



Kansas 4-H focuses on the mastery of 5 life skills:

1. A positive self-concept
2. An inquiring mind
3. A concern for the community
4. Healthy interpersonal relationships
5. Sound decision making

The subject matter content in 4-H focuses primarily on three mission areas:

1. science
2. healthy living
3. citizenship and leadership

# 4-H Dairy Goat Project

## Advice from a 4-H'er

*From: Zoe, Age 16 (2015)*

I have been involved in the Dairy Goat project for the past 5 years. Now, one thing you may not expect is that I'm a city kid! When I was little, I always wanted to live on a farm and have my own animals, but wasn't able to. Then 4-H made my childhood dream a possibility! A former 4-H family, Charlie and Rhonda Carter, offered to let me keep a goat on their farm. Soon after, I got my first goat and named her Daisy.

Even though my club didn't have a Dairy Goat project leader, I was able to learn a lot about goats through reading books, talking to other county project members, and trial and error. The Carters were always there to help me along the way, too. The one thing I'd have you take away from this article is if there's a project you want to try out, go for it—even if it isn't something commonly done in your club.

Through the Dairy Goat project I have learned about the many things involved in providing for and keeping a goat happy and healthy. I have learned how to trim hooves, give medicine and train a goat to walk on a lead. Learning about the many varieties of dairy goat breeds and their unique characteristics has also been a fun part of the project. I have also had many opportunities to practice perseverance. Goats are not always the most cooperative animals!

I have learned a lot of life lessons being involved in this project, and I would highly recommend it to any 4-H'er interested in working with animals.



Zoe with her dairy goat

## Project levels

### Age 7-9

- ◆ Know your dairy breeds.
- ◆ Identify parts of the animal.
- ◆ Learn about diseases and immunization.
- ◆ Research how and what to feed your dairy goat.
- ◆ Study showmanship techniques and grooming.

### Age 10-13

- ◆ Research necessary and recommended feed supplements.
- ◆ Be able to identify a sick animal, and learn both treatment and prevention.
- ◆ Design a plan for safe milking procedures.

### Age 14 +

- ◆ Learn judging skills and how to use scorecards.
- ◆ Explore career opportunities.
- ◆ Learn herd management for both farm and backyard goats.
- ◆ Learn how to properly administer injections.



Events	Curriculum	4-H Record Book
<p>State &amp; County opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ County Fair</li> <li>◆ County Club Day</li> <li>◆ Spring Livestock Show</li> <li>◆ Kansas Junior Livestock Show</li> <li>◆ State Fair Goat Show</li> <li>◆ Discovery Days</li> </ul> <p>Check with your club to see what opportunities are offered at the club level as well.</p>	<p>Available to purchase at the Extension Office (check to make sure it's in stock)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Project Books 1-3</li> </ul> <p>Dairy Goat Curriculum can also be purchased at the K-State online bookstore or the 4-H Mall.</p>	<p>4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their personal experiences, learning and development.</p> <p>4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals</p> <p>For more information visit <a href="http://www.johnson.k-state.edu/4-h/forms-resources/record-books.html">www.johnson.k-state.edu/4-h/forms-resources/record-books.html</a></p>

## Resources:

### Visit

<http://www.johnson.k-state.edu/4-h/project-club-resources/projects.html>

to also find the following links.

### Kansas 4-H Dairy Goat Website:

- ◆ <http://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animals/dairy-goats.html>

### Other helpful websites around the country:

- ◆ <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/dairygoats/factdg2.pdf>
- ◆ <http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/goats/>
- ◆ <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/projects/hotsheets/dairygoathotsheet.pdf>
- ◆ [http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/178336/goat-anatomy.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/178336/goat-anatomy.pdf)
- ◆ <http://www.adga.org/>
- ◆ <http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/docs/Dairy-Goat-Crossword.pdf>



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## Exploring Opportunities

- ◆ Have your animal as part of a petting zoo sharing the importance of dairy.
- ◆ Be a part of a dairy promotion event.
- ◆ Arrange for your club to tour a dairy goat farm.
- ◆ Be a mentor for a younger 4-H'er.
- ◆ Organize a county grooming clinic.
- ◆ Attend a national or regional conference and encourage other youth to attend.
- ◆ Teach others about showmanship techniques.
- ◆ Give a speech on the importance of the dairy industry.

## Exhibit Ideas

- ◆ Enter a dairy goat in the county fair, or other livestock show.
- ◆ Create a poster or notebook on a dairy goat related topic.
- ◆ Make a scrapbook of your animal(s).
- ◆ Develop a presentation a dairy goat related topic.
- ◆ Continue exhibiting the same animal(s) to show the progression and how they've changed.

**Johnson County K-State Research & Extension**

11811 S Sunset Dr Suite 1500 Olathe, KS 66061

p (913) 715-7000 f (913) 715-7005

[www.johnson.k-state.edu/](http://www.johnson.k-state.edu/) | @jocoks4h | /JohnsonCountyKS4H