Information in this manual is for the use only by the members of the SC 4-H/FFA Meat Goat Project. The deworming recommendations in this manual are practiced by members of the meat goat industry; however these practices are “off-label.” Consult your veterinarian for off-label script (prescription) to administer these recommendations. Disclosures and disclaimers: remember we are not veterinarians, if you have any problem with your goats’ health call your vet. They will diagnosis and treat your goat. This book is only to help you with your goat.
South Carolina 4-H and FFA Meat Goat Project Overview

The 4-H and FFA Meat Goat Project gives 4-H and FFA members an opportunity to participate in a relatively inexpensive and short-term animal project. This project goat is to be shown at the local county shows and at the “End of Project Show”. Goats can be sold at the final project show, and this money will be given to the youth.

The South Carolina 4-H and FFA Meat Goat Project starts with a drawing for the young wether goat in the summer and concludes with the final show in the fall. Participating 4-H and FFA members will purchase the goat through the State Meat Goat Project and receive the goat to this Project Guide, which includes instructions for raising a healthy goat and information about this project, a Data Book will be provided at the beginning of the project that is to be filled out and returned at weigh-in time during the Final Show.

The objectives of the 4-H and FFA Meat Goat Project are to learn basic principles of animal science by owning and caring for a project goat. Youth have the opportunity to learn and demonstrate knowledge of feeding and management practices, identify types and grades of animals, learn about marketing methods, will identify quality in wholesale and retail cuts of animal products and understand their relationship to management practices. By participation in this project youth will develop integrity, sportsmanship, decision-making capability, and public speaking skills through participation in demonstrations, tours, judging and exhibits. Youth will learn the value of scientific research and its influence upon animals and the meat industry and will demonstrate budgeting and record keeping skills when they return the Project Data Book.

Youth will demonstrate proficiencies by participating in:
- State Competitions and Activities
- State 4-H & FFA Meat Goat Project
- Goat Project Data Book Competition
- 4-H & FFA Livestock Shows at County Fairs
- State 4-H Demonstration Day
- 4-H Record Book Competition
- State 4-H & FFA Livestock Judging Contest

The Meat Goat Project Data Book, show ring performance, and how well the goat has developed as a market animal will be used to score the top age division winners in the SC 4-H & FFA Meat Goat Project. Young wether goats will be weighed at the start of the project, and youth will earn points in the project as follows.

1. Showmanship and Presentation 40 Points
2. Wether Goat Data Book 30 Points
3. Weight gain of the goat at the End of Project 20 Points
4. On-Foot Quality Score 10 Points

Please contact your 4-H Agent or volunteer, Livestock Extension Agent, or your FFA Advisor, for information about this project.
Wether Goats make good project animals for young people, since goats are small, easy to work with, relatively inexpensive, and may be kept in a small amount of space. Young goats are fun to work with and watch as they grow up. A wether goat is a castrated male goat. It is very common to castrate males that will not be used as a herd sire. Most wethers are raised for the purpose of meat production.

The purpose of this project is to teach young people how to responsibly care for a goat and keep records on the goat’s progress. Records on income and expenses will also be kept to monitor profitability.

Goats typically grow fast while they are young. Under normal conditions, goats will gain around 2 pounds per week. Your wether may gain more during one week and less during another. You should weigh your goat on a regular basis to monitor weight gain. There is a chart in your data book to record your weights. Your goat may weigh over 100 pounds by the end of the project.

Not all goats in the project will gain to the same final weight. Remember that size does not make a good goat. There are good small goats and good large goats. The management program is the key.

Remember, the project is about having fun and learning about your goat. Relax, have fun and enjoy showing your wether goat.
Facilities and Equipment

One of the major advantages of a goat project is the expensive facilities are not needed. Goats will adapt well to most environments. However, there are a few essentials needed to properly care for your goat.

#1. **A Barn or Shed** is needed so goats can retreat from the sun and rain. The shed area should have at least 25 square feet of space for each goat. The shed should also be well drained and well ventilated so goats will remain cool during the summer months.

#2. **A Pen** with outside exposure is important. The outside pen needs to be at least 100 square feet per goat. Gates should have strong latches that a goat cannot open. Make sure the ground will not hold water, drainage is important. Pens need to be cleaned often. Make sure your pen is goat proof (a goat will eat things it shouldn’t).

  Goat proofing a pen is hard work. It’s hard to think like a goat! Goats will also get their heads stuck and will get their legs caught. Keep an eye on your goat for a while once you get it home, just in case it out-thinks you.

#3. **Fencing** is of course very important. Fence height should be at least 48 inches. Fences should also keep out predators. Good fences can keep out dogs. Dogs like to chase goats and may end up killing your goat. The most desirable pens are constructed from galvanized livestock panels that are 5 feet tall with 4 inch squares.

#4. **Feed Containers** are essential. Self-feeders are often used in the feeding of goats. Self-feeders should be at least 6 inches off the ground. If goats are hand fed, use moveable troughs that hang on the fence at the appropriate height. Troughs should be hung at the same height as the top of the shoulder of the goat being fed. These movable troughs should be cleaned regularly. Likewise, hay and mineral feeders need to be raised off the ground. This will help reduce the spread of disease and parasites. It’s also important to make sure that goats are not able to stand in their feed troughs because they will urinate or defecate on the feed.

#5. **Water Containers** are the most important of all. Fresh water is the most important ingredient in properly caring for your goats. Water should be checked daily. Water troughs should be small in size so they can be cleaned on a regular basis. Troughs should be located in the shade to keep the water cool and available. Never let the water container go dry!

#6. No hay bags or hay nets should be left with goats when they are alone. Your goat could get tangled and be hanged!

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**Useful equipment for Goat Care**
- stiff brush to clean water troughs
- shovel, rake or pitch fork to clean pens
- scales or weigh tape to weigh goats
- syringes and needles for injections
- collars and leads for shows
- hoof trimmers
- small portable feed troughs or buckets
- soft brush for grooming
- water bucket
Feed Management

Obviously, how you manage your goat’s feeding program will dictate a lot about your goat. You have a choice of feeding a commercially prepared ration, mixing your own, or feeding a ration that has been mixed by the local feed store. There are many complete commercial rations available. Goats are picky eaters; therefore, a pellet ration is recommended over a textured or loose ration. Select a balanced ration, learn how to feed it, and learn how your goat responds to it. It is recommended that you use a goat ration that contains a coccidiostat medication for coccidian parasite. Never feed your goats; chicken, dog, cow, horse, or pig feed.

At the time of purchase many young goats will not know how to eat pellet feed from a trough. These goats should be started on good, leafy hay that has a goat ration pellet sprinkled on top in the trough. After 3 or 4 days, the selected ration may be introduced slowly. Hay can be fed during the first part of the feeding program, but should be limited at the later stages to prevent goats from developing a large stomach.

