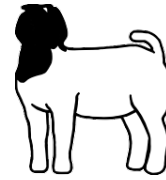




2026 GOAT PROJECT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



Species-Chair:

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| IMPORTANT DATES | | IMPORTANT INFO | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Registration | Due March 2 nd | | |
| Birth Date: (Market Projects) | Born after November 1 st , 2025 | Minimum Weight @ Fair (Market Projects) | 65 lbs |
| Age: (ALL Goats) | Minimum: 4 Months @ Fair* | | |
| Possession Date: | May 1 st | Record Book (Both Market and show only) | Required Due by: September Meeting |
| Tagging Date: | 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.

**ALL goats should be a minimum of 4 months old by fair. This is to ensure all kids are weaned, eating on their own, and no longer nursing from the dam. Exceptions to this rule must be approved by the Specie Chair prior to fair and will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.*

Registration Requirements

- To participate in a 4-H market goat project, youth must attain the age of eight (8) or older by January 1st of that calendar year and be registered with 4-H Online. **YOUTH MUST BE REGISTERED IN 4-H Online BEFORE registering their animal or participating in ANY 4-H club activities.** To participate in a 4-H goat show project, youth must attain the age of five (5) or older by January 1st of that calendar year and be registered with 4-H Online.
- All 4-H Goat Participants (Market, Show Only, Working, & Cloverbuds) **MUST** complete the 4-H online registration and goat specie specific registraion via the Northwest Michigan 4-H

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Livestock Council's website NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM the first Monday of March in order to participate in the 4-H goat shows during fair.

- 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 due to pen number limitations. Exceptions to this rule may be granted but must be approved, PRIOR TO FAIR, by the goat specie chair.
- To participate in the 4-H livestock shows and auction at the fair, youth must follow all registration requirements of the Northwestern Michigan Fair and the Northwest Michigan Livestock Council.
- To participate in the 4-H livestock auction at the fair, youth must register and compete in the appropriate showmanship AND market classes.
- **Optional:** Each 4-H market goat participant may register an extra market goat for \$10 fee, to be paid on tagging day, to the Northwest Michigan Livestock Council. The extra market goat may only be used within the family that purchased it. Only one (1) market goat may be marketed during fair per each registered 4-H member. The 2nd registered market goat may be brought to fair and be shown, but not marketed.

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 but must be fully legible and match the tag provided). If the goat is tattooed versus tagged, the matching tag must be attached to the goat health form and accompany the goat to fair.
 - Registered goats, who are not physically tagged, must be tattooed per the accredited association's guidelines and have the official registration papers (pedigree) from an accredited association to match. An "Application for registrations" does not count as a pedigree. The corresponding scrapie tag (if not physical tagged in the goat's ear) AND a COPY of the official registration papers (pedigree) must be included with the goat health paperwork and accompany the goat to fair.
 - ALL goat health forms, tags, pedigree copies, etc. will be held by the goat barn superintendent throughout the week of fair. Members are responsible for picking up their forms at the end of fair week when checking out of the barn.
 - Microchips: A goat may be microchipped but they must comply with MDARD requirements for microchipped goat management in Michigan. A corresponding chip reader must accompany the goat to the fair and stay with the barn superintendent on the fair grounds for the entire week. An official USDA scrapie tag, if not physically tagged in the goat's ear, must be included with the goat health paperwork and accompany the goat to fair.
 - Animals with tattoos that cannot be read or animals without valid paperwork will not be allowed to stay on the fairgrounds and will be sent home during check-in. NO TATTOOING OR TAGGING WILL BE ALLOWED THE DAY OF CHECK-IN. It is the owner's

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responsibility to make sure their goat has the proper identification and if not get their goat tagged or tattooed PRIOR to fair.

