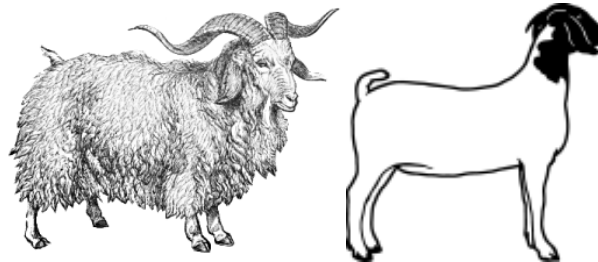
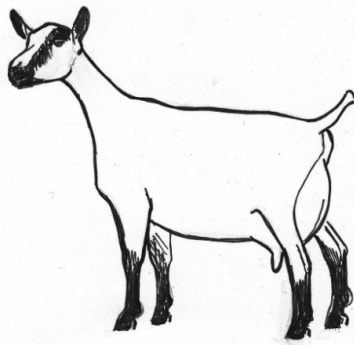




New Hampshire Guide 4-H Goat Program



**UNH Cooperative Extension
4-H Youth Development**

Durham, NH 03824

Updated January 2018

<https://extension.unh.edu/programs/4-h-animal-science>

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer. University of New Hampshire, U.S. Department of Agriculture and N.H. counties cooperating.

Introduction

The primary purpose of this manual is to serve as a guide for 4-H leaders and members involved in the 4-H Goat Project in New Hampshire. We hope that the recommendations in the manual will be useful in giving guidance to all 4-H Goat leaders, parents and members. The New Hampshire 4-H Goat Curriculum Committee has reviewed this manual.

This manual may be used as a teaching tool for 4-H leaders as they help in preparing members to participate in competitive activities. This manual can be a valuable tool in giving direction to education programs carried on in 4-H Club meetings.

The 4-H Goat program encourages young people to develop self- confidence, discipline and a feeling of self-worth. The goat serves as a tool in the growth of each individual. The 4-H Goat shows should complement the basic objectives of 4-H work and the overall development of the boy or girl. Building, self-esteem and self- confidence are the key parts of this objective.

Purpose of the 4-H Goat Project

All 4-H projects are designed for youth to gain knowledge and practice skills that revolve around a topic of interest to them. In addition, the 4-H youth development program is designed so that youth:

- Develop and practice skills in goal setting, self-responsibility, teamwork and leadership.
- Develop communication skills and an appreciation of learning.
- Develop integrity, sportsmanship, decision making ability and public presentation skills.
- Care about and serve others through work and their communities.
- Learn about goat breeds and identifying a sound animal that will be a good producer.
- Demonstration abilities in goat care and management, feeding care, handling and fitting.
- Understand the role of scientific research and goat husbandry.
- Explore career opportunities within the animal sciences.

There are many things that need to be done once you decide to enter a 4-H Goat show. The first decision involves selecting your animals for show. Be selective. Look for animals in your herd that are strong, healthy, correct in conformation and in good condition. Healthy animals are better able to withstand the stress of travel and the show.

Read the show rules carefully, fill out the entry form completely, and send it to the specified person before the deadline. If you have questions about the show, contact the show officials. Keep a copy of your entry so that you have a record of the animals entered and their classes. Check the health regulations for the show and work with your veterinarian to make sure they are met.

4-H PARTICIPANT INFORMATION:

Required Participant Age:

Youth must be between the ages of 8-18 as of January 1 of the current year and an active enrolled 4-H member to participate in the New Hampshire Goat Project. Members that would like to participate at The Eastern States Exposition (Big E) 4-H Show must be 12 & older as of January 1st of the current year.

Parents participation:

Parents and/or leaders are not to assist with the preparation of fitting of the animal before the fair or while on the fairgrounds. While on fair grounds members are responsible for All the feeding, watering, cleaning and fitting of the members animals must be done only by the member. If a member needs help while on show grounds a member is to ask the assistance of another 4-H'er.

