OBJECTIVES

The Allegan County 4-H Goat Program will help youth to:

1. Experience the pride and responsibility of leasing/owning and caring for goats.
2. Learn how to feed, fit, show, breed and raise goats.
3. Learn proper handling procedures to prevent injuries to 4-H members and their Goat projects.
4. Become good citizens by working together in groups and supporting 4-H Goat Project activities and events.
5. Develop leadership initiative, self-confidence, sportsmanship and other desirable character traits.
6. Promote a greater love of animals and a humane attitude towards them.
7. Develop and define career choices.
Allegan County 4-H Goat Program

Getting Started

The Leaders Role
As a leader in the 4-H goat project, you should be knowledgeable in the care and management of goats. The leader’s goal should be to help the 4-H members fulfill as many of the objectives outlined by the member and leader.

Market or Breed Project
Determine if the project is going to be breeding or market. After the project type is decided, choose the type of goat suitable for the project. Resource books can help determine the breed just right for the member. Pay close attention to the attitude, rather than the size, of the goat for a 5-8 year old 4-H Cloverbud member.

Housing
Proper housing is necessary to raise healthy and productive goats. Make certain there is proper shelter from the elements as well as ventilation.

Nutrition
Proper nutrition is a must to be successful. A goat needs quality hay and a good commercial feed. Don’t overfeed or underfeed. Both will affect the weight and condition of the goat, causing it to be unfit for the show ring for breed or market. Always provide fresh, clean water. Make certain it is always available during hot weather as well as freezing weather.

Management
Housing and nutrition are basic parts of proper management of the goat. Also included is the general care of the goat. Ensure that there is clean dry bedding available. Routine hoof trimming, worming and vaccinations are a must.

Fitting and Showing
Use proper handling techniques from the beginning of your project. Learn fitting and showing techniques.
PROJECT LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

The adult 4-H Goat project leader is expected to assist members, through a project learning experience, to grow and develop into responsible, emotionally mature young adults. This goal can be achieved in the following specific areas:

**Project administration**
- Secure project literature and other relevant materials from the Extension Office and other sources.
- Provide Administrative leader of the club with information on new 4-H members.
- Work with 4-H members and other leaders to decide on meeting dates, locations, times and duration.
- Encourage 4-H members to keep records and assist them in understanding and following all guidelines in projects.
- Keep 4-H members informed about local, county and state events and activities.
- Complete required 4-H Market Goat Tattoo forms and submit to office by July 15.

**Communication**
- Communicate with the club administrative leader as well as other club leaders.
- Make an effort to get acquainted with parents of members. Inform parents of meeting dates, times & places set by the group.

**Project Education**
- Plan the project experience based upon the needs and interests of the 4-H members, using a variety of teaching techniques, demonstrations, illustrated talks, tours, trips, audio-visual material, resource people, etc.
- Meet periodically with the project group to provide instruction in subject matter and to help members achieve the goals which, together and individually; they have set.
- Assist 4-H members in setting goals, and developing a realistic self-evaluation program checking their progress periodically and helping kids develop a positive self-image through regular encouragement and sincere praise.
- Involve 4-H Teen leaders with specific tasks and/or other responsibilities, which have been developed in consultation with teens.

**Leadership**
- Attend and participate in countywide 4-H Small Livestock and 4-H Livestock Leaders meetings and leader training.
- Participate in regional, statewide and national leader training when possible.
Allegan County 4-H Goat Program

Resources

Allegan County MSU Extension is located at 3255 122\textsuperscript{nd} Avenue, Suite 101 in the Human Services Building at the County Services Complex near Dumont Lake about 5 miles north of Allegan. The Phone number is 269-673-0370. The fax number is 269-673-7005.

Publications - The Allegan County MSU Extension Office has 4-H and Extension Goat publications available for purchase by clubs.

Website - Use the Allegan County MSU Extension office website www.msue.msu.edu/Allegan to find out what's happening in the county and throughout the state in Goat programming. You can also connect to Michigan State University through our site.

Other Resources - Breed Associations and State/National Goat Organizations.