- Only does and wethers are allowed in the 4-H goat shows, no bucks will be permitted to show in 4-H shows. No pregnant does are allowed. Wethers must be properly castrated. The castration procedure must be COMPLETELY HEALED showing no signs of swelling, discharge, infection, or decay upon check-in at the fair.
- Horned Goats:
 - Disbudding for 4-H market goats is optional.
 - Dairy breed goats shown in breed classes may be disbudded or horned. NOTE: It is highly encouraged that they be 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 breed goats shown in breed classes may be disbudded or horned. NOTE: It is highly encouraged that they be horned as per breed standards.
 - Cloverbud's may show any goat (disbudded or horned) as long as they can handle the goat.
- Goat Health:
 - All goats must be deloused, dewormed, mite free, and current on their CD&T vaccination, including annual booster. This information is needed for your health form, due on check-in day of fair.
 - Hooves should be trimmed prior to fair and checked regularly for signs of disease and infection.
 - All goats will undergo a health inspection prior to being unloaded on the fairgrounds. Inspection includes but not limited to: a general body condition examination, lice/parasite check, hoof check, visible infections/cuts/open wounds, sore mouth, and anemia. Animals that do not pass the initial inspection may be examined by the fair veterinarian and may or may 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, open wounds, etc. may be unable to participate in registered events. The fair veterinarian may be called in to examine the animal(s) in question. The veterinarian will determine whether or not the goat can stay on the fairgrounds or requires quarantining.
- Market Animal Requirements:
 - Must be a meat breed (Boer, Kiko, Spanish, Savanna, Crosses (meat breeds only), etc. NO DAIRY OR DAIRY/MEAT BREED CROSSES. They may be a wether or doe.
 - Market goats must be born on or after November 1st of the previous year.
 - Market goats must be in possession or under the care of the 4-H member by May 1st.
 - Projects 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 4-H classes, but will not be eligible for market class or the livestock auction.

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- Each market goat will be tagged by the specie chair with an official Northwest Michigan Livestock Council market tag. (Tagging date to be determined). **Optional:** Each 4-H market goat participant may register an extra market goat for \$10 fee, to be paid on tagging day, to the Northwest Michigan Livestock Council. The extra market goat may only be used within the family that purchased it. Only one (1) market goat may be marketed during fair per each registered market goat 4-H member. The 2nd registered market goat may be brought to fair and be shown, but not marketed. Market goats may also be shown in breed, wether, working, or fun class.
- Meat goats can be shown with a leather show halter, prong, link, straight chain, 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. (ALL goats should be a minimum of 4 months old by fair. This is to ensue all kids are weaned, eating on their own, and no longer nursing from the dam. Exceptions to this rule must be approved prior to fair by the Specie Chair and will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.)
 - Breed goats should be shown using a leather show halter, prong, link, straight chain, 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.
 - Horns:
 - Meat and Fiber breed goats can be shown with or without horns. NOTE: It is highly encouraged that they be horned as per breed standards.
 - Dairy breed goats can be shown with or without horns. NOTE: It is highly encouraged that they be disbudded as per breed standards.
- 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. (ALL goats should be a minimum of 4 months old by fair. This is to ensue all kids are weaned, eating on their own, and no longer nursing from the dam. Exceptions to this rule must be approved prior to fair by the Specie Chair and will be addressed on a case-by-case basis).
 - “Pack” refers to goat caring a pack saddle.
 - Pack 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. Cross buck saddles with saddle bags are

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recommended for pack goats, but soft-sided dog packs may still be used. **PACK SADDLES ARE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT TO RECEIVE FULL POINTS.**

- Pack goats should be led on a short lead and not by the collar; the objective is to get your goat to follow you through the obstacle course willingly so a loose 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 or a goat pulling a cart.
 - Advanced participants are encouraged to have their animal hitched with a cart and be demonstrating commands driving the goat. **Safety straps?**
 - Beginners may opt to use a harness only and walk behind the goat demonstrating commands or hitch their goat to a cart and walk alongside their goat giving command and demonstrating their goat pulling a cart.
 - 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 & cart to participate in this class.** Leather or nylon face harnesses are required as they are an essential piece of a draft harness.

