
K-STATE

Meat Goat Show Guide



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	p. 2
Parts of the Goat	p. 3
Selection	p. 4
Daily Care & Management	p. 9
Health	p. 11
Nutrition	p. 14
Show Preparation	p. 18
Showmanship	p. 24
Educational Resources	p. 27

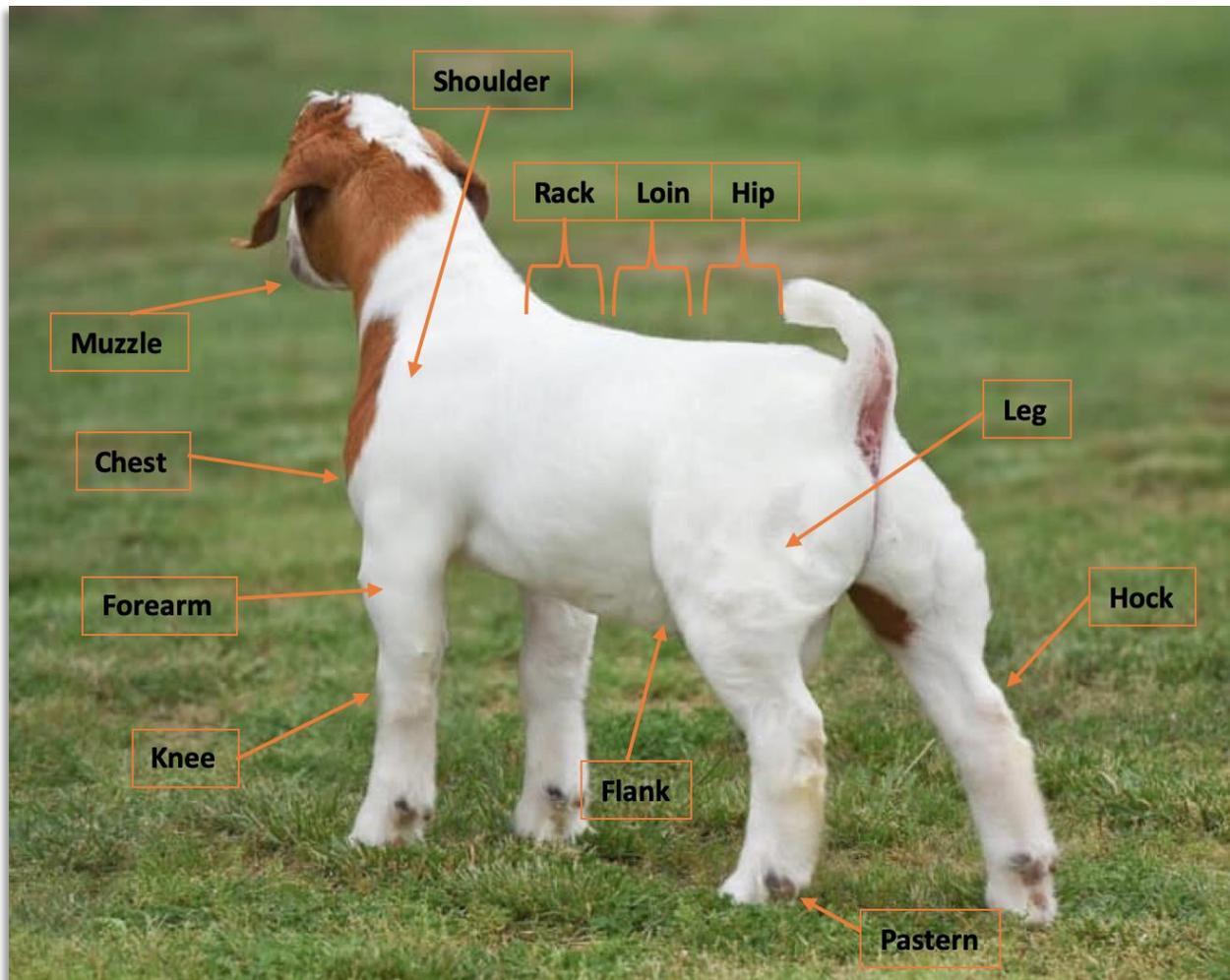


INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Kansas State University Show Goat Guide! The content you find in this guide should help you navigate your way through the essentials of showing meat goats. We hope the material provided is educational for beginning showman, as well as experienced showmen. This gives an overview of selecting, feeding, daily care, and how to show your project. Remember this is an educational experience that can teach you life skills along the way!

PARTS OF THE GOAT

Before learning about selection, it is essential that you understand the parts of a goat. The diagram below shows the primary parts of a market goat or breeding doe that you will often hear judges talk about while describing their class. It is also important to understand the parts to communicate effectively with breeders, veterinarians, other youth, and those involved in your meat goat project.



