

DAIRY GOAT
PROJECT ACTIVITIES

LEVEL
2

STEPPING OUT

Name: _____

County: _____



WHAT'S INSIDE?

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



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Acknowledgments

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STEPPING OUT

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WELCOME TO *STEPPING OUT*

Wheying In

Congratulations! If you are reading this, you probably have completed Level 1 of the 4-H dairy goat curriculum series, *Getting Your Goat*. You've already learned a lot about goats, including breeds, body parts, nutrition, management, record keeping, showing, and much more. In *Stepping Out*, you will build on what you learned. You will investigate diseases, feeding, reproduction, milking judging, ethics, and lots more. You'll also gain life skills along the way—important skills like communication, leadership, record keeping, decision making and planning and organizing—skills that will be valuable to you long after this project is completed.

The activities in *Stepping Out* are more challenging than the activities in *Getting Your Goat* because you are now older, more experienced, more confident and more knowledgeable. You are asked to expand your horizons and help plan some activities. You'll delve deeper into some topics and practice your communication and research skills, too.

Stepping Out includes an achievement program to help you plan your work and give you an opportunity to be recognized for meeting your goals. Here are some of the many activities you can do:

- Master basic goat management skills
- Recognize and prevent dairy goat diseases
- Stock a goat medicine cabinet
- Formulate a balanced ration
- Recognize quality forage
- Feed for different production levels
- Recognize signs of estrus in a doe
- Prepare for normal kidding
- Care for newborn kids
- Master milking procedures
- Use mastitis detection tools
- Judge dairy goats
- Give oral reasons
- Practice ethical basis for actions

Stepping Out Project Guidelines

- Set your goals and record project highlights
- Do at least seven activities in the *Stepping Out* 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

Stepping Out Achievement Program

While you are having fun doing the activities, you'll also be completing the Stepping Out 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 9.

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 and answer the questions in the "Ruminations" part of each activity. Sometimes your helper will work with you to 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: _____

HAVE FUN AND ENJOY THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LEARN MORE ABOUT DAIRY GOATS. YOU'LL BE IN LEVEL 3 IN NO TIME!

STEPPING OUT PLANNING GUIDE

My Dairy Goat Project Goals

My name _____

My animal's name or number _____

Breed _____

What I want to do and learn in *Stepping Out*:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Dairy Goat Project Highlights

Date and list the exciting things you do and learn.

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
Conduct a goal management skills day	1 2 3	1 2 3
Explain cause, signs, diagnosis and prevention of common dairy goat diseases	1 2 3	1 2 3
Stock a goat medicine cabinet	1 2 3	1 2 3
Formulate a balanced ration	1 2 3	1 2 3
Explain reasons for hay judging decisions	1 2 3	1 2 3
Feed for various production levels	1 2 3	1 2 3
Describe signs of estrus in a doe	1 2 3	1 2 3
Describe a normal delivery and how to prepare for it	1 2 3	1 2 3
Conduct a skillathon to practice caring for newborn kids	1 2 3	1 2 3
Describe proper milking procedures	1 2 3	1 2 3
Explain how to detect clinical and subclinical mastitis	1 2 3	1 2 3
Compare the strengths and weaknesses of two goats	1 2 3	1 2 3
Judge goats and give oral reasons for placings	1 2 3	1 2 3
Explain consequences of ethical and unethical behavior	1 2 3	1 2 3



ACTIVITY 1.1

Dairy Goat Skill:

Mastering basic goat management skills

Life Skill:

Planning and organizing

Education Standard:

NL-ENG.K-12.4:

Communication skills

Success Indicator:

Conducts a goat management skills day.

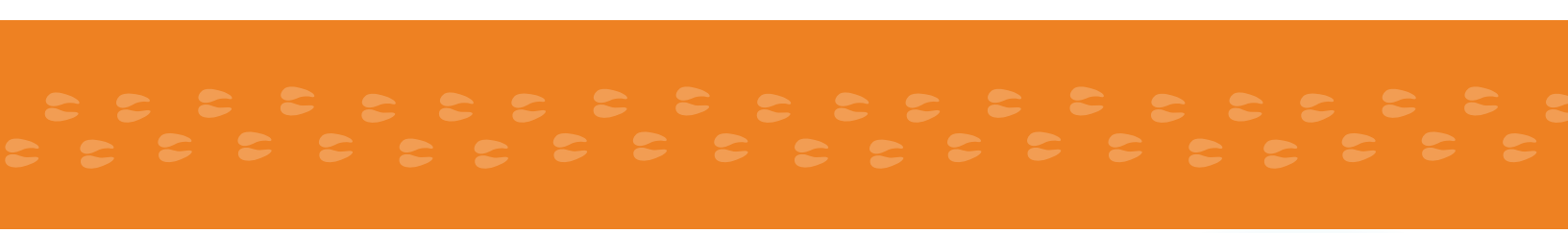
Horns and Hooves and Worms, Oh My!

As you have probably discovered, many routine management practices are needed to keep goats healthy. If you haven't mastered these basic skills yet, this activity is just what you need. You'll also practice your planning skills as you take on the leadership responsibilities needed. Get ready for an educational and exciting event!



BLEAT
STREET TALK

- COCCIDIOSTAT
- VERMIN



With your group, plan a Goat Management Skills day. Discuss what will be needed to sponsor a successful event. You may choose to open your event to the public or just invite other goat project youth. The outline below may help you or you may choose to use another planning guide. Attach your planning notes to this page. Ask your local newspaper to cover your event.

