



Introduction to the NH 4-H Dairy Goat Project

UNHCE 4-H Youth Development 4-H Animal Science Work Team

4-H Dairy Goat members learn about raising dairy goats as well as uses of goat milk. This project provides opportunities to learn about goat nutrition, kidding and general goat management. Members in this project may own and show or lease their animals.

There are an estimated 460 million goats in the world. As a whole, more people use goat milk than cow milk. There are eight types of dairy goats that are recognized by the American Dairy Goat Association. They are Nubians, LaManchas, Alpines, Oberhaslis, Toggenburgs, Saanens, Recorded Grades and Nigerian Dwarf. We do have 4-H members who have Boer goats and Pygmy goats. We also have members who have packing goats.

A female goat is called a doe. If they are less than a year old, they are sometimes called doelings. Males are bucks, or bucklings. Young goats are kids. In polite dairy goat company they are never called nannies or billies, although you might hear these terms applied to meat goats.

Required Participant Age: 8-18 as of January 1 of the current year (12 and older for ESE)

Required Animal Age: 4 months or older

Recommended Animal Vaccinations: Rabies vaccination (recommended vet administered) 30 days and not more than one year prior to the date of the show.

Required Animal Identification: Permanent ID – The animal should have an ear tag, ear tattoo, tail tattoo or microchip (providing a reader is available) and an official scrapie ID. Dairy goats do not usually have ear tags. Most goats have a tattoo in their ear, or in the case of a LaMancha, on the bottom side of their tail.

Scrapie Tag: All goats of any age or sex brought to show or exhibition from either out of state or within state must possess a USDA approved individual identification tag, tattoo, or electronic implant consistent with the requirements of the Federal Scrapie Eradication Program. Most of the 4-H youth who show dairy goats in NH use the assigned tattoo number given to the goat from the American Dairy Goat Association as the Scrapie ID number.

Forms

Approval Forms: Must be complete with animal information and all signatures. **Due Date:** June 15th

Owned/Leased Form: Ownership or Lease form must be complete with animal information and all signatures. **Due Date:** June 15th

Policies

NH 4-H Policy on Replacement Animals - If a 4-H member's ONLY project animals dies, is critically ill to the point of being "unusable", or is deemed unsafe for the 4-H member to use as a project, after having been properly listed on their approval form, the Extension Educator or Program Associate may verify the loss or condition, and allow the 4-H member one replacement project animal. A new approval form is to be submitted. In this instance, the replacement animal can be shown at all fairs (except Eastern States).

If a 4-H member's animals are unable to be exhibited for any reason (illness, death, etc.) and they have other project animals listed on their approval form that are eligible, then there is never any substitution allowed. They may only show the remaining animals on their approval form only.

Should a county have a member who misses an appropriate deadline, due to their not owning an animal at the time of the deadline or their only project animal(s) is (are) sick the county may make an exception for their county only. When a County makes the exception the youth's approval form must be marked that these animals can be shown at their county fair only.

Rabies Requirements for NH 4-H Animals - Upon the recommendation of the New Hampshire State Veterinarian, all mammals shown or exhibited at New Hampshire 4-H events **including fairs, shows, clinics, 4-H club meetings, county activities day or any other event sponsored by 4-H**, must have a current inoculation for rabies given at least 30 days prior to the event. A licensed veterinarian administered rabies vaccination is recommended. Rabies vaccinations cannot be given to 4-H animals under three months of age AND we require the vaccination be given at least 30 days prior to exhibiting an animal. Other health requirements vary by species and show. Individual shows and fairs may have additional vaccination and health requirements as recommended by the New Hampshire State Veterinarian's office. Always check the fair book for additional health requirements.

Resources

- 4-H CCS Goat Project Activity Guides
- UNHCE Dairy Goat Project Page - extension.unh.edu/4H/NH4-HDairyGoatProject.htm
- If you have any questions - Call Jolee Chase (641-6060, staff liaison to the State 4-H Live-stock Curriculum Committee)

Visit our website: extension.unh.edu

UNH Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer,
UNH, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and NH counties cooperating.