



SHOW READY: LIVESTOCK STARTER GUIDE

Dairy Goats



Q How do I identify and enter my animal in the fair?

A All livestock species, except Poultry, must be identified in the 4-H Online system (<https://v2.4honline.com>) by May 15. Ensure that you are meeting the animal ID requirements listed in the 4-H handbook when entering your animal. Poultry exhibitors will identify their animals at <https://tinyurl.com/26Poultry>. Identify any animals you may want to show. By July 1, go to <http://vanderburghcountyin.fairentry.com> to enter what classes your animal(s) will be participating in. This is where you'll select which animals you will be bringing to the fair, what classes they will be in, and you can enter showmanship. To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy goats, meat goats, poultry, pygmy goats, rabbits, sheep and swine, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care program by July 1. If you plan to exhibit at the Indiana State Fair, be sure to check out state guidelines and registration details at <https://indianastatefair.com>. Suggestion - if showing multiple animals/species, create a list of all ID information to help with animal ID entry. Enter all possible entries on May 15. Only animals entered by May 15 can be shown. Just because they are entered, does not mean they have to go to the fair; however, if they are not entered, they are not eligible.

Q How do I prepare for fair?

A Dairy goats should be shaved from head to toe within about 2 weeks of the show using an electric hair trimmer. Most goats don't like their legs and faces done so patience and persistence are key. Supplies can be dropped off and pens prepared in advance



Q Where do I find set-up, check-in, check out, and clean up times for my species?

A You will find this in the handbook, in the summer LINK newsletters, and in a mailing that goes out before fair.

Q How does check-in work? What do I need to have with me?

- A**
- o Find a Dairy Goat Superintendent or Assistant
 - o Know the name, age, and class for each animal
 - o The Superintendent will show you which pens your animals will be in

Q What supplies/equipment do I need to have at fair?

- A**
- | | |
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| o Feed and water pans/ buckets | o Milk stand if you have a goat in milk |
| o Leash and collar/ show chain | o Soap/ animal shampoo |
| o Drying towel | o Hoof trimmers |
| o Feed and hay | o Brush |
| o Bedding (straw, wood shavings/chips/sawdust) | |

Q How do I care for my animal during fair?

A It is expected that the 4-H member provides regular care for their animal during the fair. This includes making sure your animal has access to clean water at all times and is fed regularly. The fair is often very hot so make sure you have a plan to keep your animal cool and to prevent overheating. Pens should be cleaned out as needed; wheelbarrows and scoop shovels will be available all week.

Q How does check out work? What do I need to do to clean up?

- A**
- o Let the Superintendent know when you are taking your animal(s) home
 - o Remove all personal supplies and clean up any trash
 - o The pens do not need to be cleaned out. After the pens are taken down Saturday of the Fair, a skid loader will be used to remove all the manure.

Q How do I participate in the livestock premium auction (if eligible)?

- A**
- To participate in the livestock premium auction, complete the auction card that will be mailed to you and return to the Extension Office at the fair by noon on Monday of the fair. If you decide to change the animal or species you plan to exhibit in the auction, let the Extension Office know by 5:00 pm on Thursday of fair week. Photos will be taken of you with your animal immediately after you take your animal in the ring. You will also be asked to write thank you notes to your auction buyers after you have exhibited in the auction. Exhibitors will be asked to pick up their auction check when available (typically about 1-2 months after the auction) and checks must be cashed/deposited within 90 days.

Q What do I wear on show day?

- A**
- White shirt (button down, polo, blouse), white pants, belt, close toed shoes, no jewelry is best except for simple earring studs

Q What supplies do I need to show?

- A**
- Show chain; this is what you use to lead the animal around in the show ring
- Animal brush; sometimes animals like to lay down while waiting for their class; keep a small brush handy to clean them of any sawdust that sticks to them



Q How should my animal be prepped for the show?

- A**
- The night before or morning of the show, the animals need to be bathed head to toe. Make sure to clean under the tail and between the hooves. Make sure hooves are trimmed.

Q How do I make my animal look its best in the show ring?

- A**
- When walking in the ring, make sure to keep the animal's head up and walk slowly as the judge directs you.

Q What does the judge expect of me?

- A**
- o The judge expects you to know how to maneuver and handle your animal
 - o Know your animal's name, age, and breed
 - o Contact the Superintendent if you want to enter in Showmanship and need study materials



Q Who can I contact if I have questions?

- A**
- Your species superintendent or assistant superintendents can answer your questions. Their contact information can be found in the 4-H handbook in the livestock section. You can also reach out to the Purdue Extension Office at (812) 867-4935 with questions.