

Kalamazoo County 4-H

Goat Project Guidelines

Project Superintendents: Hannah Walters – hannahwalters92@yahoo.com
Bethany Stanton - bethanykstanton@gmail.com
Project Social Media: Kalamazoo County Goat Project -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1486797481590704>

Project Objectives & Life Skills*

- The 4-H goat project provides youth with the opportunity to learn about animal care, management, science, marketing and careers in the goat industry.
- Head
 - Planning/organizing
 - Goal setting
 - Problem solving
 - Learning to Learn
- Heart
 - Concern for others
 - Cooperation
 - Empathy
 - Nurturing relationships
- Hands
 - Leadership
 - Responsible citizenship
 - Teamwork
 - Self-motivation
- Health
 - Self-Responsibility
 - Character
 - Stress management
 - Disease prevention

**note these life skills are just some examples of what 4-H members will learn in this project*

Additional Resources:

[4-H Goat Project Snapshot](#)

[4-H Cloverbud Goat Project Snapshot](#)

[Your 4-H Angora Goat Project - MSU Extension](#)

[Sheep & Goats– MSU](#)

[Sheep and Goats – ATTRA – Sustainable Agriculture](#)

[Goat Farming and Resources | Penn State Extension](#)

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Quentin Tyler, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact Kalamazoo County 4-H two weeks before the start of events at 269-383-8830 or msue.kalamazoo@msu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

Goat Project

General Requirements

- All goats must be owned or leased by the exhibitor and have been in his/her possession by May 1st preceding the fair. All goat leases must be approved by the Superintendent.
- [Goat registration forms](#) and pictures of the animal bearing the identification number must be turned in to the superintendents no later than June 1.
- Goats are to be free of horns except where a registered goat's breed's standards specify otherwise and scurs must be less than 2 inches. No bucks will be allowed.
- All goats will be clean, hooves trimmed, and appropriately shaved prior to fair check-in.
- Fiber goats will be sheared according to class entry requirements, and all other goats will be shaved according to breed standards. Goats entered the Fitting Competition classes need not be shaved.
- Animals will be health checked before coming into the barn; goats showing signs of illness, contagious disease, unhealed abscesses, or injuries will be sent home.
- Animals in milk will be milked dry twice a day. Pre-show milk out times will be posted; Superintendent must verify the animal has been milked out.
- All goats must always wear a collar or neck chain that's in good condition while on the Fairgrounds and leads will be used when goats are not in pens except while showing.
- Grain must be stored in "goat-proof" containers; all types of feeders must be clean, "goat-safe," and "horn-safe;" woven-style hay bags may not be used; loose feeders and dishes used for grain, etc., must be removed from the pen immediately after the goat is done eating.
- Exhibitors will provide appropriate, Superintendent approved, materials to ensure pens are "horn-safe" for goats with horns (plywood, etc.).
- Pen decorations are encouraged and must be "goat friendly."
- Hours for chores will be posted in the barn. No exceptions will be made without the Superintendent's authorization.
- Animals will be shown in the breed class which they most closely resemble.
- Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) must be completed annually by exhibitors who will be selling at the 4-H livestock auction and is encouraged for those who bring breed animals.
 - Face to face YQCA classes will be held a minimum of 3 times per programming year.
 - Youth may complete either the face-to-face session or the web-based class.
 - Pre-registration for the face-to-face session is required.
 - YQCA certificates must be turned into the 4-H office no later than July 1 of each year.
- The youth exhibitor must be on hand to show his/her goats.
- Costume class is based on creativity and originality.
- Youth may dress up the goat by themselves or the youth and the goat may have matching costumes.
- The purpose is to create a costume for the animal. Participants usually dress up also. However, a costume should not adopt someone else's culture, skin color, customs, traditions, speech, or way of being.

PROJECT MEETINGS

- A minimum of 4 county goat project meetings will be held; one of the meetings will be the Fit and Show clinic held in June. Youth must attend a minimum of half of the meetings scheduled to show at the fair.
- Youth should be actively involved in the educational subject or activity.
- The number of animals allowed per exhibitor may be limited due to pen availability.

Section A – Carcass

- All youth participating in the goat carcass project are required to enter a Market Journal.
- Youth must show a live goat at the fair.
- For more information on the carcass project view the [carcass guidelines](#) under the livestock–large animal tab linked above.