As stated earlier, most goats can be self-fed for the entire feeding period. In a self-feeding program you should work to have feed for your goats at all times. This is called free choice. However, some goats will become fat and need to be hand fed. Fat deposition must be monitored throughout the feeding program. The feeding schedule can be adjusted to modify gain and body composition, but the goat must be continually monitored so changes can be made. Make changes gradually so your goat will stay on feed and continue to develop. Feeding is a daily responsibility.

The feeding program will dictate how your goat develops and matures. A good program cannot make up for the lack of superior genetics, but it will allow your goat to reach its genetic potential. To best monitor your results, weigh your goat on a regular basis. Know if your goat is gaining or losing weight and record this weight gain.

Measuring Your Success

Math can really help you figure out how well your project goat is growing. As you weigh your goat either with a scale or with a tape measure (at least every two weeks). You can compare this to others in the project or to the Growth Chart in the Appendix at the back of this book. Your goat should gain 1/3 to 1/2 pound per day over the project but may not gain very much at first. It will take some time to become adjusted to a new area and to new feed. If it gets really hot your goat may not gain also.

Examples of Math for the Data Book:

Let’s say you have two weights on your record sheet. Calculate how many days there were between the weights and how much the goat gained. To calculate Average Daily Gain (ADG)

Starting Date Weight: June 11  35 lbs.
Two week Weight: June 25  42 lbs

7/11 to 7/25 → 14 days
42 lbs – 35 lbs = 7 lbs

Daily Change: 7 lbs in 14 days
ADG: 7 lbs ÷ 14 days = 0.5 (1/2) lb/day
0.5 lb ADG

You can also do the math to calculate how much feed it took to add weight on your goat.
Goat Nutrition

The goat is a member of the class of animals called ruminants. This means that they ruminate or chew their cud. The goat has four compartments to its stomach especially designed for digesting roughage or high fiber feed such as grasses, shrubs and hay. The four chambers of the stomach are called rumen, reticulum, omasum and the abomasum or true stomach.

A young goat’s digestive system changes from drinking milk when very young, to eating forges as they get older. That is, the rumen gets larger and changes to a fermentation compartment as they grow. The rumen has many bacteria and protozoa which produce enzymes that help digest the high fiber feeds. The adult ruminant regurgitates the cud to continue digesting the feed at a later time. This is called “cud chewing”. When the food particles are small enough they pass into the reticulum. Next the feed passes in the omasum where water is removed from the feed and nutrients, such as the volatile fatty acids, are absorbed through the wall of the omasum and become the energy source for the goat. The fermentation process continues in the abomasums or true stomach where the stomach acid, hydrochloric acid (HCL), continues the digestion before feed that passes into the small intestine.

You should study your goat and use all available information to make decisions on when feed changes should be made. Since goats do not deposit external fat as rapidly as other species of livestock, a self-feeding program can be effective. However, some goats will become too fat during the feeding period and should be hand fed twice daily to control the amount of feed consumed.

All livestock require five basic nutrients:

1. Water
2. Protein
3. Fats
4. Carbohydrates (or energy)
5. Minerals and vitamins

Water- Clean, fresh water is a daily necessity because water composes more than 70% of lean tissue and all body fluids must be replenished regularly. Never deprive your goat of water because water regulates the amount of feed a goat will consume. Also the more water a wether drinks the more he will urinate which will help keep down the chances of urinary calculi.

Protein – The primary constituent of the animals’ body is protein. Dietary protein serves to maintain or replace protein in body tissues, provides for carriers of other nutrients and is a major component of various products such as meat, milk and fiber. Protein requirements of goats will vary according to their size, age and maturity. Young fast growing goat need higher protein diets to allow them to grow and develop their muscle potential. Rations that contain 16% to 18% protein are useful during this phase of the feeding program. It is very important to remember that meat goat receive goat feed, a ration this made especially for goats. Goats will perform much better on goat feed than on horse feed, for example, since goat feed in formulated nutritionally for the goat. Contact your local feed store for goat feed that includes a coccidiostat medicine in the feed.

Feed the goat the right amount. Do not over feed! Remember that goats have a daily requirement for protein. Try not to give more protein that is required since the extra is used for energy. Using protein as an energy source is
more expensive. When total feed intake is greatly reduced, protein supplementation may be necessary to provide adequate daily requirements for your goat. Make sure the feed you are feeding your wether is for ruminant animals. Never feed ruminants any feed that is labeled with this statement “do not feed to cattle or other ruminants”. This is a violation of a federal law!

As a general rule of thumb, goats will consume 2 to 4 percent of their body weight on a dry matter basis in feed. The exact percentage varies according to the size (weight) of the animal, with smaller goats needing a higher intake (percentage-wise) to maintain their weight.

For example: Your goat weighs 35 lbs
35 x 0.04 = 1.4 lbs of dry matter/day

If the feed you buy is 90% dry matter (which is a common percentage) then you would feed your goat 1.4/.9 = 1.6 total pounds of feed per day.

As your goat grows, offer him more each day. It may be best to hand feed your goat to keep him from getting too fat, giving ½ of the feed in the morning and ½ in the evening. Use a coffee can to measure the feed. You can add marking on the can at ½ lb intervals to measure the feed and add more feed as he grows. The hand feeding also means you are able to check on your goat in the morning and the afternoons or evenings. Changing your goat’s feed should be gradual. This can take several days. If you change the feed too quickly it can cause diraherra. This will cause the microbes to die. Your goat needs these microbes; you can use Probiocits to replace these microbes.

Hay or Pasture – Goats are natural browsers. They will eat grass but actually prefer broadleaf weeds such as honeysuckle, privet hedge and blackberry briars. Some plants in SC are poisonous and toxic to your goat. Some will only make the goat sick if he doesn’t eat too much, others will kill him. Here is a list of some poisonous plants: Japanese yew, poison hemlock, water hemlock, oleander, rhododendrons, azaleas, locoweed, boxwoods, tansy and wild cherry trees. Please make sure your goat pen is clear of these plants. If your goat escapes your pen he may decide to eat something that is not good for him. Hay that has any mold should not be fed to goats, this can kill them.

If you can provide a “safe pasture” for your goat, then grazing your goat is a good choice. A safe pasture means a pasture that your goat cannot escape from and is free from your family dog, your neighbor’s dog or wild dogs and coyotes. Remember dogs are often a vicious enemy of goats. If you do not have a safe pasture available you can feed good quality grass hay. To prevent goats from wasting hay you can make a hay rack to keep the hay off the ground and keep goats from walking all over the hay as long as the hay rack is goat proof.

Carbohydrates and Fats – The most common limiting nutrient in goat rations are energy producing carbohydrates and fats. (Grains and protein supplements are high in energy). An adequate supply of energy is necessary for efficient nutrient utilization. Inadequate energy intake will result in slow growth and weight loss. However, in goat rations, too much energy intake can be just as bad as not enough.

Minerals – The minerals of major importance in goat rations are salt (sodium and chlorine), calcium and phosphorus. Minerals are necessary and very important for proper growth of your wether and all goats. Make sure your minerals are for goats. Provide salt in a free
choice form or sprinkle 1 Tablespoon of table salt over goat rations at each feeding. Calcium and phosphorus are necessary for proper growth and development, and should be fed in a ratio of two parts of calcium to one part of phosphorus. Rations that contain high levels of phosphorus in relation to calcium may cause urinary calculi. Urinary Calculi are stones that form in the urinary tract and are very painful and could cause your animal to die. This is found in mostly wethers and bucks. The additions of ammonium chloride at the rate of 10 to 15 pounds per ton of feed or the addition of 2 tablespoons of Acid Pac per 5 gallons of drinking water can help prevent urinary calculi. Some rations list ammonium chloride on the feed tag.

Some points to remember are:

- Roughage is generally high in calcium and low in phosphorus
- Grains are generally low in calcium with moderate levels of phosphorus
- Most protein supplements are high in phosphorus with moderate levels of calcium

Vitamins – Vitamins are essential for proper body function and are required by goats in very small amount. Only Vitamin A is likely to be deficient. If you think this is a problem add a small amount of Alfalfa hay or Alfalfa pellets. Too much Alfalfa can cause Urinary Calculi.

It is good practice to occasionally inoculate goats with B complex Vitamin. This promotes good health and helps them to eat well.

Care of the Goat

Hoof Trimming – A goat’s hooves will grow long if they are not naturally worn down by walking over rough terrain. Hooves should be trimmed about every 6 weeks. Always trim hooves 1 to 2 weeks before a show in case you accidentally cut into the quick and temporarily cripple the goat. This will allow the goat time to heal before the show.

| HOOF TRIMMING |...

If foot rot develops, (foot smells really bad) have your parent treat it by trimming the hoof closely and placing the foot in a zinc sulfate foot-bath and be careful.

Dehorning or tipping for SAFETY – Your project goat will most likely have horns. You need to work carefully with your goat so that you do not get hurt by the horns. Horns can be sharp and the goats will jump when you try to catch them. You can either tip the horn, which means cutting the tips off and rounding the ends, or tape something over the horns (tennis balls work great). Tipping can be done easily without causing much stress to the goat. Horns should be tipped 4-6 weeks prior to the show to allow the horns to heal properly. Dehorning is more expensive and needs to be done by a vet or someone who is very experienced in this procedure. You can actually lose a goat from dehorning at the age of 4 months old. Dehorning or tipping rules are made for the safety of the exhibitor.
GOAT HEALTH

The key to a healthy goat is the development of a preventive health program. Most goats purchased for the project are on a health maintenance program and have had vaccinations. Project goats have had the clostridium C & D and a tetanus vaccine. Vaccinations and treatment for internal parasites are recommended. Use a veterinarian for health and medical advice and always follow label directions for any medication or dewormer. Withdrawal time means the number of day needed for the medicine to clear the body. Remember these are meat goats!

Disclosures and disclaimers: remember we are not veterinarians, if you have any problem with your goats’ health call your vet. They will diagnosis and treat your goat. This book is only to help you with your goat.

Enterotoxemia - A major cause of death in goats is enterotoxemia or overeating disease.

Cause: Goats that have their feeding schedule abruptly changed or consume large amounts of grain.

Symptoms: not any to say of;

Treatment: None by the time you have found out what is wrong the goat is already dead.

Urinary Calculi – This is the number one killer of wether goats! This is stones in the kidneys and in the urinary tract. This will block the urine from leaving the body and will kill your goat! If not treated quickly the goat will not make it. Prevention is the best: add ¼ cup of Apple Cider Vinegar to water each day. You will have to dump out the old and make new each day.

Or add 1 tablespoons of Acid Pac to 2 gallons of water (this should be done at least twice a week). Make sure your goat is drinking water. The more water they drink the less chance the stones will form. One way to make sure he is drinking is to add 1 tablespoon of table salt to each daily feed ration.

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Coccidiosis – Coccidia are intestinal protozoa that live in the lining of the intestine and destroy these cells. This is very contagious to your herd. Most commercial goat rations are medicated with a coccidiostat that should help control coccidiosis.
Symptoms: Goats have a sticky black diarrhea, dehydrated and may have weight loss and be weak.

Treatment: Treat water with corrid, you may use this with all your goats. Any sick goat should be separated from herd and treated.

**Internal Parasites** — Are stomach or round worms (nematodes), flukes (flat worms), Protozoa, Lungworms, Pinworms and Tapeworms. The most serious are the stomach worms and these will kill your goat if not treated quickly. Prevention is having feed off the ground and cleaning the pen area of you goat. Also keeping your goat pen free of manure and cleaning any feed that has fallen on the ground. Rotation of your goat pen every month and keeping the pen dry.

Symptoms of Internal Parasites: Rough coat, gum and eyelids are pale. Your goat may look bloated and depressed. Goat is not gaining weight.

Treatment: Dewormer as soon as possible. We will be selling these goats at the end of the show season. Therefore you will have to watch the withdrawal time on the dewormer you use. If you have any questions please ask your vet or your county advisor.

**External Parasites** — Are ticks, fleas, flies, lice, ear mites and bots.

Symptoms: Missing hair, rough coat

Treatment: Some dewormers will treat both internal and external parasites. You can also find sprays at the feed stores that will help.

**Acidosis** — Low rumen and body ph usually caused by too many carbohydrates such as grain and molasses.

Symptoms: Goats quit eating feed, quit chewing their cud and are depressed and can be bloated, some may have diarrhea. Some will founder and die if not treated.

Treatment: Give lots of hay and probiotics and also baking soda. After the goat improves start back with a rationed feed little at first until the goat is much better.

**Soremouth** - Also known as Contagious Ecthyma is a viral disease. This virus can affect humans, so be careful when handling an infected goat.

Symptoms: formation of scabs on the lips and mouth area.

Treatment: Softening ointments or dilute iodine may be rubbed into lesions to help the healing. Once a goat has this it will not have it again.

**Ringworm** – Is a contagious fungus. Goats can pass it one to another and can also pass it to you. It can be rubbed on skin or equipment.

Symptoms: a red ring area that itches.

Treatment: You will have to see a doctor if you get it. An antibiotic from your vet will be needed for your goat. A good sanitation program is necessary to control the spread. * Novasan -3 ounces per gallon of water or a 10% bleach solution may be sprayed on affected equipment and premises.

