

GOAT PROJECTS

4-H PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

To complete a livestock project in 4-H, member must annually:

- Enroll in 4H Club by March 1
- Be 4-H member in “Good Standing” by completing county and club requirements
- Complete Project Book or Livestock Record Book
- Attend Quality Assurance Training (*not required for breeding or pygmy goats*)
- Complete Livestock Skillathon

*NOTE: 4-H Members may also choose to exhibit their livestock at the Ross County Junior Fair. Members are NOT required to exhibit at the fair to complete a project in 4-H.

1. PROJECT BOOK & LIVESTOCK RECORDS

- **PROJECT BOOKS:** First-year members will receive a **Goat Project/Record Book (#135)** and a **Goat Resource Handbook (#135R)**. Members must retain these books for use in future years. The Resource Handbook is given one per family and must be retained for future family members.
- **LIVESTOCK RECORD:** Each member will receive a **Livestock Record** annually. **Members are required to bring their completed Livestock Record to the Animal Project Skillathon** with all information completed up to the date of the Skillathon.

2. QUALITY ASSURANCE (*mandatory for Market & Dairy Market & Dairy Goats. Not required for Breeding & Pygmy Goats*)

- Exhibitors of Market and Dairy Projects must attend Quality Assurance training annually in order to show, exhibit and/or sell their animal at the county or state fair. This training is mandated by the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture for any producer that contributes to the food industry and must be completed at least 45 days prior to the opening date of the exhibition. Deadlines: **June 24, 2026** for Ross County Fair and June 1 for State Fair.
- **QA OPTIONS:**
 - **Ross County** dates/times go to ross.osu.edu
 - **QA Sessions (all ages):** Pre-register **by March 1** at go.osu.edu/rcqualityassurance
 - **Test-Out (ages 15-18 on January 1):** Youth will complete QA for the current year and will then take a test. Youth scoring 70% - 100% will “test out” of QA for next three years.
 - **Other In-Person (all ages):** Exhibitors may attend approved QA programs or clinics. To get credit, it is the member’s responsibility to submit proof of completion to the Extension office.
 - **YQCA Online (ages 14-18):** <http://yqcaprogram.org> (\$12/person). Must use 4-H online log-in. To get credit, it is the member’s responsibility to send a copy of the completion document to the Extension office.

3. SKILLATHON

- All Ross County Jr. Fair Animal Project Exhibitors must complete an Animal Project Skillathon to exhibit, show and/or their animal(s). Exhibitors may complete either the Ross County Skillathon OR the Ohio State Fair Skillathon (if offered) for their species. It is the exhibitor’s responsibility to submit proof of completion to the Extension office, if attending the OSF Skillathon.
- **Skillathon Dates:**
 - Location: Fairgrounds
 - July 7, 5:00pm-7:00pm
 - July 18, 9:00am-11:00am
- **Age Categories:** Members complete Skillathon according to their age (as of January 1).
 - Junior (8-11 years)
 - Intermediate (12 – 14 years)
 - Senior (15 – 18 years)
- **PREMIER SKILLATHON** (all ages): Optional contest. Participants will compete in a Premier Skillathon station in each specie area. Details will be in the *May Family Hotline* and *Ross County Fair Book*.

JR. FAIR INFORMATION

→ ***This is not a complete list of all Jr. Fair rules. Refer to Ross County Fair Book for all rules.***

To exhibit, show and/or sell an animal at the Ross County Junior Fair, exhibitors must:

- ☑ Enroll in 4-H Club and/or FFA Chapter
- ☑ Sign up for the project by March 1
 - 4-H members sign up through 4Honline
 - FFA members sign up with Ag Teacher
- ☑ Be 4-H/FFA members in “Good Standing” by completing county and club/chapter requirements
- ☑ Complete Project Book or Livestock Record Book
- ☑ Attend Quality Assurance Training (*market & lactating dairy*)
- ☑ Complete Livestock Skillathon
- ☑ Tag and/or weigh in animal(s) at Spring Tag-in
- ☑ Submit online “Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form” by July 15
 - One form includes Market, Breeding, and Showmanship entries (*New in 2025 - Goat Exhibitor CBBR entries will be part of the Jr. Fair Livestock Entry Form*)
- ☑ Submit online DUNF form (market goats and lactating dairy goats)

*NOTE: Members are NOT required to exhibit at the fair to complete a project through 4-H or FFA.

