



4-H PLUS

Exploring Animals

Project Learner User Sheet

A quick guide to starting your 4-H project

What can I do in the 4-H Exploring Animals Project?

The exploring animals project gives 4-H members the opportunity to learn about animals. Some of the animals you can explore in this project are beef cattle, horses, pets, poultry, rabbits, sheep, swine, or dairy goats. You can also explore more unusual animals such as elk, ostrich, llamas, and others. Every animal provides many fun and challenging learning opportunities.

Planning

Since this project allows you to explore animals without owning them, you can work on any area of interest. Here are things you can do to help you plan your project:

- Go to the library, extension office, veterinary clinic or the Internet to get some preliminary information.
- Talk to 4-H members who own the animal you are interested in.
- Learn the proper terminology for the animal's breeds, names, products, body parts, etc.
- Find out about the normal temperature, pulse, and respiration rate of a specific animal.
- Learn about uses of a specific animal.

After selecting a specific animal species for your project, you can enroll in that project area. Members who are unable to own an animal still have the opportunity to take care of and exhibit an animal. You might want to lease an animal from a neighbor or friend. You can lease (borrow) a breeding animal by filling out an animal identification and lease agreement. Once you have leased an animal you can:

- Plan an animal health and vaccination program.
- Plan a training and chore schedule with the owner.
- Determine the animal's age.
- Observe animal behavior.
- Learn what kind of equipment is needed for grooming, training and general handling
- Learn what the animal likes to eat
- Learn how much it costs to feed the animal

Resources

Check out the Internet; visit veterinary clinics and libraries, read 4-H Skills for Life Animal Science Series or contact professional associations listed below:

American Dairy Goat Association

P.O. Box 186, Spindale, NC 28160

American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 426, Bloomington, IL 61702-0426

American Cat Association

8101 Katherine Ave., Panorama City, CA 91402

American Lamb Council

6911 South Yosemite St., Englewood, CO 80112

National Dairy Council

6300 North River Rd., Rosemont, IL

National Dairy Herd Association

3021 E. Dublin-Granville Rd., Columbus, OH 43229

National Livestock and Meat Board

444 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611

National Pork Producers

P.O. Box 10383, Des Moines, IA 50306

American Dog Owner's Association

P.O. Box 746, Albany, NY 12207

American Poultry Association

26363 Tucker Rd., Estacada, OR 97023

American Horse Council

1700 K. St., NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 2006-3805

National Cattleman's Association

P.O. Box 3469, Englewood, CO 80155



CURRICULUM TASK FORCE

Center for 4-H Youth Development

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S E R V I C E

What do you do now? Look for ideas below.

Write your own ideas for preparing, doing, and sharing in the open areas.

Preparing

Visit with staff at a zoo, animal shelter, or pet store.

Begin a scrapbook of your experiences.

Start now filling out your 4-H record and planning calendar.

Tour a farm, feed mill, or veterinary clinic.

Explore the nutritional facts of the by-products (i.e., milk, meat) of your animal.

Participate on a judging or project bowl team.

Explore careers in this field by interviewing people with animal careers.

Doing

Identify different animal feeds and read a feed label.

Identify the body parts on your animal.

Sharing

Describe breed characteristics.

Talk about animal selection.

Set up a skillathon activity on how to make a halter.

Describe preparation of an animal for exhibition.

Demonstrate handling and feeding.

Have a cookout to sample and identify different cuts of meat.

Give a talk on animal health.