

Ideas for Goat Learning Activities Advanced Level

Need more ideas for your goat project? There are hundreds of things you can do! You are being asked to complete **at least five** activities each year. Use this list, the *Goat Resource Handbook*, and your imagination, and then write your ideas in your *Goat Project and Record Book*. Have fun!

For all goats:

- Describe an ideal goat in terms of conformation, balance, capacity, and muscle.
- Help a new 4-H member select an animal for his or her goat project.
- Tour another goat farm and compare your housing and feeding system to theirs. Report your findings at a club meeting.
- Describe housing needs for goats including space, feed, and general equipment.
- Evaluate each goat in your herd for economic value, disease problems, and conformation.
- Select a bedding choice for your goat and explain how to properly dispose of bedding and waste.
- Draw an aerial view of your goat facilities include barn(s), pen(s), fence(s), and loading and unloading areas.
- List and describe six common diseases. Give treatment recommendations and preventive measures for each.
- Explain preventative medicine and its importance to the goat producer.
- Make a chart listing the symptoms and at least one method of prevention for the following reproductive diseases: brucellosis, chlamydia, and leptospirosis.
- Write the schedule and products you used to control internal parasites.
- Demonstrate and teach younger members how to prepare a goat for show.
- Coach a younger 4-H livestock judging team member and teach them how to give oral reasons.
- Hold a training session about goat management for younger 4-H members.
- Demonstrate how to determine forage quality.
- Collect and identify 15 or more feed ingredients/samples commonly fed to goats. Determine the use for each in the ration as a source of protein, vitamins, minerals, fats, carbohydrates, or water.



- Collect at least three different feeds that can be classified as “by-product” feeds. Determine the use for each in the ration as a source of protein, vitamins, minerals, fats, carbohydrates, or water.
- Explain to younger members how to read a pedigree.
- Explain what an estrus synchronization program is and describe a type of estrous synchronization program that may be used for goats.
- Using a model or a live animal, demonstrate how to artificially inseminate a goat.
- List at least three advantages of using artificial insemination vs. natural breeding.
- Write a description of three nutrient-related diseases.
- Exhibit a goat in a pen class show.
- Describe the differences between subcutaneous, intramuscular, and intravenous injections.
- Describe the differences between extra-label, over-the-counter, and prescription drugs.
- Select a type of manure management system and describe or give a talk about how it works.
- Describe the steps that can be taken to assure that your waste management techniques are environmentally sound.
- Explain the importance of environmental assurance to younger members.
- Prepare a skit demonstrating how to handle questions about goat production from people who are not familiar with animal agriculture.
- Help a new 4-H member with a goat project prepare an animal for show.
- Help younger members prepare for a goat quiz or knowledge bowl.
- Help teach younger members to judge.
- Help a new member update his or her records.
- Join a goat organization such as a breed association or meat goat association.
- Complete an Ohio 4-H Achievement form for goats.
- Compete in a goat showmanship class.
- Complete the Show Ring Ethics questions in the back of this book.
- Participate in a goat judging contest.
- Exhibit your goat at the county fair.
- Serve as clerk or chairperson at a 4-H goat show.
- Send a thank you note to award donors and anyone who helped you with your project (i.e., advisors, older members, or parents).

For market goats:

- Define concentrate, dressing percentage, and zoonotic diseases.

- Describe the desirable carcass traits for a finished goat.
- Describe factors used to calculate dressing percentage.
- Identify the major food products consumed from goat meat.
- Describe the steps to get a market goat from your farm to the consumer.
- Define value added. Explain how selling your market goat at the Fair is an example of value added.
- Identify the five goat wholesale cuts and name three retail cuts from each.
- Calculate the break-even price for your 4-H market goat project.
- Describe three castration methods used in goats.
- Select a retail cut of goat meat and learn how to prepare properly. If available, prepare the goat meat with adult assistance and enjoy eating.
- Discuss your market goat feeding and management practices to an experienced livestock producer.
- Tour a local goat harvesting (slaughtering) and processing plant.
- Summarize the results from last year's local or state fair carcass show.
- Using a live goat, identify where to measure loin eye and estimate back fat.
- Achieve a target rate of gain of 0.25 pounds or more per day on your project goats.
- Exhibit and sell your market goat at the fair and send a thank you note to the buyer.

For dairy goats:

- List at least three ways in which mastitis can be prevented or controlled.
- Using a model or a live animal, demonstrate how to properly administer an intra-mammary infusion.
- Demonstrate to younger members how to use a California Mastitis test to detect mastitis.
- Keep track of your lactating doe's weight with a weight tape during her lactation. Describe any changes you observe.
- Find out what organism is primarily responsible for causing mastitis in goats.
- Develop a ration for a lactating goat.
- Develop a ration for a dry goat.
- Identify the essential vitamins in a dairy goat ration and describe the function of each.
- Calculate how much energy (Mcal) your cow is receiving in her ration.
- Define the following terms: grade A milk and manufacture milk.
- Look up what the milk prices are for goat milk. Keep track of milk prices over several months. Is there a seasonal pattern?

- Collect labels from two types of teat dips. Compare the labels and the effectiveness of the active ingredients (effectiveness of teat dips can be obtained from the National Mastitis Council at www.nmconline.org).
- Describe the steps that can be taken to ensure the quality of the milk produced for the consumer.
- Describe a management intensive grazing system for a herd of 30 does of your favorite breed. Specify the number and approximate size of grazing paddocks and length of the grazing season. Recommend a rotational pattern for the paddocks.
- Develop a sample budget for maintaining a herd of milking does.
- Explain why grouping goats into different management groups may be beneficial.
- Judge a class of four dairy goats and give oral reasons (explain your placings).
- Demonstrate how to groom a dairy goat for show.