

DEPARTMENT – L-38 – Meat Goat

As of 12/2/25

SUPERINTENDENT – Shannon Haines – 443-865-1074 meatgoat@carrollcountyfair.com

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Due to proposed Maryland budgetary constraints that are beyond the control of the Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair Board, Inc., the Board reserves the right to withhold a portion of premium monies, up to and including all of an exhibitor's earned premium payment, for the Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair.

RULES AND REGULATIONS – Meat Goat Department

1. A 4-H or FFA member must be enrolled in a goat or veterinary science project to enter the Meat Goat Department at the Fair.
2. Exhibitors must comply with the regulations as set forth by the Maryland Department of Agriculture – Animal Health Section. Exhibitors must present the approved animal health certificate prior to taking animals from the truck or trailer at the fairgrounds.
3. All exhibitors are expected to follow all 4-H and FFA rules, include the Exhibitor Code of Conduct, Animal Ethics and Welfare, General Fair rules, Livestock Sale Committee rules and Department rules for each specific species being exhibited by 4-H and FFA exhibitors.
4. All 4-H and FFA members who exhibited a market livestock project at the 2025 Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair will be **REQUIRED** to submit a 2025 4-H Project Record for each species exhibited (FFA members must submit a completed FFA Record Book) in order to be eligible to sell a market animal at the 2026 Carroll County 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale.
5. The fitting and preparation of all goats is the responsibility of the exhibitor. Exhibitors may receive guidance from immediate family members, other Carroll County 4-H & FFA youth and appointed MCE volunteers or FFA advisors. Violation of this policy may result in immediate disqualification of the animal from all 4-H/FFA livestock shows and competition at the Carroll Co. 4-H/FFA Fair and possible dismissal from the fairgrounds.
6. Feeds and supplements approved for livestock use may be used by exhibitors. If an exhibitor feels their animal is in need of electrolytes due to health concerns of the animal, they may be administered by a recommendation of a veterinarian by the veterinarian, and in the presence of the Department Superintendent, the Livestock Area Superintendent or one of the Livestock Area Assistant Superintendents.
7. All exhibitors in showmanship and champion/champion challenge must use their own animals. Exhibitors with more than one animal in a class may have assistance, but exhibitors must be within the same 4-H age division or younger.
8. When an animal is in need of veterinarian care while on the Fair Grounds, the Department Superintendent must be notified. When an animal requires veterinary treatment while at the Fair, you may use the veterinarian on the grounds at your cost, call your veterinarian at your cost or remove your animal from the fair.
9. All exhibitors must be available for housekeeping duties throughout the Fair. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to clean pens, and to water and feed their animals before 10:00 am when the fair opens to the public. **ALL ANIMALS MUST HAVE CLEAN FRESH WATER AVAILABLE TO THEM AT ALL TIMES!**
10. Animals showing current signs of a contagious, infectious disease, pronounced defect or abnormalities, or abnormal abscesses will not be allowed on the fairgrounds. Any lump that is found losing hair on a goat must be removed from the fairgrounds immediately. Other lumps are up to the discretion of the Meat Goat Committee backed by the Maryland State Veterinarian.
11. Drenching is not permitted the Carroll County 4-H & FFA fair at any time except if it is authorized by a veterinarian AND supervised by one of the Superintendents of the department.

12. The 4-H and FFA show ring code of ethics requires that only humane management, fitting, showing, and handling practices are acceptable. No topical products of any kind may be used such as, but not limited too Cool pack covers and cool towels, adhesives, conditioners, icing, ramping, slapping, punching/inhumane treatment, or use of alcohol products are PROHIBITED. NO ARTIFICIAL COLORING MAY BE USED ON ANY PART OF THE ANIMAL.
13. Goats must be shown with a collar. No pronged collars will be allowed. Leather goat show halters are acceptable
14. Meat Goats are to be walked in the Meat Goat area of the barn only.
15. The Meat Goat Committee reserves the right to reject any goat entered in our shows.

MARKET GOATS

1. All market goats must be owned by May 1, 2026. Exhibitors may identify six animals – only three may be exhibited.
2. Due to space limitations, each exhibitor will have only one pen for their market goat projects, siblings or goats that are housed together may be penned together.
3. All horns must be tipped/rounded or removed. Horns will be inspected by a committee member at the fair weigh-in.
4. All male market animals must show signs of castration before tagging date.
5. All 4-H meat goats must be positively identified as project animals. Scrapie ID tags are required.
6. Both wethers (neutered males) and does may be shown in the Market Goat classes. No intact males will be allowed in any market class.
7. All market goats must be weaned at least two weeks prior to the start of the Carroll County 4-H & FFA fair.
8. The Grand Champion Market Goat MUST sell at the Livestock Sale.
9. Market project animals will be mouth checked at tagging for the presence of milk teeth. Goats showing eruption of either or both of the first pair of permanent teeth will not be tagged; mouths will be re-checked at fair weigh-in. Any goats showing either or both of the first pair of permanent teeth will not be shown.
10. Market Goats must have a Rate of Gain of .20 pounds per day and weigh 65 pounds or more to be eligible for the Market Goat Show and Livestock Sale.
11. Market Goat exhibitors should be present at the time of fair weigh-in. Market goats must be completely dry going across the scale. No leg wraps or blankets will be permitted during the weigh-ins. Any metal halters or chains will be removed before the market goat goes on the scale. Each market goat will be weighed only one time. No re-weighs will be permitted. Animals will be placed in weight classes following weigh-in at the fair.
12. There will be three (3) weight division champions and reserve champions selected during the show that will compete for the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Market Goat at the completion of the individual classes. The weight divisions will be as follows: light-weight market goat, medium-weight market goat, and heavy-weight market goat.
13. The Meat Goat Committee may disqualify any animal that has not been properly cared for.
14. Market goats will be divided into classes by weight, not breed. All breeds will be shown together.
15. Upon arrival all market goats (wethers and does) must be clipped (less than 3/8" hair above knees and hocks, excluding tail switch). **This must be done prior to arriving at the fairgrounds.**

