



## Are you Into It?

The Meat Goat industry is one of the fastest growing livestock industries in the country!

- In the Meat goat project will :
- Learn about breeds, animal health, grooming, production, reproduction, management, showmanship, marketing and careers!
- Demonstrate the basic principles of animal science by selecting and purchasing your animals and developing your own herd
- Make decisions based on knowledge gained of sound breeding practices, caring for your animals, and keeping records on one or more animals
- Develop fitting and showmanship skills

## Here's what you can do all year!

#### **Starting Out** Basic

Locate and name parts of a

• Tell the difference between

milk-type and meat-type goats

• Be a good sport when showing

• Produce a safe & wholesome

Learn proper feeding of goats

Develop a home medical kit

Identify different breeds

• Look at healthy and sick

goat

animals

vour animals

meat product

for goats

## **Expanding Horizons** Advanced

Select a herd sire

- Measure level of parasite infestation in your herd
- Conduct a judging clinic
- Judge with oral reasons
- Formulate a ration
- Measure your pasture's productivity
- Examine meat goat products
- Investigate land zoning issues
- Prevent reproductive diseases Learn about buying and

producing good quality hay

• Calculate the nutritional

prevention measures

- requirements of a ruminant Design and build goat
- housing • Analyze soil samples to determine fertilizer needs and forage types

# **GROWING TOGETH**

# Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started:

IFAS Extension

### **Citizenship/Leadership**

- Volunteer your goat for a clinic or other educational event
- Volunteer to help with weigh-
- in at a livestock show
- Mentor younger 4-H youth

interested in showing meat goats

### Communication

- Design a poster on parts of the animal
- Participate in a judging contest giving oral reasons
- Identify the cuts of meat and how to prepare them
- Conduct a showmanship clinic

 Practice bio-security safety measures for livestock

safe handling of goat meat

• Design a poster to discuss the

• Analyze the nutritional value

• Identify zoonotic diseases and

## Healthy Living

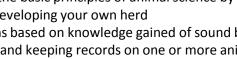
of goat meat

Science

Learn about fencing options

- Learn about body condition scoring Identify and record the types
- of plants on your property
- Develop a predator control program
- Determine breeding dates
- Learn about manure management programs
- Research goat meat markets
- Construct a model of a soil profile
- Research goat health issues
- Learn to trim hooves







## Learn more at florida4h.org or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office



## **Expand Your Experiences in Meat Goat project!**

- Analyze goat parasites by learning how to do a fecal sample
- Identify symptoms of parasitic loads and anemia
- Attend a vaccination and de-worming clinic or workshop
- Consider showing in your County Fair or at the Florida State Fair
- Participate in a meat goat fitting contest
- Participate on a meat goat judging team

• Interested in a college education in the area of Animal Science, Veterinary Science, or Food Resource Economics? Schedule a visit with the University of Florida: <u>ufl.edu</u>

• Register for 4-H University to attend workshops, participate in community service events, hear keynotes, compete in contests, have fun, and meet other youth from across Florida who may share common interests: <u>florida4h.org</u>

- Check out camps at the Florida 4-H Center: florida4h.org/camps
- Tour a local meat goat operation
- Design a business plan to market goat meat directly to retailers, restaurants, or private customers
- Write an educational article about some aspect of goat production for your newspaper
- Watch a vet do a c-section on a goat with pregnancy ketosis
- Develop a project income/expense sheet

## Resources

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Resources			
4-H Project Resources	Connections and Events	Record Keeping	Awards and Recognition
Project material to assist youth in learning may be available through your county 4-H office or you can order directly. Available at National 4-H: www.4-hmall.org Level 1: Just Browsing Level 2: Get Growing with Meat Goats Level 3: Meating the Future Lamb/Kid Pattern Available online: <u>animal.ufl.edu/youth</u> Help with Judging	Attending events and taking advantage of opportunities that will expand your project learning will help you become the best you can be. Attend statewide 4-H events. Check them all out at: florida4h.org • 4-H University • County, District, and State Competitive Events Connect with others that share similar interests online: • American Meat Goat Association meatgoats.com • American Boer Goat Association abga.com • United States Boer Goat Association usbga.org	Learning to keep good records of what you do, and what you spend for your project , is a 4-H life skill. The following record keeping forms can help you keep a record of your activities: Project Report Forms can be found at <u>florida4h.org</u> • Junior (grades 4-6) • Intermediate (grades 7-8) • Senior (grades 9-12) • Financial Summary • Member Portfolio (ages 8-13)	<ul> <li>Florida's Recognition Program involves feedback through: Participation Setting Goals Meeting Standards Peer Competition Cooperation</li> <li>Certificates, pins, ribbons, trophies, trips and/or scholarships are awarded based on quality of performance at the county, district, state and national levels.</li> <li>To learn more about current recognition opportunities visit the Florida 4-H website at florida4h.org or contact your county 4-H agent.</li> </ul>

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or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office

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### Project Sharing Ideas

- Create a booklet of proper goat terminology
- Demonstrate the difference between mono-gastric and ruminant animals
- Develop a video showing how to use preventative vaccinations and deworming practices
- Participate in a 4-H meat goat show
- Consider an exhibit, notebook, or display showing what you've learned in a meat goat-related topic
- Make a YouTube video of grooming and showing techniques for a meat goat