



CLAY COUNTY 4-H GOATS

***Updated for 2026**

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ENROLLMENT:

- a) Enrolled animals must be owned by the 4-H exhibitor by said deadline and must be under their continuous care, responsibility and ownership through the date of the 4-H show, except where change of ownership was to 4-H member's complete ownership. Siblings will be allowed to co-enroll goats on Livestock Enrollment Forms.
- b) 4-H members must be enrolled in the Goat Project on 4-H Online by **May 15, 2026**.
- c) All 4-H Meat and Dairy wethers must have a five-digit county tag or tattoo. Meat goat wethers & wether dams intending on exhibiting at the State Fair, must be tagged at the Spring Tag-in Day on **May 9, 2026**.
- d) All 4-H Boer and Dairy Does must have tattoos by **May 15, 2026**. Market Goat Does must have a five-digit county tag or tattoo. All Pygmy Goats must have one of the following forms of identification: tattoos, microchip, scrapie tag or 5-digit county tag by **May 15, 2026**. **Chip readers must be supplied by the member.**
- e) All Meat, Dairy, and Pygmy Goat animals must be identified through Indiana 4-H Online by **May 15, 2026**.
- f) Premise ID numbers are required on all 4-H Goat enrollments.
- g) Superintendents have the right to limit the number of goats per exhibitor.
- h) Meat goat wethers, wether dams, market does, and registered Boer goat females must turn in a DNA Hair Sample to the Extension Office by **May 15th** to be eligible for State Fair.

HEALTH:

- a) Health papers are not required but animals must be free of abscesses, open sores, pink eye, respiratory disease, foot rot, sore mouth, external parasites or any other contagious diseases.
- b) All animals will remain loaded until inspected by the Superintendent at the time of check in.
 - 1) Animals with questionable health conditions will be sent home.
 - 2) Any animal displaying any type of open or unhealed areas will be sent home.
- c) No intact males can be shown.
- d) All dairy goats must be dehorned, however meat/pygmy goats will be allowed to be shown with horns in order to keep their breed characteristics at the owner's discretion.

GROOMING:

Clay County 4-H encourages members and their immediate families to be the primary groomers of their animals. However, exhibitors may use outside groomers for show day assistance if needed. If you plan to have grooming help at the State Fair, please review their updated rule book to ensure all requirements are met. Contact the Extension Office with any questions.

PENNING:

- a) The Superintendent will assign pen space prior to goats arriving at the fair.
- b) Exhibitors will furnish their own bedding. Stalls, pens and walkways should be kept clean by the 4-H member.
- c) Every goat must have a collar and a tie chain available.
- d) One overhead fan facing south per pen is allowed. Fans must be off the ground and have proper safety approved shrouds.
- e) Bucks are not permitted on the fairgrounds except buckling kids still dependent on their dams for nutrition.
- f) There will be a pen/stall fee of no more than \$5 per pen/stall due at the beginning of the fair. Please see your leader for further communications on this closer to fair.

SHOW:

- a) Age of animals shall be computed from the actual date of judging.
- b) Meat & Dairy wethers need to be born after **September 1, 2025**.
- c) Does must be a minimum of 90 days old by show day (**April 19, 2026 is the minimum DOB for July 18, 2026**).

Continued on the next page...



- d) Classes will be determined based on the submission of the Goat Enrollment.
- e) **Milking Dairy does that are competing for best Dairy Doe of Show, MAY be milked out prior to competing in the Best Dairy Doe of Show class (judges preference will be asked).**
 - Milk out may be observed by the superintendent.
- f) Rate of Gain will be offered to Pygmy wethers, Dairy wethers, Meat wethers and Market Does.
- g) All market animals participating must be brought to ID day on **May 9, 2026** to be weighed.
- h) Final weight of the animal will be its fair check-in weight.
- i) All animals entered in the Rate of Gain must be properly exhibited by the 4-H member in their appropriate class.
- j) Dairy Wethers - Only dairy breeds and grade dairy crosses may show in the dairy classes.
- k) Meat Wethers & Market Does - will be shown in market classes.
- l) It is recommended that the dairy exhibitors wear a white blouse/shirt and nice pants, skirt or split skirt (NO shorts) to show their animals.
 - Midriff area on all Exhibitors should not be exposed when standing or bending.
- m) For safety reasons Exhibitors must wear boots or closed toed shoes
- n) The Mini 4-H Show will include members that are enrolled in the Clay Co. Mini 4-H program and have met the grade/age requirement per species as listed in their handbook. Mini 4-H members must be entered in the goat project by **May 18, 2026** to allot time for pairing with an older 4-H member & their animal.

SHOW CLASSES:

- a) **Dairy Show Classes:** ADGA approved breeds- [See current year State Fair Class listings](#)
- b) **Pygmy Show Classes:** [See current year State Fair Class listings](#)- exceptions listed below.
 - **Wethers**
 - Junior Wethers one (1) year old or younger
 - Senior Wethers over one (1) year of age
- c) **Meat Classes:** Fullblood/Purebred Boers (94% and up), Percentage Boer (less than 94%), Fainter, and Market Goats (can add classes for breeds as needed): [See current year State Fair class listings](#)
 - **Market Goats**
 - All meat goat breeds and crosses of wethers and deemed market does are eligible. Market classes will be divided according to the weight of the animals.
 - Use of pinch collars (training collars) will be allowed when showing meat goats in the show provided the Showman has satisfactorily completed club training prior to the end of June. If club leaders feel the showman has not satisfactorily completed/compiled training prior to the end of June, the showman will not be permitted to use pinch collars during the show.
 - Bracing market animals is allowed and encouraged if showman can properly handle their animal but not required.
- 2) **Fiber Show Classes:** Classes will be determined based on enrollment.

