

# Goat Project Newsletter

*This Goat Project Newsletter contains information specific to the GOAT Project. Please use it in conjunction with the General 4-H Information Bulletin, so that you are aware of Achievement Day completion requirements as well as general opportunities and information pertaining to all 4-H members. This Project Newsletter, as well as the General 4-H Information Bulletin, will be updated in December of each year, if necessary, based on changes made at the 4-H Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting.*

Welcome to the 4-H Goat Project! This newsletter will give you an overview of the Goat Project, answer some of your questions concerning expectations of the project, and provide you with project ideas and some resources. Project newsletters are an excellent reference to keep on hand to refer to throughout the year. Enjoy your year in the Goat Project and when working on your project, remember to "Learn to do by Doing." If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Agriculture Leadership Coordinator (ALC).

## Goat Project Work Requirements

Showmanship is the project work requirement for the Goat Project. On Achievement Day, Goat members must complete showmanship with their own 4-H registered goat to complete the project work requirement. A goat from any Goat Project conformation section in which the 4-H member has registered a 4-H goat may be used for showmanship. Please review the Livestock Registration Section for more details pertaining to this.

Market Goat is a separate project. The registered Market Goat is to be used for completion in the Market Goat Project but may not be used for the Showmanship requirement of the Goat Project.

The dress code for all goat showmanship and conformation classes is **white or black pants and white shirt**. A tie is optional. Hard soled shoes or boots are encouraged, but not essential. Members can wear sun-safety hats when showing livestock in an outdoor ring. The dress code will be enforced at the 4-H Nova Scotia 4-H Show.

Showmanship classes are done at Achievement Days, County Show/Exhibitions, and 4-H Nova Scotia Show.

## Livestock Registration

4-H members must select their 4-H animals by May 1st of the current 4-H year, and must submit livestock registration information to the Regional ALC by May 15th of the current 4-H year. This information is necessary to assist with county show/exhibition planning, including judges, class schedules, awards, etc. The following information must be submitted for Livestock Registration

requirements: name of member, junior member/senior member, conformation class entered, sex of animal, breed of animal, and date of birth of animal. Goat members should submit this information for each goat they will be showing.

4-H animals may be substituted between the registration deadline of May 15th and Achievement Day in the case of injury, sickness, disease or death of the animal. If an animal is to be substituted prior to Achievement Day, pre-approval from the Regional ALC is necessary. A vet certificate may be required. After Achievement Day, no substitutions in animals are permitted. 4-H members who complete their livestock project with their own registered/approved animal on Achievement Day may use another 4-H member's 4-H animal in a showmanship class at county show/exhibition and the 4-H Nova Scotia Show.

### **Conformation Classes**

Although conformation is not an Achievement Day requirement, livestock conformation classes are held at county level/Exhibition competitions and 4-H Nova Scotia Show. Qualification for 4-H Nova Scotia Show must be done through county show/exhibition. Each county will be permitted to send two entries per conformation section to the 4-H Nova Scotia Show. In showmanship, one junior goat showman and one senior goat showman from each county are eligible for the 4-H NS Show. In judging, one junior goat judge and one senior goat judge from each county are eligible for the 4-H NS Show.

4-H goat members are permitted to exhibit a maximum of one goat from each of the sections listed.

**Goats will be divided into the following sections for conformation classes.**

- **Doeling - Born January 1 - April 30 of the current 4-H year (all breeds)**
- **Chevon - Born January 1 - April 30 of the current 4-H year (all breeds) (castrated male, all other breeds cull female, Pygmy)**
- **Dry Yearling Doe (Any female born the previous calendar year, that has not yet kidded)**
- **Milking Doe (Any doe in milk production)**

The champion classes at the 4-H NS Show will be Champion Chevon; and Champion Dairy Goat. The Champion Dairy Goat class will include the top 2 placings from the doeling, dry yearling doe, and milking doe classes. The Champion Chevon is the 1st place animal in the Chevon class.

A member can register in both the Goat Project and the Market Goat Project (please see Market Goat Newsletter for guidelines and pre-registration information for the Market Goat Project). A member can show a Chevon in the Goat Project Chevon Section; as well as a Market Goat in the Market Goat Project. Registering and exhibiting in both the Chevon Goat Class and the Market Goat Class would require two (2) separate animals.

## Important Information Specific to Goat Project

Horns are not permitted on 4-H goats. Be sure to dehorn your goats shortly after birth. This makes it easier on the animal. Spurs (buds) sometimes start to grow back. All spurs (buds) must be removed if unsafe for other animals or members. Please remember to follow best practices and talk to your vet to ensure correct procedures are used.

