classroom, after-school child care, 4-H project groups, clubs or other groups. You'll also find helpful hints about characteristics of youth, life skill development, teaching experientially, meeting ideas, as well as answers to many of the activities in the youth guides.

Experiential Learning Model

This five-step model is used in each activity in this series.



Pfeiffer, J.W., & Jones, J.E., "Reference Guide to Handbooks and Annuals" © 1983 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Reprinted with permission of John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

As you can see, the youth first attempt the activity on their own. After the youth do as much as they can and answer the questions, you then meet together and discuss: What did they do? What was important about what they did? How does what they did relate to their lives? And finally, how might they use the life and project skills practiced in the future? Your ability to ask additional thought-provoking questions and to clarify and expand the youth's ideas will add to the educational experience.

**Good luck in your role as Project Helper
and thanks for contributing to the
positive development of our youth!**

What's Inside?

For more on meat goats,
look for these other guides
in this set.

Level 2

Growing with Meat Goats

- Chapter 1 Health and Disease**
 - Is Your Wether Under the Weather?
 - Put Your Veterinarian on Speed Dial!
- Chapter 2 Selection**
 - Choosing Your Genes
- Chapter 3 Feeds and Nutrition**
 - Mares Eat Oats and Does Eat Oats...
 - and Sometimes Toxic Plants!
 - Through Thick & Thin
- Chapter 4 Husbandry of Animals and Resources**
 - The Scoop on Poop
 - Being Water Wise
 - What You Don't Know
- Chapter 5 Reproduction**
 - And... ACTION!
 - The Birds and the Bees
 - No Kidding Around!
 - I Kid You Not
- Chapter 6 Marketing and Products**
 - 'Round the Ring and Back Again
 - Holy Cubeito!
- Meat Goat Talk 2 (Glossary)
- Meat Goat Resources



Level 3

Meeting the Future

- Chapter 1 Health and Disease**
 - As the Worm Turns
 - The War on Germs
- Chapter 2 Selection**
 - Behind the Scenes
 - Talk the Talk
 - Who's Your Daddy?
- Chapter 3 Feeds and Nutrition**
 - It's a Balancing Act
 - In Search of Greener Pastures
- Chapter 4 Husbandry of Animals and Resources**
 - Is That Ethical?
 - This Land Is Your Land
 - Ee-i-Ee-i-Oh!
- Chapter 5 Reproduction**
 - Four for Dinner, Please
- Chapter 6 Marketing and Products**
 - Getting Market Savvy
 - Meat, Milk, and More
- Meat Goat Talk 3 (Glossary)
- Meat Goat Resources



Helper's Guide

- Youth Learning Characteristics
- Developing Life Skills
- Teaching and Learning
- Experientially
- Chapter 1 Planning and Organizing**
 - Looking Ahead
 - For the Record
- Chapter 2 Project Skills**
 - What's On Your Calendar?
 - All Goats Are Not Created Equal
 - Plate It Safe
- Chapter 3 Games and Activities**
 - Learning Doesn't Have to Be "Booring!"
 - Skillathon Time!
 - Going On the Road
 - Let Me Tell You All About It!
- Chapter 4 Time to Think**
 - Believe It or Not?
 - Better Living with a Couple of Bucks and Lots of Doe
 - On the Path to a Career
- Chapter 5 Developing Character**
 - Helping Animals Fare Well
 - Accepting the End
- Glossary
- Meat Goat Meeting Ideas
- Answer Key: Meat Goat 1, 2 and 3
- Evaluating the Impact
- Meat Goat Resources



Just Browsing^{Level 1}

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Note to Project Helper | Inside Front Cover |
| What's Inside? | 1 |
| Having Fun As You Learn About Meat Goats | 2 |
| Planning Guide | 3 |
| Achievement Program | 4 |
| Parts of the Meat Goat | 5 |

Chapter 1 Selection

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Name That Part! | 6 |
| Choosing Wisely | 8 |
| Kikos and Pygmies and Boers—Oh My! | 10 |

