

Cornell Cooperative Extension Chautauqua County



4-H Goat Project Handbook 2024-2025



CHAUTAUQUA
COUNTY
4-H

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

Keith LaRoy	716-485-1537	Lindsay Eckman	716-969-2870
Kim LaRoy	716-267-3722	Anna Talbot	716-673-5501
Aaron Carlberg	716-408-9892	Shari Graziano	716-680-2308
Julie Kerr	716-785-0213	Melody Overend	716-397-8567
Sue Lindsey	814-230-4329	Teela Nace	716-487-7062
Beth Lindsey	716-487-7072		

Junior Committee Members:

Tianna Bova

Project Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 6:30

Youth Must Attend 4 Meetings

October 7th

November 18th

December 17th

January 7th

February 4th

March 4th

April 12th – Pancake Breakfast

May 10th – Weigh In (does not count towards meeting credit)

May 18th – Showmanship Clinic

June 9th – Voucher Meeting

June 21st Barn Set up

Committee Meetings

November 5th

December 2nd

January 28th

February 25th

March 24th

May 5th

June 2nd

June 30th

September 22nd

2025 Chautauqua County Fair – July 14th – 20st

***RECORD BOOKS NEED TO BE PRINTED AND TURNED INTO THE 4-H
OFFICE BY SEPTEMBER 15TH***

4-H Goat Project

1. Project Description:

This project is for children ages nine through eighteen who are interested in learning about and working with goats. With this project, we cover a number of areas. These areas include Harness Goats, Dairy Goats, Pygmy Goats, Market Goats, Angora Goats, Pack Goats, and Meat Goat Breeding Stock.

2. Project/Program Goals:

The goals of this project are to teach the children to be responsible for their animals in terms of how to treat them and care for them, and as they continue in the project, we will increase their knowledge in the finer details of caring for an animal. We also will show how enjoyable these animals can be by exposing the children to the different project areas.

3. Project/Program Objectives:

The objectives for the project are to teach children the anatomy terms of a goat, nutrition, conformation, showmanship, breeding, poisonous plants, ways to meet the basic needs of goats, like their shelter. For market goats, the children learn how to raise and market them. We also encourage the children to learn how to harness and teach their goats to pull a wagon. We learn how to go packing with our goats, including what to take with us, how to treat injuries, and to go on an actual hike with our goats. Each year, we would like to build upon what they have learned from the previous years.

Cloverbuds in the Goat Project

1. Project Description:

This project area is for Cloverbuds who are ages five through eight and who would like to learn about goats. It was created to encourage children to become involved with goats and to create enthusiasm for these animals.

2. Project/Program Goals:

The goals of this area are to begin to teach the children how to become responsible for their animals in terms of how to treat them and care for them, and also to show the Cloverbuds how much fun goats can be by showing them the different things you can do with these incredible animals.

3. Project/Program Objectives:

Objectives for the Cloverbuds would be to learn some of the basics about goats, the different things goats can do, and learn how much fun they can be. As the Cloverbuds go through the project years until they can be a regular project member, they should to build upon what they have learned from the previous years.

4-H Goat Program Rules

Meeting/Attendance Requirements	Attendance requirement: Each participant is required to attend 4 general monthly meetings. Youths who are attending an institute of higher education outside of Chautauqua County, <u>and</u> who have been successful in the project for three or more years, will be excused from optional activities and meetings with written notification to the 4-H Goat Project Committee by October 1 st of the current project year.
Animal Ownership Requirements	Dairy, Pygmy, Meat goat breeding stock and Pack Goats may be leased- see policy for leasing an area in the goat program. Market Goats, Harness, must be owned.
Animal Identification	All animals must be registered, have certificate of identification or scrapie tag prior to fair date. Identification tattoos and/or microchips must be confirmed against registration papers.
Registration Form(s) and Due Dates	Exhibitor enrollment: November 1 st 4-H Member registration for Market Goats: <u>January 1st</u> due to the 4-H Office. **Any member registration received after the close of the business day on <u>January 1st</u>, will result in a \$20.00 late fee. All late registrations and fees must be submitted prior to <u>April 10th</u>. Registration forms are available in the 4-H Office or at cce.cornell.edu/Chautauqua
Myotonic Goat(s)	Myotonic Goat(s) or a cross of the Myotonic Goat must be able to be handled safely as of June 1 st and arrangements made with the goat project committee to check the goat(s) to insure they have been desensitized.
Record Completion Requirements	All members enrolled in the project are required to keep and complete records that are available online at the beginning of the project year. A copy of these records can be printed at the request of a youth or their family. Records should be kept in their project book. Records are found on the 4-H website at cce.cornell.edu/Chautauqua/4-h-youth . Final records will be due in the 4-H Office on September 15th . Market Goat project members must include in their records a copy of their thank you note sent to the buyer of their animal from Fair. All award recipients are required to have a copy of their thank you note to their award sponsor included in their record book.
Animal Health Requirements	Prior to the fair, goats must be checked by a veterinarian and found free of any contagious or infectious diseases. This information must be made an official part of the health certificate, which must be with the animal when it arrives on the fairgrounds. Market goats are to have no medications within 30 days of the sale at the fair, with the exception of medicated feed. Animals who do not meet health requirements per NYS Vet will not be permitted to exhibit at the fair. Any injection, procedure or treatment administered to a goat is not allowed while at the fair unless under written guidance of a veterinarian. Drenching will not be allowed except when authorized by a licensed veterinarian. If authorization is obtained, the Goat Committee Chair must be notified for each administration. Directive from the veterinarian must include dosage amounts.
Mandatory Programs	A presentation on the topic of your choice must be done during the project year. It can be done at any project meeting, county wide presentation day or at the county fair. Failure to do a presentation may result in being ineligible for the goat project the following year.

