



PYGMY GOATS

PROJECT SUPERINTENDENT: Melisa Bays – 502-297-3375

Project Description:

The 4-H Pygmy Goat educational program and related activities (such as workshops, tours, etc.) provide youth a fun and hands-on learning experience which develops both goat subject skills (such as nutrition, housing, and health care) and life skills (such as responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communications).

Levels:

Junior Grades 3-5

Intermediate Grades 6-8

Senior Grades 9-12

Project Guidelines:

Activities:

- Keep accurate, monthly records on your Pygmy Goat. Records are interesting and can be fun if you use them properly.
- Learn the parts of the Pygmy Goats so you can talk about them.
- Learn how to feed Pygmy Goats properly so they will remain healthy.
- Learn about diseases of Pygmy Goats and keep your animals free of parasites.
- Teach your goats to lead while they're young.
- Be kind to your animals. Teach them to trust and respect you.
- Make your animals comfortable. Be sure they have shade, fresh water, salt, a dry place to lie down, and freedom from flies, lice, and other pests.

Purpose:

In a Pygmy Goat project, you as a 4-H member will:

- Learn how to select and care for a Pygmy Goat.
- Learn responsibility for having animals of your own to care for regularly.
- Learn the importance of keeping accurate records.
- Learn about nature's processes by caring for animals.
- Learn citizenship, sportsmanship, and the value of cooperation.

Advantages:

Pygmy goats make ideal 4-H projects:

- They're inexpensive to buy and feed.
- They're easy to handle and transport.
- They require relatively few facilities.
- They're ideal pets.



4-H PYGMY GOATS:

Identification deadline- May 15

- All pygmy goats must be identified by a tag, tattoo, scrapie tag or microchip, and have a completed 4-H Pygmy Goat ID enrollment in the 4-H Online system by **May 15**.

4-H Fair:

- All 4-H pygmy goats will be physically inspected prior to entering the barn and may be rejected or removed due to health issues at any time during the fair.

Exhibit requirements:

- All animals exhibited at the 4-H Fair must meet Board of Animal Health (BOAH) requirements.
- Animals must be under ownership and care of the 4-H member by **May 15**. This ownership must remain continuous until show day. This includes showmanship classes. Each exhibitor must own their own animal to participate in the showmanship class.
- Accurate records should be maintained starting with the date of purchase of the animal.
- If unborn offspring is to be exhibited at the fair, the pregnant mother must be enrolled in 4-H Online by May 15. The project superintendent must be notified prior to set-up day if new babies are coming to the fair.
- 4-H members having an entry in animal classes are expected to show their own animals. In cases where this is not possible, the owner may have animals shown by another Floyd County 4-H member. This substitution of showmen must be approved by the barn superintendent.
- Every goat must have a collar and lead.
- Buck and horned pygmy goats are NOT permitted. Wethers should be castrated, banded, or clamped at least sixty (60) days before show. Any animals with traditional buck appearances or odors are not permitted.
- It is recommended that the exhibitor wear a club shirt and black jeans or slacks (no shorts) while showing their pygmy goats.
- 4-H members are responsible for keeping their pens and aisle area clean at all times. Pens must be cleaned and put in storage area before check-out.
- Pens are assigned by the project superintendent. Alterations are not to be made without prior permission from the project superintendent.
- Pen dividers are not to be removed to combine multiple pens.
- Fans must have proper safety-approved shrouds.
- Superintendent inspection is required for all goats before entering the barn. No goats will be admitted into the barn or allowed to show after check-in time has passed.
- In large classes, only the top ten (10) animals will be placed. The remaining exhibitors will receive participation ribbons.
- Birthing at the 4-H Fair must be approved by the barn superintendent before fair.
- Pygmy goats must meet the official pygmy goat standards. No Boer or dairy goat breed characteristics or color conformation will be permitted.



SHOWMANSHIP RULES

SHOWMANSHIP DIVISIONS: Grade in school on January 1 of the current year.

Rookie—All first-year showmen must participate as a Rookie Showman regardless of age and grade.

Junior Showmanship - All 4-H exhibitors in grades 4-7 are eligible. Once an exhibitor is the overall junior showmanship winner, the 4-H'er is only eligible to compete in the intermediate showmanship classes in future years.

Senior Showmanship - All 4-H exhibitors in the 8th grade or above are eligible (exception only for previous year's intermediate showmanship winners).

Updated 3-25-2025