2020 Goat Skillathon Study Guide

The Union County Goat Skillathon will be held Monday, July 27, at 11:30 am in the Show Arena. The Richwood Fair Goat Skillathon will be held Thursday, Sept 3 at 12:45 pm in the Pavilion.

This Study Guide gives a description of the stations which will be included in the Goat Skillathon. Age groups for Skillathon are as follows (your age as of January 1, 2020): Juniors ages 8-10; Intermediates ages 11-13; Seniors ages 14-18.

4-H and FFA members should bring their Union County Livestock Record Book and a pencil to the Skillathon.

Station #1 Project Record
A skillathon moderator will review your Union County Livestock Record and award points for completion. You can download a 2020 Union County Livestock Record Book at: https://go.osu.edu/2020livestockrecbk. You should have your Livestock Record Book completed prior to arriving at Skillathon. Be sure to complete ALL sections of the record book.

A completed FFA Animal Enterprise Record Book can be used: (print out and bring completed, printed copy).

Station #2 Interview Station
You will be asked 5 questions by an interview judge based on your Goat project. You will earn 6 points for each correct answer. All questions are based on your Goat Resource Handbook (117R). Samples of the types of questions you may be asked are included with this study guide.

Station #3 Quality Assurance
You will be asked questions about Good Production Practices (GPP) # 1, 3 & 6.

    GPP #1: Use an appropriate Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship (VCPR) as the basis for medication decision-making
    GPP #3: Use antibiotics responsibly
    GPP #6: Establish effective animal identification, medication records, and withdrawal times

Juniors will be asked about basic Quality Assurance concepts, such as different types of medication use (Label Use, Extra-Label Use, etc.), VCPR, and basic animal identification methods.

Intermediates and Seniors will be asked questions about all 3 of the above GPP’s. Topics could include filling out a treatment record and figuring withdrawal time, types of medication use, and basics of responsible antibiotic use.

Also, an outline to review this year’s QA topics is available on our website at: (TBA at a later date)
Station #4  Feeds and Nutrition
Juniors: You will be asked to identify basic feed ingredients that are common in goat rations. Information on this topic can be found on pages 73-78 in your Goat Resource Handbook. A Feed ID kit is also available for loan from OSU Extension Office.

Intermediates: You will be asked to identify the parts of the ruminant digestive system and answer basic questions about the function of its parts. Information on this topic can be found on pages 49-50 of your Goat Resource Handbook.

Seniors: You will be asked to balance a ration for feeding a goat using Pearson’s Square. Information on this topic can be found on pages 71-72 of your Goat Resource Handbook.

Station #5  Meat Goat Products
Juniors and Intermediates: You will be asked to identify the 5 wholesale cuts of chevon, and to match a few basic wholesale cuts to the wholesale part of the animal it comes from. For example; Loin chops come from the Loin. See the color coded diagram on page 124 of your Goat Resource Handbook for information. You can study this same information at: http://www.wyoming4h.org/4hsublette/wp-content/uploads/Lesson-3-Activity-3-Market-Goat-Wholesale-Cuts.pdf

Seniors: You will be asked about carcass traits related to producing goat meat. For example: Back fat is measured at what rib? For information on this topic see page 119-125 of your Goat Resource Handbook.

Station #6 Seniors Only  Herd Management and Diseases
You will be asked questions on herd management and care, and, common diseases of goats. Information on these topics can be found on pages 83-93 of your Goat Resource Handbook.

Tie Breaker  Optional and Encouraged  Poisonous Plants
You will be asked to identify plants that are poisonous to goats. Information on this topic can be found at https://wayne.osu.edu/skillathon-study-materials (click on poisonous plants) and https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/poisonous-plants-to-livestock
2020 Goat Study Guide Sample Questions

135M Market Goats Projects (Meat, Dairy, or Crossbred)

Juniors:
1. Name two breeds of Goat used mainly for meat.
2. Name 2 essential nutrients for the goat.
3. Name 2 external parasites affecting goats.
4. What are 3 ingredients commonly found in a goat’s concentrate feed?
5. What is the weight range for Market Goats here at your fair?
6. Describe 2 pieces of equipment you have used in raising a meat goat.
7. When showing a goat, where should you stand in relation to the judge and your goat?
8. What do the 4 H’s of the 4-H Pledge stand for?

