

My 4-H Story

By Mikaela Cooper – Roosevelt County Junior 4-H Member

Hello, my name is Mikaela Cooper. I am 12 years old. I am in the 7th grade and I am homeschooled. I live in Portales, NM. This was my 3rd year in 4-H and I am a member of the Shooting Stars 4-H club. For my projects this year, I chose to raise rabbits, lambs, and goats. Also, I was able to serve as secretary for my 4-H club for the 2nd year in a row. I can't wait to share some of my experiences with you for this year.

This was my second year working and showing sheep. I couldn't wait to show sheep again this year. I was surprised that there is still so much to learn. I had five sheep this year and I was amazed at how different they were to show. My favorite thing is still seeing how big and healthy the sheep become after finding the right diet for them. I loved learning what I had to change in the diets to see them fill out and look good. I was given more responsibility this year in feeding the lambs. It was worth getting up early in the summer to take care of the lambs. I named my lambs Speck, Bandit, Sassafras, Maui, and Ohana. At the Roosevelt fair, I received a 2nd place with Speck, 2nd place with Bandit, 6th place with Ohana, and 7th place with Maui. I don't think one of my sheep were similar when it came to having to show them. Some were tall and some were smaller. Ohana liked to show with so it looked like he had a small hump on his back, so I worked him to where he did not have one anymore. It was a challenge and I love a good challenge.

This was my first year showing goats and I loved it. Goats are so funny. I spend a lot of time just laughing at the silly antics! I named one of my goats Romeo because he had a brown heart on his back. Mr. Rick thought that Romeo just didn't want to be a show goat and just wanted to be a pet. Romeo loved to lean against my leg and I just couldn't get him to show properly. He just wanted to cuddle. I did get to show my goat named Aloha. He was so sweet and a dream to show, so easy to set up! He loved to be out in the ring. When I showed him at the Roosevelt fair, I got 3rd place. I can't wait for next year to show lambs and goats again.

I think my favorite animal to raise and work with are the rabbits. This was my third year showing rabbits and I couldn't wait to work with them again! I have so much fun with them. I had a lot

more responsibility with the rabbits this year because my mom was our rabbit leader for the club. This was my mom's first year as leader, so it was fun showing her all the things I had learned about rabbits. I like getting to know all the rabbits, just not the ones I raised. I helped with the first year kids by doing demonstrations on how to flip a bunny, do a health check, and how to hold a bunny. I helped show them what to feed their bunnies and how to keep cages and water bowls clean. I helped by making sure there was enough pellets, hay, and shavings. Mom said I am becoming a better leader and was thankful for all my help. I think that praise was better than any ribbon I had won this year.

I did get to raise and show several bunnies this year. I showed two meat pens at the Roosevelt fair. One pen of New Zealand Whites and their names were Snow, Elie, and Manny. Also, a pen of New Zealand Reds, their names were Olaf, Mr. Peaches, and Fufu. At the Eastern New Mexico State Fair in Roswell, I showed in the Baker class and a Commercial class. I got 2nd place in the Commercial Junior Buck New Zealand Red class. In the Baker class, out of 66 rabbits, I got 3rd and 9th with two of my New Zealand Whites.

I also showed two lambs and a goat at the Eastern New Mexico State Fair. I didn't place at that fair. The competition was very stiff. I tried so hard and I feel that at every fair and show I attend, I get better. I'm glad I went to that fair too. I watch the other kids and learn from them. I have a better idea of what I need to work on for next year. I also learned that even when I don't win, I really like working and being around the animals. I really want to thank everyone who supported me and helped me with all of this. I love 4-H so much and I can't wait for next year.