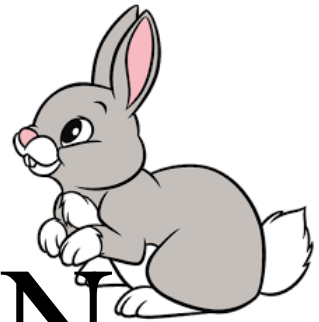


RABBIT



EDUCATION

4-H RABBIT EDUCATION PROJECT



Name _____

Club _____

Check one:

Level 1 ____ Level 2 ____ Level 3 ____

RABBIT EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

LEVEL 1 - Grade 3-5 at time of enrollment

LEVEL 2 - Grades 6-8 at time of enrollment

LEVEL 3 - Grades 9-12 at time of enrollment

REQUIREMENTS:

LEVEL 1 - Will do two activities (one starred and one of your choice) plus one fair exhibit.

LEVEL 2 - Will do two activities (one starred and one of your choice) plus one fair exhibit.

LEVEL 3 - Will do three activities (one starred and one of your choice) plus one fair exhibit.

You may take the Rabbit Education project without being in the rabbit project. This means that you do not have to own rabbits.

It is the policy of the cooperative Extension Service of Purdue University that all persons shall have equal opportunity and access to its programs and facilities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

RABBIT POSTER EXHIBIT

LEVEL 1 – 4-H rabbit poster exhibited by children in the 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade

LEVEL 2 – 4-H rabbit poster exhibited by children in the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade

LEVEL 3 – 4-H rabbit poster exhibited by children in the 9th grade or above

REQUIREMENTS

1. Exhibitor may exhibit annually a maximum of 1 entry in the poster contest.
2. Each poster must have been made by the 4-H member enrolled in the current year's 4-H program and not previously exhibited.
3. Size – 22”x28”, displayed horizontally with stiff backing and covered with plastic accompanied by a name tag in the lower front hand corner 4-1/2” x 6” area left in lower right for fair tag.
4. Standards of evaluation:
 - a. Content and information (accuracy and completeness) – 40 points
 - b. Originality and creativeness (attracts interest, encourages thought) – 25 points
 - c. Overall appearance/appealing (neatness, arrangement, background, workmanship, attention to detail) – 15 points
 - d. Suitable subject and age appropriate (matches child's age and ability) – 10 points
 - e. Conveys message/accomplishes purpose – 5 points
 - f. Meets exhibit requirements – 5 points
5. *Proper footnoting should be used with any reference material. Attach a 3”x5” card to the back of the poster listing the references.

The purpose shall be to visually demonstrate 4-H rabbit project knowledge and to demonstrate to others, 4-H rabbit project possibilities.

4-H RABBIT EDUCATION PROJECT

This project has been developed for those who wish to undertake a different aspect of rabbits by doing such activities as: writing a term paper, doing an experiment, or making a poster exhibit of equipment at the County Fair. A member does NOT have to raise or own any rabbits to enter this project.

Each age will be divided into three different exhibit types. The three (3) different exhibit types for each age category will be:

1. Educational poster (22" x 28") displayed horizontally with solid backing.
2. Term paper (length of paper depends on topic of paper and age of 4-Her)
3. Actual animal or equipment either exhibited or written up according to the outline on page 11.

Exhibits must be labeled with exhibitor's name on a 4 ½"x6" card in lower right hand corner. Posters will not be judged against term papers or against equipment exhibits in each age category.

Judging of the exhibit will be based upon the grade, correctness of information and completeness of subject. Be sure to call upon your Rabbit Committee Leaders for assistance.

Note: This manual book should be turned in by Friday of Fair. Projects are turned in on the Wednesday before Fair.



ACTIVITY CHOICES

(Any La Porte County rabbit committee member who sees the activity, may sign your sheet below)

ACTIVITY CHOICES

1. Collect a minimum of (10 – level 1; 20 – level 2; 30 – level 3) rabbit recipes. Write or type 1-2 page summary about the recipes you collected. Tell what, when, where, and for whom you prepared 4 of these recipes.

Signature

2. Record information on at least 3 places which sell rabbit over the counter locally. The information acquired from each place should include: 1) the name of the retail product, (roaster, fryer, etc.); 2) price per pound; 3) number of servings per package; 4) price per serving; 5) how it is packaged and processed; 6) how it is merchandised through displayed and advertising. Write or types a 1-2 page summary of your findings. Or, give a talk at your local club.

Signature

3. Compare two commercial breeds and/or a cross-bred for rate of gain. By rate of gain, we mean how many pounds (or ounces) of feed did you feed each of your rabbits to make it weigh x pounds. Example: 4 pounds of grain to raise 1 pound rabbit. Write or type 1 page summary on your findings. Or, give a talk at your local club.