**Pinkeye** – This is a contagious disease. It can be passed to other animals and humans. Goats are susceptible to pinkeye especially after they have been transported to a new location. Dry, dusty pens and constant exposure to sunlight can be contributing factors.

Symptoms: Excessive watering of the eye and clouding over the pupil.

Treatment: There are several medications on the market for pinkeye. Penicillin is used most. If you do not notice
improvement within a few days after treatment, contact your vet.

**Pneumonia** is an infection of the lungs.
Symptoms: Snotty, runny nose, stands around with head down, sounds congested, elevated temperature and coughs and breathes rapidly or with difficulty.
Treatment: call your vet they have several antibiotics that works quickly. Pneumonia will kill a goat if not treated quickly!

**Illegal Drugs** – State and federal laws have regulations concerning the use of drugs for livestock and are established to protect human and animal health. These instructions and restrictions on product labels must be strictly followed. The labels state the species or class of livestock for which the drug is to be used, the recommended ways to treat the animal with the drug, the approved dosage rate and the specific conditions to be treated. Therefore, when treating animals with drugs, you should always follow label instructions and consult your veterinarian for proper health care.

**Controlling Parasites**

Your goat will grow and gain weight best when he is kept free of both internal and external parasites. Parasites, while stealing nutrition from you goat, cause severe stress. Goats with parasites spend more time trying to rid themselves of their discomfort than they do eating and growing. It is essential that your wether goat is monitored closely for parasites and treated appropriately for him to be healthy. The most common parasite problems in goats include stomach worms, coccidia and lice.

“Wormy” goats will eat continually and still lose weight, because all the nutrients are going to feed the worms. Soft stool is common and diarrhea and “bottlejaw” (sagging skin under the chin) can result when an animal is seriously “wormy”. If not treated immediately when you find bottlejaw you will lose your goat. Your goat’s coat may also look dull and unthrifty.

A veterinarian can perform a fecal test to determine worm infestation. However, you can use a fairly reliable field test to check for worms yourself. Pull the lower eyelid down. The inside of the lower eyelid should be red to bright pink in color if the goat is healthy. Wormy goats have inside lower eyelids that are light pink, and severely infected goats (who are probably on the verge of dying) display white eye linings. It is very difficult to bring an extremely anemic goat back to health.

If you believe your goat has worms, you should treat him by drenching (giving oral de-wormer medicine) to him immediately. The following are a few of the de-wormers available at your local feed store, and their dosages. You must dose your animal as instructed based on their current weight. Improper dosing will result in a poor kill of the parasites and may lead to resistance to the de-wormer.

**Ivermectin (Ivomec)**...an injectable product for use in cattle and swine. Given orally at the dosage of 1cc per 50 pounds of body weight. Example: a 60 pound wether will need 1.25 ccs by mouth. This de-wormer will also help with external parasites

**Cydectin (Moxidectin)**...this is a purple pour-on for cattle. The dosage for goats is 1 cc per 15 pounds of body weight given orally. **Do not pour on your goat!** Example: a 60 pound goat would need 4 ccs. This de-wormer is a favorite
of many goat producers and results in a quick and efficient kill of most parasites.

**Safeguard (panacur)**... one of the “white” dewormers. To be given orally at the dose of 2 ccs per 50 pounds of body weight. This amount can be doubled without fear of overdose to treat tapeworms. (If you are seeing worms in your goat’s droppings, it is tapeworms).

Example: a 50 pound goat would receive 2 ccs orally normally, or 4 ccs orally if you were treating for tapeworms.

**WARNING:** Many parasites common to goats have developed a resistance to a particular dewormer. If your dewormer does not seem to be working for you, change immediately to a different dewormer. If your goat continues to be “wormy”, consult a veterinarian for a fecal test.

Lice can also cause major health problems for goats. Lice come in two basic varieties: blood-sucking and non-blood-sucking. Viewing the parasite under a microscope is the only way to determine the difference. Blood sucking lice can cause anemia and death.

Many times you may think your goat is “wormy” then you treat for worms and still have ragged-looking animals. Their coats are rough and they continue to lose weight. At this point, TREAT FOR LICE. Don’t worry which type they are (blood-sucking or not); just treat for them. Synergized DeLice is a product which is inexpensive, can be bought over the counter in gallon bottles, and is easy to apply. A squeeze bottle with a small applicator tip is desirable. An old mustard bottle will work wonderfully. Only a small amount of DeLice (approx 1-2 ccs for a goat under 100 pounds) is required and is applied along the back of the goat from the base of the neck to base of tail. Results should be visible within seven days. Goats should be treated for lice every 4 weeks.

Another parasitic threat to your goat comes in the form of coccidian. Coccidia is the most common cause of diarrhea in kids between three weeks and five months of age. Coccidia can be found everywhere in the environment and otherwise healthy goats do not show clinical signs when exposed to it. However, coccidian is opportunistic. It affects goats that are under stress or have otherwise weak immune systems. Goats kept in crowded, dirty conditions, who are sick, or who are not properly fed and watered are susceptible to coccidiosis. You should suspect coccidiosis if your kids show poor growth rates, weight loss or abnormal stools. Coccidia destroys the lining of the gut. The sign of coccidian are colic (belly ache) and diarrhea. These result from destruction and inflammation of the intestinal lining (mucosa). Massive infections can lead to bloody diarrhea and death from blood loss. If the kid survives, the damage to the gut can be so severe it leaves you a “runty” kid. This “ill thrift” results when the damage to the gut prevents proper absorption of nutrition. It is important that you feed a goat ration that is medicated with a “cocciciostat” to help prevent a coccidian infection. However, if you suspect coccidian, the following is the preferred treatment method by goat producers.

**Albon Concentrated Solution 12.5% or Di-Methox Concentrated Solution 12.5% straight from the bottle; do not mix with water. Given Orally- Administer straight into the mouth using a syringe (remove the needle). Do not just add it to the kid’s water because you will not know if he receives the correct dose.**

**Five day treatment -you must treat for the full five days.**
Training and Preparing to Show

Exercise can be very beneficial to your goat and to your success in the show ring. Goats are very active animals. If given enough room, they will exercise themselves. Have object like big rocks or wooden spools in your pen for climbing and jumping. This will provide your goat with an excellent opportunity to exercise itself. A goat that exercises will handle harder and firmer, and will give you an advantage in the show ring.

Washing and Grooming – It is not always necessary to wash your goat, but it can be beneficial. Use a mild soap sparingly, rinse the animal thoroughly and dry the goat completely. Then, brush your goat with a brush on a regular basis. Brushing removes all the dead hair and dirt. Grooming also can enhance the look of your goat in the show ring. Grooming refers to trimming uneven lengths of hair and generally cleaning up the overall appearance of your goat. Most youth that shows will cut the hair of the goat and the tail.

