

Setting 4-H Project Goals

Setting 4-H Project Goals is the first step in planning for a successful outcome to your Project. Without quality goals that you set, you are not really in control of your project. There is an old saying: "If you fail to plan, you should plan to fail."

Goals should be specific and measurable.

A good goal can be measured or checked and has three parts:

1. Action - how you will do something,
2. Result(s) - what you are going to do, and
3. Timetable - when you are going to do it.

For example "I want to learn how to bake two kinds of cookies by Christmas." – **I want to learn** is the action portion of the goal. What you intend to do is the result – I want to learn **to bake two kinds of cookies**. When is the amount of time it will take to complete the goal - I want to learn to bake two kinds of cookies **by Christmas**.

	ACTION	RESULT	TIMETABLE
I want	to learn	to bake two kinds of cookies	by Christmas.
I want	to give	two demonstrations for my club	by June 1.
I want	to train	my dog to sit and lay down	before the county dog show.

Like planning a trip, it's important to plan what you want to learn and do and what you want to accomplish. Answer the following questions to help you set some goals.

- What are some things that I really like to do?
- How good am I already at these things? How much do I know about this already?
- Are there one of these things that I'd like to learn more about or learn to do better?
- Are there completely new things that I want to learn to do?

