South Carolina
MEAT GOAT
PROJECT
A GUIDE TO
The SC Meat Goat Project
Everything you need to know about the project and more!

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# Introduction

## Project Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee manages the South Carolina Meat Goat Project. This group of volunteers consists of nine members and four executive officers (for 13 members), and officers are elected at the annual meeting in January. Announcements and details about nominating and the election process will be emailed to all participants before official voting. All previous year's project participants are eligible to vote in the election (1 vote per family). For more information about this Committee and its election, please contact one of the current Advisory Committee members or visit www.scmeatgoatproject.com.

The Advisory Committee works hard to ensure high learning outcomes and successful, positive project experiences for each participant. They also develop and implement the rules and regulations that govern the project. Each county or area of South Carolina has an advisor for that area/ the following individuals represent the area listed and are the first point of contact for project members in that part of the state. They are also charged with recruiting new members and holding educational workshops for their area.

**President:**
Brad & Ellington Willis
EllingtonHamrick@gmail.com

**Vice President:**
Bethany & Kasey Turners
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**Secretary:**
Rebecca Williamson
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**Treasurer:**
Jennifer Adams
JBAdams78@gmail.com

**Committee Members:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Jimmie Lee & Katie Shaw | Jeremey & Cathy Alcorn |
| Juliann Healy | Lucy Wertz Charping |
| Veronica Corteville | Kyleigh Adams |
| Chris & Christy Sweatman | Tim Howard |
| Anna Crowder (FFA Advisor) | Blake & Brianna Senn |

## History and Overview

Each year, project members exhibit their project animals at fairs, shows, and events in nearly every region in the state. Thousands of people have seen or learned about the project through these youth animal exhibits at the many fairs and events in South Carolina. This project offers the animal agriculture industry a tremendous opportunity to educate and inform the general public.

The South Carolina Meat Goat Project has been educating and impacting youth since 1999. The project is a market livestock project where each project member chooses to show a SC4ME wether or Open wether or both. Project participants are responsible for purchasing their animals and tag show animals during Kick-Off or the Summer Clinic. Project members spend the next 4 to 5 months caring for, training, showing, and learning about the goats and the goat industry. The project's conclusion is the Final Show, where youth exhibit their wether(s) in one last show and then have the option to sell them as a market animal. Every year, the Committee works hard to secure buyers willing to pay fair market value for all goats in the project. Youth are encouraged to find sponsors to increase their profitability at the project sale held each year at Upstate Livestock.

The SC Meat Goat Project has grown immensely since its inception in 1998 by Mrs. Jerry Munns and Mr. Jack Irwin. The idea was that youth who did not have livestock animals or a large farm could raise, train and show a goat at the local county fairs. The project officially began under the leadership of Clemson University Cooperative Extension Animal Scientist, Dr. Howard Van Dijk, in 1999. Despite many trials and tribulations in the early years, the project grew, and several county groups joined the project. Hundreds of boys and girls from South Carolina have taken part in the Meat Goat Project through the years. These project alumni are now found in all "walks of life." Because of this project, many youths with non-agriculture backgrounds can participate and experience the goat industry without an agriculture operation requirement.

## Meat Goat Project Objectives

The South Carolina Meat Goat Project was developed to help participants:

- Develop character and life skills through project work.
- Develop integrity and sportsmanship by caring for, training, and showing a wether goat.
- Increase experience with and knowledge about the meat goat industry and animal agriculture.
- Develop a better understanding of basic goat anatomy, nutrition, management, and healthcare.
- Stimulate positive public interest in the goat industry.
- Be a positive ambassador to the public for animal agriculture.
- Learn and use business principles, including the use of animal records and financial records.

## Participant Eligibility

Project participants must:

- Be at least five years of age but not over eighteen years of age as of January 1st of the project year. Age division is based on January 1st of the project year.

- Be able to purchase and tag in a wether by the project deadline. Refer to the application packet for more information.

- Be able to properly house and care for their goat throughout the project (approximately 5-6 months). You have the option to sell or keep the goat at the final show.

