



## **Florida 4-H Dairy Goat Chain**

### ***Purpose***

### **4-H Youth Development**

The Florida 4-H Dairy Goat Chain will be an educational teaching program and facilitate more Florida youth participating in the 4-H dairy goat project by providing them with a high-quality, pure bred dairy goat. The selected 4-H member will be the owner of a goat/s provided to Florida 4-H courtesy of The Quirie Family of Hazy Fields Farm and Elizabeth Kennelley of Devonshire Dairy Goats , or is the offspring of an animal previously part of the chain. The 4-H member will provide all the needs of this animal and care for the animal as part of his or her 4-H project and maintain a youth membership in the American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) . The 4-H member will complete a record book on the project animal, and show the animal in at least two local, regional, or state-level 4-H shows. When the goat is of proper age, the 4-H member will facilitate breeding the animal to produce registered kids. The first doe kid will then be used to provide a project animal for another 4-H member, thus adding another ‘link to the chain’. All other kids born to the original animal after the 1<sup>st</sup> doeling will be the property of the 4-H member.

### ***How it Works***

The 4-Her will complete and turn in a cover letter, a resumé of 4-H participation, application, an attestation of proper care, an essay, and a letter of recommendation from a 4-H club leader or county agent. The selected participant will be determined by a panel of judges appointed by the 4-H Dairy/Animal Science State Specialized Agent. The 4-H member selected for the program will be the owner of an ADGA registered dairy goat granted by Hazy Fields Farm and Devonshire Dairy Goats, or is the offspring of an animal donated by the farm to another youth in the chain. The registration will be transferred into the selected 4-H member’s name, solely for purpose of participation in this educational youth program. The selected 4-H member will work with the 4-H Dairy/Animal Science State Specialized Agent (SSA), their local 4-H agent(s), and club leader(s), and a local veterinarian to ensure the project animal is receiving proper care, housing, and training. The selected 4-H member will then be eligible to show this animal in local, regional, state, and national dairy goat shows and fairs. The 4-H member will be required to show in at least two shows the first year of owning the animal. The 4-H member will be responsible for daily care, feeding, health care, and training the animal, including training the animal to lead, set up in a show, and other training to ensure a quality dairy animal. The 4-H member will be responsible for having the animal bred at the appropriate time (as determined by the 4-H Dairy/Animal Science SSA) by natural cover with a registered buck of the same breed with input from the 4-H Dairy/Animal Science SSA) with the goal of producing registered offspring; it will be the responsibility of the 4-H member to register offspring with the animal with the American Dairy Goat Association and maintain a youth membership. If the first breeding results in only buck kids, the 4-H member will breed the doe again at the appropriate time. All kids except the first doeling born to the doe will be the property of the 4-H member who owns the animal.

### ***Rules***

- This opportunity is open to all 4-H members ages 8-16 as of September 1, 2021, who are members in good standing of a Florida 4-H community club.

- The 4-H member must sign an attestation that they will properly care for the animal, which will include proper nutrition, housing (including fencing, other facilities, and protection from potential predators), training, routine health care, and other care.
- Applicants must fill out the attached application and return to Dr. Chris DeCubellis, 4-H Dairy/Animal Science SSA, along with a cover letter, letter of recommendation from a 4-H club leader or county agent, a resume' that includes highlights of the member's 4-H experiences, an attestation of proper care, and an essay up to 500 words on the topic indicated in the application. This is due by October 1, 2021, submitted by email or mail (see application for address).
- One 4-H member for each donated goat will be selected by a committee assembled by the 4-H Dairy/Animal Science SSA.
- The ownership of the goat/s will be transferred into their name at their expense, with written permission from their parent/guardian.
- The selected 4-H member and his or her family will be the primary care giver for the animal/s.
- The selected 4-H member will keep a 4-H dairy record book on the animal/s.
- The first doeling born to this animal will be used to continue the 4-H dairy goat chain to another 4-H member, but the selected 4-H member will care for the doeling for the first three months of its life, will disbud the doeling, and will provide all vaccinations recommended by the 4-H Dairy/Animal Science SSA.
- The selected 4-H member will email a monthly report updating the 4-H Dairy/Animal Science SSA with information on the growth and development of the goat/s and how they feel the project is progressing; this report will include dates the animal/s is observed in estrous (heat) to aid in breeding efforts, as well as at least one current photo of the animal/s.
- It is the responsibility of the 4-H member to have the doeling/s bred by natural cover with a registered buck of the same breed with input with input from 4-H Dairy/Animal Science SSA. The 4-Her will need to keep track of animal growth/weight, heat cycles, etc.
- While exhibiting the animal/s at fairs and other dairy shows, recognition will be given to the donating farm/s and the 4-H Dairy Goat Chain program. The animal's name, sire, and dam will be listed on the barn card or exhibit signage.
- The selected 4-H member is expected to exhibit the goat/s in the Florida State Fair and the champion youth program at the fair.
- If for any reason during the project the selected 4-H member can no longer care for the animal/s, the donors will have first right of refusal to buy back the animal. If the donor is not interested in buying the animal/s, the selected 4-H member can place the animal/s with another 4-H member with help and approval from the 4-H Dairy/Animal Science SSA.