Suggested Activities

Club & County Activities
- Guest speakers, such as a Veterinarian, Extension Staff, judging team.
- Try a Quiz Bowl to make learning fun.
- Visit a goat farm, vet clinic, milk and cheese plants, research farm, neighboring County Fair Show, Open Shows, etc...
- Allegan County Fair in September

Participate in State and National Activities:
- 4-H Communications Contest in February at MSU for 9 - 19 year olds.
- ANR Week in March at MSU for all youth and adults
- 4-H Caprine Expo at MSU in April for youth 9 - 19 years old.
- 4-H Exploration Days at MSU in June for youth 12-19 years old.
- 4-H Caprine Classic at MSU in July for youth ages 9 to 19.
- Michigan Fiber Fest at Allegan Co. Fairgrounds 3\textsuperscript{rd} weekend in August.
- Michigan State Fair held in August.
- 4-H Goat Leaders Workshop held in the fall of even numbered years at Kettunen Center.

Contact the Allegan County 4-H Staff for more information on State and National 4-H Goat Activities.
SUGGESTED LEARNING PLAN

Members should learn:

1. To recognize kind and breed of their Goat project.

2. Proper show attire - white shirt and white or black pants (no BLUE jeans)

3. How to select a good project animal
   A. Breed & characteristics of Breed
   B. Age
   C. Confirmation
   D. Registered or grade

4. Principles of proper feeding, housing and health requirements.

5. Proper handling skills.

6. Basic anatomy of their Goat project.

7. Basic fitting and showmanship.

8. How to keep accurate records:
   A. Expenses of project animal (animal, feed, housing equipment, etc.)
   B. Length of project.
   C. Income of project - animal sold, non-food product sold (ex. Soap)

9. In-depth knowledge of their project goat or herd.


GENERAL 4-H GOAT PROJECT RULES

Membership

1. Allegan County 4-H Goat Projects are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status.

2. Youth must be enrolled in a 4-H club to participate in 4-H Goat project activities.

3. A youth may enroll in a 4-H club at any time during a project, however, activity/event deadline dates must be adhered to, in order to maintain eligibility in those areas.

Projects

1. 4-H members must work with their Goat projects becoming familiar with them by caring, fitting, and learning how to show their animals.

2. 4-H Members are responsible for 80% of their project animal's care.

3. Project animals must be kept clean.

4. Each project animal must meet State Health guidelines.

5. 4-H Members should keep a 4-H Goat Project Record Book.

6. 4-H members are encouraged to make a 4-H Goat Husbandry Notebook.

7. 4-H Members must have their Goat Project in their possession by July 1.

8. Goats must not have horns (per Allegan County Fair rules).
4-H MARKET GOAT PROJECT

GOALS

1. Teach youth the business of raising goats.
2. Youth will actively participate in the care and management of a market goat project.
3. Youth will learn about the financial issues regarding marketing goats.

PROJECT RULES

1. All market goats must be legibly tattooed and in the youth's possession by July 1.
2. A 4-H Market Goat Tattoo Form must be completed, signed by the 4-H Leaders and in our Extension Office by July 15th (on the Friday before if the 15th falls on a weekend.
3. The 4-H Leader is responsible for knowing that the animal tattooed is the animal the youth brings to the fair to complete the project.
4. Youth may tattoo 2 market goats - but bring only one to the fair.
5. Market goats must be wethers, either grade or purebred.
6. At weigh-in market goats must weigh at least 50 lbs. and not be over one year old. Pygmy goats shown as market wethers must weigh a minimum of 30 lb.
7. 4-H members must view the 4-H Quality Assurance Video and turn in a signed 4-H Market Animal Agreement form at weigh in.

4-H BREED GOAT PROJECT

GOALS

1. Teach youth the business of raising goats.
2. Youth will actively participate in the care and management of a goatherd.
3. Youth will learn how to select a sire for their breeding program.

PROJECT RULES

1. Goats that are breeding projects must have tattoos and if showing at the Allegan County Fair must have their tattoo numbers recorded at the Fair office. Do not turn in tattoo numbers to the MSU Extension Office.
2. Goats should be owned by the 4-H member.
3. Goats may be grade or purebred.