



4-H Meat Goat Project



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 goat
- Identify different breeds
- Tell the difference between milk-type and meat-type goats
- Look at healthy and sick animals
- Be a good sport when showing your animals
- Produce a safe & wholesome meat product
- Learn proper feeding of goats
- Develop a home medical kit for goats
- Learn about fencing options

Learning More Intermediate

- 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

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

Step It Up!

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

Citizenship/ Leadership

- Volunteer your goat for a clinic or other educational event
- Volunteer to help with weighing 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

Healthy Living

- Practice bio-security safety measures for livestock
- Design a poster to discuss the safe handling of goat meat
- Analyze the nutritional value of goat meat
- Identify zoonotic diseases and prevention measures

Science

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

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: ufl.edu
- 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: florida4h.org
- 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

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

Resources

4-H Project Resources

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:
animal.ufl.edu/youth
 Help with Judging

Connections and Events

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

Record Keeping

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 florida4h.org

- Junior (grades 4-6)
- Intermediate (grades 7-8)
- Senior (grades 9-12)
- Financial Summary
- Member Portfolio (ages 8-13)

Awards and Recognition

Florida's Recognition Program involves feedback through:

- Participation
- Setting Goals
- Meeting Standards
- Peer Competition
- Cooperation

Certificates, pins, ribbons, trophies, trips and/or scholarships are awarded based on quality of performance at the county, district, state and national levels.

To learn more about current recognition opportunities visit the Florida 4-H website at florida4h.org or contact your county 4-H agent.

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

4-H
 GROWING TOGETHER