Dress Code:

Exhibitors need to wear appropriate clothes to show their animals, including proper footwear. 4-H members must wear close-toe shoes during any 4-H livestock event. The New Hampshire Dress code must be followed at all 4-H shows. 4-H Goat exhibitors uniform includes, white collared shirt and white or khaki pants. Exhibitors should be neat and clean including shirt tucked in, wearing a belt and hair pulled back out of their face. 4-H members must wear a 4-H emblem patch or pin over their left pocket area. A pin can be worn on the shirt collar.

GOAT GENERAL INFORMATION:

Required Animal Identification:

All NH 4-H livestock ***must*** have permanent identification either tattoos (ear or tail), ear tags or microchip. If the original tattoo can no longer be read, your goat must be re-tattooed. The American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) sanctioned shows require ear or tail web tattoos to be legible in order for an animal to receive credit for championship. **Any exhibitor whose animal is microchipped must supply the microchip reader.**

Required Vaccination:

It is mandatory that all goats who participate in any 4-H Show, event, or activity have a Rabies vaccine 30 days and not more than one year prior to that date. All 4-H goats must be at least 4 months of age to participate in a 4-H show, event or activity. Vaccines are recommended to be administered by a veterinarian. Always check the rules of the fair or event that you are planning on attending, as rules vary.

Horns/Scurs:

Dairy goats **must be** disbudded or dehorned. Dairy goats with large horn scurs should have them removed or neatly trimmed before the show. **However,** Meat and Angora goats may remain horned as dehorning is usually discouraged for these breeds.

Forms:

Intent to Show and Lease forms **must** be complete with animal information and with all signatures. *Forms can be found and filled out on the website (<http://extension.unh.edu/>) and are due at your county UNH Cooperative Extension office by June 1st, of the current year.*

NH 4-H Policy on Replacement Animals:

If a 4-H member's **ONLY** project animal 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 an Intent to Show Form, the Extension Field Specialist or 4-H Program Coordinator may verify the loss or condition, and allow the 4-H member one replacement project animal. A new Intent to Show 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 animal is unable to be exhibited for any reason (illness, death, etc.) and they have other project animals listed on their Intent to Show Form that are eligible, then there is never any substitution allowed. They may show the remaining animals on their Intent to Show Form. 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 shows or events only. When a County makes the exception the youth's Intent to Show Form must be marked that these animals can be shown at their County Fair only.

Eligible Breeds of Goats:

The New Hampshire 4-H goat project is open to **all** breeds of goats (Meat, Dairy & Fiber), however not every fair has classes for all breeds. Please review the fair classes and if you have any questions, please contact your 4-H County Extension person.

SHOW INFORMATION:

Show Equipment:

Chain collars are preferred for showing your dairy goat. Carefully size collar so that you can control your animal's movements in the ring. Be sure that your animal can not easily slip out of its collar. It is ideal to work with your animal ahead of time, at home until they lead readily and respond quickly to signals. They should move forward with a slight pull on the collar and stop when you pull slightly up and back. Getting your animals comfortable wearing a collar and teaching them to lead and be tolerant of strangers is important, and takes time and patience.

Angora goats may be shown without a collar. The animal is shown by holding one horn (**never pull on the horn**) and placing the other hand on the loose skin under the chin. The fleece should never be grabbed or held to control the animal, younger exhibitors may wish to use the collar or halter.

General Fitting:

Plan to have your animals groomed and ready to go before the show. There are always some last minute details, but it helps if the time-consuming portions of the job have been done at home. Hooves need be trimmed routinely. They should be trimmed 2-3 days prior to the show, this helps prevent a lame animal in the show ring if they are trimmed to short. Hooves should be cleaned prior to entering the show ring.

