



# WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN

## 4-H YOUTH SHOW

### GOAT PROJECT GUIDE



### GOAT SUPERINTENDENTS:

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This guide is recommended reading for all goat exhibitors that participate in the 4-H Youth Show. Reading this and the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show Book (the absolute authority) will answer most of your questions. The Youth Show Book is available at the 4H office and online at:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/washtenaw/washtenaw\\_county\\_4\\_h/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/washtenaw/washtenaw_county_4_h/)

As the goat superintendents, we want to make your 4-H Youth Show goat project an experience of learning and fun. We try hard to have one or both of us available in the tent or on the grounds for any goat concerns during the show week. Our cell phone numbers will be posted in the goat tent and are also available at the youth show office in building A. If you have any further questions please contact either of us or the MSU Extension office. Suggestions and comments are always welcome.

A few important things to remember:

1. All goats (including kids) must have USDA approved Identification. See the "permanent animal identification" section for complete information.
2. All goats must be entered into a breed, market goat or pet wether class (except nursing babies.)
3. Exhibitors (or clubs) bring their own pens. For goats, pens must be 4ft by 8ft, **measured on the outside of the pen**, and should be made so that they can be placed in a row or back to back.
4. All animals are released to go home Friday evening after sweepstakes and gate washing are complete or 9pm; whichever is later. All animals (except auction animals) leave at this time.

## PREPARING FOR THE SHOW:

You must have and be caring for your goat(s) by May 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Your **Market** goats (being sold through the auction) must have been castrated by, tagged with a scrapie tag, and tagged with a youth show tag at the fairgrounds in April. If your market goat loses its youth show tag, contact one of us or the extension office to arrange to have the animal re-tagged.

Market Goat Exhibitors: Please send letters to prior buyers and to potential buyers a few weeks before the Youth Show, inviting them to come to the auction. Sample letters and auction informational flyers are available at the 4H office.

## Lease Goat Project

4-H exhibitors may lease a goat for the 4-H Youth Show to experience this project. The leased goat should be cared for and practiced with, by the exhibitor starting by May 1<sup>st</sup> of the showing year. The leased goat must be entered in the proper class(es) by the exhibitor showing the goat.

### **\*\*Permanent Animal Identification\*\***

To enter the Youth Show, all goats, including kids, must have permanent, official identification according to USDA scrapie program guidelines. State law requires that all goats leaving their farm (including kids), for any reason, have approved animal ID. The herd of origin should provide this ID, if possible. Acceptable ID includes any one of the following:

1. A permanently attached USDA scrapie tag in ear or tail web. Tags are available free of charge by calling 1-866-USDATAG (866-873-2824).
2. The full USDA scrapie tag number tattooed into the ears, tail web, or flank: this must include **both** the premises (farm) ID# and the animal ID#.
3. For Registered Goats Only: A permanently attached tag or tattoo in the ear or tail web, ear notching, or microchip, that must be accompanied by breed registry papers that match the ID number. Bring photocopies (not originals) of registration papers to be left with the superintendents.

Tattoos must be readable. A microchip scanner will be available at haul-in, make sure to bring copies of registration papers to match.

Please remember, it is state law that all goats must have proper identification to be allowed on the fairgrounds. The 4H office can not provide a tag to meet this requirement. Contact a superintendent **well before** the show (**preferably a month**) if you need help with identification and we will assist as much as possible. Please note that there is no way for the 4H office or superintendents to provide official identification on haul-in day.

## Registering Your Goats for the Youth Show

All 4-H exhibitors planning to show goats must register the goat in the proper class(es) by the specified date. If a class is not entered on the registration form - you may not enter the class at a later date. According to the Youth Show rules, a goat not entered in the proper class(es) may be sent home from the show. Each goat brought to the Youth Show **must be entered in a market, breed or pet wether class** (one animal per class number except market goats can show 2 goats). Goats to be entered into Showmanship, Trail Class, Club Herd, 30 Second Milk Out, 12 Hour Milk Out, and Best Rate of Gain classes must also be registered and shown in a market, breed, or pet wether class. Nursing kids older than 4 weeks can come with their dam even if they are not being shown. If you are showing 2 market goats, sign up for that class twice (one for each market goat), this is the only class that an exhibitor can show 2 goats in. All exhibitors must sign up for the appropriate showmanship class.

