

# A PROJECT GUIDE TO

# SOUTH CAROLINA 4-H/FFA MEAT GOATS PROJECT



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# Introduction

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## Connection to Clemson University

The South Carolina 4-H/FFA Meat Goat Project is one of the many projects offered by the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service. The 4-H Livestock Program gives youth the chance to experience a wide array of cognitive, emotional, intellectual and social activities. Youth can experience raising, caring for, training, and showing livestock species. They can take part in livestock enthusiast programs that do not require ownership of livestock. Either way the mission is to facilitate the development of life skills through animal agriculture experiences.

A group of Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service staff, called the South Carolina 4-H Livestock Steering Committee assists and advise each 4-H animal projects and the project advisory committees. Members of this state-wide livestock committee which frames all SC Youth Livestock Programs for Clemson are as follows:

Dr. Matt Burns, Livestock & Forage Program Team Leader  
Katie Shaw, SC 4-H Youth Development Specialist  
Mark Cathcart, 4-H Agent, Union County  
Lucy Charping, 4-H Agent, Greenwood County  
Lindsey Craig, Area Livestock and Forage Agent  
Steve Hucks, 4-H Agent, Lancaster County  
Travis Mitchell, Area Livestock and Forage Agent  
Jenny Mountford, 4-H Agent, Abbeville County  
Jessica Simpson, 4-H Agent, Anderson County  
Carly Smith, 4-H Agent, Williamsburg County  
Sam Quinney, 4-H and Agriculture Agent, Allendale Co.  
Lee Van Vlakte, Area Livestock and Forage Agent  
Allie Winter, 4-H Agent, Lexington County  
Connie Lake, 4-H Agent, Saluda County



### **Clemson Cooperative Extension & 4-H Youth Development**

*Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.*

## Project Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee manages the South Carolina 4-H/FFA Meat Goat Project. This group of volunteers consists of no more than nine members, in addition to four executive officers (for a total of 13 member) and a non-voting Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service Advisor. Members and officers are elected at the annual meeting in January. The Clemson University 4-H Youth Development office appoints the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service Advisor. Announcements and details about nominating and the election process will be emailed to all participants prior to official voting. All previous year's project participants are eligible to vote in the election (1 vote per family). For more information about this committee and its election, please contact one of the current Advisory Committee members or the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service Advisor.

The Advisory Committee works hard to ensure high learning outcomes and successful, positive project experiences for each participant. They also develop and implement the rules and regulations that govern the project. Each county or area of South Carolina has an advisor for that area/ the following individuals represent the area listed and are the first point of contact for project members in that part of the state. They are also charged with recruiting new members and holding educational workshops for their area.

President	Tyler & Mary Walker	864-876-0415
Vice-President	Martin Moses Allison Moses	704-718-0540 704-718-5985
Treasurer	Matthew Wilson Heather Wilson	864-923-2715 864-923-6688
Secretary	Chris & Christy Sweatman	843-906-7833
4-H Advisor	Katie Shaw	803-940-3190
Committee Member	Brad Willis Ellington Willis	864-420-3875 864-490-6022
Committee Member	Thomas Stroman Peggy Stroman	803-596-3716 803-837-2228
Committee Member	Nick & Jessica Starnes	941-809-6282
Committee Member	Casey & Lee Ann Robinson	864-616-5676
Committee Member	Kyle Penland	864-682-8436
Committee Member	Gene & Cindy Hurley	864-923-0113
Committee Member	Tom & Ginger Copeland	864-608-0635
Committee Member	Leroy Coggins Karla Coggins	828-808-9634 828-606-6214
Committee Member	John & Jessica Burnette	864-809-2990

The 2018 Goat Project Liaison is Katie Shaw, Clemson University 4-H Youth Development Specialist. For immediate questions or concerns regarding the meat goat project, please contact a committee member or Mrs. Shaw, 803-940-3190, before contact anyone else. If you have immediate questions or concerns about your project animal's health, please contact your local veterinarian.

