

# 2025-2026

# Elkhart County

# 4-H Goat Club

# Handbook



## **4-H Pledge**

I pledge my Head to clearer thinking,  
My Heart to greater loyalty  
My Hands to larger service,  
My Health to better living,  
For my club, my community, my country, and my World



## Goat Club Rule/ Regulations

### 4-H Member Information:

- ☐ Enrollment deadline for 4-H is January 15, 2026 in order to exhibit at the Elkhart Co. 4-H Fair and the Indiana State Fair. Enrollment deadline for the Elkhart County 4-H Goat Club is March 15, 2026.
- ☐ We encourage all 4-H members and parents to attend meetings and activities to get the full benefit of 4-H.
- ☐ Officers of the Goat Club must be 7<sup>th</sup> grade or older.
- ☐ The 4-H Goat Club Advisory Board, Adult Leaders, and the 4-H Corporation will rule on special problems arising at the 4-H Fair. Their decision will be final.
- ☐ Participation fee will be \$20.00 per 4-H'er for the 1<sup>st</sup> two family member with a family maximum of \$50.00 per family. Fees must be paid before fair.
- ☐ The club's queen candidate must have been a member of the Goat Club the previous year.

### Animal Information:

- ☐ 4-H'ers may enter as many animals as they own but may only show two per class. 4-H animals exhibited in open shows after the enrollment deadline of May 15, 2026, under a different name than the person listed on the Indiana 4-H enrollment form, shall not be eligible to be shown in the 4-H show at the Elkhart County 4-H Fair or the 4-H show at the Indiana State Fair. This term/condition does not apply to siblings, who may show each other's animals at any show during the year without jeopardizing State Fair eligibility, regardless of whether the sibling is a 4-H member or not.
- ☐ ALL animals MUST be identified and entered in the online system 4H Online. NO LEASING IS PERMITTED All DNA must be turned in by the above deadlines as well. \*Elkhart County follows the Indiana State Fair ID requirements, but this doesn't guarantee that animals can be exhibited at the State Fair. It is the 4-H member's responsibility to check the State Fair guidelines for any additional requirements. **\*\* Missing the deadline for Animal ID will result in not being able to show.**
- ☐ All goats must have permanent ID and come to the fair with a collar.
- ☐ All goats brought to the fair must be shown in a class except nursing kids less than one month. Only nursing bucklings (under 4 weeks of age), no bucks.
- ☐ Each 4-H member who is participating in Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Goat, Swine, Rabbit, Poultry, Dairy Feeder projects will need to complete the new Purdue Quality Assurance program or Youth for the

Quality care of Animals(YQCA). Exhibitors must have a current certification in order to comply with Indiana 4-H policy. In order to exhibit/show at the Elkhart County 4-H Fair, the Purdue Quality Assurance course or, YQCA certification program **needs to be completed by JUNE 15 of the current year.** There are two ways to complete this training, instructor led or via an online course. Youth for the Quality Care of Animals can only be completed online. If you chose the option of YQCA you must provide a certificate to the Purdue Extension office by June 15, 2026.

- **All goats brought from another state for the 4-H show must have health papers certified by a licensed veterinarian. NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- **ALL Classes need to be entered into FAIR ENTRY by JUNE 25, 2026.** This includes animals, showmanship and specialty classes. IF this is NOT completed by the deadline the animals will be shown in an “EXHIBITION ONLY” class and NOT eligible for champion awards. They will still be able to auction.

#### **4-Her Born and Raised Classification:**

- The goat must be born to a doe that the 4-Her owns at the time of breeding..
- We are trusting the 4-Her and the family to give us truthful information regarding the “4-Her Bred and Owned” status.
- Market goats with this status will be tagged with a different color tag at tagging/weigh-in days.

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#### **Fair Check-In:**

- Goats are to be brought to the fair on THURSDAY, July 23, 2026 between the hours of 5 PM and 9 PM. Goats must be checked by an official before entering the barn and all market goats weighed before penning. Any health issues will be taken before the fairground’s veterinarian before the animal may enter the barn. Results of the Veterinarian’s findings are final.
- Once entered, no animal will be allowed off the fairgrounds without advisory board/organizational leaders approval. Animals will be released Thursday evening after Round Robin and Friday up to 9:00 a.m. ALL NON-AUCTION goats MUST be off the fairgrounds Thursday, 7/30/26 in the PM. Breeding stock animals may be taken home after the Monday show with approval of the leaders. Exceptions to this early Monday release are those animals that won Grand Champion in the 4-H Show. Special requests to leave outside the above instructions must be addressed to the Advisory Board and/or Organizational Leaders.
  - Pen fees of \$3 per pen, brought to the fair, will be collected when checking in goats the first Thursday of the fair.
  - All goats including market animals and breeding stock must be checked into their classes by 10 AM on FRIDAY, July 24, 2026. This must be done in the goat barn office.

#### **Fair Goat Care:**

- ☐ Members are required to keep their goat's pen clean including the area surrounding the pen.
- ☐ Animals must be fed twice a day during the fair.
- ☐ Members must supply their own grain and hay.
- ☐ Water must be changed often.
- ☐ **PENS MUST BE CLEANED AT LEAST EVERY OTHER DAY.** Pens will be evaluated daily for cleanliness, water, and feeding. Members will be contacted if issues arise regarding their goat's care.
- ☐ ALL medications that need to be given to an animal while on the fairgrounds must have a veterinarian script or given under the supervision of a veterinarian. This must be on file with the 4-H club organizational leaders prior to this happening.

### Showing:

- ☐ Members are expected to do their own showing with help as needed. In case of illness or injury, another eligible Elkhart County 4-H Goat Club member may show the animal with the permission of the advisory board/leaders. If members have more than one goat in a class another eligible Elkhart County 4-H Goat Club member is allowed to show the second animal.
- ☐ Showmanship Animals must be shown by ONLY ONE 4-H member. This animal MUST be owned by the 4-Her/Family and shown in it's regular class.
- ☐ Attire for showing breeding stock dairy goats should be a white shirt with white pants, black pants, nice dark jeans, or a long skirt of one of the corresponding colors. Please wear appropriate under garments, a belt, and close toed shoes. No shorts or sandals are allowed.
- ☐ All 4-H'ers showing market goats, meat breed goats, pet class goats and variety goats should wear the club t-Shirt and nice jeans with a belt and close toed shoes. Shorts and sandals are not allowed. A nice dress shirt can replace the club T-Shirt.
- ☐ All goats competing for championship honors in the milk classes may be required by the judge to milk their goat out before the final awards are made.
- ☐ Every goat entered in the dairy doe classes must be FREE OF HORNS.
- ☐ Pygmy, meat breeding stock, and angora goats may have horns in accordance with their national association rules. Market animals may have horns at the 4-H'er's preference.
- ☐ Animal Grooming- Rule change: ANY person is allowed to assist the 4-H member with grooming their animal and the 4-H member must be present and participating during grooming. – This is an Elkhart County 4-H rule only. Please note that state fair rules are different.

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### Scholarships

The 4-H Goat Club offers three(3) \$250 scholarships a year to 4-H Goat Club members that submit an application and essay. The applications are available from your Organizational

Leaders. The essay should be about your experiences with goats, 4-H, what you have learned in the club, and your future plans. Any additional information you would like to include is welcome. The applications and essays are due at the July meeting (no exceptions). The advisory board will review the applications and essays and will chose the three 4-Her's that they feel are most deserving of the scholarships. Winners will be announced before the 4-H Goat Club shows on July 26 and 27, 2026.