If it is not clear on what class to enter, it is recommended that exhibitors enter all related goat classes since classes may be dropped, but not entered at a later date. If the showmanship goat is not entered into a market, breed or wether class, the goat may be sent home.

Registering must be done online and be sure to follow your 4H club rules about pen counts and fees. Independent exhibitors, contact the 4H office regarding pen counts and required fees. Deadline dates change from year to year, but it is usually in June. All goats entering the show grounds (except nursing kids) must be entered and shown, no companion animals will be allowed. Any un-entered companion animals will be sent home. You do not need to pre-register for Champion or Best of Show classes. Club Herd class registration is done by the club leader, not by individual exhibitors.

Feel free to contact us with any questions about registration.

## Animal Health

You, as the exhibitor, are responsible for your animal(s) and how your animals may affect others at the show. Only bring healthy goats with good body condition to the show. A vet check is done at haul-in and sick animals will not be permitted to

enter the show. The show veterinarians and superintendents will have the final say to all questions concerning animal health.

Before the show, your goats should have their vaccines and be de-wormed and de-liced for parasites, if needed. De-licing twice will kill the adults and then the eggs after they hatch. Parasite control is important for both your goats and all other goats at the fair. Little, friendly parasites are more than happy to spread to other goats. Market goat exhibitors must follow hold times for medications, de-licers and de-wormers.

An even slightly ill goat will only get worse with the stress of a show. Examine your goats closely for any unidentified lumps or abscesses. Runny eyes or nose, diarrhea or a goat not eating can be a sign of an illness that can be spread to other animals. Exhibitors should leave these goats at home. We must all be good owners and pen neighbors. We all want to keep our goats as healthy as we brought them.

### Preparing and Practicing with Your Goat for Show

Exhibitors can do many things prior to haul-in that will make it much easier to have your goat ready for show. Hooves should be trimmed 3-4 weeks before the show and again a week prior to the show to avoid a limping goat at fair due to a bleeding hoof. It is recommended that hair trimming/clipping be done a week or 2 prior to the show so that any uneven areas can grow in slightly. Touch ups can be done at the show. You should be walking and setting up your goat daily before the fair. Ten minute training sessions once or twice a day work well to train goats and they love to work for treats. Practice taking your goat in and out of the line properly and standing squarely. A well-behaved animal is much easier to show. If collars and leads are necessary for your breed, they should be clean and checked for wear. Recommended colors are black or a color that blends in with your goat's color. You want the judge to notice your goat, not the collar.

Dairy Goats, Market Goats and Meat Breed Goats - Full body clipping with end of tail trimmed to look like a paintbrush. Clip inner ears too, if needed. Trim hair at the hoof line so that the hoof shows, Bathing the day before is helpful in making them look their best. Trim feet.

Pygmy Goats - Trim up longer, wild hair so that the goat looks neat. Either bathe the day before the show or wipe down the goat with wipes. Trim hair at the hoof line so that the hoof shows. Trim Feet.

Fiber Goats - Feed them throughout the year to prevent hay from getting in their fleece. Pick/shake any debris from coat. Trim off any urine stained hair. Trim feet.

"All Other" Goats - For mixed breeds (ex. meat/dairy cross), prepare for the breed that they look the most like. For rare breeds, prepare per the breed association instructions. Trim feet.

### Preparing Exhibitors for Showmanship

The judge will expect you to know about goats, especially your own. Each judge has his or her own exhibitor knowledge expectation level. Knowledge of your goat project should be built upon each year. The best advice is to know as much as you can about all goats to be prepared for any question a judge might ask. Body part charts, breed specifics, score cards (especially for junior and senior levels) and Goat Expo questions provide great study materials. Learn the ways to move your goat in and out of line following the judges' requests. Always enter the show arena walking in a clockwise direction (even if the exhibitor in front of you enters counter-clockwise).