# History and Overview

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Each year, 4-H and FFA project members exhibit their project animals at fairs, shows, and events in nearly every region in the state. Thousands of people have seen or learned about 4-H and FFA through these youth animal exhibits at the many fairs and events in South Carolina. This project offers a tremendous opportunity for 4-H, FFA, Clemson Cooperative Extension, and the animal agriculture industry to educate and inform the general public.

The South Carolina 4-H/FFA Meat Goat Project has been educating and impacting youth since 1999. This is a market livestock project where each 4-H or FFA project member randomly draws for their wether goat from a group of pre-selected commercial animals at the project Kick-Off event in June. Wethers are provided to the project by generous producers throughout the state. Project members spend the next 4 to 5 months caring for, training, showing and learning about the goats and the goat industry. The conclusion of the project is the Final Show where youth exhibit their wether in one last show and then have the option to sell him as a market animal. The committee works hard every year to secure a buyer willing to pay fair market value for all goats in the project.

Starting in 2017, the committee decided to allow youth an opportunity to improve the genetics of meat goats in South Carolina by offering a new way of entering the project. In addition to drawing for a wether through the lottery system, youth are allowed to enter the project through the Born & Bred SC4ME program. As a SC4ME participant, youth can raise their own wether or a purchase one by private treat from an SC4ME registered breeder.

The SC 4-H/FFA Meat Goat Project has grown immensely since its inception in 1998 by Mrs. Jerry Munns and Mr. Jack Irwin. The idea was that youth who did not have access to livestock animals or a large farm could raise, train and show a goat at the local county fairs. The project officially began under the leadership of Clemson University Cooperative Extension Animal Scientist, Dr. Howard Van Dijk, in 1999. Despite many trials and tribulations in the early years the project grew and several county 4-H groups joined the project. There were 76 youth participating in the project in 2017. Through the years, hundreds of boys and girls from South Carolina have taken part in the Meat Goat Project. These project alumni are now found in all "walks of life." Because of this project, many youth with non-agriculture backgrounds are able to participate and experience the goat industry without the requirement of an agriculture operation.

# Meat Goat Project Objectives

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The South Carolina 4-H/FFA Meat Goat Project was developed to help participants:

- Develop character and life skills through 4-H and/or FFA work.
- Develop integrity and sportsmanship by caring for, training, and showing a wether goat.
- Increase experience with and knowledge about the meat goat industry and animal agriculture.
- Develop a better understanding of basic goat anatomy, nutrition, management and healthcare.
- Stimulate positive public interest in the goat industry.
- Be a positive ambassador to the public for 4-H, FFA, and animal agriculture.
- Learn and use business principles including use of animal records and financial records.

## Participant Eligibility

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Project participants must:

- Be at least 5 years of age but not over 18 years of age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the project year. Age division is based on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the project year.
  - Cloverbud: Ages 5-8
  - Cloverleaf: Ages 9-10
  - Junior: Ages 11-13
  - Senior: Ages 14-18
- Be, and remain, a current, dues paying member in active status of either 4-H or FFA. Please have your current County Extension Agent or FFA Advisor sign your application to validate your current status with 4-H or FFA. You will not receive a goat if you do not have an active status with 4-H or FFA or have not paid current membership fees to your County Agent or FFA Teacher.
- Be able to purchase and pay in full for their wether by the deadline. Refer to the application packet for more information.
- Be able to properly house and care for their goat throughout the duration of the project (approximately 5-6 months). You have the option to sell or keep the goat at the final show.
- Lottery wether project members must be able to attend (with parent or legal guardian) the project Kick-Off, unless arrangements have been approved by the committee chairperson prior to the event. Each project member will draw for his/her wether that day and is responsible for getting the wether home.

