Goat
4-H Project Newsletter

CANADA
4-H Nova Scotia

This Goat Project Newsletter contains information specific to the Goat Project. Please use it in conjunction with the General 4-H Information Bulletin, so that you are aware of Achievement Day completion requirements as well as general opportunities and information pertaining to all 4-H members. This Project Newsletter, as well as the General 4-H Information Bulletin, will be updated in October of each year, if necessary, based on changes made at the 4-H Nova Scotia Leadership Forum.

Welcome to the 4-H Goat Project! This newsletter will give you an overview of the Goat Project, answer some of your questions concerning expectations of the project, and provide you with project ideas and some resources. Project newsletters are an excellent reference to keep on hand to refer to throughout the year. Enjoy your year in the Goat Project and when working on your project, remember to "Learn to do by Doing." If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Program Coordinator (RPC). Please review the new *Safety Checklist for Activities Involving Animals* included in this newsletter.

Goat Project Work Requirements

Showmanship is the project work requirement for the Goat Project. On Achievement Day, Goat members must complete showmanship with their own 4-H registered goat to complete the project work requirement. Each member in the goat project needs their own goat - a goat can't be shared by members for Achievement Day completion purposes. A goat from any Goat Project conformation section in which the 4-H member has registered a 4-H goat may be used for showmanship. Please review the Livestock Registration Section for more details pertaining to this.

The dress code for all goat showmanship and conformation classes is white or black pants and white shirt. Hard soled shoes or boots are encouraged, but not essential. Members can wear sun-safety hats when showing livestock in an outdoor ring. The dress code will be enforced at all 4-H Nova Scotia shows.

Showmanship classes are done at Achievement Days, County Show/Exhibitions, and 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show.

Livestock Registration

4-H members must select their 4-H animals by May 1st of the current 4-H year and must submit livestock registration information to 4-H Nova Scotia by May 15th of the current 4-H year. Livestock Registration will only be accepted through the online Livestock Registration Form: if you need assistance with this form, please contact your RPC directly. Information on this form is necessary to assist with county show/exhibition planning, including judges, class schedules, awards, etc. The following information must be submitted: name of member, junior member/senior member, conformation class entered, sex of animal, breed of animal, and date of birth of animal. Goat members should submit this information for each goat they will be showing.

4-H animals may be substituted between the registration deadline of May 15th and Achievement Day in the case of injury, sickness, disease or death of the animal. If an animal is to be substituted prior to Achievement Day, pre-approval from the Regional Program Coordinator is necessary. A vet certificate may be required. After Achievement Day, no substitutions in animals are permitted. 4-H members who

complete their livestock project with their own registered/approved animal on Achievement Day may use another 4-H member's 4-H animal in a showmanship class at county show/exhibition and the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show.

Conformation Classes

Although conformation is not an Achievement Day requirement, livestock conformation classes are held at county level/Exhibition competitions and 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. Qualification for 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show must be done through county show/exhibition. Each county will be permitted to send two entries per conformation section to the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. In showmanship, one junior goat showman and one senior goat showman from each county are eligible for the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. In judging, one junior goat judge and one senior goat judge from each county are eligible for the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show.

New for 2024/2025: based on the resolution passed at the 2024 Leadership Forum, Goat Project Conformation classes are divided into two classes – one for milking goats and one for meat goats (Leadership Forum 2024).

4-H goat members are permitted to exhibit a maximum of three goats in a project year, but may not exhibit more than one goat from any given section.

Class 33: Dairy Goats

Dairy breeds include Alpine, Saanen, Nubian, Toggenburg, LaMancha, Nigerian Dwarf and Oberhasli. Mixed breeds are permitted.

Section 1: Doeling – born January 1st – April 30th of the current 4-H year
Section 2: Dry Yearling Doe – born in the previous calendar year, that has not yet kidded.
Section 3: Dry Doe – mature doe 2 years or older, not in milk
Section 4: Milking Doe 1-2 Years Old – doe in milk born in either of the previous two calendar years
Section 5: Milking Doe 3 Years or Older – doe in milk born prior to the previous two calendar years

Class 34: Meat Goats

This includes Boer goats. Mixed breeds are permitted.

Section 1: Replacement Doeling – born January 1st – April 30th of the current 4-H year
Section 2: Replacement Yearling Doe - born in the previous calendar year, that has not yet kidded.
Section 3: Mature Doe – born prior to the previous calendar year. Goats do not have to be in milk for this section.
Section 4: Chevon - born January 1st – April 30th of the current 4-H year. Wethers (castrated bucklings) are allowed to be shown in this section, as are doelings.

*Note: Pygmy goats are considered dual purpose and can be entered in either the dairy class or the meat class.

