

# DAIRY GOAT SHOW PROCEDURES

The primary purpose of 4-H programs is the development of young people through fun learning experiences.

Fitting and showing helps evaluate the member's efforts and accomplishments, as reflected through his or her project. The animal is only a tool for seeing the member's progress. This is why it makes no difference whether the animal is registered or not or whether it is of excellent or poor type. These factors are due to the inheritance of the animal rather than a measure of the member's efforts and learning experiences.

The most important considerations in the mind of the judge should be how well the animal has been cared for, how well it is presented, and how well the member understands the project.

## **BASIC CONSIDERATIONS**

1. If an individual, group, or organization wishes to sponsor and conduct an event for 4-H members where these members will be participating as 4-H members (rather than open class participants), a 4-H division must be designated and conducted in accordance with 4-H procedures and policies. Rules, regulations, classes, and awards will be designed for the 4-H division. Many of these rules and regulations may be the same as in open class shows.
2. Participation in a 4-H division of a dairy goat show will not disqualify the 4-H member from participating in the open show if the open show qualifications are met and there is no conflict in the showing schedule.

3. The dairy goat(s) entered in a dairy goat show need not be owned by the member making the entry. However, the goat(s) must be the member's 4-H project.
4. The group (or Danish) system of judging will be used in both type and fitting and showing classes in the 4-H division.
5. Clean, properly fitting clothing that allows the member freedom to perform in the show ring and that does not cause distractions for the judge or spectators is considered appropriate. There is no "proper" uniform, dress, style, or color of clothing.
6. Only female dairy goats (with no horns) are eligible for entry in a 4-H dairy goat show.
7. Dairy goats entered in 4-H dairy goat classes may be purebred or grade, registered or nonregistered. All trophies, special ribbons, or awards given in any class will be awarded to the exhibitor of the top-placing animal in that class regardless of its being purebred or grade, registered or nonregistered.

4-H dairy goat shows should not be used to qualify animals for breed or association awards limited to registered animals or association members. Such awards usually place restrictions on the class makeup and qualifications of the judge. These restrictions are not in keeping with the basic 4-H dairy goat program. However, 4-H members who wish to participate in breed or association programs such as those offered in open shows may do so without jeopardizing their eligibility to participate in 4-H dairy goat shows.

8. Fitting and showing is divided into three classes:

- Junior—Grades 3–5
- Intermediate—Grades 6–8
- Senior—9th Grade through age 18

If more than 10-15 members are entered in a fitting and showing class, the class should be broken into smaller sections. The top two entrants from each section may then be brought back to determine class winners. Class winners will not compete for overall fitting and showing champion because of grade differences.

9. In extremely small shows, all breeds of goats may be put in the same class. In other shows, classes representing breeds may be used. Here the grade animals would go into the breed class of which they are most representative. Classes could include:

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|-----------|-----------------|
| A. Alpine | D. Toggenburg   |
| B. Nubian | E. La Mancha    |
| C. Saanen | F. Other Breeds |

10. Type lots:

1. Doelings—over 2 and under 6 months
2. Doelings—between 6 months and under 12 months
3. Doelings—between 1 and 2 years—un-freshened
4. Does—between 1 and 2 years—milking
5. Does—between 2 and 3 years—milking
6. Does—3 years and over—milking

Lot champions may be awarded as follows:

7. Junior Champion and Reserve Champion—determined from top two animals in Lots 1, 2, and 3
8. Senior Champion and Reserve Champion—determined from top two animals in Lots 4, 5, and 6

Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Lot Champions and Reserve Champions may compete against each other for Overall Show Grand or Reserve Champions.

## **THE GROUP JUDGING METHOD**

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### **What Is the Group Method?**

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The group method evaluates entries or exhibits in a particular class or contest according to the standards developed for that class or contest. The entries are evaluated and arranged into groups for recognition of their achievement.

Entries or exhibits within the class are carefully examined in relation to the standards established and in comparison with other entries in the same class contest.

### **How Do You Use the Group Method?**

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After evaluating each item in the class, the entire class may be subdivided into four groups according to merit. If the performance of 4-H members is being evaluated, they may be divided into these four groups in relation to their level of performance with due consideration to their age.

To use the modified group method, further rank individual entries or contestants within the blue group (and other groups) in relation to their relative standing within each group.

The four groupings are:

- *Excellent or blue*: entries or club members who most nearly meet the standards established for the particular class or level of performance. This is a broad grouping indicating a degree of excellence. If a numerical score is used, the range for a blue ribbon is 90–100.

