

Lucas County 4-H Goat Project Guide



Helpful information for your goat project.

The contents of this guide are meant to be just that, a **guide and may be subject to change without notice. Be vigilant about referencing the Lucas County Fair website for the most up to date information regarding the fair.

Goat Project Summary

There are several goat projects that you can enroll in as a 4-H member. Here is a brief summary of each project:

| 4-H # | Title | Description |
|-------|-----------------------|--|
| 135BD | Breeding: Dairy | Raise a goat of a Dairy breed (example: Alpine, Saanen) For breeding or production purposes. |
| 135BM | Breeding: Meat | Raise a goat of a Meat breed (example: Boer, Kiko) for breeding or production purposes. Classes are available for Does (females) only. |
| 135F | Fiber | Raise a goat of a Fiber breed (example: Angora) |
| 135H | Harness | Train a goat for use as a Harness goat |
| 135M | Market | Raise a goat of a meat breed to harvest weight |
| 135PY | Pygmy | Raise a goat of a Pygmy breed (example: Nigerian dwarf) |
| 135C | Companion – Pet Goats | Raise any breed of goat as a pet. Note: This goat project does not participate in the Goat Show, instead can participate in 4-H Project Interview Judging and does not stay in the Barn during Fair. |

Project Literature

You will need the following project materials for your goat project:

- **Goat Project Handbook** (\$17) - Designed to be used for all years of your goat projects.
- **Goat Project and Record Book** (\$20) - Obtain and keep for the resource info it contains.
 - One record book per year, even if you are taking multiple types of cattle, such as dairy feeder and beef feeder.
 - You will need to purchase a new record book each year you take a beef project.

**Note to those with Market Animal Projects; as a food animal producer you are required, by law, to keep a record of any treatments, medications, drugs, etc. that are used for the health of your animal. Use the Treatment Record within your Lucas County Livestock Record Insert to keep this information.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 4-H PARTICIPATION: * = Mandatory

| Activity | Due Date | Location | Reference Page # (in this guide) |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| *Enroll in 4-H | No later than April 1 | https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in | 2 |
| *4-H Project Interview Judging | Monday of Fair | Lucas County Fairgrounds Entertainment Tent | 2 |
| *County Fair Entry | May 15 | https://go.osu.edu/lclivestockfaireentry | 3 |
| *Skill-a-thon | Monday of Fair | Lucas County Fairgrounds Entertainment Tent | 3 |

Activities that will take place prior to the Lucas County Fair

The following 4-H activities are described below.

4-H Enrollment

Membership requires enrollment in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or an approved adult volunteer. Your 4-H club Advisor will assist you with the online enrollment process. Joining Ohio 4-H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University. Members must remain in good standing with their 4-H club, meaning attending a minimum of five meetings, completing a demonstration, fully participating, etc.

Project Interview

Project judging is an exciting time to showcase your hard work spent on your 4-H project. Our judges love talking with you and learning about your project. Please be patient and understand if a judge is running behind. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Tips to be Successful

- Arrive at the Entertainment tent with your record books. Remember to wear nice attire to judging. See Dress Code below.
- Check in at the registration desk.
- Be prepared to talk about your project, know what you did, how you did it, and what you learned. Be proud of your accomplishments! You worked hard. Have a seat, talk to friends and RELAX!

Dress Code Rule for All Junior Fair Exhibitors

The Junior Fair Dress Code is in effect for Livestock Shows and all Interview Judging Days.

- Livestock Interview: No rips or cut-offs and no tank-tops or sleeveless tops.
- Livestock Shows: exhibitors must wear a collared polo or buttoned shirt with some sleeve (no rips or cut-offs and no tank-tops, t-shirts or sleeveless tops). Pants should be black, khakis or jeans, reach exhibitors shoes and have no holes. Shoes are closed toe shoes.
- **Consequences for not following this rule may include class disqualification, or no interview until wardrobe is changed.

Skill-a-thon

This is where you have the chance to shine as an exhibitor. This is a contest to show who knows the most about their species. You will study various topics on goat and then at 4-H Project Interview, you will go into the skill-a-thon and answer the questions they pose for you. There are 3 levels: juniors (8-12 years old), Intermediate (13-15 years old) and seniors (16-18 years old.) The exhibitors with the highest scores can earn ribbons and then have a chance to earn cash prizes.

