



Maryland 4-H Requirements and Tools For Exhibiting 4-H Meat Goat Projects

When preparing to show livestock in 4-H, the Maryland 4-H program rules and guidelines and those of your county, can seem overwhelming at times. If you carefully read all of the rules and guidelines and have open communication with your 4-H Extension educator, 4-H Meat Goat Department superintendents and your club leader, it becomes an easier process to ensure a positive experience.

Each County 4-H Livestock Program is Unique

It's important to ensure that you are meeting all the program requirements in order to show (breeding or market goats) and potentially sell your market goat.

1. Animal ownership – In order for your market goat or breeding goat project to be eligible to show for the current year, it must fit within the ownership deadline of the Maryland 4-H program.

- Market goats must be owned by June 1st of the current year.
- Breeding goats must be owned by July 1st of the current year. If you are exhibiting a breeding goat, the association registration (original) papers must be in the name of the 4-H member exhibiting and stamped by the association by July 1st to be eligible to exhibit the goat(s) in the current year.
- Commercial goats must be owned by July 1st of the current year. Your commercial goats will need to have the proper 4-H paperwork (Livestock Registration Form (Figure 1)) and a Maryland 4-H commercial goat ear tag by July 1st of the current year to be eligible to show. Most commercial goats will be tagged at the county's goat weigh-in (check with your Extension office for weigh-in/tagging date).



4-H Members learning how to show at a state goat workshop.

Take note of deadlines in your county 4-H program, particularly if the county has an earlier county fair. In that case, ownership deadlines may be set sooner than the state deadlines.

2. Livestock registration form – The Maryland 4-H Program requires that the owner of each 4-H market goat or commercial goat complete a Livestock Registration Form (Figure 1). The form will ask you for your contact

information, local 4-H club and your 4-H age. If you are keeping your animal at a location other than your home, you need to include the address of the farm where your 4-H goat project is housed.

In the box at the top of the form, check off if you are weighing a market goat or a commercial goat. If you plan on tagging a market goat and a commercial goat, you need to complete a separate form for each animal. You will need to complete as much information as possible, including:

- *Official U.S. tag number* – This will be a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved Scrapie Tag. This tag will start out with the letters of where the animal was born. Example: If the market goat was born in Maryland, the tag will start with MD followed by a four-digit number assigned by USDA. There will also be a personal tag number associated with the Scrapie tag (the breeder of the goat should obtain this tag).
- *Personal ear tag/tattoo number* – The breeder may only have a Scrapie tag on the goat you bred or bought. Many breeders now use Scrapie tags with a personal farm number as identification for the breeder’s records.
- *Breed* (examples – Boer, Crossbred, etc.)
- *Sex* (male or female)
- *Bred and owned* – Indicate if you plan to show a kid born from a doe you own or if you bought your goat.
- *Date of birth* – What day was your goat born?
- *4-H tag number* – Leave this column blank since a 4-H ear tag number will be assigned when you attend the county weigh-in and tagging.
- *Tag day weight* – The goat will be weighed and the information recorded at weigh-in. This will be considered your animal’s beginning weight for your market goat project.
- *Signatures required* – The 4-H member and parent/legal guardian must sign the front of the form to confirm the information. Signatures are also required on the back of the form from the 4-H member and parent/legal guardian

acknowledging they have read and agree to abide by the Maryland 4-H Animal Science Code of Ethics (Figure 2).

Depending on which county 4-H program you are enrolled in, there may be a charge for the number of ear tags you will need for tagging day. The cost of the tags is minimal. The local Extension office will have information regarding any charges by the county.

