



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.).

Do you have ideas for special pygmy, fiber, and utility goat learning activities? We'd like to include them here. Please email them to Amanda Forquer at forquer.13@cfaes.osu.edu.