

## Putting Science into Animal Science Projects

**Area:** Preparing for a Livestock Project

**Activity:** Should I take a livestock project?

**Goal:** Guide members through the process of deciding if a livestock project is right for them.

**Materials Needed:** “Should I take \_\_\_\_\_ as a project?” Fact Sheets and “Should I take an animal as a 4-H project?” Worksheet

### How to do the Activity:

Use the fact sheets and worksheet to help members work through a process to decide if they should consider taking a specific type of animal as a project.

Here are some questions to use to help guide them to making a sound decision:

- “What is it about a \_\_\_\_\_ project that appeals to you?”
- “What are some things we need to think about before you sign up for a \_\_\_\_\_ project?”
- “How can you find answers to questions you might have about a \_\_\_\_\_ project?”
- “How are you going to assure that your \_\_\_\_\_ project receives all of the care it needs?”
- If you make any money on your \_\_\_\_\_ project, what plans to do have for saving it or spending it?

### Conclusion:

By completing this activity, 4-H members have been able to explore some concepts of science. They have asked questions, answered questions, gained some factual knowledge, and have hopefully been encouraged to ask more questions. *How else might this \_\_\_\_\_? What if \_\_\_\_\_ were done? Why did I get these results?* As they expand their knowledge with Inquiry Based Learning, they are learning life skills that they will use again and again as capable adults.

## WORKSHEET

### Should I take an animal as a 4-H project?

A. Fill in the following information with your project plans:

What type of animal are you planning to raise? \_\_\_\_\_

How many of these animals are you planning to raise? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Fill in the following chart of livestock ownership responsibilities:

Responsibilities	I can do this!	I have to work on this
Provide a safe and healthy environment that is clean, well ventilated and provides ample space for the animals.		
Provide food and water to meet the animal's needs.		
Have appropriate, safe and sanitary feeders and feed storage.		
Have appropriate, safe and sanitary method for watering (Must include the ability to empty the waterer and clean it).		
Pay for purchasing the animals and buying feed, bedding, medication and supplies needed throughout the project.		
Make timely inspections of all animals to evaluate the health and insure that all basic requirements are being met.		
Provide a well-planned disease prevention program to protect the health of the animals. This includes a strong veterinarian-client relationship.		
Provide appropriate and adequate bedding and have an appropriate method to dispose of the manure.		
Insure proper handling techniques are used to eliminate any undue stress or injury when animals must be moved.		
Provide transportation that avoids undue stress or injury caused by inadequate/inappropriate hauling methods, overcrowding, excessive time in transit, or improper handling when loading or unloading.		
Make management decisions based on scientific fact and to consider the welfare of my animals in all decisions.		
Have adequate time to care for and work with my animals.		
Have the help and guidance of a knowledgeable adult.		

C. Livestock Project Considerations:

Using the fact sheet for your type of animal and the number you plan to raise, answer the following questions:

1. This is where I plan to buy my animals: \_\_\_\_\_

2. This is how I plan to pay for my animals: \_\_\_\_\_

3. This is where I plan to keep my animals: \_\_\_\_\_

4. This is how I plan to get the animals there: \_\_\_\_\_

5. I need at least this much space for housing: \_\_\_\_\_

6. I will try to keep my animals within the comfort zone for optimal performance by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. This is how I will provide clean, fresh, cool water: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. This is where I plan to purchase my feed: \_\_\_\_\_

9. This is how I plan to pay for feed and other expenses while raising the animals: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. This is how I plan to market my project when it is finished: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I am going to take this project in 4-H:	_____ Yes
	_____ No
	_____ I am still not sure