SELECTION

Goat selection may be challenging to those who show other species of livestock, as they may have not been familiar with the species growing up. However, the same basic selection principles apply! When purchasing your project, keep the following things in mind to help find the best show goat for your budget: maturity, genetics, skeletal width, muscle, structural correctness, balance, pattern, and performance. If you aren't comfortable with selecting your own projects, reach out to someone who is familiar with goats. Agriculture teachers, FFA advisors, 4-H leaders, extension agents and breeders are always a helpful resource during this process and would be glad to assist you in selecting the right project for you. Selecting the right project can be challenging, but here are some ideas to think about moving forward:

- What is your optimal show?
 - Do you plan to participate in the county fair, state shows, jackpot circuits, or the national level?
 - Do you need a goat to target for multiple shows?
- Decide on the date of the show that you plan to attend, or the event you want your goat to be in optimal weight/appearance.
 - Here are some things to consider:
 - Where am I going to get it?
 - What size of goat is the best fit for the showman, especially for a beginner?
- Most shows require that you own your project by a certain deadline, typically a few months before the show.
 - This information can be found in the rules/regulations of the show. Usually, it's listed as the "ownership deadline" or the nomination/validation deadline is used.
 - County Fair – check with your local extension office.
 - Kansas State Fair Grand Drive & KJLS – June 15.
 - Most local and online sales occur well before the required date of ownership. Be sure to communicate this date with the breeder of your animal to arrange an appropriate pickup time.
- When selecting a goat, finding a project with the appropriate age and size is essential.
 - If you are targeting a county fair, you will want to select a goat that has enough size to reach the allotted weight limit.
 - If you plan to find a goat for your state fair or national show, size may not play as big of a factor in your selection process. Comparative to other species, maturity is usually seen as a positive in goats rather than a negative.
 - Refer to the table on the next page for a guide in selecting the appropriately aged project.

Target Show Date	Ideal Age of Goat
July-August (most Kansas county fairs)	Early November to Mid-January
September-November (Kansas State Fair, Kansas Junior Livestock Show, and most national livestock shows)	Early November to Late March

*Recommendations only; refer to specific show rules for requirements, including age or DOB.

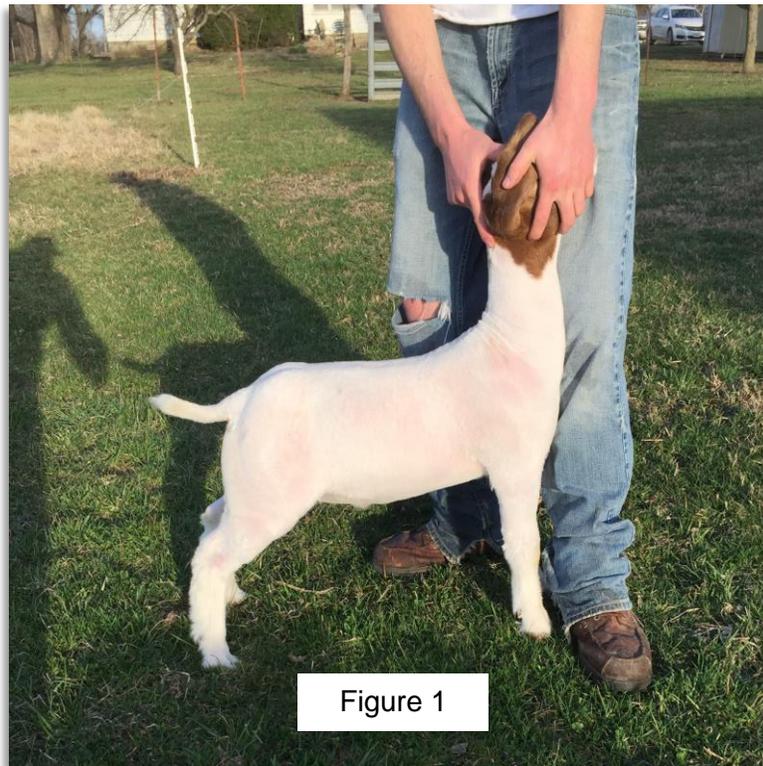
Maturity

Goat maturity and end point composition are usually controlled by the amount of feed a goat eats. Ideal fat to lean ratios, otherwise known as composition, should peak whenever you reach your target show, so selecting a goat that is proper age is essential. Ultimately, all goats will have a difference in maturity pattern, as not one animal is identical to the other. It is up to you to decide what goat best fits your budget and what animals are best suited for the show(s) that you plan to go to.

- Early Maturing Goats
 - Earlier maturing goats can be shown at lighter weights while being compositionally correct.
 - Their endpoint weight usually ranges from 75-90 pounds.
 - These goats are generally shorter in stature as well as having less length to their face, ears, and body.
- Later Maturing Goats
 - Some goats are genetically bred to be later maturing, and they will need to be fed to heavier weights to reach their ideal composition. Composition in animals is commonly referred to as muscle to fat ration.
 - Their endpoint weight usually ranges from 90-110 pounds.
 - Later maturing goats have more length to their ears, neck, body and legs.
 - They tend to require more feed to put on external cover.

Maturity pattern is not a placing factor in the judge's mind. However, it is important to understand how fast your goat will grow and what its ideal size and endpoint weight may be. Early maturing and late maturing goats can find success in the showring. The timing of your target show and availability of prospects from breeders are things you must take into account.

Below are two photos of wethers with differing maturity patterns. The **top photo (Figure 1)** shows a goat with an **early maturity** pattern, with the **bottom photo (Figure 2)** showing a **later maturity** curve. These wethers were both pictured at 3 months of age. The goat on the **top** is **smaller in stature**, while the goat on the **bottom** has **more length and size**.



Genetics

Genetics are important in the process of project selection. It is essential to find a breeder who you trust and is honest in selling goats with the genetic potential to get better over time.