Chapter 2 Marketing and Products

| | |
|---|----|
| We Can't Have Quality Without "U"! | 13 |
| Meat or Milk? | 16 |
| There's No Business Like Show Business! | 18 |
| Be a Sport | 20 |

Chapter 3 Health and Disease

| | |
|---|----|
| Ding Dong Bell, Is That Kid Feeling Well? | 22 |
|---|----|

Chapter 4 Feeds and Nutrition

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| I'm Stuffed | 24 |
| Ruminate on This! | 26 |

Chapter 5 Husbandry of Animals and Resources

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Goat Cribs | 28 |
| Making Kid Cents into Big Bucks | 30 |
| Learning the Ropes | 32 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Meat Goat Talk 1 (Glossary) | 34 |
| Meat Goat Resources | 36 |



Having Fun As You Learn About Meat Goats

Let's Get Growing

Welcome to the first book in an exciting series designed to help you learn all about meat goats! Many fun and exciting activities have been planned for you. Whether you raise market or breeding animals, these activities will help you learn a lot!

If you don't have a goat yet, this book will help you decide if you want to purchase and care for one. Owning a goat is a big responsibility, and there is a lot to learn. By doing the activities in this book, you will learn how to select, feed, house, and care for a goat properly. If you already have a goat, don't worry—you will still learn a lot from these activities.

Each activity will ask you to do something, then share what you learned with your helper. You can work by yourself or as part of a group. Try to do the activity first, but ask your helper for help if you have any problems or questions.

While you are learning important goat project skills, you will also learn important skills you will use your whole life. Some of these skills are record keeping, responsibility, decision making, leadership and communication. Please share your new skills with younger and less experienced youth, too.

In *Just Browsing*, the first book in the four-part "Meat the Goat" series, you will learn how to...

- Get ready to go to a show
- Feed goats
- Identify healthy and sick animals
- Perform basic management skills
- Keep records properly
- Be a good sport
- Produce a healthy and safe product
- Select a project animal
- Identify different breeds
- Use your money wisely
- Tell the difference between milk-type and meat-type goats
- Design a good facility for your goat
- Identify parts of goats

Meat Goat 1 Project Guidelines

- Set your goals and record project highlights.
- Do a minimum of seven activities in Level 1 of the *Just Browsing* Achievement Program each year and complete the Program within three years.
- Participate in a minimum of three of the learning experiences listed on the Planning Guide each year.
- Practice and develop the life skills of making decisions, keeping records, learning marketable skills, self responsibility and others.
- Increase your meat goat knowledge and skills.

Achievement Program

While you are having fun doing the activities, you'll also be completing Level 1 of the *Just Browsing* Achievement Program. A level is included in each of the goat project activity guides. This program will help you set goals, record your successes and be recognized for your good work.

Your Project Helper

Your project helper is on your team supporting you and making learning more fun. This person may be a parent, goat breeder, project leader or advisor, a neighbor or an older friend who knows about goats. The choice is yours. As you do the activities, you'll discuss with your helper what you did by answering the questions in the "Ruminations" part of each activity. Sometimes your helper will work with you to identify resources, including people, Internet sites, organizations, events, magazines and books necessary to complete an activity. Once you have successfully completed each activity, your helper will date and initial your Achievement Program.

Write the name, phone number and E-mail address of your project helper here:

My Project Helper: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



Good Luck with Meat Goat 1
Just Browsing!

Just Browsing Planning Guide

Project Goals

Name: _____

My goat's name or number: _____

Breed: _____

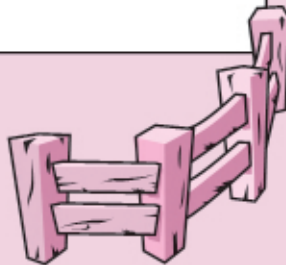
What I want to do and learn in Meat Goat 1:

