



4-H Livestock Project

2016

What is the 4-H Livestock Project?

The 4-H Livestock Project is an excellent opportunity for 4-H members who love animals, are interested in a career with animals or agriculture, or are looking for a project that will get their hands dirty and get them outside!

How does a livestock project work?

At the beginning of the livestock project year, you will purchase an animal. The 4-H member will then feed, exercise, groom, and work with the animal to prepare to show. At the completion of the season, the animal will then be sold and the money will go to the 4-H member.

How will a livestock project help me?

The livestock project is one of the best projects that 4-H has to offer. This project teaches kids not only how to care for an animal, it also helps them build a business mindset, teaching them how to save and manage money. It is also a great way to teach responsibility, respect, leadership

and teamwork!

Things to be aware of before beginning...

Before beginning, it is important to consider the cost and the time associated with this project. To feed and care for an animal correctly, is not cheap. However, price varies greatly depending on the animal you have. This is also a project that requires time and care every single day, twice a day. This is an excellent project, but not one to enter into lightly.

What animals can I show?

In the livestock project, you can show goats, sheep, pigs, and/or cattle.



Pigs!

Of all of the livestock projects, the pig project is the most minimalistic in terms of equipment needed. A pig can be purchased for \$200 or higher. Pigs will be selected for the show season in September/October when they are 8 to 10 weeks old and weigh 40 to 80 pounds. In order to be

able to show, the hog must weigh at least 190 pounds. Final market weight of the pig will be around 270 pounds.

Pigs really are a fun project because they have such a personality and are a great beginner project for a new 4-H member.

For more information, contact the county extension agent or visit https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource002334_Rep3429.pdf



Cattle!



The 4-H Cattle project is an excellent project for those who are interested in the beef cattle industry, are considering a career in veterinary medicine, and love animals.

While this project is among the most fun of all of the livestock

projects, it is very time consuming and expensive, so consider your ability to purchase, feed, and care for a calf very seriously before deciding on this project. Calves will be selected in the early summer, meaning that they will be on feed for at least 9 months. During this time, the calf will have to be halter broke, properly groomed, walked, and washed and must become very comfortable being handled. The minimum

weight of a calf to show in the county show is 900 pounds. It is very difficult to find a calf for less than \$1,000.

For more information, contact the county extension agent or visit

http://oaktrust.library.tamu.edu/bitstream/handle/1969.1/86919/pdf_1237.pdf?sequence=1

For more information, contact the county extension agent or visit

https://projects.ncsu.edu/cals/an_sci/extension/animal/4hyouth/AS34059-showlamb.pdf

or

https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource002493_Rep3663.pdf

Lambs and Goats!

In the goat project, you will be responsible for purchasing and taking care of your lamb/goat. You can choose to specialize your project and knowledge on either meat, hair, or dairy production. When considering a livestock project there are a few things to keep in mind. This is an incredibly rewarding experience that takes commitment. The lamb/goat project

lasts close to eight months. The best way to learn how to get started is to contact your local county extension office. They can explain how to participate and point you in the right direction for a lamb/goat and the focus you choose – meat, dairy or hair.



Career Opportunities

The 4-H Livestock Project opens the door to numerous career opportunities. This is a great project for anyone interested in veterinary medicine (even small animal veterinary medicine). However, this also provides experience for many careers with in the animal agricultural industry and higher

education degrees. This project also prepares them for a job as an animal nutritionist, barn/farm manager, ranch hand and many more! It also provides experience related to business, marketing, and leadership!

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