All male goats in the chevon class must be castrated. This should be done early to improve gain, and decrease stress close to the show. Talk to your vet about all management issues to make sure that correct procedures and management practices are followed.

Make sure your doeling or chevon is weaned well before Exhibition/County Show, or the 4-H NS Show. Remember, as animals remain at these shows for several days, it is important to wean the goat at home when stress is minimal. Doing this prior to any show will help your animal get used to a non-milk diet and will give the goat time to return to good condition before show day.

At the 4-H N.S. Show, the goat judge will be made aware that all goats do not have to be fully shaved, and that all goats are judged equal regardless of whether they are fully shaved.

**Please note that the National Farm Animal Code of Practice should be followed when housing animals for 4-H events.**

**These standards can be found at: <http://www.nfacc.ca/>**

## GOAT CLIPPING COMPETITION

The Goat Clipping Competition is open to a team of two 4-H goat members from each county. This competition is open to both junior and senior members. Teams will be evaluated on the following: Report Card, Clipping and Showmanship. This is a competition at the 4-H NS Show and counties may send one entry to the provincial competition. Rules for the competition are:

- 1. This is a team competition, members may be either both junior members, or both senior members, or a combination of the two.*
- 2. Team members will be selected through county competition. Each county has the right to select its representatives using its own method.*
- 3. Once a member has won the provincial competition, they are no longer eligible to compete with the same team member in subsequent years.*
- 4. The county teams competing Goat clipping competition will each provide an animal meeting the requirements/guidelines for the respective competition.*
- 5. For the Goat Clipping competition, teams who do not supply an animal for the competition will not be permitted to proceed in the competition.*
- 6. In the Goat clipping competition the organizing county will provide one additional animal which meets stated guidelines, to be used as a spare in the case where one of the animals must be disqualified due to sickness, injury, or safety concern.*

7. *The judge and/or county organizers of the competition will determine if the spare animal is to be used in the case where one of the animals is sick, injured, or is a safety concern.*
8. *If it is determined by the judge and/or county organizers that an animal does not meet the outlined criteria, then selection may be done in another manner.*
9. *Teams must walk the animal they supplied to the competition for the judge and/or organizing committee prior to the draw to ensure the animals are suitably broke.*
10. *Animal used for the competition must have been previously shown or broken suitable for show.*
11. *Animal used for the competition must be weaned*
12. *Animal used for the competition have no height restrictions.*
13. *Animal used for the competition must have at least three weeks of hair regrowth prior to the event.*
14. *In the goat clipping competition the animal will be yearlings, previously worked with, and that have not yet been bred, of no particular breed. No doelings or milking does are permitted in this competition.*
15. *Team members are responsible for supplying and caring for their own grooming/clipping/fitting equipment/materials/supplies during the competition. In the case where the animal provided to the draw requires specific grooming/clipping/fitting equipment/materials/supplies, the team supplying the animal must provide the specific equipment/materials/supplies to the draw.*
16. *For goat clipping competition the members supplying the animals are responsible for providing all feed and bedding requirements for the supplied animal for the duration of the show.*
17. *Team members/animal owners understand that team members are responsible for feeding, handling, preparing, and caring for their competition animal for the duration of the event, as this is part of their score. All feeding instructions will be provided to the teams for their competition animals. From then on it is the teams' responsibility to feed and care for the calf that they drew until the conclusion of the competition. **Ensure someone from the committee feeds and cares for the spare animal throughout the weekend.***
18. *There is to be no fitting or clipping done other than in the scheduled time-frame. Team members may train, wash and/or groom their animals on Friday night.*
19. *Ties in the competition are to be decided using the team's score in showmanship – highest over lowest.*
20. *The welfare and wellbeing of all the animals will be foremost in the competition. The county responsible for the competition will ensure animals are well cared for (including spares).*
21. *In the goat clipping competition clippers with adjustable guides must be used. Depending on the weather, the judge will request which setting/guide to use for the competition.*
22. *Clipping teams will draw for their animals on the Friday evening of the show. Refer to the show "Class List and Schedule" for exact time and location.*
23. *Team members must submit their competition report cards by the time indicated in the program.*
24. *In the case where after the event "scratch date" an individual team member cannot continue in the competition the remaining team member may continue in the competition. For aspects of the competition where points are allotted to each team member the remaining team member can only earn points for their own work.*
25. *In the case where a member must temporarily step away from the competition for good reason, the remaining member may continue working, however, clipping, feeding, and stall clean-up/prep is a joint effort for members to share equally.*
26. *Teams will be evaluated on the following:*