- If goats do not have the genetic ability to get better, they WON'T!
 - Always ask the breeder what the genetics are on the prospect you are considering purchasing.
- If you are unsure about the genetic background of goats, ask agriculture teachers, FFA advisors, 4-H leaders, extension agents or anyone familiar with show goats for assistance.
- Successful genetic lines are important in the fact they are proven to work. Buying something that has proven to work in the past can help with what you expect that animal to do moving forward.

Skeletal Width/Muscle

Muscularity and skeletal width go hand in hand. Without a wide base, it is hard to build muscle on a narrow foundation.

- Indicators of genuine base width:
 - Width through chest
 - Width from behind indicates genuine base width
- Muscle in market goats and does is evaluated down their top and from behind.
 - Shape of their rib, shape of their rack, width/squareness of their loin, shape to leg

Judges put a major emphasis on handling quality and freshness, so keeping your goat compositionally correct is essential. This includes:

- Firm and square rack shape
- Width to loin
- Leg shape
- Hide/hair quality
- Leanness
- Figure 3 exhibits the indicated places a judge will handle the animal.

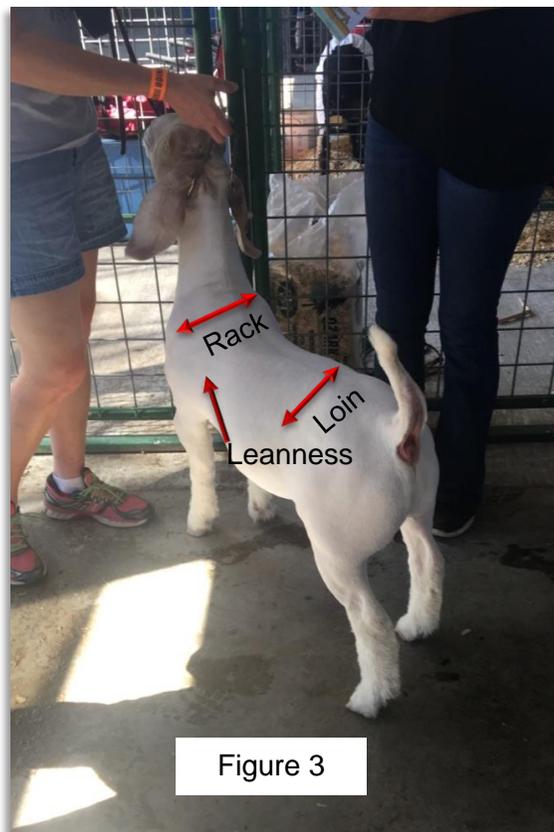


Figure 3

Structural Correctness

Structural correctness refers to how an animal's skeleton and joints work and are assembled. You've might have heard that structure is studied from the ground up. So, what exactly does that mean?

- Feet and legs should all point the same direction.
- The knee should have a slight slope backwards with a correct angle to the pastern.
- The rear hocks should be square; they should not twist in or bow out.
- Goats should have a near 90-degree angle in the way their neck comes into their shoulder blade.
- The spine should be nearly level from the top of the shoulders to the base of the tail.
- Goats should act comfortable in motion, without favoring any of their limbs.

Correct pastern angle is shown below.

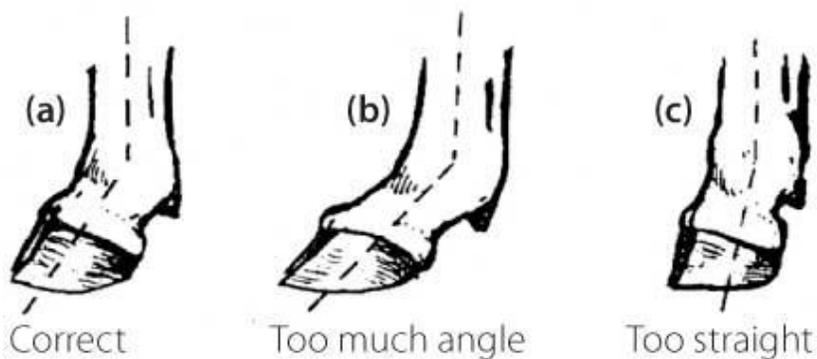


Photo courtesy of brahman.com.au.

Balance/Pattern

Balance and pattern are different, but both aid to a higher quality image from the profile. A judge will consider both of these items in the show ring, so it is something to keep in mind when selecting your project.

- Balance refers to the symmetry of an animal and how well it's proportioned from the side.
 - The front half of the body should match the back half of the body in terms of length.
 - Structure plays a big role in balance, if an animal is built correctly, they will most likely be well balanced.
- Pattern strictly refers to the eye appeal and look of the goat, which includes:
 - Height of shoulder
 - Level topline
 - Symmetry in motion
 - How all the pieces of the goat "fit together"
- Refer to Figure 4 to see correct pattern and balance.

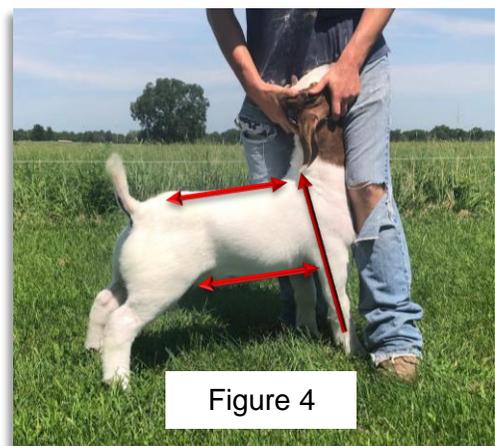


Figure 4

DAILY CARE & MANAGEMENT

Cleaning a barn and washing your animals is not always the most fun part of the project, but if you want to succeed, the work behind the scenes is often what can get you over the top and into the winner's circle. Below are a few tips on what is essential for proper animal husbandry and going the extra mile to be your best.