SHOWMANSHIP:

All goat showmanship classes (meat & dairy) will show at the beginning of the meat goat show.

Meat and dairy goats will have separate showmanship classes at the beginning of each show (pygmies will show with the meat showmanship).

4-H members may only show their own animals that they will also exhibit in a regular 4-H class.

- a) **Junior Showmanship:** 3rd–5th graders as of Jan. 1, 2026. Once a 4-Her wins Overall Junior Showman, they may only compete in Intermediate Showmanship the following year.
- b) **Intermediate Showmanship:** 6th–8th graders as of Jan. 1, 2026, and all previous Junior winners. Once a 4-Her wins Overall Intermediate Showman, they may only compete in Senior Showmanship the following year.
- c) **Senior Showmanship:** 9th–12th graders as of Jan. 1, 2026, and all previous Intermediate winners. Winners may compete in the Champion of Champions class that year and in future years.
- d) **Champion of Champions Showmanship:** Open to all past Senior Division Champions, including the 2026 winner.

Top three placings in all divisions will receive ribbons.

Continued on the next page...



OUTSTANDING JUNIOR & SENIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Guidelines for the Outstanding Achievement Award:

- a) **Preparation of Exhibit = 25 points**
 - 1) Adequate, clean bedding – 15
 - 2) Animals clean while in pens - 5
 - 3) Decorations neat and attractive - 5
- b) **Appearance/Participation of Exhibitor = 25 points**
 - 1) Knowledgeable, courteous and friendly, able to answer questions about goats - 5
 - 2) Clothes and member is neat, clean and appropriately dressed - 5
 - 3) Member assists other members and attends the show when not showing - 15
- c) **Care of Exhibit = 25 points**
 - 1) Goats are clean and clipped (before show) feet trimmed - 15
 - 2) Aisles are kept neat and clean - 5
 - 3) Feed and equipment are stored neatly when not in use, out of sight if possible and kept clean - 5
- d) **Showmanship = 25 points**
 - 1) Member is courteous and helps others in make-up pens- 5
 - 2) Member is courteous and assists others while showing -5
 - 3) Member is polite to the judge and does not show frustration and/ or anger in the ring or arena building – 15

Will be presented during the show.

BORN AND RAISED:

- a) Born and Raised goats must be born and raised by the Clay County 4-H member. **Exhibitors must notify goat Superintendent at time of tagging weigh-in/tagging if their animal is homegrown.**
- a) Born and raised animals will receive separate ribbons/banners for placing.

AWARDS

Breed Champion & Reserve Champion Junior & Senior Dairy Does	Champion Homegrown Junior & Senior Dairy Doe & Wether	Supreme/Grand Champion Junior & Senior Dairy Doe & Wether of Show	Grand Champion Pygmy Doe & Wether
Champion Homegrown Pygmy Doe & Wether	Breed Champion & Reserve Champion Meat Does	Champion Homegrown Meat Doe & Market goat	Grand Champion Meat Doe, Meat Wether and Wether Dam
Champion Junior, Intermediate & Senior Showmanship	Champion of Champions Showman	Rate of Gain Winner	Outstanding Junior & Senior Achievement Awards
Top 5 Market	Top 5 Dairy	Breeders Award	Fiber Class Champion & Reserve Champion

CLAY COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK AUCTION:

The livestock auction will be held at the conclusion of the fair. In order to participate, you must show an animal at the fair and designate an animal to go through the auction at fair check-in. A small auction fee percentage will be deducted from each member's check. Detailed auction information will be finalized closer to fair.

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Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training

To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training. This is an annual program that can be completed in-person by attending one of the classes on the following dates at the Fairgrounds:

- **March 18, 2026**



- April 27, 2026
- May 21, 2026
- June 30, 2026

An online option is available for \$12 through the YQCA program. Once you complete this [online course](#), you must email the Extension Office your final certificate emailed to you at completion showing your certification number.

REFERENCES:

[Purdue Extension Goat Project](#)
[Indiana State Fair Book – Dairy & Meat Goats](#)

IMPORTANT DATES FOR GOATS:

May 9, 2026 (9:00 AM-11:00 AM) Goat Tag/ID Day at the Fairgrounds

May 15, 2026 Deadline to enroll goats online—Your enrollment will not be complete if your show animals are not identified online. Exhibitors who fail to register their animals online before the May 15th deadline will not be eligible to exhibit at the county or state fair.

May 15, 2026 DNA Samples must be returned to the office if going to the State Fair.

May 18, 2026 Mini 4-Her's must be signed up to participate in the goat show.

July 1, 2026 Fair Entry due on fairentree.com (where you will enter your show classes for the fair)

TBD Deadline to register goats online for the State Fair.

July 18 - 24, 2026 Clay County Fair

July 17, 2026 Goat check-in at Clay County Fair

July 18, 2026 Goat check-in at Clay County Fair

July 18, 2026 Mini 4-H Goat show

July 19, 2026 Pygmy & Meat show at Clay County Fair

July 23, 2026 Dairy Goat show at Clay County Fair

July 23, 2026 (9:00 PM) Goats released

July 24, 2026 Clay County livestock auction

August 7 - 23, 2026 Indiana State Fair



What goats need to attend Tag Day on May 9th?

- Any goat that does not have a tattoo or scrapie tag or microchip
- All Meat Goat Wethers and Market Does who plan on exhibiting at the State Fair
- Any Wether Goat that plans to be eligible for the Clay County 4-H Rate of Gain (Pygmy Goat Wethers over a year old are not eligible for the Clay County 4-H Rate of Gain Class)