- SC4ME wether project members must be able to attend the project Kick-Off or Project Summer Clinic. Youth (with parent or legal guardian) are required to bring their SC4ME wether to one of these events to be tagged for the project.
- Be responsible for all costs incurred during the duration of the Project (feed, housing, vet, expense, etc.).
- Be aware that often members only break even and some even lose money. It is a time-consuming and sometimes costly project. The goal of a youth livestock project is learning and experiencing animal agriculture while developing life skills!
- Participants are required to submit record book at the conclusion of the project.

Any participant that is suspected of or determined to be abusing or neglecting animals or acting in an unsportsmanlike manner can be removed from the project, have their goat removed from their care, or banned from future animal projects as deemed necessary by the project committee.

## Payments

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For the 2018 project year, the price of purchasing a wether to be in the Meat Goat Project is \$175.00 for lottery or \$25 for SC4ME, or \$200.00 for both.

Any and all checks, cashiers checks, or money orders will need to be payable to **SC 4-H/FFA Meat Goat Project**. Checks, cashiers checks, or money orders are the only forms of payment we can accept. If a check is returned, the project member will be notified via email and with mailed letter. The project member will then owe the full registration amount plus a \$36.00 returned check fee. If the full amount owed is not received before the project Kick-Off the project member will NOT receive a project wether.

Each participant is responsible for payment of his/her wether.

If you need financial assistance for the purchase of your animal and starting your meat goat project, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers Rural Youth Loans to help rural youth learn the business of agriculture. Visit your local FSA office or their website [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for more information.

# Project Participant Responsibilities

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- You will need to select a project mentor to help guide you through the project. This person should be highly experienced, qualified and willing to help the participant learn how to properly care for, train and show a wether goat.
  - The following people would be excellent to consider:
    - 4-H club leader
    - High School Agriculture Teacher
    - County Extension 4-H or Livestock Agent
    - Local goat producer or other industry professional
- It is highly recommended that participants locate the nearest veterinarian that works with goats. Call various veterinarians in your area and visit with them until you find one that is knowledgeable and willing to work with goats. Don't wait until you have an emergency to try and find a veterinarian!
- These are animals. Animals can get sick, injured or die. Once you purchase your wether he is yours and therefore if he gets sick, injured, or dies; he is your responsibility. **The Meat Goat Project is NOT responsible for replacing wethers.**

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 or cannot be shown due to poor health, youth can still continue to show any pre-registered does in showmanship and doe classes. If you did NOT pre-register any does we will want you to be able to participate in the project so the following guidelines have been established:

- A picture of deceased animal or letter from your veterinarian must be submitted to the advisory committee. The letter from the veterinarian must state that the animal is deceased or cannot be shown due to poor health.
- A doe not registered with the project can be used in showmanship. However, if a participant wants to show in the doe classes the doe must be registered with the project.
- Participants can only register a doe after Clinic (July 21) **ONLY** in the event that their original project wether dies.
- She must have been born between September 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year and July 21<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- Participants are limited to only register one (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 the Meat Goat Committee in order to purchase a tag for \$5.
- If you tagged a doe at Clinic (July 21), you will not be allowed to purchase an additional doe tag.
- **\*\*If a wether dies it must be reported to the President of the SC 4-H/FFA Meat Goat Project. Proof must be submitted in the form of written notice along with pictures.**
- Attend the Meat Goat Project Kick-off in the Spring.
- You are encouraged to participate in other events, clinics, and activities in your county and across the state.
- Practice working with and leading your goat on a daily basis.
- Extension personnel, committee member, or agriculture teacher may make a house site visit at least once a year. All participants must make their goat(s) available for evaluation by these officials to ensure proper nutrition and care for the goats are being given.
- Participants must feed and care for their animal as prescribed by the County Extension Agent, Clemson Extension personnel, and/or their project helper so as to grow the animal out in a manner which will allow it to develop to its, maximum inherited ability.
- Any participant that is suspected or determined to be abusing or neglecting animals or acting in an unsportsmanlike manner can be dismissed from a show, removed from the project, have their goat removed from their care, or banned from future animal projects as deemed necessary by the project committee.
- Project members will be responsible for transportation their project animal. The project will not provide transportation of the animal to your home after Kick-Off, to/from clinics and/or to/from shows. Please make sure you understand proper transportation techniques for goats. Do NOT plan on carrying your goat home in the back seat of your car or on your lap!
- You are required to submit your **Meat Goat Project Record Book** each year immediately following the final show. These will be turned into the Project Liaison or committee member.

