

## Goat Security Check

The world can be a dangerous place for your goat! Your job as a goat owner is to keep your goat as safe and healthy as possible. This activity will help you look at your goat's *environment* in a new way.

**Dairy Goat Skill:** Providing a safe environment for a goat

**Life Skill:** Reasoning—identifies problems

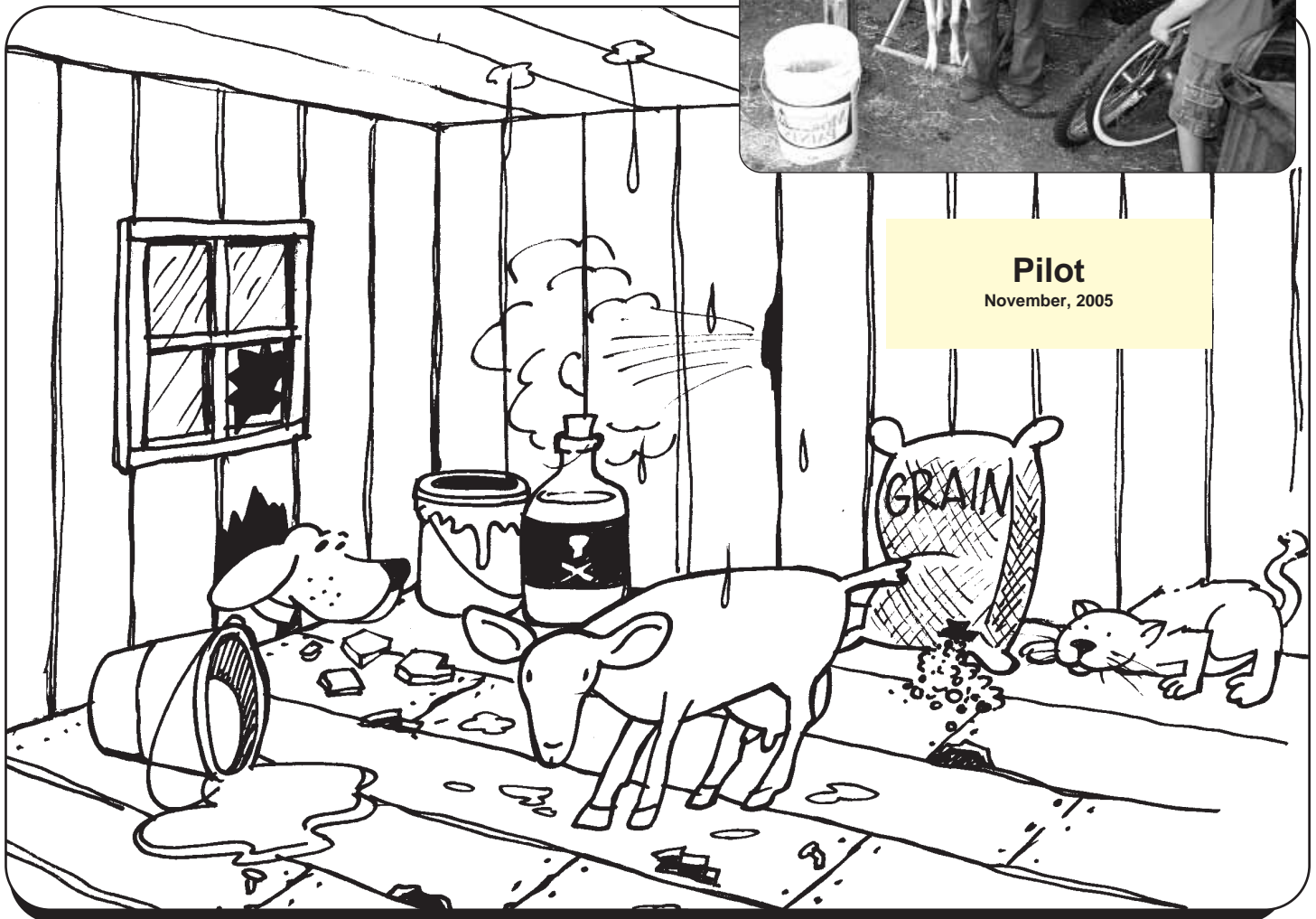
**Education Standard:** NPH-H.K-8.3: Reducing health risks

**Success Indicator:** Identifies safe goat management practices.

### Goat to it!

Look at the drawing and see how many *hazards* you can find. Circle all the different problems you see. Discuss what you found with your group or helper.

