

## DIVISION C2 - MEAT GOATS

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**The fitting and preparation of all animals for exhibit is the responsibility of the Exhibitor.** Exhibitors may only receive guidance from immediate family members, Maryland 4-H/FFA Members and appointed UME Volunteers/FFA Advisors. **No hired professional fitters will be permitted to provide guidance.**

### 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".

Pre-entry is required. **YOU MUST USE THE INTERNET ENTRY SYSTEMS FOUND AT [www.marylandstatefair.com](http://www.marylandstatefair.com)** Internet entries are due **July 15th. Please see the "General Rules" section of the Maryland State Fair website for full information on 2026 Entry system.** Exhibitors without internet access should contact their County Extension Educator for assistance. All release forms to be completed via the online entry system at the time of registration. Reminder you must have completed the online 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.

2. **Entries:** Entries for this division will be **received on Thursday, August 27th from 7am –9pm.** Stall assignments will be posted online and at the Meat Goat Office made upon arrival. **Please check in with the superintendent at the Meat Goat Office upon arrival to show proof of Registration papers and MD 4-H/FFA Livestock Registration Forms. All animals must be in place by 9pm on Thursday.** Animals may be released after the 4H/FFA Market Goat Show on Saturday evening providing pens have been cleaned, but must be removed no later than 6pm on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Refer to "Schedule of Events" for additional information.
3. Proper attire must be worn during all shows. Please see "General 4-H and FFA Rules & Regulations" and "Animal Rules & Regulations" for more information.
4. **All goats must be properly presented for show. Artificial additives, coloring, adhesives, or dressings may not be used on any part of the animal.**
5. **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.**
6. **Horns: Meat goats are allowed to have horns. Horns should be tipped blunt. Blunting (also called tipping) simply means removing the pointy tip of the horn. This can be done with a pair of hoof trimmers. Only a small amount of horn should be removed to prevent bleeding. For the safety of the exhibitors, sharp horns will not be allowed.**
7. **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. Bred and Owned classes may include both does and buck offspring providing the dam was owned at time of breeding.**
8. 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 on grounds. Exhibitors are responsible for cleaning their pens; Exhibitors not cleaning their pens will forfeit all premiums.
9. **Goats must have fresh water at all times.**
10. **Prong/pinch collars are not permitted for use. There are no exceptions. Acceptable collars will be available for purchase from fair vendors.**
11. **Exhibitors must attend the Meat Goat Department Exhibitors Orientation Meeting on Friday, August 28th at 12:00pm – Sheep/Goat Barn Show Ring.**
12. No tack or trimming stands will be allowed in the isles of the Sheep/Goat Barn. All tack must be in designated assigned areas or by wash area in back of the barn.
13. Exhibitors will be responsible for keeping the aisles clean and clear at all times for public access.
14. **All 4H/FFA exhibitors exhibiting helping hands effort to both the meat goat show committee and other exhibitors will be eligible for a Meat Goat Department Superintendent selected Herdsman award. This award will be presented on Saturday evening.**

### MEAT GOAT SHOWMANSHIP – Section 12

#### Section Rules & Regulations:

1. Exhibitors compete according to their 4-H Age (age as of 01/01/26). Each 4-H age division will have their own class. See CLASSES to see show order and organization.
2. Exhibitors may show either a market animal or breeding animal in fitting and showing. All exhibitors are required to have done their own fitting of the animal they are showing. Exhibitors may only show an animal they own in showmanship classes. No exceptions.
3. Judging criteria: Fitting of Animal (20pts); Performance in the show ring (50pts), Knowledge of the project (20pts) and Exhibitor's Personal Appearance (10pts).
4. Showmanship Grand Champion will be eligible to participate in the 4-H/FFA All-Star Showmanship for Market Livestock Contest on Sunday, August 25, 2024 @ 5pm. See Division X, Section XV – 4-H/FFA All-Star Showmanship Contest for rules.

#### CLASSES

C40	Showmanship – Senior (4-H Age 18)	C49	Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Showmanship Int Champion – Rosette
C41	Showmanship – Senior (4-H Age 17)	C50	Showmanship – Junior (4-H Age 10)
C42	Showmanship – Senior (4-H Age 16)	C51	Showmanship – Junior (4-H Age 9)
C43	Showmanship – Senior (4-H Age 15)	C52	Showmanship – Junior (4-H Age 8)
C44	Showmanship – Senior (4-H Age 14)	C53	Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Showmanship Jr Champion Rosette
C45	Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Showmanship Sr Champion – Rosette	C54	Award Class – Showmanship Grand Champ – Rosette & Trophy
C46	Showmanship – Intermediate (4-H Age 13)	C55	Dean's Champion Challenge (previous year's champ and prior Grand Champs who are still of 4-H age are invited to compete)
C47	Showmanship – Intermediate (4-H Age 12)		
C48	Showmanship – Intermediate (4-H Age 11)	C56	Award Class – Champ Challenge Grand Champ-Rosette & Special Award