## Order of Show

**Meat and Variety Show (Showmanship/Breeding/Market).....10 AM Sunday, July 26  
2026**

**Dairy Goat Show (Showmanship/Breeding/Market).....8 AM Monday, July 27,  
2026**

## Showmanship Classification

### There are 3 Divisions of Showmanship: Dairy, Meat and Variety

All members are encouraged to participate in showmanship classes. The animal used in showmanship **MUST** be your own animal. An animal can only be used by one club member for showmanship. The classes will be divided as follows:

Greenhand	Grade 3 as of Sept 1, 2025
Junior	Grades 4 & 5 as of Sept 1, 2025
Intermediate	Grades 6-8 as of Sept. 1, 2025
Senior	Grades 9-12 as of Sept. 1, 2025
Master	Previous Senior Winners

1. 4-H members are eligible to win in Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Showmanship only once. A previous winner in the Junior division automatically moves up to the Intermediate division; and the Intermediate winner, regardless of age, moves up to the Senior Division the following year.
2. Senior winner as well as the Junior and Intermediate winners of the day and past winners in Senior or Master compete for the Master if they have not won Round Robin. The winner goes on to the Large Animal Round Robin.
3. After the Master is chosen, the runner-up for whatever division they are from will compete for runner-up Master Dairy Showman in the event that the Master Dairy Showman does not go to Round Robin.

- The Master Variety Goat showmanship winner and the Master Meat Showman will compete against each other for an Overall Meat Showman and the winner will go to the Large Animal Round Robin. After the Overall Meat Showman is selected, the Runner-Up from that division will then compete for a selection of a runner-up overall Meat Showman. In the event that the winner does not go to Round Robin the Runner-Up will participate.

## Dairy Goat Classifications

**Registered and non-registered Dairy Goats will be shown in the same classes. All DOES must be free of horns and be tattooed.**

**Goats must be specified age as of July 21, 2026**

<b>Senior Doe Classes</b>
Milking Yearling doe: 1 year and under 2 years
2 years and under 3 Years Milking Doe
3 Years and under 4 years Milking Doe
4 Years and under 5 Years Milking Doe
5 Years and over Milking Doe
<b>Junior Doe Classes</b>
Junior Doe born after April 1, 2026
Intermediate Doe: Born March 1-31, 2026
Senior Doe Kid: Born Jan 1 – Feb 29, 2026
Dry Yearling: Dry Doe 1 year and under 2 years as of 7/21/2026
Mother Milking-Daughter Dry (both must be shown in their own age class)
Mother/Daughter Both Milking (both must be shown in their own age class)

Dairy Goat DIVISIONS: All dairy goats MUST be of dairy breeds ONLY. As for CROSSBRED does they will show in the breed division that they most resemble. ALL goats are subject to inspection by the leaders to be sure that they are in the correct division. There are 4 divisions.

- LaMancha Type: has gopher or elf ears and are of standard size.
- Nubian Type: has pendulous or airplane ears and are of standard size.
- Swiss Type; has erect ears and are of standard size.(Alpine, Oberhasli, Saanen, Sable, Toggenburg)
- Miniature Type: this is for Nigerian Dwarves and the Nigerian/Dairy breed crosses.  
Ie. Mini-Lamancha

Grand Champion and the Reserve Grand Champion Senior doe of each division will be selected. Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Junior doe of each division will be selected. After

ALL divisions are shown the Grand Champions of ALL DIVISIONS(Sr & Jr) will be in the running for BEST DAIRY DOE IN SHOW.

## **Meat Type Goat Breeding Stock Classifications**

All breeding stock must be Tagged/tattooed. Registered and non-registered stock show in the same classes.

<b>Junior Meat Does</b>
Does- 0 to under 3 months(born April 28, 2026-July 21, 2026)
Does - 3 months to under 6 months(born Jan 28, 2026-April 27, 2026)
Does- 6 months to under 9 months(born Oct 28, 2025-Jan 27, 2026)
Does- 9 months to under 12 months(born July 25, 2025-Oct 27, 2025)
<b>Yearling Meat Does</b>
Does- 12 months to under 16 months(born Mar 28, 2025-July 21, 2025)
Does - 16 months to under 20 months(born Nov 28, 2024-Mar 27, 2025)
Does - 20 months to under 24 months(born July 21 2024-Nov 27, 2024)
<b>Senior Meat Does</b>
Does - 24 months to under 36 months(born July 21, 2024-July 21, 2023)
Does - 36 months and over(Born on or before July 21, 2023)
Mother/Daughter- any age, one the daughter of the other(both must have been shown in their age class)

After the conclusion of the Senior Doe, Yearling Doe, and Junior Doe classes, the Grand Champion does from those divisions will compete for Overall Supreme Meat Type Doe.

After the conclusion of the Meat Breeding Stock Show there will be a Wether Dam Show.

Wether Dam Requirements:

1. Animal must be a DOE and under 1 year of age (milk teeth present)
2. Shown by WEIGHT in the same style as the market wethers
3. County tags must be their form of ID, Bring to Weigh/Tagging Day
4. These animals will NOT be auctioned.

### **Variety Goat Breeding Stock Classification**

<b>Junior Doe Classes</b>
Kid - born after March 1, 2026
Kid - Born December 1, 2025 thru Feb 28, 2026
Never bred yearling- Born July 21, 2024 thru Nov 30, 2025
<b>Senior Doe Classes</b>
Two years Old – Born July 22, 2024 thru July 21, 2023
Three Years and Over – Born before July 21, 2023
Mother/Daughter - any age, one the daughter of the other
Three years and over - as of July 21, 2014
Mother/Daughter - any age, one the daughter of the other

(Both must be shown in their age class)

Grand Champion and the Reserve Grand Champion Senior doe will be selected at the conclusion of all Senior Doe classes. Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Junior doe will be selected at the conclusion of all Junior Doe classes. After the selection of both the Grand Champion Senior Doe and Grand Champion Junior Doe, the Supreme Champion Variety Doe will be selected. Group classes will follow.

## **Pet Wether Classes**

**Pet Wether classes will be divided into 2 DIVISIONS:**

**Meat Breeds(Boer, Pygmy, Myotonic) and Dairy Breeds.**

**2 Classes are available:**

**Junior Wether – (One year of age and Younger- Born July 26, 2025 Thru July 26, 2026**

**Senior Wether- (Over One year of age – Born on or before July 26,2025)**

**The Meat breeds will show during the Meat show day and the Dairy Breeds will show during the Dairy show day.**

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## **Market Goat Classifications**

1. A 4-H member may have 2 market animals; i.e. 2 meat, 2 dairy, or 1 meat and 1 dairy.
2. Market animals entered in this project **MUST be owned by May 1, 2026** and must be brought to the fairgrounds for Tagging/tattooing on one of the 2 Tattoo/Tagging days that will be announced.
3. To be eligible for the sale, the 4-H member must show a goat on show day.
4. All Full Size Market Goats will get an ear tag. The only exception will be the Lamancha dairy market goats that will be getting a tail tattoo. The charge for this ear tag will be \$3 per goat and must be paid the day the goat is tagged. You may tag as many goats as you want.

### **Miniature Market Goats**

There is no longer a miniature market goat class. Please see “Pet wether” classes for further details.

## **Dairy Market Goats**

All Dairy market goats must have “Milk Teeth” present or born October 1, 2025 or after. Dairy Market goats must be chosen from one of the following/or combination of the following breeds of dairy goats: Alpine, Lamancha, Nubian, Saanen, Toggenburg, Oberhasli, Sable, or Guernsey. All Dairy Market Goats must weigh **50** pounds or more to be shown and auctioned. Animals to be sold will be weighed on Thursday, July 23, 2026. Goats not weighing 50 pounds will be sent home immediately and will not be penned. This weight will be the selling weight. All animals must be dairy goat breed or a combination of dairy goat breeds. Dairy Market Goats will be shown in classes to be established, after weigh-in, by the club leaders. **Studded/Prong collars will not be allowed on Dairy Market Goats.**

## **Meat Market Goats**

All Meat market goats must have “Milk Teeth” present or be born October 1, 2025 or after. All meat market goats will weigh **50** pounds or more to be shown and auctioned. Goats not weighing 50 pounds will be sent home immediately and will not be penned. Animals to be sold will be weighed on Thursday, July 23, 2026. This weight will be the selling weight. Goats classified as meat include Boer, Kiko, Savanna, Spanish, Kinder, Myotonic (Fainting), or cross-breeds thereof. Meat market goats will be shown in classes established, after weigh-in, by the club leaders. Properly fitted studded/prong collars are permissible.