Halter breaking is an excellent way to start the gentling process. Collars, chains or inexpensive rope halters can be made or purchased from feed and livestock supply stores. Goats should be caught, and worked with on a regular basis. Once your goat begins calm down and becomes gentler you can start teaching him to lead. Have someone assist you by pushing the goat from behind whenever it stops. Teach the goat to lead with its front shoulder even with your leg. The goat’s head should be in front of your body and should be held high.

Training Your Goat to Show – Some people are natural showmen, but all exhibitors can learn techniques to improve their showmanship skills. Pre-show preparation is the amount of time required to train a goat for showing. Pre-show preparation depends on the goat, the physical size and experience of the exhibitor, and the intensity of training. Some goats are gentle and easy to train for showing: and other goats are more difficult or nearly impossible to train. Most goats can be trained if enough time and effort is spent with them. Don’t give up!

Setting up Your Goat – The next step in the training process is to lead the goat and properly set it up. Setting up refers to the way the goat stands in the show ring. Set the legs up square under the goat. First, set up the front legs, then place the hind legs, keeping the body and neck straight and the head in a high, proud position with the halter, chain or collar. You
should stand next to your goat at all times. After the training is complete, you may wish to practice showing. Set up your goat and show it while someone else handles it. You must make sure the goat looks good at all times. If the goat responds properly, return it to the pen and do not overwork it. If the goat does not show properly when the judge handles it, you may get overlooked. Most of the judges will touch your goats’ legs and back, it takes lots of practice for a goat to get use to that.

| Accept the ruling of a judge without complaining |
| Exhibit your own work |

Sportsmanship

We all want to win the blue ribbon for 1st place. However, there can only be one.

Good Sportsmanship doesn’t start in the ring. It starts when you get out of the truck or car and will last until you get back into the truck or car. Everyone will not remember the number of blue ribbons you win, but they will remember your sportsmanship and character.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good Sportsman</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Follow all rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be ethical and honest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not cheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treat your goat with kindness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treat others with kindness, courtesy and respect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ethics will be a part of you your entire life. Don’t let your desire to win outlast your ethics. There are ways to make your goat better than it really is. Some of these are unethical and not what we want you to do. Remember you and your family are being watched by others. There are groups who do not want us to show goats and are waiting for someone to treat a goat unethically so they can use it to end goat shows. If you always act as if someone is using a camera to record what you are doing maybe you will think before you act. And try this, are you doing something that you would not want others to know, if the answer is yes than maybe you shouldn’t do it. So please treat your goat and others the way they should be treated.

Show Time

Your planning, feeding, fitting, training and grooming have brought you and your goat this far – to the show ring. Now, your skill in exhibiting your goat- showmanship- cannot be emphasized too strongly.

You should be mentally and physically ready to enter the show ring for competitions. By completing the pre-show activities, you should have confidence that you can do an effective job showing your goat. You should be neat in appearance, but not overdressed. Do not wear a hat or cap, sunglasses or open toed shoes.

Before the show begins, become familiar with the show ring. When the judging begins, watch to see how the judge works the goats. You will feel more comfortable and confident if you know what the judge will want you to do. Each judge is different and does things differently.
When the appropriate class is called, take your goat to the show ring. If the ring stewards do not line up the goats, find a place where your goat will look its best. Avoid corners of the ring and leave plenty of space between your goat and others. Set your goat up, making sure the legs are set properly, and keep the body, neck and head in a straight line with the goat’s head up and alert.

A good showman must be alert and know where the judge is at all times. Remember to keep your eye on the judge, keep your goat under control, and do not stand between your goat and the judge!

Set up your goat and be ready before the judge gets to you. Be careful not to cover your goat with your body and block the judge’s view. In large classes, it may take 20 minutes before the judge handles your goat. After handling your goat, the judge usually will step back and look at it. Be sure to keep the goat’s head up and body, neck and head in a straight line. Also it is very important to watch the judge and your goat at all times while in the show ring. It is your responsibility to watch the judge as you will not miss any of his or her directions. If your goat is not pulled the first time, keep trying.

If your goat is pulled, circle it out of the line and follow the directions of the ring steward while continuing to keep an eye on the judge. Move your goat with style and at a steady, moderate pace. Remember to keep show at all times, because a class is not over until the ribbons are distributed.

In the showmanship class a judge will ask you questions. The older you are the harder the questions will be. Read all you can about goats, in this book and others. Look up websites that have goat health. Here are a two that will be helpful:

Jackmauldin.com  Tennessemeatgoats.com

Be courteous to fellow exhibitors. A good showman will emphasize strong points and minimize weak points of a goat. Be alert at all times and always display a pleasant facial expression (smile). Remember to use good manners and always remember to:

Be a good sport, a graceful loser, a humble winner and have fun. Also, be courteous to the judge and the other exhibitors at all times

Show Goat Qualities

The following are important quality in show goats:

**Structural Correctness**

**Muscle**

**Volume and Capacity**

**Style and Balance**

**Growth Potential**

**Structural Correctness** refers to the skeletal system of bone structure of an animal. A goat should hold its head up and the neck should extend out of the top of the shoulders. A goat should travel and stand wide and straight on both front and rear legs with the legs placed squarely under the body. A goat should have a strong, level back, and a long rump with slight slope from hooks to pins. Your goat should be heavy boned and strong on its pasterns. Open shouldered, weak-backed, weak-pasterned, steep-rumped goats should be avoided.

Generally, a goat that walks and stands wide is going to be heavier muscled. The goat should have deep, heavily muscled legs and
rump. When viewed from behind, the widest part of the leg should be the stifle area. The goat should have a broad, thick back and loin that is naturally firm and hard handling. A good goat should be wide through its chest floor, with bold shoulders and prominent forearm muscle. The chest and forearm are the best indicators of muscling in thin goats.

**Volume and Capacity** refers to the relationship of body length to body depth and body width. Goats should be long-bodied, with adequate depth and spring of rib. A goat that is short-bodied, shallow-bodied, narrow-based and/or flat-ribbed show lack of volume and capacity.

**Style and Balance** refers to the way all of the body parts blend together. This means how the neck blends into the shoulders, the shoulders blend into the ribcage, the ribcage into the loin, the loin into the rump, and the overall “eye appeal” of a goat. When viewed from the side a goat should have a smooth shoulder, level back, trim middle and straight legs. A goat that is balanced and holds its head up will be the first on you notice when you walk in the pen.

The **Growth Potential** refers to the ability of the animal to grow rapidly. Growth potential of an animal is very important. Generally, a large framed goat that shows a long head, neck, cannon bone and body, will grow faster, be larger and be more competitive in the show ring.

