

## Goat Project Rules & Regulations

Please review this quick reference along with your project book and the fair book guidelines. Make sure you AND your parents understand what is expected in your project; this will make your 4-H year a lot more fun!

### 4-H Registration and Project Enrollment:

- December 31 is the deadline to re-enroll as a 4-H member in a Ravalli County 4-H club.
- To participate in the upcoming Ravalli County Fair, new members must sign up by March 1.
- May 1 is the **drop/add** deadline for all 4-H projects you want to participate in for the Ravalli County Fair as a 4-H member for your specific project.
- When enrolling in a Goat Project you must register for Dairy Goat Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3. **And/or** Meat Goat Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3.
- If enrolling in the Market Meat Goat, youth must have completed the Livestock Quality Assurance program through 4-H, or you cannot sell at fair.

### Project Requirements (what you need to do during the 4-H Year):

- As a 4-H member, you are required to complete “My 4-H Year” form each year. It is meant to be completed throughout the year, not at the end of the year. You are required to have this form up-to-date if you are submitting entries for the Ravalli County Fair. This form is to be completed and signed by your club leader by September 30<sup>th</sup> (end of the 4-H year).
- In addition to “My 4-H Year”, the animal journal form is required for the goat project. This form is used to keep track of feed costs, weight, veterinary costs, supplies, and medications.
- It is easiest if you keep a separate record of feed near where you store the feed. You can easily create a log of how much you feed your animal each day.
- Project requirements in regard to the level enrolled: you must complete a minimum of 7 activities and three to five learning experiences from the project book each year to complete the project for the year. Please refer to the Clover, Montana 4-H Projects.

### Additional Information:

Animal Quality Assurance Training is **MANDATORY** for 4-H members who have a Market Goat Project. It is highly recommended for dairy goats but is not mandatory as the dairy goats are not sold in the livestock sale. Members must become quality assurance certified once between the ages of 9-13 and once again between the ages of 14+. If you are not Quality Assurance certified at the appropriate level, you will not be allowed to sell your animal at the county fair livestock auction. All Market Goats must be ear tagged and weighed in at the goat/sheep weigh in, which is the Wednesday after Memorial Day, to give a 90 day feeding period. Your market goat will be ear tagged at the weight in. Your market goat is also required to have a scrapies tag in place. Your market wether will be checked for castration at weigh in. **If your goat loses an ear tag, you must contact the barn superintendent immediately and have the tag replaced.** Your market goat must have a Ravalli County ear tag prior to the final weigh in or it will not be allowed to compete as a Market Goat to be sold in the livestock sale.

## Prior to the County Fair:

- Submit your completed fair entry form by the first Friday in August.
- Notify the barn superintendent of the number of pens needed prior to the fair; the superintendents will make goat pen assignments. Pen assignments are generally posted at the mandatory barn meeting on Monday before fair.
- Please come in and decorate your barn area. You can use whatever you want, just remember NO balloons and keep the decorations high enough that your animal can't reach them. Goats are very curious and will chew on anything within reach, and often do!
- About 1 week before the fair, you may want to pick up your fair entry tags at the fairgrounds Premium Office. In addition to the fair entry tags, you will receive an exhibitor number on an index card which will be displayed on your upper arm during showmanship and the goat show. Please be certain to have this number with you during the fair. You must be wearing your number or you will not be let in to the show ring.
- Wash your animal before or the day you arrive at the fair. If the weather is cold, plan on using a rinse less shampoo and baby wipes to keep your animal clean.

## Arriving at the Fair:

- Each participant is required to bring record books to be reviewed by superintendent when check in. At this time the superintendent will review your entries with you and make changes to lot numbers as needed. **No changes to entries will be made the day of the show.**
- You will bring your animal to the weigh in (if it's a market goat), or to the barn on the date specified in the fair book.
- In addition to the goat(s), you will want to bring feed for the week, a tack box and additional equipment needed for your animals.
- Bedding for your goat pen will be provided by the fairgrounds (a fee may apply).
- All participants are expected to clean their stalls daily by 10:00am.
- Goat weigh in at the fair is traditionally on the Tuesday before the fair. Check the fair book for exact date and time.
- Market goat weight range is from 70-120 pounds with the ideal between 70-90 pounds. Goats weighing over 120 pounds can be sold at the 4-H/FFA sale, but owners will be paid for no more than 120 pounds.
- Market goats weighing less than 70 pounds will compete in the market goat class but will receive no higher than a white ribbon and will not be allowed to sell in the Livestock Sale.
- Market goats will be weighed in for the Ravalli County Fair only once on fair entry day. Members and parents can watch the weighing. **Any concerns about the weight must be resolved before the animal leaves the scale area.**
- All 4-H and FFA male market goats must be altered or banded by the day of spring weigh in. Goats will be checked during the spring weigh-in to make sure that this has been done and be free of infection from the alteration at Fair time. If a cryptochid is found during weigh-in, a follow up inspection of those animals will take place by July 1.

