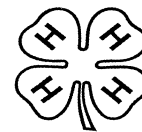


2025/2026 4-H MARKET LIVESTOCK GOAT PROJECT REQUIREMENTS



1. **Age Requirement:** The 4-H Member must have reached their **8th birthday by January 1, 2026** to sell a goat in the 2026 sale. A member may continue in the project as long as they are 4-H Eligible age. 4-H Eligible age is 5 to 19 as of January 1st of the current 4-H year. Members who are 4-H age but have graduated High School will only be allowed to sign up during Tier 3.
2. **Returning vs New Member:** A “Returning” Market Livestock Member is a 4-Her that has been enrolled at least one year in a market livestock project. A “New” Market Livestock Member is a 4-H’er enrolling in a market livestock project for their first year. All returning 4-Her’s must have achieved a grade of B or better on their most recent market animal notebook.
3. **Optional Additional Animal Registration:** Members may raise **one personal backup** or join a **backup pool** with others. A **\$5 fee per backup goat per member** is due by **4:00 p.m., June 1, 2026**. Pool backups must be listed on the “**Pool Backup Form**” with **photos, breed info, 4-H tags and Scrapies tags**. (Pool limit: **5 backups**) If a primary animal becomes unfit, a **written explanation to use a backup** must be submitted to the **MSU Extension Office by August 3rd**. **Using a backup goat without approval may lead to disqualification. (Example: Pool Backup has 3 goats—member would like to have access to all, would owe \$15 total). Do not register your primary animal for Oceana County as a primary animal for another county fair auction.**
4. **Backup Animal Notification Deadline:** The 4-H-er will have until August 3rd to notify the MSU Extension Office with a written explanation of why they will be bringing their backup animal. If notification is not made, the primary animal will be the one expected to come to fair. If a 4-H’er brings the backup animal without notification, in writing, to the fair they may be disqualified from exhibition and the 4-H Market Program. Requests made after this date will be addressed on a case by case basis.
5. **4-H Enrollment :** 4-H’ers must have completed the 4-H Enrollment through <https://v2.4honline.com/>
6. **Enrollment is first-come, first-served**, based on available space (max. 12 goats). **Applications available:** Oct. 22 – June 1, 2026 at the MSU Extension Office pending available space. I may submit my application at the MSUE Office, through mail, email at wassonj3@msu.edu or fax (873-3710) during the appropriate time. Please note that signing up at the MSUE Office potentially may take precedence over mail delivery, email printed, or fax received. **Online enrollment at mi.4honline.com must be completed** before submitting any project paperwork.

TIER 1 (Oct. 22–29): For members who completed the market goat project last year and met all requirements in the 4-H Automatic Enrollment Policy. Bring your **signed buyer’s receipt (2024/2025)** as proof of delivering your buyer’s picture and thank you for application to be accepted.
TIER 2 (Oct. 30–Nov. 5): For those who *did not make weight* but: Completed 6 club meetings, Received a B or better on their notebook, Received leader approval to stay in the same project area (*see Automatic Enrollment Policy – Additional Guidelines #4*).
TIER 3: For new members, high school graduates, or those who didn’t complete last year’s market goat project. Sign up: **Nov. 8, 8:30–8:45 a.m. only**, then resumes **Nov. 10–June 1, 2026** during normal business hours. **Only the 4-H-er, parent/guardian, or sibling** may submit the application on Nov. 8. A **waiting list** of at least 5 members will be accepted.
7. **Waiting List System:** If needed, a waiting list of at least 5 names will be taken. Those placed on the waiting list will be notified if a space should become available. If a member is notified of available space prior to the June 1st deadline for breed, picture and ear tag, they must submit this information on or before June 1st. If a member is notified after the June 1st deadline, they will have 2 weeks to submit breed, picture and ear tag numbers. There will be no filling of open spots after July 1st.
8. **Animal Housing:** The location of where the goat is housed must be recorded on your application form.
9. **Ear Tag Requirements/Deadlines:** All 4-H Market Livestock goat project animals will be required to have an Oceana County 4-H Ear Tag, and a Scrapies tag, **placed in their animal’s ear**. The 4-H tag will be provided to the leaders from the Extension Office. For those members registering additional animals, you will be required to get additional tags from the Extension Office (at \$5 per tag) prior to the June 1st deadline. Scrapies tags should be in your animal’s ear at the time of purchase. It is preferred to have the scrapies tag in one ear and the 4-H tag in the other. All ear tags, breeds and pictures must be turned into the Extension Office by **Monday, June 1, 2026**. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
10. **Lost/Fallen Out Ear Tags:** If ear tags are lost or fall out, the Extension Office must be notified at once. An Oceana County 4-H Ear Tag replacement tag will be issued from the MSU Extension Office. **If you need to get a new Scrapies tag you need to contact where you purchased your animal and then notify MSU Extension Office with the new number, no later than July 31st** in order to get their records updated. Any project animal coming to the fair without a 4-H ear tag and the required Scrapies tag will not be allowed to enter the barn.
11. **Picture & Breed Requirement:** All 4-H Goat project members raising goats will be required to submit a color picture of their animal (s) with a **visible ear tag (in the animals ear)** and animal breed by **Monday, June 1, 2026**. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

