



**New York State Fair
2025 Dairy, Meat and Working Goat Youth Events
EXHIBITOR INFORMATION**



Youth Goat SUPERINTENDENT – Holly Phillips, straitgatefarm@gmail.com, 585-362-5833

Assistant Goat Supervisor – Susan Clark, miquiversful@gmail.com, 315-576-2515

Assistant Meat Goat Supervisor – Annette Mrzywka, amrzywka@gmail.com, 585-737-2006

4-H/Youth Livestock EDUCATIONAL COORDINATOR – Brian Aukema bjal4@cornell.edu, 607-254-1208

Feed and Bedding – Blue Seal/Kent Feeds will again donate grain for does being milked in the milking parlor. However, be prepared to supply your own grain to your milkers if necessary. **Donated grain is only to be fed in the parlor!** Exhibitors should bring their own grain for all other goats. **Sawdust is provided at no charge.** Feed and bedding can be ordered from Harry Moore at 315-727-0134 for delivery to the Fairgrounds but you **must** notify him at least a week in advance of your arrival. Otherwise, plan ahead and bring plenty of feed, etc. for your goats.

Judges – Our ADGA licensed Dairy Goat Judge is Tom Cox from Maine. Our Meat Goat Judge is Zacahary J. Stellingwerf, Fulton, NY. Our Working Goat Judge is Jaime Paratore, Corfu, NY.

How to enter - ALL Youth Goat Entries must be completed online by Friday, August 1, 2025 at 5:00 pm. Youth exhibitors must enter each entry online at <https://nysfys.fairwire.com/> In addition, exhibitors are responsible for emailing their entry receipt to BOTH their Cornell Coop. Extension County Educator AND to the Youth Goat Superintendent, Holly Phillips at straitgatefarm@gmail.com.

Show changes – **Minimum age** for doe kids in the Dairy Goat & Meat Goat Shows is now **3 months, not 3 ½ mo!**
Dairy Goat Fitting & Showing is now at 10 am on Sat. Aug 23rd and the **Youth Working Goat Show is at 3 pm.**

REMINDERS - **The Youth Goat Program runs for 7 days.** Youth goats can come in on Tues. Aug 19 from 3-9 pm OR Wed. Aug 20th (6 to 8 am). **Goats MUST be in place by 8:30 am on Wed. and remain until Tues. evening, Aug. 26th.** No tack pens will be available. Please note that Youth Meat Goats also competing in the Boer Goat Open Show need to leave the fair by 10 pm on Tuesday, Aug 26th and return again later in the week. Dairy Goats competing in both the Youth Show and the Dairy Goat Open Show may stay over. **UPON ARRIVAL**, please enter through Gate #7 and go to Gate #11. Turn left down Belle Isle Rd and turn right on Livestock Rd. just past the end of the Expo Center (road is marked). Goats and health papers must be inspected at the Veterinarian Station next to the Goat Barn. Please give the Veterinary Slip (NYS Fair Livestock Entry Permit) to the Superintendents immediately to ensure you get your premiums. **Do not unload until you have been granted permission.** There is a mandatory meeting for all Youth Goat Exhibitors at 10.30 am on Wed. Aug 20th. All Project Record Books, including those for the Kimber Hamm Goat Rancher Award must be submitted by 9:30 am Thursday August 21st. **All meat and dual-purpose goat breeds in addition to Boers are encouraged to enter the Youth Meat Goat Show** in the appropriate age classes and grouping (Fullblood/purebred or Percentage) and will show together.

However, line up will be divided into Boers and “All other breeds (AOB)” with separate scoring/ribbons for each of the 2 categories.

Horn Policy - In accordance with ADGA rules, no dairy goats with natural horns may be shown. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Although scurs and deformed horns from faulty disbudding ‘are technically allowed’, judges may interpret this restriction differently and judges’ decisions are final. Therefore, we **recommend** “playing it safe” and trimming any scurs left from faulty disbudding well before the state fair to ideally 1 inch or less in length/height. **Meat and working goats with horns are allowed, but aggressive horned goats may be required to be artificially tipped or to leave the fairgrounds at the discretion of the superintendent.**

The Goat Judging Clinic begins at 5:30 PM on Fri. Aug. 22nd. The Goat Judging Classes will follow the respective Dairy or Meat Shows.

