

# Goat

## 4-H Project Newsletter

*This newsletter will be updated in December of each year, if necessary, based on changes made to the project at the 4-H Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting in November.*

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).

### GENERAL 4-H INFORMATION

#### **Ages for Members:**

Junior Members: 9 - 13 years of age as of January 1, as of the current year.

Senior Members: 14 - 21 years of age as of January 1, as of the current year.

4-H members may register in the club and county of their choice, but must only be registered in one club, in one province. Members may register in one club and access projects in a neighboring club if that club is willing to assist with leadership of a certain project.

#### **Project Completion:**

All 4-H members must complete 'project requirements', for each of their projects, at their club Achievement Day. If you are unable to attend your own club Achievement Day, please make prior arrangements with your Regional ALC. Completion of your project qualifies you to move on to any further county, provincial, or national 4-H competitions relating to that project in the current 4-H year. School projects are not permitted to be used as 4-H projects. Each member must complete and display their own project work (i.e., two members cannot share a project for project completion).

#### **What is Achievement Day?**

Achievement Day allows members to display their project work to the public and have their projects evaluated, non-competitively. Project completion at Achievement Day is based on the following system:

A <b>Green</b> project completion sticker will be given to a member who has completed:	A <b>Silver</b> project completion sticker will be given to a member who has completed:	A <b>Gold</b> project completion sticker will be given to a member who has completed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record Sheet</li> <li>• Project Work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record Sheet</li> <li>• Project Work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record Sheet</li> <li>• Project Work</li> </ul>
Plus <b>one</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Club Contribution</li> <li>• Judging</li> </ul>	Plus <b>two</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Club Contribution</li> <li>• Judging</li> </ul>	Plus all <b>three</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Club Contribution</li> <li>• Judging</li> </ul>

**RECORD SHEET** – Each member must complete a satisfactory record sheet. Record sheets may be hand written or typed. *For more useful information, refer to Record Sheet Guidelines.*

**PROJECT WORK** – Each 4-H project (e.g., woodworking, dairy, etc.) has specific project work requirements. Each members’ project work will be evaluated on the quality of the work, degree of difficulty for experience/age, the way articles are displayed/presented, and whether all requirements are met. A 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place ribbon will be given for each project. Please review project requirements for each project carefully. In non-livestock projects, members must complete the required number of items as outlined, unless prior approval is given by the Regional ALC. This request should be made in advance of the member’s Achievement Day. Consideration of an item counting as additional items will be given based on members age, degree of difficulty, time required to complete, etc.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – Members who participate in public speaking and/or demonstrations at club level will receive recognition on their Achievement Day Certificate. Each club has its own standards for communications, so members should confirm with the general club leader.

**CLUB CONTRIBUTION** – Members are encouraged to be actively involved in their club, county, province, and community. The club contribution aspect is an assessment on such things as a member’s attendance at meetings and events, attitude, effort, cooperation, and self-expression. Each club has its own standards for club contribution. Evaluation of this Achievement Day component is done by the Club General Leader and / or project leader(s). The standard for club contribution should be communicated clearly to all members by club leaders at the beginning of the 4-H year.

**JUDGING** – In each project, members are asked to compare four (4) articles or livestock (e.g., 4 wooden shelves in the woodworking project or 4 heifers in a dairy project), then evaluate them to place the class in order from first (closest to the ideal), to fourth (furthest from the ideal). Oral reasons, using proper terminology, are given to an official judge for the project to support those choices. There are many useful judging resources available through your Regional ALC, as well online at the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](http://www.novascotiaagriculture.ca) website.

In each county, a judging box is also available to borrow to help practice judging skills. It includes judging information and cards as well as judging classes, with reasons. Clubs may book these supplies through the Regional ALC.

At 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show, 4-H animals participating in the 4-H Nova Scotia Show competitions are used to make up livestock judging classes (e.g., 4 intermediate Holstein calves). Members are responsible for notifying their Regional ALC by September 15 by email if they do not wish to have their animal used. Please keep in mind that judging classes can only be provided if members are willing to offer their animals for a judging class. As such, 4-H members are encouraged to let their animal be used in a judging class if possible.

### **Project Work Requirements**

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

Showmanship will be done at Achievement Days, County Show/Exhibitions, and 4-H Nova Scotia Show. The dress code for all goat showmanship and conformation classes is white 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.

### **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 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 NS 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.

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.