- Project members must attend the project Kick-Off or Project Summer Clinic. Youth (with a parent or legal guardian) must bring their animals to one of these events to be tagged for the project.

- Be responsible for all costs incurred during the project's duration (feed, housing, vet, expense, etc.). • Be aware that often members-only break even, and some even lose money. It is a time-consuming and sometimes costly project. The goal of a youth livestock project is learning and experiencing animal agriculture while developing life skills!

- Be in 4H or FFA

- Participants are required to submit a record book at the conclusion of the Project Final Show.

- Any participant suspected of or determined to be abusing or neglecting animals or acting in an unsportsmanlike manner can be removed from the project, have their goat removed from their care, or be banned from future animal projects as deemed necessary by the project committee.

## Payments

You will have several options for the project year in the SC Meat Goat Project. ***Please remember that all goats must have a Scrapie tag to participate in the project and attend any events/shows. The breeder should provide the scrapie tag*** *and should be scrapie tagged before you take the goat home.* (For more information about the Scrapie disease, please visit: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/sa_animal_disease_information/sheep-goat/disease-info)

1. A SC4ME wether is purchased via private treaty from a SC4ME breeder, and the program fee is $50 (late fee $60.) For more information on the SC4ME program, please visit https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NRBVUN_vtnWS3ZOjkgRZWT_fApGtuB49/view.

2. The second option is to purchase an open wether (purchased via private treaty that has not been registered in the SC4ME program and/or purchased a breeder outside of South Carolina) and tag them into the project. The project fee is $50 (late fee $60.)

3. Register one of each option, one SC4ME Wether, and one Open Wether. Participants are allowed to show both a SC4ME wether and an Open wether for a program fee of $75 (late fee $10 if late registration.)

4. Ask the SC Meat Goat Project to help you find a wether for the project. **If you choose to have the committee help you find a wether, your deadline to let someone know is May 12th. Committee members are listed on the website and here to help you.**

These fees include participating in all project events, activities, contests, final show, and awards banquets.

**Additional fees:**

Project participants are allowed to register and tag in a maximum of six (6) does in addition to their project wether(s). Doe tags are $10 a piece. Does can be tagged at the project Kick-Off or at the Summer Clinic in July (Date, Location, and Time - TBD).

**Payment Deadlines:**

Application and payment are due postmarked by **May 12, 2025**. Any applications turned in after May 12th will pay the late fee prices listed above. ***No application will be accepted after the Summer Clinic.***

**Acceptable Payment Methods:**

Checks, cashier checks, or money orders made payable to the SC Meat Goat Project are the only forms of payment accepted by the project. The project member will be notified via email and a mailed letter if a check is returned. The project member will owe the total registration amount plus a $36 returned check fee. ***If the total amount owed is not***

***received before the project Summer Clinic the project member will NOT be able to participate in the Project.***

**Financial Assistance:**
Suppose you need financial assistance to purchase your animal and start your meat goat project. In that case, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers Rural Youth Loans to help rural youth learn the business of agriculture. Visit your local FSA office or their website www.fsa.usda.gov for more information.

## Project Participant Responsibilities

- You will need to select a project mentor to help guide you through the project. This person should be highly experienced, qualified, and willing to help the participant learn how to care, train, and show a wether goat.
    - The following people would be excellent to consider:
    - SC Meat Goat Project Advisory Committee Member
    - High School Agriculture Teacher
    - County Extension 4-H or Livestock Agent
    - Local goat producers or other industry professionals

- It is highly recommended that participants locate the nearest veterinarian that works with goats. Call various veterinarians in your area and visit with them until you find one knowledgeable and willing to work with goats. Don't wait until you have an emergency to try and see a veterinarian!

