



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Teacher's Manual

2025 Sydney
Royal School
Angora Wether
Competition

11 - 22 April 2025
Sydney Showground
Sydney Olympic Park
www.rasnsw.com.au



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INVITATION

The Goat Committee of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) is pleased to invite all NSW schools with the facilities for keeping goats to participate in the 2025 Sydney Royal School Angora Wether Competition.

WHAT THE COMPETITION AIMS TO ACHIEVE

Preparation for this Competition will take place at your school from October 2024 in the lead up to the 2025 Sydney Royal Easter Show and aims to:

- Give students an insight into commercial goat production.
- Allow students to compete in a curriculum linked comparison trial for the growing of commercial mohair and meat.
- Assist in giving students a practical, hands-on insight to future employment opportunities within the goat industry.
- Provide students with the opportunity to compete at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, particularly Schools with limited space for larger livestock.

WHAT THE COMPETITION INVOLVES

The 2025 Sydney Royal School Angora Wether Competition will run as a trial at your school, rearing and preparing the goats to compete at the 2025 Sydney Royal Easter Show. Each school team will consist of a pen of three, and schools are welcome to compete with more than one team of wethers.

To participate in this trial, it is required that all schools have goats under their direct day to day control and management.

Schools entered in the Angora Schools Wether Competition will automatically enter the following four (4) components:

- **Group of Three** (pen of three) goats are judged on uniformity of weight, fleece, body condition, maturity, general conformation, and temperament.
- **Production Class** (pen of three) goats are judged on their mohair and carcase characteristics (maturity and body condition). Mohair samples are collected and tested for fibre diameter, length, strength, yield and other important quality characteristics. Goats will be shorn, and all fleeces collected, weighed, and valued according to current market prices.
- **Project:** Students are asked to present in-ring at the Show (min. 2min – max. 3min) detailing how students raised and prepared the goats for Show, with reference to the Australian Angora & Mohair industry and school trial data.
- **Herdsmen Competition:** Schools will be judged on the best displayed and maintained team, including the groomed appearance of the goats, cleanliness, and presentation of the pens plus engagement with the public.

Schools are then eligible for the Most Successful School award, having completed all elements of the competition. Student entry into the Angora Wether Paraders' Competition is optional.

TO ENTER

The Competition is FREE to enter, and all interested schools will receive assistance with/or obtaining angora wethers from a registered breeder. Exhibitors must adhere to the Conditions of Entry to Sydney Showground, the RAS General Regulations and the Special Goat Regulations, located at www.rasnsw.com.au

To participate in the Sydney Royal School Angora Competition at the 2025 Sydney Royal Easter Show please enter online at www.myras.org.au/

COMPETITION TIMELINE



COMPETITION GUIDELINES

- Wethers must be twelve (12) months and older at the time of Competition.
- All wethers MUST be conditioned to halter.
- Wethers are to be under the direct day-to-day care of the exhibiting school no later than **16 October 2024** and will remain under the school's management until the Competition has been completed.
- All wethers MUST be "REGULATION SHORN" – shorn on or after **16 October 2024**.
- All wethers must be tagged and tattooed for identification purposes.
- All wethers must comply with the RAS Goat Health standards and must supply appropriate documentation as required by *19 February 2025*.

PARADERS COMPETITION (optional – not included in Overall Competition Awards)

This competition is for the purpose of educating and encouraging Students to parade Exhibits before a Judge in the most efficient manner. All Wethers must be conditioned to halter. Competitors in the Paraders' Competition must be a Student attending the School and must be attired in a clean approved white dustcoat with boots or strong shoes. Enter via www.myras.org.au

COMPLETION OF THE COMPETITION

At the conclusion of Competition, mohair will be sold through Australian Mohair Marketing Organisation, and the proceeds returned to the schools involved. The wethers will be returned to their respective Breeders as per prior arrangements made between the Breeder and the School and agreed to by both parties.

COMPETITION AWARDS

Awards Include:

1. PRODUCTION CLASS
Prize Ribbons Awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd
2. HERDSMAN COMPETITION
Prize Ribbons Awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd
3. PROJECT/DIARY COMPETITION
Prize Ribbons Awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd
4. MOST SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL
Awarded to the School that has competed to the highest standard in all elements of School Wether Production Class, Project, and Herdsman Competition. First prize to count as 3 points; Second as 2 points; Third as 1 point. Should there be fewer than three Awards in any one Class; the points shall be on the said basis in order of merit.