A goat show clinic is held each spring (usually May or June) to provide instruction to exhibitors on how to show goats. The date and time will be listed in the email updates from the Extension office. Internet searches can also provide an abundance of websites that have good information on showing goats in 4H. Here is one link:

<https://www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/4h/gbg091.pdf>

Cloverbuds concentrate on a few basics -

- Wearing the proper clothing
- Animal prepared for showing
- How to enter and circle the ring
- How to set your goat up
- Pay attention to the judge and smile
- Know basic goat parts

- Know your goat breed and color
- Know your goat's age and birth date.

For Novices and above -

- Work each year at getting your goat prepared for show by yourself
- Learn the ways to move your goats in and out of line and follow the judge's directions
- Learn about other breeds besides your own
- Build on your knowledge of goat parts, health facts, and breed questions
- Know your animals biggest breed flaw and how to try and compensate for it when showing. Continue to improve on showing your animal to its best advantage.
- Learn about your breeds' standards and be able to state one of your goat's strengths as well as one thing that you would improve on your goat.

### Appropriate Show Ring Clothing

White pants and white shirts are acceptable for all breeds. Pygmy and angora exhibitors may wear black pants and white shirts. Apparel should be neat and clean, and as plain cut as possible. Tucked in, white shirts with sleeves. Collars are encouraged over non-collared shirts. Black or dark colored, close-toed shoes or boots must be worn. Wearing sneakers, sandals, or open-toed shoes invite injuries to feet and are frowned upon by most judges. Hats are not acceptable.

### Overnight Tent Stay

The goat tent will need someone to stay overnight to keep the animals safe. Each club showing goats should be prepared to have someone from their club stay in the goat tent one night during fair week. Check with the 4H office or a superintendent to volunteer for this.

**THURSDAY PRIOR TO FAIR: GOAT TENT/PEN SET-UP, See current show book for exact day/time**

This day and time coincides with most of the other barn set-ups. Superintendents, leaders, parents and all exhibitors are expected to bring their energy and strength to participate in set-up (bring the whole family). Check with your club leaders for

any tools that may be needed for your particular pen set-ups. Check in with superintendents to get your club's assigned pen area.

**Pens: Each club and independent exhibitors must provide their own pens.** Pens must be 4'x8' for a single pen or 8'x8' for a double pen, **measured on the outside of the pen.** Space is tight and pens larger than 4'x8' take up more space than is allowed for and decreases the space for tack spaces. Please try to have your club's pens configured to be able to be set up in either a row or back to back. Club configurations can vary each year based on number of clubs and pens. Tack areas are provided based on available space. Clubs often need to share tack stalls.

Consider bringing a sturdy, elevated floor (for example, plywood over pallets or 2x4s) to place over the ground inside an area of your pen(s). This will help allow flooding from the rains that we usually get to pass under your goats and their bedding and keep things drier. These need to be brought and put in place during pen set-up on Thursday for disinfection.

Everyone must be finished setting up their pens Thursday evening to allow for spraying of disinfectant on Friday. Do not put any bedding in the pens on Thursday.

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY: GOAT TENT/PEN DECORATING, See current show book for exact days/time**

Decorations should be neat and attractive. Place decorations and curtains high enough that the goats cannot chew on them. Be aware of where goats from other clubs near your pens can reach. Display the club name, each exhibitor's name, as well as the breed and name of the animals being exhibited. Visitors to the fair like to be able to learn about the animals, and having the breeds posted helps with this.

**Exhibitors must provide their own pen bedding.** Recommended bedding materials are sawdust and pine shavings. We recommend waiting until Monday to spread out bedding. If it rains Saturday or Sunday it may ruin the bedding before you have a chance to use it.



Market goat exhibitors from the prior year: please exhibit a sign on your stall thanking your prior year buyer, putting it up with the decorations or as early as possible in the week.

Each club is allowed to park a trailer in a close location to the animals. This is to store bedding, feed and tools needed for the fair. Check with club leaders to find these trailers if you have things that do not fit in tack areas or if there are no tack areas in the tent.

**MONDAY: GOAT HAUL-IN & CHECK-IN -See current show book for exact day/time**

Haul-in is held at the same day/time as many other livestock haul-ins so plan accordingly. Because so many animals will be coming in at the same time, please do not wait until the last minute to get in line. The Veterinarians hope to have health checks completed at that time. Do not bring your animals into the fairgrounds prior to the vet check.

All animals and trailers must enter through the south field. No trailers should enter through the main gate. Signs will be posted directing the flow of traffic.

**Vet Check:** All animals on the fairgrounds must go through the vet check. At the gate, your goats and any other species you are bringing will be vet checked. Be prepared to show your goat's official permanent scrapie ID. Animals will be checked by the vet for permanent ID and health. Bring copies of registration papers with you for registered animals that are tattooed, microchipped, notched or tagged with a non-scrapie tag for the vet to verify. A scanner will be available for reading microchip #s to match to registration papers. The veterinarian will give you a signed health slip for each species you bring. Then you may proceed to the goat tent for check-in.

**Tent Check in: Before you unload any goats you must check-in at the goat tent.** The superintendents will collect 2 forms: 1. The Vet Health Slip. 2. The Exhibitor Agreement and Animal Health Emergency-Treatment Authorization Form. This form must be fully filled out with scrapie tag/ID numbers listed for each goat and signed by both the exhibitor and a

parent/guardian. Note - you will have a separate form for each species you are showing. Superintendents will also check class entries with exhibitors to finalize the show schedule.

Market goats will be weighed and weights recorded at check-in or as soon after check-in as possible. Dairy, Boer and Crossbred market goats must weigh 40 lbs. or more; Pygmy, Angora & Nigerian Dwarf market goats must weigh 25 lbs. or more. A Market goat not making weight will not be sold through the auction, it may either be shown in the feeder market goat class or taken home.

Make sure that your goats have clean bedding, hay and fresh water.

## **THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:**

### Communication

We will have a board in the main aisle of the goat tent. Information will be posted and updated daily during the Youth Show. Superintendent Phone #s will be posted there as well. We will try to be on the grounds as much as possible throughout the week. Please feel free to ask questions. If we are not available, and immediate assistance is needed, please check with the 4H office located in building A.

### Exhibitor Conduct

4-H Fair week is an exciting, fun, and educational week; but it may seem very long, hot, and at times stressful. Sometimes it is hard for kids (adults too) to always put their best foot forward, but exhibitors must always remember that they are just that - exhibitors. You and your animals are on display, not only in the show ring, but at all times. That means that you must conduct yourself in an appropriate manner whenever you are on the fair grounds. Exhibitors should think of themselves as an ambassador of 4-H, and should be on one's best behavior, which includes how you care for and treat your animals.

### Animal Care

Exhibitors are responsible for complete care of their animals during the fair. An animal that is fed, watered and penned correctly is happy and you have a much better chance of having a calm and behaved goat. Exhibitors are also responsible for keeping the pens, tack area, and aisles clean. Goats must be fed and cared for at all times. Water should be checked often. July is a very hot month and we all know that goats will go without water before they will drink water with floating poop. If you know that you will be away from your pens for an extended time, for instance, to show another species, you should make plans with a club member or another goat exhibitor to check on your goat's needs. Do not assume or expect that others will watch over your responsibilities. Also, if you see an animal that needs attention - don't ignore it. Find the owner, parent, leader or a superintendent so that the goat comes to no harm. Many disasters have been avoided because of another observant 4-H member.

Please do not use rope/string hay nets or buckets with rope handles unless you use them at home and your goats are familiar with them. Goats are playful and easily get tangled and hurt in rope items. Sturdy metal or wood hayracks, milk crates, and buckets with metal handles are good choices. If you are showing dairy goats in milk, bring your milking supplies and a stanchion to milk them on.

If the goat tent floods from a heavy rain, please help out clubs that are affected. Bedding may need to be replaced so the animals can be clean and dry.

## Animal Treatment

Part of animal treatment is how you interact with your goat. There is much talk about the mistreatment of farm animals in large industries and some people may not be able to separate large industry from 4-H because they both involve animals. Animals, at all times, must be treated appropriately. Always use proper leading techniques and be patient with your animal(s). Even if your animal is not being hurt or mistreated, it should also not appear that way. Goats are known to be stubborn and sometimes we need a little force to get our goats to behave or do what we want. This can still be done with kindness. When you treat your goat with patience and kindness you are more likely to have a positive outcome. A good way to keep a situation under control is to act as though you and your goat are on camera.