## MARKET GOATS – Section 13

### Section Rules & Regulations:

1. Market Goats must weigh a minimum of 50 lbs. Market Goats will be shown by weight; not by breed. Market goats will be weighed and divided into weight classes at superintendent's discretion. The number of classes may vary from year to year. Classes will be divided under 3 champion sections: Lightweight, Middleweight, and Heavyweight.
2. Exhibitors may enter, weigh-in and show a maximum of five (5) market goats, with no more than two (2) in the same weight class. Goats may be moved to the next higher weight class only when the Exhibitor has more than two (2) goats in a class. Exhibitor must exhibit one of the goats in class and have another 4H/FFA member exhibit the other goat when multiple entries are in the same weight class. The other 4-H/FFA exhibitor must be the same age or younger than the owner of the goat entry.
3. Only wether and doe kids can be shown in the market classes. Doe kids entered in the market classes are not eligible to compete in the breeding classes.
4. Wether kids must be completely healed. At superintendent's discretion, wether kids showing signs of testicle presence will be examined further to determine eligibility.
5. Market Goats must be less than one (1) year in age and have their milk teeth and may not show any breaking or eruption of either of the two permanent front teeth.
6. Market goats must be shown in uniformly short hair, no more than 3/8 inches long above the knees and hocks.
7. Rate of Gain: starting weight and date must be verified by the local 4-H Extension Educator/FFA Advisor. Rate of Gain will be rewarded but is not a requirement to show or sell.
8. Ten market goats will be eligible to be sold in the Youth Livestock Sale. The Grand Champion MUST BE SOLD. The Reserve Grand Champion, Junior Champion Bred and Owned Market Goat, Senior Champion Bred and Owned Market Goat, and the Champion Rate of Gain will have the option of being sold. Additional sale animals will be selected by the judge. Exhibitors may nominate one market goat for the sale. Exhibitors are limited to a maximum of ONE (1) species. Refer to the Youth Livestock Sale Rules found in 4-H/FFA Division X, Section XIV for additional information.
9. All Market Goats must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor and registered in the exhibitor's name only by June 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. All Market Goats (except La Mancha) must be tagged with a Maryland 4-H/FFA Livestock Ear Tag prior to arrival at the fairgrounds. La Mancha market goats must have an assigned 4-H/FFA Livestock Ear Tag and the number of the ear tag tattooed in the tail web. At check-in Exhibitors of La Manchas must have the 4-H/FFA Market Livestock Ear Tag in their possession to confirm that the Ear Tag number matches the tattoo.
10. County Groups consist of four market goats exhibited by at least three different 4-H'ers from the same county. No exceptions.

### CLASSES

#### C60 Market Goats

- C65 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Grand Champion Market Goat - Rosette & Trophy*
- C66 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Reserve Grand Champion Market Goat – Rosette*
- C67 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) – 3rd Overall Market Goat*
- C68 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) – 4th Overall Market Goat*
- C69 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) – 5th Overall Market Goat*
- C70 *Bred and Owned- Junior Division (4-H ages 8-13)*
- C71 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Bred & Owned Market Meat Goat Junior Champion - Rosette & Trophy*
- C72 *Bred and Owned- Senior Division (4-H ages 14-18)*
- C73 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Bred & Owned Market Meat Goat Senior Champion - Rosette & Trophy*

### Rate of Gain Production Awards & Premiums

Rate of Gain for each market goat will be awarded the following premiums:

Excellent ( $\geq 0.30$  lb./day) (\$7); Very Good (0.20-0.29 lb./day) (\$6), Good (0.10-0.19 lb./day) (\$5).

### CLASSES

#### C74 Rate of Gain - Award

- C75 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Champion Rate of Gain (Rosette and Award) and Reserve Champion Rate of Gain (Rosette)*

### County Group Awards & Premiums

County Groups consist of four market goats exhibited by at least three different 4-H/FFA members from the same county.

### CLASSES

- C76 County Group - Premiums paid to county 4-H Program - \$35, \$25, \$15, \$10.

**BREEDING GOATS**  
**TWO SHOWS: COMMERCIAL AND REGISTERED**

**Section Rules & Regulations:**

1. The breeding show will be divided into two shows: commercial and registered. Any meat breed or crossbreed is allowed to compete in the commercial show. Breed association registration papers are not required in the commercial show. Registered full bloods and percentages must compete in the registered show. All breeds will compete together in their respective divisions. Overall Breeding Doe and Overall Breeding Buck awards will be determined by the judge at the conclusion of both shows.

