



## Sheep and Meat Goats

Georgia 4-H Project Achievement empowers young people with skills for a lifetime. Through a competitive process, students explore their interests, unleash their creativity, share their work, and celebrate their achievements! This guide provides 9th—12th graders with examples for getting started with their project exploration.

### Description of Project:

4-H'ers may explore the sheep and meat goat industry including establishing and managing sheep and meat goat enterprises, by-products, and end-products. Through this project 4-H'ers may:

- learn about and acquire skills for animal selection, breeding, feeding, care, production, management, ownership, exhibition, marketing, by-products, and end-products of sheep and meat goats
- discover the current and historic roles, scope, contributions of science, and economic significance of the sheep and meat goat industry
- explore equipment and safety protocols of animal care and production
- identify the degree of quality, the wholesale and retail cuts of lamb and lamb products, and understand their importance in human nutrition
- demonstrate sound sheep breeding, feeding, and management practices on the home farm and in the community
- study bio-security of the sheep and meat goat industry and food supply
- identify types/grades of sheep and efficient marketing of sheep and goats
- understand the role of veterinary care of sheep and meat goats
- explore career opportunities related to the sheep and meat goat industry

### Overview:

- ⇒ Choose project
- ⇒ Develop skills in:
  - Project
  - Leadership
  - Service
- ⇒ Prepare portfolio for work completed from January 1—December 31
- ⇒ Prepare presentation
- ⇒ Practice
- ⇒ Compete
- ⇒ Reflect

### Examples of Project Development Experiences:

- Attend shearing schools, animal specialty camps, purebred association field days, market days, livestock shows, etc.
- Tour supermarket meat departments, veterinary clinics, farms, feed stores, and/or animal barns
- Acquire and read books, trade magazines, pamphlets, and online media about the industry
- Raise and show a Market Lamb, Breeding Ewe, Market Goat, or Commercial Doe
- Participate in a 4-H Livestock Judging team or complete a Market Lamb Record Book
- Interview a sheep and meat goat producer and discuss industry matters
- Shadow a veterinarian, butcher, and/or producer for a day and learn of job responsibilities

## Project Sharing and Helping Examples:

- Volunteer as a teen leader and assist with coaching a livestock judging team
- Hold a shearing demonstration for community members, schools, civic groups, etc.
- Host a show preparation seminar for interested youth
- Mentor a younger 4-H'er in showing an animal
- Hold a feeding and management demonstration for Market Lamb, Breeding Ewe, Market Goat, or Commercial Doe
- Start a livestock project club and lead meetings to share your knowledge with others
- Arrange for industry speakers to discuss agricultural issues for community members
- Demonstrate your work through presentations and exhibits at schools, civic clubs, senior homes, chambers of commerce, etc.
- Write news articles, blogs, or social media posts about your project and your accomplishments
- Display sheep and meat goat product exhibits for the public
- Organize an agricultural tour or farm day for youth
- Mentor a younger 4-H'er in the Sheep and Meat Goats project

## Recommended Resources:

- [georgia4h.org/ProjectAchievement](http://georgia4h.org/ProjectAchievement)
- [georgia4h.org/livestock](http://georgia4h.org/livestock)
- [extension.uga.edu/agriculture/animals](http://extension.uga.edu/agriculture/animals)
- [agr.georgia.gov/livestock-market-news.aspx](http://agr.georgia.gov/livestock-market-news.aspx)
- [agr.georgia.gov](http://agr.georgia.gov)
- [usda.gov/topics/animals](http://usda.gov/topics/animals)
- [sheepusa.org](http://sheepusa.org)
- [gasheepandwool.org](http://gasheepandwool.org)
- [gclpa.com](http://gclpa.com)

## Special Considerations:

- Actual animal exhibiting is not a requirement of this project.
- This project can address any issue related to the production of sheep or meat goats. Members may gain experience in a number of ways, such as assisting with the management of a herd, raising animals, or studying processing and marketing.
- Youth should practice internet safety. A best practice is to include a friend or parent in all communications and interactions.
- Be sure to gain land owner permission prior to entering someone else's property.
- Exercise safety when handling tools, animals, and equipment.
- Live animals and weapons are not permitted in the presentation.

## At Competition:

*Sheep and Meat Goat 4-H projects may use posters, artifacts, biofacts, and/or technology to support their presentation. The time limit for presentations is 12 minutes. Computers, projectors, screens, and other technological devices may be used.*

Prepared by: Jason Estep, Keri Hobbs, and Gabrielle Buono  
Reviewed by: Heather Shultz, Craven Hudson, and Claire Woodard

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Sources: Alford, Calvin and Ronnie Silcox. 1998. *Junior/Senior Project Notebook*. "Sheep Project."

The University of Georgia CAES. 2016. Project Achievement. <http://www.georgia4h.org/projectachievement/>