---

**Early Preparations for a goat show.**

Send in registration papers to fairground by due date!
Keep dates and times for shows and directions for fairgrounds
Train your goat for showing
Practice good showmanship techniques
Study questions judges may ask
Having a way to transport your goat to and from show

**Preparing for a goat show in near future**

Trim feet of your goat
Groom your goat (wash, trim, etc.)
Check on health papers (only needed for Orangeburg show)
Take only the amount of feed you think you will need or a little extra
Bring hay if you think your goat will eat it
Take water for your goat (some fairs have city water, goat won’t drink)
Bring extra clothes for showing and for cleaning your goat.
Check your show box and see if you need to replace or add anything
Bring feed and water buckets (make sure your name is on them)
LEAVE IN PLENTY OF TIME, THE SHOW WILL NOT WAIT ON YOU

These are meat goats. At the end of this project we will try to have a buyer there to purchase your goat. To be able to sell your wethers you will have to remember to keep it healthy and free from chemical residues (Dewormer and other medications). All medicines have a withdrawal date and you must follow it to be able to sell your goat.
### Goat Stomach

![Diagram of goat stomach with labels for different sections.]

### Body Parts of a Meat Goat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Body Part</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Body Part</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Body Part</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Body Part</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Topline</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Poll</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Knee</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pastern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rump</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Forehead</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Heart Girth</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Hock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Loin</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Brisket</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Barrel</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Stifle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rack</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Chest Floor</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sheath</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Flank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Withers</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Forearm</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Cannon Bone</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pin Bone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Is your goat Happy and Healthy or Sick and Puny?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Happy and Healthy</th>
<th>Sick and Puny</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appearance</td>
<td>Bright, Active, Alert, Playful, Shiny Coat</td>
<td>Dull, Depressed, Standing Alone, Lying Down, Dull &amp; Rough Coat, Head Down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyes</td>
<td>Bright and Moist</td>
<td>Dull, Sunken, Runny, Glazed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nose</td>
<td>Dry</td>
<td>Watery, Snotty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stomach</td>
<td>Normal Shape</td>
<td>Bloated or Sunken In</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feet and Legs</td>
<td>Normal Shape</td>
<td>Lame, Swollen, Smelly Hooves, Hard to Walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walking Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Goats Medical Chart:

- **Heart Rate:** 70-90 beats per minute (a young kid can be doubled)
- **Respiration Rate:** 10-30 breaths per minute (kid 20-40)
- **Temperature:** 101.5 - 104
Appendix A

MEAT GOAT PROJECT RULES

General Rules:

Persons allowed in the show ring during a show shall be:

- Judge
- Ring Steward
- Participants with Goats
- No One Else

If an animal cannot be controlled by the exhibitor alone, the Ring Steward will provide minimal assistance. If the animal cannot be brought under control by the Ring Steward and is deemed dangerous to other exhibitors, the exhibitor will be asked to remove the animal from the show ring.

Showmanship:

Sportsmanship is very important. This is before, during and after the show. “As soon as you are on the fairgrounds, you are representing the Meat Goat Project and should act accordingly.

At the show, foul language, heckling fellow exhibitors, showing disrespect towards the judge, the officials or to other exhibitors will not be tolerated! You should also be courteous to all adults and spectators. If you violate these rules, you will be asked to leave the fairgrounds. This will be at the discretion of the Meat Goat Advisory Committee. This applies to all exhibitors, parents and responsible parties.

Remember to leave the show barn in the condition it was found or better.

No hats, sunglasses or open toed shoes in the show ring. Exhibitors should be clean and neatly dressed.

All exhibitors should be ready for their class on time. A judge should never have to wait for you to be ready.

No bucks will be allowed in the show barn or area.

Due to limited space, goats not participating in the Meat Goat Project or Doe classes should not be brought into the fairgrounds.
## Appendix B

### Growth Chart: Determination of Goat Weight Utilizing a Weigh Tape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hearth Girth (inches)</th>
<th>Goat Weight (pounds)</th>
<th>Hearth Girth (inches)</th>
<th>Goat Weight (pounds)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 ¾</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>25 ¼</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 ¼</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25 ¼</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 ¾</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26 ¼</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 ¼</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26 ¼</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 ¾</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>27 ¼</td>
<td>69</td>
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<td>20 ¼</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27 ¼</td>
<td>72</td>
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<td>20 ¼</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>28 ¼</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>21 ¼</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>28 ¼</td>
<td>78</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 ¾</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>29 ¼</td>
<td>81</td>
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<td>22 ¼</td>
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<td>29 ¼</td>
<td>84</td>
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<td>22 ¾</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>30 ¼</td>
<td>87</td>
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<td>23 ¼</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>30 ¼</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 ¾</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>31 ¼</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 ¼</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>31 ¼</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 ¾</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>32 ¼</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chart your Wethers Goat’s Growth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Heart Girth (inches)</th>
<th>Goat Weight (pounds)</th>
<th>Average Daily Gain (AGD) (pounds/day)</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Beginning Weight_______ lbs   Final Weight_______lbs   Final ADG:_______lbs/day
Appendix C

Weighing goat before a show

Appendix D

Judging a Goats Age by its Teeth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baby Teeth</th>
<th>Permanent Teeth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; pair incisors</td>
<td>at birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; pair incisors</td>
<td>at birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; pair incisors</td>
<td>at birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; pair incisors</td>
<td>at birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premolars</td>
<td>3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; molar</td>
<td>5-6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; molar</td>
<td>8-10 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix E

Fact Sheet

Providing a general overview of the project guide for a quick reference

Important Items to Remember:

You need a pen with a shed area.
Shed area should be at least 15 square feet for each goat you will have.
Shed area should be dry and open so your goat will stay cool while it is hot.
Always remove any loose nails, wire and boards. “Goat Proofing” every day!

You need good fences, make sure there are no holes in your fence that your goat can go through.
Fences should be at least 48 inches tall.
If you use net wire fencing, make sure the wire has 12-inch mesh.
Galvanized livestock panels that are 5 feet tall with 4-inch mesh are best.
Pen area should be 100 square feet, and should be cleaned often.
Pen area should be dry, and have shade so your goat will stay cool while it is hot.

Good pastures are important
Pasture gives your goat a good place to exercise.
Letting your goat eat on pastures can lower your feed bill, just make sure you can catch your goat and he cannot escape.

You need containers for feeding and watering.
Self-feeders can be used for commercial feed and should be off the ground.
Moveable feeding troughs that hang on the fence can be used when you are hand feeding your goat. They should be at your goat’s shoulder height.
Feeders for hay and minerals should also be raised off the ground.
Water troughs located in a shady area will stay cooler and he will drink more.