Facilities

A large state-of-the-art facility is not required for proper care of your animal. Here are important considerations for maximum performance, health, and safety of your goats:

- Pen Design
 - Sheltered pen on an elevated surface that has 3 sides enclosed to protect from rain and flooding.
 - Should be a minimum of 40 inches tall.
 - Vertical bar panels are ideal to prevent trapping legs or the animal's head, which can cause harm.
 - Traditional cattle panels are effective and will ensure that the goat cannot escape.
- Bedding
 - Dry, clean bedding is essential to:
 - Maintain hide and hair quality
 - Prevent stains
 - Prevent fungus
 - Reduce the potential for parasites
 - ✓ *The more moisture in the bedding, the higher the concern for parasites.*
- Animal Capacity
 - Recommend 1 goat per pen:
 - Having goats pens close by increases appetite and willingness to eat.
 - Individual penning is easier to monitor daily feed intake.
 - ✓ Individual pens also make cleaning easier; one goat creates less of a mess than two.

Weather Considerations

- When caring for younger goats, especially in the springtime, more care needs to be given to ensure a healthy start.
 - On colder days and nights, make sure goats have a dry enclosed area equipped with a heat lamp, if necessary.
 - If the goat you purchased was slick shorn, a “goat blanket” is a necessity.
 - Blankets can be expensive but are vital in maintaining health.
 - ✓ May be purchased from any feed/supply store.
 - ✓ Figure 5 shows a commonly used goat blanket.
- Although goats are very tolerant to heat, air flow and shade should be available at all times throughout the day during the summer months.
 - If pen is inside of a barn, a small fan may be necessary to keep your animal cool.



Figure 5

Photo courtesy of Weaver Livestock

Water

- Water quality and freshness are some of most overlooked areas of importance when caring for an animal.
 - There are a variety of watering systems available, but clean fresh water should be provided at all times.
 - Automatic waters are a low maintenance alternative but can be rather expensive and a hassle to install.
 - If watering by bucket, use a three-gallon bucket and change water morning and evening.
- During warm summer months, monitor waters throughout the day.
- Changing and cleaning waters is never fun, but for the health and performance of your goat, it is a must to keep water intake high and water quality fresh.

HEALTH

Keeping your show goat healthy is essential to your success come show day. Nutrition and health go hand in hand. If you have a healthy goat feed intake, gain will be higher, making it easier for your project to be on target going to the show. It is essential to evaluate and monitor health on a daily basis by checking signs such as snotty nose, droopy head and ears, lethargy, lack of appetite, and change in stool. If you notice any of these symptoms, contact your local veterinarian and administer the proper medications, following their guidance and direction. It is also important to read the label of any product and follow the appropriate withdrawal times that are safe for your show and situation. If you are unsure of your animal's health, ask someone who can assist you. This could be a project leader, extension agent, ag teacher, or veterinarian.

External Parasites

If you notice your goat biting its legs or scratching themselves, often there is a good chance that you are facing an external parasite.

- Common external parasites:
 - Lice
 - Mites
 - Flies
- Easy to control and treat once you notice that you have a problem.
 - Pour-ons such as Ivermectin, Ultra Boss and CyLence are all recommended treatments.
 - Left untreated, external parasites can eventually lead to appetite suppression and lack of growth.
- Impact hide and hair quality

Internal Parasites

Goats are known to be more susceptible to internal parasites. There are more problems with internal parasites in goats than any other disease. It is recommended that you deworm your show goat every 14 days, regardless of the environment it is in.

- You may confirm that you have a parasitic problem by fecal testing with your local veterinarian.
 - In the case of all internal parasites, it is beneficial to be proactive rather than reactive in terms of treatment.
 - Contact your local veterinarian for specific treatment methods/prevention protocols.
- Withdrawal Times
 - As you get closer to you target show or get close to selling your project, ensure that the withdrawal date on wormers do not overlap the time you plan to sell your animal.
 - Having a relationship with your veterinarian is helpful to know these withdrawal times.

Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL)

Caseous Lymphadenitis, commonly referred to as “CL”, is a contagious bacterial infection.

- It appears as an abscess or small fluid filled pocket underneath the ears, or on the throat of your goat.
- Sensitive or painful to the touch.
- Initially, it appears as a quarter sized lump that can be confused with a fly bite or small abscess. It will quickly become larger, ranging in size from a golf ball to a baseball.
 - Do not panic, although they take a while to go down, it is best to let the abscess pop on its own.
 - It is recommended that you do NOT lance the abscess as it will only delay the healing process.
 - After it pops on its own, simply treat with an iodine spray and keep area clean of dirt and other foreign material.



Photo courtesy of boergoatsprofitsguide.com



Photo courtesy of salecreek.vet

Show Fungus

If you plan on showing your goats at a jackpot or spring show, it is inevitable you will deal with the issue of show fungus. Although there are a few ways to prevent this infection, it is extremely contagious to both humans and animals. It also can prevent you from being able to exhibit your project at a show.

