

DAIRY GOAT  
PROJECT ACTIVITIES

LEVEL  
**1**

# GETTING YOUR GOAT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_



# WHAT'S INSIDE?

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



08361



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## Acknowledgments

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## GETTING YOUR GOAT

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# WELCOME TO GETTING YOUR GOAT

## Let's Kid Around!

Welcome to the first activity guide in an exciting series designed to help you learn all about dairy goats! Many fun and interesting activities have been planned for you. No matter what type of goat you have, or even if you have none at all, these activities will help you learn a lot!

If you don't have a goat yet, this guide will help you decide if you want to buy and care for one. Owning an animal is a big job and there is a lot to learn. By doing the activities in this guide, you will learn how to select, feed, house and care for goats 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 and fun dairy goat project skills, you will also learn important skills you will use your whole life. Some of these skills are decision making, leadership, communication, record keeping and planning and organizing. Here's what you'll do in *Getting Your Goat*:

- Select the right goat for you
- Research goat breeds
- Recognize goat body parts
- Investigate goat digestive systems
- Explore your goat's diet
- Identify goat safety concerns
- Examine a healthy goat
- Make goat management decisions
- Appreciate the value of records
- Get ready for a show
- Investigate goat fitting methods
- Interview a successful goat showperson
- Explore dairy goat products

## Getting Your Goat Project Guidelines

- Set your goals and record project highlights
- Do at least seven activities in the *Getting Your Goat* Achievement Program each year and complete the program within three years
- Practice and develop the life skills of decision making, leadership, communication, record keeping and planning and organizing
- Increase your knowledge about goats and improve your skills needed to be a good goat caretaker

## Getting Your Goat Achievement Program

While you are having fun doing the activities, you'll also be completing the *Getting Your Goat* Achievement Program. This program will help you set goals, record your successes and be recognized for your hard work. When you complete the program, you can earn the Completion Certificate on page 5.

## 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, veterinarian, project leader, advisor, neighbor or 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 help you find resources, including people, organizations, Websites, events, magazines and books necessary to complete an activity. After you have successfully completed each activity, your helper will date and initial your achievement program.

Write your project helper's contact information here:

**My project helper:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN WITH  
DAIRY GOAT I – GETTING YOUR GOAT

# GETTING YOUR GOAT PLANNING GUIDE

## My Dairy Goat Project Goals

My name \_\_\_\_\_

My animal's name or number \_\_\_\_\_

Breed \_\_\_\_\_

What I want to do and learn in *Getting Your Goat*:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## Dairy Goat Project Highlights

Date and list the exciting things you do and learn.

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## My Brain Gain

Here's an easy way to tell if you learned something new and developed important project skills. **BEFORE** you do the activities in this guide, circle the number that is the best measurement of what you know before the activity, then circle the number that is the best measurement of what you know **AFTER** you complete the activity. You may be surprised how much you learned! Share the results with your helper.

Begin each statement with the words "I know how to ..." then circle: **1** (not at all), **2** (somewhat) or **3** (a lot).

I KNOW HOW TO...	BEFORE	AFTER
Describe what is needed to care for a goat	1 2 3	1 2 3
Describe differences between goat breeds	1 2 3	1 2 3
Correctly identify goat body parts	1 2 3	1 2 3
Explain the differences between kid and adult goat digestion	1 2 3	1 2 3
Name the five major nutrients and their sources	1 2 3	1 2 3
Identify safe goat management practices	1 2 3	1 2 3
Examine a goat and record the result	1 2 3	1 2 3
Explain when routine management actions should be performed	1 2 3	1 2 3
Describe types of dairy goat project records to keep	1 2 3	1 2 3
Describe what to do to prepare for and take to a show	1 2 3	1 2 3
Properly fit a dairy goat for show	1 2 3	1 2 3
Describe basic showmanship practices	1 2 3	1 2 3
Define good sportsmanship	1 2 3	1 2 3
Describe the changes milk goes through to become cheese	1 2 3	1 2 3





## ACTIVITY 1.1

### Dairy Goat Skill:

Investigating goat ownership

### Life Skill:

Decision making

### Education Standard:

NS.K-4.3: Life Science:  
Organisms and environments

### Success Indicator:

Describes what is needed to  
care for a goat.

## So, You Think a Goat Is for You

Is a goat for you? Goats can make great project animals, but are not perfect for everyone. Owning an animal is a big job. Everyone in your family will have to help. If you join a group with other goat owners, you will learn about goats and get to know other people who like goats. This activity will help you decide if a goat is right for you!