### **GOAT CLIPPING COMPETITION**

1. A team of two 4-H goat members will represent each county. This competition is open to both junior and senior members. Once a member has won the competition at a provincial level, he/she is no longer eligible to compete with the same partner.
2. The county organizing the competition will provide all the goats for the competition and one extra goat in case one of the goats drawn has been disqualified due to sickness or injury. The judge and/or county organizing the competition will determine this. They are required to provide animals for the competition that have been shown previously or broken suitable for show. The animals provided must have at least three weeks of regrowth prior to NS 4-H Show.
3. Goats provided for the competition 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.
4. Members are responsible for their own equipment.
5. Teams will draw for their goats on the Friday evening of NS 4-H Show. Refer to the program for time and location.
6. The welfare and wellbeing of the animals will be foremost in the competition. The county responsible for the competition will ensure animals are well maintained.
7. Clippers with adjustable guides must be used and depending on the weather, the judge will request which setting/guide to use.
8. Teams will be evaluated on the following:
  - **Report Card (20%)** - Determine weakness of animal and explain how these are to be overcome by proper fitting.
  - **Clipping (60%)** - The Score Card for clipping will be based on four areas:
    - ✓ Trimming of Feet
    - ✓ Clipping of the head, body and legs
    - ✓ Clean up
    - ✓ Handling of the goat.

These areas would be scored out of 100, and then converted to make up the clipping score.

- **Showmanship (20%)** - 10 pts. allotted to each member and placing given on overall points.

## **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 & QUARANTINE:**

4-H members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are reminded that 4-H 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 vet immediately and learn more about the consequences, treatment, and transmission of the disease.

Livestock Health Checks will be done at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. Members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are cautioned that decisions made during Livestock Health Checks at the 4-H Nova Scotia Show are based on visual analysis and the professional opinion of those doing the health checks. Their decision is final. Further, all animals that are put in quarantine cannot be shown; those responsible for Livestock Health Checks reserve the right to re-examine animals.

A brochure providing additional information on "Infectious and Contagious Diseases Affecting 4-H Livestock" is available. It will also be posted on the 4-H Nova Scotia website, as well as the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture website. 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 shows. This is the brochure that those responsible for Livestock Health Checks at the 4-H Nova Scotia Show will be using as a guideline in their decisions regarding quarantine.

All animals that are put in quarantine at the 4-H Nova Scotia Show by the Provincial Show Vet will not be permitted to exhibit or show. The 4-H Nova Scotia Show Vet reserves the right to re-examine quarantined animals.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP – Be a Good Sport!**

In 4-H, Sportsmanship plays a key role in living by the motto of 'Learn to Do by Doing'. Please take the opportunity to consider good sportsmanship when at 4-H events. Here are some key factors to good sportsmanship:

**GOOD CONDUCT** – Demonstrate and maintain high standards of personal behaviour and conduct. You are representing your family, your club, your community and the 4-H program.

**FAIRNESS** – Learn and follow the rules. Be objective and honest. No matter what the results try your best by using your true skills without cheating. Treat others fairly.

**HONESTY** – Be a reliable person, do not lie or deceive. Be straightforward in everything you say and do. Understand your abilities and skills, accept the fact that you cannot do everything perfectly, but you still can do many things well.

**COMPETITION** - Competition experiences enhance positive youth development and prepare youth with competitive knowledge, skills and attitudes. Take pride in your accomplishments and in improving your skills – you are all winners, even if the ribbon color doesn't appear to reflect this.

**COURTESY** – Be well-mannered in your conduct. Be respectful, thoughtful, considerate, cooperative, friendly, and cheerful, no matter whether you do well or not. When you have concerns, questions, or suggestions, be polite in expressing them. Be pleasant and nice toward other participants, spectators, program officials, judges, the media, your leaders, parents and others. Give others the benefit of the doubt. Treat people and animals kindly. Keep your emotions under control.

**GRACEFUL ACCEPTANCE OF RESULTS** – Accept judges' results and suggestions with a positive attitude. The judge's decision is final. Regardless of the outcome; thank all that were involved in helping you put forth your best effort. Thank the organizers for their efforts; Sponsors for their generous donations; Agriculture Leadership Coordinators for their wisdom and guidance; Judges for their skilled eye and time given to the 4-H program; and anyone else who has helped you along the way.

The work in any 4-H project should always be done by the members. Hiring, or the use, of professionals and/ or adults to prepare projects for 4-H shows are not acceptable. Using these

people as resources provides 4-H members with the information and skills to do the job on their own.