Section B - Showmanship

- All 4-H Goat Project youth exhibitors must enter the appropriate showmanship class for their age group.
 - Cloverbuds (5-7) years old by January 1 of the current year) will participate in non-competitive classes only and may not sell goats at the auction.
 - Cloverbuds shall refer to Department 90, Section B to enter all Goat Projects.
 - Exhibitors do not enter Championship classes; these entries are determined at judging.
- All goats will wear a clean “show” collar or neck chain that’s in good condition.
- Pygmy and Nigerian goats will have a clean show lead that’s in good condition and is not more than 3 feet in length.
- Youth must be neat and clean with hair worn off the collar; only plain hair accessories may be used.
- Youth will wear:
 - Closed-toed shoes or boots of any plain, dark color; black or brown is preferred.
 - Long black pants
 - Belts will be worn if pants have belt loops, and the color should match the footwear.
 - White pants are optional for showmanship and dairy classes.
 - White shirt with a button-down or similar type collar and long or short sleeves; no sleeveless shirts; shirts will be tucked in; a plain black necktie may be worn.
 - Bracelets, except for a watch, will not be worn.
 - Necklaces may not show outside of the shirt.
 - No earrings will be worn.
- Top Showman may be eligible to compete in Master showman.

Section C– Market Goats

- Market goats may be a wether or doe, born after January 1st.
- All youth participating in the market program are required to enter a market journal.
- All market goats will be completely shaved,
- A youth may exhibit any number of individual market goat entries
- Goats must weigh at least 45 pounds to be eligible for sale at the auction.
- Youth with market entries going through the auction will provide two 4 x 6 photographs of the youth with their market animal for each entry. Goats not identified are not eligible for exhibiting at the fair.
- Members who DO NOT want to sell their animals in the auction MUST notify the Superintendent before the time of judging. Members who elect not to sell will not be eligible for grand and reserve market awards.
- Cloverbuds (5–7-year-olds) may not sell their animals at the auction.

Section D–Dairy Goats

- All dairy goats will be completely shaved,

Section E–All other meat and speciality breed goats

- All dairy goats will be completely shaved.

Section F–Dairy Dry Goat

- All dairy goats will be completely shaved.

Section G–All Breed Group

- All dairy goats will be completely shaved,

Section H—All Breed Pet Wether

- A “pet” is defined as an animal kept for companionship, interest, or amusement; often cherished and considered lovable.
- Judges tend to assess this class by different methods. The two most used evaluation methods are:
 - Breed Standards—the wether is compared to his breed standards as is done in the other breed classes.
 - Relationships—the relationship between the goat and the youth is evaluated. Ideally, the wether should be able to follow the youth without a lead or collar or be able to lead without any pulling on the lead or collar. The wether should also be able to come to the youth when he’s called by the youth from over 20 feet away.
- Youth should be prepared for either method of evaluation when exhibiting at the Fair.

Section I—Driving

- Safety of the youth and goat must be observed at all times. Does in milk should not participate. Harnesses and carts may be owned, leased, or borrowed and must be clean and in good condition. Goats should be able to respond to verbal or reining commands, or both, such as stop or whoa, walk on, gee (right), and haw (left.)
- **Cart Driving:** Goats over two years old only. Goats must be properly harnessed and hitched to a cart. Youth should know the parts of the harness and parts of the cart. Goats must be able to drive. A lead person may be used if needed. Cloverbuds must have a lead person and an additional safety person at the cart is recommended. The exhibitor’s attire shall be semi-formal or formal wear.
- **Ground Driving (Harness Only):** Goats of all ages. Goats must be properly harnessed in either a working or complete driving harness. Youth should know the parts of the harness and drive the goat from behind. A lead person may be used if needed. Cloverbuds must have a lead person. Exhibitor’s attire must meet 4-H goat showmanship standards.

Section J—Pack Goat

- Goats may use any type of pack that is fitted appropriately for the animal.
- Exhibitors will lead their goat through an obstacle course.
- Exhibitors will be judges on the goat’s ability to navigate through the obstacles.
- Time will be used as a tiebreaker.

Section K—Goat Science & Education

- Cloverbuds (5-7 years old) -At least one Goat Science or Educational Exhibit is required.
- First and Second Year (8-19 year old) -At least one Goat Science or Educational Exhibit is required for all first and second year youth -19 years old.
- A Market Journal is required for all youth exhibiting carcass and market goat projects.
- ALL 4-H GOAT YOUTH EXHIBITORS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ENTER A SCIENCE OR EDUCATIONAL exhibit
- All science and educational projects must contain at least one of the applicable subject areas prescribed in the “Year-In Project Guidelines.” Science and education exhibits will be the 4-H’ers choice of a poster, notebook, journal, goat product, three-dimensional exhibit, fleece or public education. The Personal Story, preferably with pictures, should accompany each entry; if the youth enters more than one science or educational project, the personal story should accompany just one of the exhibits. Except for cumulative science and educational projects (notebooks,) projects entered in previous years are not allowed. Projects may be handwritten, or digitally created, but MUST be the work of the exhibitor.
- All youth are strongly encouraged to wear attire that meets 4-H goat showmanship standards for still exhibit entry.