*Important Note: goats may be entered in either class despite their breed, but they will be judged for qualities of the class title. Members must determine which class their goat will be in at time of Livestock Registration and may not change that decision until the following 4-H year, should they continue with the same goat.

Champion Classes at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show will be:

- Junior Dairy Goat – first and second place goats from Class 33, Sections #1 & #2
- Senior Dairy Goat – first and second place goats from Class 33, Sections #3, #4 & #5
- Champion Meat Goat – first and second place goats from all sections in Class 34

Important Information Specific to Goat Project

- Horns are not permitted on 4-H goats. Be sure to dehorn your goats shortly after birth. This makes it easier on the animal. Spurs (buds) sometimes start to grow back. All spurs (buds) must be removed if unsafe for other animals or members. Please remember to follow best practices and talk to your vet to ensure correct procedures are used.
- All male goats in the chevon class must be castrated. This should be done early to improve gain, and decrease stress close to the show. Talk to your vet about all management issues to make sure that correct procedures and management practices are followed.
- Make sure your doeling or chevon is weaned well before Exhibition/County Show, or the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. Remember, as animals remain at these shows for several days, it is important to wean the goat at home when stress is minimal. Doing this prior to any show will help your animal get used to a non-milk diet and will give the goat time to return to good condition before show day.
- At the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show, the goat judge will be made aware that all goats do not have to be fully shaved, and that all goats are judged equal regardless of whether they are fully shaved.

Please note that the National Farm Animal Code of Practice should be followed when housing animals for 4-H events.

These standards can be found at: http://www.nfacc.ca/

Goat Project Meeting Ideas:

- Have a session on nutrition, management, kidding, fitting and showing, judging; ask a guest speaker to come in to discuss one of these topics.
- Visit an abattoir, a goat farm, a goat show, or an auction.
- Take on a special project such as promoting goat milk, meat, or cheese. Arrange to have a club/community try these projects at your Achievement Day. Try recipes with goat products.
- Invite a veterinarian to discuss goat health care.
- Learn about traceability and the National Goat Identification Program.

Project Resources

- Goat Production Manual - https://novascotia.ca/thinkfarm/documents/Manual-Goat.pdf.
- The Canadian Goat Society (CGS) - https://www.goats.ca/.
    - CGS Classification Manual (includes breed standards) - https://www.goats.ca/classification/.
- Boar Goat Breed Standards - https://www.canadianmeatgoat.com/standards.

Goat Clipping Competition

The Goat Clipping Competition is open to a team of two 4-H goat members. This competition is open to both junior and senior members. Teams will be evaluated on the following: Report Card, Clipping and Showmanship. This competition is hosted at County Shows/Exhibitions and members may advance to 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. Pre-registration is required; to register please talk to your General or Project Leader. If you are looking for more information, please contact your General Leader or RPC and they would be happy to provide you with the competition guidelines.

Market Goat Project

Members who have completed two years in the Goat Project may be interested in the Market Goat Project. This project will be overseen by the Market Committee and will provide new opportunities and experiences to 4-H members who wish to pursue a more entrepreneurial side of the project. Please review the Market Newsletter for details about this project and any additional information, including deadlines/guidelines. Members wishing to enroll and complete the Market Goat Project must also be enrolled and complete the Goat Project.

While a member can register in both the Goat Project and the Market Goat Project, a goat used for the Market Goat Project cannot be entered into the Goat Project Classes. Therefore, registering and exhibiting in both would require two (2) separate animals.

Contagious/Infectious Disease & Quarantine

4-H members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are reminded that 4-H Achievement Days and shows are showcases for the 4-H program, and the agricultural industry in this province. They are reminded that infectious diseases can be transmitted during transport, as well as at the show. As such, it is strongly recommended for the protection of the public, participants, and the animals at the show, that animals having or showing signs of infectious diseases not be brought to shows. As well, livestock exhibitors and owners must understand that in attending 4-H Shows, there is a risk of their animal contracting disease regardless of the best efforts of all involved.

If you suspect that your animal has a contagious/infectious disease, please contact your local veterinarian immediately and learn more about the consequences, treatment, and transmission of the disease.

Brochures, "Skin Infections of Particular Concern to 4-H Calves: Ringworm, Warts and Lice" and “Fact Sheet: Animal Health and Safety Best Practices” are available. If you wish to receive a copy by mail or email, please contact your Regional Program Coordinator. It contains important information for all livestock members on this topic and will be critical to review with 4-H Clubs, livestock owners, and your local veterinarian when making decisions about attending 4-H achievement days and shows.

Animal Movement Reporting

Regulations around moving animals to and from Fairs, Exhibitions, Achievement Days, 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show and other events are in place or are coming into place for some species. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is responsible for these regulations regarding the identification of animals and how livestock owners report moving animals on and off the farm. This includes individual animal ID tags and reporting the movements of animals. Tag numbers are to be reported by the owner/operator of a premise when the animals enter, and then by the farmer/owner when the animals are brought back to the farm or where they are housed for the species affected.

