



West Virginia 4-H Breeding Livestock Beginner Record Guide – Ages 8-10

Name: _____ Age (as of Jan. 1): _____

Club Name: _____

Project Leader/Helper: _____

You need to complete a separate record guide for each breeding animal species (e.g., one for beef heifer, one for breeding sheep, etc.). If you have multiple breeding animals that are the same species, complete one record guide and include all of the information for all the animals in that species (e.g., two heifers in one record guide).

Project: Beef Heifer/Cow Breeding Sheep Purebred Swine
 Breeding Meat Goat Dairy Goat Dairy Cattle
 Breeding Poultry Breeding Rabbit Other _____

Be sure to complete and turn in the required supplement sheet(s) for your project. Supplement sheets are available from your local West Virginia University Extension office or online at www.ext.wvu.edu.

Is this your first year in this project? Yes No

If no, how many years have you been doing this project? _____

Date Animal Husbandry and Quality Assurance training completed: _____

Please include a copy of your Animal Husbandry and Quality Assurance training certificate with your livestock project records. You only need to include one copy if you have more than one livestock project.

I hereby certify that, as the exhibitor of this project, I have personally been responsible for the care of this animal, record keeping, and have completed this record guide. I am aware that this record book may be on display and thus all content will be appropriate for all audiences.

Youth Signature: _____ Date: _____

I, the parent/guardian, certify that my son/daughter has completed this project and record guide and will comply with all rules and regulations. I give permission for this record book to be displayed and will ensure that all content is appropriate for all audiences.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Check with your local WVU Extension office to determine when your record book needs to be submitted and any additional guidelines or rules for completion.

RECORDS START WITH POSSESSION OF YOUR PROJECT ANIMAL(S)

Breeding Animal Project Score Sheet

If you are taking this project without an animal, check with your Extension agent for approval. It is suggested that the self-determined project be used with the National 4-H Curriculum project book as a resource for the desired species. Consult with your Extension agent to plan your project work.

If you elect to do additional “More Challenges” activities in your project book (National 4-H Curriculum), please check the seven activities you want to be graded on. Record in a notebook the what, when, where and how you accomplished each selected “More Challenges” activity. Include your notebook with your project book for grading.

Project Book	Possible	Points
Complete seven activities in the <i>Achievement Program of the National 4-H Curriculum Project Book</i> (Each activity is worth 5 points.)	___35___	_____
Complete Planning Guide in <i>National 4-H Curriculum Project Book</i>	___5___	_____
Breeding Animal Record Guide		
Cover	___1___	_____
Breeding Animals	___2___	_____
Project Goals	___2___	_____
Beginning Project Picture(s)	___1___	_____
Expense Record	___3___	_____
Animal Health Record	___2___	_____
Ending Project Picture(s)	___1___	_____
Financial Summary	___2___	_____
Herd/Flock Summary	___2___	_____
Project Reflection	___2___	_____
Supplement Sheet(s)	___2___	_____
Activity Record	___20___	_____
Exhibit Score	___20___	_____
Total Score	___100___	_____



Why Is Biosecurity Important?

Biosecurity means doing everything possible to protect the health of livestock by preventing the transmission of disease. An outbreak of animal disease not only could harm your poultry or livestock, but it also could affect nearby animals and quickly spread through your area. The economic consequences of a disease outbreak could be devastating. Taking commonsense precautions to prevent disease from coming onto your farm is the best time investment you can make. The West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture strongly urges you to evaluate your disease prevention practices and develop habits that will protect you, your farming operation and the public.

Make these simple steps part of your daily routine to decrease the risk of your poultry and livestock getting sick.

