



MEAT GOATS

PROJECT SUPERINTENDENT: Melisa Bays 502-297-3375

STATE FAIR ENTRIES: All livestock for STATE FAIR must be properly identified and enrolled. Refer to indianastatefair.com for entry information.

Project Description:

The 4-H Goat educational program and related activities (such as workshops, tours, etc.) provide youth a fun and hands-on learning experience which develops both goat subject skills (such as nutrition, housing, and health care) and life skills (such as responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communication).

Levels:

Junior Grades 3-5

Intermediate Grades 6-8

Senior Grades 9-12

Project Guidelines:

- To exhibit at the county and state fair 4-H members showing beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy goats, meat goats, poultry, rabbits, sheep, and swine, must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Program or the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA). The purpose of this program: Youth will be more prepared to be ambassadors for animal agriculture in their role as youth livestock exhibitors; Animals from youth livestock programs are treated with the utmost care; 4-H members are contributing to a safe, wholesome food supply. This is an annual program that can be completed via online modules or in- person trainings. More information about this program will be provided from the Extension Office.

- **To participate in the auction youth must exhibit at least one indoor project and participate in the auctioned animal's showmanship competition.**
- It is recommended to complete a record sheet.

Exhibit Requirements:

- All meat goat wethers and market does must be ear tagged.
- Bucks are not permitted to be shown.
- Meat goats may be sold in the livestock auction. Auction rules are located in the Handbook.
- All animals exhibited at the 4-H Fair must meet Board of Animal Health (BOAH) requirements.
- For safety reasons, the superintendent reserves the right to dismiss animals from the show ring which pose a handling threat or their horns are deemed unsafe. Abusive treatment of animals will not be tolerated.
- Each exhibitor may exhibit a poster in addition to the animal as their exhibit for the project. The poster should cover a topic of one (1) of the activities or learning experiences



in the completed grade level of the project manual. All posters, notebooks, and display boards must include a reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving original author credit. A Champion poster will be chosen in each level (Junior, Intermediate, Senior) for each animal species (Example: Dog, cat, goat, sheep, etc.). A Grand Champion animal poster will be selected from all eligible Champion animal posters.

4-H MEAT GOATS:

Identification deadline - May 15

- All meat goats must have a completed 4-H Meat Goat ID enrollment in the 4-H Online system by **May 15**. Meat goat wethers and market does must be ear tagged at the 4-H Goat ID.

4-H Fair:

- 4-H Exhibitors are completely responsible for the care and custody of animal exhibits at the County 4-H Fair.
- All goats are to have clean water available at all times.
- Blankets must be removed from all goats at the time of arrival. All goats will be inspected with hands on for signs of CL, subcutaneous crepitus, subcutaneous air pockets, incisional or puncture wounds. Any signs of will result of animal being sent home without being allowed to be penned. Incisions from Lap AI on yearling or older does are acceptable.
- Any medication given during the fair, including drenching substances must be reported with the Project leader.
- Yearlings or older animals may not be sold through the auction.
 - Females in market classes may be auctioned.
- All market meat goats will be weighed with no halters, chains, leash, blankets, or manmade apparatus etc.

Junior Does- Any doe under 12 months of age

Yearling Does- Any doe from 12 months to under 24 months

Senior Does- Any doe from 24 months and older

Wethers and Market Does- These wethers and market does do not need to be registered.

- All wethers and market does must be shown with their milk teeth in place.
- Market does and wethers will be shown in different classes. A market doe cannot be shown in breeding classes.
- Market meat goat classes will be divided according to the weight of the animals. The number of classes/groups will depend on the number of market meat goats that arrive at the fair. Classes will be divided at the discretion of the project superintendent.
- Market meat goats should have their entire body clipped except from the knees and hocks down.

Classes and Show Order: (All classes and show orders are subject to change based on how many animals are registered.)

Breeding Doe Classes: Full Blood/Purebred and Percentage/Commercial

Doe- Any doe under 12 months of age

Yearling Doe- Any doe from 12 months to under 24 months



Senior Doe- Any doe from 24 months and older

Any doe shown as a market doe is not eligible to be shown in any breeding doe classes.

Market Meat Goat Classes (wethers and non-breeding doe): Light, Medium, Heavy weight

SHOWMANSHIP RULES

SHOWMANSHIP DIVISIONS: Grade in school on January 1 of the current year.

Rookie—All first-year showmen must participate as a Rookie Showman regardless of age and grade.

Junior Showmanship - All 4-H exhibitors in grades 4-7 are eligible. Once an exhibitor is the overall junior showmanship winner, the 4-H'er is only eligible to compete in the intermediate showmanship classes in future years.

Senior Showmanship - All 4-H exhibitors in the 8th grade or above are eligible (exception only for previous year's intermediate showmanship winners).

Updated 3-25-2025