GOAT TO IT!



Our Goat Management Skills Day Planning Guide

Skill(s) to emphasize _____

Date of event _____ Location _____

Teachers and resource people _____

ITEM	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?	DEADLINE	COMPLETED?
Advertising plan			
Refreshments			
Sanitation plan			
Equipment needed			
Evaluation method			
Schedule for the day			
Other			
Other			

YOU NEED TO MASTER A LOT OF SKILLS TO CARE FOR YOUR GOAT PROPERLY.

RUMINATIONS

Discuss the answers to these questions with your helper.

SAY CHEESE! *(Share what you did)*

- What skills did you focus on?
- What was the biggest planning challenge you faced?

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

- What routine skills do goat producers need to have?
- Why is thorough planning needed before a big event?

SPREAD IT AROUND *(Generalize to your life)*

- Which skills could you already do and which were new to you?
- What other events have you helped plan or sponsor?

BROWSE FOR MORE *(Apply what you learned)*

- If you did this event again, what would you change?
- How can you improve your goat management skills?

Revised by Susan Kerr

UDDER IDEAS



- 1 Sponsor a workshop to help others learn how to build a disbudding box.
- 2 Make a scrapbook of your Goat Management Skills day and share it with your group. Include photos, planning notes, newspaper articles, comments from participants, etc.

BITS & BUTTS



- Ask your 4-H agent to help you obtain insurance for your event.
- Remember to follow all food safety guidelines for the refreshments you will serve.

WHEY COOL FACTS

Keep 'em Healthy

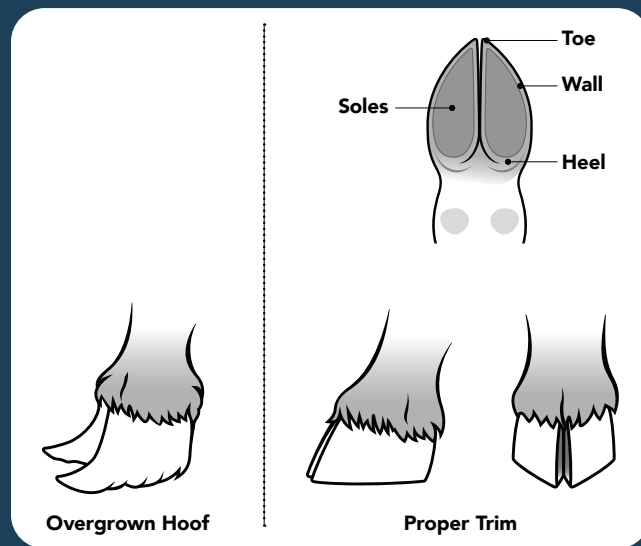
Disbudding - Disbudding keeps dairy goat kids from growing horns and hurting each other or you. Most dairy goat shows will not allow animals with horns. Disbud before kids are a week old. Use a disbudding box to restrain the kid. Have an experienced goat producer show you how to disbud several times before you do one yourself. Dangers include heating too much (which will damage the kid's brain) and heating too little (the horns will grow back). Never use disbudding pastes or caustic sticks. They can cause blindness in the kid and udder bumps to the dam. Apply ice to the kid's head after disbudding. Discuss other pain control options with your veterinarian.

Deworming - Controlling worms in your herd should be a part of your total herd health program. Medications help control worms but are not a substitute for good management habits. Always keep pen areas clean and dry; keep food and water supplies fresh and clean; remove animal wastes promptly; keep cats and vermin out of goats' feed; keep goats out of wet, marshy areas; do not graze pastures down below three inches tall; use legal coccidiostats in kids' grain or minerals; feed hay above the ground. Work with your veterinarian to select the best dewormer and deworming program for your herd.

Castration - Kids can be castrated from one week to several months old. Elastic bands may be applied to the top of a young buckling's scrotum; there is no open wound to get infected, but you must be sure that both testicles are below the band and the band isn't too close to the body and blocking urine flow. Testicles can also be removed by cutting the scrotum with a knife and removing the testicles, but an experienced goat producer should show you how to do this. Also make sure the kid has a high level of tetanus antibodies, either

from colostrum or a tetanus anti-toxin injection.

Hoof Trimming - A goat's hooves should be trimmed every six weeks or as needed. Neglected hooves can lead to foot rot, lameness, cracked walls, uneven gait, poor body condition and reduced milk production. Never use a knife. Avoid cutting into pink areas of the heel or sole or the goat will bleed. Clean dirt from the sole and trim the walls so they are level with the sole. Trim the heels so they are level with the ground. Trim the toe off to proper length and trim the dewclaws as needed. When finished, the ground-hoof line should be parallel to the hoof-hair line.



Identification - Identifying each goat is essential for accurate record keeping. The preferred form of identification is ear tattooing for goats. LaManchas are tattooed in the tail web. The National Scrapie Eradication Program requires goat owners to tag or tattoo every breeding animal with a herd identification number. If you tattoo registered animals, your breed association will assign you a number to use. Disinfect ear taggers and tattoo guns between animals to help prevent disease transmission.



Discover over 180 National 4-H Curriculum titles in mission areas of Science, Engineering and Technology; Healthy Living; and Citizenship. Youth activity guides are filled with fun, engaging experiences that cultivate abilities youth need for everyday living as they progressively gain knowledge about subjects that interest them.

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

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

Dairy Goat Level 2
Stepping Out