

## ARE LIVESTOCK ALLOWED TO BE SHOWN AT 4-H SHOWS WITH HORNS?

**The answer is yes if the breed has horns listed as part of their breed standard. If discussing market animals, all horns must be removed prior to showing.**

**Beef Cattle** – Horns are allowed for the Horned Hereford (purebred breed, and not the Polled Hereford breed), Scotch Highland and Texas Longhorn when being exhibited in a 4-H type class. The exception is for market animal classes where the horns are to be removed. Market animals are usually sold at auction for meat or at the Big E 4-H Beef Steer Sale in September.

**Dairy Cattle** – All animals shown are required to be dehorned (no horns) since all the major dairy breeds do not have horns as part of their breed standard. Calves should have their horns removed by three months of age. The Milking Shorthorn breed even though it contains “horn” in its name, they need to be dehorned to show.

**Dairy Goats** - All breeds should have their horns removed when showing since none of the dairy breeds have horns as part of their breed standard (American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA)).

**Fiber Goats** – If a breed standard, they are allowed to show with horns, such as the Angora breed. Refer to the various breed associations for breed standards.

**Meat Goat Breeds** – If showing purebred Boer goats, Pygmy, Kiko, or Spanish in a type class, horns are required since it is part of their standard but if showing in a market class, horns need to be removed for all the meat breeds.

**Sheep** – If showing purebred sheep in type classes, such as Dorset Horned Sheep, Icelandic, Shetlands, Valhais Blacknose, and Jacob sheep are allowed to have horns due to their breed standards. Market classes do not allow animals with horns to be exhibited.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the State 4-H Animal Specialist at 413-545-5302.

**Please refer to the various breed associations if you are not aware of the breed standards.**



UMass Extension is a unit of the Center for Agriculture, Food & the Environment in the College of Natural Sciences. UMass Extension is an equal opportunity provider & employer, United States Department of Agriculture cooperating. Contact your local UMass Extension office for information on disability accommodations or the UMass Director if you have concerns related to discrimination, 413-545-4800 or refer to [www.extension.umass.edu/civilrights](http://www.extension.umass.edu/civilrights).

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST