



# **GOAT PROJECT GUIDEBOOK**



## ***Species-Chair:***

**Beth Stephens \* stitch2stitch4231@gmail.com \* 231-883-6189**

## ***Assistant Species-Chair:***

**Rosie Belles \* rosiebelles@aol.com \* 231-499-3040**

<b>IMPORTANT DATES</b>		<b>IMPORTANT INFO</b>	
Registration	March 1 <sup>st</sup>		
Birth Date (market projects)	After November 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2020	Minimum Weight @ Fair (market projects)	65 lbs
Age (show only projects)	Minimum: 4 Months at Fair		
Possession	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Record Book	Required
Tagging	TBD	Thank You Note	Required

## **General Requirements**

- ◆ Participating youth must abide by all general rules and regulations listed in the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council's Member Guidebook. This includes, but is not limited to, Code of Conduct, registration deadlines, showmanship and market requirements, etc.
- ◆ To participate in a 4-H market goat project, youth must attain the age of eight (8) or older by January 1<sup>st</sup> of that calendar year.
- ◆ Registration is due to the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council Auction Committee no later than the March council meeting.
- ◆ All youth are required to complete a project record book depicting their experience from beginning to end of the project. It is recommended that youth weigh and photograph their project at time of purchase.

## **Animal Requirements**

- ◆ A variety of different goat projects are available including market (meat), dairy, pack obstacle, draft, and breed show.
- ◆ 4-Her must take possession of their market goat no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ Only does and wethers are allowed in the 4-H shows. No bucks will be permitted.
- ◆ All goats must be disbudded with the exception of meat breed does.
- ◆ No pregnant does are allowed.
- ◆ Official identification requirements:
  - ALL goats MUST have an official USDA scrapies identification tag or registration papers
    - The scrapies tag or registration papers are provided by the breeder/seller
  - All non-registered 4-H goats must be physically tagged in the ear or tattooed with the scrapies ID #

- Tattoos:
  - Registered goats must be tattooed with the assigned registration number from the association and documented on official registration papers
  - Corresponding scrapies tag or a copy of the registration papers must accompany the goat when unloading at the fair
    - This will be held in the fair office throughout the week of fair. Members are responsible for picking up their forms at the end of fair week
- Microchips:
  - Must comply with MDARD requirements for microchipped goat management in Michigan
  - A corresponding chip reader must accompany the goat to the fair
- Animals with tattoos that cannot be read or animals without valid paperwork will not be allowed on the fairgrounds
- It is the owner's responsibility to get their goat tagged or tattooed
- ◆ Goat Health:
  - All goats must be deloused, dewormed, mite free, and current on their CD&T vaccination, including annual booster
  - Hooves should be trimmed as needed and checked regularly for signs of disease and infection
  - All goats will undergo a health inspection prior to gaining access to the fairgrounds
    - Inspection includes a CD&T vaccination check, general body condition, lice/parasite check, hoof check, visible infections/cuts/open wounds, sore mouth, and anemia
    - Animals that do not pass inspection will not be allowed at the fair
  - Any goat having known exposure to infectious, contagious or toxicological diseases cannot be brought to fair
  - Any goat displaying symptoms of illness or injury, displaying open wounds, or unable to participate in registered events will be immediately quarantined and examined by the fair veterinarian. The veterinarian will determine whether or not the goat can stay on the fairgrounds
- ◆ Market Animal Requirements:
  - Must be a meat breed (Boer or Kiko), wether or doe, 100% pure bred or cross
  - Must be born after November 1<sup>st</sup>; no more than 9 months old at fair
  - Must be in possession by May 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Must be tagged by the species chair with a NWMI 4-H Livestock Council program tag
  - Must be disbudded with no scurs or horn regrowth longer than 2 inches
  - Must be a minimum of 65 pounds at weigh in the first Saturday of fair
    - Underweight goats can still be shown in showmanship class, but will not be eligible for market class or the livestock auction
  - Market goats may not be used for breed entries
  - Meat goats are to be shown with a link or leather collar and must be properly fitted for best performance
  - Fitting your market goat:
    - Bathe and trim hooves as needed

- Clipping:
  - This should be done at home 7-10 days before the fair
  - Market goats should be clipped with a #10 blade & blade guards
- Spot cleaning and touch ups can be done at the fairgrounds
  - NO shaving is allowed at the fair
- ◆ Breed Project Requirements:
  - Does must be at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  full breed to qualify
  - Does must be a minimum of 4 months of age
  - Horns:
    - Meat breed does can be shown with horns
    - Dairy breed does must be disbudded
  - Fitting your breed goat:
    - Bathe and trim hooves as needed
    - Clipping:
      - This should be done at home 7-10 days before the fair
      - Dairy goats should have a full body clip with a fine clipper blade (#10 blade)
        - If the doe is in milk use an extra fine blade (#30) on the udder
      - Be sure to clip the entire body including the head, belly, legs, and shape tail area into a broom pattern
      - Angora goats are not clipped for show
      - Pygmy goats are not clipped for show; Hair around the hooves and in the ears should be trimmed
    - Spot cleaning and touch ups can be done at the fairgrounds
      - NO shaving is allowed at the fair
  - Breed goats should be shown using a link chain or leather collar closest to the color of the goat
    - Must be fitted and of sufficient strength to maintain proper control
- ◆ Pack & Draft Project Requirements:
  - Also known as "utility" or "working" animals
  - Judged based upon the experience of the *animal* and the 4-Her
  - Can be any breed; Purebred or crossbred
  - Pygmy and Fiber animals may present with horns
  - Utility animals may be a wether or doe (either dry or in milk) of at least 4 months of age
  - Goats under 1 year old should be trained to carry no more than 10% of their body weight; Goats over the age of two and fully conditioned can carry up to 30% of their body weight
  - Pack goats should be exercised often and handled multiple times a week; Regular hikes are recommended
  - Pack goats must have good temperament and be controlled by the 4-Her
  - 4-Her is responsible for acquiring the correct equipment:
    - A proper pack; Sized based upon the height and weight of the goat
      - Soft-sided dog packs are recommended for beginners
      - Cross buck saddles are recommended for experienced pack goats, but soft-sided dog packs may be used