All senior and junior youth competing for the Kimber Hamm Goat Rancher award do oral reasons on a pre-

determined meat goat class. Seniors may additionally do oral reasons on the pre-determined dairy class if competing in the total Judging Contest.

National Code of Show Ring Ethics - The Youth Goat shows and activities operate under the code of the Int'l. Assoc. of Fairs and Expositions, which states that "Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair or livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock show mgmt., or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them." Violations will be disciplined in a manner appropriate to the infraction and may involve a warning, suspension, dismissal from the fairgrounds and/or full dismissal from the overall youth program. **Any infractions requiring discipline will be subject to review by the superintendent and 4-H staff.**

Working goat classes - To show at State Fair, working goats must be ≥ 6 months old and may be wethers, fertile/sterile does or hermaphrodites. NYS 4-H pack goat and harness goat project record books are available online at <https://cals.cornell.edu/nys-4-h-animal-science-programs/livestock/goats/working-goats>. **NEW** this year are the addition of several working goat classes and exhibitions. Added to the previous Showmanship and Trail Challenge are Pack Line, Cart Class, and this year for Exhibition Only, a Driving Class, and a Drill Team Class. **ALL classes are for trained pack goat projects specifically.** Dairy and meat does trained for pack and driving may show in their appropriate dairy or meat goat show as well as in the working goat show.

Come prepared to participate in the **Team Goat Fitting Exhibition** to be held Wed. Aug 20th at 3:30 pm. Any youth goat exhibitor is welcome to participate. Since it is an exhibition and NOT a contest, youth may form any team they wish. Teams must provide their own animals and their own supplies.

County Day – Each county needs to sign up for a day when youth and parents from that county are responsible to help in the goat pavilion by setting up, assisting during events, and cleaning up between and after events.

Lease Policy - Youth who own no goats may lease two non-owned goats as 4-H projects BUT may be restricted to showing only one goat per youth fair, youth exhibition, or 4-H show/exhibition **at their county's discretion.**

Youth who own dairy, meat or pack goats may lease ONE goat of another type. E.g., Youth owning dairy goats may lease one meat or working goat. Youth owning meat goats may lease one dairy or working goat. As with owned goats, all non-owned goats must be designated in the exhibitor's name and cared for by that exhibitor by no later than June 15 of the current year. A completed non-ownership certificate available from county 4-H offices, must be supplied along with registration papers (meat or pack goats do not need to show registration papers if unregistered) to prove designation. **A copy of the non-ownership papers must be brought with you to the NYS Fair along with registration papers!**

Please limit post entries and last minute substitutions. Making major changes to the class lists at check-in causes unacceptable delays in getting class lists finalized and show books printed. We understand that some county fairs occur very close to the August **1st** entry deadline. If you are in doubt as to which of your animals will qualify, PLEASE list ALL possible entries to the NY State Fair rather than planning on making substitutions. It is far easier for us to delete extra goats on Wednesday rather than typing in lots of new goats.

Although state-wide health requirements have loosened slightly with regard to rabies vaccination, **requirements for the State Fair fall under the Onondaga Health Department requirements. These state** that "ALL GOATS OVER 3 MONTHS OF AGE (as of 2 weeks prior to arrival at the fair) MUST BE "OFFLABEL" VACCINATED FOR RABIES AT LEAST 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL AT THE FAIRGROUNDS AND NOT MORE THAN 365 DAYS PRIOR." **We strongly encourage you to vaccinate any goat that is 84 days or older at least 2 weeks prior to the fair if your veterinarian agrees.** Otherwise, State Fair staff *may* require that goats <4 mo. of age and unvaccinated be screened from the public. Do yourself a favor and vaccinate your 3 mo. old kids!

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Youth goat events are held in the Goat Barn and Pavilion unless otherwise noted. Please consult the 2025 Youth Department Animal Science Premium Book available at <https://nysfair.ny.gov/competitions/how-to-enter/> by scrolling all the way down to "NYS 4-H Goats" and clicking on "Youth Premium Book" and "Youth Livestock General Info, Rules & Regulations". Please read them carefully to avoid any misunderstandings.