**Ownership:**

- a. **All Breeding Meat Goats must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor and registered in the exhibitor's name only by July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Joint ownership or ownership in the name of the farm is not allowed. (Commercial breeding meat goats are not required to be registered)**
  - b. Registered breeding meat goats that have breed association registration papers will not need to have MD 4-H/FFA livestock tags, so long as the breed registration papers match the goat's tattoo or ear tag and date of ownership can be verified. Unregistered commercial breeding meat goats must be tagged with a Maryland 4-H/FFA Livestock tag prior to arrival at the fairgrounds. A copy of the MD 4-H/FFA Livestock Registration Form must be presented as proof of ownership of commercial breeding stock. Registration papers and MD 4-H/FFA Livestock Registration Forms will be checked by the superintendent on Thursday after the meat goat exhibitor meeting or as part of the check-in process.
2. **Entries:**
- a. Exhibitors are permitted to make two (2) entries in each class. Entries must be pre-registered.
  - b. Goats shown in breeding classes MAY NOT BE SHOWN in the market classes.
  - c. Exhibitors may substitute one (1) animal for another within a class- providing substitution is done at check-in.
  - d. Breeding animals must be shown in the proper age category. Kids may not be moved up.
  - e. **Breeding animals that have been pre-registered and are present on the fairgrounds must be shown by the exhibitor unless permission is granted by the superintendent.**

**CLASSES - Breeding Registered Show – Section 14**

**Does**

- C77 Junior Doe Kid (not kidded, registered) – Born on or after March 1, 2026  
C78 Intermediate Doe Kid (not kidded, registered) – Born between January 1, 2026 and February 28, 2026  
C79 Senior Doe Kid (not kidded, registered) – Born between September 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025  
C80 Junior Yearling Doe (not kidded, registered) – Born between January 1, 2025 and Aug. 31, 2025  
C81 Senior Yearling Doe (not kidded, registered) – Born between Sept. 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024  
C82 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Champion and Reserve Champion Junior Not Kidded, Registered Doe – Rosette*  
C83 Yearling Doe (kidded, registered) – Born between Sept 1, 2024 and Aug 31, 2025  
C84 2 years old Does (kidded, registered) – Born between Sept 1, 2023 and August 31, 2024  
C85 Does 3 years of age and older (kidded, registered) – Born on or before August 31, 2023  
C86 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Champion and Reserve Champion Senior Registered Doe – Rosette*  
C87 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Champion and Reserve Champion Registered Doe - Rosette*  
C88 Dam and Daughter – Two different aged does (any age), one must be daughter of the other (both must be registered to the same exhibitor)

**Bucks**

- C89 Buck kid – born on or after September 1, 2025  
C90 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) –Champion and Reserve Champion Registered Meat Buck – Rosette*

**CLASSES – Breeding Commercial Show - Section 15**

**Does**

- C77 Junior Doe Kid (not kidded, commercial) – Born on or after March 1, 2026  
C78 Intermediate Doe Kid (not kidded, commercial) – Born between January 1, 2026 and February 28, 2026  
C79 Senior Doe Kid (not kidded, commercial) – Born between September 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025  
C80 Junior Yearling Doe (not kidded, commercial) – Born between January 1, 2025 and Aug. 31, 2025  
C81 Senior Yearling Doe (not kidded, commercial) – Born between Sept. 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024  
C82 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Champion and Reserve Champion Junior Not Kidded, Commercial Doe – Rosette*  
C83 Yearling Doe (kidded, commercial) – Born between Sept 1, 2024 and Aug 31, 2025  
C84 2 years old Does (kidded, commercial) – Born between Sept 1, 2023 and August 31, 2024  
C85 Does 3 years of age and older (kidded, commercial) – Born on or before August 31, 2023  
C86 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Champion and Reserve Champion Senior Commercial Doe – Rosette*  
C87 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Champion and Reserve Champion Commercial Doe - Rosette*  
C88 Dam and Daughter – Two different aged does (any age), one must be daughter of the other (both must be commercial to the same exhibitor)

**Bucks**

- C89 Buck kid – born on or after September 1, 2025  
C90 *Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Champion and Reserve Champion Commercial Meat Buck – Rosette*

C91 Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Junior Best Bred & Owned Breeding Meat Goat (Ages 8-13) – Award  
 C92 Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Senior Best Bred & Owned Breeding Meat Goat (Ages 14-18) – Award  
 C93 Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Supreme Champion Meat Buck –Rosette  
 C94 Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Supreme Champion Meat Doe –Rosette

C95 Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Herdsman Award - Award

**PREMIUM SCHEDULE**

<u>Classes</u>	<u>1st Place</u>	<u>2nd – 20th Place</u>	
Fitting & Showmanship Classes	\$20	\$15	
Breed & Market Classes	\$17	\$12	
Rate of Gain	Excellent: \$7	Very Good: \$6	Good: \$5
County Groups (Paid to County 4-H Program)	\$35	\$25, \$15, & \$10	