

Dairy Goats



When youth have a passion for animals, the 4-H Dairy Goat Project provides a great opportunity to explore their interest. From judging contests and visual presentations to animal production and competitive showing, 4-H'ers can participate with or without animal ownership.

The project teaches animal husbandry including selecting, feeding, and managing of dairy goats. Developing teamwork, responsibility, and decision-making alongside both animals and people is unique to the livestock program experience. Hobbies or careers in animal agriculture enable utilization of these lifelong skills and project mastery.

4-H Thrive

Positive Youth Development

Developing Competence

Adults create environments where youth can develop competence in their chosen project area.

Building Confidence

Youth build confidence as they learn to think for themselves, build mastery, and are recognized for their efforts.

Nurturing Caring

Adults nurture a caring environment where mutual trust between youth and adults is established. Caring relationships with adults are key to resilient youth.

Finding Connection

Youth build solid connections which are critical to their well-being.

Forming Character

Create a community where youth play an active role in developing their character.

Determining Contribution

Youth actively contribute to their clubs and communities.

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution.

Starting Out Beginner

Starting a livestock project is exciting and challenging! There is so much to learn!

Join a 4-H livestock club to meet knowledgeable, experienced mentors and friends.

Volunteer at your county show.

Develop visual presentations to learn about topics like animal health and handling, then share them with your club and in competitions.

Learning More Intermediate

Put your knowledge into practice by competing in contests and purchasing an animal.

Join a dairy products judging team.

Present your dairy goat at your county, district, and state shows.

Explore complex topics for visual presentations such as genetics, reproduction, and nutrition.

Document project activities and goals in your record book.

Exploring Depth Advanced

Advance your showmanship to the next level competing in regional and national shows.

Expand your learning to multiple species with the livestock bowl.

Showcase your skills in the Dairy Goat Premier Exhibitor competition.

Share your project experience with beginners.

Use your project record book to review average daily gains, costs, and other project milestones.

Expand your experiences!



Resources

1. *4-H Animal Lines*. MSU Extension Newsletter
2. *Animal Identification Process for Mississippi Junior Livestock Shows*. MSU Extension Publication P3385
3. *Keeping Your Livestock Show Animals Healthy*. MSU Extension Publication P2806
4. *Keeping Your Livestock Show Animals Healthy: Proper Drug Use*. MSU Extension Publication P3689
5. *Leadership Opportunities in the 4-H Livestock Program*. MSU Extension Publication P2837
6. *Methods for Disbudding Goat Kids*. MSU Extension Publication P3879
7. *Mississippi Livestock Quality Assurance Program for Youth Producers*. MSU Publication P2526
8. *Top 10 Values and Skills Gained Through Participation on a Judging Team*. MSU Extension Publication P3003
9. *4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl: How to Get Involved!* MSU Extension Publication P3467

Connections & Events

For Juniors
Project Achievement
Day Contests

For Seniors
Club Congress Contests
Premier Exhibitor
Contest
National Dairy Judging
National 4-H Dairy
Conference

For Juniors & Seniors
State Dairy Judging
Dairy Cattle Princess &
Sweetheart Contests

Contact your local
Extension office to
learn more.

Curriculum

Level 1: Getting Your Goat. National 4-H Curriculum.

Level 2: Stepping Out. National 4-H Curriculum.

Level 3: Showing The Way. National 4-H Curriculum.

Dairy Goats Helper's Guide. National 4-H Curriculum.

4-H Record Book

4-H members practice skills in data collection, organization, and analysis as they document their project activities and goals in their record books. The books provide practical information as well as highlight progress made toward goals.

Juniors and Seniors can enter the state record book competition.

Seniors are eligible to win a trip to National 4-H Congress for Dairy Cattle Project record books.



Activity Suggestions

Service and Leadership projects related to the Beef Project:

- Use goats' milk to make soap and donate it to a local shelter.
- Volunteer to help at your county or district livestock shows.
- Conduct a dairy promotion presentation during National Dairy Month in June.
- Organize a dairy goat showmanship clinic for experienced members to offer mentorship and guidance to new participants

Competitive Activities (Indicate Jr or Sr or Both):

Visual Presentation:

- Dairy Goat Visual Presentation at Club Congress, Sr.
- Dairy Goat Visual Presentation at Project Achievement Day, Jr.

Miscellaneous:

- Dairy Goat Shows: Showmanship and Breed Classes, Jr. & Sr.
- Dairy Goat Premier Exhibitor Contest, Sr.

State Record Book Contest, Jr. & Sr.