- **Science Notebook:**
 - The science notebook allows a member to learn all categories of information used to properly raise and care for a goat as prescribed by the Year-In-Project Guidelines.
 - The notebook may be cumulative, beginning with the first year, continuing through the current year, and consist of all subjects for each year.
 - Members may exhibit a non-cumulative notebook consisting of all the subjects prescribed by the Year-In-Project Guidelines for their applicable year in the project.
 - Use of pictures, diagrams, and samples is encouraged.
 - A cover page, table of contents, dividers for sections, and a copy of the guidelines must be included in the notebook.
- **Poster:**
 - This exhibit will consist of a poster (22 x 28) or similar size tri-fold display board.
 - Youth must follow topics and year requirements from the Year-In-Project Guidelines.
 - The poster should focus on one topic.
- **3-Dimensional Exhibit:**
 - This exhibit shall be free-standing with a base no larger than 24 inches by 24 inches and 36 inches or less tall.
 - Youth must follow topics and year requirements from the Year-In- Project Guidelines.
 - The 3-D display should focus on one topic.
- **Goat Product:**
 - Youth may make items from goat milk, goat fiber, goat meat, or goat hide.
 - The project shall include the steps or process(es) the item underwent to become the end product.
- **Market Goat Journal:**
 - All youth participating in the carcass goat project are required to enter a Market Journal.
 - The journal encourages proper goat management and record keeping skills by tracking the progress of the goals set for the market goat and how feed changes, immunizations, illnesses, disease, etc. affect the growth of the market goat.
 - Youth should complete a new market journal each year. (It may be helpful to keep records from year to year to compare notes, cost, etc.)
 - Youth are encouraged to use pictures, diagrams, photographs, etc. to show the goat's growth and development.
 - The journal will be displayed in a hard cover notebook and include a cover page.
- **Dairy Goat Milking Journal:**
 - The Journal encourages proper goat and milking management and record keeping skills by tracking milk production and how feed changes, immunizations, estrus, illness, diseases, etc. affect the milk production of a milking doe.
 - Youth are encouraged to include pictures, diagrams, photographs, DHIA or DHIR records (copies only, please do not display original documents) and pictures to show various aspects of milk production.
 - The journal may include one or more goats. If the Journal includes multiple goats, dividers should be used between each goat's records.
 - The journal will be displayed in a hard cover notebook and include a cover page.

YEAR-IN-PROJECT EDUCATIONAL GUIDELINES

This project may be a single year's entry or a cumulative of two or more years to show the knowledge gained and improvements in the youth's market goat management program. The journal may include one or more goats. If the journal includes multiple goats/years, dividers should be used between each goat/year records.

- **1st YEAR:** Personal Story/Pictures, Parts of a Goat, breeds, basic care, and housing.
- **2nd YEAR:** Personal Story/Pictures, Showmanship, Preparing for a Show, (hoof trimming/shaving, etc.,) Showmanship Scorecard.
- **3rd YEAR:** Personal Story/Pictures, Health-vaccinations, parasites, common diseases (at least four), Normal Vital Signs: temperature, respiration, pulse, ruminations, etc.
- **4th YEAR:** Personal Story/Pictures; Nutrition—Feeds and Feeding: Types of hay, Grain, Water and salt, Vitamins and Minerals; Nutritional Diseases (at least four); Poisonous Plants.
- **5th YEAR:** Personal Story/Pictures. Goat Products—milk, cheese, meat, lotion, fiber, etc.; briefly describe the process(es) used to achieve the product. Goat Uses.
- **6th YEAR:** Personal Story/Pictures, Reproductive anatomy of a Doe and Buck, Estrus Cycle, Breeding: Artificial and Natural, Gestation: Stages of gestation, kidding preparation, signs and stages of kidding, post kidding procedures.
- **7th YEAR:** Personal Story/Pictures, Judging—what to look for in Dairy Goats, Meat Goats, and Fiber Goats; breed scorecards, skeleton, muscles, and how to determine the goat's age by the goat's teeth.
- **8th YEAR:** Personal Story/Pictures, ADGA Terminology (*B bucks, *M Does, etc.), Genetics, Registration System.
- **9th YEAR:** Personal Story/Pictures—a summary of the youth's 4-H Goat Experience including an overview of how your goat health and management practices and programs have changed since you began the project; the conservation and protection of historic goat breeds (Heritage Breeds.)