"Is this a safe place for our goat?"



**Pilot**  
November, 2005

## Say Cheese! (Share what you did)

- **Say Cheese!** (Share what you did)
- What hazards did you find?
- What hazards had you not thought about before?

## The Buck Stops Here (Process what's important)

- Describe how “an ounce of prevention beats a pound of cure.”
- Why does your goat rely on you to keep her safe?

## Spread It Around (Generalize to your life)

- What safety hazards are in your environment?
- When have you or a friend been hurt by something unsafe in your environment?

## Browse for More (Apply what you learned)

- How will you change your goat's environment to make it safer?
- What else can you do to keep your goat healthy?

## Bits & Butts

Predators are a big safety concern for goat owners.  
Protect your goats from coyotes, dogs and other predators!



Dairy Goat Project Online

[www.n4hccs.org/dairygoat](http://www.n4hccs.org/dairygoat)

Facilities  
Safety

Revised by Susan Kerr.



# Home Sweet Home

## Fencing

Goat fencing should be at least four feet tall to help keep goats in and predators out. Avoid using barbed wire—it can severely injure animals. Woven wire, electric fencing or cattle panels can work for some goats. It is hard to disinfect wooden fencing, so try not to use it. All items in the pen should be placed so that the goat can not jump over the fence.

## Housing

All goats need protection from rain. Plan on a space of at least four feet by four feet for two goats. A good three-sided shed with a solid roof tilted toward the rear is a minimum for all goats. The shed should have safe windows for good ventilation but no drafts. Make sure there are no holes through which your goat could break a leg, no broken glass to cut her and no nails sticking out to hurt her.

## Feeders and Waterers

Do not feed hay on the ground. Water containers should be small enough that they can be drained and cleaned on a regular basis. Put the water in a place that is shady and clean to keep it cool and fresh. Don't let the water freeze during the winter.

## Grain

Keep your grain locked up or your goat could get into it, eat too much and die! Also, keep cats, birds and rodents out of your goat's grain or they can spread diseases to your goat.

## Other concerns

Goats love to chew, so keep all electrical wires, chemicals and other harmful items out of their reach. Remove goats' collars when not in use to prevent accidental hanging.

## Udder Ideas

1. Conduct a safety check of your house or barn. Discuss with your family what you find.
2. Act as a consultant for others who want to make their goat's environment safe. Write up a report of your findings and share it with the owner.
3. Ask a veterinarian about the livestock illnesses and injuries they treat that could have been prevented.

# May I Check Your Goat?

Uh-oh, your goat is lying down and won't get up. Is she just tired or is she sick? What should you do? In this activity, you'll discover what is normal for healthy animals. You'll investigate signs of illness, too. These skills will help you become a better goat owner!

**Dairy Goat Skill:** Examining a healthy goat

**Life Skill:** Thinking Creatively—makes connections between old and new

**Education Standard:** NS.K-4.3: Life Science: Characteristics of organisms

**Success Indicator:** Examines a goat and records the results.

## Goat to it!

Pretend that you will be examining several goats to decide if they are sick or healthy. To prepare, complete the chart below to help you remember what to look for in sick and healthy goats. You may complete this activity by yourself or with a friend. You may also just skip ahead and examine a goat and record your findings here.

The gums and inner eyelids of a healthy goat are pink and moist.



## Checking Your Goat

Item	In Healthy Goats	In Sick Goats
Body condition		
Attitude and posture		
Behavior and alertness		
Appetite		
Drinking		
<i>Mucous membranes</i>		
Temperature		
Heart rate (beats per minute)		
Breathing (sounds and rate)		
Teeth and mouth		
Eyes		
Nose		
Ears		
Gait		
Muscles		
Feet		
Legs and joints		
Hooves		
Skin and hair coat		
Manure		
Urine		
Udder		
Prepuce		
Scrotum and testicles		

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## Say Cheese! (Share what you did)

- Where did you get the information to fill in the chart?
- What information was new to you?

## The Buck Stops Here (Process what's important)

- Why do you need to be able to tell when your goat is sick?
- How does starting with what you already know help you learn new information?

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## Spread It Around (Generalize to your life)

- What signs of goat illness have you seen in real life?
- How do you act when you are sick?

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## Browse for More (Apply what you learned)

- How can you use what you learned to take better care of your goat?
- How can you teach others to tell when their goat is sick?