## **Rate of Gain**

All meat goats will be weighed when tagged/tattooed. This will be the starting weight. The number of days from tagging/tattoo day until weigh-in at the fair on July 23, 2026 and the total pounds differential will be used to calculate the rate of gain. **IF YOU WANT TO COMPETE IN RATE OF GAIN YOU MUST ENTER YOUR BEGINNING WEIGHTS ONLINE WHEN ENROLLING YOUR MARKET GOATS.**

## **Decision of Which Goat To Sell at Auction**

We are now making it mandatory that you notify a leader in the goat barn office which market goat you will be putting in the auction by Monday evening, July 27, 2026 at 8p.m. If you have not notified the office by that time the Leaders will make the decision for you. We also need to know if you are NOT auctioning your market goat.

## Other Classes

**Costume Class** - Goat and 4-H'er are to be in costume. Costume and theme are open to your imagination. The class will be judged Wednesday , July 29, 2026 in the Beef/Dairy Show Arena at 6pm.

**Cart Class** - Goats in cart class may be does or wethers. 4-Her's must provide their own cart and harness. Goats may be led at the beginning to accustom them to the surroundings. You will be asked to turn both left and right, and to back your goat. Judging time to be after the conclusion of the costume class.

**Goat Agility Class** - Goat doe or wether will negotiate a predetermined pattern. The course will be set up so that 4-Her's can practice. Judging will take place on Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at 2 p.m. Judging will be done in the Beef/Dairy Arena.

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# CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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**Advisory Board to the 4-H Goat Club**  
**Established 1976**  
**Amended 1997, 2000, 2009, 2017, 2019, 2020,2024**

### **Introduction to Bylaws:**

The Purpose of the Advisory Board shall be to help and coordinate an active county 4-H program, secure the necessary support for such a program, cooperate with the Fair Board and local leaders, and collect and dispense funds.

### **Section One, Article I: Membership:**

The members of the Advisory Board shall consist of 10 elected members and two appointed treasurers, not to include the Fair Board Director, the 4-H Leader and Co-Leader. Members shall be elected from anyone interested in serving the 4-H program that is a parent, or legal guardian with one member per household being eligible per term.

Members are elected on a rotating basis with five (5) persons being elected each year for a period of two years. In the event of a vacancy, the Chairman shall appoint a person with input from the advisory board. The election is to be held with nominations being submitted 60 days before the advisory board elections are held. Those voting are parents, 4-Her's, and current advisory board members. The five (5) persons with the most votes become the newest members of the Advisory Board and are to start their term of office at the next advisory meeting held. The Advisory Board will present new members a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws. The retiring members of the board are eligible for re-election for a total of 2 consecutive terms, then sitting out 1 year before re-election.

### **Section Two, Article I: Officers:**

The officers of the advisory board shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, a Secretary, and two Treasurers. The Vice Chairman will act as the Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.

The term of the office shall be one (1) year with the provision that they (the officers) are eligible for re-election in the following year. These officers are the elected from the twelve (12) Advisory Board members as soon as possible after the new members are elected.

### **Section Two, Article II: Chairman and Vice Chairman:**

The Chairman will preside at all meetings. If the Chairman is unable to preside at a meeting, the Vice Chairman should be notified. The Vice Chairman shall then fill the duties of the Chairman at the meeting.

The duties of the Chairman are to preside at the meeting, to keep order and guide the meeting to a constructive line of business, to put to vote all questions that properly arise in the course of the meeting and to announce the results of the question. In the event an officer is not present, the Chairman shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy for the meeting. The Chairman will adjourn the meeting.

### **Section Two, Article III: Secretary:**

The Secretary will keep an accurate record of the meetings, copy of which will be given to all members of the advisory board before or at the next meeting. A copy of the minutes should be sent to the Livestock County Extension Agent prior to the next meeting.

**Section Two, Article IV: Treasurers:**

The Treasurers will be appointed and will work together to pay all bills promptly and keep an accurate record on Quickbooks of all money spent. The Treasurer should have the approval of the Advisory Board on all major purchases. A monthly report is to be made to the Advisory Board as to the financial status of the club. They will also work with the treasurer of the club. Signers for the checking account shall include the Treasurer, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Fair Board Representative.