BLEAT  
STREET TALK

FEED



Before getting your first goat or adding goats to your herd, give yourself this quiz. It will help you know if you are ready for a goat. Talk over the answers with your helper or group.



GOAT TO IT!



**A Quick Quiz**

- 1. Why do I want to raise a goat?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. What do I want to learn from raising a goat?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Who are the people in my area who raise goats and can help me?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4. How much time do I have to care for a goat?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5. What housing do I have for my goats?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Where can I buy feed and supplies?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Is it legal for me to keep a goat where I live?  
\_\_\_\_\_

"CAN I TAKE CARE OF A GOAT PROPERLY?"

## Test your goat knowledge!

Now you have decided that you would like to own a goat, but what do you know about them? Use the matching activity to test your goat knowledge. If you don't know the answer, do a little research on the internet.

**Match 'em up! Place the correct letter by the question.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| _____ 1. How often is a dairy goat milked?         | A. A clean, safe shed or barn                        |
| _____ 2. What kind of feed could a dairy goat eat? | B. Farmers, feed mill or farm store                  |
| _____ 3. What kind of housing does a goat need?    | C. Electric fence or woven wire fence four feet high |
| _____ 4. How is goat milk used?                    | D. Clean, dry straw                                  |
| _____ 5. Grain is available from...                | E. Good quality hay or grass and water               |
| _____ 6. What should goats sleep on?               | F. Twice a day (every 12 hours)                      |
| _____ 7. How would you keep a goat fenced in?      | G. Veterinarian                                      |
| _____ 8. A goat eats feed and...                   | H. Drink it, sell it, or make cheese or butter       |
| _____ 9. Who would you call when a goat gets sick? | I. From a respected breeder                          |
| _____ 10. Where do you buy a goat?                 | J. 16% protein dairy feed                            |

## RUMINATIONS

Discuss the answers to these questions with your helper.

### SAY CHEESE! (Share what you did)

- What do you know about goats?
- Where and how did you find answers to the questions?

### THE BUCK STOPS HERE (Process what's important)

- What's most important to you about raising goats?
- What will you have to do to get ready to have a goat and care for it?

### SPREAD IT AROUND (Generalize to your life)

- Why is it good to ask yourself many questions before making a decision?
- When was another time you gathered information before making a decision?

### BROWSE FOR MORE (Apply what you learned)

- How can you use what you learned to help you set your goat project goals?
- The next time you make a decision, what will you do differently?

*Revised by Sierra Ham and Susan Kerr.*





# WHEY COOL FACTS

## Goats Are Great!

The goat project has something to offer nearly everyone! Most goats can be handled with ease by most youth. Also, dairy goats need little space compared to horses and cows. Goats' personalities make them ideal for youth project animals. Ask your county 4-H staff how you can learn about goats.

Goats can be used for many purposes:

- Dairy
- Meat
- Fiber
- Weed and brush control
- Pet
- Draft
- Breeding stock
- Packing

### COSTS

It's hard to say how much your dairy goat project will cost you each year. You may have to buy your animal, its feed and supplies, but sometimes someone may be willing to give or loan you what you need. To care for a goat properly, you need equipment such as a collar, hoof trimmers, milking bucket, grooming supplies, bottles for kids, disbudding iron, banders and more. Your goat will also need certain medicines and shots. All goats need hay or grass, minerals, vitamins and water to stay healthy and most need grain, too. Make sure to create a yearly budget for your goat project.

If you can give a goat everything it needs to be safe and healthy, then maybe a goat is for you!

## UDDER IDEAS



- 1** Read a book about goats and share what you learned with your helper or family member.
- 2** Contact at least two breed associations for information (see page 52). Share what you learned with your group or family.
- 3** Talk to someone in your area who already owns goats and find out why they decided to raise them.



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All titles have been reviewed and recommended by the National 4-H Curriculum Jury Review process, signifying their excellence in providing hands-on learning experiences for youth.

**Find more about Dairy Goats and other projects online at:**

**[www.Shop4-H.org](http://www.Shop4-H.org)**

### PHOTO CREDITS

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# THE 4-H PLEDGE

I pledge  
my Head to clearer thinking,  
my Heart to greater loyalty,  
my Hands to larger service, and  
my Health to better living,  
for my club, my community,  
my country, and my world.



Explore more curriculum projects online at:

**[www.Shop4-H.org](http://www.Shop4-H.org)**

Dairy Goat Level 1  
*Getting your Goat*