Intermediates:
1. Give 2 names for goat meat.
2. Name 3 parts of a goat’s foot and leg
3. Name 3 parts of a goat’s top line
4. Name 3 essential nutrients for the goat
5. What are 2 forms of forage commonly fed to goats?
6. What are 3 ingredients commonly found in a goat’s concentrate feed?
7. How long is the gestation period for goats?
8. What are 2 diseases common to goats?
9. Name 2 external parasites affecting goats.
10. What is the average daily gain (lbs.) for a meat goat?
11. What is a zoonotic disease?
12. Usually meat goats are not put on a finishing ration prior to harvest like other meat animals; why not?
13. What do the 4 H’s of the 4-H Pledge stand for?

Seniors:
1. At what age is a meat goat kid typically weaned?
2. What is the first and largest compartment of the goat’s digestive system?
3. What are 2 forms of forage commonly fed to goats?
4. What is a zoonotic disease?
5. How long is the gestation period for goats?
6. What are 2 diseases common to goats?
7. Name 2 external parasites affecting goats
8. Why do goats have good peripheral vision?
9. What is the first and most important food for a newborn goat?
10. What is the average daily gain (lbs.) for a meat goat?
11. What is a typical percentage of protein in a meat goat ration?
12. After a doe kids, she is often in a state of “negative energy balance”. What does this mean?
135 BD Breeding - Dairy Goats

Juniors
1. What six dairy goat breeds are commonly found in the United States?
2. What is the poll and where is it located?
3. What is a chine?
4. What is mastitis?
5. At what age should you dehorn your kids?
6. What tools do you need to trim the feet?
7. How long is the gestation period?
8. What is gestation, also called the doe’s pregnancy period?
9. When is the typical breeding season of does?

Intermediate
1. Name two main methods used to dehorn goats.
2. What are the signs of a goat possibly having pinkeye?
3. When should you first breed a doeling?
4. What is gestation?
5. How long is gestation?
6. What vitamin is your goat deficient in if it develops rickets?
7. How long after pre-milking should milking begin?
8. What types of parlors are typically used in pipeline milking?
9. What is abnormal milk?
10. Between what temperatures are bulk tanks kept?
11. How can estrous cycles be induced out of season?
12. What is the first thing to do to a kid immediately after birth?

Seniors
1. Why should kids receive colostrum within the first few hours of birth?
2. Name four signs your doe is getting ready to kid.
3. What is dystocia?
4. What is oxytocin?
5. What is a pedigree?
6. What is a gene?
7. What is heterosis?
8. What is another name for heterosis?
9. How much should a doe weigh when first bred?

135BM – Breeding – Meat Goats

Juniors
1. Name two meat goat breeds.
2. What is chevon?
3. When giving your goat an intramuscular injection, where is the proper place to give it?
4. At what age should you dehorn your kids?
5. At what age should a buck kid be castrated?
6. What kind of digestive system does a goat have?
7. On what two things should you base the type of meat goat you select?
8. What is a zoonotic disease?
9. Where is the chine located on your goat?
10. When is the typical breeding season of does?
Intermediate
1. Describe your goat. Is there anything that you would like to change about it and why?
2. What are the six essential nutrients for goats?
3. What is the main source of energy for goats?
4. What vitamin is needed by goats for strong bones and teeth? It is known as the “sunshine vitamin.”
5. What is extra-label drug use?
6. What causes tetanus (lockjaw) and what are the symptoms?
7. What are three conditions that can be caused by overgrown hooves?
8. What are two best types of fencing to use for your goat?
9. How can estrous cycles be induced out of season?
10. What is the first thing to do to a kid after birth?