Learning Experiences

Complete at least three of these activities each year:

| Year | Year | Year | Activity |
|------|------|------|--|
| | | | Give a demonstration |
| | | | Tour a meat goat operation |
| | | | Attend a meat goat project meeting |
| | | | Attend a meat goat show |
| | | | Exhibit at a fair |
| | | | Participate in a meat goat skillathon |
| | | | Be a member of a meat goat quiz bowl or judging team |
| | | | Participate in meat goat showmanship |
| | | | Try a meat goat product |
| | | | My choice: |

*Glue a picture of you and
your meat goat here.*



Project Highlights

Date and list the exciting things you do and learn:

[illegible]

Achievement Program

Directions

1. Do at least seven of the *Just Browsing* and *Udder Ideas* activities each year.
2. Complete at least 21 of the *Just Browsing* and *Udder Ideas* activities within three years to complete this Achievement Program.
3. Have your project helper date and initial the activities as you complete and discuss them.

Just Browsing Activities

Date completed

Helper's initials

Chapter 1 Selection

Name That Part!

Choosing Wisely

Kikos and Pygmies and Boers
—Oh My!

Chapter 2 Marketing and Products

We Can't Have Quality Without "U"!

Meat or Milk?

There's No Business Like
Show Business!

Be a Sport

Chapter 3 Health and Disease

Ding Dong Bell, Is That Kid
Feeling Well?

Chapter 4 Feeds and Nutrition

I'm Stuffed

Ruminate on This!

Chapter 5 Husbandry of Animals and Resources

Goat Cribs

Making Kid Cents into Big Bucks

Learning the Ropes

Udder Ideas

Select and do any of the *Udder Idea* activities in *Just Browsing* or make up your own. Record the page and number of each one you complete and get your helper's initials.

Page

#

Date completed

Helper's initials

Describe your own activity here:

Date _____ Helper's initials _____

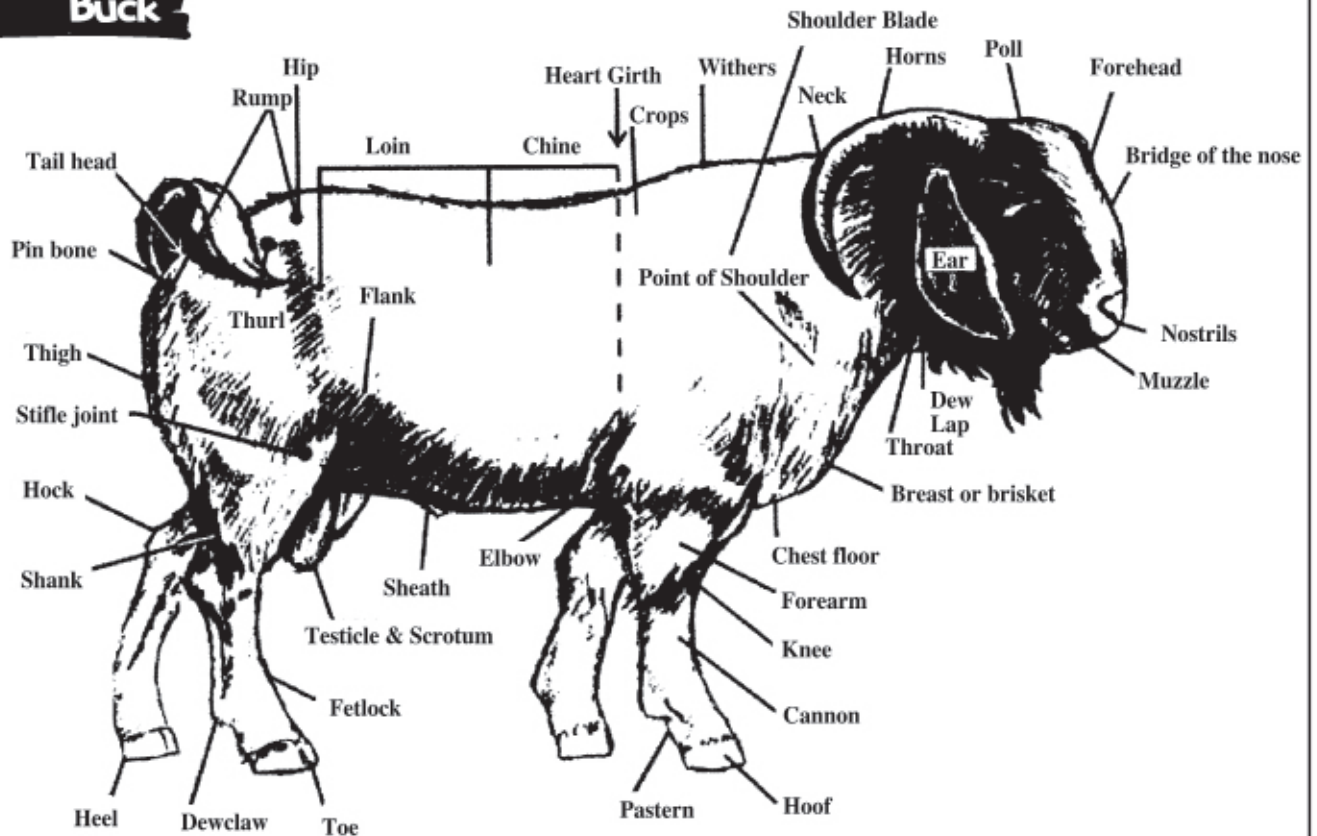
Describe your own activity here:

Date _____ Helper's initials _____

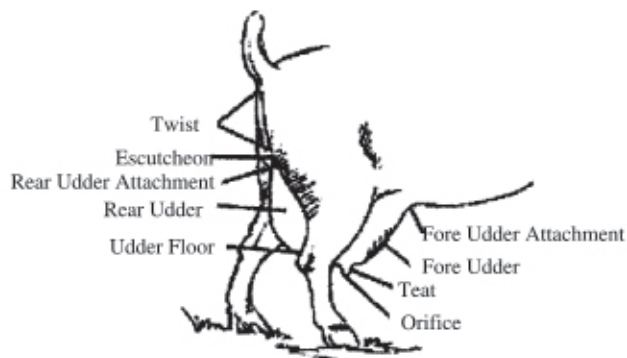


Parts of the Meat Goat

Buck

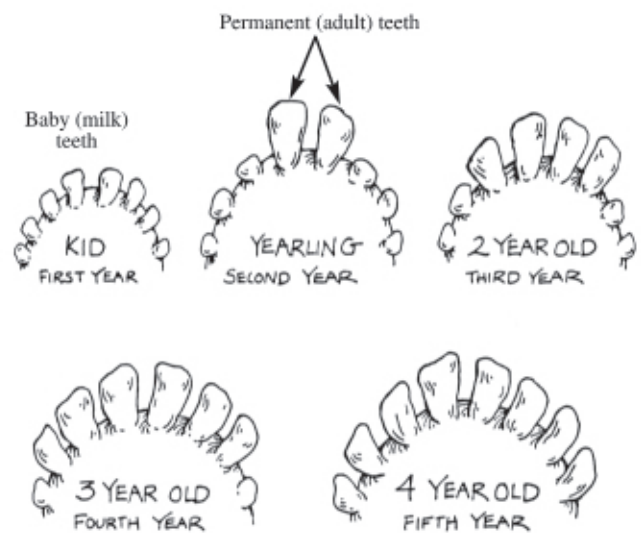


Doe



Courtesy of U.S. Boer Goat Association
Reprinted with permission

How to tell a goat's age by looking at its teeth.



From *Raising Goats for Milk and Meat* by Rosalee Sinn.
Illustrations by Barbara Carter.
Reprinted with permission.



Explore more at
www.4-hcurriculum.org
National 4-H Curriculum

- Project skill:** Identifying goat parts
Life skill: Learning to learn
What youth will do: Create a large, interactive poster they can use to learn goat parts
Success indicator: Knows the names of all meat goat parts

Name That Part!

