

Sample Goals

Animal Care & Health

- Learn how to identify and treat common calf diseases.
- Learn about diet changes of a growing goat.
- Learn how to clean pens properly and control flies.
- Practice clipping sheep hooves to maintain soundness.
- Improve animal health by learning how different feed rations affect growth and condition.
- See how exercise aids in muscle development.
- Improve feeding efficiency as costs increase.

Show Preparation & Skills

- Learn how to lead a calf.
- Learn how to set up my cattle better in the show ring.
- Practice clipping and fitting my calf before fair.
- Learn how to shear out my sheep.
- Learn how to show a pig with confidence.
- Train my pig to lead well, even when it is around other pigs.

Knowledge & Education

- Learn about beef breeds and their characteristics.
- Learn where the different cuts of beef are located.
- Understand what bull to breed with what cow and why.
- Learn what things affect the beef market and why.
- Learn how ram selection influences breed characteristics in sheep.
- Learn to identify different breeds of pigs.
- Learn how pigs are grown and taken care of.
- See how different pigs grow with different feed in each pen.
- Learn how to judge a pig and explain reasons.
- Learn how to select better breeding stock across livestock species.

Personal Responsibility & Growth

- Pick my own pigs this year.
- Raise a clean, well-muscled sheep for the fair.
- Learn how to get feed and understand feed sourcing.
- Take responsibility for feeding, cleaning, and caring for animals daily.
- I will raise a hog that makes weight.

SMART Goals

Animal Care & Health

- By fair time, I will be able to identify and explain how to treat **3 common calf diseases**.
- I will record diet changes of my goat **once a month** and explain how it affected growth and health in my record book.
- I will clean my animal pens **at least 4 times per week** and use 2 fly control methods to reduce pests by July.
- I will clip my sheep's hooves **every 6–8 weeks** until fair to keep them sound.
- By fair time, I will describe how **at least 3 different feed rations** affect animal growth and condition.
- I will track and report how exercise helps muscle development by working with my animal **3 times per week** until the show.
- I will compare my feed costs monthly and adjust rations to improve efficiency by **10% before fair**.

Show Preparation & Skills

- I will train my calf to lead by practicing **30 minutes, 3 times per week** until the county fair.
- By fair, I will be able to set up my calf's feet correctly in the ring without assistance in **3 consecutive practices**.
- I will practice clipping and fitting my calf at least **twice before the fair** and ask for feedback from a leader.
- I will practice shearing my sheep **2 times before fair** to improve my technique.
- I will practice pig showmanship **once a week** and enter showmanship class at the fair.
- I will train my pig to lead around other pigs by practicing in groups at least **3 times before fair**.

Knowledge & Education

- By July 1, I will be able to describe **5 beef breeds** and their characteristics.
- I will learn the location of **10 beef cuts of meat** and identify them correctly before the fair.
- By the end of the project year, I will explain how to match a bull with the right cow for breeding purposes.
- I will track beef market prices monthly and write down **3 factors** that influenced the market by the end of the project year.
- I will describe how ram selection impacts breed characteristics by fair time.
- I will identify **at least 5 pig breeds** and their characteristics by the end of the year.
- I will describe the growth process of pigs from birth to market weight by fair time.
- I will compare growth in at least **2 pigs fed different rations** and report the results at the end of the project.
- I will judge at least **one class of pigs** and give oral reasons before fair time.
- I will identify 2 key traits of better breeding stock and apply them in selecting animals this year.

Personal Responsibility & Growth

- I will pick out my own pigs this year by the first weigh-in.
- I will raise a sheep that is clean and well-muscled by practicing daily care and tracking weight monthly.
- I will learn how to source and buy feed by talking to at least **two feed suppliers before May**.
- I will care for my animals daily without reminders and record it at least **5 times per week** in my project book.
- I will make sure my hog makes weight at the county fair by tracking its weight every 2 weeks and tracking its growth.