

# Ideas for Goat Learning Activities

## Beginning 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:

- Identify and describe five goat breeds and name two characteristics of each.
- Identify 15-20 goat body parts.
- Attend a market goat show and observe animals being evaluated. Listen to the judge's comments on placing.
- Explain some characteristics to look for when selecting a goat for a 4-H project.
- Explain three ways to prevent disease in goats.
- Name two categories of parasites. Name a common parasite from each category and explain how they affect goats.
- Find five things on your farm that you want to improve upon for next year's project (i.e., better records, better housing) and list why.
- Demonstrate that you can identify the different parts of the ruminant digestive system.
- Name the six classes of nutrients.
- Identify a mineral that is essential for bone development.
- Explain why water is the most important nutrient in a goat's diet.
- Collect at least eight samples of feed ingredients commonly fed to goats and identify the major use each serves in the ration as a source of protein, vitamins, minerals, fat, carbohydrates, or water.
- Using a feed tag from a feed that you fed your goat, demonstrate that you can identify the various parts of the feed tag.
- Define the following terms related to dairy goat genetics: dam, sire, and inheritance.
- Draw a family tree for your goat. Identify the dam, sire, granddams, grandsires, and any offspring.
- Teach your goat to lead from the proper side and learn how to correctly halter your goat.
- Describe or demonstrate three ways you could identify your project animal.
- Select an animal for the fair and describe why you selected it.
- Wash your goat.
- Identify five tasks essential to keeping your goat healthy and clean at the fair.
- Exhibit your goat at the county fair.
- Compete in a showmanship class.



- Complete the Show Ring Ethics questions in the back of this book.
- Visit a local veterinarian clinic.
- Join a goat organization such as a breed association or market goat organization.
- Send a thank you note to award donors and anyone who helped you with your project (i.e., advisors, older members, parents).

**For meat goats:**

- Visit a local goat farm and discuss goat management practices with the owner.
- Define the following terms: doe, buck, yearling, loin, wether, withdrawal time, purebred, and grade.
- Visit an ethnic foods store.
- Identify the following undesirable structural characteristics: post-legged, weak pasterns, cow-hocked, and overshot or undershot jaw.
- Describe three drug administration methods used to treat market goats and identify the preferred administration sites for each.
- 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:**

- Using a picture or diagram, describe the nutrient content of milk.
- Describe what a sick goat might look like.
- Make a chart describing the symptoms associated with each of the following diseases: milk fever, acidosis, and bloat.
- Define the term mastitis.
- Describe the symptoms associated with mastitis.
- Demonstrate that you can identify the parts of the mammary gland.
- Define the following terms: dry doe, lactation, and udder.
- Observe the birth of a kid. Describe the behavior of the kid and the dam following birth.
- List at least two types of records that a producer should keep and for each one, give two reasons why the record is important.
- Make a chart that lists the top five dairy goat states in terms of total milk production.
- Send a thank you note to award donors and anyone who helped you with your project (advisors, older members, parents, etc.).