USING THE COMPETITION FOR LEARNING

The 2025 Sydney Royal School Angora Wether Competition has been developed as a scientific trial investigating the commercial production of mohair and angora goats. Completing the trial with your students can cover several curriculum areas supporting a goat unit of work.

<i>NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum – Science K-10 Syllabus</i>	
<i>Stage 1</i>	
Skills	ST1-4WS A student investigates questions and predictions by collecting and recording data, sharing, and reflecting on their experiences and comparing what they and others know.
Knowledge and Understanding	ST1-10LW A student describes external features, changes in and growth of living things.
<i>Stage 2</i>	
Skills	ST2-4WS A student investigates their questions and predictions by analysing collected data suggesting explanations for their findings and communicating and reflecting on the processes undertaken.
Knowledge and Understanding	ST2-10LW A student describes that living things have life cycles, can be distinguished from non-living things, and grouped, based on their observable features.
<i>Stage 3</i>	
Skills	ST3-4WS A student investigates by posing questions, including testable questions, making predictions, and gathering data to draw evidence-based conclusions and develop explanation.
Knowledge and Understanding	ST3-11LW A student describes some physical conditions of the environment and how these affect the growth and survival of living things.
<i>NSW Education Standards Authority Agricultural Technology Years 7 – 10 Syllabus</i>	
<i>Stage 4</i>	
<p>AG4-3 A student identifies and explains interactions between the agricultural sector and Australia's economy, culture, and society.</p> <p>AG4-10 A student implements and appreciates the application of animal welfare guidelines to agricultural practices.</p> <p>AG4-11 A student undertakes controlled experiments in agricultural contexts.</p> <p>AG4-12 A student communicates experimental data using a range of information and communicates technologies.</p> <p>AG4-14 A student demonstrates plant and/or animal management practices safely and in collaboration with others.</p> <p>AG4-7 A student identifies and uses skills to manage the interactions within animal production enterprises.</p>	

Stage 5

AG5-4 A student investigates and implements responsible production systems for plant and animal enterprises.

AG5-10 A student implements and justifies the application of animal welfare guidelines to agricultural practices.

AG5-12 A student collects and analyses agricultural data and communicates results using a range of technologies.

AG5-14 A student demonstrates plant and/or animal management practices safely and in collaboration with others.

AG5-7 A student explains and evaluates the impact of management decisions on animal production enterprises.

**NSW Education Standards Authority Technology Mandatory Years 7-8 Syllabus
(2017) - Agriculture and Food Technologies**

Outcomes	TE4-5AG A student investigates how food and fibre are produced in managed environments
Identifying and Defining	Students investigate how food and fibre production is managed in environments as a system and how sustainability can be improved, for example; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plants and/or animal species grown in managed environments
Researching and Planning	Students investigate ideal conditions for growth and development of agricultural plant or animal

JUDGING CRITERIA - GROUP OF THREE

Each Entry shall comprise three Angoras, 12 months and older in commercial length fleece. Goats are judged on uniformity, fleece, body condition, maturity, general conformation, and temperament.

Goats must be free of internal and external parasites (including worms, lice etc.), plus be vaccinated against common diseases (including Johne's Disease and Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE)).

JUDGING CRITERIA - PRODUCTION CLASS

Each Entry shall comprise three Angoras, 12 months and older in commercial length fleece. Goats are judged on their mohair and carcass characteristics (maturity and body condition). Goats will be shorn, and all fleeces collected, weighed, and valued according to current market prices.

Goats must be free of internal and external parasites (including worms, lice etc.), plus be vaccinated against common diseases (including Johne's Disease and Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE)).

JUDGING CRITERIA - HERDSMAN COMPETITION

This Competition is to encourage students to maintain high levels of animal husbandry and engage in the angora industry through promotion and pride in their work. Judging will take place in the Paddington Pavilion throughout the duration of the Competition.

<i>Herdsmen Competition</i>		
<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Guidelines /10</i>
Groomed Appearance of Goats	/10	Low Performing Score 0-4 Average Performing Score 5-7 High Performing Score 8-10
Condition and Economic Use of Bedding	/10	
Absence of Excretal	/5	
Condition of Feeders	/5	
General Tidiness of Pens	/10	
Overall Presentation, Promotion and Knowledge	/10	
Total	/50	

JUDGING CRITERIA - PROJECT RUBRIC

Students are asked to create a project per school detailing how the goats were raised and prepared for Show. Students will present their project in-ring on Wednesday 27 March 2024, and should aim for a runtime of 2 - 3 minutes. The Project should record, and demonstrate student understanding of, goat growth performance. The content of this Project is to demonstrate knowledge of production, husbandry, housing, nutrition, and industry economics.

