

What to Expect at your First Show

Show Terminology -

Sanctioned = processed through the American Dairy Goat Assn. Only animals registered with ADGA or AGS may show here and only a licensed judge may judge the show

Unsanctioned = The show is not registered with ADGA. Unregistered goats can show and an experienced but unlicensed person may judge. No official legs can be won.

Youth Shows (restricted show) = usually your county fair or neighboring counties' fairs. Only youth can show at this show.

Open Shows = anyone (adult or youth) can show at this show. The competition is higher, but there is a lot more that can be learned at these shows and more breeders encountered.

Junior doe = doe less than 24 months old that has not freshened and is not being milked regularly

Senior doe = a doe who has kidded at least once.

Showmanship = the class where you are being judged on how well you can show your goat and how well you understand your goat.

Breed Classes = The class where you are competing for correctness in structure and how your goat compares with the other animals in her class.

Champion "Legs" = winning grand champion at a show three times allows you to add "CH" to the front of the animals name to designate them as a champion.

At least two of these legs must be won as a milker at an open show or at a restricted show with more than 20 milkers in one breed.

What to expect at the fair:

- 1) You will load in with everyone else. Usually there will be a vet check to make sure the animals coming in are disease free.
- 2) You will be assigned a pen (usually with the rest of your 4H club) to bed down and keep clean.
- 3) Spend the next few days keeping your goat entertained and answering questions from general public. If you have a chance to make educational posters ahead of time, this can be very helpful for the public visiting. You should always answer their questions honestly and kindly because you want people to come away with a good image of livestock and farmers, but you never have to put your goat in danger or let people into your pens.

Before show day – make sure your goat has had a bath and has had her hooves done. You can scrub her hooves the night before and wrap them in socks/vet wrap, but not too tight.

Show day:

- You are sure to be up early on show day! Make sure your pen is cleaned out so that your goat can lay comfortably without getting dirty.
- Your goat should have already had a bath, but if she has any dirty spots, clean them. Make sure the ears, under the tail, and in the armpit are all clean.
- Use a clean chain collar that cannot slip over her head (use a zip tie to shrink a collar smaller if you need to).
- Watch showmanship before your class AND after your class to see how the more experienced showman work.
- Be at the ring for your breed class when your breed is called. There is no need to sit ringside with your goat the whole time. She will be happier if she can go rest in her pen.
- Know her birthday and freshening date when you walk in the ring
- If your goat gets Grand Champion be sure to be back for Best in Show. If she doesn't win, be sure to come back and cheer for the winner.

How an Open show is different? What do I need to do differently?

- Open shows rarely require you to come ahead of time. You may come in the night before or you may come in the morning of.
- Bring your registration paper to the check in table once your goat is settled. You MUST have your registration papers with you in order to show.
- Know what classes all your does are in and what their birthdays are. If you have multiple ones to remember and don't think you can recall the information, use a note card.
- Know if they are a "Senior kid" or "Junior kid" etc, most people do not actually use the class number
- Most open shows separately sanction the Senior does and Junior does. In that case, if you have a kid, you will generally not show until all the milkers are done. Don't hold your goat ringside in a holding pen if your class is not coming up soon.
- If you win Grand Champion, you have a few requirements:
 - Do not leave the ring until the Judge has check your goat's tattoos
 - Have your parent go and get her registrations papers so the judge can look at them
 - Don't forget to come back for Best in Show!