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## Bits & Butts

Signs of illness are observable, like a swollen joint. Symptoms describe unseen things, like a headache. Because animals can't tell us how they feel, they only have signs of illness, not symptoms.



Dairy Goat Project Online

[www.n4hccs.org/dairygoat](http://www.n4hccs.org/dairygoat)

Health records  
Examining a goat



# Healthy, Wealthy and Wise

Watch your goat carefully to learn what is normal for your goat. Your goat should be strong, alert and curious, not dull and weak. Healthy goats have a good appetite and drink a normal amount of water. Their manure should be well-formed pellets, not diarrhea.

A healthy goat is neither too fat nor too thin, so feel your goat regularly to make sure that its body condition is right. Its coat should be glossy and free from parasites, not dull or full of lice. You should not notice limping or any swellings on the legs or body.

Your goat's eyes and nose should be free from discharge. Its gums should be pink, not pale or white. You should not hear any coughing or sneezing.

If your goat is giving milk, the milk should be a normal white color and not contain any clumps, unusual color or odd smell. The udder should be even and soft.

Young animals should grow well and be playful and full of energy.

Disclaimer/  
Warning

Be sure to call your veterinarian whenever you have a question about your animal's health.

## Udder Ideas

1. Use the chart on page 20 to create an examination chart for your animal. Now examine at least one live animal and record your findings. Share what you did with your helper.
2. Travel with a veterinarian and observe him/her examining animals. Share with your helper or group what you observed.

# When I Get "A Round Tuft"

Your goat just had a kid. When does it need to be vaccinated? Dewormed? Weaned? HELP! There are many things that need to be done to care for your goat properly and it is very important that you know when each one needs to be done. This activity will help you become familiar with all the "whats" and "whens" of caring for your goat. Along the way, you'll be surprised how much you can learn about caring for goats by talking with others. On your mark, get set, spin!

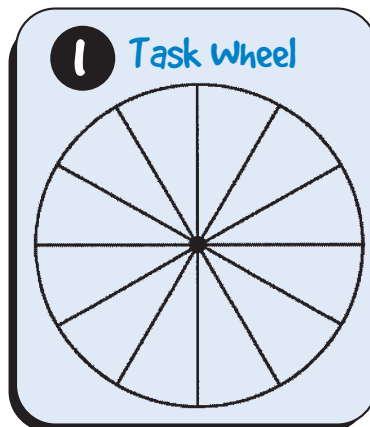
<b>Dairy Goat Skill:</b>	Making management decisions
<b>Life Skill:</b>	Decision making
<b>Education Standard:</b>	NL-ENG.K-12.4: Communication Skills: Students adjust their use of spoken language to communicate effectively
<b>Success Indicator:</b>	Explains when routine management actions should be performed.

## Goat to it!

There are two parts to this activity—making the cardboard wheel and then using it for the activity.

### Part 1, Making a Goat Management Task Wheel

Supplies needed: a medium-sized piece of thin cardboard, pencil, scissors, compass, ruler, brass fastener and a paper clip. With the compass and pencil, draw a large circle on the cardboard, cut it out and make a hole in the middle large enough for the brass fastener to poke through. With your ruler and pencil, divide the circle into 12 equal sections as shown in Box 1. In one of the 12 sections, write one of the 12 Management Tasks listed in Box 2. Make sure each section of the wheel has a task and all tasks are included. Attach the paper clip to the cardboard by running the brass fastener through one end and opening its wings. Make sure the paper clip can spin freely.



### 2 Goat Management Tasks

1. Disbud
2. Give colostrum
3. Wean
4. Castrate
5. Breed
6. Flush
7. Vaccinate
8. Give Vit.E/Selenium injection
9. Dip navels
10. Trim hooves
11. Deworm
12. Tattoo or ear tag

With help, you can learn to do many basic goat management tasks yourself!



### Part 2, Playing the Goat Management Decision Making game

This activity is best done in teams of two. Take turns spinning the paper clip. Each time it lands on a management task, the team must select a choice from the list of Goat Management Task Timeline Options in Box 3. When should the task be performed? Discuss the question with your teammate. Spin several times and discuss many goat management tasks.