3. Livestock weigh-in and tagging – All counties hold an initial weigh-in and tagging for market goats and commercial goats. Dates will vary around the state and are available from your local Extension office. You will need to help with the care of your goat at the weigh-in/tagging. Some tips to help improve your weigh-in experience:

- *Paperwork* – Complete all your paperwork before arriving at the weigh-in/tagging. Check with your local Extension office to see if you need to pre-register for weigh-in and tagging. Most offices will request your Livestock Registration Form beforehand to ensure they have ordered enough tags.
- *Halter break your goat project* -- Work with your goat before weigh-in to assure it is halter broken. A properly trained animal helps you get through the weigh-in line quickly and safely and keeps volunteers working at the weigh-in safe.
- *Communication* – During weigh-in/tagging, you will be asked questions related to your project and given directions that may be as simple as moving vehicles and trailers or allowing other families behind you to move into the weigh-in/tagging line. If someone is not listening and paying attention, the weigh-in process will take longer for everyone.
- *Tagging* – Ensure that your animal has been properly tagged based on the information you provided (Figure 3).

4. Animal Husbandry Quality Assurance (AHQA) Program – Maryland 4-H members are required to participate in the AHQA online program to ensure they use best management practices in caring, grooming and showing safely and ethically. The program is designed to be completed one time per 4-H age division (junior, intermediate and senior).

- *Junior members* (8-10 years old as of January 1st) must



MARYLAND 4-H LIVESTOCK REGISTRATION FORM



Please print neatly with a pen!

Year _____ Date Due to Extension Office: _____

Name _____
 Address _____

 Phone _____
 Club Name _____ County _____

ONE Registration Form PER CATEGORY
 Check Category:
 Beef Steers Commercial Beef Heifers
 Dairy Steers Commercial Breeding Sheep
 Market Hogs Commercial Meat Goats
 Market Lambs Other (Indicate what) _____
 Market Goats

IF ANIMAL IS HOUSED AT A DIFFERENT ADDRESS THAN ABOVE, PLEASE PROVIDE NAME AND LOCATION BELOW. MUST BE APPROVED BY COUNTY/CITY 4-H OFFICE.

Name _____ Phone _____ County _____
 Address _____

4-H Tag Number (Leave Blank)	Official US Tag Number / Scrapie Tag Number	Personal Tag Number/Tattoo/ Ear Notch	Breed(s)	Sex	Check One		Date of Birth	Tag Day Weight	Comments
					Bred & Owned	Purchased			

Date Weighed _____ Weigh Master Signature and Verification _____

My signature indicates that the above animal(s) are under my care, I own them, and I have correctly and honestly filled this form out to the best of my knowledge.

4-H Member Signature: _____ Parent or Legal Guardian Signature: _____

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Figure 1. You will need to complete the Maryland 4-H Livestock Registration form prior to attending weigh-in tagging days in your county

University of Maryland Extension (UME) 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics

4-H members enrolled in animal science projects (e.g., beef, camelids, dairy, dog, goat, horse, poultry, rabbit, sheep, small pet, and swine) shall, at all times, conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship, including while with their projects and at all 4-H animal science activities and events. Their conduct should always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of 4-H and its animal science program. 4-H members, as well as parents, UME volunteers and others working with them, are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts; and their conduct and values must serve as a positive influence on others.

This Code of Ethics applies to all 4-H members who are enrolled in animal science projects, and to others (4-Hers, parents, volunteers, owners, etc.) who participate in the animal science program; and it covers daily animal care, as well as participation in competitions and other 4-H animal activities and events.

4-H members and others who violate this Code of Ethics demean the integrity of 4-H and its animal science program. 4-H members who violate the code of animal science ethics are subject to sanctions including, but not limited to, forfeiture of premiums, awards, and/or auction proceeds and may be prohibited from participation in 4-H or 4-H UME events or activities; other violators may also be subject to sanction, as appropriate. Infractions may be reviewed by 4-H and/or UME (on the local or state level, as appropriate to the infraction and to the event and/or activity in question), and/or may be subject to a fair oversight committee or other entity that oversees an activity or event. In addition, some acts may also be subject to review based upon the Maryland 4-H Youth Code of Conduct and/or other UME policies.

The following is a list of standards and requirements for all 4-H animal science projects, at all times, whether at home, at animal exhibitions or events, or any other 4-H event or activity.

