

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN  
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED  
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# LEADER'S GUIDE

## THE 4-H DAIRY CLUB\*

### V. DAIRY GOATS

(To be used with 4-H Club Circular 65,

Missouri Experiment Station Bul. 375)

#### INTRODUCTION

This 4-H Club Leader's Guide is to be used with the 4-H Dairy Club Circular 65, and Missouri Experiment Station Bulletin 375. The records and report blanks for the club members are included at the back of the subject-matter Circular 65.

#### DAIRY V—DAIRY GOATS

The object of the 4-H goat project is to (a) feed and care for one or more doe kids of one of the dairy goat breeds from one month of age to one year of age at which age the doe will probably be large enough for breeding; (b) feed and care for one or more does from breeding through gestation and carry the doe in milk production through the remainder of the year feeding and caring for the doe and kid or (c) feed and care for a doe from the time the kid is dropped for a year, caring for the doe and her kid.

The club member carrying a goat project should endeavor to learn the following and to gain experience wherever possible.

1. Know the breeds of dairy goats and the characteristics of each.
2. Feeding, care and management of producing does and young stock and of the doe and kid at freshening time.
3. Breeding habits of milk goats.
4. Place and importance of the dairy goat industry.
5. Dairy goat housing and equipment.
6. Judging and selecting goats for age and milk producing ability.
7. Uses and marketing of goat milk and its products.
8. Diseases and ailments of milk goats.

#### I. Organization

##### 1. Objectives

- a. How to organize the project group (or club).
- b. How to conduct a business meeting.
- c. How to build a program for the project group.

##### 2. References—4-H Club Leader's Manual and Secretary's Record book.

\*Prepared by T. T. Martin and E. T. Itschner, State Club Agents, in collaboration with M. J. Regan, Extension Dairyman.

3. *Discussion Questions*
  - a. What officers are suggested for community clubs?
  - b. What officer is suggested for a 4-H project group of 5 or more members?
  - c. What are his duties?
4. *Demonstrations*
  - a. How to make a motion.
  - b. How to elect officers.
  - c. Building a club program.
5. *Roll Call Topic*
  - a. My club project plans.

## II. Breeds of Dairy Goats, Selection of Dairy Goats, Place and Importance of Dairy Goats

1. *Objectives*
  - a. Know the breeds of dairy goats.
  - b. How to select a good dairy goat.
  - c. Why keep dairy goats?
2. *References*—Missouri Experiment Station Bulletin 375, pages 3 and 12.
3. *Discussion Questions*
  - a. What are the breeds of dairy goats?
  - b. Where did they originate?
  - c. How can you tell a good milk producer?
  - d. Why are dairy goats raised.
4. *Demonstrations*
  - a. Breeds of goats.
  - b. Selecting a good producer.
5. *Roll Call Topic*
  - a. Survey or census of dairy goat population in our school district (or other geographical unit, such as a block).

## III. Feed, Care and Management of Milk Goats and Kids

1. *Objectives*
  - a. Know the common feeds used for goats.
  - b. How to combine rations for milk goats and for young goats.
  - c. Care and management of goats.
2. *References*—Bulletin 375, page 13; 4-H Club Circular 65, pp. 18, 20, 24 and 30.
3. *Discussion Questions*
  - a. What roughage feeds may be fed to goats?
  - b. How are grain feeds classified?
  - c. Are grain rations for dairy goats similar to dairy cow rations?
  - d. Give the reason that goats need carbohydrates, protein, fats and minerals.
  - e. List a complete ration—(a) for milking goats, (b) for kids.
4. *Demonstrations*
  - a. Classifying feeds as to carbohydrates, protein, or medium.
  - b. Building a feed manger.
5. *Roll Call Topic*
  - a. Feeds I will use for my goat.

## IV. Breeding Habits of Milk Goats

1. *Objectives*
  - a. Age to breed young doe.
  - b. Season when goats will breed.
  - c. Gestation period of goats.
2. *References*—Bulletin 375, pp. 7-12.
3. *Discussion Questions*
  - a. When should young does be bred?
  - b. During what season will goats not breed?
  - c. What is the gestation period of goats?
  - d. At what age are the bucks ready for service?
  - e. How long should does be dry before they freshen?

4. *Demonstrations*
  - a. Telling the age of goats by their teeth.
  - b. Dehorning goats.
  - c. Points of conformation of dairy goats.
5. *Roll Call Topic*
  - a. Breeding date and freshening date of my goat.
  - b. How I will care for my doe at freshening time.