- These are animals. Animals can get sick, injured, or die. Once you purchase your wether he is yours and therefore if he gets sick, injured, or dies; he is your responsibility. **The Meat Goat Project is NOT responsible for your animals.** These are animals, and unfortunately, they sometimes die for various reasons, and the Committee does not want to exclude youth from participating in these situations. So, if your wether dies or cannot be shown due to poor health, youth can continue to show any pre-registered does in showmanship and doe classes. If you did NOT pre-register any does, we would want you to be able to participate in the project, so the following guidelines have been established:

    - A picture of the deceased animal or a letter from your veterinarian must be submitted to the Advisory Committee. The veterinarian's letter must state that the animal is dead or cannot be shown due to poor health.

    - A doe not registered with the project can be used in showmanship. However, if a participant wants to show in the doe classes, the doe must be registered with the project.

    - Participants can only register a doe after Summer Clinic (July) **ONLY** if their original project wether dies.

- Does must have been born between September 1st of the previous year and July 20th of the current year.
- Participants are limited to only register one (1) doe.
- Participants can show only in showmanship and doe classes.
- If you tagged a doe at Summer Clinic (July), you would not be allowed to purchase an additional doe tag.
- ****If a wether dies, it must be reported to the SC Meat Goat Project President. Proof must be submitted in the form of written notice along with pictures.**

- Attend the Meat Goat Project Educational Clinic & Kick-off in the spring, Project Summer Clinic, Project Final Show, and Project Awards Banquet.
- You are encouraged to participate in other events, clinics, and activities in your county and across the state.
- Practice working with and leading your goat daily.
- Participants must feed and care for their animal and/or their project helper to grow the animal out in a manner that will allow it to develop to its maximum inherited ability.
- Any participant suspected or determined to be abusing or neglecting animals or acting in an unsportsmanlike manner can be dismissed from a show, removed from the project, have their goat removed from their care, or banned from the future animal projects as deemed necessary by the project committee.
- Project members will be responsible for transporting their project animals. The project will not provide transportation of the animal to your home after Kick-Off, to/from clinics, and/or to/from shows. Please make sure you understand proper transportation techniques for goats. Do NOT plan on carrying your goat home in the back seat of your car or on your lap!
- You are required to submit your **Meat Goat Project Record Book** each year immediately following the final show. These will be turned into the Project Liaison or committee member. Record Books must be turned in to be eligible for overall awards.

## Does

Project participants can show doe goats in addition to their wether. Does will be tagged at the Kick-off and Summer Clinic. Please read the following about does:

- Does ***must have a Scrapie tag to be part of the project and attend any events/shows.*** *The breeder should provide the scrapie tag and should be scrapie tagged before you take the goat home.* (For more information about the Scrapie disease, please visit: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/sa_animal_disease_information/sheep-goat/disease-info)

- You MUST register with and have purchased a wether through the Meat Goat Project or SC4ME to participate in the doe classes. Participants can pre-register six does to show during the season.

- All does must have been born between September 1st of the previous year and by the project summer clinic (final tag in opportunity) the current year.

- All does MUST be checked in at the Kick-off or Summer Clinic, where they will be photographed and ear-tagged.

- Participants must purchase doe tags for their does from the project.

- The does will be judged as MARKET animals at the Project Final Show.

- Classes will be established on the day for more shows, including the Project Final Show.

- Does will be weighed at each show location and broken into weight classes at each show.

## Projects Events and Activities

### Educational Clinic

All project members (and their families) should attend the Educational Clinic. This clinic is full of helpful information about the project, goat nutrition, how to take care of a goat, showmanship, and much, much more! ATTENDANCE IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED FOR ALL PROJECT MEMBERS!

### Project Kick-Off & Fun and Practice Educational Contest

All project members (and their families) should attend the Kick-off Clinic (May-June each year). This clinic is full of helpful information about the project, goat nutrition, how to take care of a goat, showmanship, and much, much more! ATTENDANCE IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED FOR ALL PROJECT MEMBERS!

Project members are not required to attend the Project Kick-Off but must attend the Project Kick-Off or Project Summer Clinic. Youth (with a parent or legal guardian) must bring their animals to one of these events to be tagged for the project.