Things you will need to care for your goat:
A stiff brush to clean out the water and feed troughs.
A shovel, rake and/or pitchfork to clean out pen and shed area.
A collar or halter and lead rope and hoof trimmers.
A soft brush for grooming your goat.
Scales or weigh tape to monitors your goat’s weight.

Be aware that wild dogs and even your pet dog will chase goats and kill them.

Goats are ruminants.
Ruminants chew their cud (grasses, shrubs and hay)
Your goat’s stomach has four parts in it to digest its cud.

Rumen, reticulum, omasum and abomasum

Your goat will require 5 basic nutrients:

Water, Protein, Fats, Carbohydrates (or energy), Minerals and Vitamins
Fact Sheet

Taking Care of Your Goat:

Things you should do every day:
- Feed and water your goat morning and evening.
- Spend time working with your goat to prepare it for showing.
- Spend time watching your goat, get to know how it normally looks and acts.

Weigh your goat at least every 2 weeks.
- The amount of feed you give your goat each day is based on its weight.
- A healthy goat should gain 1/3 to ½ pound of weight per day (5-7 pounds every 2 weeks)

Water is very important
- Make sure your goat has plenty of fresh clean water.

Never let the water trough go dry!

Feedstuff - everything you feed your goat
- It is very important that if you change the type of feed that you are giving you goat, that you make this change slowly. Give your goat a little of the new feed with eth old for a few days (increasing the amount of new feed each day) until you are feeding all new feed.
- Commercial bagged feed – “goat feed”
  - This feed will give your goat protein, carbohydrates, fats, mineral and vitamins.
  - Pelleted forms are the best for goats
  - Start by feeding small amounts until you get your goat use to the feed
  - Rule of thumb: the amount of dry matter you should give your goat each day is about 2-4% of its body weight. (A 40 pound goat should be fed 1.6 pounds of dry matter each day (40 x 0.04 = 1.6)). **Dry matter percent plus moisture percent always equals 100%. If the feed you buy is 90% dry matter (with 10% moisture) then you would feed your goat 1.6/.9 = 1.8 total pounds of feed daily.**
  - It is best to feed your goat 2 times a day. Give your goat ½ of its feed in the morning and the other ½ in the evening. Add 2 Tablespoons of salt to each feeding. This will help him to drink more water.

Salt should be fed to your goat free-choice, always in it pen.

Hay or Pasture
- These provide roughage which your goat likes, they are natural grazers.
- Many flowers and shrubs that are found in yards are poisonous to goats, so do not let your goat graze in your yard (Azaleas, Lantana and Rhododendrons are examples)
- Wild Cherry trees with wilted leaves are also deadly to goats and other livestock
- Feeding hay toward the end of the project may cause your goat to develop a large stomach which will not look good in the show ring.
Keeping your goat healthy

The key to keeping your goat healthy is to be sure you do everything right when feeding, watering and keeping the pen clean.

Project goats have been given C &D and Tetanus vaccines. They should also have a booster vaccine three weeks following the kickoff.

Make sure you treat your goat for internal parasites. (Read and follow label directions for all medications. And watch for the withdrawal times; these goats will be sold)

When your goat does not act or look normal, look for signs of sickness and contact your veterinarian or your county advisor.

Some health problems to be aware of:

**Urinary calculi** are stones that form in the urinary tract of male goats. Preventive measures include making sure your feed has 2 parts calcium for every 1 part phosphorus with 10-15 pounds of ammonium chloride per ton of feed. Or add 2 tablespoons of Acid Pac per 5 gallons of water, twice a week. Make sure your goat has plenty of fresh clean water. You may also add 2 tablespoons of table salt to each feeding to make him drink more water.

**Enterotoxemia**—overeating disease, usually caused when your goat’s feeding schedule is abruptly changed or your goat eats a large amount of grain.

**Internal parasites** are always a concern. Your veterinarian can recommend an effective drench to control internal parasites.

**Pneumonia**—is an infection of the lungs. Call your vet they have several antibiotics that works quickly. Pneumonia will kill a goat if not treated quickly!

**Coccidiosis** will cause your goat to lose weight and not grow very well. Call your veterinarian if your goat has bloody diarrhea, dehydration, weight loss and weakness.

**Acidosis** is caused by feeding too much grain and/or molasses. Treatment is giving the goat probiotics and baking soda and only giving the goat feed pellets. This can also cause the goat to founder and if not treated the goat can die.

**Soremouth** is a contagious viral disease that causes scabs to form on your goat’s lips and around its mouth that can affect humans. Iodine can be rubbed on the sores after the scabs are removed to help dry them up and reduce the infection.

**Ringworm** is a contagious skin disease that is caused by a fungus that can affect humans. A good preventive measure is to keep your goat’s pen clean.

**Pinkeye** is another contagious disease that can affect humans. Signs of pinkeye are lots of watering of the eye(s) and clouding over the pupil. Pinkeye can be caused by dry, dusty pens and constant exposure to sunlight. Ask your veterinarian about medicines to treat pinkeye.

You will need to trim your goat’s hooves to keep them neat and healthy

Always trim your goat’s hooves at least 1-2 weeks before the shows.

If foot rot develops, you should trim the hoof and place the hoof in a zinc sulfate bath. This should be done by an adult.

Horns on your goat can be sharp and cause injury, so you must be very careful.
You can cut the tips of the horns off (tipping) and then round the ends of horns. You can also cut a small hole in 2 tennis balls and place over the tips of the horns.

**Showing Your Goat**

Preparing your goat for the show ring
Training your goat properly and practicing a lot for showing will help you and your goat do a better job in the show ring.
You must halter or collar break your goat and then teach it to lead.
When you are leading your goat, always have its front shoulder even with your leg. The goat should be on your right side.
You must make sure you set up your goat the right way.
   Set your goat’s front legs first. Then place the back legs and keep its body and neck straight and its head up.
   You should stand at all times while you are in the show ring.
   Be patient with your goat – your practice will pay off.
You may want to wash your goat before the show with a mild soap. Then rinse and dry your goat and brush it before entering the show ring.
Most exhibitors will trim their goats at home a few days before the show.

Show Time
You must dress neatly. It is not just your goat that is being judged!!
Always keep your eye on the judge so that you know where the judge is standing and looking in the ring.
Take a quick moment to set your goat up properly.
Never stand in front of your goat or block the judge’s view of your goat.
**Be a good sport, have fun and be a graceful looser and a humble winner.**
**Remember there is only 1 blue ribbon**
Appendix F

SOUTH CAROLINA 4-H AND FFA MEAT GOAT SHOW

The following are suggested guidelines for the 4-H and FFA Meat Goat Project Shows. This Meat Goat Project has become very popular and is increasing in participation by youth across the state. It would be helpful if the different fairs would use similar rules for their own shows so 4-H and FFA members will know what is expected as they participate in each of the county fairs.

