



TO: New Jersey 4-H Goat Project Members and Volunteers

FR: Chad Ripberger, County 4-H Agent, Liaison to NJ 4-H Goat Advisory Council

RE: **21st Annual New Jersey 4-H Goat Extravaganza – January 3, 2026**

NOTE: MEMBERS IN GRADES 4-13 MUST CHOOSE TO ENTER THE SKILL-A-THON **OR** QUIZ BOWL CONTEST (INDICATE PREFERENCE ON THE ENTRY FORM). ALL CLOVERBUDS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE SKILL-A-THON.

The New Jersey 4-H Goat Advisory Council is sponsoring the **New Jersey 4-H Goat Extravaganza on Saturday, January 3, 2026 at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County** in the Mercer County Office Park, 1440 Parkside Avenue, Ewing. The event is open to all registered 4-H members (grades 4-13) and 4-H Cloverbud members (grades K-3). The Cloverbud division will not be competitive.

What: New Jersey 4-H Goat Extravaganza

When: Saturday, January 3, 2026 (in case of inclement weather, check your email for possible postponement)
Check-in from 9:00 to 9:30 AM

Where: **RCE of Mercer County**, Mercer County Office Park, 1440 Parkside Avenue, Ewing, NJ 08638

Cost: \$15 per 4-H member (includes lunch, ice cream social, contest materials, recognition items)
\$10 per adult (includes lunch, ice cream social, morning workshop)

Enter: [Online Entries](#) are due no later than **Monday, December 1!**

To enter, complete:

1. [Online registration available here](#) (no later than December 1)
2. Bring cash or check payable to Mercer County 4-H (\$15 per 4-H member + \$10 per adult) to the event on January 3.

Dan Benson
County Executive

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Food and Clothing Drive

We'll collect **non-perishable food, socks, mittens/gloves, and warm hats**. Please consider bringing items to donate - thank you!

New this Year - there will be a Goat Products division!

Youth exhibit non-edible products *that they have made* from goat milk or fiber - such as soap, lotion, yarn, etc.

Agenda:

9:00 – 9:30 AM	Check-in and Entry of Goat Themed Art Exhibits (three categories) & Goat Products
10:00 AM	Poster/Presentation Contest (mixed-county teams of 3 to 4 members)
10:00 AM	Volunteer/Parent Workshop
Noon	Lunch (provided)
12:45 PM	Cloverbuds complete the skill-a-thon .
	Members in grades 4-13 choose to enter the skill-a-thon OR team quiz bowl:
	• Skill-a-thon (8 stations, individual entry)
	• Team Quiz Bowl (4 to a team)
3:00 PM	Ice Cream Social and Awards Presentation

Divisions: Divisions in each contest will include: Novice (4-5th grade), Junior (6-8th grade), Senior (9-13th grade). Cloverbud members will participate but will not compete – they will receive a participation gift.

Contests:

Goat Themed Art Show

Bring goat themed art created by the member and not exhibited at this event in prior years for the following categories:

1. 2-D Art (drawing, painting),
2. 3-D Art (sculptures, carvings, etc.), and
3. Photography (black and white or color; any sized print; mounted or not).

Maximum of three entries per category.

Goat Products Division

Youth exhibit non-edible products *that they have made* from goat milk or fiber - such as soap, lotion, yarn, etc.

Poster/Presentation Contest

Members will be assigned to mixed-county teams on the day of the event. Each team will be assigned a topic, concept, or issue that they have to illustrate on a poster and then present to the group. All materials will be provided. Younger members will be grouped with older, more experienced members.

Skill-a-thon

Individuals will rotate through eight stations to demonstrate skills or answer questions about the goat project. Stations might include topics such as: breeds, feed/hay identification, kidding, tattooing, judging, milking, etc. Our kind and supportive volunteers help anyone without prior knowledge in any of the topics. Education is the focus!

Team Quiz Bowl

Team assignments will be announced the day of the event. There will be four members to a team. Two teams will compete in each round of questions. A judge will read a series of questions about goats and their care. Each contestant will have a signaling device. The contestant “buzzing-in” first will answer the question. The team with the highest score after each round will advance. As a team event, there isn’t pressure on any one member. Once again, the focus is on learning!

Most questions will come from the sample questions included in this packet and available on the NJ 4-H Goat Extravaganza website -<http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/goats/extravaganza/>.

Questions: Contact - Chad Ripberger, County 4-H Agent (ripberger@njaes.rutgers.edu)