## **Pre-Kick-Off Clinic**

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All project members (and their family) should attend the Pre-Kick-off Clinic (usually held mid-May each year). This clinic is full of useful information about the

project, goat nutrition, how to take care of a goat, showmanship, and much, much more! ATTENDENCE IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED FOR ALL PROJECT MEMBERS!

## Project Kick-Off

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All participants and a parent must be present at Kick-off unless approved by the committee chairperson prior to the event. In addition, agents and teachers are encouraged to attend.

Project members will be responsible for transportation back to their home. If you signed up to receive a goat then it is YOUR responsibility to make arrangements to get your goat home! Please make sure you understand proper transportation techniques for goats. Do NOT plan on carrying your goat home in the back seat of your car or on your lap!

Goats will be individually numbered and will be selected through a lottery system (lottery only). Project members will draw for their goats in the order that their application was received.

SC4ME wether project members are not required to attend the Project Kick-Off but must be able to attend the project Kick-Off or Project Summer Clinic. Youth (with parent or legal guardian) are required to bring their SC4ME wether to one of these events to be tagged for the project.

## Does

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Project participants can show doe goats in addition to their wether. Does will be tagged at the Kick-off and Clinic. Please read the following about does:

- You MUST register with and have purchased a wether through the Meat Goat Project or SC4ME to be able to participate in the doe classes.
- Participants can pre-register 6 does to show during the season.
- All does must have been born between September 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year and July 21<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- All does MUST be checked in at the Kick-off or Clinic where they will be photographed, and ear tagged.
- Participants will be charged a \$5 ear tagging fee per doe.
- The does will be judged as MARKET animals at the Project Final Show.

- Classes will be established on the day for more show including the Project Final Show.
- Does will be weighed at each show location and broken into weight classes at each show.

## Project Final Show

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The Final Show occurs in November each year and is the conclusion of the project. All participants are eligible to show at the final show.

Record Books are due one (1) hour after the conclusion of the Final Show.

All participants are encouraged to sell ads for the Final Show Ad Book. Ads can be personal (wishing their favorite 4-H'er or FFA member good luck) or professional (promoting a business). See the ad form for more details.

The project can only enforce the following at the Final Show. All other shows have different coordinators and exhibitors will be expected to follow the rules of each individual show. Please make sure you check the rules for each show prior to registration and showing.

- Each exhibitor will only be allowed one (1) doe per class.
- Classes are determine on the day of show.
- If an exhibitor has 2 or 3 does in one weight class, they will be allowed to only show one (1) doe in that class. Exhibitors are to only show their own animal, and no one else's doe, except in the case of championship class.
- WARNING: no refunds will given for entry fees if you have 2 or 3 does in one weight class and one (1) or does are unable to be shown.
- Does will be judged as market animals.

## Sale of Champions

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**The decision to sale project animal(s) must be may prior or at the Final Project Show.** Project animals to be sold must pass a health inspection held during weight at the Final Show. If the Advisory Committee deems your goat not fit for sale, your goat will be removed from the sale list and you will not receive a check. You will be responsible for taking your goat back home. The committee reserves the right to refuse any goat that is not in acceptable health or body condition. **If you agree to sell your project animal(s), you CANNOT change your mind.**

# Project Awards

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The Meat Goat Project gives as much back to the project youth as possible. The number of placings for each award may vary depending on the amount of money available each year. The scoring and award calculations will be as follows:

## Overall Exhibitor

- Highest score placing first based on the following formula:

**Overall showmanship score + total record book score + weight gain score + on-foot quality score**

## Overall Showmanship

- Points given at each Meat Goat Project Show for actual placings in showmanship based on the scale below. Will be separated by age division (Cloverbud, Cloverleaf, Junior, and Senior):

<b>1<sup>st</sup> place</b>	<b>5 points</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> place</b>	<b>4 points</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> place</b>	<b>3 points</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> place</b>	<b>2 points</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> place and below</b>	<b>1 point</b>

- Exhibitor with the highest points total in each age division will be "Season Showmanship Champion" for the age division.
- Exhibitor with second highest points total in each age division will be "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."

