



Royal Rangers

Merit Requirements: Silver-Bordered Merit

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

1. Complete ONE of the following:

a) Be an active member of Future Farmers of America and attend meetings regularly. Explain the purpose of FFA. Raise an animal in preparation for marketing that can be entered in the county fair for the purpose of being auctioned and sold. Keep a log and record of activity

OR

b) Name four breeds of animals within the following classifications: Horses, Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Sheep, and Swine. Describe the value of each breed you list. List the primary diseases occurring in your area for each classification of animals. Describe the preventative steps to be taken to reduce the risk of an animal contracting the disease, as well as what should be done for an animal with the disease.

OR

c) Select ONE of the listed projects for raising animals and maintain a journal record of your daily activities caring for the animals.

1. Manage a small flock of chickens for egg production. Keep records for 6-months of the volume of eggs and the grade of eggs. List the feeds given and the amounts purchased. Track the mortality rate of the chickens. Describe the grading of eggs.
2. Raise a brood of 8-12 chicks, ducklings or turkeys (sexed or straight-run) for eating. Include in your log how much and what kind of feed was consumed, what vaccinations were given, and what medication was given. List any special handling or care requirements that were needed while raising your brood. List any special handling or care requirements that were needed in raising your brood. Record any deaths. Kill and dress at least two birds. Determine the grade of the birds according to the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) standards.

d) Raise 2-4 rabbits for eating. Include in your log the breed of the rabbits, why you selected this breed, how much and what kind of feed was consumed, and what medication was given. Explain how it is possible to overmedicate your animals. Describe the daily care rabbits require. Record any rabbit mortalities. Kill and dress at least two rabbits.

2. Choose *ONE* of the animal groups and complete the requirements listed. Use photographs or illustrations to identify the breeds of animals. Label each reference.

a) Dairy cattle

1. Describe these breeds of dairy cattle: Holstein-Friesian, Jersey, Guernsey, Ayrshire and Brown Swiss.
2. Explain how a cow converts forage and grain into milk.
3. Explain, in writing, the difference between certified and pasteurized milk.
4. Describe the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspection standards for a dairy.
5. Visit a dairy farm and observe the daily routine. Write a report about your observations. Include the size of the herd, the number of staff, frequency and process of milking, feed and supplements given to the cattle, and immunizations given.

b) Beef Cattle

1. Describe these breeds of cattle: Hereford, Black Angus, Simmental, Charolais and Texas Longhorn.
2. Sketch a steer and show from where various cuts of beef are made. Explain why meat inspection is important. Describe how the USDA grades beef.
3. Visit a cattle ranch and observe the daily routine. Write a report about your observations. Include the size of herd, the number of staff, and the feed and supplements given to the cattle. Describe how the cattle are sold, including the process of weighing, handling, and shipping to market. Include the steps taken to produce purebreds for breeding stock if the ranch does this.

c) Swine

1. Describe these breeds of swine: Yorkshire, Poland China, Tamworth, Berkshire and Chester White.
2. Sketch a hog and show from where various cuts of pork are made. Describe how the USDA grades pork and the basis for each grade.
3. Visit a hog farm and observe the daily routine. Write a report about your observations. Include the size of the herd, the number of staff, and the feed and supplements given to the hogs. Describe how the swine are sold, including the process of weighing, handling, and shipping to market. Include the steps taken to produce purebreds for breeding stock if the farm does this.
4. Visit a packing plant or stockyard that handles swine. Write a report of your observations.

d) Horses

- a. Describe these breeds of horses: Shetland, Clydesdale, Quarter Horse, Morgan, and Kentucky Thoroughbred.
- b. Visit a horse ranch and observe the daily routine. Write a report about your observations. Include the size of the herd, the number of staff, and the feed and supplements given to the horses. Describe how the stock is used: for purebred sale, for pleasure, or for other purposes.
- c. Define these terms as used in the horse industry.
 - a. Mare
 - b. Stallion
 - c. Colt
 - d. Foal
 - e. Filly
 - f. Mustang
 - g. Pinto
 - h. Palomino
 - i. Yearling
 - j. Quarter-horse
 - k. Draft
 - l. Gelding
 - m. Pacer
 - n. Trotter

e) Poultry

1. Describe these breeds of poultry: Turkey, Cornish, Duck, and Chicken.
2. Visit a poultry farm and observe the daily routine. Write a report about your observations. Include the size of the flock, the number of staff, and the feed and supplements given to the birds. Describe how the birds are sold, including the process of weighing, handling, and shipping to market. Include the main source of income for the farm: meat, eggs, or breeding.

f) Sheep

1. Describe these breeds of sheep: Southdown, Merino, Wool breeds and Mutton breeds.
2. Visit a sheep ranch and observe the daily routine. Write a report about your observations. Include the size of the herd, the number of staff, and the feed and supplements given to the sheep. Determine if the ranch raises sheep for wool or meat production. Describe how the sheep are sold, including the process of weighing, handling, and shipping to market. Observe the sheep being sheared (if possible) and offer to assist in any way suggested. Include in your report what you learned from the experience.

g) Rabbits

1. Describe these breeds of rabbits: California White, Angora, Flemish Giant, Jackrabbit, Rex, Satin and New Zealand White.
2. Visit a rabbit farm and observe the daily routine. Write a report about your observations. Include the size of the herd, the number of staff, and the feed and supplements given to the rabbits. Determine if the farm raises rabbits for meat or breeding stock. Describe how the rabbits are sold, including the process of weighing, handling, and shipping to market.

h) Goats

1. Describe these breeds of goats: domesticated—Nubian and Toggenburg; wild—Ibex and Markhor.
 2. Visit a goat farm and observe the daily routine. Write a report about your observations. Include the size of the herd, the number of staff, and the feed and supplements given to the goats. List the immunizations given to the goats. Log how often the goats are milked, if applicable. Determine if the farm raises the goats for meat, for milk, or for breeding stock. Describe how the goats are sold, including the process of weighing, handling, and shipping market.
 3. List the USDA requirements for goats' milk. Explain the process or standards used.
3. Choose one of the species listed in Requirement 2 and list for each:
- a. Gestation period
 - b. Birth weight
 - c. Age to walk and see
 - d. Life expectancy
 - e. Food
 - f. Service or function
4. Select a career in the field of animal husbandry besides the person who raises the animals. Write a report about this career and include the job duties as well as the educational and training requirements for the job selected.