

DIVISION C1 – DAIRY GOATS

Dairy Goat Superintendent: Denise Ziegler

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The fitting and preparation of all animals for exhibit is the responsibility of the Exhibitor. Exhibitors may receive guidance only from immediate family members, Maryland 4-H/FFA Members and appointed UME Volunteers/FFA Advisors.

Pre-entry is required. **YOU MUST USE THE INTERNET ENTRY SYSTEMS FOUND AT www.marylandstatefair.com** Internet entries are due **July 15th** Exhibitors without internet access should contact their County Extension Educator for assistance. All release forms are to be completed online through the entry system at the time of registration. Reminder you must have completed the Animal Husbandry & Quality Assurance program to be able to exhibit your animals. Check with your county to make sure you are up to date with this requirement. **If you register for the fair and cannot attend, please notify the superintendent ASAP!**

Division Rules & Regulations:

1. Exhibitors and their exhibits must comply with the "General State Fair Rules & Regulations", "General 4-H and FFA Rules & Regulations", "Animal Rules & Regulations", the "Maryland 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics", the "Health Regulations for Livestock Exhibited in Maryland", these "Division Rules & Regulations" and the applicable "Section Rules & Regulations".
2. **Entries:** Entries for this division will be received on **Friday, September 11th, from 9am – 9pm** in the Sheep/Goat Barn. Stall assignments will be posted, please only use stalls assigned to you. **All animals must be in place by 9pm on Friday, September 11th.** Animals will be released at 6pm on Sunday, September 13th. Refer to "Schedule of Events" for additional information. Dairy Goat stalls will be available beginning on Wednesday, September 9th, 7pm.

If you register for the fair and cannot attend, please notify the superintendent ASAP!

3. **Ownership:**

- a. All Breeding Goats must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor and registered in exhibitor's name only by July 1 of the current year (2026). "Papers Pending" for animals less than 6 months of age must have stamped duplicate registration applications. All other animals over 6 months must have valid registration papers in the exhibitor's name. No joint ownership will be allowed.
 - b. All Dairy Goats must have been owned or leased by the exhibitor before first freshening or before 2 years of age, whichever comes first, in order to be shown in the Breed Classes.
 - c. Leased Dairy Goat project animals will be accepted for show. Dairy animals must be assigned to the Leasing Exhibitor by June 1 of the current year (2026). The Exhibitor must comply with all Maryland 4-H rules regarding leasing a project animal. **A copy of the leasing agreement must be presented to show officials at the time of check-in.**
 - d. **Bred and Owned Classes: Exhibitors in the Bred and Owned Classes in 4-H/FFA animal divisions must be the breeder and the first and continuous owner of the animal entered. "Breeder" is defined as the recorded owner of the dam at the time of breeding/service. "First Owner" is defined as the recorded owner of the dam at the time the animal was born.**
 - e. **Exhibitors must show their own goat. One entry per class.**
4. Substitutions: Exhibitors are permitted to substitute one animal for another in any class but within the same breed. Animals must be entered to show.
 5. Proper attire must be worn during all shows. 4-H: white pants with white shirt, closed toe shoes only- no crocs. Neckpieces are optional. Approved neckpieces include: necktie, bow tie, bolo tie or a tied bandana. Jewelry does not qualify as a neckpiece-no exceptions.
 6. All goats must be properly presented for show.
 7. Artificial coloring may not be used on any part of the animal.
 8. Teeth Requirements: Kids - all milk teeth must be present; Yearlings - goat may not have more than 2 permanent teeth showing at time of show; Aged Does - Goat should have 4 or more permanent teeth.
 9. Dairy goats must have a collar. Prong/pinch collars are not permitted for use.
 10. During the show, goats must have all four feet firmly placed on the ground when being braced. The front legs may not be lifted off the ground to set the animal.
 11. **A bedding fee will be charged at the time of entry to cover the initial bedding (straw) that will be supplied by the Fair. Additional bedding (straw or wood shavings) is the responsibility of the exhibitor. A limited amount of Shavings & Straw will also be available for purchase on the grounds. Exhibitors are responsible** for cleaning their pens; Exhibitors not cleaning their pens will forfeit all premiums.
 12. Dairy Goat Judging Contest – Friday September 11th, 6pm - Please refer to "Division U – Judging Contests" for more information.
 13. **The American Dairy Goat Association rules shall govern the Junior and Senior Shows. The Junior and Senior Shows are not separately sanctioned. The order of the show is subject to change as deemed by show chairman or judge if necessary to keep the show running smoothly and on time.**

DAIRY GOAT SHOWMANSHIP – Section 1

Section Rules & Regulations:

1. Pre-entry is required. See above.
2. Exhibitors will compete according to their 4-H Age (age as of 01/01/26). Previous Grand Champions may not compete in any class except *Dean's Champion Challenge* (refer to "4-H and FFA Fitting & Showmanship Regulations" for additional information).
3. Exhibitors must show a goat that is entered in one of the Dairy Breeding Goat classes. All exhibitors required to do their own fitting of the animal they are showing.
4. Judging criteria: Fitting of Animal (40pts); Performance in the show ring (50pts) and Exhibitor's Personal Appearance (10pts).
5. Showmanship Grand Champion will be eligible to participate in the **4-H/FFA All-Star 4-H Showmanship Contest for Dairy & Camelids** on Sunday, September 13, 2026 @ 5pm. See Division X, Section XV – 4-H/FFA All-Star Showmanship Contest for rules.

