



INSIDE THE METAL BUILDING, Samantha Anderson held onto her goat Isis, Gabe onto Icobod and Chris onto Itty Bitty. The kids plan to show the Boer goats at the Decatur County Fair. None of them have ever shown goats before.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Family prepares to show goats

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

k.davis@nwkanssas.com

With brown and white faces they waited behind the gate with enthusiasm for their owners.

Their little tails seemed to wag back and forth almost like a dogs, as they let out short calls.

Icobod, Itty Bitty and Isis knew their owners, Gabe, Chris and Samantha Anderson were on their way to the metal building to see them.

The three white and brown, four-legged animals, seem to get excited about company just like a dog, but are actually Boer goats the three Andersons are getting ready to show at the Decatur County Fair the first full week in August.

Icobod, the goat with the mainly white face belongs to Gabe, Itty Bitty with the light brown face belongs to Chris and Isis with the dark brown face belongs to Samantha.

None of the three Anderson kids have ever seen goats shown in the fair and decided to try something new this year.

The family got the goats from a woman near Brewster about three and a half months ago. The kids said they weren't sure how old the goats are now.

The goats were little, said Maureen Anderson, mom, when the family went to pick them up. The previous owner said to bring over a dog kennel and the three would fit in it.

As it turns out, the Anderson family spread a covering over the floor of the back of the



ICOBOD, Gabe's goat, climbed up on the feed container to get a bite.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

family's Excursion and carried the goats home that way.

As of last week, the goats hadn't been in their halters yet, which is what the goats will wear for the show and judging. The boys agreed the goats

were still too little for the halters.

With some help from Dad though, Chris was able to get a halter on one of the goats. The halters are similar to those worn by a steer at the fair, but the lead is only about a foot long.

Generally the 4-H kids choose to sell the animal they've shown at the fair during the livestock show, but Gabe said he doesn't want to sell the goats.

Richard Anderson, dad, said they might keep the females, Isis and Itty Bitty, to mate.

Most likely, the goats won't be sold at the fair during the livestock auction, said Mr. Anderson, because they each have steers to sell.

The goats eat prairie hay and goat feed, said Chris. The three can eat four pounds of feed a day.

Although the three were littler when the Anderson family purchased them, the goats were already weaned.

Just like dogs, the goats sniff shoes, try to eat shoe laces and will even jump up and put their front legs on people.

"If you run," said Chris, "they will chase you."

The goats like to be petted just like a dog, said Mrs. Anderson.

The goats which live in a small metal building on the farm, off the Rexford Road, don't like the wind or the rain.

Besides the goats, Samantha, Chris and Gabe will show steers, have rabbits, baked items and arts and crafts at the fair. Samantha will also do clothing construction and buymanship. The three belong to the Stick-to-It 4-H Club.

The boys said they want to do chickens sometime too, since they never have before. Both agreed they would like to show goats again.