



## 2025 Dairy Goat information sheet

Prepared by the 4-H State Fair dairy goat Show Committee and the Department of Youth Development

This information sheet gives details on the rules for this year's Minnesota 4-H Dairy Goat Project. Although some counties may follow slightly different guidelines, these rules will apply at the state level and at the Minnesota State Fair 4-H Show.

**Notice: Dairy goats do not need to be ID'd prior to first freshening. Dairy goats can be identified for the first time at any age.**

**Animal ID deadline for 2025 - May 15, 2025 for breeding beef, dairy, dairy goat, dog, horse, llama - alpaca, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep and swine. Contact [your local 4-H office](#) for more information.**

### Ownership Requirements

Ownership Requirements for All Animal Science Projects are uniform for 4-H Beef, Cats/Pets, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Dog, Horse, Llama - Alpaca, Meat Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep and Swine Projects. Animals must be owned solely by the 4-H'er or the 4-H'ers family. The family includes the 4-H'ers parents/guardians and siblings living together as a family unit. The definition of family includes an extended family where the animal may be owned by grandparents as long as the 4-H'ers parents are actively involved with and working on the farm. Animals owned in partnership with non-family members (as defined above) must be leased and follow lease guidelines. All information must be submitted by May 15 with 4-H Online data (Market Beef and Dairy Steer information must be submitted by February 18). Market animals (with the exception of prospect calves) cannot be leased.

#### All Animal Ownership and Identification Deadlines:

- February 18: Market beef (beef steers, market heifers and dairy steers).
- May 15: Breeding beef, dairy, dairy goats, dog, horse, llama - alpaca, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, swine. Fryer rabbits (should be 70 days old at show) 4-H'er must own the doe of fryer rabbits and doe must be identified by May 15.
- NOTE: Families will not be able to self-identify the following project animals after May 15 in 4-H Online. To meet the ID deadline for the following animals, a paper copy of the Dairy, Dairy Goat, and/or Meat Goat ID Worksheet must be submitted to your local county Extension Office no later than the set deadline:
  - June 1: Jr. meat goat doe kids
  - June 1: Dairy spring calves
  - July 1: Jr. doe kid dairy goats

### Ownership Clarifications

#### Leasing program

- Dairy goats are eligible to be leased.
- Leased animals must follow the guidelines in the Minnesota 4-H Animal Science Lease Program Fact Sheet. All ID information and the Minnesota 4-H Animal Science Lease Information Form must be submitted by May 15 with 4-H Online data.
- Registration papers on leased animals may be in the animal owner's name.

- The same animal cannot be identified/leased by more than one 4-H family unit.

## Minnesota Board of Animal Health requirements for exhibitions, county and state fairs

### Birthdates

Junior Kid Doe	April 1 – June 30, 2025
Senior Kid Doe	January 1 – March 31, 2025
Dry Yearling Doe (never kidded)	January 1 – December 31, 2024
Milking Yearling Doe	January 1 – December 31, 2024
Milking Two Year Old Doe	January 1 – December 31, 2023
Milking Doe - 3 Years and under 5 Years	born in 2021 or 2022
Milking Doe - 5 Years and older	born before 2021

### Breeds - registered and grades

The following breeds are eligible to compete in the Minnesota State Fair 4-H dairy goat Show:

Alpine	Nubian	Toggenburg
Golden Guernsey	Oberhasli	Recorded Grades
Lamancha	Saanen	Unrecorded Grades
Nigerian Dwarfs	Sables	

**Unrecorded grades are limited to the nine recognized ADGA breeds or any combination thereof.**

**No meat breeding allowed.**

### Identification details, forms and deadlines

- Also refer to [your county ID letter and online](https://z.umn.edu/mn4hanimalID) (z.umn.edu/mn4hanimalID).
- A unique animal ID number is required to be tattooed into animals' left ear or tail web. The 2025 American Dairy Goat Association preferred letter will be "T".
- An American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA) or American Goat Society (AGS) assigned herd tattoo OR Board of Animal Health (BAH) assigned scrapie tattoo is required to be tattooed into animals' right ear or tail web (Note: While tattoos or tags are acceptable, Minnesota 4-H State Fair Show Committee prefers tattoos because tags are more susceptible to chewing and eventual loss).
  - ADGA or AGS registration certificate, or a stamped duplicate of the registration application, is required at the time of verification. Stamped duplicates must include the animal's registration number.
  - If the animal is not registered with a breed association, documentation of a BAH-assigned scrapie tattoo is required at the time of verification.
- For information or questions about the USDA scrapie identification program, contact the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) (651-201-6809).
- Minnesota 4-H dairy goat ID data must be entered online by May 15 or the ID data worksheet submitted to your county extension office by May 15.
- If an animal is leased, the Minnesota 4-H Animal Science Lease Information Form must be completed then uploaded and/or submitted to your county extension office by May 15.
- For dairy goat junior doe kids born after May 15th, families will need to submit a [Dairy Goat ID worksheet](#) to your local county Extension Office by July 1.
- Minnesota 4-H requires visible ID (tags, tattoos, notches, and/or pictures (dog, horse, llama-alpaca) according to each species requirements). Minnesota 4-H does not accept microchips as a form of ID.

## Registration papers

If you are exhibiting in a registered breed class at the Minnesota State Fair, you must present the registration certificate or stamped duplicate of application at verification on Thursday. Photocopies of official registration certificates are acceptable.

## State Fair grooming rules

- **All grooming** of livestock at the fair, including clipping, trimming and manipulation of the hair/wool (such as blocking on sheep, pulling up hair on beef and working up top lines on dairy) must be clearly done by the exhibitor, members of the immediate family or any other registered Minnesota 4-H member. Immediate family members are defined as being parents, step parents, legal guardians, grandparents, brothers or sisters. The 4-H'er exhibiting the animal should be present and involved in the fitting process at the fair. (Note: County level 4-H exhibitions may have adaptations to this rule. Check with your local Extension Educator for county level grooming rules).
- All animals must be fitted and completely clipped for the show. Clean the ears, nose, tail and around the mouth.
- Clip your dairy goat all over before showing. The number of days before a show that an animal should be clipped varies with each breed and color. It may be as much as one week to as little as 12 hours before. (Clip shown in Goat 1, pg. 29).
- Trim the feet a week before the show, so if they are trimmed too short they will be okay by show day.
- **No muzzles are allowed.**

## Other information

- For safety reasons, all dairy goats must be disbudded/de-horned. Re-growth of less than ONE INCH allowed.
- For state fair herdsmanship, plywood or hay bale storage bags from a farm store will greatly help herdsmanship.
- Milking stands are available (sanitation at stands) for everyone's use at the Minnesota State Fair.
- **4-H'ers are responsible for all chores Wednesday evening-Sunday check out of State Fair Livestock Encampment.**
- **Dairy Goat Showmanship is required for all exhibitors. Failure to participate in showmanship will result in the exhibitor being ineligible for champion awards in breed classes.**
- **Showmanship will be prior to breed classes.**
- **The 4-H Dairy Goat Show will continue the numerical ribbon system for State Fair 4-H Dairy Goat Show. A numerical ribbon system (1<sup>st</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> place) will be used for all classes in all 4-H Dairy Goat Show. (This replaces the blue, red & white ribbon system).**
- **State Fair pen size is 5 feet wide by 6 feet long. Corner to corner diagonal is 8 feet.**
  - If you need a divider for your county please bring one with you. None will be provided.
- **Please put waste water in the tank outside the North door - it's marked.**
- **No companion animals allowed including buddies, nursing kids, etc.**