Movement Document – A Movement Document is to travel with the animals. This document will record the departure premise and destination premise, as well as the quantity of livestock being transported. These documents will be made available by CFIA once the regulation changes come into effect.

There are three things 4-H members can do to prepare for these changes.

1. Identify your livestock premises by applying for or confirming a premises identification (PID) number with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture www.novascotia.ca/agri/pid.
2. Confirm or set up a Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS) database account at https://www.canadaid.ca/ with Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) by toll-free telephone at 1-877-909-2333 or email: info@canadaid.ca CLTS MOBO - a free app to submit animal movement events quickly and easily to your CLTS database account using a mobile device
3. Voluntarily report receipt (move in) event data to your CLTS database account for livestock arriving at your livestock premises using the individual animal identification, within seven days of receipt.

For more information please contact the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Premises Identification Office at 902-956-2707 or NSPID@novascotia.ca.

Livestock Insurance

4-H Insurance does not cover project animals. Insurance coverage for animal liability, injury or death is the animal owner's responsibility.

Activity Involving Animals	
Involving Animals refers to activities in which members are working directly with animals or in a location with animals. (Examples: Livestock members training, fitting and showing, clubs hosting livestock shows or petting farms, groups visiting fairs, farm tours.)	**High-risk Activity** The nature of the activity or the presence of hazards pose a foreseeable risk of harm, illness, or injury to participants.
Risk Management Strategies Safety information and recommendations contained in this safety checklist are believed to reflect best practice to reduce risk. The suggested risk management strategies are considered minimum standards for livestock handling.	
Training and Preparation ☐ All youth members and their parents/guardians are informed of potential risks involved in the activity, as well as the safety rules and procedures. ☐ Instruction on safety precautions is received from a trained leader or an experienced instructor who is capable of demonstrating the skills and safety precautions. ☐ Animal behavior and handling techniques are reviewed by a trained leader or an experienced instructor who is capable of explaining animal behavior and handling techniques. ☐ All sessions are conducted in a safe environment. ☐ Safety rules and procedures are learned prior to participation. ☐ Skills/movements are learned in proper progression. ☐ All youth members and their parents/guardians are informed of the equipment/clothing required for the activity. ☐ Emergency contact and medical information for all participants will be on hand throughout the event, as well as dedicated phones for emergencies. ☐ A first aid kit will be available.	
Supervision ☐ Adheres to Youth Safety Supervision Policy, Rule of Two and Supervision Ratios. ☐ Safety rules and procedures are enforced throughout the activity. ☐ Emergency action plan is in place to deal with accidents/injuries.	

Facility

- ☐ Respect biosecurity protocols of the facility.
- ☐ Ensure activity area is free of hazards/debris.
- ☐ Proper lighting and ventilation, when applicable.
- ☐ Safety rules/regulations are posted/reviewed prior to the activity.
- ☐ Indoor facility has a clearly marked emergency exit.
- ☐ Animals should be worked with in an enclosed space, with proper safety exits, such as an arena or pen to prevent animals from getting loose.
- ☐ When in a public venue, use gates and signage to separate the public traffic flow from animal movement.
- ☐ When in a public venue have signage regarding handwashing and touching animals.
- ☐ Animals should be safely and securely tied or caged when not being handled according to animal welfare standards to keep animals and people safe.
- ☐ Animals should have access to food and water according to animal welfare standards.
- ☐ Handwashing stations to be available for members and the public after handling animals.

Animals

- ❑ Ensure animals are healthy and suitable for use in the activity.
- ❑ Where applicable, follow all animal transportation regulations.
- ❑ Where applicable, ensure animals are tagged properly.
- ❑ Where applicable follow quarantine recommendations after an event.
- ❑ Ensure animal owners are aware of their responsibility to have insurance coverage for their animals, 4-H Canada holds no insurance coverage for animals.

Equipment

- ☐ Equipment to be used is suitable and in good condition.
- ☐ Equipment should be cleaned and sanitized following best practices.
- ☐ Equipment is checked by a qualified person before every session.
- ☐ Halters and collars to be properly fitted to ensure good control and animal comfort.
- ☐ Instructions are given regarding the proper use and maintenance of equipment.
- ☐ Leaders check to ensure that each youth has the required materials prior to participation.
- ☐ Leaders ensure that there is a First aid kit and a designated emergency phone are available

Clothing/Footwear

- ☐ Appropriate and properly fitted footwear is worn. For example, steel toed boots are recommended for large livestock.
- ☐ Appropriate clothing is worn. For example: Helmets are recommended for horseback riding.

Inclusion

- ☐ The activity is suitable to all participating youth member's age, ability, mental condition, and physical condition.