## Club Herdsmanship

Un-scheduled inspections of club pen areas by herdsmanship judges will take place daily at various times during the show week for those clubs participating in Herdsmanship.

- Aisles should always be raked, clean and neat.
- Tack, feed and equipment should be stored neatly and organized in tack areas when not in use.
- Goats should have clean water and bedding, and be properly fed.
- Awards, ribbons, decorations and signs should be neat and attractive.
- Club educational exhibits should be identified by club and on display.

This is not just for Herdsmanship competition, but also for the public that come through the goat tent. Our tent is a popular public attraction and we want to show the very best in 4-H.

## Wash Racks

Each Club showing livestock and/or horses will be assigned wash rack duties by the 4H office. Check with your club leader to find out the hours your club is responsible for. Make sure to check all of the wash rack areas and keep them clean during those hours. Always clean up after yourself when using the wash racks for your animals.

### **TUESDAY:**

Dairy 12 hour milk-out 8pm - with a superintendent present. You must preregister for this class.

Check the show schedule that will be posted in the goat tent to make sure that your classes are correct. Contact a Superintendent if you have any questions or concerns. Please try to do this on Tuesday or Wednesday, Thursday morning is very busy for us as we are trying to set up for the show.

## WEDNESDAY: GOAT PREPARATION DAY

**Dairy 12 hour milk-out and weighing 8am** - with a superintendent present, you must preregister for this.

**Goat Skillathon: 2pm** Goat Skillathon will be held in the goat tent. It can include goat questions, identifying items used for goat care and judging a class of goats.

**Show ring practice:** We will have show ring practice Wednesday afternoon, usually in between the swine show and the sheep show. Bring your goat for a final practice.

Make a final check to ensure that your goat is prepared for the show on Thursday.

- Dairy and Meat goats should be bathed, full body trimmed, hooves cleaned and trimmed.
- Angora and other fiber goats should have debris picked from hair, do not bathe. Hooves should be cleaned and trimmed. Horns can be shined with a bit of oil.
- Pygmies should be bathed or brushed, selected trimming, hooves cleaned and trimmed.
- Everyone: clean under the tail and inside the ears and nose of your goats.
- Dairy goats must be fully milked out between 6 PM and 8 PM Wednesday evening.
- Show collars/leads checked (don't leave on stalls, they may get lost.)
- Take one last glance over your study materials.
- Lay your clothes out and get a good night sleep.

**Show Ring Set-Up:** Volunteers will be needed on Wednesday night, after the sheep show is finished, for ring set-up. Check with superintendents to volunteer. Clubs will be assigned set-up and cleanup duties for the various shows throughout the week. Check with your club leader to see which ones your club is responsible to help with.

## THURSDAY: GOAT SHOW 8:30am AND AUCTION DAY:

### **GOAT SHOW 8:30am:**

Be sure to arrive early enough to be ready to show at 8:30am. Give yourself time to make final finishing touches on your goat(s). Make sure that you are dressed properly and neatly. Pick up your exhibitor show number and pin to the back of your shirt. Make sure it is high enough that a goat can't eat it off your back.

Exhibitors are responsible for being in the correct classes. Superintendents, Parents and volunteers at the show ring will help with this. Make sure to check the show schedule that will be posted in the goat tent and at the show ring for the order of the show, and to see that your classes are correct. See the superintendents for any questions. We try to keep the class posting at the show ring up to date, marking off classes as they are completed. The announcer will also state what class will be next as each class starts. Have your goat ready to enter the show ring when the class before it is complete. The order of show is also listed in the Youth Show Book.

#### Order of Show:

1. Market Goats
2. Showmanship: starts with Seniors and works down by age to cloverbuds
3. Dairy Breed Classes, followed by 30 second milk out
4. Fiber Breeds
5. Pygmies
6. Meat Breeds
7. All Other Breeds
8. Wether Pet
9. Best of Show
10. Club Herd

Your showmanship class highlights your showing skills and preparation. It is the way that you exhibit yourself as well as your goat. Enter the ring and always go in a clockwise direction. Pay attention to the judge and smile. This is the day that you have worked so hard for so put your best foot forward and have fun! If your goat misbehaves, keep calm and do your best to control it throughout the class. Judges often give extra points for maintaining composure with unruly animals.

