

**Date:** February 24, 2025

**To:** 4-H Goat Project Members and Leaders

**From:** Kayla Mitchell, Program Coordinator – 4-H Youth Development

**Re:** 2025 Goat Project Information and Updates

This is a quick update on the events that will take place for the 2025 fair season within the goat department. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact the MSU Extension Office at 269-467-5511. Please note that the information contained in this letter is subject to change.

**NEW for 2025:**

- ❖ We have removed the **Market Goat Home Born & Raised** class due to lack of participation. Exhibitors should consider entering in the County Bred & Born class as an alternative option.
- ❖ **Guernsey goats** have been added to the approved dairy breed list!
- ❖ Anyone is allowed to prepare animals for presentation for show. However, it is expected that 4-H, FFA, and other youth members **will actively participate** in the grooming of their project animal.
- ❖ All **breeding stock** animals must be registered at the MSU Extension office by August 1, 2025.
- ❖ Skill-a-thon and interview will be combined into one evaluation class.

**Reminders:**

- ❖ Dairy goats and meat goats will show in **separate rings** with separate judges. Both rings will run the same show order: 4-H exhibitor meeting (all together), Showmanship (oldest to youngest), Cloverbuds, Market Classes, Breeding Classes, County Bred & Born, Pet Class.
- ❖ **Market Goats**
  - Dairy Market Goat project animals are limited to the following breeds: Alpine, Guernsey, LaMancha, Nubian, Nigerian Dwarf, Oberhasli, Saanen, and Toggenberg.
  - Meat Goats are any goat that is not included above. Example: Boer, Angora, Fainting, etc. or crossbred with a dairy breed.
- ❖ **Market Goat County Bred & Born** class goats must be both bred and born in St. Joseph County. County Bred & Born forms must be filled out at countywide registration in June. Exhibitors may only show one animal in this class.
- ❖ Market and carcass **goats MUST HAVE milk teeth** present at time of fair weigh-in. Animals without milk teeth are ineligible for market/carcass exhibition at the fair and will be sent home at weigh-in. We recommend market/carcass goats be born by December 1, 2024 or after.
  - **Exception:** does may be exhibited as breeding stock if the member chooses.
- ❖ Every market goat must weigh a **minimum of 60 lbs.** at time of weigh-in on **Saturday, September 13, 2025**. Underweight animals are ineligible for exhibition at the fair and will be sent home at weigh-in. **Exception:** does may be exhibited as breeding stock if the member chooses.
- ❖ To compete in the **4-H Carcass Goat class**, the goat must weigh a minimum of 60 lbs. Underweight goats will be sent home at weigh-in.



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- ❖ Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) requires all goats that are moved off the farm for sale or exhibition to be **ear tagged** with a USDA Scrapies ID tag. Earless goats must have a collared tag. **Anyone purchasing goats should make sure the seller has tagged them prior to sale.** If you raise goats from your own herd you should contact the MDARD at 1-800-292-3939 to get a premises identification number. Once you have the premises number call the USDA at 1-866-873-2824 to get your tags.
- ❖ **All 4-H livestock members/clubs** will be held responsible for setting up their project pen/stall and decorations before fair, as well as cleaning and tearing down their project pen/stall at the end of fair. Individuals or clubs may be assessed a \$50.00 fine for failure to do so.

### Important dates, deadlines and events

Event or Deadline	Date(s)	Comments
Possession Deadline	<b>June 1</b>	
Initial weigh-in, tagging and registration	Tuesday, June 3, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. or Thursday, June 5, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weigh in will be at the east end of the Goat Barn at the Fairgrounds.</li> <li>• Animals must have their USDA scrapies ID tag <b>in the ear or on a collar if the animal does not have ears.</b></li> <li>• Only the scrapies ID tag and the 4-H neck ID tag are allowed on the animal.</li> <li>• Each member may tag up to 3 goats but may only show 2 market goats at fair. Family tagging is allowed.</li> </ul>
Carcass Contest Form	Due by June 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due at time of weigh-in</li> </ul>
County Bred & Born Form	Due June 27	MSU Extension Office
Breeding Stock Registration	Due August 1	MSU Extension Office
Live Carcass Weigh-in	September 6, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Fairgrounds
Carcass Evaluation	Week of September 8	Date, time, and location TBD
Fair check-in & weigh-in	Saturday, September 13, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Market goats must weigh a minimum of <b>60 lbs. and have milk teeth present</b> at time of weigh-in or it will be ineligible for exhibition and will be sent home.
Evaluation	Sunday, September 14 9:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m.	<b>Required for all exhibitors</b>
4-H Market & Breeding Stock Show	Monday, September 15, following the Open Class Show	Livestock show arena <b>(*See fairbook for Rules and Show Order)</b>
4-H Small Animal Sale	Thursday, September 18, 10:00 a.m.	Order of sale: goats, chickens, turkeys, rabbits
Animal Load-out & Barn Clean-up	Sunday, September 21, 5:30 a.m.	<b>All members</b> must clean and help put away the pens