- Pack goats may be on a lead up to 18" in length for beginners; NO decorative leads or neckties
- 4-Her will need to know how to properly load a pack
  - Weight should be evenly distributed and be appropriate for the size and experience of the animal
- "Draft" refers to driving a goat hitched to a cart. Advanced participants are encouraged to do a multi-hitch with cart
  - Goats should be able to respond to verbal reigning commands: whoa, walk on, gee (right) or haw (left)
  - Goats should have experience being hitched to the equipment
    - 4-Hers will need a draft harness and cart
- Leather collars are recommended; NO vinyl or colorful collars

### **Fair Week Requirements**

- ◆ The number of animals allowed per exhibitor may be limited due to pen availability during fair.
- ◆ Every goat at the fair must be shown
- ◆ Youth are responsible for providing enough grain and hay to care for their goat throughout the entire week.
- ◆ No feed, feed bags, or supplies are to be left in the barn (everything must be stored at the campsite).
- ◆ Youth are responsible for feeding, watering, and caring for their animal the entire week.
  - If the youth is unable to feed and water their animal at any point, it is the youth's responsibility to make arrangements for care
- ◆ Youth are responsible for keeping their pens clean all week. Pens must be clean and aisles swept by 8:30AM each morning of fair.
- ◆ Barn duty:
  - 4-Her is required to sign up and complete 2 sessions throughout the week of fair
- ◆ Daily walks are encouraged. Goats must be leashed at all times.
- ◆ At the end of fair youth are responsible to:
  - Remove all pen decorations and ribbons
  - Completely clean and sweep pens
  - Remove and dispose of all temporary fencing
  - Be checked out of the barn by the species chair or assistant

### **Helpful Info**

- ◆ Choosing a market goat:
  - Cost:
    - Expect to pay \$150-250 for a quality market project
  - Finding a breeder:
    - Contact a breeder early to reserve a kid – Some breeders will sell out quickly

- Tell the breeder you are looking for a 4-H project – They may help with cost and selection
- Ask the breeder if they test for CAE and CL
  - It is HIGHLY recommended that you only buy from a farm that performs regular testing and health checks on their herd
    - This is recommended, but NOT required for terminal animals
- Confirm that the breeder will disbud, castrate, and tag the kid with an official USDA Scrapie tag BEFORE pick up
- Selecting a kid:
  - To finish in the ideal range of 75 – 90 pounds:
    - Select a goat born in November, December, or early January
    - Select a goat with a birth weight 6 – 7+ pounds
  - Select a kid with a good conformation
    - Refer to the American Boer Goat Association (ABGA) for details
- ◆ Choosing a dairy or meat breed doe (non-market):
  - Cost:
    - Expect to pay \$200 - \$450 for a quality doe
  - Finding a breeder:
    - Contact a breeder early to reserve a kid
    - Most breeders will work with the 4-Her to select an appropriate kid for show purposes
    - If selecting a dairy project:
      - Ask the breeder for genetic lines so you can look for “Milk \*” (milk stars)
      - Try to obtain photos of the dams udder and sires’ mother’s udder
    - Purchase only from a tested herd
      - Ask for test results for CAE, CL, & Johne’s
    - Confirm that the breeder will:
      - Disbud
      - Provide scrapies tag or registration papers
      - Provide date of CD&T vaccination
  - Refer to breed standards of conformation according to American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA), Miniature Dairy Goat Association (MDGA), or American Goat Society (AGS)
- ◆ Nutrition:
  - Use a feed containing Ammonium Chloride
    - This will help prevent Urinary Calculi in wethers consuming high protein diets
  - Correct amount of grain and quality hay is essential
    - Amount of feed and free range minerals is dependent upon age of the goat. Consult your feed nutritionist or the species chair for help figuring your feed rations
  - Clean water daily
- ◆ Exercise:
  - Daily exercise is important for proper muscle development
  - Ensures good health and helps prepare for show
  - NOTE: Buyers can tell who has worked with their goat and who has not!

- ◆ Fair Week Show Attire:
  - Market Class – Clean white shirt; white, khaki, or black pants; and solid shoes or boots
  - Breed Class – Clean white shirt; white, khaki, or black pants; and solid shoes or boots
  - Pack/Draft Class – Clean plaid shirt with jeans OR white shirt with white, khaki or black pants; and solid shoes or boots

### **Cloverbuds**

- ◆ 4-H members who are 5-7 years of age (as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year)
- ◆ Cloverbuds have their own showmanship class on Friday during fair week
- ◆ Cloverbuds may participate in 4-H pack/draft on the first Sunday of fair
- ◆ A parent or leader must accompany the Cloverbud in the ring during all shows
- ◆ Cloverbuds may bring their own goat project or use an older 4-Her's or siblings goat
  - Any breed may be used
- ◆ Cloverbuds are NOT allowed to show goats with horns
- ◆ Cloverbuds are not allowed to market their goats
- ◆ Cloverbud show attire follows show attire for older 4-Hers