Seniors
1. What is the main purpose of feeding concentrates to goats?
2. When starting your kid on creep feed, what percent crude protein should they receive?
3. What micro mineral is needed for synthesis of thyroid hormones to control metabolism?
4. What is the most important external parasite prevention method?
5. What is the recommended amount of square feet that each animal should have inside a barn or shelter?
6. What is heterosis?
7. Name four careers that you might pursue in the meat goat industry.
8. What is a pedigree?
9. What is a gene?
10. What is another name for heterosis?

135P - Pygmy Goat Project
1. What country did pygmy goats originate from?
2. What is the common coat color of a pygmy goat, and what does this color mean?
3. Can a pygmy goat be used as a meat animal, a milk animal, both, or neither?
4. What is the weight range of a typical mature pygmy doe?
5. Name two disqualifying traits for pygmy goats (as found on the Scorecard for Pygmy goats)

135F - Fiber Goats

Juniors
1. What is a cashmere goat?
2. What are Angora goats primarily raised for?
3. How much mohair can an Angora goat produce per year?
4. What three countries are the largest producers of mohair in the world?
5. In cashmere production, why is the length of fiber an important quality consideration?
6. How often should Angora goats be shorn?
7. What three solid colors of goats are preferred for cashmere down production?
8. Why should you not wash Angora goat?
9. What type of collar do you use when showing an Angora goat?
10. What are the two types of secondary fibers produced by goats?
135F - Fiber Goats - Continued

Intermediates
1. At what age does fleece production peak in Angora goats?
2. Which state produces 90% of mohair in the United States?
3. What characteristics should you keep in mind when selecting an Angora goat?
4. What is cashmere?
5. Why should Angora goats and cashmere-producing goats not be bred to each other?
6. What type of fiber do we get from Angora Goats?
7. Explain the two types of fiber of the cashmere fleece.
8. Name three characteristics that define cashmere quality?
9. What is the purpose of lanolin in an Angora goat’s fleece?
10. Why should you keep Angora goats inside for two days before shearing?

Seniors
1. In some areas, why do producers use a practice called caping?
2. What are the two types of goat hair? What is the difference between them?
3. What characteristics should you consider when purchasing a fiber goat?
4. What does “skirting the fleece” mean?
5. Explain the practice of “caping.”
6. Does the fleece production in Angora goats increase or decrease as the goat ages?
7. Name six of the eight quality characteristics that are used to determine the value of mohair fleece.
8. What are the six things to remember about Angora goat care?
9. Name the four countries that are major suppliers of mohair?

135H - Harness Goat Project
1. Why might you consider selecting a crossbred goat as a harness goat?
2. What are the 3 basic parts of a pleasure cart?
3. How much weight can a goat pull?
4. At what year in your harness goat project should you be able to pull a child-driven cart?
5. Name the three parts of the simple harness.
6. What steps did you take to train your goat to pull a cart?
7. About how long have goats been used in society as harness goats?
8. What is a goat called that is trained to pull a harness?
9. What five voice commands should a yearling harness goat respond to?
10. What is the first step you must take when training a goat to pull a cart?

135P – Pack Goats
1. List four things you should consider when selecting a pack goat.
2. Name the 2 types of packs your goat can carry.
3. At what age can a goat carry a full pack?
4. What percentage of a goat’s weight can a soft pack carry? What percentage of a goat’s weight can a cross buck pack carry?
5. Besides the pack, what are two other things you should take with you while hiking with your pack goat?
6. Why is it important to make sure the panniers are equal in weight and balanced when loaded?
7. What is the first step in training your pack goat?
8. At what age should you start to introduce the soft pack to your goat?
9. Why is it important when using panniers and a cross buck pack that the panniers are equal in weight?
10. Name 5 qualities you should seek when selecting your pack goat.