

Kentucky Virtual Experiences

4-H Livestock: Goats

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My name is Zack Bartenslager and I am an Extension Associate for youth livestock programs at the University of Kentucky.

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I wanted to take a minute and talk to you about our youth livestock programs that we have to offer.

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You might be familiar that we have youth livestock programs where individuals can show livestock, whether it be sheep, goats, hogs, or beef cattle

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through our breeding or market programs both. This is through county fairs and different district and preview shows hosted by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture

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as well as, in conjunction with the Kentucky State Fair each year in August.

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Additionally, you can get involved through educational programs, such as livestock judging, livestock skillathon, and quiz bowl, which are all programs that help promote youth from an education standpoint and a professional development standpoint as well.

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Hi my name is Lexie Garrett. I'm from a small town in Kentucky called Nicholas County. I've been showing for almost 10 years now, and me and my family have been raising really competitive stock. Today I'm going to show you how

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I keep my goats hydrated throughout the summer. I make sure every single day, three or four times a day, I make sure they have clean and fresh water.

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Hi, my name is Lyndsey Garrett. I'm 17 years old and from a small town called Carlisle, Kentucky.

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I've been a 4-H'er for almost the past almost 10 years and I've been raising and showing Boer goats. Right now I have Boer goats with me which my family and I have been raising since I was almost 10 years old. The Boer goats are used for meat products, so we breed them in the fall

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and summertime so they can have babies in the winter and we can show them in the summertime and sale their offspring. So it's about five o'clock here, which means the goats are super-duper hungry.

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I'm feeding them a pelletized feed, which is one of their favorites, and it's really high in protein which helps them to create meat, so they look good in the show ring and when they go to rail they have a good quality carcass. Right now their getting fed.

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And when we go to individually feed them, they'll eat about three pounds a day and they'll gain lots of weight throughout their time in the show barn.

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I also feed my goats in the morning right before school around seven 'o clock. It's always a great way for me to start my day seeing all of my goats' smiling faces.

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So we typically will clean their pens as often as needed. If they're really bad nasty we will clean them every two or so weeks, but to prevent that we

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pick through their stalls so that way we don't have to clean as much, and we put flake shavings down, which is basically ground-up trees.

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And so the reason why we clean their stalls is to keep their hair nice and clean and not have as many tangles at the show to get out and wash all the stains. My goat Pam, she's one of the goats that I

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have raised and showed. Right now she's on a stand and this helps us to make sure that she's staying still and is happy and content when we are clipping her hair, brushing her out, washing her

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and, it even teaches her to hold still so she will be presentable in the show ring. So one of the daily things that I do are making sure that the goats are brushed out and they have a clean hide and hair.

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This makes them look shiny and so pretty in the show ring. This is a comb that we like to use, and it helps get any tangles, dirt, or any debris that are in her, and we always comb the hair to the butt

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and it makes her lines look so much smoother. Before entering the show ring there's a lot of work that goes in at home and before and even at the show ring the moments before.

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It's really important that we wash the goats to make sure that they're super clean and super washed we also clip them

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and will trim off all the hair, so the judge can get the best view of the animal

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and sometimes we even pull up their leg hair to make their legs look bigger and that they're standing on a larger substance of bone. Trim their feet so they're getting around the ring better and more comfortably.

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The reason why we show is to show off their loin, make sure they have a great rib cage, and a bigger behind, and to make sure they have a great carcass.

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The reason why we do this is because when auction comes around and sales, we want to make sure that we have the animal best presented the best that we can so we can bring in more money, so that way we can buy more and get more feed for them, and get the stuff that we need.

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A lot of people will show on a halter which will cover over their nose and around their neck, or a chain

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which is basically just a collar which goes underneath their neck and behind their ear which we use to then walk them and present them to the judge.

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So we will set them into place on all fours

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and then give the judge a look.

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I highly encourage each and every one of youth in Kentucky to get involved in these programs and to reach out to me if they have any questions that I can help get them involved in these programs, in one way or another.