2. Youth participants must be at least eight years old by Jan 1st, 2025 and not have reached their nineteenth birthday as of Jan 1st, 2025. **Junior** youth are 13 years old or younger and **Senior** youth are 14 years old or older as of Jan 1st of the current year.
3. **Original health papers and rabies certificates must accompany each goat for inspection upon arrival on the Fairgrounds.** Leased goats need to be accompanied to the NYS Fair by their completed non-ownership certificate (available at your CCE office). As with owned goats, the goat must be cared for by the youth and lease papers on file by no later than June 15th or earlier if county rules specify an earlier date.
4. **No intact bucks are allowed during the youth goat activities.**
5. Only ADGA, AGS, and CGS recorded, registered or applied-for goats recognized by ADGA as dairy goats may compete in the dairy show. ADGA RULES SHALL GOVERN. JR & SR shows are sanctioned together.
6. The original registration certificate is required for all goats six (6) months of age or older in the dairy goat show. The requirement for animals less than six (6) months of age is either the original registration or recordation certificate, a stamped duplicate application, OR a faxed stamped duplicate application. Purchased goats must be transferred to the youth's name by June 15th, or earlier if county rules specify an earlier date, and transfers finalized by Aug 23rd, 2025.
7. Meat and working goats do not need to be recorded with a breed association. All unrecorded meat and working goats must be ear tagged or tattooed with their official scrapie identification. Registered goats should be tattooed and accompanied by registration papers. Registered goats have a unique tattoo that is acceptable as scrapie identification in conjunction with their registration papers. They DO NOT require eartags.
8. Dress code for dairy goat classes is white shirts and white pants. Dress code for meat goat classes is nice, neat shirts and dark pants. Dress code for the working goat classes is appropriate hiking attire including long pants, sleeved shirts (no T-shirts) and hiking sneakers/boots. No farm emblems please!

T-Shirts – T-shirts promoting NYS Youth Goats are sold at a table during each of our goat shows at the NYS Fair. We urge you to support our goat community by buying a T-shirt during the fair. We are also in need of donations (from businesses or individuals) for prizes. Please contact Susan Clark, miquiversful@gmail.com, 315-576-2515, or Annette Mrzywka, amrzywka@gmail.com, 585-737-2006 to make donations for this competition.

Absentee Policies - Youth who cannot participate in the dairy goat showmanship classes because of work or classes must submit written requests and proof of employment or courses for approval to the Youth Goat Superintendent, **Holly Phillips**, 8761 Chidsey Hill Road, Branchport, NY 14418, or straitgatefarm@gmail.com. **Requests must be postmarked or emailed by Tues. Aug 13th.** Her decision is final. **Youth must be present to show their own dairy goats in the breed show or their animals will be unable to compete and premiums will be forfeited. Meat and working goat youth must show in their respective showmanship & fitting classes in order to show in the other classes of their shows.**

Open Shows – All youth wishing to enter goats in either the Open Dairy Goat Show or the Open Boer Goat Show must enter online through the normal Open Show procedure at <https://nysfair.ny.gov/competitions/how-to-enter/>.

Competitions –The Goat Product Study Guide, sample questions for Goat Bowl and past Meat Goat Knowledge Exams are on the web at <https://cals.cornell.edu/nys-4-h-animal-science-programs/livestock/goats/goat-educational-resources> to assist with preparing for Goat Knowledge Olympics, Goat Bowl and the Goat Product ID.

The **dairy goat, working goat and meat goat project notebook** are handled as an individual activity and youth do not have to bring a goat to the fair to participate. Entry in the project notebook review is limited to one notebook per youth per category of goat. Youth do not have to bring their goats or that particular goat to the NYS Fair in order to participate in this event.