Fair Week Expectations	Participation in scheduled fair events such as showmanship on show day and herdsman are mandatory unless excused by the committee. Feeding, watering, and bedding of goats needs to be done by 9:30 AM, and goat barn itself cleaned by 10:00 AM, meaning aisles. Hay feeders must be full at all times. Water Buckets must be clean and full at all times. Jr. Superintendents are expected to help with barn set up prior to the fair and tear down the last day of the Fair. Animals must stay within the goat barn, show rings or wash rack unless approved by the committee chair
Minimum/Maximum Weight limits of animals	All market goats must weigh at least 60 pounds or will not be eligible for the meat animal sale. They will be weighed in on Sunday at the Chautauqua County Fair.

Market Goat Project Rules

1. Kids must be born between December 1st and April 1st of the fair year, and may be of the following breeds: Nubian, Kiko, Boer, Spanish, Myotonic, or crosses of these breeds, and may be purebreds or grades.
2. Classes will be broken down into lightweight, medium-weight and heavy-weight for the market show. A mandatory weigh in, tagging, and kid check will be conducted prior to fair.
3. Members may show 2 market animals; however, can sell only 1 in the meat animal sale unless they receive both grand and reserve in the show, then they will sell both.
4. Bucks must be castrated by May 1st.
5. Market goats must have a scrapies tag in their ear and be tagged for 4-H. All tagging will be done at weigh in by a committee member, and remain with the animal until slaughter, any questions or problems will be referred to the committee. Up to 4 goats can be tagged at weigh in but only 2 can be brought to Fair.
6. All animals must be on the fairgrounds by 12:00 pm on the Sunday prior to the opening of the Fair.
7. All Market goats will be weighed in on Sunday and must weigh at least 60 pounds or more or will not be eligible for the 4-H Meat Animal Sale. All covers/jackets must be removed before weighing. This will be their qualifying weight. These animals will be weighed again on Thursday for their official sale weight. Any animal receiving a white ribbon will not be eligible for the 4-H Meat Animal Sale.
8. The 4-H Market Goat show will be held in conjunction with the 4-H Dairy Goat show. Market goats are shown with collars or head halters. The committee strongly advises that all market goats be groomed (according to breed).
9. **Drenching will not be allowed except when authorized by a licensed veterinarian.**

10. At County Fair, it is the member's responsibility to provide hay, feed, water, and check bedding on a regular basis Sunday through Sunday. If they cannot fulfill the above duties, they must make prior arrangements with the adult superintendents.

11. Each member is encouraged to secure 3 bidders.

12. There is a commission charged to 4-H Meat Animal Members to cover necessary expenses; rate is set annually by the 4-H Meat Animal Sale Committee. Commissions will be deducted and the net amount of the proceeds will be mailed.

13. 4-H Meat Animals must remain on the fairgrounds until Sunday, 6:00 am, following the meat animal sale. Buyers of 4-H meat animals can either have the animals shipped via free trucking to a slaughter house OR make arrangements with the 4-H member's family. No Meat Animal can be removed from the fairgrounds in an unauthorized vehicle. All 4-H Meat Animal Projects must leave the fairgrounds alive.

14. Payment for all animals will come from the 4-H Office within approximately 2 weeks following the sale. Commissions will be deducted and the net amount of the proceeds will be mailed.

15. Checks will be payable to the 4-H member who is registered as owning the animal. No other parties will be recognized unless there is previous written agreement.

16. Policy for loss of Goat- the committee will approve replacement goats in case of accidental death of the Market Goat up to June 1st. Injured or ill goats must receive a veterinary certificate to be considered for replacement. The committee members must be contacted under these circumstances. If approved, a committee member must weigh and tag the replacement animal. Registration papers must be filled out and returned to the 4-H Office as soon as possible.

