



Prepping Livestock for County Fair

Goat Edition

FAQs

When do I get there?

Animals need to be in their pens by 9 AM on Wednesday, August 27

Where do I put my animals?

Pens are assigned based on the entries received. A pen map will be shared via email and posted at the fairgrounds.

How long do my animals have to stay?

Fair livestock are not released to be removed from the fairgrounds until Sunday, August 31st after all packer trucks are loaded. You are responsible for feeding and caring for your animal for the entirety of the fair.

Where do I find the Jr. Livestock Rules?

Everyone should be familiar with the Jr. Livestock Rules. They can be found on the extension office website at socorroextension.nmsu.edu



What to do in the weeks leading up to the fair

- Ensure animal weights are on track - market goats must weigh at least 55 lbs at check-in. Under weight animals will not get to show. If you need scales to weigh your animals contact the extension office.
- Have a plan for getting animals clipped - goats must be clipped prior to fair. You can do this with clippers and we recommend a "cover cote" clipper blade. If you plan to clip your own animals, be sure you order all equipment in plenty of time, sometimes things are hard to find here in Socorro. Plan to clip your goats 2-3 days prior to arrival at the fair. If you would like assistance in clipping your goats, let the extension office know by August 8, 2025 to be added to the schedule. If you want to purchase clipping equipment here are some links to what we recommend:
 - [Clippers](#)
 - [Clipper blades](#)

What to do in the weeks leading up to the fair (continued)

- You will want to clip everything on your goat's body including their head from their knees and hocks up (You don't have to worry about their ears). Leave everything from the knees and hocks down. We recommend enlisting help from experienced individuals your first couple times.
- Practice showmanship and ensure you have the necessary equipment - showmanship is one of the single most important aspects to project success at the fair. Be sure you are practicing showmanship with your animals daily and that you have all of the necessary equipment on hand. Most exhibitors show goats with either a collar or show halter. Be sure you have practiced with these at home.
- All livestock projects must be entered for the Socorro County Fair. Entries are completed online and do carry a cost. Entries will open August 1 and can be done by visiting socorro.fairentry.com. Entries must be completed by 10:59 PM on August 15, 2025.



At the Fair

- What to take - you should pack everything you will need to feed your goats, groom your goats, show your goats, and help them look their best! Keep in mind the only thing that is provided to you is a pen. That means you need to bring feed pans, watering pans, buckets, feed, any supplements you are using or plan to use, a hose, soap, conditioners, towels, brushes, goat stands, blower, etc.
- What should I expect during the show? - when your animal is checked in on Wednesday morning, your animal will be weighed. Your goat will then be placed in a class with other goats of similar weights. The classes will be posted prior to the goat show so you know when your goats will be entering the show ring. Keep in mind if you win your class, you will need to come back to the show ring for the grand drive. During the grand drive the Grand and Reserve Grand Champion goats will be selected.
- What if I make the sale? - at the conclusion of all the market shows (Friday after the pig show), fair officials will determine animals eligible for the sale based on class sizes and class placings. Check with officials to see if your animal has made the sale (animals below 6th place are not sale eligible). If you make the sale, you can make the

At the fair (continued)

decision to either sell your animal or pull your animal from the sale (if you want to take it on for further fairs). The Jr. Livestock Sale will happen at 3 PM on Saturday, August 30. You will need to complete and turn in a thank you note and exhibitor bio before noon on Saturday (look for the table next to the show ring). A sale order will be posted and your animal will enter the ring to be sold when it is its turn. Animals must be clean and well presented for the sale. After sale of the animal, your photo will be taken at the backdrop. Animals will be loaded on their respective trailers to be taken away on Sunday morning.

- What if I don't make the sale? - if you don't make the sale, your animal will remain yours and you may do what you please with them. We suggest trying to sell your animal directly to a buyer. If you find a buyer who would like to buy your animal and wants them to be processed, you can arrange for your animal to go on the meat packer trucks on Sunday morning. Be aware that the fair is not responsible for the handling of any animals that are sold outside of the sale. You will need to work with your buyer to pay the packer processing fee, etc.

Final Tips for Success

1. Familiarize yourself with the Jr. Livestock Rules located on the socorroextension.nmsu.edu website under Socorro County Fair
2. Ask for help if you need it! Many experienced families are willing to help others and the extension office is always a resource for you. If you need help or have questions, please reach out to us.
3. Youtube and feed company websites such as showright, sure champ, etc. have great resources on how to clip, train, and show your lambs.
4. HAVE FUN! This is a learning experience that should be fun for your whole family. The 4-H Livestock Project imparts many amazing skills into the youth who participate, so please work together as a family and enjoy all the work you have put into your animals.
5. Sportsmanship is key. Please remember that no matter if you win or lose, you have accomplished a great deal by getting an animal to the fair and getting it shown. Cheer on your fellow competitors and enjoy.



BE BOLD. Shape the Future.
**College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences**
Cooperative Extension Service
Socorro County Extension Office

Contact Us

emferr@nmsu.edu

socorroextension.nmsu.edu