- Goat project record books are on the web at <https://cals.cornell.edu/nys-4-h-animal-science-programs/livestock/goats/meat-goats>
- Dairy Goat project record books are on the web at <https://cals.cornell.edu/nys-4-h-animal-science-programs/livestock/goats/dairy-goats>
- Working Goat project record books are on the web at <https://cals.cornell.edu/nys-4-h-animal-science-programs/livestock/goats/working-goats>

Kimber Hamm Goat Rancher Competition – This optional competition is in memory of Kimber Hamm, one of NY's premier meat goat farmers. The competition is open to meat goat youth exhibiting a meat goat at the NY State Fair Youth Show. This award is given to the junior and senior youth meat goat exhibitor who most demonstrates the diverse qualities of a good meat goat herdsman. Youth must compete in all meat goat competitions including the Project Notebook Competition, Meat Goat Fitting & Showmanship and the Kimber Hamm Conformation Class (#98 or 99). **Youth must also compete in the Youth Goat Knowledge Olympics and the meat goat section of the Youth Goat Judging Competition.** Please contact the Youth Meat Goat Assistant Superintendent in advance if you have a conflict as re-scheduling for some events may be possible.

Goat Educational Display Contest – includes both scientific and general goat information posters. Scientific posters can be either an experiment or descriptive science conducted by the youth related to goats or the goat industry. Scientific posters should include Title/Author, Introduction, Hypothesis (what question you are trying to answer) or Objectives, Methods, Results and Conclusions. Photos, drawings, charts, tables, references and/or acknowledgements may also be included. All entries in the contest must be accompanied by an Exhibitor Information Statement Card available from your county's Cornell Cooperative Extension office and should consist of a poster (at least 14"x 22") or 3-dimensional exhibit that can be hung on a wall **OR** fit on a 2'x 3' counter space. The public will have access to the displays, so please **do not use valuables as part of your display**. We strongly encourage you to have your display judged at the county level first to make sure it is well organized and presented. One contest is for individuals and the other is for clubs. Counties with a club or individual display will receive a one-time bonus score on goat herdsman.

Youth Goat Costume Class for 2025. The contest is open to all NYS Fair youth goat exhibitors. Youth participating in the costume class are limited to one entry per exhibitor and must use their own owned or leased goat for the class. Entries will be judged on Creativity, Originality, Funniest, Artistic, and a Themed County Entry. For the class both the goat and handler **MUST** be costumed. Youth must submit a written narrative with their Name, Goat's Name, County, and Category at least ½ hour prior to the class.

THINGS TO DO PRIOR TO THE FAIR

Submit your youth goat entries online by Friday, August 1, 2025 at 5:00 pm. You must enter at <https://nysfys.fairwire.com/>. Email your entry receipts to **BOTH** your County Educator AND to your Department Superintendent, Holly Phillips at straitgatefarm@gmail.com.

Be sure to request and obtain exhibitor passes and parking permits through your CCE County 4-H office.

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU TO THE FAIR

1. All necessary papers and health certificates. These should be at the barn with animals at all times.
2. Feeding equipment, milking equipment, grooming equipment, health items, clean-up materials, hay, grain, and salt, show clothes, individual or club display educating people about goats.

OVERNIGHTERS

All Dept 51 participants staying overnight on the New York State Fairgrounds are to sleep in the Youth Dormitories. **No Dept 51 participants may sleep in the Youth Department animal exhibit areas.** Parents (or legal guardians) may request exceptions to these rules to instead **stay in area hotels or in campers at the fairgrounds** through prescribed written application forms at the discretion of their Cornell Cooperative Extension Offices and will thus assume full responsibility for the action and well-being of each of their children for whom an exception is requested. An adult chaperone must be designated on the form. Youth Dorm Forms and Youth Dorm Exception Forms may be obtained through your 4-H educator at your Cornell Cooperative Extension County office. Contact **Alison Douglas** at allison.Douglas@agriculture.ny.gov or 315-728-4426 to inquire about livestock RV application forms and fees and which lots are available to goat exhibitors. Locations are limited and fill up fast.

PLEASE plan to join us for our **picnic gathering** for all youth goat exhibitors and their families on **Sun., Aug 24th at 6 p.m.** Your own table service is required. Please bring a dish to pass or monetary donations happily accepted.

Enjoy the Fair!!