### 3 Goat Management Task Timeline options

Immediately at birth	Other or as needed
Within one hour of birth	Twice a year
Within 12 hours of birth	Every 6 weeks
Within 24 hours of birth	Once a year
At 7 to 10 days old	At 7 to 12 months old
At one month old	At six months old
At two to three months old	Never

## Say Cheese! (Share what you did)

- What were the hardest and easiest parts of this activity?
- How did your answers differ from your teammates' answers?

## The Buck Stops Here (Process what's important)

- How did this activity help you make management decisions about your animals?
- How did being part of a team affect the answers you came up with?

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## Spread It Around (Generalize to your life)

- Which of the goat management tasks have you done before?
- What are other examples of when you have served on a team and made decisions?

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## Browse for More (Apply what you learned)

- How could you share what you learned with others?
- How will what you learned change how you care for your goats?

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November, 2005

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## Bits & Butts

Selenium is an important mineral that keeps muscle cells healthy. In many parts of the U.S., Selenium is deficient in soils and plants. Livestock in these areas can die from a lack of Selenium if owners do not make sure they get enough. Too much Selenium can be fatal too.



Dairy Goat Project Online

[www.n4hccs.org/dairygoat](http://www.n4hccs.org/dairygoat)

Goat management skills

Written by Susan Kerr.



# Plan Your Work, Work Your Plan

Goat producers need to do many tasks to keep their animals healthy. Some only need to be done once and others need to be done often.

## Routine Tasks

- Goats' feet must be trimmed often or they will become overgrown, cracked and cause lameness. You may need to trim as often as every six weeks.
- Goats need to be dewormed perhaps as often as every month. Work with your veterinarian to decide how often to worm.
- Goats in most part of the U.S. need to be given Selenium to keep healthy. This is especially important for young and growing animals. Work with your veterinarian to decide how to give your animals Selenium.
- All goats should receive a tetanus vaccination every year. Young animals and pregnant does also need to be vaccinated to prevent Overeating Disease with a "C and D" vaccine. Goats in your area may need other vaccinations, so ask your veterinarian.
- Does and doelings can be *flushed* for three weeks before and after breeding to increase the chance they give birth to at least twins.
- Breeding time will vary depending on when you want kids to be born. Most goats come into heat in the fall so their kids are born in the spring in good weather.

## One-Time Tasks

Newborn kids should have their navels dipped with iodine as soon as possible. They should receive colostrum soon after birth. They can be tattooed or ear tagged at any time. Kids can be *disbudded* when the horn buds are felt, usually before one week old. Buck kids can be banded or *castrated* after they are off to a good start and the testicles can be felt, usually at seven to ten days old. Kids can be *weaned* at two, three or even six months.

Bleat Street Talk • wean • castrate • flush



# Udder Ideas

1. Visit a goat farm and observe as many different management tasks as you can. Take photos, make a scrap book and share it with your helper or group.
2. Plan a Goat Management Skills Day where you teach others how to perform basic goat management tasks.

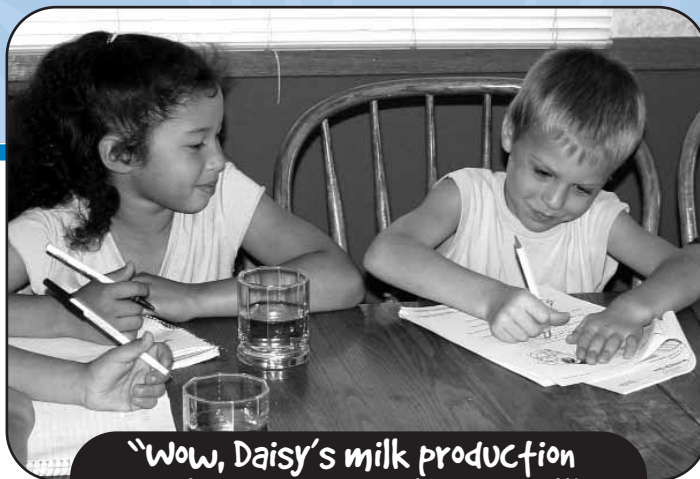
# For the Record

No matter what kind of goat you raise, you'll need to keep track of certain things. Records help you keep track of your goat's production, health and breeding. They also help you figure out how much money you are putting into and getting out of your goat project! It's also fun to look back on your records when you are older to help you remember the activities you participated in and the awards you received. The better records you keep, the better you will know how to take care of your goat AND the better you will be prepared for your life as an adult.