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 another 4-H participant to weigh their market animal.
 - No feed, feed bags, show supplies, or tack are to be left in the barn (everything must be stored at your campsite).
 - Youth are responsible for keeping their pens clean and animals fed/watered all week. Pens must be cleaned and aisles swept by 9 am each morning of fair to ensure the barn can be open to the public. Please no cleaning of pens during the day or evening as the barn may be busy with the public. If a pens cleanliness needs to be addressed, please see the specie chair or barn superintendent.
 - Barn Duty: The 4-H'er is required to sign up and complete a minimum of 2 sessions throughout the week of fair. Additional sessions may be required based on the number of participants registered in the barn. Max of two (2) youth participants (three (3) for cloverbuds) per each time slot.

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 (including but not limited to the Livestock Council Board, the Fair Board, & MSU Extension Staff) and may lead to disqualification and/or removal from all 4-H and Open Livestock shows held at the Fair.**

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- 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 in a timely manner. If the youth is unable to feed & water their animal at any point, it is the youth's responsibility to make arrangements for care.
 - Full mesh style hanging hay nets are NOT allowed due to the high risk of entanglement. A slow feed bag or a rigid hay feeder are recommended. Hay and grain feeders are allowed to stay in the pen 24/7 as long as they are affixed (not lose in the pen) and the pen looks clean and tidy.
- Water shall remain full and fresh at all times.
- **NO CHAIRS OR SEATS OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED TO BE LEFT IN THE PENS. This causes a entanglement danger to the animals as well as a possible escape aid device.**

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 and completely clean and scrape down pen area.
- Disassemble/tear 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 check out of the barn with the species chair or barn superintendent before removing their goat(s).

After Fair Requirements

- Youth are required to turn in one completed record book (showmanship or market). If youth are exhibiting in market or in showmanship species, you are required to complete the record book for your market project. Examples: Jane shows beef cattle in showmanship and market; Jane completes a record book in beef cattle. John shows swine, horses, and goats, and markets his hog; John completes a record book for hogs. Sally shows chickens, rabbits, and dogs all showmanship only, and decides to complete the record book for rabbits.
- **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 note 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 Northwestern Michigan 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 Northwestern Michigan Fair the following year.

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Important Information & Tips for a Successful Goat Project

- When choosing to purchase a market goat: 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.
 - 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 but not required that you look to buy from a farm that performs regular testing and/or 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 are 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.
 - 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 to January. With proper feed, management, and good genetics they should easily make the 65# minimum requirement and they won’t be “past their prime” by fair week.
 - 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 for future breeding projects:

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- 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 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:
 - Recommended to use a feed containing Ammonium Chloride and a calcium to phosphorus ration of 2:1 to 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! Spending even a minimum of 15 – 30 minutes a day with your goat will go a long way.
- 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”. If you have questions ask your breeder or specie chair for guidance.
 - 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.

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- Meat breed goats should NOT have a full body clip (EXCLUDING market goats. All market goats get a full body shave). Meat breed goats shown in breed classes get clipped in certain areas of the body with different blade lengths. Ask your breeder or specie chair for guidance.
- Fair Week Show Attire:
 - For ALL goat show classes participants must wear a clean dress shirt (can be short or long sleeved) with clean jeans (no rips, holes, or tears). *** If you are showing another specie at the same time that requires different dress attire, it is acceptable to wear that species required show attire to also show your goat project. ***
 - Solid close toed sturdy shoes or boots are required.
- Cloverbuds
 - 4-H members who are 5-7 years of age (as of January 1st of the current year).
 - Cloverbuds have their own showmanship and breed classes on Friday during fair week.
 - Cloverbuds may also participate in the 4-H pack/draft show AND 4-H fun classes.
 - Per MSU Extension Rules:
 - Cloverbuds age 5: Must be directly assisted one-on-one by a parent, guardian, or adult volunteer while the child is in contact with the animal.
 - Cloverbuds age 6: Must be directly assisted one-on-one as needed by a parent, guardian, adult volunteer, or 4-H Teen who is in close proximity while the child is in contact with the animal.
 - Cloverbuds age 7: Parent, guardian, adult volunteer, or 4-H Teen should be in support role in close proximity while the child is in contact with the animal.
 - 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 as long as the Cloverbud can handle the goat.
 - Cloverbuds are not allowed to market their goats.
 - Cloverbud show attire follows show attire for older 4-H'ers.