- Small, round, red patches appear on the skin of your goat and can be crusty to the touch.
 - Underneath the scab, is a red circular patch of skin where the fungus has appeared.
- There are a few ways to prevent fungal infections in your show projects. These will help ensure clear skin and no issue with health papers or “vet checks” when you arrive at the show.
 - After a show, immediately wash your goat with an antifungal shampoo before loading into your trailer or putting the blanket back on.
 - Keep facilities clean and dry.
 - Disinfect show halters and any show chains that are used on more than one animal.
 - If goats are infected with fungus, keep blanket on and isolate from other animals to prevent spread.
 - For treatment, contact your veterinarian on information regarding proper medications.



NUTRITION

After finding and purchasing a high-quality show project, proper nutrition is essential to maximize the genetic value of your animal. A poor diet, or lack of nutrition, can get in the way of accomplishing your show season goals. Let's walk through the steps of nutrition to make sure you will be on the right track!

Nutrients

There are four main essential nutrients in goat nutrition: water, protein, energy, and vitamins/minerals.

- Water
 - Water is undoubtedly the most important part of your animal's health.
 - Aids in digestion and feed intake.
 - Directly correlates to performance and animal appearance.
 - Clean and fresh water should be readily available 24/7.
 - If watering out of a bucket, the water should be changed twice a day.
 - Goats can drink upwards of three gallons of water per day.

- Protein
 - Protein is important as it strongly impacts muscle deposition and growth. Early stages of a goats life is when protein muscle deposition is at its highest rate.
 - Protein requirements reflect the stage of growth that your goat is going through.
 - Important for tissue development.
 - Feed choice and selection is often directly correlated to protein content of feed.
 - Younger goats (1-4 months of age)
 - ✓ Complete feed with a protein of 18%-20% is recommended.
 - Helps develop the rapid growth of muscularity at this stage.
 - Older goats (4 months of age and older)
 - ✓ Transition to a feed with a crude protein content of 15-17%.
 - Start declining in muscle deposition and increase in the amount of fat they begin to carry.
 - Finishing your goats requires a lower protein to ensure a smooth and even fat cover.

- Energy/Carbohydrates
 - Energy intake is essential to the diet of your goat and is met through the carbohydrates and fats in grain.
 - Most show feeds contain 5% crude fat which aids in the physical appearance and health of your animal.
 - If too much fat is consumed, the composition of your goat will be compromised and exercise may be needed to get rid of the excess cover.
 - Compared to other species, goats do not transition to higher energy feed as they mature.
 - Need energy in a beginning ration to help develop into their potential.



- Recommended fat levels in feed:
 - Younger goats (1-4 months of age) – 3-6%
 - Older goats (4 months of age and older – 5%

- Vitamins & Minerals
 - Vitamins and minerals help goats maintain proper health and growth development at all stages of their life.
 - All complete feeds should provide enough vitamins and minerals for normal function. Although supplementation is common and effective.
 - Goat mineral is a cheap supplement that can help maintenance as well as proper functioning of their physiological system.
 - Minerals:
 - Calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, sodium, potassium, sulfur and chlorides
 - ✓ The most important minerals that keep rumen health and body development moving forward.
 - ✓ Recommended that a mineral supplement is provided at all times to ensure they are meeting their requirement.
 - ✓ A calcium to phosphorus ratio of 2:1 is recommended to prevent Urinary Calculi.
 - Vitamins:
 - Vitamins (A, D, E, & K)
 - ✓ Important to the goat's diet due to their inability to produce these vitamins.
 - ✓ Mineral/vitamin supplements contain proper levels of all essential vitamins.

- Roughage
 - With a solely grain-based diet, there can be concerns with rumen health, digestion, and feed intake.
 - A ¼ pound of roughage once daily helps meet fiber requirements while helping with overall digestion.
 - High quality show feeds will meet energy and protein requirements, so a grass hay is recommended:
 - ✓ Brome
 - ✓ Sudan
 - Do not overfeed hay or allow unlimited intake.
 - ✓ Will decrease grain consumption
 - Hay quality and fiber length is also important to take into account when feeding roughage.
 - Lower quality hay is digested slower
 - Short fiber length will speed up passage in the rumen, but actually decrease ruminal digestion.

Early Life Nutrition

As soon as you bring your project home, expect stress and lack of appetite to deter the intake of your animal for a few days.

- As soon as you unload, make sure feed and water are available.
 - Ask the producer what feed the goat was on.
 - Slowly transition diet from old feed to new feed that you plan on feeding for the rest of the year.
 - ✓ Recommended to mix feed 50/50 for at least 2 days before transitioning completely to new feed.
 - If no intake has occurred within the first 24 hours, a handful of high quality hay is necessary to maintain proper rumen function

Supplements

There are hundreds of feed additives suggested by feed companies that can do everything from build muscle to adding fat cover. With goats known for their picky appetite and sensitive digestive system, it is often best to keep supplementation out of their diet and commit to a daily feeding schedule and balanced ration. Keeping goats on feed, especially in summer months, will keep you ahead of the game and on target for your endpoint goal.

Feeding Schedule

- Feeding your animal at a consistent time both morning and night is important in terms of daily consumption and feed intake.
- Feeding goats all at the same time, even in different pens, can increase their performance.
- If you only plan on buying one goat, having a “buddy” animal to pen with or beside will help with feed intake.