- The care of all 4-H project animals is the responsibility of the 4-H member. 4-H members must properly care for and groom their animals for the duration of their project.
- All project animals must be housed at the 4-H member's residence unless a different location is submitted to and approved in writing by the local 4-H staff. Any change in location must be approved in writing by the local 4-H staff; however, it is not necessary to report direct transport to and from shows or other events.
- Upon request of 4-H, UME, or other program, fair, event or animal officials, 4-H members must present proof of ownership, length of ownership, identity and/or age of all 4-H project animals owned or leased. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or identity of animal, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited. If a 4-H project animal is sold in a livestock sale, it is no longer eligible to be shown in a 4-H event in Maryland in that year.
- 4-H members must provide appropriate animal health certificates upon request of 4-H, UME, or other program, fair, event or animal officials.
- 4-H project animals must be presented to competition, activities and/or events, where they will enter the food chain, free of volatile drug residues. Animals which are presented to competition, events and/or activities that do not culminate with the animal entering the food chain, shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and rules. 4-H project animals shall not be exhibited if drugs administered in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and rules may affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event. At any time after an animal arrives on a fair or other 4-H activity or event premises, a licensed veterinarian must administer or, in consultation with fair, event, UME, or 4-H officials, direct the administration of any treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications. Drenching at any time after an animal arrives on a fair or other 4-H activity or event premises is prohibited, except when performed or directed by a licensed veterinarian in consultation with fair, event, UME, or 4-H officials for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal.
- The act of enrolling in a 4-H animal science project, and/or entering a project animal in a 4-H competition, show, activity, or other event, gives consent for 4-H or UME or event authorities to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, hair, tissue, or other substance from the animal to be used for testing purposes including, but not limited to, drug or identification. It is presumed that the sample of urine, saliva, blood or other substance tested by the approved laboratory to which it is sent is the one taken from the animal in question, its integrity is preserved, and all procedures of total collection and preservation, transfer to the laboratory and analysis of the sample are correct and accurate and the report received from the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with the burden on the 4-H owner to prove otherwise at any review in regard to the matter conducted by a fair or other event or the 4-H program. If the laboratory report on the chemical analysis of urine, blood, hair, tissue or other sample, taken from a 4-H animal science project, indicates the presence of forbidden drugs or medication, this shall be prima facie evidence such substance has been administered to the animal either internally or externally.
- Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (imitant, counter irritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, conformation, or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only and except for surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
- Using ice, ice packs, cold packs, or cold compresses, internally or externally, other than those prescribed to relieve heat stress or a medical condition as diagnosed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
- The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices, such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical devices, or other similar practices, are not acceptable and are prohibited.
- All judges, fair and event officials and/or UME 4-H staff and volunteers shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect, and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them or toward exhibitors or others participating in the activity. In addition, direct criticism or interference with a judge, fair, show or event official, exhibitor, breed representative, or UME 4-H staff or volunteer before, during, or after an event or other activity is prohibited.
- No one shall violate this Code of Animal Science Ethics or conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this Code of Ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this Code of Ethics.
- The application of this Code of Ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition to the 4-H member whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this Code of Ethics.
- By enrolling in an animal science project and/or entering an animal in a fair or other 4-H event or activity, the 4-H member, and his/her parent or guardian, consent to have disciplinary action taken by appropriate authorities (including UME, 4-H, fair, event and/or other activity officials) for violation of this Code of Animal Science Ethics and/or any other applicable rules of UME, 4-H, a fair, activity or other event, without recourse against UME, 4-H and/or other authorities. In addition, the 4-H member, and his/her parent or guardian, further understand and agree that any action which contravenes these rules, and is also in violation of federal, state, or local laws, statutes, regulations, or rules, may be referred to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.
- By signing this form the 4-H member and his/her parent or guardian each verify that they have read and understand the UME 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics and the consequences of and penalties provided for violations of the Code.

4-H ANIMAL SCIENCE PROJECT ENROLLMENT STATEMENT

I have read and understand the UME 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics, and I consent and agree to abide by the UME 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics. I understand this Statement must be signed by both the 4-H member and his/her parent or guardian, will be kept on file in the local 4-H office, and will apply to all 4-H animal science activities and events. I understand that if I do not agree to or sign this Code, my 4-H youth may not be eligible to enroll in a 4-H animal science project, may not receive associated materials, and/or may not be allowed exhibit or participate in covered activities.