4-H Nova Scotia has a Code of Conduct in effect for all members and leaders. It is to be followed always throughout the year. If you would like a copy of what are acceptable practices in the 4-H program, please visit <http://novascotia4h.ca/codeofconduct/>.

## You might also be interested in...

**4-H POSTER CONTEST** – Deadline and evaluation is normally at county rally. [Visit 4-H Nova Scotia's website for more information!](#)

**4-H THEME CONTEST** – Put on your thinking cap and be the one to come up with next year's 4-H theme! (i.e., *Let the Clover be Seen in 2017*). [Visit 4-H Nova Scotia's website for more information!](#)

**WOOL COMPETITION** – Open to all 4-H members. These articles must be made from 100% wool and members must exhibit a Wool Competition Report with their entry. For more information, please visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website.

**RECYCLABLE COMPETITION** – Open to all 4-H members. These articles must be made from a minimum of 75% recycled materials and members must exhibit a Recyclable Competition Report with their entry. For more information, please visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website.

**GIANT VEGETABLE COMPETITION** – Each year a new vegetable is selected for the Giant Vegetable competition held at 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. Each county can send one junior and one senior giant vegetable entry to the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. For more information, please visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website.

**TRACTOR DRIVING COMPETITION** – The tractor competition is open to teams of 3 members (1 driver and 2 assistants); the driver must hold a valid class#5 driver's license or tractor license. The driver will drive a tractor and trailer through an obstacle course. The score is calculated based on safe operation and judge's evaluation. One team per county will advance to 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. For more information, please visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website.

**RECORD KEEPING COMPETITION** – An entry will be one record sheet for a project completed in the current year by that member, with a detailed analysis included. Entries in this competition must include a 1 - 4 page analysis of the work and costs in the project for the given year in order to be eligible. Entries should be displayed in a binder/folder. The top two senior and top two junior record sheets per county will be eligible for the Record Keeping Competition at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show, but entries must first qualify at county level. All county entries must be forwarded to Truro by September 15th of the current 4-H year for judging prior to the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show." For more information, please visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website.

**AWARDS, TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES, AND SCHOLARSHIPS** – Each year, 4-H Nova Scotia covers the registration fee to National and International travel opportunities for members awarded such travel experiences. Also, there are several scholarships available to 4-H members in Nova Scotia. For



more information, interested members should speak to the Regional ALC and check out the [Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture](#) website and Visit [4-H Nova Scotia's](#) website.

**JUNIOR LEADER PROJECT** – This project is designed to build leadership skills by providing members with the opportunity to lead any aspects of their club which interest them (e.g., projects, recreation, communication, etc.).

**GRADE 10 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT** – Members must achieve gold completion and document at least 110 hours of 4-H related work to qualify. For more information visit the [Nova Scotia Department of Education & Early Childhood Development Personal Development Credit website](#) and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture website.



# Goat/Market Goat Project RECORD SHEET

Name of club member \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of club \_\_\_\_\_  
 Years in 4-H \_\_\_\_\_ Years in the project \_\_\_\_\_  
 Project \_\_\_\_\_ (Goat, or Market Goat)

## PROJECT ANIMAL(S)

Please list what classes you will be exhibiting in and the date of birth of the animal in each class:

	DOELING	CHEVON	MARKET GOAT	DRY YEARLING DOE	MILKING DOE
CLASS ENTERED					
DATE OF BIRTH					

## FEED & MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

(Please include monthly costs for each section listed for all animals to be exhibited)

Month	Milk Consumed		Hay and Feed Consumed		Misc. Costs	Total Cost Per Month
	kg or lb	cost/mo	kg or lb.	cost/mo		
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL						_____

## RECORD OF GROWTH

CLASS ENTERED	DOELING	CHEVON	MARKET GOAT	DRY YEARLING DOE	MILKING DOE
Weight at beginning of 4-H Year					
Weight at end of 4-H year					
Weight gain for year					

## HEALTH RECORDS

DATE	PROBLEM	CURE	COST

Animal owned by farmer    or     Animal owned by 4-H member/family

### Personal Comments

(What did you learn /Why did you take this project?)

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### Meeting Summary

How many general club meetings did you attend this year? \_\_\_\_\_

How many project meetings did you attend this year? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any other club/county activities that you may have participated in during the past year:

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