## Equipment you will need at the fair:

You will need very specific items for caring for your goat(s) and the pen area at the fair. Because storage space is often limited during the fair, if several members in the same 4-H club are showing goats at the fair, you may want to determine what equipment you need as a group. You can then assign members to bring specific items, so there is not an excess of tools in the storage area. Every attempt will be made to provide a tack pen for each member or shared with a club.

Tools you will want for cleaning your area and caring for your goat(s):

- Wheelbarrow
- Bedding rake/pitchfork
- Shovel
- Water buckets
- Hay feeders, grain buckets, grain (in a closed container)
- Salt, salt holder
- Milking supplies (bucket, udder wash towels, stanchion, udder soap)

## Tack Box

You will also want to have your own “Tack Box” in which to keep your personal items. Please keep your tack box locked to protect your items. Suggested items to include in your tack box are:

- Grooming equipment (electric clippers, blades for clippers, clipper spray/oil, grooming brush, hoof trimmers, shampoo, show sheen, udder cream, towels)
- Wet wipes to clean ears and under tail before going in the show ring
- Hoof clippers or rasp
- Muck boots
- Show collars
- Ring side chains
- Thank you notes (if selling in the auction)
- Record books
- Sharpie/felt-marker and pen
- Goat coats or tee-shirts for the goat if it's cold
- Staple gun with staples

Health items to have on hand in case of emergency:

- Phone number to your vet
- Pepto-Bismol or Kaopectate
- Vitamin B-12 injectable
- Vetwrap
- Probiotic powder or paste
- Syringes and needles

## During the County Fair:

- You are responsible for the care of your animal during the fair. This includes, but is not limited to, feeding, watering, cleaning pens and walkways in your club area. All grain feed must be

kept in a sealed container or at your camp area. Please do not help yourself to someone else's animal feed.

- Please take the time to visit with fair attendees about your animals and projects. This is part of the reason people attend the fair. Many people who walk through the animal barns would love to know specific facts about your animal and what is involved in its care. They especially like to hear information from youth about raising livestock.
- A mandatory barn meeting will be held on Monday of fair week at 6:30pm. A sign up sheet will be available to sign up for shifts in the barn. Each participant is expected and required to sign up for shifts in the barn.
- A limited supply of animal bedding is available during the fair. You should change the bedding in your animal's pen as it becomes wet or dirty. Please make a note of the "clean bedding" and the "dirty bedding" locations. Dispose of the used bedding in the proper location.
- All milk from the goat barn is to be kept in a covered container and disposed of properly. Do not dump the milk in the dirty bedding pile. Milk from the goat barn cannot be used to feed animals in other livestock barns during the fair.

#### Day of the Goat Show:

- Arrive early to make sure your animal is fed and clean.
- Check the goat barn superintendent's desk for show times and schedule. The show will start with showmanship.
- An overall champion from the individual classes will compete at the end of the show for the "best of Show" award.
- Dress code for showmanship: white button up long-sleeved shirt with collar, tucked in to black pants, dark shoes (no tennis shoes, rubber boots or sandals), no hats. Official FFA dress for FFA members. Dairy goat showmen have the option to show in white shirt and white pants.

#### Selling and animal at the livestock sale:

- Arrive early to make sure your animal is fed and clean.
- If a member is showing more than one species of market animal, he or she must let the barn superintendents know which animal they will be selling immediately after the last market show they are involved in.
- Members may show two market goats but will only be allowed to sell one animal.
- Exhibitors must let the superintendent know which animal they intend to sell no later than 1 hour after the conclusion of the market goat show.
- Market goats over 120 pounds can be sold at the 4-H/FFA market sale, but the owner will be paid for no more than 120 pounds.
- With exception of Grand and Reserve Grand Champions, the final sale order will be determined by random draw according to ribbon placement.
- The Grand and Reserve Grand Champion market animals must sell in the Ravalli County 4-H Livestock Sale. In the event that an exhibitor wins more than 1 Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion, they must choose which one to sell.
- Expected dress day of sale: clean, neat, long pants, boots or dark shoes, long sleeved shirt (may be colored).