- The Goat Skill-a-thon is an activity that takes place prior to fair, at 4-H Project Interview. It is a series of stations on topics you are learning about in your goat project. The goal of the Skill-a-thon is to facilitate learning about your Goat project.
- Prizes are awarded to exhibitors who perform well in the Skill-a-thon. Prizes typically include cash and rosettes which are handed out at Sunday awards in the Livestock Arena.

Congratulations on the successful completion of your project!

County Fair Entry

For exhibition information, such as move-in, possession and show information, visit the Lucas County Fair junior fair exhibition rules at: <https://lucascountyfair.com/exhibitors/#junior> then select “Livestock Rules”

- Fair Entry is due **May 15** and is completed online using this link: <https://go.osu.edu/lclivestockfairentry>
- Late or edited entries will be accepted until **May 22 with a \$50 fee payable to the Lucas County Fair.**
- For Entries after the late entry date, May 22, penalties are Grade and Exhibition only, \$50 fee, no premium, awards, or auction. Exhibition request will need approval.

Basics for your goat project:

- Your 4-H Advisor can assist you in finding sources of animals.
- It is highly advisable to seek out a reputable breeder to obtain your project animal. A good breeder wants you to be successful with your project and with the animal(s) they are offering. It is not advisable to look toward sale barns (stockyards) for project animals as you will not know the breed, health status or anything else about the animal you are getting. Again, do not buy a goat from ANY source that does not have a scrapie tag in its ear (it is federal law for the breeder to apply this tag).
- Create a relationship with a veterinarian in your area. Verify that they are willing and able to see your animal(s) should the need arise and share contact information so that you are prepared.
- For market goats: it’s important to choose an animal of the correct size and growth potential so that it can meet the suggested weight range to show at the Lucas County Fair (minimum 40). You will want to select a meat breed goat for a market project that was born from January – mid February. The most common meat breed in Ohio is Boer. It is not advisable to select a dairy breed or dairy cross breed animal for a market project.



- For breeding and specialty goats, you will want to choose an animal that fits your project goals. If you want to show your animal, you'll want to make sure there is a class offered for the animal you are considering.

Selecting market animals:

- Look for a goat kid that is square on their legs, straight (not sway) backed, wide chested, front legs set squarely down from their shoulder and wide in rear leg set.
- Goat kids birth date must be considered alongside other factors such as genetics, nutrition, exercise, etc. Example: a single kid with a good milking Doe (mother) will grow much faster than a triplet kid that is getting limited nutrition.
- A rule of thumb is that a goat will gain about 1/3 of pound per day, or 10 pounds per month. However, this is largely influenced by type and quality of feed and other factors.
- Example: to have an 85 lb. goat on August 1st you would look for a 45 lb. goat on April 1st. Again, this is a rough estimate that can be influenced by many factors.
- Check for lice and mites when getting your goat and treat if needed to maintain good hair quality.
- A healthy goat kid should be alert, curious and move easily. Avoid a goat kid that stands in the corner, is hunched up as it stands, tail drooped or moves lethargically.

Housing:

- Some type of shelter to keep goats out of the elements. Ventilation is key for keeping them healthy in the summertime, but you also want to have protection from wind, rain and sun.
- You will want a pen that provides room for exercise but is not so big that the goats are difficult to catch. 6' x 6' would be adequate, 10' x 10' would be ideal. Your goats do not "need" to be on grass or pasture. In fact, it is easier to control feed intake and keep them free of parasites if they are not on grass.
- Bedding: Obtain straw or flake shavings. Shavings work better to manage the size of their belly for show as the goats will not eat the shavings as much. Clean pens regularly. Wet, dirty bedding is not ideal. At the fair, you must bed with shavings.

Feeding:

- You will need a water bucket and one feeder per goat. Water needs to be changed out multiple times per day. Clean the feeders out after every feeding. Goats will not eat old, dirty feed.
- There are many types of quality show feeds available locally. Talk to your breeder to see what they recommend. Freshness is very important. Goats will eat 3-4% of their body weight per day. A good place to start is one pound of feed, twice a day for each goat. Market goats only need a small handful of hay 1-2 times per day.

Health Care

- It is your responsibility as an animal owner and/or food animal producer to establish a relationship with a veterinarian, to help with health care decisions for your animal. Your 4-H Advisor and/or Extension Office may be able to provide suggestions about veterinarians in the area that provide services for goats. You can also seek suggestions from other goat owners.
- Do NOT seek animal medical advice from farm store clerks, neighbors, other goat owners, breeders, etc. Experienced goat owners may be able to guide you in many areas, but if your animal needs veterinary care; it is your responsibility to provide proper care for your animal