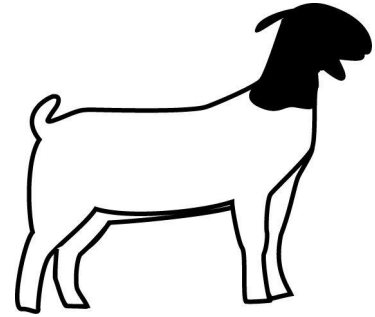


# Market Goat 201 Resource for Delaware County Fair

## Show Breaking Calendar and Technique

- Early to Mid-July
  - Start letting goats outside on halters
  - Walk them around on the halter and let them get used to it (start with 5-10 minutes)
  - Allow them to get comfortable with you, the halter, and the walking
    - Earn their trust
  - Start teaching the goat the bracing process
    - Bracing: when the goat leans into your leg to create a brace so his top feels firm
- Last week of July/First week of August
  - Introduce them to their show collar
    - Let them walk and brace with it on
  - Walk and brace them for longer periods of time to start building endurance
- Fourth week of August
  - Continue walking the animal on their show collar
  - Brace the goat for longer periods of time
    - Work the goat up to twenty minutes of brace time
- Fifth week of August up until Fair
  - Continue working the goat on their show collar
  - Brace the goat for longer periods of time
    - Work the goat up to about forty minutes of brace time
  - If necessary, work on exercise plan you have put into place



## Showmanship Summary

- Preparing for showmanship on show day
  - Make sure your goat is clean, fit, and ready to go
  - Make sure you are professionally presented
    - Collared shirt tucked in, long jeans, close toed shoes, belt
  - Be sure to watch the classes before you
    - Observe what the judge is looking for, and watch what the older/more experienced showman are doing
- Going to the Ring
  - Listen for your class – you don't EVER want to be late!!!
  - As you are lining up, don't fight with the other exhibitors for a spot. Be patient and calm – the judge is always watching, and your animal can sense if you get worked up.
  - Keep your eyes on the judge as you wait
- In the Ring
  - As you enter, be sure to make solid eye contact with the judge
  - Keep the animal between you and the judge as you walk and brace

## Market Goat 201 Resource for Delaware County Fair

- When you pull into your spot to brace, be sure all four legs are set square, the goat's head is high and his head/neck and neck/back are making a 90 degree angle
- Look between your goat and the judge as you show
  - The judge may motion to pull you into a placing, so be aware

### Exercise: When, How, and What to Look For

#### When:

- You want to start exercise depending upon the condition level of your goat
  - If your goat is skinny, you may not work it at all, or may not work it until two-three weeks before the fair
  - If your goat is heavily conditioned, you will need to start exercising your goat much sooner, possibly around the beginning of August

#### How:

- Exercise helps goats achieve the proper finish and handle by toning muscle
  - All animals are different and will require different running schedules based on condition, structure, etc.
- There are a couple of ways you can choose to exercise your goat, including
  - Treadmill
    - You can put your goat on a treadmill for 3-5 minutes two to three times a week
    - It would be ideal to have two to three people helping during this, as sometimes (especially in the beginning) the goat can fight walking
  - Running
    - Running can be as simple as walking your goat a quarter to a half mile from the barn and chasing them back, or as complex as using a circular track to run them on
    - If running your goat, be sure the area has no obstructions such as wires, rocks, etc.
    - Short, hard runs are more beneficial than long runs for your goat

#### What to Look For:

- How do you know if your goat is skinny or if it is heavily conditioned?
  - The easiest way to tell is by looking at/handling the goat's ribs and the pocket right behind their shoulder
  - If your goat is skinny...
    - You can feel each of the goat's ribs with ease, and there is little to no fat cover present on them
  - If your goat is over-conditioned...
    - It is nearly impossible to feel the ribs on the goat
    - When handling the goat, it feels like your forearm in terms of fat vs. bone ratio
    - There will be lots of fat stored in the pocket behind the goat's shoulder

### Grooming and Fitting

- Fitting your goat at the fair
  - To fit your goat, you will want to pull, or comb up, the hair on the goats front and back legs
    - Knee and hock down

## Market Goat 201 Resource for Delaware County Fair

- It is best to practice at home a few times before you take the goat to the fair
- How to fit your goat
  - First, you will want to wash your goats leg hair and blow it dry
  - Then, you can use a comb to comb the goat's leg hair (again, from the knees and hocks down) up
  - Lightly spray some adhesive on the goats legs, then comb it up
    - Spray a little, comb a lot
    - A little adhesive goes a long way
  - After pulling the legs, use your clippers to cut off any stray leg hairs and to even out the leg hair
  - After finishing fitting the goat, do not mess with legs or let the goat sit or lay down until after it is finished showing
  - Once the goat is finished showing, you need to break down its leg hair to get the adhesive out – if you don't the goat will pick at the hair and try to pull it out
    - First, spray the adhesive remover on the leg (ex.- *Weaver's ProRemover* and *Sullivan's Hocus Pocus*)
    - Rub the adhesive remover into the leg to work out the adhesive
    - Wash the adhesive remover out of the leg, and wash with soap if necessary
    - Dry the leg hair with your blower

### Teaching How to Brace:

- While some club livestock are starting to be 'bred' with the "bracing gene" there is still plenty of work to be done on bracing when preparing for the fair
- Starting out
  - Before doing anything, let the goat get comfortable with you
  - When holding the goat's head, you want to make sure you have complete control so that it cannot get away
  - Push the goats head back toward its tail, and put your left leg in front of its chest for it to brace on
    - You want the goat's head parallel with the floor, and making a 90 degree angle with the back of its neck and the top of its shoulder
  - Let the goat get used to standing with you in a bracing position
- What if the goat doesn't push?
  - If you are struggling with getting the goat to push/brace, there are a couple of things you can do
    - Get the goat set up on your fitting stand, and back the goat off the back of the stand. The goat will not feel the ground once it steps off the back, and will ultimately have the reaction to push back into you (brace!)
      - \*\*\*for safety reasons, you will need to have at least two people for this
    - Set your goat up on a hill. Set them up like they should be bracing, and make sure their head is facing the top of the hill. Because the goat's lower body is lower, they will feel like they need to go up the hill, causing them to push into you
    - If you do not have a fitting stand, you can still use the first method, just in a different manner. The same task will be accomplished if you set the goat up on

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the edge of a concrete pad that has a drop, a porch, etc. Anything that has a ledge and then a drop off will do the trick.

## Equipment

- Fitting Stand
- Rope Halter
- Show Collar (Chain)
- Hoof Trimmers
- Shampoo
- Blankets
- Blower
- Adhesive
- Adhesive Remover
- Clippers