2026 IMPORTANT DATES

- **Market Goat SPRING Tagging Dates:**
 - Saturday, May 2 8:00am - 11:00am Ross County Fairgrounds
 - Monday, May 4 6:00pm - 8:00pm Ross County Fairgrounds
- **Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form:** July 15
- **CBBR Registration:** refer to CBBR on page 7
- **DUNF Form (market, dairy market, lactating dairy):** due at Fair Move-in
- **Fair Move-in:**
 - **Market:** Move-in & Rolling Weigh-in: first Saturday of fair, 7:00am – 11:00am
 - **Dairy, Breeding, Pygmy:** Move-in: first Saturday of fair, 7:00am – 11:00am
- **Fair Exhibitors’ Meeting:** first Saturday of fair, 12:00noon (*mandatory for all goat exhibitors*)
- **Dairy Goat Showmanship & Show:** Sunday of fair, 10:00am
- **Pygmy Goat Showmanship & Show:** Sunday of fair, following Dairy Goat Show
- **Meat Breeding Goat Showmanship & Market Showmanship:** Sunday of fair, 3:00pm
- **Meat Breeding Goat Show:** Monday of fair, 3:00pm
- **Market Goat Show:** Monday of fair, following Meat Breeding Goat Show
- **County Bred, Born & Raised Show:** Thursday of fair, 12:00noon
- **Market Goat Sale:** Friday of fair, 6:00pm (rotate annually Beef, Dairy Products, Goats)

GENERAL RULES for ALL GOATS

→ *This is not a complete list of all Jr. Fair rules. Refer to Ross County Fair Book for all rules.*

1. **JR FAIR EXHIBITOR DRESS CODE.** Exhibitors **must** adhere to the following dress requirements **at all shows and sales** at the fair: must wear nice jeans or slacks (no low-rise, no holes or tears); a shirt, blouse or polo with a collar and sleeves AND without slogans or advertisements (4-H club/member name is acceptable); no cleavage showing; no undergarments showing. Shoes must be closed-toe (no sandals or flip flops).
2. **FAIR VETERINARIAN**
The Fair Veterinarian is hired by the Ross Co. Agricultural Society per Ohio Dept. of Agriculture guidelines. Determinations related to animal health, care, and wellbeing are up to the discretion of the Fair Veterinarian up to and including animal removal and possession. (clarification that the Fair Veterinarian has final say)
3. **DRENCHING.** Drenching of livestock is **prohibited** at an exhibition, unless it is for a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed veterinarian.
4. **MEDICATIONS.** If a prescription is written that requires medication/treatment, a superintendent must be present each time the medicine/treatment is administered to ensure compliance with the guidance in the prescription. The superintendent must be present before any medicine/treatment is mixed through delivery.
5. **DUNF FORMS** (*required for market & dairy market & dairy*)
 - A. All DUNF forms must be submitted online at the fair weigh-in.
 - B. Goats - A separate DUNF must be submitted for each animal.
 - C. DUNF form must be correctly submitted, or exhibitor will not be allowed to weigh-in their animal(s).
 - ★ **Animal Identification = Scrapie ID#** (you must enter the ENTIRE SCRAPIE TAG NUMBER. Partial Scrapie ID# is not accepted.)
6. **NUMBER OF ANIMALS.**
 - A. **A total of 5 goats may be taken** (including market, dairy market, breeding, dairy, pygmy projects combined).
 - B. Exhibitors may take up to 2 market species to the Ross County Junior Fair. Exhibitors must follow the guidelines of the number of animals per species and abide by the specific rules for each species.
 - C. Exhibitor may take 2 market goat animals to the Ross County Jr. Fair. The 2 market goats can be a combination of two wethers, two does, or one wether and one doe.
7. **POSSESSION. Goats must be in member's possession by:**
 - A. May 1 - Market Goats & Dairy Market Goats
 - B. June 1 - Non-Market (breeding) Livestock
 - C. June 1 - Pygmy Goats
 - D. June 1 - Dairy Goats
8. **SCRAPIE TAGS. ALL GOATS (includes breeding, market, pygmy, does, wethers) MUST have a scrapie tag or tattoo from the breeder** when you take possession of the goat. Animals brought to the fair must match entry form to be eligible to show. (Scrapie Tag Examples: OH123456789, KY123456789)
NOTE: Exception - Pygmy goats may have micro-chip identification
9. **JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS due July 15.**
 - A. **ALL** goat exhibitors must complete this form (market, dairy market, dairy, breeding, pygmy)
 - B. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
Note: Goat Exhibitor CBBR entries are included in the Jr. Fair Livestock Entry Form
 - C. Animals brought to the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.