You need to know the names of parts of your goat when you talk to your vet, breeders, other youth and judges. It's fun to learn where the parts are! In this activity, you'll create a learning tool that you can use over and over to make learning goat parts enjoyable.

Start Capering

Begin by listing the names of all the parts you know already.

Goat Parts I Know:

Now, by yourself or with a group, create a large (at least 18" x 24") chart or poster featuring a meat goat's body. You can draw one, trace one, enlarge one or use a photograph. You could also obtain a goat chart from your 4-H office; if you do, you will have to cover up the names of the parts that are printed on the chart. Using the goat part list on page 7, make a label for each goat part name needed. Attach a Velcro® sticker to the back of each name. On the chart, draw lines that point to each part you want to name. Put another Velcro® sticker at the end of each line (away from the animal)—this is where you will attach the name of each part as you learn it.

Hint: Laminating your poster and the names of parts will help them last longer.



Amanda (on the phone with her vet):
 "My goat has a bad cut!"

Vet: "Where?"

Amanda: "On that part of the leg that sticks out funny. You know..."

Vet: "WHERE?!"



"Is this the flank or the barrel?"

Ruminations Discuss the answers to these questions with your helper.

Chew Your Cud (Share)

- How did you make your poster?
- What parts did you know already?

Gain Ground (Process)

- How did making the chart and attaching each part name help you learn their names?
- Why is it important to know the names of parts?

Forage for More (Generalize)

- How could you use this same learning method to help you learn about something else?
- In what other areas of your goat project is there a lot of new information to learn?

Wattle You Do Next? (Apply)

- How can you help others learn the names of goat parts?
- What other ways could you learn about meat goat parts?



- You can use a "weight tape" to measure an animal's heart girth and estimate its weight.
- Another term for "hip" is "hook."

Meat of the Matter

From Toe to Tail

Your goat chart should definitely include the parts listed below and those shown on the meat goat on page 5. There are a lot of terms here; don't feel bad if it takes you several years to learn all of them! Check them off as you learn each part.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neck | <input type="checkbox"/> Rump |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Point of shoulder | <input type="checkbox"/> Twist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ear | <input type="checkbox"/> Back |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heart girth | <input type="checkbox"/> Loin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poll or crown | <input type="checkbox"/> Chine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brisket or breast | <input type="checkbox"/> Rib |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chest floor | <input type="checkbox"/> Crop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barrel | <input type="checkbox"/> Withers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forehead | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder blade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Point of elbow | <input type="checkbox"/> Stifle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridge of nose | <input type="checkbox"/> Horn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knee | <input type="checkbox"/> Cannon bone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nostril | <input type="checkbox"/> Wattle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toe | <input type="checkbox"/> Forearm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eye | <input type="checkbox"/> Hock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sole | <input type="checkbox"/> Coronary band |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Muzzle | <input type="checkbox"/> Saddle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heel | <input type="checkbox"/> Flank |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jaw | <input type="checkbox"/> Shank |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dewclaw | <input type="checkbox"/> Pelvic girdle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Throat | <input type="checkbox"/> Ear canal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hoof | <input type="checkbox"/> Anus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dewlap | <input type="checkbox"/> Scent glands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastern | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyelid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fetlock | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thigh | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pin bone | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail head | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tail | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thurl | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hip | |

DOES:

- ☐ Milk vein
- ☐ Udder
- ☐ Teat
- ☐ Orifice
- ☐ Floor of udder
- ☐ Fore udder attachment
- ☐ Fore udder
- ☐ Medial suspensory ligament
- ☐ Rear udder attachment
- ☐ Escutcheon ("es-KUTCH-on")
- ☐ Vulva
- ☐ Side udder attachment
- ☐ Rear udder

BUCKS:

- ☐ Scrotum
- ☐ Testicle
- ☐ Prepuce
- ☐ Penis
- ☐ Sheath

Udder Ideas

After doing these activities, talk about the results with your helper.

1. Sponsor a skillathon station where you help others learn the names of meat goat parts using your new meat goat parts poster.

