



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.

Resources

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/animal-science/meat-goats.html>

Youth Livestock Education Resources

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

Local Fair Requirements – SEE YOUR LOCAL WEBPAGE FOR SPECIFICS!!!

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

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

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

- a. Animals must be owned at least 80 days prior to the fair. 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 will be allowed to enter and show any animal that was tagged with Family Nomination. 4-H members may switch ownership of animals within the Family Nomination, but final ownership by 4-Her, must be declared at fair pre-entry time. A Family Nomination is defined as: youth legally residing in the same household and sharing the same legal address. Youth must materially participate in the care of the project for the majority of the time.
- 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. If intending to participate in the Premium Auction, youth must fill out the **MED 4-H/FFA Sale Requirements** form. This must be on file at the Extension office by July 1st.
- g. Goats need to be castrated before fair time and appear to be castrated.
- h. 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.

Important Dates & Information for Market Goat Project

MED Spring Weigh In's

Holton – May 12, 6-7 pm at the Northeast Kansas Heritage Facility

Oskaloosa – April 27, 6-8 pm at the Valley Falls Fairgrounds

Seneca – April 23, 7:30-8:30 am at Fairgrounds in Seneca

Jackson County Spring Show – May

Junior Meat Goat Producer Day – March of odd years

<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/ks-jr-producer/index.html>

Kansas State Fair & Kansas Junior Livestock Show Nominations due - June 15

<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/nominated-livestock/>