

## Why Show Youth Livestock?

Georgia 4-H uses all kinds of projects to accomplish our main objective - positive youth development! Livestock projects are special because young people learn what it truly means to care for and be responsible for another living being. Youth learn time management, budgeting, record keeping skills and many animal husbandry skills. They also learn about the livestock industry and its role in the larger agricultural economy.

Georgia 4-H believes there are four essential elements to positive youth development: Mastery, Generosity, Belonging and Independence. The 4-H Livestock Program fosters all four elements. Attend a livestock show and you cannot miss the sense of community. Maybe no other 4-H program demonstrates a sense of belonging like the livestock program. Youth build mastery as they practice and compete. Getting up early to feed and care for animals builds a "can do" attitude important for independence. How does one rightly describe generosity? The livestock shows again offer fine examples - adults sharing what they know with youth with no thought to the competitive nature of the event, youth sharing supplies...generosity is everywhere.

We are excited that you are interested in joining this dynamic part of Georgia 4-H! This fact sheet is a start-up document. You will find county agents, UGA Specialists and friends of agriculture everywhere willing to help you take next steps.

## The Basics of Raising a Market Goat

### Cost of Showing a Market Goat

**Purchase of Market Goat:** Show goats can be purchased from multiple places. Online sales are considered to be the most popular, as well as live auctions and private breeders. The cost of purchasing a market goat averages \$100 and up.

To have a goat whose age is eligible to show, be sure to purchase one with a birth date between December and May.

They can range from anywhere between 20-70 pounds, and you want to try to match the goat's size to be proportionate with the child that will be showing it.

**Feed:** Goats will need to be fed a 16-18% crude protein ration twice daily. They will need to be fed 2.5-3% of their total body weight. There are self-feeder methods as well as hand feeders depending on your personal preference and what works best for your situation.

Feed can be purchased from local suppliers and can range in type and quality based on your specific needs. Fresh, clean water is a key ingredient to the success and health of your goat project. It will cost an average of \$125 per month to feed your goat project.

**Equipment:** Halters (Nylon Rope halter and Show Chain with lead), Feed pans/Water Buckets, Blocking Stand, Water Hose, Fitting/Grooming Supplies, Feed and Hay will need to be supplied yourself.

## Facilities

Your animal(s) will need a clean, dry, and safe environment that can be 6x12 or 10x10 under a shelter. It is similar to a dog pen, but a barn is preferable to protect them from predators such as dogs or coyotes. You must have a predator or pet proof environment!

## Health

You will need to work with your local veterinarian to obtain a certificate of health and create a deworming program that addresses specific needs and concerns in your area.

The key to a good health program is prevention. By being observant, one can notice illnesses before they become serious. Fortunately, goats tend to be hardy, so an effective health plan can be fairly basic. All animals should be checked at least daily for signs of illness. Obvious signs include: moving slower than other animals, poor appetite, diarrhea, limping, breathing hard or fast, grunting, grinding teeth, or other unusual behavior. If an individual shows any of these signs, it will need further examination. In order to decide how to treat the animal, it will be necessary to identify the symptoms. To help with a complete examination, use a checklist. Call your local veterinarian at signs of illness.

**Additional Opportunities** – Livestock Judging Contest, Market Goat Record Book Contest, Georgia Junior National Livestock Show, District Project Achievement

- Refer to the Georgia Junior National Livestock Show Rulebook and always read show rules for any exhibition you are preparing to attend!
- Complete and mail entries with payment, and be sure your forms are signed by your county agent!
- Complete Code of Conduct and Medical Info & Release Forms and turn them in to your county agent for the State Market Goat Show!

**Additional Resources** – The following links can be accessed and utilized for more information regarding shows, contests, clinics, care for your project, scholarship opportunities and more!

Georgia 4-H Livestock Program's Market Goat Web Page: <http://georgia4h.org/livestock/goat/default.htm>

Raising and Showing Meat Goats – Colorado Extension Service: [https://northampton.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Meat\\_Goat\\_Manual.pdf?fwd=no](https://northampton.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Meat_Goat_Manual.pdf?fwd=no)

Raising Goats for Dummies (Cheat Sheet): <http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/raising-goats-for-dummies-cheat-sheet.html>

The Market Goat Guide to Success – Oregon State University Extension Service: <http://ext100.wsu.edu/ferry/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2014/02/marketgoatguide.pdf>

Your First Goat Project – University of Maryland Extension:

[http://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/images/locations/carroll\\_county/4h/members/YourFirstGoatProject.pdf](http://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/images/locations/carroll_county/4h/members/YourFirstGoatProject.pdf)

Georgia 4-H & FFA State Livestock Show Rulebook: <http://georgia4h.org/livestock/GaJrLivestockShow/default.htm>

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