1. **Report Card (20%)** – Members determine the weaknesses of the animal and explain how these are to be overcome by proper fitting and clipping.
2. **Herdsmanship (10%)** - Team effort – Members provide proper care and handling, watering, stall and animal cleanliness, feeding (Includes cleaning out stalls after animal leaves).
3. **Showmanship (30%)** - 15 points will be allotted to each team member based on their showmanship abilities and how they handle the animal in the ring. Team member points will be combined for a combined score.
4. **Fitting & Clipping (40%)** - 20 points will be allotted to each member based on their fitting and clipping abilities and techniques as well as overall teamwork and sharing of tasks. Team member points will be combined for a combined score.

### **MARKET GOAT PROJECT:**

Members who have completed two years in the goat project may be interested in the Market Goat Project. This project will be overseen by the Market Committee, and will provide new opportunities and experiences to 4-H members who wish to pursue a more entrepreneurial side of the project. Please review the Market Goat Newsletter for specific details about this project and any additional information or deadlines/guidelines. Members wishing to enroll and complete the Market Goat Project must also be enrolled and complete the Goat Project.

### **GOAT PROJECT MEETING IDEAS:**

- Have a session on nutrition, management, kidding, fitting and showing, judging; ask a guest speaker to come in to discuss one of these topics.
- Visit an abattoir, a goat farm, a goat show, or an auction.
- Take on a special project such as promoting goat milk, meat, or cheese. Arrange to have a club/community try these projects at your Achievement Day. Try recipes with goat products.
- Invite a veterinarian to discuss goat health care.
- Learn about traceability and the National Goat Identification Program.

### **CONTAGIOUS/INFECTIOUS DISEASE:**

4-H members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are reminded that 4-H achievement days and shows are showcases for the 4-H program, and the agricultural industry in this province. They are reminded that infectious diseases can be transmitted during transport, as well as at the show. As such, it is strongly recommended for the protection of the public, participants, and the animals at the show, that animals having or showing signs of infectious diseases not be brought to shows. As well, livestock exhibitors and owners must understand that in attending 4-H Shows, there is a risk of their animal contracting disease regardless of the best efforts of all involved.

If you suspect that your animal has a contagious/infectious disease, please contact your local veterinarian immediately and learn more about the consequences, treatment, and transmission of the disease.

A brochure providing additional information on "Infectious and Contagious Diseases Affecting 4-H Livestock" is available. If you wish to receive a copy by mail or email, please contact your ALC for this information. It contains important information for all livestock members on this topic and will be critical to review with 4-H Clubs, livestock owners, and your local veterinarian when making decisions about attending 4-H achievement days and shows.

**ANIMAL MOVEMENT REPORTING** – Regulations around moving animals to and from Fairs, Exhibitions, Achievement Days, Pro Show and other events are changing. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is re-writing the regulations around the identification of animals and how livestock owners report moving animals on and off the farm. The new regulations are expected soon, and will apply to cattle, sheep, and goats. These animals will require individual animal ID tags. Those tag numbers in turn will be used in reporting the movements of animals. Tag numbers are to be reported by the owner/operator of a premise when the animals enter, and then by the farmer/owner when the animals are brought back to the farm or where they are housed.

**MOVEMENT DOCUMENT** – A Movement Document is to travel with the animals. This document will record the departure premise and destination premise, as well as the quantity of livestock being transported. These documents will be made available by CFIA once the regulation changes come into effect.

There are three things 4-H members can do to prepare for these changes.

1. **Identify your livestock premises** by applying for or confirming a premises identification (PID) number with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. [www.novascotia.ca/agri/pid](http://www.novascotia.ca/agri/pid)
2. **Confirm or set up a Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS) database account** at <http://www.clia.livestockid.ca> with Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) by toll-free telephone at **1-877-909-2333** or email: [info@canadaid.ca](mailto:info@canadaid.ca) **CLTS MOBO** - a free app to submit animal movement events **quickly** and **easily** to your CLTS database account using a mobile device
3. **Voluntarily report receipt (move in) event data** to your CLTS database account for livestock arriving at your livestock premises using the individual animal identification, within seven days of receipt.

The NS Department of Agriculture has a Traceability Coordinator that reviews Premises ID (PID) applications and can be reached at 1 (902) 890 9840 or [daniel.muir@novascotia.ca](mailto:daniel.muir@novascotia.ca) to answer any questions surrounding these changes.