

Date: June 8, 2023

To: 4-H Goat Project Members and Leaders

From: Kayla Mitchell, Program Coordinator – 4-H Youth Development

Re: 2023 Goat Project Important Information

This is a quick update on the events that will take place for the 2023 fair season within the goat department. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact the MSU Extension Office at 269-467-5511. Please note that the information contained in this letter is subject to change.

- ❖ **NEW for 2023:** Dairy goats and meat goats will show in separate rings with separate judges. Both rings will run the same show order: 4-H exhibitor meeting (all together), Showmanship (oldest to youngest), Cloverbuds, Market Classes, Breeding Classes, Home Born & Raised, Pet Class.
- ❖ To compete in the 4-H Carcass Goat class, the goat must weigh a minimum of 60 lbs. More information to come about the Carcass Contest.
- ❖ Every market goat must weigh a minimum of 60 lbs. at time of weigh-in on Saturday, September 16, 2023. Underweight animals are ineligible for exhibition at the fair and will be sent home at weigh-in. **Exception:** does may be exhibited as breeding stock if the member chooses.
- ❖ **All 4-H livestock members/clubs** will be held responsible for setting up their project pen/stall and decorations before fair, as well as cleaning and tearing down their project pen/stall at the end of fair. Individuals or clubs may be assessed a \$50.00 fine for failure to do so.



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Reminders:

- ❖ Market Goats
 - Dairy Market Goat project animals are limited to the following breeds: Alpine, LaMancha, Nubian, Nigerian Dwarf Oberhasli, Saanen and Toggenberg.
 - Meat Goats are any goat that is not included above. Example: Boer, Angora, Fainting, etc. or crossbred with a dairy breed.
- ❖ Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) requires all goats that are moved off the farm for sale or exhibition to be **ear tagged** with a USDA Scrapies ID tag. Earless goats must have a collared tag. This is a USDA required program that is designed to be able to identify any animal back to its source if necessary. There is no testing requirement for Scrapies at this time. **Anyone purchasing goats should make sure the seller has tagged them prior to sale.** If you raise goats from your own herd you should contact the MDARD at 1-800-292-3939 to get a premises identification number. Once you have the premises number call the USDA at 1-866-873-2824 to get your tags.

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Important dates, deadlines and events

Event or Deadline	Date(s)	Comments
Possession Deadline	June 1	
Initial weigh-in, tagging and registration	Tuesday, June 6, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. or Thursday, June 8, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weigh in will be at the east end of the Goat Barn at the Fairgrounds. Animals must have their USDA scrapies ID tag in the ear or embedded under the skin if the animal does not have ears. Only the scrapies ID tag and the 4-H neck ID tag are allowed on the animal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each member may tag up to 3 goats but may only show 2 market goats at fair. Family tagging is allowed.
Entry forms due for Carcass Contest	Thursday, June 8, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the MSU Extension Office or at weigh-in
Fair registration & weigh-in	Saturday, September 16, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Market goat must weigh a minimum of 60 lbs. at time of weigh-in or it will be ineligible for exhibition.
Skill-A-Thon	Saturday, September 16 2:00 p.m – 6:00 p.m.	Community Tent
Interview	Sunday, September 17, 9:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m.	Required for all exhibitors
4-H Market & Breeding Stock Show	Monday, September 18, 8:30 a.m.	Livestock show arena (*See fairbook for Rules and Show Order)
4-H Small Animal Sale	Thursday, September 21, 10:00 a.m.	Order of sale: rabbits, goats, chickens, turkeys
Animal Load-out & Barn Clean-up	Sunday, September 24, 5:30 a.m.	All members must clean and help put away the pens