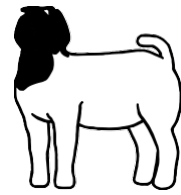




# 2024 GOAT PROJECT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



**Species-Chair:**

**Robin Gildner \* info@luckyfarmsmi.com \* 231-883-2002**

**Assistant Species-Chair:**

**Chad Gildner \* info@luckyfarmsmi.com \* 231-883-2001**

IMPORTANT DATES		IMPORTANT INFO	
Registration	Due March 4 <sup>th</sup>		
Birth Date (Market Projects)	Born after November 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	Minimum Weight @ Fair (Market Projects)	65 lbs
Age (Show Goats)	Minimum: 4 Months @ Fair		
Possession	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Record Book (Both Market and show only)	Required Due by: September Meeting
Tagging	TBD	Thank You Note	Required Due by: October Meeting

*Participating 4-H youth must abide by all general rules and regulations listed in the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council's Policies & Procedures books and the Premium Book of the Northwestern Michigan Fair. This includes, but is not limited to, Code of Conducts, registration deadlines, showmanship and market requirements, record book and thank you letter requirements, etc.*

## **Registration Requirements**

- ◆ 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 and be registered with 4-H Online 2.0.
- ◆ All Goat Participants (Market, Show only and Cloverbuds) MUST complete the online registration via the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council's website NO LATER THAN midnight the first Monday of March.
  - There are a variety of goat projects to register for: market, show, pack obstacle, draft, breed, and fun classes.
    - The number of goats allowed per participant MAY be limited based on pen availability during fair.
    - EVERY goat at the fair MUST be shown in at least one class.
  - Optional: Each 4-H market goat participant may register an extra market goat for \$10, to be paid on tagging day. The extra goat may only be used within the family that purchased it and only one (1) market goat may be brought to the fair per 4-H member.
    - If the 2<sup>nd</sup> goat is a doe, it MAY be shown in breed classes.

- If the 2<sup>nd</sup> goat is a wether, it MAY be shown in the wether class.
- ◆ To participate in the 4-H livestock shows and auction at the fair, youth must follow all registration requirements listed in the Northwestern Michigan Fair's Premium Book.
- ◆ To participate in the 4-H livestock auction at the fair, youth must register and compete in the appropriate showmanship AND market classes.

## **Animal Requirements**

- ◆ Official identification requirements:
  - ALL goats MUST be physically tagged with an official USDA scrapie identification tag in their ear or be tattooed (see highlighted notes below about tattooing requirements).
    - The scrapie tag or registration papers are typically provided by the breeder/seller.
  - All non-registered goats must have the USDA scrapie tag physically tagged in their ear or tattooed with the ENTIRE scrapie tag ID number (tattoos can be in the ears or tail webbing).
  - Registered goats must be tattooed per the association's guidelines and have the official registration papers (pedigree) from an accredited association to match. The corresponding scrapie tag (if not physical tagged in the goats ear) AND a COPY of the official registration papers (pedigree) must accompany the goat when unloading at the fair.
    - This will be held by the barn superintendent 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 and stay on the fair grounds for the entire week.
  - Animals with tattoos that cannot be read or animals without valid paperwork will not be allowed on the fairgrounds. No tattooing will be allowed the day of check-in.
  - It is the owner's responsibility to get their goat tagged or tattooed PRIOR to fair.
- ◆ Only does and wethers are allowed in the 4-H shows, no bucks will be permitted to show in 4-H shows.
  - No pregnant does are allowed.
  - Wethers need to be properly castrated. The castration procedure must be COMPLETELY HEALED showing no signs of swelling, discharge, infection, or decay upon checkin at the fair.
  - Horned Goats:
    - Disbudding for 4-H market goats is optional.
    - Dairy goats shown in breed classes should be properly disbudded as per breed standards.
    - Working goats (of any breed: dairy, meat, fiber, crosses, etc.) shown in pack or draft classes may be disbudded or horned.
    - Fiber and Meat goats shown in breed classes may be disbudded or horned. NOTE: It is highly encouraged that they be horned as per breed standards but not required.