- Restrict vehicle traffic on the farm and direct routes.
- Schedule and accompany all farm visitors. Limit areas to be visited.
- Know each visitor's exposure to animals for the past four days.
- Provide protective clothing and/or footwear for visitors. Footbaths are optional.
- Maintain a log of visitors and vehicles that enter the farm.
- Wear clean, disinfected boots when visiting other farms and stockyards. Sanitize all equipment and trailers between visits.
- Do not feed ruminant animals feeds containing animal by-products.
- Isolate all new animals by at least 300 yards from your other animals for 21 days. Test them before they enter the herd. Maintain strict entry and exit sanitation for all personnel in the isolation area.
- Remove and promptly dispose of fallen animals (bury, compost, incinerate or have removed.)
- Keep pets out of confined feeding facilities.
- Be aware of all wildlife and pet movements, when possible.
- Ban all known foreign food and food products from the farm.
- Control rodents and flies thoroughly.
- Report all suspicious activity and events to local authorities.

Emergency Contact Information

West Virginia Department of Agriculture (Commissioner of Agriculture) 304-558-2201
APHIS Veterinary Service 866-873-2824
APHIS Website www.aphis.usda.gov

Why Keep Records?

By keeping records, you will be able to see how much progress you make this year and over the course of your 4-H career as you set goals and work to accomplish them.

Good records will:

- Help you learn about animals, their rate of growth, the feed they require, the cost of feed they require and their habits.
- Increase understanding of your project’s financial outcome.
- Assist you in gathering information to market your animal.
- Improve your management practices.
- Keep track of your project activities and learning experiences.
- Allow you to better plan for future livestock projects.

If you have questions or need help on this record guide, please contact your leader, parent/guardian or county WVU Extension office.

All records and answers to questions are expected to be in the 4-H member’s handwriting.

Please print or write clearly.

Breeding Animals

List the breeding animals you will work with for your project this year. Include mature breeding stock and young animals raised for breeding. Include all your breeding animals, not just the ones you show. Add another page like this if you need to list more animals.

Animal ID	Breed	Sex	Date of Birth	Date Added to Your Herd/Flock	Date Sold or Left Herd/Flock	Actual or Estimated Value ¹

¹An animal’s value is what it would be worth if you sold it – home-raised animals have value. For purchased animals, this would be the purchase price.

This Year's Project Goals

Complete this page of the record guide pre-project or immediately after animals are purchased.

Date this page was completed: _____

Please explain three goals that you have for your breeding animal(s) project. Begin by asking yourself, "What do I want to accomplish this year by taking this project?" Once you decide on your goals, then plan a to-do list. Some examples of goals are: "I want to learn to clip and fit a steer for show," "I want to learn to trim the hooves of my goat," "I want to improve my showmanship skills."

1. _____

2. _____

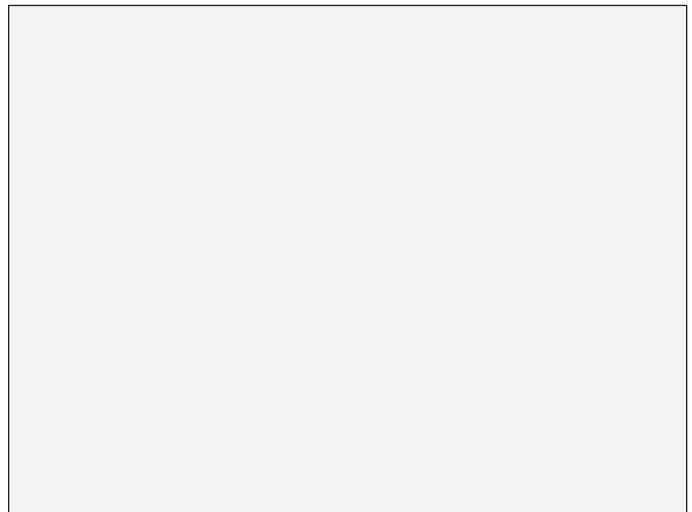
3. _____

How do you plan to house your project animal(s) this year? Describe the field, lot, pen, etc.

Beginning Project Picture

Take a picture of your project animal(s) at the beginning of your project and include it here.