Programs Available for Goat Project Members

Dairy Goats

There are different kinds of dairy goats that children can raise, like Alpine, Toggenburg, Saanen, Nubian, and Nigerian Dwarf. They give us milk which has a number of uses. It is beneficial to drink, and many people who have problems digesting cow's milk find goat's milk easier to digest. It can also be used to make, butter, cheese, yogurt, ice cream, and fudge. With the dairy goats, children learn about the housing, nutrition, and diseases. They learn how to take care of baby goats which are called kids and how to milk the mother. Children also learn about the conformation of dairy goats. Dairy goats are a lot of fun to have but they are also very useful to have around the farm.

Meat Goat Breeding Stock

In this program, the children raise and breed Meat Goats or Meat Goat Crosses to produce more goats for meat which is eaten by a number of people. The children learn about nutrition, breeding and other basic care requirements of raising meat goats.

Market Goats

4-H Members can raise a meat goat that may be of the following breeds: Boer, Kiko, Nubian, Spanish, Myotonic, or crosses of these breeds which they will then sell at the Meat Animal Sale during the Chautauqua County Fair. In this program, children learn about nutrition, getting the best growth rate for a meat goat and maintaining that rate. The benefits of goat meat are also taught. They also learn how to market their animals to get ready for the Meat Animal Sale.

Fiber Goats

In this program, the children learn how to raise Fiber (Angora) goats for their fiber. They not only learn how to take care of the goat but also how to take care of the fiber, both on and off the goat. Eventually, we would like the children to learn what to do with the fiber like spinning it.

Pygmy Goats

If you and your children are interested in a smaller goat to have for a pet that doesn't require a lot of work, then Pygmy goats are perfect for you. The personality and hardiness of these goats make them wonderful pets to have around the farm. In this program, children learn how to care for pygmies and about their conformation. 4-H Members seem to have a lot of fun with their pygmies.

Pack Goat

Did you know that goats can travel 10 to 12 miles a day if they are in condition? Their walking speed is about the same as a human's making them wonderful companions. Goats can be trained to carry a pack and go hiking right along with you. In this program, children learn what things you should carry with you when you are hiking, how to train your goat, nutrition, and about poisonous plants you might find when you are hiking. At fair, you get to take your goat through an obstacle course to see how well you and your friend work together as a team. Everyone has a lot of fun with this program.

Harness Goat

How about a leisurely ride with a gentle animal? Goats can be trained to pull a wagon or a cart. They are easier for children to work with due to their size. In this program, children learn about the harness they need to use, and how to start training their goat to drive. At the fair, they also get to take their goats through an obstacle course although it is a different one from the pack goat course. It is a challenge to train goats to drive but it is very rewarding when you have.

Cloverbuds

Goats are one of those animals that are fairly easy for children to work with and have fun with so the Cloverbud program was started to give children a chance to learn about goats sooner. Children ages 5 to 8 years old will be able to participate in this program. They will learn about the different kinds of goats and the different uses of them. They will also learn the basics dealing with housing, food, parts of a goat, and signs of a healthy goat. There will be many hands-on activities for them. Children will also learn to show a goat with the help of older 4-H Members.

Helpful Hints

- ❖ Kid goats should gain at least 10 pounds per month. To maintain this weight gain, they should be fed on demand 3-4 times a day.
- ❖ A 2-month-old market goat should weigh at least 60 pounds at fair time meeting the minimum weight requirements.
- ❖ Remember water is the most important nutrient in feeding-make sure there is always clean fresh water available.
- ❖ If you have problems or questions, please contact the 4-H Office or a 4-H Market Goat Committee Member.

Policies for Leasing an Animal in the Goat Program

1. Leases will be permitted for breeding stock (i.e., Angora Goats, Dairy Goats, Meat Goats, Pygmy Goats, etc...), and Pack Goats. Market goats and Harness goats must be owned by the exhibitor.
2. Exhibitors **cannot** lease a goat if they already own a goat, whether it be dairy, fiber, meat, pygmy, or etc.
3. Exhibitor leasing that animal must be enrolled in the goat project by the entry deadline.
4. Animal to be leased must be “obtained” by May 1, 2025, and a completed lease agreement must be submitted to the 4-H Office by June 9th, 2025.
5. Exhibitor needs to keep all records on that animal required for that project.
If animal does not reside on exhibitor property, then exhibitor must spend a reasonable amount of time caring for and working with that animal.
6. Leased animals may include kids born out of a leased doe, providing project records are kept on the kids.
7. Should the animal during the leased period become unable to be shown due to death or serious medical condition, it may be replaced with another animal. Circumstances to be reviewed by the goat committee for approval.
8. Leased Goats cannot be exhibited at State Fair (See State Fair Animal Ownership Requirements).
9. Youth will be limited to showing (2) leased animals at fair. If a doe with multiple kids are being leased, the additional animals may come with the doe to fair, but must be registered as exhibition only. These animals must also be included on the health papers required to come to fair.

For a 4-H Goat Project Lease Form, please see the 4-H Office or a Goat Project Committee Member.