Club herd must be pre-registered by the club, not individually. It is 3 goats from one club by at least 2 different owners. If possible, use goats that placed highest during judging or 3 of the same breed.

Show day is a long day, be sure to bring water and snacks. Cheer on other exhibitors and enjoy the show. Congratulate winners and show good sportsmanship.

If you are showing a market goat and want to withdraw it from the auction, see a superintendent prior to the show or **right after the market class is finished** to fill out the required form. The results are given to the office right away so the auction catalog can be made and printed for the auction this evening. Grand and Reserve champion goats must be sold through the auction (can be purchased by your family). Market goat exhibitors should have a picture taken by the youth show photographer of themselves with their goat. A copy should be sent with the thank you note to your buyer.

All goat exhibitors can have the photographer take a picture of themselves with their goat(s) or can take their own pictures in front of the 4H background. If you win a trophy, sending a photo with your trophy thank you note is a nice touch for the trophy sponsor.

Volunteers are needed to help take down the gates after the show. Please see the superintendents. See your club leader to see what clubs are responsible to assist with this.

### **LIVESTOCK AUCTION, THURSDAY 6:30 PM:**

A Buyers' buffet dinner will be held prior to start of the auction. Market exhibitors should contribute a dessert for the buyers, have the dessert ready to serve and at the buffet tent by 4:30pm.

Have your market goats looking nice for the auction ring. Hopefully they will still be clean from showing earlier.

Market goats will line up as specified in the auction book to be presented to the buyers for auction. Superintendents will help direct market goat exhibitors. Exhibitors should pay attention to the progress of the auction and be at the goat tent well before the species before goats is finished being auctioned.

Market exhibitors: please get the name and address for your goat's buyer(s) from the auction booth. Make a thank you sign and place it on your stall after the sale. Buyer lists and supplies for signs are available near the auction booth. Please mail a thank you note with a youth show photo to them as well.

## **FRIDAY'S GOAT EVENTS:**

**Goat Trail Class: 9:30 AM:** You can preregister for this event even though it is not considered an official goat class and anyone can participate. Participants of this event have a great time. It is fun and stress free. The trail is usually set up under the pavilion with a number of difference obstacles that you and your goat go through. It is timed with prizes for the best times and other fun categories. While leading your goat through the obstacle course never drag or hurt your animal to force it to move. Some gentle nudging, pushing, pulling and coaxing are usually needed, but be patient and tolerant of your goats. Remember this is supposed to be fun and many people will be watching. If you are not gentle with your goat you may be asked to leave the course by the superintendents. It is recommended that everyone try this at least once.

### **Release of Animals:**

9:00 PM or after Sweepstakes and show gate washing, whichever is later. Please do not try to leave early, Youth Show rules state that this is the official release time. All animals (except auction animals being hauled by 4H volunteers) need to leave for home at this time. Auction animals going home with an individual are also released at this time. Tack and feed may be removed with animals.

Do not remove any decorations or pens until Saturday.

Auction animals that will be hauled by volunteers Saturday morning must have water and hay in their pens on Friday night.

## **SATURDAY'S GOAT EVENTS:**

Haul-out of Auction/Market Animals 6:00 am, exhibitors do not need to be present.



### **Clean - Up and Pen Take-down: 8:00 AM**

Some folks show up early for this to get a jump-start, especially if they have multiple livestock or are already there for auction animal haul-out, check with your club leader. Bring brooms, shovels, rakes, wagons, pitchforks, gloves, wheelbarrows, along with lots of enthusiasm and elbow grease. Remove all decorations, pens, tack and supplies; nothing should be left behind. Clean up **all** bedding and trash. Check with a superintendent to see where to place bedding. See a superintendent to have your club's area checked off before leaving. Help other clubs as well.

**IN CONCLUSION:** Come to the show prepared for the week. Be eager to help out others. And most of all; learn, grow and enjoy your time at the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show!