



Introduction to the NH 4-H Dairy Goat Project NH 4-H Animal Science Work Team

4-H Dairy Goat members learn about caring for and raising dairy goats (goats that are bred to produce milk and other dairy products). This project provides opportunities to learn about goat nutrition, kidding, dairy goat products and general goat management. Members in this project may own or lease their animals.

The American Dairy Goat Association recognizes the following breeds, which may be shown in 4-H shows:

- Alpine
- LaMancha
- Nigerian Dwarf
- Nubian
- Oberhasli
- Saanen
- Sable
- Toggenburg.
- Experimental – When two different breeds of Purebred or American goats (except Nigerian) mate, their offspring are eligible to be recorded as Experimental and must be shown in the Recorded Grade class.
- American – the offspring of a sire and dam of the same breed that conforms to breed standards and has the correct number of consecutive generations of ancestors who conformed to breed standards (minimum 3 generations for does and 4 for bucks).

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. They are never correctly called nannies or billies, although you might hear these terms applied in a story book.

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

Required Animal Age: 4 months or older as of the date of the show or event. Does age 2 years and over must be producing milk to be shown.

Animal Vaccinations: Rabies vaccination – initial vaccination must be at least 30 days prior to shows or events and must be current (not more than 1 year). Animals must be healthy/free from signs of communicable disease prior to attending any show or event. Certificate of veterinary inspection may be required by some events and is required to bring an animal outside the state of NH.

Recommended Animal Vaccinations: Check with your veterinarian as vaccination and biosecurity recommendations change frequently.

Required Animal Identification: Permanent ID – The animal must 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 or ID: All goats of any age or sex brought to a 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. *For more information, contact NH State Veterinary Services in Concord, Dr. Stephen Crawford, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food, phone 603-271-2404.*

Forms

Intent to Show/Online Animal Registration and Lease Forms (if applicable): Must be complete with animal information and with all verification unless the animal is registered in the 4-H member's name on/before June 1. *Forms must be submitted online or to your county UNH Cooperative Extension office by June 1st.*

Policies

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, 4-H Staff or volunteer 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(s) is 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 show the remaining animals on their approval 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 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.

Resources

- [The American Dairy Goat Association](#)
- [4-H CCS Goat Project Activity Guides](#) (available for purchase; may be available at county office)
- [Goat Resource Handbook 4-H -135R Ohio State](#) (available for purchase)
- [NH 4-H Dairy Goat Project Page](#)

If you have any questions - Call Mary Davis, NH 4-H Animal and Agricultural Science Program Manager at (603)862-2188 or Mary.Davis@unh.edu

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March 1, 2021