

Ingham County 4-H



Goat Project Handbook

REVISED AUGUST 18, 2016



The Goat Project Show Ring Dress Code

If you are showing a Dairy Goat...

- White pants and white shirt

If you are showing a meat type breeding animal, market wether or a pygmy goat...

- Black pants with a white shirt

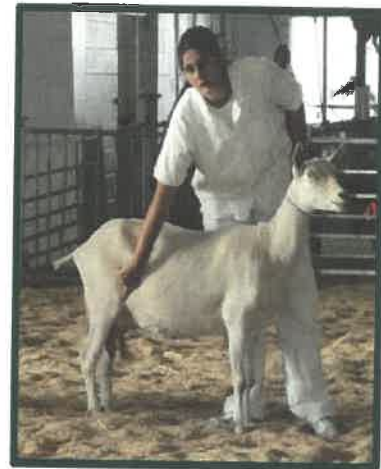
If you are showing both types of goats...

- Wear dairy white
- No sandals, closed toed shoes or boots only
- No excess jewelry
- Keep long hair pulled back
- No tank tops, bare midriffs or shorts
- No club names/advertising in show/auction ring



The object of a show person is to make the animal appear the best it can while drawing as little attention to themselves as possible. Therefore, do not stare at the judge or over show the animal, unduly fuss with the animal, unduly maneuver the animal, or place yourself between the judge and the animal. Avoid exaggerated positions such as crossing behind the goat, stepping over the goat, or behind the back changing of lead hands. Maintain a distance from the other animals in the ring. Avoid overcrowding. If your goat misbehaves, be gentle, pull your collar up higher under the ears and keep working with it. Smile at the judge. Be courteous to the other showman in the ring. **And be sure to thank the judge after the show!**

**Originally prepared by Rusty Plummer and revised by the Goat Council Committee 2009*



Wash your animal; dirt easily dulls your clipper blades. Make sure your animal is properly restrained (i.e. milk stand or clipping stand). Don't feed grain to get them to stand still... you could easily put them into overeating disease. Get help, having someone else there to help you restrain the animal will be safer than trying it all by yourself.

Guidelines for Preparing Dairy Goats for the Ring

Clipping: Sunbeam, Oster, and Wahl clippers all have easily read numbers on the back of their blades. When using an adjustable clipper, use the setting that will leave the longest hair.

Use a #10 blade on the body of the goat, belly, feet and legs. Clip against the grain of the hair. Do the sides, belly and back first (all the large areas) and don't forget the arm pits and leg pits. Make sure that the hair is neatly clipped where the feet and leg join (even in between the hooves. Clip the tail but leave a 2" "poof" on the end.

Neck, head, and ears need to be trimmed, make sure to get ALL the hair out of the ears. On wethers or intact males blend the hair at the jawline, but leave the facial hair on the animal.

Dark brown and/or black animals will need to be clipped about a week before the fair. Lighter or white animals can be clipped just before the fair. This helps to eliminate that chopped up look.

Milkers need to have their udders clipped with a number#30 blade or a #40 blade to eliminate long hair. This is easily done if they are full of milk. Udders that have been milked out are harder to clip.

Additionally: Removing any skurs at this time gives a neater appearance to your animal. Trim the hooves prior to the show day to prevent lameness.

**Originally prepared by Jan Kelley and revised by the Goat Council Committee 2009*

See the Resource Pages of this handbook for additional resources on Showmanship, Preparing Goats for the Ring and more.

Guidelines for Preparing Pygmy and Meat Breeding Stock for the Ring

Clipping: The animal shall NOT be body clipped like a dairy animal or market wether. Long guard hair should be trimmed. The long hair on each side of the tail and the hair on the feet around the coronet band should be trimmed. The long hairs along the floor of the chest should be trimmed to match the rest of the hair in those areas. Long hairs around the throat and jaw should also be trimmed. Long hairs along the top of the neck and the back of the legs should be trimmed as well to give the animal a neat overall appearance while still giving the appearance of mass. The inside of the ears should be clipped to again give an overall neat and clean appearance. The hooves shall be trimmed and shaped to enable the animal to walk correctly and stand naturally.

Posing the Animal in the Ring: The animal should stand in a natural position with the front legs at a natural width and squarely beneath the withers. The hind legs should be a natural width, squarely beneath the animal, and placed even in the back with the pin bones. The handler shall stand or kneel on the side of the animal away from the judge and avoid at all times being between the judge and the animal.

**Originally prepared by Rusty Plummer and revised by the Goat Council Committee 2009*

Guidelines for Preparing Market Goats for the Ring

All market goats need to have a full body clip similar to dairy goats. This is so that the judge can effectively judge the animal for the market. See guidelines for dairy goats.

Reminder: Under the general rules of the fair book all goats must be properly fitted prior to check in on Sunday.