Continued - GENERAL RULES for ALL GOATS

10. GROOMING & FITTING

A. HORNS

- a. All Goats (except for meat breeding does) must be dehorned by spring weigh-in date. Maximum 1" regrowth allowed, and horns must be dulled or rounded to eliminate sharp edges or points.

B. SHEARING

- a. **Market Goats** must be slick sheared to an even length, 3/8 inch or less, above the knee and hock but excluding the head and tail switch. Exhibitors can request a goat superintendent to check their goat(s) for compliance until **1:00pm on show day**.
- b. **Dairy and Dairy Market Goats** must be completely slick sheared to an even length, 3/8 inch or less, excluding the tail switch.
- c. **Other classes** are to be groomed to the best of the exhibitor's ability to best present their project. Current "show cut" grooming standards will be allowed in meat breeding classes.

C. FITTING PRODUCTS

- a. **Market and Meat Breeding Goats** – Exhibitors are permitted to only use products found on the “*Approved Fitting Products” list. (Please note that market and/or breeding goats do not have to be fitted to compete in the Junior Fair show.)
- b. ***APPROVED FITTING PRODUCTS –**
 - Sullivan’s Flair Show Ring Sheen
 - Sullivan’s Hocus Pocus
 - Sullivan’s Prime Time Adhesive
 - Sullivan’s Revive Lite Conditioner
 - Sullivan’s Tail Adhesive
 - Weaver Pro Adhesive Medium
 - Weaver Pro Adhesive Strong
 - Weaver Pro Adhesive Firm
 - Weaver Pro Pink Finishing Spray
 - Weaver Pro Refit Adhesive & Paint Remover
 - Weaver Sheep & Goat Conditioning Spray

D. FITTING AREA / TENT

- a. All goat exhibitors must fit/groom their animals in the designated goat fitting areas. This means all goat exhibitors must fit/groom animals **INSIDE** the fitting tents only unless other arrangements are approved by barn superintendent.
NOTE for reserving spots in tent – The only way for exhibitors to reserve a spot inside the Fitting Tent is by placing your grooming stand inside the tent. Exhibitors are **not** permitted to reserve spots inside the tent with tape, rope, etc.

11. RULES & PENALTIES and RULE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

A. PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO ABIDE BY RULES -

Exhibitors could be subject to immediate disqualification from the current year’s Jr. Fair exhibition and Jr. Fair Sale, including, all market, breeding, and showmanship shows. Disqualified exhibitors will receive packer price for their animals and will not be eligible to participate in the Jr. Fair Premium Sale. (Placing will advance on if in the Top 5 Overall).

B. RULE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

- a. Committee consists of a Barn Superintendent, a Senior Fair Board Representative, and a Jr. Fair Volunteer
- b. Beginning 30 minutes before the show until the show is over, the Rule Enforcement Committee (above) will begin monitoring grooming practices. Any issues before the show should be brought to the Goat Superintendents.
- c. If rule violation is discovered before the show, the committee is responsible for following up on immediate concerns, securing documentation, and rule enforcement including informing the family (exhibitor(s) and parent(s)). If the family has concerns, they can file a formal grievance.
- d. If rule violation is discovered during or after the show, the committee follows up on immediate concerns, secures documentation, and informs family (exhibitor(s) and parents(s)) that a meeting will be held within 24 hours. If the family has concerns after a decision is made, they can file a formal grievance.

JR FAIR GOAT SHOWS – SPECIFIC RULES

MARKET GOATS

1. **SPRING TAGGING.** Market goats must be tagged & weighed at a Spring Tagging.
 - A. See dates & times on page 2.
 - B. Each exhibitor may tag 2 market goats. Families with 2 or more members taking market goats may tag-in and designate 1 family goat. A family with one exhibitor can tag three market animals.
 - C. Wethers must be castrated by spring tagging date.
 - D. If you tag-in a goat as a market project, you will NOT be allowed to use this same doe as a breeding project in the same year.