16. Only ONE animal may be exhibited in the bred and owned classes. Embryo transplanted animals will be considered bred and owned only when the **exhibitor owns both the donor dam and the recipient dam prior to conception**. If the conception was natural or artificially inseminated, the exhibitor must own the dam prior to conception.
17. During the show, goats must have all four feet firmly on the ground when being braced. The front legs may be picked up for the purpose of setting the feet but must be immediately set back down. When the judge is handling the goat, the goat's hooves must be placed on the ground.
18. All nominated meat goats must be processor ready at the time of the sale. Meat goats being sold must be past a medication withdrawal date should that animal have been treated with medications. Meat goats will not be sold prior to a medication withdrawal and held for a later processing date.

MEAT BREEDING GOATS

1. All registered breeding goats must be permanently identified by a registration tattoo or microchip (exhibitor to provide microchip reader). A corresponding original registration paper/certificate must match the visible tattoo number or microchip number at the time of exhibition. All goats with incorrect identification will be automatically moved to the age-appropriate commercial classes. If a microchip reader is not provided or does not function properly, the goat will be automatically moved to the appropriate commercial class. Tattoo and microchip verification can occur at any time upon the request of the goat committee.
2. Non-registered (commercial) breeding animals must be tagged at market animal tagging **as a commercial breeding project** and have a scrapie tag.
3. Exhibitors may enter no more than two animals per breeding class.
4. Horns must be tipped/rounded and will be inspected by a committee member.
5. Breeding animal classes are for does and bucks. Animals shown in the breeding classes must be owned prior to June 10, 2026.
6. Does may be shown in either the breeding or market goat classes, but not both.
7. Only one animal per exhibitor may be shown in the bred and owned division. Embryo transplanted animals will be considered bred and owned only when the **exhibitor owns both the donor dam AND the recipient dam prior to conception/transplantation**. If the conception was natural or artificially inseminated, the exhibitor must own the dam prior to conception. Registered Breeding Papers: THE EXHIBITOR MUST BE LISTED AS THE BREEDER.
8. Dam and Daughter: The daughter (doe) must be the offspring from the biological dam. **Both must be shown together in the class.**
9. During the show, goats must have all four feet firmly on the ground when being braced. The front legs may be picked up for the purpose of setting the feet but must be immediately set back down. When the judge is handling the goat, the goat's hooves must be placed on the ground.
10. COPIES OF REGISTERED BREEDING PAPERS MUST BE MAILED TO SHANNON HAINES, 3106 ADAMS DR, HAMPSTEAD, MD 21074, AND BE RECEIVED BY: July 20, 2026. **DO NOT MAIL ORIGINALS.**

MEAT GOAT SHOWMANSHIP REGULATIONS

1. Participation in fitting and showing is **MANDATORY** for all exhibitors showing a market goat, except for previous champions/champion challenge. If an exhibitor only shows a breeding animal it is up to the discretion of the exhibitor however, due to space limitation it **MUST BE** approved by the superintendent. If using a breeding doe, the doe must be **UNDER THE AGE OF ONE YEARS OLD** and will be mouth-checked by a Meat Goat Committee member before the showmanship show to ensure the presence of milk teeth. Goats showing eruption of either or both the first pair of permanent teeth will not be allowed to show in the showmanship show. No intact males will be allowed in any fitting and showing class.
2. Market Goats that meet the market show requirements must be used in showmanship unless it is the exhibitor's only market goat and it did **NOT** meet the market show requirements, that market goat can be used in showmanship.
3. All exhibitors in showmanship and champion/champion challenge must use their own animals.
4. There is no novice class. Exhibitors will show within their 4-H age division. There are no clover classes.
5. During the show, goats must have all four feet firmly on the ground when being braced. The front legs may be picked up for the purpose of setting the feet but must be immediately set back down.