<b>Dairy Goat Skill:</b>	Keeping dairy goat project records
<b>Life Skill:</b>	Organizing Information: Selects appropriate categories
<b>Education Standard:</b>	NL-ENG.K-12.4: Communication Skills
<b>Success Indicator:</b>	Describes types of dairy goat project records to keep.

## Goat to it!

For the matching activity below, decide which activity goes with each type of record. Put the number of the entry in the empty column in the middle, next to the proper type of record. Some types of records may have more than one entry and some entries may be able to go into more than one type of record. Be able to explain to your helper why you matched each entry with each type of record.



"Wow, Daisy's milk production is a lot higher than last year!"

## Record Entry Matching Activity

Entry	Match	Record Type or Category
1. January 4, purchased 50 lb. of mineral mix for \$7.85		A. Project goals
2. Picked up trash along highway with other club members		B. Expense
3. July. 8: Dewormed Petunia with 5 grams of "WormsBgone." Withheld milk 3 days, meat 28 days		C. Project journal
4. Gave a demonstration on fitting and showing at my club meeting on Jan. 15		D. Production records
5. Petunia had two doelings on Feb. 14		E. Income
6. I received an Achievement Program certificate on June 4		F. Reproduction records
7. This is my third year in the dairy goat project		G. Leadership activities
8. Feb. 3, program planning committee meeting		H. Calendar
9. I plan to complete the Level 2 Achievement Program this year		I. Quality assurance
10. Helped new club member learn the parts of a goat		J. Demonstration
11. This year I was finally able to trim Petunia's hooves all by myself		K. Recognition
12. I spent 20 minutes a day each day this week teaching Petunia to set up for judging		L. Personal information
13. Received \$24.50 in premiums from county fair		M. Inventory
14. Petunia averaged one gallon of milk a day this month		N. Project highlights
15. Jan. 8, participated in hay judging contest		O. Feed records
16. Started project year with new brush worth \$3.50		P. Educational Activities
17. \$15 transportation cost to attend State Fair		Q. Judging Activities
18. June 12, attended district animal science workshop		R. Health records
19. Petunia had mild mastitis in her right side on Feb. 10. She responded well to cool compresses and frequent milk-out activities		S. Community service

## Say Cheese! (Share what you did)

- Where did you think each entry should go?
- How many of these types of records were new to you?

## The Buck Stops Here (Process what's important)

- How can records help you reach your goat project goals?
- How does organizing information make it more useful?

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## Spread It Around (Generalize to your life)

- Besides for your goats, for what other purposes do you keep records?
- What other information do you organize and track?

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November, 2005

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## Browse For More (Apply what you learned)

- How can you become a better record keeper?
- How can you convince others of the importance of good records?

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Dairy Herd Improvement Association members conduct monthly tests on their herd's milk and receive helpful information back on every animal. This information includes individual and herd milk production information and information on milk quality.



Dairy Goat Project Online

[www.n4hccs.org/dairygoat](http://www.n4hccs.org/dairygoat)

Dairy goat records  
Fiber goat records



# Types of Records

### Production records

- Dates
- Milk production for each animal
- Milk quality information
- Fiber production
- Fiber quality
- Meat production

### Health records

- Dates of births
- Vaccinations
- Laboratory tests
- Illnesses and injuries
- Treatments (deworming, Vitamin E/Selenium, etc.)

### Quality assurance records

- Dates
- Animal identification
- Medications given (name, dose, location, method)
- Meat and milk withholding dates
- Medication lot numbers
- Veterinarian's contact information

### Feed records

- Total grain fed
- Total hay fed
- Days on pasture
- Total minerals fed
- Individual feeding information

### Breeding and reproduction records

- Day bred
- Dam and sire information
- Due dates
- Kidding details (date, number of kids, difficulty, etc.)

### Growth records

- Monthly heart girth
- Monthly height at withers
- Monthly weight

### Inventory

- Equipment and value at beginning of year
- Equipment and value at the end of year

### Financial records

- All income (products, sale of animals, premium money, etc.)
- All expenses (feed, supplies, breeding, equipment, animals, veterinary, show fees, etc.)

### Youth Project Records

- Project goals
- Project journal
- Leadership activities
- Planning calendar
- Demonstrations
- Recognition and awards
- Personal information
- Project highlights
- Educational activities
- Judging activities
- Community service activities

# Udder Ideas

1. Ask your parent(s) to explain how a checking account is kept or how your family's income tax is calculated.
2. Make a budget for next year for raising your goat. Share what you created with your helper or parent.