Bathing goats with a mild shampoo prior to clipping helps keep clipper blades sharp. Once they are done being clipped they should be rinsed well to remove loose hair and dandruff. Newly clipped goats, especially those with light skin, are apt to sunburn and should be provided with shade or a lightweight coat until the hair grows out a little and the skin becomes less sensitive. A newly clipped goat is sensitive to draft and chills and may need to be covered while *not* in the show ring. Ears and under the tail needs to be cleaned, baby wipes work well for this task.

All fitting must be done by the 4-H members or with the assistance of another 4-H member.

Clipping your goat:

Dairy Goat: Dairy goats can be clipped from a few days up to two weeks before a show. A number 10 blade is commonly used for clipping the body. The entire body needs to be clipped using the clippers against the hair. Don't forget the whiskers, beard, and hair inside the ears and around the tops of the hooves. The hair on the tail is squared off below the last bone in the tail, leaving a triangular tuft of hair at the end. A shorter blade (number 30 or 40) can be used on the udder. It is easier and safer, to clip the udder when it is full of milk.

Meat Goat: Shear meat goats at least one week to 10 days before the show. This will allow clipper tracks to even out and the pink skin to become less apparent. While shearing, the clippers need to run parallel to the length of the body rather than vertically. Hair below the knees and hocks should not be shorn, and bob the hair at the end of the tail. Small animal clippers may be needed to clip closely around the eyes, ears, pasterns or delicate areas on the goat.

Fiber Goat: Angora goats, unlike dairy goats are not clipped and they may or may not be washed as washing removes the natural oils in the mohair. It is still expected that they are clean and free from stains, hay and other substances.

Preparing for showing

Practice, Practice, Practice!!!! Practicing with your goats at home can result in better behaved animals in the ring. Let your animal become accustomed to other people. Have others run their hand over the neck, withers, back, sides and udder similar to what a judge would do in the show ring.

Transportation:

Goats are easily transported. They need to be protected from inclement weather. You can use the back of a car, truck or trailer, all will work for transporting your goats. Shavings or straw can be used as bedding to make the ride more comfortable. Young animals might travel better if they are separated from adults. **Don't forget the registration and health papers.** They are *required* before you can participate in any show or event.

Packing for the Show

A tack box, especially one that locks, is a convenient way to carry the many small items that are needed at the show. Tack boxes can be made of wood or a tool box from a hardware store. To help you pack your tack box you can make a checklist of items suggested below.

Item for your Tack Box:

clippers	hoof trimmers	show collars	tie ropes
shampoo	short hose	wash bucket	towels (to dry animals)
baby wipes	brushes	paper towels	udder wash
teat dip	milk pail	goat coats	first aid items
fly spray	herd signs	stall decorations	Q-Tips
vaseline	hydrogen peroxide	old toothbrush	scissors

Other items needed for the Fair:

bedding	grain	hay & grain feeders	water buckets
hay feeders	pitchfork	salt or trace minerals	milking stand
rake	broom	pliers	hammer and nails
wheelbarrow	staple gun	extension cord	educational display
Chair	Animal ID Signs	Bungee Forms	Fan (for hot weather)

Feed and Bedding:

Some shows will have a supply of hay and straw for sale or provide bedding. Check ahead of time for availability before you decide to bring your own. Exhibitors are expected to bring their own hay and grain to all shows.

Arriving at the Show:

Prior to unloading bring your registration and health papers and check-in with the show superintendent. Most shows require health checks before you unload. Your goats may have to be checked by the show veterinarian. The person checking the animals has the authority to dismiss them from the show if they are sick or appear to have a potential health problem. Once you have check in, unload and settle your goats into their pens. Make sure they have bedding, hay and water. This will help them settle into their new surroundings. You may need to provide special care if you have been traveling far or if the weather is unpleasant.

Extra space may be available adjacent to your animal for your tack and equipment. Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their animals throughout the show, including clean bedding, feed and fresh water, as needed. It usually takes goats a while to settle down into the show routine, especially if they have not been shown before.