	Project Criteria				Score
Category	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Excellent	
Score	1-2	3-5	6-8	9-10	
Content – Project/ Growth 30%	The presentation includes a little summary of the goat growing phase. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production - Husbandry - Housing - Economics 	The presentation includes a basic summary of the goat growing phase. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production - Husbandry - Housing - Economics 	The presentation includes a good summarisation of the goat growing phase. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production - Husbandry - Housing - Economics 	The presentation includes an excellent summary of the goat growing phase. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production - Husbandry - Housing - Economics 	
Content – Industry 20%	The presentation demonstrates little research into and discussion of the Australian Angora and Mohair industry, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production Types • Production in Australia 	The presentation shows a basic attempt to include Australian Angora and Mohair Industry research and discussion, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production Types • Production in Australia 	The presentation shows good research into and discussion of Australian Angora and Mohair Industry, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production Types • Production in Australia 	The presentation shows excellent research into and discussion of Australian Angora and Mohair Industry, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production Types • Production in Australia 	
Growth Data 30%	Data is not included.	Data collection has been attempted and included in the project.	Good data collection and organisation, such as a table.	Excellent data collection and organisation such as tables, graphs and /or charts.	
Presentation & Structure 10%	Students make little reference to data and research in presentation. Overall project has limited structure.	Students make basic reference to data and research in presentation. Overall project has basic structure/or some formatting mistakes.	Students make good use of data and research in presentation. Overall project is structured, with minimal formatting mistakes.	Students use data and research to support their presentation. Overall project is well structured, with appropriate formatting.	
Oral Presentation Skills 10%	Students unprepared to present, with a marked lack of eye contact. Poor pacing and tone.	Students somewhat prepared, with some eye contact or gestures. Inappropriate tone or pacing.	Students are well- prepared and deliver with eyecontact and appropriate gestures. Enthusiastic tone and good pacing.	Students are very well prepared and deliver ideas clearly & with enthusiasm. Eye contact, pacing and gestures contribute well to the presentation.	
					Total

GOAT HUSBANDRY ASSISTANCE

ON ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

- Record the first round of trial data collection (sample on page 11 in the booklet).
- We recommend that your wethers are kept isolated from any other goats as a biosecurity measure to reduce the risk of disease. Those schools receiving goats are recommended that after shearing, or as soon as wethers are brought onto the school grounds, they are treated for parasites and diseases.
- All goats are to be tagged or tattooed for identification purposes.

PREPARING FOR SHOW CHECKLIST

Checklist	Ready?	
1. Handling & Training	The goats will need to accept being tied up for grooming, having their legs lifted for inspection, having someone inspect its mouth, being led to and from the ring, accept being touched by a stranger and accept its feet being “positioned” so it will stand correctly and quietly in a line up. Construct a practice ring for students to spend time walking the goats in circles. Practice sessions should be both individual goats and working in a pen of 3.	
2. Washing & Cleaning	Goats should be washed and brushed in preparation for the Show. Using warm, soapy water and a brush to remove dirt, food, and faecal matter from the body, head, and legs. Pay particular attention to the legs and feet. It is also important to use both soap and bucket as well as a hose to ensure goats are desensitised to different types of cleaning. Washing and cleaning is a great way to give your goat handling practice as well as prepare it for different activities it will participate in at the Show.	
4. Packing List	Please ensure you bring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goat Food • Feed Bowls • White Dust Coats and boots or strong shoes (for showing) • Washing Equipment • Goat PowerPoint Presentation on a USB Please note: the RAS will supply straw for bedding (students are responsible for maintaining a clean area).	

PREPARING FOR TRANSPORT CHECKLIST

	Checklist	Ready?
1. Health	Your goats must be in good health prior to transport. Any animals with signs of disease, injury or illness should be reviewed and not transported.	
2. Trailer/ Float	A plan of transport that includes a safe and efficient vessel (vehicle, trailer) and route should be prepared well before departure. Trips over 3 hours should allow for stoppages.	
3. Mandatory Documents	Schools are required to notify the Small Livestock Event Manager or the Breeder the goats came from and the identification numbers of all goats entering the Competition via email: piggoat@rasnsw.com.au or phone (02) 9704 1211. Schools must complete and return the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sydney Royal Goat Show Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE) Health Declaration • Goat Herd Health Status Declaration for Shows and Sales • National Goat Health Statement These Forms will be obtainable from www.rasnsw.com.au and must be forwarded by <i>Wednesday 19 February 2025</i> to the Small Livestock Event Manager. Schools must also complete a National Vendor Declaration. For more information, visit: www.integritysystems.com.au	

INSPECTION AND WEIGH IN

Attention is drawn to the Special Regulations regarding sick or diseased animals and Inspector's verification of type, identification, description, and eligibility. Exhibitors are required to present copies of current registration papers at the time of inspection upon arrival.