Project skill: Selecting quality project animals
Life skill: Decision making
What youth will do: Determine items to consider when selecting a good project animal
Success indicator: Selects a healthy goat that meets the criteria for its intended use

Choosing Wisely

- Conformation
- Breed Association
- Standard
- Market goat
- Milk teeth
- Dam
- Sire
- Withdrawal date
- Purebred
- Wean
- Siblings

How do you know what to look for when you select your project animal? This activity will cover the basic guidelines for selecting a goat: what breeds make the best market animals, age and size of animals required, and other factors. You will improve your ability to make good decisions, too!

Start Capering

Create a paper jigsaw puzzle of a quality market goat. Each piece of the puzzle will represent an important part of a meat goat that should be looked at carefully before the animal is chosen as a project animal.

Hint: *It will be easiest to draw or trace the entire animal first, then divide it into pieces to make the puzzle.*

Tape the assembled puzzle to the page or, if it is too large, attach a photo of the assembled puzzle.



Which animal would make a better market project animal, A or B? Why?



Which market goat is a better choice for a sale that is three months away, C or D? Why?



It's OK if your puzzle goat looks a bit odd—that's part of the fun of this activity!

Ruminations

Chew Your Cud (Share)

- How did you make your puzzle?

Gain Ground (Process)

- Why is it important to learn how to select a good quality project animal?
- Why do *breed associations* establish a *standard* for ideal animals of a breed?

Forage for More (Generalize)

- What other activities in your life follow a specific set of standards, goals or rules?

Wattle You Do Next? (Apply)

- How will what you learned help you when it is time to select a market animal?
- How will what you learned help you select breeding stock?



"Conformation" means how well an animal's body conforms to that of a perfect animal of that breed and type. There is a conformation standard for each breed and type of animal. The breed association determines this standard.

Meat of the Matter

Selecting Your Project Animal

What things do you need to know before you select your project animal? Here are some suggestions:

1. What is the date of the future market sale?
2. Is there a minimum, maximum or preferred weight at sale time?
3. Will there be a penalty for being under- or overweight?
4. What selling options are available for under- or overweight animals?
5. Is there an age limit for market animals at the sale?
6. What do the animal's *dam* and *sire* look like?
7. What was the average daily gain of the parents? The animal's *siblings*?
8. How well have the animal's siblings done in market stock shows?
9. What is the animal's age?
10. What is the animal's health, worming and vaccination history?
11. Have any animals on the farm been sick recently?
12. Have any medications been administered and, if so, has the *withdrawal date* gone by?
13. Is the animal's gender a consideration?
14. Does the animal still have its *milk teeth*, and will it still have them at market time?
15. Does the animal have to be a *purebred*?
16. Is the animal *weaned*? If so, when?
17. Is the animal dehorned? Does it need to be dehorned for the show or sale?

When selecting a project animal, look for one that is healthy, bright, alert and active. It should have a wide and long loin, broad chest, straight back and gradually-sloping rump. The hindquarters should be well muscled. Look for straight legs, large bones and sturdy structure. The animal should not be narrow—it should stand wide on all four legs. (Don't worry, there will be more on selection in a later activity!)

Udder Ideas

1. Create a photo gallery of animals with good and poor conformation.
2. Ask your helper or an older youth to help you create a table to predict market dates for animals at various starting weights, given a final market weight of 80# and an average daily gain of 0.5#.
3. Make a wooden version of your goat puzzle.

Project skill: Identifying breeds of meat goats
Life skill: Decision making
What youth will do: Complete the meat goat breeds word find
Success indicator: Selects the proper breed of goat for a given situation

Kikos and Pygmies and Boers—Oh My!

- Breed
- Buck
- Cabrito
- Chevon
- Crossbred
- Doe
- Domesticated
- Flock
- Kid
- Herd
- Loin eye muscle
- Trip

Dogs and goats have been *domesticated* longer than all other domesticated animals. Today there are over 200 breeds of goats. Through evolution, selection practices and genetics, the various breeds of goats have developed similar characteristics such as color, color pattern, disposition, size, and purpose (meat, milk, fiber, or a combination of these traits). This activity will introduce you to some of these breeds and encourage you to learn more.



