COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
LARIMER COUNTY EXTENSION

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December 1, 2025

2026 Market/Breeding Meat Goat Project Information

This letter contains the highlights of the Meat Goat Project guidelines. Once the Fair Book & schedule are posted online, each member and leader is responsible for reading, understanding and abiding by all rules and regulations. 4-H and Open Class | The Ranch, Larimer County Fairgrounds & Events Complex (treventscomplex.com).

From: 4-H Youth Development/Livestock Agent
To: 4-H Market Goat Members and Leaders

Key Leaders: Shannon Shreve, Dale Brown, and Josh Ryan

4-H Project Completion Requirements

To complete the Meat Goat project, members must meet these minimum requirements. Please be aware that some clubs may have additional requirements.

- Participate in a 4-H related (subject matter or audience) demonstration or other speech presentation.
- Participate in a 4-H sponsored community service activity.
- Complete county level requirements such as a record book, Club meeting attendance, etc.

Premises ID

Same as previous year: All animals are REQUIRED to have a valid Premises ID prior to the fair entry date of July 8th, in order to show at the Larimer County Fair. This does apply to breeding animals. In the instance that a family needs to move an animal from the premise ID that is on file to an alternative premise, the Extension Office must be notified immediately and the new premises ID needs to be recorded. Members who house their animals at the same location will share a premises ID. If you have a lease animal please check with the land owner, stable, dairy, etc. to see if a Premise ID or Federal Identification has been established.

Did you show an animal at the Larimer County Fair in a previous year? Do you still keep animals at that same location? If yes, this means that you already have a Premises ID number and do not need to reapply for one unless you are housing your animal at a different location. If you don't remember your number, you can call the number below and they can provide it to you or you can contact the Extension Office for your number. If you did not show an animal last year, you will need to obtain a Premises ID. It's easy (and free) to obtain a Premises ID. Your fair entries will not be approved until your Premises ID is uploaded to 4-HOnline. You may need to call the Extension Office for assistance if you have already completed your enrollment. You can register by calling 303-869-9130 or go to: https://ag.colorado.gov/animals/colorado-location-identification-lid-registration-premises

Animal Care and Housing Form

This form is intended for any members participating in the Livestock or Horse Projects that keep an animal at a location other than the address documented on 4-HOnline. This includes any location where the animal may reside for an extended period of time. This form needs to be uploaded under "other documents" to 4-HOnline and a hardcopy must be turned into the Extension Office. Microsoft Word - AnimalCareForm.doc (colostate.edu).

Meat Quality Assurance Program

1. **Meat Quality Assurance Program** (MQA) - 4-H members must have completed the Meat Quality Assurance Program requirements to exhibit at the Larimer County Fair and participate in the Jr. Livestock Sale. MQA requirements and other available training dates are listed in the Clover Connection.
2. **Wholesome Meat Animal Assurance Program** - All market animals consigned to the Junior Livestock Sale may be screened for illegal use of drugs or chemicals. Anyone found guilty of illegal drug or chemical use will be barred from future Larimer County Fairs. All 4-H members with meat animals are required, along with a parent/guardian, to sign a "Certificate and Statement of Disclosure" assuring the animals have not received illegal drugs or chemicals. The statements must be turned in at the County Fair weigh in. (purple sheet)
   We encourage you to keep your animals as free as possible of any and all drugs, exhibitors should consult their local veterinarian for any questions regarding this. If you use any drugs or feed containing antibiotics, be sure to follow the correct withdrawal times. If your animal becomes sick prior to the Fair and you must use antibiotics, please notify the Sale Committee or the Extension Office. Be sure to put this information on the "Certificate and Statement of Disclosure" form. Also, be sure to list all vaccines, antibiotics, insecticides, and feed additives given to your project animal and date administered.

   All animals must be outside the withdrawal period before participating in the Junior Livestock Sale.

Tentative Meat Goat Workshop Schedule

Subject in workshops below is tentative, information may change based upon audience needs or current events.Workshops following the orientation will have a showmanship component where kids are welcome to bring their animal to practice with.