- Cloverbud's may show any goat (disbudded or horned) as long as they can handle the goat. It is encouraged and acceptable for a parent or a chosen 4-H'er be present in the ring with the Cloverbud in case assistance is needed but not required.
- ◆ 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 general body condition examination, lice/parasite check, hoof check, visible infections/cuts/open wounds, sore mouth, and anemia.
    - Animals that do not pass inspection will not be allowed to stay on the fairgrounds.
  - Any goat having known exposure to infectious, contagious, or toxicological diseases cannot be brought to fair.
  - Any goat displaying symptoms of illness, injury, displaying open wounds, etc. and are 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, Kiko, Spanish, Savanna, Crosses (meat breeds only), etc.); They may be a wether or doe.
  - Market goats must be born on or after November 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year.
  - Market goats must be in possession or under the care of the 4-H member by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - May be disbudded or horned.
  - 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 also be shown in breed, wether, working, or fun class.
  - Meat goats can be shown with a show halter, prong, link, or leather collar. Rope leads and nylon collars are not recommended. The halter/collar should be of similar color to your goat (ex: no neon/bright colors) and must be properly fitted for best performance.
- ◆ 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 and Fiber breed does can be shown with or without horns. NOTE: It is highly encouraged that they be horned as per breed standards but not required.
    - Dairy breed does should be disbudded, as per breed standards.
  - Breed goats should be shown using a show halter, prong, link, or leather collar. The show halter or collar should be closest to the color of the goat (ex: no neon/bright colors). The halter/collar 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-H'er.
  - Can be any breed; Fullblood, Purebred, or Crossbred.
  - 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 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-H'er.
  - The 4-H'er 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 with saddle bags are recommended for experienced pack goats, but soft-sided dog packs may still be used.
    - Pack goats may be on a lead on not by the collar; the objective is to get your goat to follow you through the obstacle course willingly so a lose lead is ideal (not pulling from the collar). NO decorative leads or neckties please.
  - The 4-H'er 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 have their animal hitched with a cart.
    - Beginners may opt to use a harness only and walk behind the goat demonstrating commands.
    - Goats should be able to respond to verbal reigning commands: whoa, walk on, gee (right) or haw (left).
    - Goats should have experience being harnessed and/or hitched to the cart.
      - The 4-H'er will need a draft harness and cart.
  - Leather collars are recommended, please no nylon or colorful collars.

### **Fair Week Requirements**

- ◆ General Requirements:
  - Weigh-in takes place the first Saturday of fair.
    - Youth must be present at time of weight or must have made prior arrangements with the species chair for someone else to weigh their animal.
  - No feed, feed bags, or supplies are to be left in the barn (everything must be stored at the campsite).
  - 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: The 4-H'er is required to sign up and complete 2 sessions throughout the week of fair. Additional sessions may be required based on the number of participants registered in the barn.

- ◆ Animal Care Requirements:
  - **Animals shall be treated humanely at all times. Any reports of unethical, inhumane, and/or abusive treatment or actions that cause distress and/or suffering to an animal will be evaluated by the Species Chair, Fair Superintendent, Fair Veterinarian, and/or other appropriate individuals and may lead to disqualification and removal from all 4-H and Open Livestock Shows held at the Fair.**
  - Youth are responsible for providing enough grain and hay to care for their goat throughout the entire week.
  - Youth are responsible for feeding, watering, and caring for their animal the **entire** week of fair.
    - 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.
    - Full mesh style hay nets are NOT allowed. A slow feed bag or a rigid hay feeder are recommended to be used.
    - Hay and grain feeders are allowed to stay in the pen 24/7 as long as they are affixed and the pen looks clean and tidy.
  - Water shall remain full and fresh at all times.
- ◆ Show Day Policies:
  - For the safety of the exhibitors and the public, the goat barn will close 2 hours prior to the start of the first show.
    - During barn closure times, only the 4-H'er and ONE (1) support person of their choice may enter the barn and/or staging areas.
    - The 4-H'er and support person may be required to wear an identification badge while in these areas.
  - The 4-H'er and their support person may fit and prepare the goat for show.
- ◆ Fair End Responsibilities:
  - Remove all pen decorations and ribbons.
  - Completely clean and scrape down pens.
  - Bars on the pen dividers need to be scrubbed and wiped down.
  - Remove and put away/dispose of temporary fencing.
  - Youth participant must be checked out of the barn by the species chair or barn superintendent.

### **After Fair Requirements**

- ◆ All market and show only goat participants must turn in a completed record book at the September Livestock council meeting to the specie chair.
- ◆ **For market projects, a Thank you letter and a 5 x 7 auction photo must be given to your buyer. A copy of the thank you note is due by the October Livestock council meeting but it is highly recommended that you include a copy in your record book.**
- ◆ Failure to submit a completed record book at the September meeting and a Thank you letter at the October Meeting of the 4-H Livestock Council WILL result in suspension from the 4-H Livestock classes and auction held during the NW MI Fair the following

year. Suspended youth who complete their record book and submit it to the 4-H Livestock Council by the November meeting that same year will again be eligible to register for 4-H Livestock classes and auction held during the NW MI Fair the following year.