Feed Quality

- If feed is dusty or has a lot of fines, cleaning out refusals or uneaten feed can ensure an accurate measurement of intake.
 - If feed has an abnormal amount of dust or mold, purchasing replacement feed may be necessary.
- If the goat is not cleaning up their feed, providing a full feeder is not the solution. Decreasing feed amount until they clean up the feed and gradually increasing the amount helps both rumen health and feed wastage.
- A clean feeder will help keep palatability high.
 - Will help maintain feed intake.

Weight Gain

- It is important to monitor weight gain throughout all stages of your animal's life, especially as you progress closer to your show.
 - Keep minimum and maximum weight guidelines in mind.
- As a rule of thumb, goats should gain at least 3 pounds per week.
- It is suggested that you weigh goats weekly to track average daily gain as well as current weight.

Feeding Recommendations

There are a variety of options when it comes to selecting a complete feed for your goat. There is a wide range in price and kind. Ultimately, if you are confused or do not have previous experience with a specific feed, contact the breeder who raised the goat. You could also reach out to a feed dealer you trust. Here are the recommended feed amounts for your goat's diet:

- A starting ration with crude protein level of 18%-20% and fat content of 3-6% should be fed $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds twice daily.
- After transitioning from a starter ration at approximately 4 months of age, a diet with a crude protein of 15-17% and fat content of 5% should be fed at 1-1 $\frac{1}{4}$ pounds twice daily.
- Goats generally eat more feed when being fed with other goats in surrounding pens.
- Vital that feeding times are consistent day to day.

SHOW PREPARATION

Halter Breaking

Patience is key when it comes to halter breaking your show goat. Do not start the process immediately after getting your project home. Wait a few days for the goat to acclimate to its new home and environment. This allows the goat to get started on feed and keeps stress levels at a minimum. This will also help keep immune health in check.

- Patience is key in the process of halter breaking.
 - Goats are known to be strong willed and stubborn.
 - Start the process by tying your goat alongside the other sheep and goats that you may have with enough slack in the halter to allow the animal to be comfortable.
 - The natural reaction is for goats to often pull back and possibly flop down on their sides.
 - ✓ It is essential to stay with your animal at all times during this process.
 - ✓ If your goat falls over, simply stand him back up and allow him to stand upright.
 - ✓ When training, keep goats tied up for 45 minutes to an hour.
 - Repeat for 5 days or until goat seems comfortable in the halter.
 - After your animal is broke to the halter, you can begin the leading process.
 - Do NOT drag your goat.
 - It will take time and lots of practice before your goat will walk willingly behind you.
 - Simply stand to the side or behind your goats, with the rope in your hand and allow them to walk freely with the halter.
 - ✓ This will familiarize them with the process and begin breaking them to lead.
 - ✓ Standing in front of your goat and dragging them does not equal progress.
 - It often intimidates your goat and delays the learning curve of responding to the halter.

Show Collar

If you decide to use a show collar instead of a halter to show your animal, practice at home is essential. Not only does your animal not look good being dragged by their neck in the show ring, but it can also be extremely harmful to their health.

- It is recommended that your entire hand can fit underneath the chain as it is held around the top of their neck.
 - If placed around the neck too tight, they will not respond to the leading process and struggle breathing.
 - You HAVE to work hard at home to ensure your animal copes at the show.
- Same training protocols apply to show collars as they do for halter breaking.
 - When training your goat to walk, stand to the side or towards the back end of your goat encouraging them to move forward rather than pull backwards.

- Standing in front of your project will instinctively move your goat in the opposite direction, not allowing it to move forward.
- There are many kinds of show collars to choose from that effective:
 - plastic chains
 - metal chains
 - chains with spikes
- Ultimately select the product that you feel most comfortable with.

Exercise

A healthy exercise program is very important in the growth and development of your goat. Exercise at different stages of a goat's life has different effects, but are crucial in all stages. At a young age, light exercise will help with muscle growth and development, while exercise at heavier weights is important for maintaining muscle and keeping proper condition. Over exercising your goat is unnecessary and does more harm than good. As your animal grows, you can adjust the amount of exercise they require accordingly by weight and cover.

- There are multiple ways to exercise your goats:
 - Fenced Area
 - It is extremely effective to build or find a fenced off area free of excess grass/trees that you feel comfortable turning your goats loose in.
 - ✓ Allows the goats to run and they essentially can exercise themselves.
 - ✓ If your goat is not running on its own, simply get behind them and clap.
 - This will encourage them to move and allows them time to exercise outside of their individual pen or on a halter.
 - It is suggested to run your goats for 3-5 minutes per day.
 - Treadmilling
 - Can be very expensive alternatives that may be difficult to figure out.
 - Goat Walker
 - Can be very expensive alternatives that may be difficult to figure out.

Nearing Showtime

After all your hard work is completed at home, the reward of taking your animal to the show has finally come. There are several things that are important to remember when getting close to the show to make your animal look its best. Here are some helpful hints to know as you prepare for the big day.

Week Prior to Show

The week leading up to the show is extremely important in putting the final preparations on your goat before taking it to the show. As always, do your best to keep your animal on a regular feeding, exercise, and showmanship practice schedule to minimize stress leading up to the big day.