NOTE: Schools will be required to participate in the inspection and weigh in on *Monday 14 April 2025*.

AT THE SHOW CHECKLIST

Checklist		Ready?
1. Feeding and Watering	Schools are responsible for feeding and watering their goats EVERY DAY of the show. All goats shall be fed and attended by the Students, who shall be responsible for the cleanliness and proper condition of the pens and shall be subject to the control of the Superintendent of the section appointed by the RAS.	
2. Cleaning/Mucking Out	Schools must complete cleaning of pens. Each school is responsible for the removal of soiled straw and manure from their pens PRIOR to 7am each day.	
3. Judging Day	To prepare for judging, each school will move their goats (when directed by Stewards) to a holding pen adjacent to the judging ring. During Judging, each group of three goats will be led into the ring and allowed to roam (no sticks or whips are to be used on the Showground). Stewards and Officials will be on hand to direct and assist – we recommend you restrict the number of students entering the ring for ease. The pen of three are judged and returned to their ringside pen. When directed by Stewards, goats can be returned to their home pen.	
4. Learn, Learn, Learn!	Enjoy the experience and the camaraderie of your fellow students, but also make time to speak to others in the shed. Learn from watching how others prepare their goats and present them in the ring. Don't be afraid to ask exhibitors why they do certain things, or for advice when cleaning or mucking out – they've often been showing for years and are more than happy to help. Feel free to ask for help or feedback from the Officials too – designated by the colourful badges on their dustcoats.	

COMPETITION SAMPLE DATA COLLECTION

The Competition Sample Data Collection tables have been provided as reference to assist students in taking a record of information on goat development from commencement of trial to Show.

Arrival Data and Details	
Date of Arrival at School:	
Date of Birth of Wethers:	
Number of Wethers Received:	
Average Weight of Wethers Received:	
Breeder Details (where goats came from):	
Description and Details of Tag Number and/or Tattoo:	
Herdbook Certificate/Details:	

Trial Data and Details			
Week 1	Temperature Min/Max	KG of feed used	Average Weight
Record Date: / /			
Totals			
Week 2	Temperature Min/Max	KG of feed used	Average Weight
Record Date: / /			
Totals			
Cont ...			
Week	Temperature Min/Max	KG of feed used	Average Weight
Record Date: / /			
Totals			

Trial Feeding and Husbandry Details				
Feeding Details:				
Husbandry and Housing:				
Health Management:				
Week	Total Feed Consumed (kgs)	Total Body Weight (kgs)	Average Body Weight (kgs)	Feed Conversion Ratio
1				
2				
3				
4				
...				
Final Week				
Final Assessment Date: /_/25	Total feed consumed during trial	Final total body weight of all goats	Average body weight of goats at completion of trial	Final feed conversion ratio
Totals				

CALCULATIONS

Total Body Weight (kgs) = *sum of all goat's body weights*

Average Body Weight (kgs) =
$$\frac{\text{Total body weight (kg)}}{\text{Number of goats}}$$

Feed Conversion Ratio =
$$\frac{\text{Total feed consumed (kg)}}{\text{Total body weight (kg)}}$$

RECOMMENDED RESEARCH RESOURCES

Sydney Royal Goat Show

www.rasnsw.com.au

Goat Industry Council of Australia

www.gica.com.au

Australian Mohair Marketing Organisation

www.ausmohair.com.au

Mohair Australia Ltd

mohair.com.au

Department of Primary Industries – Goat Resources

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Livestock Production Assurance Program – National Vendor Declaration

www.integritysystems.com.au

ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

Keeping goats at your school is an enjoyable and rewarding experience for students. Appropriate care is paramount. Schools are required to be familiar with and satisfy the requirements of the *Animal Research Act 1985* (NSW) and the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes*. More information about how to ensure you are meeting the guidelines can be found at the NSW Department of Education's Animals in Schools website: education.nsw.gov.au



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Small Livestock Event Manager

Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

1 Showground Road, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127

T: (02) 9704 1211

E: piggoat@rasnsw.com.au