### ***Sponsors***

Special thanks to our sponsors who are making this opportunity possible for Florida 4-H:

- Hazy Fields Farm, Quirie Family
- Devonshire Dairy Goats, Elizabeth Kennelley
- UF/IFAS Florida 4-H Youth Development Program



**Florida 4-H Dairy Goat Chain Application**

Please fill in this application completely; use additional paper if necessary.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Age as of Sept 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

List all the 4-H projects you have completed up to this point (include previous years): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain your experience with large animals: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the facilities/property where you will be able to keep this animal. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to own and care for a dairy goat? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do you think you will use knowledge, information, and skills learned through raising this goat?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In your opinion, what is a major issue facing Florida dairy goat producers? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

As of right now, what are your career goals, and what education, training, or experiences will you need to achieve those goals? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please submit this application, along with a cover letter, resume' (including 4-H highlights), letter of recommendation from your club leader or county agent, and an essay of up to 500 words on the topic 'What impact owning a registered dairy goat will have on my life' to Dr. Chris DeCubellis, [cdecube@ufl.edu](mailto:cdecube@ufl.edu) or 2142 Shealy Drive, PO Box 110230, Gainesville, FL 32611 by October 1, 2021.

**Florida 4-H Dairy Goat Chain Participant Consent and Attestation of Proper Care**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, who, as an applicant for consideration to receive a registered dairy goat through the Florida 4-H Dairy Goat Chain, I affirm and attest under penalty of perjury that I am a member in good standing of the \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Club in \_\_\_\_\_ County, Florida; and that I have the financial needs, resources, and facilities to properly care for and house a dairy goat during all stages of her life from kid to adult. If I have any questions regarding the proper housing, feeding, or management of the animal/s, I will reach out to the 4-H Dairy/Animal Science SSA, my 4-H club leader, 4-H agent, extension specialists and other dairy resources for input and guidance.

I affirm and attest that I will work with a local veterinarian who works with large animals to provide for the routine health care and any medical emergencies that might arise with this goat at my expense.

I realize that there are no specified or implied guarantees as to the health or life expectancy of the goat/s.

I affirm and attest that I will work with the 4-H Dairy/Animal Science SSA, my 4-H club leader, 4-H agent, extension specialists and other dairy resources to help breed this animal, when the 4-H Dairy/Animal Science SSA determines the timing is right, to find a quality registered buck to breed my animal with approval by the 4-H SSA, and that the first doeling born will belong to Florida 4-H at 3 months of age to place with another 4-H member in order to continue the dairy goat chain for a future generation as part of this educational program.

I affirm and attest that if, for any reason, I cannot take care of the animal/s, I will offer the animal/s to Hazy Fields Farm and/or Devonshire Dairy Goats for purchase; if they are not interested in purchasing the animal/s for what both I and Hazy Fields Farm and/or Devonshire Dairy Goats determines to be a fair price, I will work with the 4-H Dairy/Animal Science SSA to place the animal/s with another 4-H club member of the 4-H SSA's choosing.

I attest that I have read the above carefully and state that my attestation here is true and correct.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge and agree to all of the above and give my consent for my child's participation.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_