2. **FAIR WEIGH-IN.** Goats must weigh a **minimum of 50 lbs.** at the fair weigh-in.

3. **MUST SHOW TO SELL.**

All market animals must be shown in their respective market show to be eligible to participate in the Ross Co. Jr. Fair Premium Sale (*3 exceptions– see below). If the animal is lightweight or overweight, they can receive packer price but not premium or add-on funds.

 - A. Exceptions:
 - I. Exception 1 - If the animal dies after weigh-in but before showing in the respective species market show the exhibitor will be eligible to receive add-ons.
 - II. Exception 2 - If the animal dies after the respective species market show, then the exhibitor will be eligible to participate in both the Jr. Fair Premium Sale and receive add-ons.
 - III. Exception 3 – If the animal dies after showing in their respective species showmanship show and before their species market show, then the exhibitor will be eligible to participate in both the Premium Sale and receive add-ons.
 - Note: if the exhibitor’s animal does not die and they have shown in showmanship, they must still show in the market show to be sale eligible.
 - Note: This is a temporary exception that will be evaluated after the 2026 fair.
 - B. Exhibitors will have 3 minutes from when other exhibitors enter the showing to enter the showing before the Superintendents/Judge moves on with the show. All exhibitors must participate in their market show to be eligible to participate in the Ross Co. Jr. Fair Premium Sale.

4. **SALE INFORMATION.**
 - A. The Jr Fair Market Goat Show is a terminal show.
 - B. Refer to current Fair Book for Livestock Sale procedure/rules. (*i.e. Exhibitors may sell only one time through the sale unless exhibiting more than one overall species Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion*)

5. **COUNTY BORN, BRED, AND RAISED MARKET GOAT SHOW.** See page 7 for information

DAIRY MARKET GOATS (*Dairy Goats taken as a Market Project*)

1. **DAIRY MARKET GOATS WILL SHOW IN A DAIRY MARKET GOAT SHOW** (separate from meat breed market goats). The Dairy Market Goat show will take place immediately after the Dairy Doe Show.

2. **DAIRY MARKET GOATS WILL FOLLOW THE SAME RULES AS MEAT MARKET GOATS**
Including but not limited to: being born between December 1 – April 1 of current year, 50 lbs. weight minimum at fair weigh-in, terminal show and sale, etc.

3. **DAIRY MARKET GOATS MUST ATTEND SPRING TAGGING & WEIGH-IN**
To determine if the animal qualifies to be considered a dairy market goat, the goat will be evaluated at the Spring Tagging by at least 3 Jr. Fair Goat Superintendents.

4. No evidence of a Meat Goat breed shall be present in a Dairy Market Goat (meat breeds include, but are not limited to, Boer, Kiko, Myotonic, Spanish, Pygmy)

5. Only 2 Market Goats can be entered in the Jr. Fair (*i.e. An exhibitor can show a dairy market goat in addition to a meat breed market goat, but a total of only 2 market goats can be exhibited*).

6. Dairy Market Goat placings and showmanship results will be used in the calculation for the Premier Dairy Goat Exhibitor Award.
7. Dairy Market Goats will be permitted to participate in the CBBR Show; however, they CANNOT participate in the Performance Contest.
8. **SHOWMANSHIP.** Dairy Market Goats will show in the Dairy Goat Showmanship.

DAIRY GOATS

1. Dairy project animals are restricted to **does**.
2. No evidence of a Meat goat breed shall be present in a dairy goat (Meat breeds include, but are not limited to, Boer, Kiko, Myotonic, Spanish, Pygmy)
3. **JR. FAIR DAIRY CLASSES:** shown by class & age
 - A. **Junior Dairy Goats (must be dry):**
 - Junior Kid Doe: Doe born March 1 – June 1 of current year
 - Senior Kid Doe: Doe born January 1 – February 29 of current year
 - Dry Yearling: Doe born January 1 – December 31 of prior year that has NOT freshened
 - B. **Senior Dairy Goats** (producing doe currently in milk or has freshened at least once. May be shown dry).
 - Senior Doe: Ages 1 year – under 3 years
 - Senior Doe: Ages 3 years & over
 - C. **Group Class** (all goats exhibited in the Group Class must have been exhibited in their individual age classes)
 - Dam & Daughter: Senior Doe and her Daughter of any age