4-H Member Signature _____ Date _____ Printed Name of 4-H Member _____ Parent or Guardian of the 4-H Member _____ Date _____ Printed Name of Parent or Guardian _____
 This Code of Ethics has been adapted from the 4AFE Code of Show Ring Ethics; LMS; FW's; FWL 2001; FWL 2002; FWL 2007; CWA. Retested by DA 3/2009; CWA 11/2009; CWA. Retested by CP 12/2017. Page 2 of 2

Figure 2. The 4-H member and parent/legal guardian must sign to acknowledge they read and agree to abide by the Maryland 4-H Animal Science Code of Ethics

Figure 3. Everyone who comes into weigh-in/tagging with a market goat(s)/commercial goat(s) will receive a new Maryland 4-H ear tag in their animal's ear



Market goats—Blue Maryland 4-H ear tag

Commercial goats—Purple Maryland 4-H ear tag

1. Fair entry system – To be eligible to exhibit at fairs, you must pre-enter your market goat(s)/breeding goat(s). Most fairs use an online entry system and your county Extension office will release the information when the entry system is opened. When making your entries, you will need to complete the following steps:

- Register as a 4-H member exhibitor. The 4-H project must be registered in the member's name;
- Enter the correct classes for your goat projects, especially if you are exhibiting several goats. Make sure that your market goats/breeding goats are entered into the correct divisions. Enter extra classes such as showmanship, bred and owned divisions (if applicable) and if offered, rate of gain (market goats only);
- Enter the correct Maryland 4-H ear tag number (market goat(s)/commercial goats). for each animal;
- Market goat classes will ask for the animal's beginning weight and at date of weigh-in. Make sure to enter the date and weight your goat was when you attended the county weigh-in/tagging day;
- When you have finished entering all classes for your goat project and you are ready to check out, make sure to pay any costs associated with the entry and confirm that you are entered. You should print out a confirmation number for your entry, along with receiving a confirmation email. Keep these in your records just in case there are problems with the fair entry system.

2. Health papers – The Maryland Department of Agriculture requires that all livestock entering fairgrounds in the state have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI or health papers). You will need to have a veterinarian come to the farm where your animals are kept and inspect them for good health.

Make sure to have the following information written down for the veterinarian:

- Name, address and phone number of the 4-H member;
- Name, address of fairgrounds and date of the first fair;
- Information on the livestock being inspected (ear tag numbers (4-H and farm numbers, if applicable), USDA Scrapie tag number, breed, sex, date of birth.

When the veterinarian completes the health papers, you will receive a pink copy. Keep the papers with your records and they must accompany your goat project to all shows. If you are showing in Maryland, the health papers are valid for 120 days and you must complete a health check on your goats before entering the fair. This will be verified by filling out the back of your health papers (self-certification) prior to each fair or show.

If you are planning to exhibit your goat project outside of Maryland, you will be required to have a new set of health papers for interstate exhibits. You will follow the same procedures as above, but these health papers are only valid for 30 days and are for the specific fair/show at which you are exhibiting.

3. Rate of Gain (ROG) (market goats only) – Maryland 4-H does not have a set ROG that your market goat must achieve to be eligible for most fairs and livestock sales. However, your county may require a rate of gain for the market goat project. You will find that information in your county Meat Goat Department rules and county livestock rules.

To calculate ROG, use the following formula:

- Calculate number of days from initial weigh-in through the final weigh-in at county or state fair** (when calculating your days include day of both weigh-ins);

- Subtract initial weigh-in weight from final weigh-in weight;

• Divide the total weight gained by number of days between weigh-ins to get the daily ROG for the market goat.

EXAMPLE

Initial weigh-in – May 8th, the market goat weighed 43lbs.

Final weigh-in – July 30th, the market goat weighs 71lbs.