13. **Replacement Deadline:** If a goat dies or has a major issue on or before **July 1st**, members may request a replacement from the 4-H Market Livestock Committee by contacting the MSU Extension Office. Approval requires one of the following: Animal viewed by a **leader or Committee member**, or **Veterinarian's written explanation** of death/problem. **All replacement animal info** (photos, ear tags, breed) must be submitted to the Extension Office by **July 15, 2026**. **Failure to meet this deadline = disqualification** from the project. If raising additional **animals**, you may declare the use of a backup animal as your replacement.
14. **Selling in the Small Animal Auction:** A 4-H Market Livestock member will be permitted to participate in the 4-H Small Animal Auction in project areas that are not filled. Upon completion of the registration process for those 4-H members participating in 4-H Small Market, Large market members may sign up during April 1—8th, 2026 for projects that are not currently filled. All guidelines for these Small Market Project related to animal weights, breeds, non-club points, buyers names etc. will apply.
15. **Bucks/Castrated/Horned Animals:** No bucks will be allowed in the market project. Wether and doe goats must be under one year. Wethers must be castrated and fully healed. Goats that are not Boer or high percentage Boer crosses are required to be dehorned, and all are eligible for 4-H market classes. A wether is a completely castrated male. Animals with testicles, portions of testicles, or yearling teeth will be disqualified from the 4-H Market Livestock Goat program. Short scrotum, cryptorchid, or buck goats are not eligible as 4-H market goats.
16. **Notebook Requirements:** Each member must complete a **project notebook** documenting time and care spent with their animal. The notebook must include: **Table of contents** (in order), **appendices** for extra materials, a **mandatory "Journal of Care"** record. To qualify for next year's project, your notebook must earn a **"B" ribbon or better**. **Bring notebook at weigh-in**; failure to do so = **ineligible to sell** at the auction. Submit your notebook to the **4-H Exhibit Building by 5:00 p.m. on Entry Day**. **No edits** allowed after submission. If the fair is held virtually, notebooks must still be completed and submitted to your leader for **pass/fail** review.
17. **Potential Buyer's Names:** **Due Date:** Submit **in person** to the Extension Office **by Friday, July 31 at 4:00 p.m.** **Required Information for Each Buyer:** Full **mailing address** (with zip code), **Phone number**, **Email address** and **after-hours number** (if available). Lists **must be legible**, use the **provided sheet** (not one name per sheet), and include **3 different buyers per member**, not shared with siblings. Lists will be **stamped and initialed** by Extension staff upon submission. Incomplete lists will be returned for correction; failure to resubmit with complete info = **ineligible to sell**. Returned mail due to incorrect addresses is the 4-Her's responsibility (e.g., P.O. Box vs. street address). The Extension Office **will not** research new addresses—those buyers will be **removed from the list**.
18. **Goat Entry Day & Weigh-In:** **Weigh-in time:** 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. on **Entry Day** at the designated central scale. Goats must be **washed** before arrival, with **clean and visible ear tags**. Animals are weighed to the **nearest pound — no re-weighs allowed**. **Weight range to sell: 75–150 lbs.** Goats **outside this range cannot sell** in the auction. Under/overweight goats may: Be taken home, or stay for showmanship and **sell out of the barn** (as a 4-H animal) with a **\$25 marketing fee**. **Failure to pay the fee = disqualification** from next year's program. **Hauling fees are extra** for out-of-barn sales.
19. **Grading of Animals:** All goats will be graded at the Fair. Any animal determined to be below quality by weight, age, or grade by the judge will not be eligible to be sold at the Market Livestock Sale at the Fair. All eligible animals must be sold at the 4-H Market Livestock Sale.
20. **Showing/Selling Requirements:** All animals must be shown in both **showmanship** and **market classes** by the **registered owner** to be judged and sold. If a 4-H'er **withdraws from the auction** after participating in showing and market classes, they will be **ineligible to bring an animal the following year**. **Special exceptions** (e.g., health or college conflicts) may be granted if: **Pre-approved at least 1 week before fair**, and a **doctor's note** may be required for health-related issues. **Failure to request pre-approval** may result in **disqualification** from the project.
21. **Animal Care During Fair:** You are responsible for feeding, cleaning and removal of your animal until the end of the Fair. The 4-H Market Livestock Committee permits the use of sawdust (provided by the Fair Board) or kiln-dried wood shavings (you may provide) as bedding material. **NO STRAW PERMITTED! All pens/stalls must be cleaned before 9:00 a.m. each day the Fair is open.** Failure to comply with the rule can result in forfeiture of premiums, \$50.00 disciplinary charge from sale proceeds and/or a one year suspension of 4-H Market Livestock Project privileges. Borrowing of cleaning equipment should be done with permission granted by equipment owner. If your animal requires a veterinary exam during fair, the 4-H'er will be responsible for the cost of the vet service.