- Hydration is key going into show day, especially in the heat of the summer.
 - Recommended to give goats an electrolyte supplement starting 3 days before the show.
 - Electrolytes can be added to the water bucket, or applied as a “drench”.
 - ✓ Mix solution as recommended by the supplement that you choose.
- To ensure your goat will cooperate at the show, practice the following:
 - Make sure goat has experience loading and offloading.
 - Having your goat on the fitting stand several times, allowing them to be comfortable with the situation.
 - Process will be much easier preparing your animal for the event.

Clipping

Clipping your goat in preparation for the show can be intimidating and seem foreign to those not familiar with it. With some practice, it is very simple to clip your goat and does not require years of experience to have your animal looking respectable.

- In preparation for shearing, it is always helpful to wash your goat and dry them completely with a blower.
 - Wet hair can clog up the clippers and make the process very difficult.
 - It is essential that all the moisture is out of the animal before you begin.
- Goats, unlike many other species, do not have to be clipped often throughout their lifetime.
 - Clipping once in late spring will allow goats to get rid of all old hair and grow fresh new hair for the summer.
- Recommended length to clip your animal is 5.0 mm.
- It is recommended that you use “covercote” blades that fit several types of clippers.
 - This set of blades clips hair to the recommended length without getting hair too short.
 - Do not use blades such as “fines” or “surgical” as too much hair will be removed and it will take away from the presentation of your animal.
- Try to clip your animal as close to the show as possible.
 - Clipping too early can cause your goat to grow too much hair or the skin can possibly get dry.
- After you clip your goat, wash your goat with soap and conditioner and dry them again to make sure you didn't miss any spots.
 - It is easy to overlook spots that you may need to run over again.
- After you have completed this process:
 - Spray the goat with aerosol fly spray.
 - Cover with a blanket to protect from external parasites.

Leaving for the Show

The trip to the fair or show can be a very stressful time for you, as well as your goat. This is a fun process, but keep in mind the reason you bought your animal was to learn and have a competitive event to display your project, hard work, and knowledge. Here are a few things to remember before heading to the fairgrounds:

- The electrolyte supplement should already be added to your water bucket, but it can be beneficial to start watering your goat every hour, instead of ad libitum.
 - This will get them adjusted to drinking when the water and electrolytes is offered at the show.
- Before leaving, feed half of what you normally feed to your goat.
 - This will ensure that your animal has enough feed to maintain energy and keep muscle tone but also keeps the goat's stomach at a proper fill level as showtime approaches.
- As you start packing for the show, below is a list of supplies you should pack.
 - This checklist should cover the basics of what you will need for the show, as well as preparation for the show.

Mark off each item as you pack to ensure that you don't forget something important!

Item	Packed (<i>add "X" when packed</i>)
Feed	
Feeder	
Water Bucket	
Soap	
Short Water Hose	
Electrolytes	
Bedding	
Health Papers	
Goat Stand	
Blower	
Brush	
Show Sheen	
Hay	
Show Chain & Halter	

Arriving at the Show

After you have arrived at the fairgrounds, it is time to get your animal checked in, trailer unloaded and your goat settled into place. As stress levels rise for your animals, feed and water intake will likely decline. Stay calm and realize it will take time for your animal to adjust to the climate and begin eating and drinking normally. Have fun, stay focused, and enjoy what you've worked towards all year!

- After checking in and finding your pen assignment, make sure it has plenty of clean bedding and no wire or foreign unwanted materials before you stall your goat.
- Continue to offer your animal water with electrolytes to keep them hydrated and muscle tone fresh.
 - If your goat refuses to drink, drenching your animal is beneficial, if show regulations allow.
 - Check the rules.
- After getting the animal in place, feed half of a feeding and coordinate feeding times with how much you plan to feed at each meal.
 - Do not get your animal too full, as it will look bloated and less eye appealing to the judge.
 - Manage the amount of feed as the show becomes closer.
 - Feeding smaller amounts allows the goat to have enough feed to feel comfortable, yet not enough to get too full.
 - A small handful of high-quality hay can help keep your animal feeling well and healthy.
 - Also will encourage goats to drink and stay hydrated.
- NEVER completely limit feed of the animal.
- Walking your goat around the barn allows for:
 - Proper exercise
 - Can help calm the animal
 - Will introduce the goat to unfamiliar areas in preparation for the show ring

Showtime

The time has finally come to experience what you've worked towards all summer! Enjoy the experience and remember to have fun and soak in the time you are a junior show exhibitor.

- When arriving at the fairgrounds on the morning of the show:
- Gauge animals fill level as you move closer to entering the ring.
-
- After feeding, allow the animal to get out of the pen and get some exercise.
 - Will allow the animal to loosen up and get rid of a lot of pre-show nerves for both you and the goat.
- Wash and condition your goat.
 - Make sure you get it completely dry, allowing plenty of time before you enter the ring.
- After you get your animal completely dry, spray a light mist of show sheen and brush in with a soft bristled brush.
 - Gives your animal a fresh appearance when entering the show ring.

- After you prepare your animal for the show ring:
 - Walk the goat with the show chain and set your goat up.
 - Provides you and your animal a last bit of practice before entering your class.
- Arrive at check-in with plenty of time before your class.
- Have fun!

Showmanship is one of the most important components to showing your animal. Oftentimes, a great showman can enhance the positive appearance of an animal to get the best look possible from the judge. Showmanship starts at home and the more practice that you put in, the better that you and your animal will become as a team.



