



Animal Project Considerations

Area: Preparing for an Animal Project

Activity: Should I take an animal project?

Goal: Guide members through the process of deciding if a livestock project is right for them.

Materials Needed: “Should I take 4-H project?” Worksheet

How to do the Activity:

Use the worksheet to help members work through a process to decide if they should consider taking a specific type of animal as a project.

Here are some questions to use to help guide them to making a sound decision:

- “What is it about a _____ project that appeals to you?”
- “What are some things we need to think about before you sign up for a _____ project?”
- “How can you find answers to questions you might have about a _____ project?”
- “How are you going to assure that your _____ project receives all of the care it needs?”
- If you make any money on your _____ project, what plans to do have for saving it or spending it?

Conclusion:

By completing this activity, 4-H members have been able to explore some concepts of science. They have asked questions, answered questions, gained some factual knowledge and have hopefully been encouraged to ask more questions. *How else might this _____? What if _____ were done? Why did I get these results?*

As they expand their knowledge with Inquiry Based Learning, they are learning life skills that they will use again and again as capable adults.

Should I take an animal as a 4-H Project Worksheet

Fill in the following information with your project plans:

What type of animal are you planning to raise? _____

How many of these animals are you planning to raise? _____

Fill in the following chart of livestock ownership responsibilities:

Responsibilities	I can do this!	I have to work on
Provide a safe and healthy environment that is clean, well ventilated and provides ample space for the animals.		
Provide food and water to meet the animal's needs.		
Have appropriate, safe and sanitary feeders and feed storage.		
Have appropriate, safe and sanitary method for watering (Must include the ability to empty the waterer and clean it).		
Pay for purchasing the animals and buying feed, bedding, medication, show equipment and supplies needed throughout the project.		
Make timely inspections of all animals to evaluate the health and insure that all basic requirements are being met.		
Provide a well-planned disease prevention program to protect the health of the animals. This includes a strong veterinarian-client		
Provide appropriate and adequate bedding and have an appropriate method to dispose of the manure.		
Insure proper handling techniques are used to eliminate any undue stress or injury when animals must be moved.		
Provide transportation that avoids undue stress or injury caused by inadequate/inappropriate hauling methods, overcrowding, excessive time in transit, or improper handling when loading or unloading.		
Make management decisions based on scientific fact and to consider the welfare of my animals in all decisions.		
Have adequate time to care for and work with my animals.		
Have the help and guidance of a knowledgeable and supportive adult.		
Have the time to do Basic 4-H program requirements and to complete paperwork, forms, etc.		

Livestock Project Considerations:

Please answer the following questions:

1. This is where I plan to buy my animals: _____
2. This is how I plan to pay for my animals: _____
3. This is where I plan to keep my animals: _____
4. This is how I plan to get the animals home: _____
5. I need at least this much space for housing: _____
6. I will try to keep my animals within the comfort zone for optimal performance by: _____
7. _____
8. This is how I will provide clean, fresh, cool water: _____
9. _____
10. This is where I plan to purchase my feed: _____
11. Who do you plan to be your animals vet: _____
12. This how I plan to pay for feed and other expenses like show fees, vet fees & equipment while raising my animal: _____
13. This is how I plan to get my animal to the shows: _____
14. This is how many hours a week I plan to work with my animal: _____
15. This is how I plan to manage my animal's manure/waste: _____
16. This is how I plan to market my project when it is finished: _____
17. Who do you plan to help you with your project: _____

Decision Time: I am going to take this project in 4-H: ___ Yes ___ No ___ Unsure

Information originally developed in 3/2015 by Bonnie Malone, Extension Educator 4-H, Huron County, Ohio and Vicki Schwartz, Associate State Leader, Ohio 4-H. "Should I Take An Animal Project?"

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