- *Good or red*: those exhibits or individuals who rank as good in relation to the particular standards or expected achievement of the class or contest. Either the general level of the accomplishment is less than excellent or enough specific shortcomings are found to cause the placing to drop from excellent to good. If a numerical score is used, the range for a red ribbon is 80–89.

- *Fair or white*: those exhibits or contestants who are found lacking and rate only average or moderately satisfactory for the standards estab-

lished. If a numerical score is used, the range for a white ribbon is 70–79.

- *No award or no ribbon*: exhibits or individuals who fail to produce a reasonable level of achievement in the specific class or performance in which they are entered. If a numerical score is used, this category receives 69 or below.

Not all members or exhibits should automatically receive either a blue, red, or white ribbon. Giving a white ribbon to all those who failed to get a blue or red creates an undesirable image for the white category by including very poor entries.

This also degrades the blue and red categories.

No ribbon should be given for the no-award category. If a participation ribbon is used in the fourth category, it creates an additional placing and the advantages of the no-award category will be lost.

### **Why Is the Group Method Used in 4-H?**

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The group method promotes the educational objectives of 4-H and furthers the motto “Make the Best Better” by providing incentive for most of the boys and girls.

The group method attempts to distribute awards (ribbons, premiums, and public recognition) among the majority of those participating.

It is an abuse of the group method if:

- Exhibits are not fairly evaluated.
- Ribbons are awarded on the basis of a formula that establishes percentages for each group.
- The application of standards is too rigid or too lax.
- Allowances are not made for differences in participants' grades, abilities, and experience, particularly in fitting and showing.
- All participants receive recognition whether or not they deserve it.



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## WASHINGTON STATE 4-H DAIRY GOAT FITTING AND SHOWING SCORECARD

	Max. Points	Member Score
<b>APPEARANCE OF ANIMAL (40 points)</b>		
<b>Condition and thriftiness</b> —shows normal growth, neither too fat nor too thin.	10	
<b>Hair</b> —clean and properly groomed. <b>Hoofs</b> —trimmed and shaped to enable animal to walk and stand naturally.	10	
<b>Neatly disbudded</b> —if the animal is not naturally hornless. <b>Clipped</b> —animal neatly trimmed inside ears, around feet, udder, and tail. Clipping entire body is discouraged on basis that clipping is not substitute for good grooming.	10	
<b>Cleanliness</b> —as shown by a clean body as free from stains as possible, with special attention to legs, feet, tail area, nose, and ears.	10	
<b>APPEARANCE OF EXHIBITOR (10 points)</b> Person and clothes neat, clean, and appropriate to occasion. No preference given to color or uniform.	10	
<b>SHOWING ANIMAL IN THE RING (50 points)</b>		
<b>Leading</b> —enter, leading the animal at a normal walk around the ring in a clockwise direction, walking on the left side, holding the collar with the right hand. Exhibitor should walk as normally and inconspicuously as possible. — Goat should lead readily and respond quickly. — Lead equipment should consist of collar or small link chain properly fitted. Lead strap not permitted. — As judge studies the animal, the preferred method of leading is to walk alongside on the side away from the judge. — Lead slowly with animal’s head held high enough for impressive style, attractive carriage, and graceful walk.	10	
<b>Pose and show</b> an animal so it is between the exhibitor and the judge as much as possible. Avoid exaggerated positions, such as crossing behind the goat. — Stand or kneel where both judge and animal may be observed. — Pose animal with front feet squarely beneath and hind feet slightly spread. Where possible, face animal upgrade with her feet on a slight incline. Don’t crowd other exhibitors or leave too much space when leading into a side-by-side position. — When judge changes placing, lead animal forward out of line, down or up to the place directed, then back through the line, finally making a U-turn to get into position. — To step animal ahead, use slight pull on collar. If the animal steps badly out of place, return her to position by leading her forward and making a circle back through your position in the line. — When judge is observing the animal, replace her as quickly and inconspicuously as possible, if she moves out of position. — Be natural. Overshowing, undue fussing, and maneuvering are objectionable.	15	
<b>Show animal to best advantage</b> , recognizing the conformation faults of your animal, trying to help overcome them.	15	
<b>Poise, alertness, and courteous attitude</b> are all desired in the show ring. Keep an eye on the animal and be aware of the position of the judge at all times, but do not stare at the judge. Persons or things outside the ring should not distract you. Respond rapidly to requests from judges or officials, and be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times, respecting the rights of other exhibitors. The best exhibitors show the animals at all times—not themselves—and continue exhibiting well until the entire class has been placed, and the judge has given reasons and dismissed the class.	10	
TOTAL	100	