SHOWMANSHIP

Starting Out

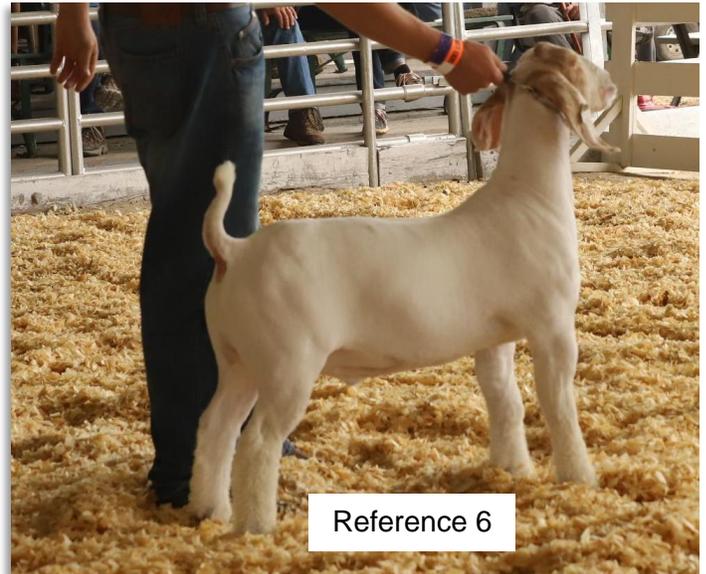
It is essential to practice as frequently as possible with your goat at home to have in the showring. There is no such thing as too much showmanship practice. So, when you have free time during the day, putting the show collar on your project, walking them in a few circles and setting them up, can lead to great success.

- When you get your project, start building a relationship with it. This will allow your goat to settle down and become familiar with you.
- Start by just sitting in their pen or outside of their gate where they can see you and become familiar with your presence.
- Once your goat has become familiar with their new place and situation, you begin training them with the halter and show collar.
 - Patience is very important. It will allow the animal to build trust in your relationship, which will pay off in the long run.
- Teach your goat to set its legs and begin to learn the bracing technique:
 - “Bracing” refers to your goat pushing into your leg in order to enhance their muscle tone and essentially flex their top and leg muscles.
 - The handle of your goat will certainly improve when you brace an animal.
 - It is important to properly position yourself and the goat to get an appropriate brace.

Bracing Technique

When teaching your goat how to brace, knowing the proper technique for yourself is just as important. Practicing showing at both jackpot shows and at home is great preparation as you move forward.

- When setting up your goat, begin by placing the goat's legs in a square position that is comfortable for the animal.
- As the goat's legs are set, the front feet should be directly underneath the shoulders of the animal
- The rear legs of the animal should be placed approximately 3 inches behind the plane of the hip. **(See Reference 6)**
- After you have the animal's legs set into place, cup your hands around the goat's head.
 - Your left hand should be underneath the jaw, while the right hand should be lightly wrapped around the back of the head. **(See Reference 7)**
 - Do not put much pressure on the back of the animal's head, as it will be uncomfortable and have a shrugging reaction.
 - All the control you will need is with your left hand, if placed correctly.
 - It will take time to be comfortable with showing your project with the proper technique, do your best to not develop bad habits.
- Once you have the hand placement down, position your left leg in front of your goat and slightly apply pressure.
 - Slightly lift up the goat's front end to apply pressure to your leg and put their feet back on the ground.
 - DO NOT keep the front feet of your goat lifted up in the air.
- Your knee should be positioned on the base of the goat's chest and not on its right shoulder.
 - You do not want to cover the entire front end of your goat with your leg.
- Ensure that the animal does not get too stretched out and leg placement stays in the correct position.
 - If your goat moves, keep ahold of the chain and reposition feet and re-start the bracing procedure.



Walking

You will find detailed information in the “*Show Preparation*” section about showing your animal on the chain. It is very important that your animal leads naturally in the show ring. Walk your animal in the show ring the night before the show to practice and prepare for exhibition.

- Your goat should walk directly beside you.
 - You should never walk in front of your animal, as it will want to naturally pull backwards.
- Practice is crucial while preparing to show your goat, especially leading with a show chain.

Ring Etiquette

After all the practice is complete and you are prepared to enter the ring, there are a few last things to consider.

- Keep your goat evenly spaced when leading them.
- Keep the animal in a straight line when setting them up.
- Be respectful to the other exhibitors around you.
 - Treat others how you want to be treated.
- Remember this is a learning experience for everyone, make friends and have fun!

Showing Attire

After all the preparation has been put into your animal, it is important to be looking professional when you enter the ring. There are a few things to keep in mind when you decide what to wear:

- Nice jeans without holes, leather shoes, and a collared shirt is professional while still being practical and comfortable to show in.
- Do not wear something that draws attention to you rather than the animal you are showing.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Here is a list of helpful resources that can answer many of your questions throughout the course of your project.

Kansas State Youth Livestock Program

<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/>

<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/educational-materials.html>

Kansas State University Sheep and Meat Goat Extension

<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/sheep-and-goats/>

Moormans Showtec Educational Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6OevzQOI2M>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kt2dka6IFo0>

Sure Champ Educational Blog

<https://surechamp.com/decreasing-disease-fungus-prevention-for-sheep-and-goats/>

Showrite Feeds Educational Videos

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmvtciZWV_2s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8mjfUv_M3g

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODc1Wzgr8IM>