Show Participants

To show in the Wether Goat Show, youth have to be a 4-H or FFA member who received a wether goat through the State Meat Goat Project Committee. The exhibitor has to show his or her own wether goat. In the event a wether goat dies or is diagnosed with a chronic/contagious illness by a veterinarian or a member of the S.C. Meat Goat Advisory Committee or a designee, a project member may substitute a doe in showmanship class only. If the animal has died or been confirmed ill as outlined above, a form to replace this animal must be obtained from the S.C. Meat Goat Project Committee and be presented at each show if the participant wishes to show his/her replacement doe in showmanship classes. No exceptions will be made.

Classes

Wether Goat Classes

Showmanship Classes (some fairs may have different age classes)

Class determined by age of child as of January 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5-8 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9-11 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>12-14 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>15-19 years old</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classes may be divided depending on size of class but should follow the age categories, i.e. Division 1A and Division 1B (both classes have children 5-8 years old). The exhibitor has to show his or her own goat. In case the wether goat dies, this project member may substitute a doe goat in showmanship class only.

Wethers will be weighed at the start of the project and youth will earn points in the project as follows.

- Showmanship: 40 points
- Data Book: 30 points
- Weight Gain: 20 points
- Carcass Quality: 10 points

See Details on the following page:
SHOWMANSHIP – 40 POINTS

Scoring would be determined by the showmanship point system already in place. At each show (All scheduled shows and the final show), participants would receive points based on their placing in showmanship. (1st – 5 points, 2nd – 4 points, 3rd – 3 points, 4th – 2 points, 5th and on – 1 point) The top scoring showman will receive the full 40 points. Each placing below will receive a point less with a minimum score of 10 points.

WETHER GOAT DATA BOOK – 30 POINTS

Scoring to be determined by a team of judges selected by show management. Points will be determined for each section of the data book and awarded by the judges based on quality and completeness of work. An average score will be calculated for each data book based on the scores from each judge on the panel.

WEIGHT GAIN – 20 POINTS

Scoring will be determined based on the percentage of pounds gained by each goat during the project. The top gaining goat will receive the full 10 points. Each goat after that will receive one-fourth of a point (.25) less. Weight gain will be based on beginning weight and the last recorded weight, even if the goat dies.

Formula (ending weight minus start weight multiply by 100 and then divided by start weight).

Example: 80 - 45 = 35x100 = 3500/45 = 77.78%

ON-FOOT QUALITY SCORE – 10 POINTS

Scoring will be determined by the average placing of the wether goat in market classes at each show. The “place” of the wether will be added together and divided by the number of shows that wether competed in. An average of 1 will earn 10 points, 2 will earn 9 points, etc. If calculations result in a decimal, they will be rounded to the nearest whole number using the tenths place.

Example: 1st + 3rd + 2nd + 3rd + 2nd = 11 11 / 5 shows = Average finish of 2.2, which would round to 2.

This participant would receive 9 points for on-foot quality
Showmanship Points:

- Award points at each show for placing as follows in each age division (Cloverbud, Cloverleaf, Junior and Senior):
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place – 5 points
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 4 points
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 3 points
  - 4<sup>th</sup> place – 2 points
  - 5<sup>th</sup> place to last place – 1 point
- Exhibitor with highest points total in each age division will be “Season Showmanship Champion” for that age division
- Exhibitor with second highest points total in each age division will “Season Showmanship Reserve Champion” for that age division
- The highest points total for all age divisions will be the “Season Grand Champion Showman”
- The second highest points total for all age divisions will be the “Season Reserve Grand Champion Showman”
- In the event of a tie
  - 1<sup>st</sup> tiebreaker: the number of shows attended
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> tiebreaker: record book score

Awards

- Winners at Annual Goat Project Banquet
- Buckles, Banners, Cash Premiums are TBD
Market Wether Points:

- To be awarded “Season Grand Champion Wether” and “Season Reserve Grand Champion Wether” wethers must be shown at the Final Show.

- Award points at each show for placing as follows in each Market weight division:
  - 1st place – 5 points
  - 2nd place – 4 points
  - 3rd place – 3 points
  - 4th place – 2 points
  - 5th place – 1 point
  - No points awarded after 5th place

- Award points at each show for Grand Champion Wether and Reserve Grand Champion Wether as follows:
  - Grand Champion: 2 points
  - Reserve Grand Champion: 1 point

- The wether that has accumulated the highest points total will be the “Season Grand Champion Wether”
- The wether that has accumulated the second highest points total will be the “Season Reserve Grand Champion Wether”

- In the event of a tie
  - 1st tiebreaker: the number of individual show Grand Championships
  - 2nd tiebreaker: the number of shows attended

- Awards
  - Winners to be announced at Final Show
**Market Classes**

Class shall be determined by weight of the project wether goat on the day of the show. It is recommended that goats be divided into five weight classes:

- Class 1
- Class 2
- Class 3
- Class 4
- Class 5

**Doe Classes**

Project participants can show doe goats in addition to their wether. There are some changes in the format of the doe classes so read the following rules carefully!

- You MUST be registered with and have purchased a wether through the Meat Goat Project to be able to participate in the doe classes.
- Participants can pre-register up to 6 does to show during the season.
- All does must have been born between September 1 of the previous year and the Kick-Off date of the current year.
- All does MUST be checked in at kickoff where they will be weighed, photographed, and ear tagged.
- Participants will be charged a $5 ear tagging fee per Doe.
- Only 1 Doe can be shown per exhibitor per class at each show.
- Classes will be established on the day of the show.
- Broken into 3 classes by weight at each show – Light, Medium, Heavy.
- The does will be judged as MARKET animals.

These are animals and unfortunately they sometimes die for various reasons and the committee does not want to exclude youth from participating in these situations. So, if your wether dies you can still continue to show any pre-registered does in showmanship and doe classes. If you did NOT pre-register any does we still want you to be able to participate in the project so the following guidelines have been established:

- Participants can only register a doe after kick-off ONLY in the event that their original project wether dies.
- She must have been born between September 1 of the previous year to Kick-Off date of the current year.
- Participants are limited to only registering 1 Doe.
- Participants can show only in Showmanship and doe classes.
- Participants must pay the $5 ear tagging fee.
- Participants will need to contact their County Advisor and the President of Meat Goat Committee (Tonia Gibson) in order to purchase a tag for $5.
For more information about the SC 4-H and FFA Meat Goat Project, please contact your local Clemson University County Extension Office.

Visit our website:  www.sc4hffameatgoatproject.com
Find us on Facebook:  www.facebook.com/sc.meatgoatproject
The Clemson University Extension Service offers its programs to all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.