Day of Show:

Your goats should be bathed prior to the show. Goats should be bathed during the warmest part of the day. Thoroughly dry the animal to prevent added stress from chilling. If the weather is cold or unpleasant, goats can be brushed and spot cleaned with a damp cloth, instead of bathing. Most goats will benefit from a final touch-up cleaning with a damp cloth just prior to going into the show ring. This is a good time to double check areas that are hard to keep clean, such as hooves, inside the ears, around the eyes and nose and under the tail. (At no time can you take a wet or damp goat into the show ring).

Walking your goats around the show ring area before the show starts helps them feel more relaxed when it is time for their class. At some shows there is a pre-set milk-out time which is usually 12 hours before the show starts. This is done so all the does are shown at the same length of time after milking. If your show does not have a pre-show milk out, show your animals with the amount of milk in the udder that looks the best. Letting the udder overfill can weaken udder attachments, stress milk-producing tissue and make it difficult for the judge to determine udder texture. It usually lowers your show placing.

Bring your goat to the ringside a few minutes before the start of their class. Be ready to enter the ring as soon as the class is called. Be prepared to know each animal's date of birth, the freshening date and number of lactations for your milkers.

Showing your goat:

Watch the class ahead of you to better understand the judge's procedure and preferred method of lining up animals. When it is your turn to enter the ring, lead slowly and gracefully in a clockwise direction. Leave about three feet between your goat and that of other exhibitors when walking around the ring. Leave about two feet between animals when lined up head to tail or side by side. Watch the judge and at the same time be aware of what your goat is doing.

Keep your goat between you and the judge at all times. If you need to change sides, move around the goat's head and change hands on the collar. Keep the collar high on the goat's neck. Hold it in your hand at the top of the neck just behind the ears. This gives you better control over the animal's movements and keeps the head up high enough so that the animal has an attractive carriage. The goats will be walked around the ring a few times. The judge will ask the exhibitors to form a line with their animals, usually side by side. Set your goat up in line, pose the feet squarely under the body with the hind feet slightly spread. It is usually easiest to set up the front feet first. Hands can be used as much as need be, however, judges do not like the exhibitor to fuss with the goat. You can move the back feet where you want them by pressing back on the opposite shoulder or by picking up the leg between the hock and pastern and setting it down in the desired position. Always keep the goat between you and the judge except when needing to cross the goat. **Do not cross behind your goat.** You can use either hand on the collar, depending on where the judge is standing. Once your goat is set up, let it be. Keep your hands off the animal as much as possible. Do not draw the judge's attention away from the animal to you. Some exhibitors prefer to squat beside their goat while they are waiting in line. Keep your knees off the ground. Be sure to stand when the judge approaches your animal.

When a judge asks you to change places in a head to tail sequence, lead the animal out of line and up or down the line on the side of the judge. Always remember **NOT** to block the judge's view. If the judge asks you to change places in a side by side sequence, lead your goat forward out of the line, up or down the line to the place indicated and back through the line. Make a U-turn or turn clockwise to get back into position. Do not back your goat into a different position unless the distance is short. Be ready to restrain your goat if necessary while it is being examined by the judge. This can be done by putting your knee in front of the shoulder so it can't move forward, then grasping a front leg between the knee and the pastern and flex the leg back against the chest.

Watch the judge closely, and respond quickly when the judge indicates the placing's in the final line up. Be aware of show procedures; first and second place winners in each class are usually expected to remain at ringside to compete for champion. In ADGA sanctioned shows, the judge will check tattoos and the show secretary will check registration papers for all breed champions before they leave the ring.