## Tiebreakers

- Number of 1<sup>st</sup> places, number of 2<sup>nd</sup> places, etc.
- Record book score

## Record Books

- Record books will be scored based on score sheet included in back of the Record Book. Scoring to be determined by a team of judges selected by show management. Points will be determined for each section of the Record Book

and awarded by the judges based on quality and completeness of work. Awards will be given for each age division.

## Weight Gain

This is NOT based on total pounds gained but on the percent of weight gained of a participants wether. Weight gain will be based on the beginning weight and the last official recorded weight, even if the goat dies. This formula to calculate % weight gained:

$$\text{(Final weight - Initial Weight) / (Initial Weight) X 100 = \% Gained}$$

## Goat Management Test - High Score

Highest score on the Goat Management Test will be awarded for each division, Junior and Senior. The test is a multiple question test and can be take by all age divisions. Resources will be announce ahead of time for you to study.

## Season Grand Champion Wether (Lottery and SC4ME)

- To be awarded "season Grand Champion Wether" and "Season reserve Grand Champion Wether" wethers must be shown at the Final Show.
- Points given at each Meat Goat Project Show are actual placings in each market weight division class based on the scale below.
- This scale will also be used to calculate the Project's Top Producer Awards.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> place</b>	<b>5 points</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> place</b>	<b>4 points</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> place</b>	<b>3 points</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> place</b>	<b>2 points</b>
<b>5th place</b>	<b>1 point</b>
<b>Below 5<sup>th</sup> place</b>	<b>0 points</b>

- Bonus points awarded at each show for Grand Champion Wether and Reserve Champion Wether based on the scale below:

<b>Grand Champion</b>	<b>2 points</b>
<b>Reserve Grand Champion</b>	<b>1 point</b>

- 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.”

### **Tiebreaker**

- Number of individual show Grand Championships
- Number of shows attended.

## **Top Ad Sales**

The participant (or family) that sells the most dollar amount in ads for the Final Show Ad Book is awarded a premium for working so hard to help raise money for other awards.

## **College Scholarship Contest**

The South Carolina meat Goat Project works hard every year to find sponsors for scholarships for our Senior participants to compete for. Each year a Scholarship Application Packet will be distributed to all age eligible participants. Please review the Scholarship Application Packet carefully for rules, contest requirements, and contest formal information.

## **Awards Banquet**

Each January the Project holds its annual Awards Banquet. All final awards and scholarships will be announced at the Banquet. Announcements about the upcoming project year will be made and usually the project applications for the upcoming year will be available at the Banquet. All project members and their families are invited and encouraged to attend, information about the Banquet is available on the website or by contacting your Project County Advisor.

## **Questions or Concerns**

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**If you have questions or your goat might have a health concern CALL YOUR VET! Please don't wait until he is very sick, and please don't let non-veterinarians perform veterinary procedures on your goat. This can turn a simple issue into a very big problem!**

If you experience any problems or concerns about or during the Meat Goat Project please contact these individual's in the appropriate order:

- 1) Your veterinarian (if a health concern)
- 2) Your 4-H Club leader, agriculture teacher or project helper
- 3) County Extension 4-H or Livestock Agent
- 4) Your local Goat Project Advisory Committee County Advisor
- 5) Goat Project Advisory Committee

Any questions or concerns that are brought to the Advisory Committee will be acted on and their decision will be final.