- January 16th& 17th -Market & Breeding Goat Show (National Western Stock Show, refer to the NWSS website for more details)
- February 21st, 9:00-3:00 pm- Livestock Field Day & MQA (McKee Building)
    - Schedule for event will follow (check your email)
- February 25th, 6:30-8:00 pm- Sheep & Goat Orientation (McKee Building)
- April 15th 6:30-8:00 pm- Growing and Feeding Your Animal (Origin Arena)
- May 15th, 4:00 – 7:00 pm- MQA (McKee Building)
- May 27nd, 6:00 – 8:00 pm- Showmanship (Origin Arena)
- June 10th& 11th- Sheep & Goat Camp (Origin Arena)
- June 24th, 5:00 – 8:00pm- Showmanship (Origin Arena).
- July 8th, 4pm-7pm, Round Robin Workshop (All Species Invited), Origin Arena

Round Robin Clinic

This year there will not be a Round Robin Clinic during the county fair but rather a social for the members that have qualified for the Round Robin. This is an opportunity to get information from fellow showmen about the animal they qualified with. A Round Robin Clinic will be hosted on July 8th in the 4-H Community building from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. This will be an opportunity for all members to gain hands-on experience and learn more about each of the species.

Sheep/Goat Camp

Sheep/Goat Camp is planned for **June 10th and 11th** at The Ranch. Please watch your email for more details closer to the event.

USDA's Scrapie Eradication Program

The USDA's Scrapie Eradication Program will be enforced at the Larimer County Fair. This regulation requires goats to have Scrapie ID (flock ID) ear tags that list their flock of origin. Animals required to have Scrapie tags are:
Goats: All breeding, meat & market goats regardless of age.
Exception: Registered goats (meat and dairy) may use legible tattoos with Breed Registration Numbers (in place of Scrapie tags). Registration papers must be provided for verification. Illegible tattoos must be replaced with a USDA Scrapie ID tag. A purchased animal should have the seller's Scrapie tag. An animal you raised should have your Scrapie tag. Tags can be requested by calling USDA at (866) 873-2824.
Larimer County 4-H prefers that you place all Scrapie ID tags in the animal's left ear.

Tentative 2026 Goat Weigh Day

All prospective market goats must be weighed and tagged to show at the Larimer County Fair.

- **When:** Wednesday, May 6, 2026
- **Time:** 4:00pm-7:00pm
- **Where:** Origin Arena, The Ranch in Loveland
- **Cost:** $5.00 /animal for ear tags and other expenses
- **Number of Goats:** Each member may weigh up to 5 market goats and may show up to 3 market goats at the County Fair
- **Special Notes:**
    - Goat horns must be removed or tipped not to exceed 4 inches in length (Market only).
    - Males need to have been banded prior to tag-in (recommended)
    - Goats will be weighed only one time.
    - *Neither Larimer County Extension Office nor The Ranch staff nor the volunteers/4-H youth helping process animals can be held responsible for any injuries to the livestock*

Animal information for all breeding & market goats will also need to be uploaded in the Animal ID section of the enrollment system by May 31, 2026. Both profile pictures and picture of the ear with a tag in it must be uploaded.

Record Books

For this 4-H year, record book checks will take place before the County Fair. Families can choose between four different dates (in July) and two different locations (The Ranch or ARDEC) for the record book checks. In order to show at Fair, members will be required to sign up for a time on one of the dates and complete a record book interview. Members must have their record book up-to-date by the time of the interview. In the event a member fails to have a complete record book they will have until 4p.m. Monday, July 20th to make changes. In the event a member is not able to make any of the record book check dates, families can make an appointment with me by July 1 to set an alternate date for the record book check. Please note that if an exhibitor fails to schedule an appointment with the office and does not attend one of the record book checks, they will forfeit their livestock and equine entries for the Larimer County Fair.

We are implementing this change to the record book process for a few reasons. First, it will allow record book reviewers an opportunity to complete a more thorough and consistent assessment of the record books to verify that they meet expectations. Record book reviewers will be able to interact more with the youth member by discussing their project, which can hopefully reinforce or add to lessons learned by the member. In addition, we have had some instances over the years in which members are informed at Fair that their record book is incomplete and that they are therefore not eligible to show their animal, leading to significant stress and frustration for all involved. Checking record books in advance means that members will know well ahead of Fair if they meet 4-H requirements to show their animal and can plan accordingly. This model of checking record books in advance has been used for some time in Weld County and has been successful.

Below are the dates and times for the record book checks. A sign-up list will be sent out this spring for families to register for a location, time slot, and date.

Record Book Dates and Times

1. July 7th, McKee Building-4p.m. to 7p.m.
2. July 9th, CoBank Center at ARDEC- 4p.m. to 7p.m.
3. July 14th, CoBank Center at ARDEC-4p.m. to 7p.m.
4. July 16th, McKee Building-4p.m. to 7p.m.

If a member wants to enter their project record book in the Record Book Contest, books must be turned in to the club/project leader and delivered to the Extension Office by 4:00 p.m. September 15, 2026. Individual Clubs will have a deadline for members to turn in record books.

