



## **Meadowlark District 4-H Market Goat Project**

### **Purpose**

1. To help you learn selection, feeding, management, fitting & showing and showmanship of your livestock project.
2. Two or more goats are recommended, as they keep each other company and will feed better.

### **Guidelines**

- a. Your goat(s) need to be born after Dec. 1 of the current 4-H year.
- b. You must have full ownership of your goat by Spring weigh in time. Your goat will be tagged with an official KS 4-H EID tag and must have a scrapie tag.
- c. Goats should weigh 35 to 50 lbs at a Meadowlark District Spring weigh in.
- d. Market goats can be a wether or a doe. Doe shown in market class cannot be shown in a breeding doe class.
- e. A goat doing well on full feed should gain at least 2-3 lbs per week. With a fair date of late July, you will have 12 weeks of feeding time.
- f. The skill of feeding your goat is dependent upon knowing the weight of the goat, how it is gaining and making adjustments to your feeding program. The rate of gain for a goat on full feed should be .1 - .3 lbs/day.
- g. It is a good idea to weigh your goat periodically, if possible, to see how it is gaining.
- h. The market likes goats to be weighing 50 to 80 lbs at fair time.
- i. Not all goats will turn out to be top show goats. However, good judgement in selecting from well-bred goats will result in better chances at show time.

### **Care & Management**

- a. Goats should have a barn or shed where they can retreat from heat, cold, wet conditions and outside exposure if need too.
- b. Feeders should be mounted off the ground to keep feces out of.
- c. Exercise is very beneficial to your success in the show ring. Having objects in their pen for them to jump and play on will help them build muscle and stay in shape. Goats that have been exercised will handle harder and firmer, which will give you more advantage in the show ring.
- d. Water, protein, carbohydrates, fats, minerals & vitamins are the 6 basic nutrients required by all livestock.
- e. Internal parasites are a major setback in market goats. Set up a deworming schedule by talking to your local veterinarian. Be sure to watch your withdrawal periods as you get closer to fair.
- f. Some diseases to watch for in your market goats are: soremouth, ringworm/skin infections and pinkeye. Contagious animals can easily spread these from animal to animal. Please seek advice from your local veterinarian on treatment if you suspect your goat has any of these.

### **Local Fair Requirements – MED-Seneca (Nemaha)**

- a. Goats must be weighed and tagged at a Spring Meadowlark District weigh in. Ear tags will be paid for at the time of weigh in.
- b. Youth are responsible for their own bedding and care of the animal.

- c. Youth must sign & abide by the **MED Code Ring of Ethics** (signed once in a 4-H career) and have it on file with the Extension Office by July 1st.
- d. Youth must sign and abide by the **MED Fair Code of Conduct** due July 1st each year.
- e. All youth must complete the YQCA annual training.
- f. Market Goats will be split by weights. Classes are posted as soon as possible after weigh-in at the fair.
- g. If a youth has two goats in one weight class, another 4-Her can show one of the goats.
- h. Youth are expected to help with fair set-up and clean-up.
- i. Goats must be pre-entered by July 1st of the current 4-H year.
- j. Goats need to be castrated before fair time and appear to be castrated.
- k. If a goat has horns, dehorning is preferred, if not horns must be tipped. Horns should be blunt and not less than a diameter of a dime at the end.
- l. No icing of any kind may be done during the fair. Drenching is allowed only in pen area.

### **Local 4-H Livestock Sale Rules & Requirements**

- a. The sale is held for 4-H exhibitors and all animals sold must have been exhibited in this year's fair.
- b. Youth must fill out the **MED 4-H/FFA Sale Requirements** form. This must be on file at the Extension office by July 1st.
- c. Sale order will be listed in the fairbook. Grand and Reserve Grand Champions will sell first.
- d. The premium sale is a premium only sale. You are responsible for marketing your own animal. Animals sold through sale are not eligible to be shown at the Kansas State Fair or the Kansas Jr Livestock Show.
- e. Market goats must weigh at least 40 pounds and no more than 125 pounds to sell.
- f. Only one animal may be sold through the sale. A 5% selling fee will be collected.

### **Important Dates & Information for Market Goat Project**

#### **MED Spring Weigh In's**

Holton – May 7 6-7 pm at the Northeast Kansas Heritage Facility

Oskaloosa – April 29 6-8 pm at the Valley Falls Fairgrounds

Seneca – April 25 7:30-8:30 am at Fairgrounds in Seneca

#### ***Jackson County Spring Show – May 23***

#### **Meadowlark District Web Page**

<https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/>

#### **Kansas 4-H Meat Goat Project Page**

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animals/meat-goats.html>

#### **Youth Livestock Education Resources**

<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/educational-materials.html>