PREMIUMS:

Market, Breeding and Commercial Breeding Divisions -1st - \$10, 2nd - \$9; 3rd - \$8; 4th -\$7; 5th - \$6.50; all below - \$6
Showmanship - \$5

Rate of Gain will be paid on market goats achieving:

Blue Award - \$3 (.35 lb. per day and above); Red Award - \$2 (.25 - .34 lb. per day); White Award - \$1 (.05 - .24 lb. per day)

Sections:

1. Showmanship
2. Breeding
3. Market
4. Rate of Gain

Classes – Meat Goat Showmanship:

1. Senior Showmanship (Exhibitors Ages 14-18)
2. Champion Senior Showmanship
3. Reserve Champion Senior Showmanship
4. Intermediate Showmanship (Exhibitors Ages 11-13)
5. Champion Intermediate Showmanship
6. Reserve Champion Intermediate Showmanship
7. Junior Showmanship (Exhibitors Ages 8-10)
8. Champion Junior Showmanship
9. Reserve Champion Junior Showmanship
10. Grand Champion Showmanship (Selected from winners of classes 2, 5, & 8)
11. Reserve Champion Showmanship
12. Champion Challenge - Open to previous & current year's Grand Champion Showmanship winners at the Carroll Co. 4-H/FFA Fair who are currently enrolled in 4-H or FFA and currently exhibiting at the Carroll Co. 4-H&FFA Fair.

Classes – Breeding:

Commercial Does

1. Junior Doe Kid under 3 months
2. Junior Doe Kid 3 to under 6 months
3. Junior Doe Kid 6 to under 9 months
4. Junior Doe Kid 9 to under 12 months
5. Junior Division Champion Doe (Rosette/ Fair Use Only)
6. Junior Division Reserve Champion Doe (Rosette/Fair Use Only)
7. Yearling Doe 12 to 16 months
8. Yearling Doe 16 to under 20 months
9. Yearling Doe 20 to under 24 months
10. Yearling Doe Division Champion (Rosette/ Fair Use Only)
11. Yearling Doe Division Reserve Champion (Rosette Fair Use Only)
12. Senior Two-Year-Old Does 24 to under 36 months
13. Senior Aged Does 36 Plus months
14. Senior Division Champion (Rosette/Fair Use Only)
15. Senior Division Reserve Champion (Rosette/Fair Use Only)
16. Grand Champion Commercial Doe (Rosette/Fair Use Only)
17. Reserve Champion Commercial Doe (Rosette/ Fair Use Only)
18. Bred and Owned Commercial Doe
19. Commercial Dam and Daughter

Commercial Junior Bucks

1. Junior Buck Kid 3 months
2. Junior Buck Kid 3 to under 6 months
3. Junior Buck Kid 6 to under 9 months
4. Junior Buck Kid 9 to under 12 months
5. Grand Champion Commercial Buck (Rosette/ Fair Use Only)
6. Reserve Champion Commercial Buck (Rosette/Fair Use Only)
7. Bred and Owned Commercial Buck

Registered Does

1. Junior Doe Kid under 3 months
2. Junior Doe Kid 3 to under 6 months
3. Junior Doe Kid 6 to under 9 months
4. Junior Doe Kid 9 to under 12 months
5. Junior Division Champion Doe (Rosette/ Fair Use Only)
6. Junior Division Reserve Champion Doe (Rosette/Fair Use Only)
7. Yearling Doe 12 to 16 months
8. Yearling Doe 16 to under 20 months
9. Yearling Doe 20 to under 24 months
10. Yearling Doe Division Champion (Rosette/ Fair Use Only)
11. Yearling Doe Division Reserve Champion (Rosette Fair Use Only)
12. Senior Two-Year-Old Does 24 to under 36 months
13. Senior Aged Does 36 Plus months
14. Senior Division Champion (Rosette/Fair Use Only)
15. Senior Division Reserve Champion (Rosette/Fair Use Only)
16. Grand Champion Registered Doe (Rosette/Fair Use Only)
17. Reserve Champion Registered Doe (Rosette/ Fair Use Only)
18. Bred and Owned Registered Doe
19. Dam and Daughter

Registered Junior Bucks

1. Junior Buck Kid 3 months
2. Junior Buck Kid 3 to under 6 months
3. Junior Buck Kid 6 to under 9 months
4. Junior Buck Kid 9 to under 12 months
5. Grand Champion Registered Buck (Rosette/ Fair Use Only)
6. Reserve Champion Registered Buck (Rosette/Fair Use Only)
7. Bred and Owned Registered Buck

Supreme Doe and Buck

1. Supreme Doe
2. Supreme Buck

Classes - Market Goat:

100 – Individual Market Goat (this will be the class used to sign up all Individual Market Goats)

1. Light Weight Market Goat
2. Champion Light Weight
3. Reserve Champion Light Weight
4. Medium Weight Market Goat
5. Champion Medium Weight
6. Reserve Champion Medium Weight
7. Heavy Weight Market Goat
8. Champion Heavy Weight
9. Reserve Champion Heavy Weight
10. Grand Champion Market Goat
11. Reserve Grand Champion Market Goat
12. 3rd Overall Market Goat
13. 4th Overall Market Goat
14. 5th Overall Market Goat
15. Bred & Owned Market Goat

Classes – Market Goat Rate of Gain

1. Rate of Gain
2. Champion Rate of Gain