During the Kick-off, youth will participate in various educational contests. Below is a brief description of each of these contests. All contest test/question material will come from the following resources:

- SC Meat Goat Project Guide (available on the project website, www.scmeatgoatproject.com)
- SC Meat Goat Project Care Guide (available on the project website, www.scmeatgoatproject.com)
- SC Meat Goat Project Glossary of Terms (available on the project website, www.scmeatgoatproject.com)
- Questions judges ask throughout the show season.
- Equipment and tools (catalogs available on Sullivan Supply, Inc- https://www.sullivansupply.com/ and Weaver Livestock- https://www.thewinnersbrand.com/)
- Forages (https://goats.extension.org/goat-pastures-and-forages/)
- Grains and feeds (https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/nutritional-feeding-management-of-meat-goats#:~:text=Lush%20leafy%20forage%20and%20browse,meal%20and%20corn%20gluten%20feed.)

- Practice Meat Goat Skill-A-Thon- This is a two-phase contest to test youth on their meat goat knowledge, including gestation, birthing, nutrition, general health, and the goat industry. The examination phase is a written exam. The station phase consists of a series of stations or tables where (at each) all contestants will respond to the requirement of each station. An example of a station would be to identify different types of hay. Please see SC

Meat Project Skill-A-Thon Rules and Information available on the project website (www.scmeatgoatproject.com).

- Practice Meat Goat Bowl - a competition designed to reward outstanding young people who possess the skills and knowledge essential for efficient and humane production. Youth will be asked various questions and will race to buzz in with their answer. Please see SC Meat Project Quiz Bowl Rules and Information available on the project website (www.scmeatgoatproject.com).

- Practice Judging – Youth showcase their meat goat evaluation skills during this educational contest. Youth will judge classes of four live meat goats to test their skills in selecting and evaluating meat goats. Contestants are not required to give judging reasons. Please see the SC Meat Project Judging Contest Rule and Information available on the website (www.scmeatgoatproject.com).

- Practice Fitting - The goal of the fitting contest is to encourage project members to develop and refine skills in grooming meat goats for the show ring. Youth must provide their own unwashed, unclipped, healthy goat for the contest. Please see the SC Meat Project Fitting Contest Rule and Information available on the website (www.scmeatgoatproject.com).

## Project Summer Clinic and Fitting Contest

The SC Meat Goat Project Summer Clinic develops and refines project participants' showmanship skills and fitting skills. Youth are encouraged to bring their goat to this event, so both youth and animals learn. The Project Fitting Contest will be held after a workshop on fitting. Contest Rule and Information available on the website (www.scmeatgoatproject.com).

## Project Final Show & Educational Contest

The Final Show occurs in November each year and is the project's conclusion. All participants are eligible to show at the final show.

Record Books are due one (1) hour after the conclusion of the Final Show.

All participants are encouraged to sell sponsorships for the project. Ads can be personal (wishing their favorite member good luck) or professional (promoting a business). See the sponsorship form for more details (http://www.scmeatgoatproject.com/sponsors.html).

The project can only enforce the following at the Final Show. All other shows have different coordinators, and exhibitors will be expected to follow each show's rules. Please make sure you check the rules for each show before registration and showing.

- Each exhibitor will only be allowed one (1) doe per class.

- Classes are determined on the day of the show.

- If an exhibitor has 2 or 3 does in one weight class, they will be allowed to only show one (1) doe in that class. Exhibitors are only to show their animal, and no one else's a doe, except in the case of championship class. WARNING: no refunds will be given for entry fees if you have 2 or 3 does in one weight class, and one (1) or does cannot be shown.

- Does will be judged as market animals.