Fit and Show Class:

Conformation of the animal is not considered in a fit and show class. The animal is evaluated on how it is groomed and shown. The secret of good show person is to control your animal in such a manner that the judge sees it at its best but never notices you. The judge looks for exhibitors that recognize the conformation weaknesses of their animals and show them effectively to overcome those weaknesses. Exhibitors may be asked by the judge to trade animals to show how well they can handle a different animal. You may also be asked questions about your goat and your goat knowledge in this class. To review the ADGA Scorecard go to the 4-H dairy goat webpage, <http://extension.unh.edu/4-H-Animal-and-Ag-Science/4-H-Dairy-Goat-Page>, and scroll down to Forms and Policies or click here [ADGA Scorecard](#).

General Knowledge Quiz

At some shows exhibitors are given a General Knowledge quiz. The quiz questions will be asked in a variety of formats (True/False, Multiple choice, Short Answer, Visuals.) Resources for these questions are, ADGA Rules and Regulations and the Ohio 4-H Goat Resource handbook.

Educational Display:

Each 4-H member may bring an educational poster or display to be placed at the stalls or in the tack area. This display might include posters about breeds, goat products, goat management or any other topic relating to goats. At most fairs there is room above the stalls to hang farms signs and ID signs for your animals. These signs could include, goats name, age, breed, color, and owners name or club. Please keep in mind that goats like to climb and eat/nibble on everything, so be sure to hang them high enough to prevent this. Please read your fair guidelines closely as some fairs require an educational display as part of herdsperson.

Herdsperson:

Most fairs offer this award for the cleanliness of your animals and area for the duration of the fair. The award is based on the area where your animals are kept, your supplies (tack, hay, buckets etc.) and management of the area in which your animals are penned during the fair. The main goal for this award is to keep your area clean, neat and provide adequate material to educate the public. Educational materials could be a poster, display or fabric to decorate the stalls or barn area. As a 4-H goat member you are to help educate the public about your project (animals). Educational information (**NO** personal information) such as breed information, events and safety are some topics that are interesting and helpful to the public.

Although every show is different, the following will make shows more enjoyable and worthwhile:

- Cooperate with the show officials to the best of your ability.
- Learn the rules of the show and follow them.
- Be concerned about the comfort and health of your goats, keep your pens and animals neat and clean at all times. Provide adequate feed and water at all times.
- Be prepared and willing to answer questions from show visitors about your goats and goats in general.
- Handle your goats with dignity, pride and gentleness, both inside and outside of the show ring. Stay calm with troublesome animals; abusiveness will not be tolerated.
- Be courteous to the other exhibitors and the judge.
- Restrict conversation in the ring except to respond to the judge or show officials.
- Be gracious about accepting the judge's opinion.
- Show your animals the whole time you are in the ring, until the judge has given reasons and the class has been dismissed.
- If you have questions about the judging, wait until after the show is over to visit with the judge.
- Smile and enjoy yourself – it is part of program.
- **Remember that the placing's at a show are one judge's opinion** of how a certain group of animals compare with each other on a certain day. Placing of the same animals may be different at another show.

Fit and Show Judge:

In the Fitting and Show class the judge will speak to each individual youth one-on-one and examine the cleanliness of the animal. At that time, give specific praise and constructive suggestions. The judge will ask you to move your animal and could ask general knowledge questions such as parts of the goat or questions about the [ADGA scorecard](#). The judge will then place the class and give oral reasons on his/her places. Judges will award ribbons based on the Danish system.

Type Classes Judge:

This could be the same person as the fit and show judge. In the confirmation/type classes, they are divided by breed then age. All animals that place first and second in their class need to stay at ring side. The first place animals of each age class will return to the ring, and a Champion of each breed will be chosen. Once the Breed champion is chosen the animal that placed second in the class will enter the ring and compete for Reserve Champion. Champion and Reserve Champion will only be chosen to those animals that received a blue Danish ribbon. Once breed champions are chosen the group classes will be shown. These classes include Dam and Daughter, Produce of Dam, Herd, and Get of Sire. (Not all 4-H shows have the second place animal come in for the Championship. Check the Fairbook).