Date of photo: _____



Expense Record

Start your records as soon as your animal is purchased or when you start feeding your project animal(s). Record expenses as they occur. List the amount of each purchase in one of the last four columns of the following table. Add extra pages if necessary. Feed should include grains, supplements, mixes, hay, silage, etc. The estimated value of homegrown feed and pasture needs to be included. Health should include vaccines, dewormers, treatments, veterinary charges, etc. Don't forget to include bedding, consignment fees, trucking/transportation, clipping/shearing fees, interest, advertising/marketing costs, sales commission and buyer recognition.

Date	Description	Feed	Health	Equipment	Misc.
Ex. 5/11	50 lbs. of heifer feed	\$9.42			
	Balance to carry forward to the top of the next page.				

Expense Record (cont.)

Date	Description	Feed	Health	Equipment	Misc.
	Balance carried forward from the previous page				
Expense Totals (by category)					

Number of animals reflected in this chart: _____

Animal Health Record

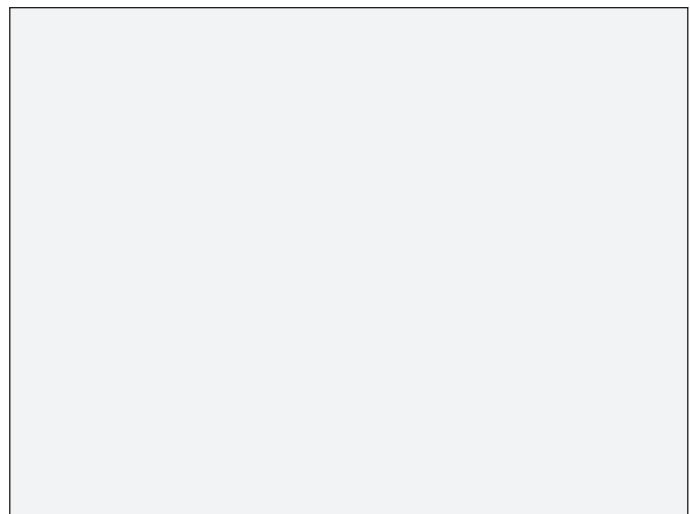
Record all health management practices and/or treatments given to your project animal(s). It should include any vaccinations, treatment of diseases, deworming, etc.

Date	Animal ID	Condition/Problem	Treatment or Vaccine	Route (IM, SQ, Poured, etc.)	Withdrawal Time

Ending Project Picture

Take a picture of your project animal(s) at the end of your project and include it here. This will help show how your animal(s) have grown and developed.

Date of ending photo:



Financial Summary

Income

Price received for animals sold	_____
Value of animals on hand	_____
Premiums/show awards	_____
Other _____	_____
TOTAL INCOME	_____

Expenses

Cost or value of project animal(s)	_____
Feed	_____
Health	_____
Equipment	_____
Miscellaneous	_____
TOTAL EXPENSE	_____
PROFIT/LOSS (<i>Total Income minus Total Expenses</i>)	_____

If the number on the last line above is positive, congratulations; you made money on this project. If it is negative, you lost money on this project. Next year, try to reduce expenses and/or find ways to increase your income.

Herd/Flock Summary

	Number	Total Value
1. Animals you had at the beginning of the year		
2. Animals bought or added during the year		
3. Animals born during the year		
4. Of those born, total number of animals raised		
5. Animals sold or given away during the year		
6. Animals that died during the year		
7. Animals you had at the end of the year: line $(1+2+3) - (5+6)$		

Adapted from the original with permission: Robert E. Mikesell, *Pennsylvania 4-H Livestock Record Book* (University Park: Penn State Extension, 2005).



Project Reflection

1. What did you learn during the project this year? _____

2. How did you feed and water your animal(s)? _____

3. What did you do to help keep your animal(s) healthy? _____

4. Explain how you trained and prepared your animal(s) for show: _____

5. Why did you select this breed for your herd/flock? _____



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