Photo courtesy Phil Moss, the Tyny Goat Ranch. Used with permission.



Start Capering

Complete the Word Find puzzle by finding and circling each breed name in the box of scrambled letters.

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| Africander | Nervous Goat |
| Kiko | Spanish |
| Pygmy | Fainting Goat |
| Boer | Nubian |
| Myotonic | Stiff Leg |
| Scare Goat | Fall Down Goat |
| Brush | Wooden Leg |

Disclaimer:

Consider why you want a goat and what you expect before selecting one. Do you want a meat goat, or one that can also provide milk and/or fiber?

Word Find

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | S | T | I | F | F | L | E | G | A | C | M | Z |
| N | L | W | T | N | A | I | E | V | E | D | A | T |
| E | W | F | N | Y | I | E | S | U | C | D | T | P |
| R | D | S | P | A | N | I | S | H | M | E | K | C |
| V | S | M | F | C | T | N | E | M | A | I | X | A |
| O | V | A | F | R | I | C | A | N | D | E | R | I |
| U | O | J | A | C | N | G | A | F | M | Y | A | L |
| S | C | A | R | E | G | O | A | T | V | S | B | G |
| G | Z | Y | K | J | G | E | Z | U | P | Q | O | I |
| O | A | F | O | W | O | O | D | E | N | L | E | G |
| A | L | U | P | K | A | C | J | E | P | W | R | B |
| T | G | M | Y | O | T | O | N | I | C | P | A | E |
| Z | A | V | G | W | V | Y | U | C | S | D | E | S |
| C | I | W | M | N | K | Z | B | R | U | S | H | E |
| K | Q | E | Y | P | I | H | I | X | I | R | I | Y |
| B | I | H | C | V | K | W | A | E | Z | I | D | T |
| F | A | L | L | D | O | W | N | G | O | A | T | N |

Ruminations

Chew Your Cud (Share)

- What was the most difficult part of the puzzle?
- What breeds did you learn about?

Gain Ground (Process)

- How does learning about the breeds of goats make it easier to talk about them?

Forage for More (Generalize)

- Using your new knowledge of how to tell the differences in goats, how can this information help you tell the differences in other kinds of animals?

Wattle You Do Next? (Apply)

- How will knowing about breeds of goats help you decide which one to buy?
- How can you decide among different choices the next time you are choosing something you want?

Meat of the Matter

Which Breed Do You Need?

Boer

This *breed* is also known as Africander or South African Common Goat. The Boer originated in South Africa as the result of uncontrolled cross-breeding between the native goat and the Angora, European, and Indian goats that were brought by explorers. Selection started in the 1820s, and a breed registry was started in 1959. The name comes from the Dutch word "Boer," which means farm or farmer, and it was probably used to distinguish native goats from those that were imported.



The Boer is a meat goat with several adaptations to the region in which it was developed. It is a horned breed with lop ears. It has a white body, tail, and legs with a reddish brown to black head and neck. The Boer is a very large breed. A mature *buck* weighs 250 to 350 pounds and a mature *doe* weighs 200 to 225 pounds. Performance records usually show a kidding rate of 200%, a weaning rate of 160%, and an average daily gain of 0.3 to 0.4 pounds, with exceptional individuals having an average daily gain of 0.5 pounds.

Spanish

When Spanish explorers came to America, they brought goats as a meat source. It is believed that some of these goats escaped and some were released as other meat sources were discovered. This means that goats were in Oklahoma and Texas as early as the 1540s. Although they do not have a specific breed ancestry, the Spanish goat developed through natural selection and became known as Spanish Goats or Brush Goats. They have been bred and raised in Texas since the 1700s.



Spanish goats are very hardy and fairly disease resistant. There is no consistent color pattern within the breed. They are a small to medium-framed breed. A mature buck weighs 120 to 220 pounds and a mature doe weighs only 65 to 100 pounds. The average daily gain is 0.2 to 0.3 pounds and the kidding rate is 150% to 170%. Males have large twisting horns that grow outward.