#### V. Housing and Equipment for Dairy Goats

1. *Objectives*
  - a. Shelter needed for goats.
  - b. Equipment needed for producing clean milk and the care of milk.
2. *Reference*—Bulletin 375, pp. 17-18.
3. *Discussion Questions*
  - a. What kind of a barn is needed for milking goats? For young goats?
  - b. Do we need a milking stand and stanchion?
  - c. What kind of a milk pail is needed and how should it be cared for?
4. *Demonstrations*
  - a. Building a milking stand.
  - b. Milking a goat.
  - c. Use and care of the milk pail and other utensils.
5. *Roll Call Topic*
  - a. How I will produce clean milk.
  - b. How I will house my goats.

#### VI. Judging and Exhibiting of Dairy Goats

1. *Objectives*
  - a. To know the breeds of dairy goats.
  - b. How to select a good milk producer and a good male.
  - c. How to prepare goats for exhibition.
2. *Reference*—Bulletin 375.
3. *Discussion Questions*
  - a. What is the most common breed of dairy goats in this locality?
  - b. Describe the three most common breeds of dairy goats.
  - c. What should we look for in selecting a good milk producer? Good breeding stock?
4. *Demonstrations*
  - a. Selecting a milk goat.
  - b. Placing a class of four goats.
  - c. Showing goats.
5. *Roll Call Topic*
  - a. How I can use information I have gained in judging goats.

#### VII. Importance, Uses and Marketing of Goats' Milk and Its Products

1. *Objectives*
  - a. The uses of goats' milk.
  - b. How to produce good quality milk.
  - c. Markets for goats' milk.
2. *Reference*—Bulletin 375, pp. 16-22.
3. *Discussion Questions*
  - a. What are the peculiar uses of goats' milk?
  - b. Why is goats' milk favored in some situations over cows' milk?
  - c. What are the objections to goats' milk?
  - d. What products are made from goats' milk?
  - e. What is meant by scoring goats' milk?
  - f. What are the causes of bad flavors in goats' milk?
4. *Demonstrations*
  - a. Producing clean milk.
  - b. Care of milk utensils.
  - c. Scoring goats' milk.
5. *Roll Call Topic*
  - a. How we use our goats' milk.

## VIII. Diseases and Ailments of Goats

1. *Objectives*
  - a. To be able to recognize and prevent some of the common diseases and ailments of goats.
2. *References*—Secure bulletins from Missouri College of Agriculture, also U. S. D. A. Farmers' Bulletin No. 920.
3. *Discussion Questions*
  - a. What are some of the common diseases and ailments of goats?
  - b. How should each be handled?
  - c. Under what circumstances do goats transmit undulant fever through their milk?
4. *Demonstrations*
  - a. Sanitation as applied to the goat dairy.

### METHODS

#### Demonstrations.\*

In so far as possible, all club members should be instructed in regular club meetings by the demonstration method. As a usual thing, one or more members of each club can begin doing before the club, useful phases of the work program soon after the processes have been demonstrated to the club by the leader.

After two or three months of practical experience in handling real things, mature club members should be able to give public team demonstrations. The scope of the team demonstration usually should be limited to the essential processes of some practical phase of the club work of the current year on one subject. A team of two of the best demonstrators should be selected from the membership of one club, either by mutual consent, by designation of a committee, or by vote of the members, after making individual try-outs in competition. All teams should have an opportunity to demonstrate before the local club group and the people of the home community, and the championship team should represent the local club at the county achievement program or round-up, if one is held.

#### Judging.

Judging is a means of encouraging further activity on the part of club members. Through judging, members learn the subject-matter which pertains to standards and get the training necessary to participation in judging contest. ((See Leader's Manual, page 46.)

#### Exhibits.

Club members should have an opportunity to exhibit their product. The location and value of the exhibit will depend on local conditions. The exhibit is frequently combined with the achievement day, when the products are shown, and often judged. (See Leader's Manual, page 50.)

#### Tour.

The 4-H club tour provides club members and leaders an opportunity to observe the results achieved by other members and clubs, and to visit related industries, which should give them encouragement and new ideas. (See Leader's Manual, page 29.)

#### Records and Reports.

When the dairy club work is finished, each member should hand to the dairy club leader his or her individual record and report blank for approval. The leader should turn back all incomplete report blanks with suggestions for improvement.

After all the record and report blanks have been approved by the dairy club leader, these blanks should be filed with the secretary of the community club to be recorded in the 4-H Club Secretary's Record Book as the final report of the dairy club. The dairy club leader should approve the dairy club records by signing his initials in the Secretary's Record Book after the name of each dairy club member completing.

\*Reference.—Leader's Manual, page 37.