Number of days between weigh-ins = 83 days

Market goat gained = 28 lbs. (End weight – beginning weight = pounds gained)

Final ROG = 28 lbs./83 days = .33 lbs. per day

4. Minimum/maximum weights – Check with your local county or state fairs on the weight requirements for market goat projects. Each county may have requirements for what your market goat needs to weigh when it arrives at the fair. Weight requirements are often used to determine if your market goat is eligible for the local 4-H livestock sale.

5. Project records – Accurate recordkeeping is an important part of raising your 4-H goat project. Using the Maryland 4-H Market Livestock Project Record or the Maryland 4-H Breeding Livestock Project Records (Figure 4) will help you keep appropriate records and give thought to what you are learning throughout the year. You will be asked to complete the following information for your goat project:

- *Goals* – At the beginning of raising your market goat(s)/breeding goats, what goals did you set for yourself for the year and did you achieve them?
- *Learning* – What did you learn throughout the year about your goat project?
- *Improve or do differently?* - What would you like to improve on next year or need to do differently for your project in the future?
- *Life skills* – Using the life skill wheel provided on the project record, what skills did you learn and how did you learn it?
- *Project activities* – What activities did you attend that

Figure 4. Front page of the Livestock Market Project Record Form and the front page of the Large Animal Breeding Project Record, which is requirement of 4-H goat projects ¹

¹ These records can be found on your individual county extension websites on the Maryland 4-H website (<https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/4-h-program-areas/animal-science-resources>).

relate to your goat project, such as goat workshops, livestock judging, Spring 4-H Show, county fair, etc.?

- *Project communication* – Most counties require 4-H members to have some sort of communication about their projects. This could be a speech about “Why I Chose to Show Market Goats” or a demonstration on “What Equipment I Need to Show My Meat Goats.” Most of the time you can give your speech or demonstration at a club meeting, county demonstration or public speaking event.
- *Exhibits* – Where did you exhibit your market goat(s)/ breeding goats? Write down all the shows you went to and each class you entered.
- *Information on project animals* - Keeping records on each goat you raise is important so you know where you started and where you will end with the project.
- *Expenses* --
 - **Feed** – A daily expense during your project year.
 - **Other expenses** – There are many other expenses to think about with your goat project from equipment to entry fees for shows.

Health records – You should keep records of every veterinarian visit and exactly what was needed, even if it’s a vet visit for health papers.

Income --

- **Sale income** – At the end of your market goat project, you will have income from either a county/state livestock sale, selling your goat at the stockyards, or a private treaty sale.
- **Other** – This includes premium money you have received from exhibiting at fairs.

6. Livestock sales (market goats) – Each county livestock sale is handled differently and will have different requirements. Most sales will have similar rules for required weight ranges. Market goats may also need to make the rate of gain requirements.

Some sales will stipulate that you must complete project record forms for the current year to be eligible for the next year’s



Figure 5. Member shearing her goat at 4-H goat field day

livestock sale. Always read the livestock sale rules to ensure you are meeting the requirements to sell your 4-H market goat

2. Spring 4-H shows – Throughout the state, regional shows are held for 4-H members. These shows offer a chance for 4-H members of all ages and experience levels to bring their goats. By participating in regional shows, 4-H members learn how to prepare their equipment and goats for their county and state fair.

3. Livestock skillathon – It’s important to consider other options to enhance your experiences in the 4-H goat project. One way to expand the learning process is through the livestock skillathon program which emphasizes the variety of items needed to raise livestock. The skillathon program gives you a chance to learn about livestock breeds, equipment, meat cuts, feed (grains and hay), animal quality assurance and opportunities to learn about judging. The program helps 4-H members understand the different parts of their goat project.



4. Livestock judging – Participating in livestock judging will help you learn more about the qualities that make good quality cattle, sheep, swine and goats. Through judging, you will not only learn how to place classes of livestock but you will gain important public speaking skills through reasons.

Source:

Animal Science Guidebook. February 2011. <https://www.extension.umd.edu/4-h/4-h-program-areas/animal-science-resources>

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