Signature

4. Sell 10 pounds of live weight rabbit to the food stand. (You will need to contact one of the committee members.) Note: The rabbit stand reserves the right to reject unacceptable rabbit meat. What was the market price pound? Did you make a profit or loss?

Signature

5. Compare nutritional values of meats among rabbit, beef, pork, chicken, and lamb. Use the standard – 3 ounces of meat, since 3 ounces is considered a serving by the National Academy of Sciences – Food and Nutrition Board. (Note 1 pound (16 oz.) = 453.6 grams/3 oz. = 85 grams approximately.)

Include things such as fat, cholesterol, moisture, calories/3 oz. From the “Official Guide to a Progressive program for Raising better Rabbits & Cavies” (This is available in the Extension Office)

Make a chart showing comparison, and write or type a short paragraph (60-100 words) about your findings.

Signature

6. Visit a rabbitry. Write or type a summary telling what you learned. Include such things as housing, feed, breeding practices, and disposal (marketing) practices. Ask rabbit committee for names of places for potential visits.

Signature

7. Visit a processor – write or type a summary about what you learned. (The committee can tell you where one is.)

Signature

8. Attend an educational activity on rabbits, such as a local, area, or state workshop, clinic, shows or tour. (Contact your local 4-H rabbit committee or county agent for dates and location.) Write or type a 1-2 page summary on what you learned. (Filling out a pedigree, fur types, body types, different varieties, etc.)

Signature

9. Juniors: Type a one page customer survey. Ask questions which address the likes and dislikes of customers regarding eat rabbit. Turn this in to the rabbit stand committee members.
Seniors: Using the survey you developed, interview 10 people, and chart or graph your results. Include the age and sex breakdown or the people you interviewed.

Signature

10. Take a rabbit after it has been weaned, and keep track of the amount of feed it takes to put on one pound of weight. This is called the feed/grain ration. Nationally we expect a ration 4:1. Did you do better than this or worse? Why? Write a 1 page paper reporting your findings.

Signature

STARRED ACTIVITY CHOICES

All levels should choose one of the following starred activities:

Each activity must be signed in your book by the person in charge. The person who signs must see the activity you completed i.e. show it to him or her.

ACTIVITY CHOICES

- *1. Give a rabbit demonstration at your county demonstration contest. Have the youth educator in charge sign your activity sheet.

Ideas:

1. Nutritional values of rabbit meat
2. Preparing rabbit meat (Jr. 3-5 min)
3. Buying rabbits / stock selection (Sr. 5-7 min)
4. Cuts of meat
5. Preserving rabbit meat
6. Commercial value of various breeds
7. Judging rabbits
8. Handling
9. Housing and/or equipment
10. Diseases / cures
11. Fur / description / wool
12. Other

Signature

- *2. Participate as a contestant in the Area Rabbit Judging Contest. Have the rabbit judging coach sign below.

Signature

- *3. Work one shift (4 hours) at the fair rabbit food stand and talk afterwards with the food stand manager about your experiences. Include anything you have learned, or suggestions for improvement. Arrange your shift hours with the food stand manager ahead of time. Have the food manager sign below.

Signature

- *4. Help the committee prepare rabbit for the food stand. This would include doing two of the following: Butchering, De-Boning, Preparing Meteors, Processing Sausage, Freezing. Dates when the committee will be doing this will be made available to you during the year. Have the food stand committee chairman sign below.

Signature

Here are a few suggestions to help your complete activities #1, #2, #3 (not starred).

For activity #1, you may adapt recipes for chicken or pork to rabbit. Simply use recipes from your home or library. Try out a few to see if the amount of meat required is equivalent (the same) between chicken or pork and rabbit.

You may also find rabbit recipes in the ARBA handbook, rabbit magazines, and rabbit cookbooks. Two available resources are listed below:

1. Rabbit Recipe Cookbook – contains 285 tested recipes plus cooking tips. Write to the ARBA attn. Secretary's office. There is a minimal fee or see your rabbit leader.
2. Rabbit Recipes are also contained in the last few pages of the Rabbits magazine. Write to:
Rabbits Magazine
R. #1 Box 7-0
Waterloo, Wis. 53594
(\$12.00 per year, sample copy \$1.50)