### **Important Information & Tips for a Successful Goat Project**

- ◆ Choosing a market goat:
  - Cost:
    - Expect to pay on average between \$200-\$500 for a market project depending on quality, confirmation, wether/doe, etc. of the animal.
  - Finding a breeder:
    - Contact a breeder as early as possible to reserve a kid. Some breeders will sell out quickly.
    - Be sure to tell the breeder you are looking for a 4-H project. They may be able to help with cost and/or selection.
    - It is HIGHLY recommended that you look to buy from a farm that performs regular testing and health checks on their herd.
      - If looking for a goat to breed, be sure to ask the breeder if they test for Johne's, CAE, and CL.
      - Johne's, CAE, and CL testing is recommended, but is NOT required for terminal animals.
    - Confirm that the breeder will castrate (wether) and tag (and/or tattoo) the kid with an official USDA Scrapie tag or registration tattoos BEFORE pick up. If you'd like your project to be disbudded you will need to let your breeder know at the time you look to reserve your project. Most kids are disbudded when they are between 5-14 days old.
    - When you go to pick up your project from the breeder it is best to take a health check-in form with you so you may ask them the necessary questions needed to complete the health form you will need for fair (ex: birth date, birth weight, castration date, disbud date, date of CD&T shot, etc.) Several breeders will make sure to have this information ready for you if you let them know at the time you reserve your project that you will need this information.
  - Selecting a market project:
    - Look for a "full-service breeder". A breeder that will provide you with support and guidance throughout the project. Don't be afraid to ASK QUESTIONS.
    - The ideal weight range for your project will vary based on the structure of your goat. For example: If you have a larger framed, longer legged goat your ideal weight range will likely be 100+ pounds. If you have a smaller framed, shorter legged goat your ideal weight range will likely be 85 – 100 pounds. Don't focus so much on the weight of your animal and focus more on making sure your animal is finished for their frame size. ASK YOUR BREEDER FOR THEIR OPINION. They know their stock and can provide guidance.
      - It is recommended that you select a goat born between the months of December through February. With proper feed, management, and genetics they should easily make the 65# minimum requirement.

- It is recommended that you select a goat that had a healthy birth weight and a good average daily gain. These numbers will depend on several factors so ask your breeder.
- Select a kid with a good conformation.
  - ASK YOUR BREEDER FOR GUIDANCE. A good breeder will gladly tell you their likes and dislikes of their goats. Or refer to the American Boer Goat Association (ABGA) for examples.
- ◆ Choosing a dairy or meat breed doe (non-market):
  - Cost:
    - Expect to pay \$200 - \$500+ for a quality doeling
  - Finding a breeder:
    - Contact a breeder early to reserve a kid.
    - Most breeders will work with the 4-H'er 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 dam's udder and sire's mother's udder.
      - Purchase from a tested herd. Ask for test results for Johne's, CAE, & CL.
      - Confirm that the breeder will:
        - Disbud
        - Provide scrapie tag (and registration papers, if applicable)
        - Provide required info (date of CD&T vaccination, castration, birth, weight, etc.)
      - Refer to breed standards of conformation according to American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA), Miniature Dairy Goat Association (MDGA), or American Goat Society (AGS)
    - If selecting a meat bred project:
      - Ask the breeder for genetic lines so you can look for "Enoblements".
      - Try to obtain photos of the dam and sire.
      - Purchase from a tested herd. Ask for test results for Johne's, CAE, & CL.
      - Confirm that the breeder will:
        - Provide scrapie tag (and registration papers, if applicable)
        - Provide required info (date of CD&T vaccination, castration, birth, weight, etc.)
      - Refer to breed standards and conformation examples according to American Boer Goat Association (ABGA).
- ◆ Nutrition:
  - Use a feed containing Ammonium Chloride and a calcium to phosphorus ration of 2:1. This will help to prevent Urinary Calculi in wethers consuming a high protein diet.
  - The correct amount of grain and quality hay is essential for optimal growth.
    - Amount of feed is dependent upon several factors. Consult your feed nutritionist, your breeder, or the species chair for help figuring your feed ratio.
    - Free choice minerals should also be offered.
  - Clean water daily.
- ◆ Exercise:
  - Daily exercise is important for proper muscle development.

- Ensures good health and helps prepare for shows.
- NOTE: Buyers can tell who has worked with their goat and who has not!
- ◆ Clipping for Show:
  - Clipping should be done at home 7-10 days before the fair.
  - Market goats should be clean shaven. A #10 blade is the shortest length recommended. Other blade sizes and blade guards can be used. Ask your breeder or specie chair for guidance.
  - Dairy breed 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 should not be clipped for show.
    - Pygmy goats should not be clipped for show; Hair around the hooves and in the ears should be trimmed.
  - Meat breed goats should NOT have a full body clip.
    - They get clipped in certain areas of the body with different blade lengths. Ask your breeder or specie chair for guidance.
- ◆ Fair Week Show Attire:
  - ALL 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 breed, pack/draft show, or fun classes.
- ◆ A parent or leader may accompany the Cloverbud in the ring during all shows. (Recommended but not required).
- ◆ Cloverbuds may bring their own goat project or use an older 4-Her's or siblings goat.
  - Any breed may be used as long as the Cloverbud can handle the goat.
- ◆ Cloverbuds may show goats with horns.
- ◆ Cloverbuds are not allowed to market their goats.
- ◆ Cloverbud show attire follows show attire for older 4-H'ers.