



Minnesota State Fair: 4-H wether dam

Better understand the difference between the wether dam and breeding doe classes to exhibit at the Minnesota 4-H State Fair Meat Goat Show.

Wether dam

The Wether Dam class is a breeding doe class specifically for goats that, based on their genetics, muscling, and phenotype, are designed to produce market goats for show, also termed "club goats." Wether dams may be registered or commercial, but registration papers are not required.

- Production traits of structure, muscle, and ability to produce market goat progeny will be prioritized by the market goat judge at the MN State Fair 4-H Meat Goat Show.
- Exhibited fitted or slick-shorn.
- **Bracing will be allowed** during showmanship and during the show. Wether dams will compete in Market Goat Showmanship with the market wethers and market does.
- The division has its own champions/reserves, separate from the breeding doe division.
- Class is not terminal and not eligible for the MLBA 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction.

Breeding doe

The Breeding Doe class is for registered and non-registered, production type does that, based on their genetics and body type, are designed to produce breeding type goats with maternal traits as well as feedlot goats. Breeding does may be crossbred or grade (non-registered), purebred, or registered with a breed association.

- Production traits of structure, growth, volume, and maternal quality will be prioritized.
- Showmanship style is typically shown off a chain collar or halter and **bracing is not allowed** in showmanship or during the show. Breeding Showmanship is separate from Market Goat Showmanship.
- The division has its own champions/reserves, separate from the Wether Dam division.

The advisory committee inspects goats at check-in and may advise the most appropriate division based on the animal's characteristics. But it is the exhibitor's decision. Any class changes must be made before the end of the check-in/verification process at the state fair.