Educational contests are also available as part of the final show. All contest test/question material will come from the following resources:

- SC Meat Goat Project Guide (available on the project website, www.scmeatgoatproject.com)
- SC Meat Goat Project Care Guide (available on the project website, www.scmeatgoatproject.com)
- SC Meat Goat Project Glossary of Terms (available on the project website, www.scmeatgoatproject.com)
- Questions judges ask throughout the show season.
- Equipment and tools (catalogs available on Sullivan Supply, Inc- https://www.sullivansupply.com/ and Weaver Livestock- https://www.thewinnersbrand.com/)
- Forages (https://goats.extension.org/goat-pastures-and-forages/)
- Grains and feeds (https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/nutritional-feeding-management-of-meat-goats#:~:text=Lush%20leafy%20forage%20and%20browse,meal%20and%20corn%20gluten%20feed)

Below is a brief description of each of these contests:

- Meat Goat Skill-A-Thon- This is a two-phase contest to test youth on their meat goat knowledge, including gestation, birthing, nutrition, general health, and the goat industry. The examination phase is a written exam. The station phase consists of a series of stations or tables where (at each) all contestants will respond to the requirement of each station. An example of a station would be to identify different types of hay. Please see SC Meat Project Skill-A-Thon Rules and Information available on the project website (www.scmeatgoatproject.com).

- Record Book - Applicants keep records and complete activities throughout the project as explained in the *SC Meat Goat Project Record Book: General Rules and Information* available on the project website. A photocopy of your completed record book or original record book will be submitted no later than 1 hour after completing the Final Show. They will be scored within each age group based on the criteria listed in the record book. *Do not turn in your original copy as these will not be returned until the project awards banquet if you need the record for any reason.* (http://www.scmeatgoatproject.com/record-books.html)

- Judging – Applicants will participate in the judging contest held at the final show. During this contest, youth placed multiple classes of four live market goats on testing their skills gained in selecting and evaluating market goats. Contest participants and scholarship applicants are not required to give judging reasons. (http://www.scmeatgoatproject.com/awards.html)

- College Scholarship Contest – This contest is only open to youth aged 14-18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. Applicants must participate in all six phases (knowledge test, record book, judging, resume & cover letter, and interview) of the scholarship contest. Application, resume, and cover letter are due October 1. The interview, skill-a-thon, and judging are held at the final show. Record books are due an hour after

the last class of the final show. Please see SC Meat Project Scholarship Application Packet available on the project website (www.scmeatgoatproject.com).

**Top Ad Sales**

The participant (or family) that sells the most dollar amount in ads for the Final Show Ad Book is awarded a premium for working so hard to help raise money for other awards. Awards will be given at the project awards banquet. (http://www.scmeatgoatproject.com/awards.html)

## Sale of Wether

**The project will only provide transportation for your animal to the local public auction. The decision to sell project animal(s) must be made before or at the Final Project Show.** Project animals to be sold must pass a health inspection held during the weigh-in at the Final Show. If the Advisory Committee deems your goat not fit for sale, your goat will be removed from the sale list. You will be responsible for taking your goat back home. The Committee reserves the right to refuse any goat in poor health or body condition. **If you agree to sell your project animal(s), you CAN NOT change your mind.** These wethers will be sold through a public auction, and you will receive a check in the mail from the auction company. The wethers will be sold at market value. You may choose not to sell your animal or sell it with another auction company.

## Awards Banquet

Each January, the project holds its annual Awards Banquet. All final awards and scholarships will be announced at the Banquet. Eligibility for Awards is determined upon whether a child turns in a Record Book, Point Calculations, and Special nominations. Announcements about the upcoming project year will be made, and usually, the project applications for the forthcoming year will be available at the Banquet. All project members and their families are invited and encouraged to attend. Information about the Banquet is available on the website.

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# Questions or Concerns

**If you have questions or your goat might have a health concern, CALL YOUR VET! Please don't wait until he is very sick, and please don't let non-veterinarians perform veterinary procedures on your goat. This can turn a simple issue into a huge problem!**

If you experience any problems or concerns about or during the Meat Goat Project, please contact these individuals in the appropriate order:

1. Your veterinarian (if a health concern)
2. Your local SC Meat Goat Project Advisory Committee
3. SC Meat Goat Project Advisory Committee President

Any questions or concerns brought to the Advisory Committee will be acted on, and their decision will be final.