

4-H ANIMAL OR FOOD SCIENCE PROJECT



Image: National 4-H Council

Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

Are you Into It?

Ashley Osborne,
Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development

Participate in a 4-H animal or food science project!

- Projects and activities are offered in the areas of beef cattle, sheep, swine, goats, dairy, poultry, equine, and food science.
- Participate in a youth livestock project.
- Demonstrate communication skills by preparing and giving oral reasons.
- Learn food safety and cooking skills.

Communication

- Demonstrate proper safety techniques when handling a horse to younger 4-Hers.
- Write an article for the local newspaper on how to properly care for an animal.

Citizenship

- Organize and lead an agriculture field day event for a Cloverbud Club.
- Volunteer to assist at a local livestock show or event.

Leadership

- Teach a class on how to cure a country ham.
- Mentor a younger 4-Her on how to prepare and give oral reasons.
- Present at Teen Conference.

4-H is a community of young people who are learning leadership citizenship and life skills.

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out
Basic/Level 1

- Learn about livestock nutrition, feeding, health, and daily care.
- Identify breeds.
- Select, care for, and train your animal.
- Learn horsemanship skills.
- Learn how to show your animal.
- Identify cuts of meat.
- Show your animal at a county, district, and/or state fair.

Learning More
Intermediate/Level 2

- Research common parasites and treatment.
- Learn about livestock evaluation.
- Prepare and give oral reasons.
- Demonstrate how to properly groom an animal for show.
- Learn how to properly use, store, and administer medications.
- Demonstrate proper food safety procedures.

Expanding Horizons
Advanced/Level 3

- Learn about livestock reproduction.
- Select breeding animals.
- Research the clinical signs and treatment of livestock diseases.
- Calculate feed rations.
- Research different housing systems.
- Candle eggs.
- Develop questions and hold a quiz bowl.
- Demonstrate how to properly barbeque a chicken.

Learn more at www.kentucky4h.org or contact your county extension office.





Take Animal and Food Science Further!

Here are some other opportunities to explore agriculture:

- Enter an exhibit in county and state fair.
- Tour a local farm.
- Participate in the 4-H Country Ham Project.
- Attend 4-H Dairy Cow Camp.
- Compete at a 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest.
- Participate in the 4-H Horse Competition, such as the State 4-H Hippology Contest or the State 4-H Horse Bowl.
- Compete in the 4-H Egg Preparation Demonstration Contest.
- Job shadow a veterinarian or farrier.
- Attend a livestock sale.
- Tour a meat processing facility.
- Learn about the advantages and disadvantages of using local meat, eggs, and dairy in a restaurant by interviewing a chef.
- Schedule a visit with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment. Website: <http://www.ca.uky.edu/>

Exhibit Ideas

- Create a poster showing the costs associated with purchasing, caring for, and showing an animal.
- Develop a video demonstrating how to properly groom an animal for show.
- Prepare an exhibit showcasing the various equipment needed to care for your animal.
- Create a poster showing the body parts of your animal.
- Develop a display featuring different cuts of meat and how to properly prepare each one.
- Create a poster that includes important animal and food science terminology.

Resources

4-H Resources		Record Keeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afterschool Agriculture – Acres of Adventure • Kentucky Farm 2 School • Project Food, Land, and People • Beef Resource Handbook • Beef, Sheep, Swine Selection Evaluation • Dairy Resource Handbook • 4-H Dairy Cattle Curriculum • Goat Resource Handbook • Horse Achievement Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 • Horse Safety Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kentucky Livestock and Horse Volunteer Certification Manual • Kentucky 4-H Chicken and Turkey Barbeque Project • Kentucky 4-H Poultry Barbeque Contests • National Avian Bowl Manual • Poultry Resource Handbook • 4-H Rabbit Curriculum • Sheep Resource Handbook • Swine Resource Handbook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-H Horse Project Record • Beef Project and Record Book • Dairy Cow Project and Record Book • Dairy Heifer Project and Record Book • Goat Project and Record Book • ChickQuest Logbook • Poultry Project and Record Book • Market Lamb Project and Record Book • Sheep Breeding Project and Record Book • Market Hog Project and Record Book • Swine Breeding Project and Record Book