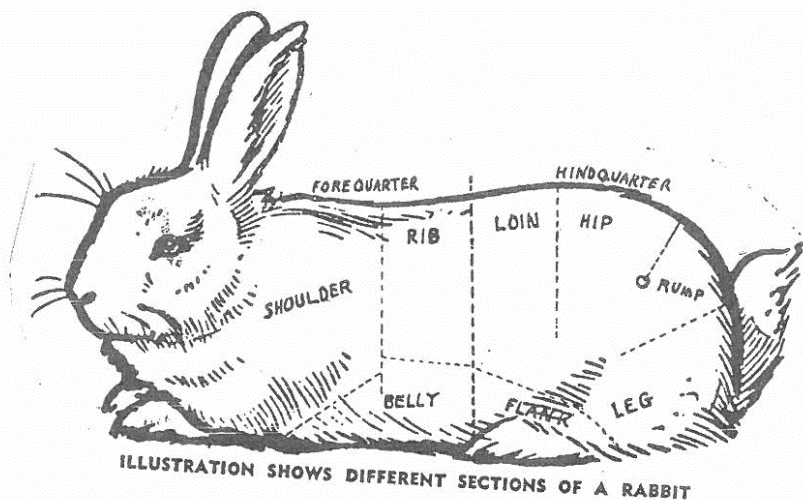
For activity #2, there are 3 places in La Porte which sell rabbit meat over the counter. Simply check out the local grocery stores. Remember to take a list of the information you will need such as whether it is a roaster or fryer; price per pound, etc. Don't be bashful about questioning the person behind the meat counter. His/ her job is to help customers.

For activity #3, you could raise your own rabbits to obtain rate of gain information. Or, with the owner's permission, you could keep careful records on a breeder's or a 4-Her's rabbits.

You would want more than just one rabbit of each breed or crossbred you are studying, since individual rabbits can vary greatly within breeds. Rather, use several rabbits of each breed, and take the average in figuring the amounts of feed vs. weight gained.

This experiment will be simplest if you hold one variable constant. For example, specify amount of grain you will feed each rabbit (like eight pounds). When that grain has been consumed weigh your rabbits and take the average of each breed. Which breed gained the most weight the quickest? Which is more desirable for marketing, and why?

Likewise, you could hold the weight of the rabbit constant (you want it to weigh 4 pounds for example) and feed it until it attains that weight. You must keep a careful record of the amount of feed your rabbits are given, so that you know how much the rabbit had to eat before it weighed 4 pounds.



RESOURCES

Do you need some help finding information to complete your activities? The following articles are available at the Extension Office. You may find them useful in providing information for demonstrations, talks, and poster.

FACTS ON RABBITS, By Alton Hinshaw

This 2 page article compares protein, moisture, fat, and calories content of various meats, including rabbit. It is useful for activity #5.

From the INDIANA 4-H RABBIT LEADERS HANDBOOK

HOW TO MARKET RABBITS, By Herbert C. Jordan

This article contains information for marketing rabbits for the laboratory, for food, for pelts, for breeding and for show. From the INDIANA 4-H RABBIT LEADERS HANDBOOK.

Charts from the pamphlet NUTRUTUVE VALUE OF FOODS, U.S.D.A., Home & Garden #72

Table 2 shows the nutritive value of various meats, excluding rabbit.

Table 3 shows the yield of cooked meat per pound of raw meat as purchased.

Again, rabbit is not included, but it could be useful information in completing the fair exhibit for #2



The following book is also available at the Extension Office you can look through it, but cannot check it out. Other sources for this book may also include your local library, Rabbit stand committee members, and anyone who is a member of the ARBA (The American Rabbit Breeders Association).

OFFICIAL GUIDE TO A PROGRESSIVE PROGRAM FROM RAISING BETTER RABBITS AND CAVIES.

ARBA, Inc. M & G Printing Co., Henry, Illinois 1985

Specific pages of interest would be:

Page 19: Showing the different sections of a live rabbit

Page 85: showing the sections of a butchered rabbit

Page 33-65: showing breeds of rabbits

Page 85-86: Showing 5 rabbit recipes

Page 185-188: showing the butchering process

Page 238-240: lists other rabbit reference materials

Page 182 – sec. 15: commercial rabbit raising – lists food breeds for meat and trait.

American Rabbit Breeders Association, Box 426, Bloomington, IL 61074

SUGGESTED FAIR EXHIBITS

CHOOSE ONE FAIR EXHIBIT

Posters are the standard size-22" x 28" Displayed horizontally with a hard back. Cover with clear plastic to protect from damage from rain or dust at the fair.

We recommend that you choose a different fair exhibit each year you are in the project.