- The Spanish goat has been the mainstay of the Southwestern American meat goat industry for many decades.
- The first Boer goats were released for export to the U.S. from South Africa in 1993.

Myotonic

This breed is known by several different names: Wooden Leg, Stiff Leg, Fainting Goat, Nervous Goat, Scare Goat, Fall Down Goat and Tennessee Fainting Goat. They are known as fainting goats because they have an inherited muscle condition (myotonia) that causes temporary muscle stiffness of the hind legs and neck when they are startled. This stiffness causes them to fall over and lie very still for 10 to 20 seconds.



Photo courtesy R Fainting Farm, © 2002 Goat World.com. Used with permission.

Myotonics that have been selected for meat production are heavy-rumped and deep-chested animals. They are excellent crossbreeding stock for Boer goats. The resulting kids possess superior meat quality. The *loin eye muscle* tends to be bigger around, but also somewhat shorter. The myotonic gene is recessive, therefore “fainting” is not always expressed in *crossbred kids*.

The breed is usually black and white, but multiple colors are not uncommon. Compared to other goats, they are not good climbers or jumpers, making them somewhat easier to keep. They are a small to medium-sized breed, with a mature buck weighing 100 to 175 pounds and a mature doe weighing 75 to 125 pounds. Production traits include ease of kidding, a kidding rate of 190%, relatively good milk production, and an average daily gain of 0.25 to 0.35 pounds.

Nubian

Some people refer to this breed as Anglo-Nubian. The Nubian was developed in England as a dual purpose breed for milk and meat using African, European, and Indian breeds. It has been in the United States since the late 1890s or early 1900s and has become the most popular breed in the U.S.



The Nubian has a Roman nose and very long ears that hang close to the head. The hair is always short and any solid or parti-colored coat is permitted. However, black, red, and tan are the most common colors and any of these may be carried in combination with white. It is a large breed, with a mature buck weighing 175 to 300 pounds and a mature doe weighing 135 to 200 pounds. Production traits include a kidding rate of 160% to 190% and an average daily gain of 0.16 to 0.26 pounds.

Pygmy

Pygmy goats are smaller than any other recognized breed of goat in the United States. A full-grown buck stands about 20 to 22" tall and is usually 60 to 80 pounds, and is gray-blue to black in color. On the average, a doe will produce about one quart of milk per day.



Since they are very small, they are easier to handle and therefore they make excellent animals for smaller children.

Kiko

Some sources indicate that this breed originated in New Zealand, but other sources state that it originated in Australia. However, all sources relate that the breed was developed by crossing native flocks with imported dairy breeds. They were selected and developed based on twinning ability, growth rate, and survivability under extensive range conditions.



Photo courtesy An Paschel, Goats Unlimited.

Kikos are very similar in size and meat quality to the Spanish breed. They are a large breed. A mature buck weighs 175 to 225 pounds and a mature doe weighs 100 to 150 pounds. Most common colors are white or cream but all colors can be seen.

San Clemente

The San Clemente Island Goat is a descendent of the Spanish goats that were planted on the Pacific Coast islands to supply a meat source for ships' crews. These goats did very well on the island until around the turn of the 20th century when they were hunted to near extinction. There are currently about 200 purebred animals left. All the goats are marked the same, with variations in the base color from tan to amber. The horn set should start to spread within a couple of inches of the base and keep spreading and trailing outward giving a light, airy look. The horns should twist about a half-to three-quarter turn to the tip, depending on the animal's age.



Photo courtesy Earth Spirit Preserve.

Udder Ideas

1. Talk to local goat producers about their goats. Ask why they decided to raise that particular breed.
2. Attend a goat show and talk to the participants about their goats. Ask what they like and do not like about their breed.
3. Make a scrapbook and/or storybook about breeds of goats. List the characteristics of each. Tell what you like and do not like about each breed.
4. Learn about the Santa Theresa meat goat breed being developed in California.