Confirmation Classes (Classes subject to change depending on show).

Recommended Type Classes for 4-H Goat Shows

****Not all classes are offered at all shows, please check the show book for classes****

Dairy Breeds -breeds to be shown in the following order:

Alpine, LaMancha, Nigerian Dwarf, Nubian, Oberhasli, Sable, Saanen, Toggenburg, Recorded Grade

Junior Does

Class 8 Junior Kids- 4 months and under 6 month

Class 9 Senior Kid- 6 months and under 9 month

Class 10 Junior Yearling – 9 months and under 12 months

Class 11 Senior Yearling – 12 months and under 24 months

Class 12 Junior Champion (winners of Class 1, 2, 3, 4)

Class 13 Reserve Junior Champion (Winners of Class 8, 9, 10, 11 Except Junior Champion and second place winner in the Junior Champion class)

Class 14 Best Junior Doe in Show (Junior Champions for each breed)

Senior Does:

Class 1 Under 2 years

Class 2 2 years and under 3 year

Class 3 3 year and under 5 year

Class 4 5 years and over

Class 5 Senior Champion (winners of Class 1, 2, 3, 4)

Class 6 Reserve Senior Champion (Winners of Class 1,2,3,4 except Senior Champion and second place winner in the Senior Champion class)

Class 7 Best Senior Doe in Show (Senior Champions of each breed)

Group Classes

Class 15 Mother and Daughter

Class 16 Produce of Dam

Class 18 Get of Sire

Class 19 Best 3 females/ Herd – (All the same breed)

Class 20 Bred by Exhibitor

Meat Fiber & Other breeds

Kiko, Boer, Pygmy etc.

Junior Does

Class 21 Junior Kids- 4 months and under 6 months

Class 22 Senior Kid- 6 months and under 9 month

Class 23 Junior Yearling – 9 months and under 12 months

Class 24 Senior Yearling – 12 months and under 24 months

Class 25 Junior Champion (first place winners of Class 21, 22, 23, 24)

Class 26 Reserve Junior Champion (Winners of Class 21,22,23,24 except Junior Champion and second place winner in the Junior Champion class)

Senior Does

Class 27 Under 2 years

Class 28 2 years and under 3 year

Class 29 3 year and under 5 year

Class 30 5 years and over

Class 31 Senior Champion (winners of Class 27, 28, 29, 30)

Class 32 Reserve Senior Champion (Winners of Class 27,28,29,30 except Senior Champion and second place winner in the Senior Champion class)

Class 33 Best Senior Doe in Show (Senior Champions of each breed)

Group Classes

Class 34 Mother and Daughter

Class 35 Produce of Dam

Class 36 Get of Sire

Class 37 Best 3 females/ Herd

Class 38 Bred by Exhibitor

Unregistered Does – Wethers Class

Class 39 Junior Kid - 4 month and under 6 months

Class 40 Senior Kid – 6 months and under 12 months

Class 41 Dry Yearling

Class 42 Junior Champion Non - Registered

Class 43 Milking Yearling under 2

Class 44 Dry doe over age 2

Class 45 Milking 2 year old and under 3

Class 46 Milking 3-5 years and older

Class 47 Senior Champion non-registered

Class 48 Wethers (any age)

All youth must participate in a 4-H Fit & Show Class:

Seniors – ages 14-18 as of January 1 of the current year

Intermediate – ages 12-13 as of January 1 of the current year

Junior – ages – 9-11 as of January 1 of the current year

Novice – age 8 or under 14 and their first year of showing as of January 1 of the current year

Acknowledgements

Adapted from materials prepared by Wayne Hankel, The University of Minnesota, USDA Extension Service (George F.W. Haenlein and Donald L. Ace), American Dairy Goat Association, Linda Brown, Valley City and Peg Beuchler, Sawyer, Karl Hoppe, NDSU Extension Service Area Livestock Specialist.