CLASSES

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| C1 Showmanship - Senior (4-H Ages 16-18) | C5 Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Showmanship Junior Champion - Rosette |
| C2 Showmanship - Senior (4-H Ages 14-15) | C6 Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Showmanship Intermediate Champion – Rosette |
| C3 Showmanship - Intermediate (4-H Ages 11-13) | C7 Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Showmanship Senior Champion – Rosette |
| C4 Showmanship - Junior (4-H Ages 8-10) | C8 Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Showmanship Grand Champion - Rosette & Trophy |
| C9 Dean's Champion Challenge | C10 Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Dean's Champ. Challenge Grand Champ. - Rosette & Special Award |

DEAN'S CHAMPION CHALLENGE PAST WINNERS

2012 Winner: Elizabeth Davis	2015 Winner: Samuel Blank	2018 Winner: Rachael Toombs	2021 Winner: Shea Cencula	2024 Winner: Brileigh Francis
2013 Winner: Samuel Blank	2016 Winner: Marlie Snyder	2019 Winner: Danielle Ryndak	2022 Winner: Braelyn Francis	2025 Winner: Brileigh Francis
2014 Winner: Jacob Heston	2017 Winner: Rachael Toombs	2020: N/A (no 4-H/FFA show)	2023 Winner: Braelyn Francis	

DAIRY BREEDING GOATS

Section Rules & Regulations:

1. Each exhibitor may enter 2 animals per class. Exhibitors are responsible for correctly entering animals in breed classes.
2. The Show Order will be: Nigerian Dwarf-Sec. 9, Oberhasli-Sec. 5, Recorded Grade-Sec. 6, Sable-Sec. 7, Toggenburg-Sec. 8, AOP-Sec. 10, Alpine-Sec. 2, La Mancha-Sec. 3, Nubian-Sec. 4- Show order is subject to change at the assertion of the show chair
3. **County Groups** - A County group shall consist of three goats of any breed owned by two different 4-H and/or FFA members. Each 4-H local office is limited to two entries. Exhibitors may only show in one county group.
4. **4-H/FFA Dairy Goat Team Fitting Contest** – this contest will be held on Friday, September 11th @ 8pm – **You Must Sign Up with the department Superintendent at check-in. Dairy Goat Showmanship is Saturday, September 12th – 5:00pm**
5. **Exhibitor Orientation – Friday, September 11th, 2026 – 5:30 PM – Goat Ring – Required for all exhibitors**

CLASSES

- C14 Junior Kid - Born on or after Apr 1, 2026
- C15 Intermediate Kid – Born between Mar 1, 2026 – Mar 31, 2026
- C16 Senior Kid - Born between Jan 1, 2026 – Feb 28, 2026
- C17 Dry Yearling – Does under 2 years of age that have not freshened.
- C18 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Junior Champion (Each Breed) - Rosette & Trophy*
- C19 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Junior Reserve Champion (Each Breed) - Rosette & Trophy*
- C20 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Best Junior Champion - Trophy (from Jr Champions)*
- C21 Milking Yearling, under 2 yrs – Does under 2 years of age that have freshened and are in milk.
- C22 Doe in Milk, 2 yrs - Born between Aug 29, 2023 - Aug 28, 2024
- C23 Doe in Milk, 3 yrs - Born between Aug 29, 2022 - Aug 28, 2023
- C24 Doe in Milk, 4 yrs - Born between Aug 29, 2021 - Aug 28, 2022
- C25 Doe in Milk, 5 yrs and older - Born on or before Aug 29, 2021
- C26 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Senior Champion (Each Breed) - Rosette*
- C27 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Senior Reserve Champion (Each Breed) - Rosette*
- C28 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) Best Senior Champion - Trophy (from Sr Champions)*
- C29
- C30 Dam & Daughter – All Breeds (Dam must be in milk, Daughter-preferably in milk but not required. Both must be owned by the exhibitor. Limit to one pair)
- C31 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Best bred and owned - Each breed (Doe must be registered with exhibitor's herd name and be bred & owned by exhibitor. Does not have to be in milk. Limit to one entry.)*
- C32 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Grand Champion Best Bred & Owned Doe (From C31, 1st place from each breed to compete)*
- C33 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Best Doe in Show*
- C34 County Group 4C / 11 / 34 - 1st-3rd place ribbon, 1st - Trophy
- C35 Team Goat Fitting Contest – 4C / 11 / 35
- C36 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Team Goat Fitting Champion – Rosette & Trophy*
- C37 Herdsmanship 4C / 11 / 37 - 1 Award

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS – Section 11

Section Rules & Regulations:

1. 4-H'ers are invited to plan an educational exhibit to be on display during the State Fair in front of the Sheep Ring. The exhibit may be an informational poster or other educational display. Youth and adults working together is encouraged. Contact the Superintendent for more info. Each Exhibitor may enter 2 exhibits.
2. 4-H Members carrying a Dairy Goat project in the current year are eligible to participate. A \$5 Participation Premium will be paid.

CLASS

C100 Dairy Goat Educational Exhibit

PREMIUM SCHEDULE	Classes	1 st Place	2 nd – 20 th Place
	Showmanship, Bred & Owned Classes	\$20	\$15
	Breed Classes	\$17	\$12
	County Groups (Paid to County 4-H Program)	\$35	\$25, \$15, \$10

Note: Premiums will not be paid on the following classes: Dean's Champion Challenge, Team Goat Fitting Contest.

SPECIAL AWARDS

- A special award will be presented to the 1st Place County Group, *sponsored by the Maryland State Fair.*
- Dairy Goat Class Trophy and Award Sponsors:
 - Showmanship Jr. Champion Frey's Livestock Supply
 - Showmanship Int. Champion..... Frey's Livestock Supply
 - Showmanship Sr. Champion..... Frey's Livestock Supply
 - Showmanship Grand Champion..... Frey's Livestock Supply
 - Showmanship Dean's Champion ChallengeDean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Maryland