22. **Non-Club/Club Points:** **Non-Club/Club Points:** Members must earn **9 total points** to sell a market animal: **6 points** from **club meetings**, **1 point** from a **fairgrounds workbee** (*max of 2 workbee points may count towards the non-club points*), **2 points** from **non-club 4-H events** (must be on approved list or pre-approved by Extension Staff/Superintendents). For events requiring **Extension Staff signatures**, you must fill in the **event name, location, and date**. **No signatures will be given on fair setup day or entry day. Failure to earn all 9 points = ineligible to bring a market animal to the fair.**
23. **Auction Sale Checks:** **Sale checks** will be distributed **no earlier than the Annual Meeting**, once all buyer payments are received. **Deductions** from checks include: Program expenses (percentage + flat fee), Picture fee (two 8x10s by official photographer), Hauling fee (if applicable), and Industry promotional fees (if required). To receive a check, 4-H'ers must submit a **signed Buyer's Receipt** confirming picture and thank-you delivery. Checks can be picked up at the **Annual Meeting** or later at the **Extension Office**. Checks are **valid for 60 days**; a **\$25 fee** applies to reissue expired checks. **"Sold Out of the Barn"** animals are **private sales** between 4-H'er and buyer. If help is needed, you may reach out to the Extension Office after the auction. There will be no credit, ribbon or photo provided to the buyer.
24. **Disciplinary Action:** If disciplinary action is warranted, the 4-H Market Livestock Committee reserves the right to impose one or more of the following actions: additional percentage deducted from 4-H'ers Animal Sale proceeds, suspension from 4-H Market Livestock Project areas and/or forfeiture of premiums.
25. **Financial Loss:** The exhibitor will bear financial loss of any market livestock animal until that animal leaves the Fairgrounds at which time the hauler or buyer assumes responsibility unless the animal is condemned for any reason.
26. **Rules/Requirements Acknowledgement:** Signing the 4-H Market Livestock Goat project application and being accepted into the project, indicates that you have read all the rules and requirements for the project in addition to the Oceana County Animal Project Code of Ethics and agree to abide by these rules.
27. **Issues/Complaint Process:** In questioning project rules or issues with your project you should contact the following people/groups in this order: 1) Your leader; 2) MSU Extension—4-H Program Coordinator; 3) 4-H Market Livestock Committee. If you should have any issue related to your project during Fair, please contact the following people/groups in this order: 1) Your leader; 2) Leader will contact Barn Superintendent; 3) Barn Superintendent will contact Executive Committee of project area; 4) Executive Committee will contact Youth Council Members.
28. **Final Authority:** The 4-H Market Livestock Committee will be the final authority on all matters of concern and can grant exceptions to the above rules. They will consult with Youth Council if necessary.

Market Goat Project Dates: all deadlines are by 4:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted!

Market Goat Project Automatic Enrollment for returning members who meet requirements:

Tier 1 - 10/22/25– 10/29/25 (completed 6 meetings, got a passing grade on their notebook and sold at auction)

Tier 2 - 10/30/25 - 11/5/25 (completed 6 meetings, got a passing grade on their notebook but had extenuating circumstances such as did not make weight, or successfully completed the previous year as a little buddy.)

Tier 3- 11/08/25 from 8:30 a.m.– 8:45a.m. (new to the project, Graduated High School or did not meet requirements)

4-H Small Market Animal Project Sign-Up—**Wednesday, April 1—Wednesday, April 8, 2026**

Registration Deadline for Market Goat registrations— **Monday, June 1, 2026**

Pictures/Bred/Ear Tag Numbers—**Monday, June 1, 2026**

Little Buddy Registration Deadline—**Monday, June 1, 2026**

Replacement Request Deadline (death or special issue) - **Wednesday, July 1, 2026**

Paperwork for Replacement Animal— **Wednesday, July 15, 2026**

Potential Buyer's Names—**Friday, July 31, 2026**

Written declaration of switch to "back-up" animal—**Monday August 3, 2026**

Entry and Weigh-In at Fair—**Monday, August 24, 2026 between 8 a.m.—10 a.m.**

Notebooks—**Monday, August 24, 2026 at time animal is weighed and then entered in the Youth Exhibit Building by 5:00 p.m.**

MSU Extension programs are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.