MEAT BREEDING GOATS

1. Meat Breeding project animals are restricted to **does**.
2. **JR FAIR MEAT BREEDING DOE CLASSES:** shown by age
 - A. Meat Breeding Does are judged for meat production only. They may be in milk.
 - B. Classes open to any purebred or crossbred doe that would make a good meat producer.
 - C. Classes & Age:
 - Junior Meat Doe Kid: 0 – 6 months (February 1, current year – current show date)
 - Junior Meat Doe Kid: 6 – 12 months (January 31, current year – August 1, previous year)
 - Intermediate Meat Doe: 12 – 24 months (July 31, 2024 – August 1, 2023)
 - Senior Meat Doe: 24 months & older (prior to July 31, 2023)

PYGMY GOATS

1. Pygmy project animals may be does or wethers.
2. Pygmy goats do not need to be registered; however, they must meet breed standards. Animals will be shown according to Breed Standards.
3. Pygmy goats will NOT sell at the Junior Fair Sale.
4. **JR FAIR PYGMY GOAT SHOWS** (two shows).
 - A. **Pygmy Goat Wether Show**
 - a. Age Classes: (shown by age as of August 1, current year)
 - 0 – 1 year (born after August 1, 2024)
 - 1 year – under 2 years (August 1, 2023 – July 31, 2024)
 - 2 years – under 3 years (August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023)
 - 3 years & over (prior to July 31, 2022)
 - b. Grand Champion Pygmy Wether; Reserve Grand Champion Pygmy Wether; Class Winner(s)

B. Pygmy Goat Doe Show

- a. Age Classes: (shown by age as of August 1, current year)
 - 0 – 1 year (born after August 1, 2024)
 - 1 year – under 2 years (August 1, 2023 – July 31, 2024)
 - 2 years – under 3 years (August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023)
 - 3 years & over (prior to July 31, 2022)
- b. Grand Champion Pygmy Doe; Reserve Grand Champion Pygmy Doe; Class Winner(s)

JR FAIR GOAT SHOWMANSHIP

Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for complete rules (age divisions, fitting/showing rules, show order, etc.)

Showmanship Sign-ups

1. Reminder! Dairy Market Goats will show in the Dairy Goat Showmanship.
2. **July 15** – Showmanship sign-ups (Beginner, Junior, Intermediate & Senior) are included in the online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form due July 15.
3. Peewee Showmanship sign-up sheets will be posted in each species' barn. Participants can sign up until the start of the Pee Wee Show.

COUNTY BRED, BORN, & RAISED GOAT SHOW (CBBR)

Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for complete rules

1. For all County Bred & Born – (i.e. if in Ross Co. 4-H but living out of county)

All youth participating through a Ross Co. 4-H Club or a Ross County FFA Chapter are eligible to participate as an exhibitor in any Ross Co. Jr. Fair CBBR show. If residing outside of the county limits, animals must be kept at a legal guardian's home address. (NOTE: this eliminates residency requirement if already permitted in Ross Co. 4-H)
2. **Exhibitors:** To be eligible for the CBBR contest, Exhibitors must -
 - A. Own a goat that is Bred, Born, and Raised within Ross County
 - B. Goat Exhibitor CBBR entries are included in the online Jr. Fair Livestock Entry Form due **July 15**
3. **Breeders:** To qualify animals for the CBBR contest, Breeders must -
 - A. By **May 15** – Register their Premise ID with the Ross County Extension office (link go.osu.edu/goatcbbreeder)
 - B. By **May 15** - Submit a list of all Ross County exhibitors who they sold animals to.

Note: Breeders should only submit form AFTER they have finished selling their goats.

PERFORMANCE GOAT CLASS

Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for complete rules

1. Refer to Fair Book for rules
2. To participate, animal must be weighed at Spring tagging
3. Dairy Market goats cannot participate in the Performance Goat Contest

PREMIER GOAT EXHIBITORS

Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for complete rules