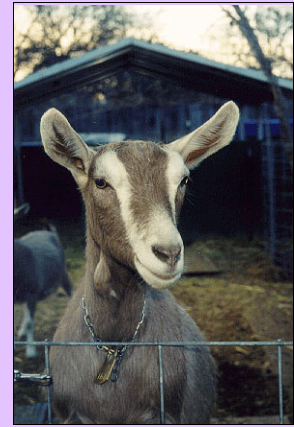


4-H GOAT KID GIVEAWAY PROGRAM



WHO & WHEN:

The 4-H Kid Giveaway Program, sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Program and the International Goat Research Center at Prairie View A&M University, marked its 20th anniversary by awarding 19 goats at the 24th Annual Goat Field Day on Saturday, May 19, 2007. The 19 young people receiving goats will join a group of over 300 other young people from 56 Texas counties that have received goats over the years. The program is conducted the first Saturday in May each year!

WHAT:

The 4-H Goat Kid Giveaway Program was formed to promote dairy goats as a 4-H project in 1986. The program started in Waller County, with six recipients the first year and the goats being donated by the International Dairy Goat Research Center. Since that time, the program has expanded to include meat and miniature goats and become a state-wide program that has so far placed 320 goats in 56 Texas counties.

WHY:

The purpose of the Kid Giveaway Program is two-fold. Most importantly, it helps the youth who receive kids to develop such important life skills as responsibility, commitment and social interaction. The program also benefits the youth by teaching skills such as animal care, health and safety, as well as helping develop their awareness of potential career areas related to agriculture. Secondly, the Kid Giveaway Program benefits goat breeders throughout the state. By promoting the program and sponsoring animals, the breeders increase their clientele for marketing other goats, breeding services etc.

HOW:

The youth who receive goats are carefully selected by a committee of reviewers. The youth fill in a three page application that allows them to describe their commitment and service to their community, to the 4-H program in general, and the goat project in particular. The application also gives details of their caretaking arrangements for the goat. Letters of reference also help the panel to select the recipient youth. Following selection, the youth attend a training session held during the Annual Goat Field Day. Here, they learn the basics of care for their goat both through provided hand out material and hands-on experience. Following this training, the youth are allowed to take their goats home.

COMMITMENT:

The commitment doesn't end when the animal goes home. The youth are responsible for a number of things that help to insure that the goat is being well taken care of and that the program will continue to gain publicity and grow. All participants are required to submit quarterly reports on the progress of the goat. The reports detail the growth of the goat, health records, show records and breeding records. The recipient youth also make a commitment to exhibit the goat at least once in the following year at their county fair, major livestock show or breed association sponsored private show. Finally, the youth contributes to the growth of the program by agreeing to return an offspring of their goat (or a suitable replacement) within two years. This reduces the reliance on adult breeders for animals to keep the program going.

FOR AN APPLICATION CONTACT:

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