**Section Two, Article V: Club Organizational Leader(s):**

The Leaders shall be in charge of the 4-H meetings after the club President has completed his or her portion of the meeting. The Leaders will guide the way the Club is run and its goals. He or she may attend fair board meetings.

**Section Two, Article VI: Assistant/Project Leader(s):**

The Assistant/Project Leader is to give support and help to the Leader(s) in serving the club.

**Section Two, Article VII: Fair Board Representative:**

The Fair Board Representative(FBR) will attend Fair Board meetings. The FBR must attend the advisory board and 4-H club meetings. The FBR is to work closely with the Leader and the Fair Board and is to keep the Advisory Board well informed. The FBR has the power to call a special meeting of the Advisory Board to alert them of any special business. The FBR has no voting power in regular meetings except in Section Three, Article II of the By-Laws, or to break a tie on a board vote. The FBR may have been a previous leader. The Advisory Board shall elect a FBR every two(2) years with the previous Director being eligible.

**Section Two, Article IX: Junior Advisory Board Members:**

There shall be 3 Junior Advisory Board Members elected by the club members each year to serve a one year term on the Advisory Board. They will have full voting power and participate fully in all advisory board decisions. Youth serving on the advisory board need to be in grades 9-12.

**Section Three, Article I: Amendment:**

Any amendments to be changed or added to these By-Laws must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the Advisory Board.

**Section Three, Article II: Member Dismissal:**

If any officer or member of the Advisory Board does not live up to the 4-H morals and responsibilities, and if he or she proves to be a hindrance to the progress of the 4-H Goat Club, the Advisory Board shall have the right to vote them off the Board by having a 2/3 majority vote with all members present. The FBR and the 4-H Leader have the right to vote on the situation at that time.

**2026 Important Dates:**

March 2, 2026 – 7 p.m. Advisory Board Meeting/Board Room

March 17, 2026 - 7 p.m. Club Meeting/Sheep&Swine Arena

March 25, 2026 – Deadline for Goat Club Enrollment

April 6, 2026 – 7 p.m. Advisory Board Meeting/Clover Hill

April 21, 2026 - 7 p.m. Club Meeting/Sheep&Swine Arena

April 25, 2026 – Tagging/Tattoo Day- Goat Barn 8-10 AM

**May 1, 2026 – ALL MARKET GOATS MUST BE OWNED & IN YOUR POSSESSION**

May 2, 2026 – Tagging/Tattoo Day – Goat Barn 8-10 AM

May 4, 2026 – 7 p.m. Advisory Board Meeting/Goat Barn

**May 15, 2026 - ALL BREEDING STOCK DOES MUST BE OWNED AND IN YOUR POSSESSION**

**May 15, 2026 – Deadline for 4HOnline v.2 Goat entry (Both County & State Fair)**

May 19, 2026 – 7 p.m. Club Meeting/Goat Barn/Soap Order Pick Up

May 22, 2026 – Fair Entry Opens

May 23, 2026 – Open Show- ABGA(Boer)

June 1, 2026 – 7 p.m. Advisory Board Meeting/Goat Barn

**June 15, 2026 – Deadline to Complete Required YQCA or QLC**

June 23, 2026 – 7 p.m. Club Meeting/Goat Barn

**June 25, 2026 – ALL goats MUST be put into their classes in FAIR ENTRY**

July 6, 2026 – 7 p.m. Advisory Board Meeting/Goat Barn

July 21, 2026 – Meeting/Barn set up night. 7 p.m. Goat Barn

July 23, 2026 - Goat Check-in THURSDAY – 5-9 PM

July 26, 2026 – Meat Breeds Show (Boer/Pygmy/Myotonic) – 10 AM

July 27, 2026 – Dairy Goat Show – 8 a.m.

July 29, 2026- Goat Agility 2 p.m.- Beef/Dairy Arena

July 29, 2026- Goat Costume Class 6 p.m.-Beef/Dairy Arena

August 2026- 6 pm Goat Club Banquet/TBD