

Goats and chickens make good projects

By Karen Krien

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Logan and Luke Lampe are busy getting ready for the fair. This year, they are taking chickens and goats.

Both are members of Plum Creek 4-H Club. Logan has been a member for six years and Luke, for three years.

Logan said he likes raising chickens as a 4-H program. In six years, he has learned a lot about how to handle them and what goes into raising a grand champion chicken. His favorite breed is a yellow Buff Orpington.

Some of the things he has learned is the waddles and combs should be red and the color of the eggs (white or brown) is determined by the color of the ear lobes.

About 10 years ago, the boy's dad, Kevin, brought home 10 chickens. Their mother, Holly, really had wanted chickens. She had grown up with cows and horses but not chicken. Ten years later, the Lampes have about 50 chickens that lay eggs. Only once in the past year have they had to go to the grocery store for a dozen of eggs.

Luke said he would rather work with his goat which is a Boer cross. The Lampe's goats they

are entering in the fair actually belong to Shawn and Shawna Blanka. They pay a small fee and, after the fair, they go back to the Blanka farm.

Luke said he feeds his goat a combination of cracked corn and horse feed. The goat also gets a good helping of grass hay.

Getting the goat ready for showing at the fair, Luke gets him used to being touched, and teaching him to "set up" by straightening his legs. A couple of days before the fair, both Luke's and Logan's goats will be clipped and trimmed. They will also get a bath which turns out to involve the whole family.

Last year, they said, when the water hit the goat, it went straight up in the air, hitting Logan on the way. They are not looking forward to the bath this year but, those goats will be groomed before they come to the fair.

Last year, both boys took first in their division in showmanship with their goats. They hope to do that well this year.

Luke will be an eighth grader in the St. Francis Schools and Logan will be in fourth grade. They have a little sister, Lyden, who, next year, may be in the "tag along" program.



LOGAN LAMPE checks the ear lobe of the silver-laced wyandotte chicken to see what color eggs it will lay.



LOGAN LAMPE works with his Boer-cross goat. He will be working with his goat to make sure he shows well at the fair.

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