Tentative County Fair & Jr. Livestock Sale Information

Livestock Sale Pictures

Animals that are nominated for the sale must have an official photograph taken with their animal. Members who do not have pictures taken will not be allowed to sell an animal. Pictures will be taken following the market classes. The Champion and Reserve Champion market animals are required to sell in the Junior Livestock Sale. More information regarding the time of photos during or after the show will be provided the closer we get to the County Fair.

Nomination Cards

Members must turn in a nomination card following the show in which the animal was exhibited. If a member chooses to replace an animal that has previously been nominated they will need to submit a new nomination card and replace it with the previous card that had been submitted. For example, John has a market lamb, pig and steer. If he submitted a nomination card for the lamb but decided he would rather sell the steer, he will need to submit a new nomination card and ask for the previously submitted lamb nomination card to be returned to him. If Susan has a market goat and market lamb, and submits a nomination card following the goat show, then decides after the market lamb show she wants to keep her goat nominated for the sale she **doesn't** submit anything for her lambs. The Champion and Reserve Champion market animals are required to sell in the Junior Livestock Sale. **All animals nominated for the Larimer County Junior Livestock Sale must remain on grounds.**

Animal Release

Members who are wanting to take their animals home following the show will be able to do so. **Animals that are nominated for the Larimer County Junior Livestock Sale must remain on grounds.** There will be a period designated for animals to be released (refer to the Fair schedule when it comes out for these times). Species are not required to leave following their show, they can be released at any of the designated release times. For example, John shows goats and hogs. He keeps his goats on the grounds until his hogs show, both species can be released during the release time following the hog show. In order for livestock to be released, they will need to go to the species superintendents. The Agent or a member of the show committee will be in the office if a superintendent can't be found.

Market Show and Sale Weights

Goats:

- Minimum Weight: 55 lbs.
- Maximum weight: 120 lbs.
- There will be no feeder or overweight classes at the fair.

Market Does will have their own division at the Larimer County Fair.

Market Goats must be carrying all milk teeth in normal positions. Goats showing either or both of the first pair of permanent incisors will be disqualified. Members of the Show Management Committee & Superintendents retain the right to check teeth on Market Goats prior to being weighed.

Rate of Gain Contest (Market Does and Wethers)

Your animal's weight at weigh day will serve as the beginning weight, and the final weight will

be taken at Fair weigh in. An average rate of gain will be computed for all market goats showing at Fair. Under and overweight animals are not eligible for the Rate of Gain contest. Animals will automatically be entered into this contest.

Round Robin
Round Robin- Qualifiers must show the animal they qualified with.

Carcass Ultrasound Contest
We will once again have a carcass contest at the Larimer County Fair. Plans are to use ultrasound on Market Goats. This will be an optional contest, which will cost $10/animal to enter (in addition to traditional fair entry fees). Entry is due at the same time as the Fair entry deadline (July 8). Sheep, goats, and swine will all have a designated species time during the day of Saturday, August 1.

Premier Exhibitor Contest – Test & ID TBD

1. Exhibitors may have breeding or market projects or both. All ages will compete together within each specie. Exhibitors are allowed to enter the Premier Exhibitor Contest in as many species as they are enrolled in. One winner per species will be awarded.
2. Exhibitors must pre-enter this contest along with their regular fair entries.
3. More information will follow regarding the scoring of this contest.

Awards Winners will be announced after the Round Robin Awards presentation.

2026 Breeding Goats

- This will be a wether dam show for goats under 12 months of age, which means does will show by weight
- Goats 12 to 24 months of age will be grouped together as one class

Tentative County Fair Market/Breeding Goat Show Schedule

Market Goat Set-up
Wednesday, July 29th, 5:00-8:00pm

Check-in / Weigh-in Market Goats Check-in Breeding Meat Goats
Thursday, July 30th 7:00am-9:00am

Market Goat Show, Breeding Show, and Showmanship
Friday, July 31st 12:00pm-4:30pm

Carcass Ultrasound (all species)
Saturday, August 1st 11:00am-1:00pm

State Fair Information

State Fair Nomination Forms will be available at the check-out table on May 6.
A nomination card must be filled out for all goats you may want to show at the Colorado State Fair. Completed nomination cards signed by the exhibitor are due in the Extension Office by **May 25**. 4-H members must have a Premises ID number on their nomination card when entering for the State Fair. **All state fair entries must submit DNA samples. They will need to work directly with the state fair personnel to do this. DNA will be sent directly from the member to the Colorado State Fair Livestock Office.**

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