1. From a list of all 49 breeds pick out 4 that are good meat rabbits, and list general reasons why they are good. Then choose 4 breeds that are not preferred for meat rabbits, and list general reasons for your choices. Arrange photos or drawing of your 8 breeds and your lists of preferable and unpreferable traits into an attractive display.
2. Make a poster showing where the various retail cuts are located in the live animal and the in the carcass.
3. Make a poster explaining the dress-out percentage of rabbit carcass. (How many pounds of rabbit does it take to make 4 cooked 3 oz. servings). Compare live weight vs. Butchered weight vs Edible weight (de-boing) vs. cooked weight (shrinkage), Try to get this information when you work with the rabbit stand in the butchering process.
4. Make a poster on any other aspect of the rabbit project.
5. Make a poster showing the rate of gain vs. amount of feed fed to rabbits comparing two commercial breeds and/or crossbreds.
6. Rabbit Recipe Poster. Choose one recipe and show the member preparing and serving it. Briefly explain the process below each picture. Include the actual written recipe on the poster.
7. Make a poster of an advertisement for selling dressed –out rabbit meat that is rabbit meat at retail outlet or grocery store.
8. Make a poster advertising rabbit dishes that could be used to sell rabbit to consumers at a restaurant.
9. Make an attractive display of processed rabbit meat. It should be packaged and displayed as if for sale in a grocery store and/or for storage.
10. For more exhibit suggestions – see next page

Because you have the choice (see tarred activities on page 7) of working at the fair rabbit food stand, this manual is not due until Friday during fair. That is the last date to turn your manual in. Be sure all your activities are signed. Attach any essays, questionnaire or chart you have written. Turn it in at the 4-H RABBIT BUILDING at the fair.

**MORE SUGGESTED FAIR EXHIBITS
4-H RABBIT EDUCATION PROJECT**

SECTION I..... Feeds and Feeding

- A. What kinds of feed can be used?
- B. Methods used for feeding and management
- C. Equipment (crocks, nest box, etc.)
- #D. Nutritional requirements or needs (e.g., feeding under different conditions)

Suggested ways of proceeding – equipment, poster, paper, exhibit, or a combination.

SECTION II..... Diseases

- A. Names
- B. Causes
- C. Cures
- D. Preventions

Suggested ways of proceeding – paper, poster, experiment

SECTION III..... Housing

- A. Types
- B. Costs

Suggested ways of proceeding – poster, paper, exhibit

SECTION IV..... The Rabbit

- A. Nomenclature and conformation
- B. Purposes (eat, fun, teach loves, etc.)
- C. By-Products – manure & pelts.
- #D. Sexing and palpating
- E. Ear marketing (tattooing)
- F. Body Types
- G. Explain varieties of your breed
- H. Writing or filling out pedigree

Suggested ways of proceeding – experiment, paper, poster, exhibit, etc.

SECTION V..... Showing and judging (proper showing)

- A. Purposes and preparation for show (legs, grand championships)
- B. Judges qualifications and Registrars (Could write up differences)
- C. Judging system
- D. Equipment for holding a show and arrangements

Suggested ways of proceeding – paper, poster (pictures for poster can be taken by 4-Hers or found in magazines, etc.)

- SECTION VI Breeds and breeding
- A. 6 class/commercial
 - B. 4 class/fancy
 - #C. Genetic
 - #D. In breeding – line breeding – out cross
 - E. Origins
 - F. Standards
 - G. Productions
 - H. Fur types

Suggested ways of proceeding – poster with pictures of breeds or varieties with the following information: name, characteristics, main purpose of rabbit, origin; paper; exhibit, experiment.

Show what a pedigree is and how to complete one.

- SECTION VII..... Organizations
- A. Local
 - B. State
 - C. National (A.R.B.A) American Rabbit Breeders Assoc.
 - D. Purposes
 - E. Activities
 - F. Publicity (e.g., write your own articles for a rabbit publication of local newspaper)

Suggested ways of proceeding – paper or poster with pictures.

NOTE: # INDICATES MATERIAL FOR SENIOR RABBIT MEMBERS.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

ARBA Material (American Rabbit Breeder's Association, Secretary, Post office Box 426, Bloomington, Il. 61702

ARBA Guide Handbook
ARBA Standard of Perfection
ARBA Youth Guise Book
ARBA Bulletin – Domestic Rabbit

*Specialty Club Guide Books

*Trade Magazines (Rabbits)

*Publications by noted authorities

*Feed Company Literature

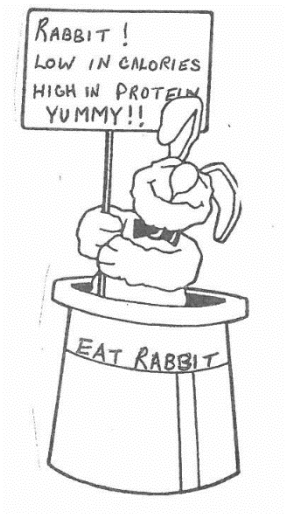
*Purdue University – Animal Science Department

*LaPorte County Veterinarians

*LaPorte County Cooperative Extension Office
#A, 2857 IN-2
La Porte, IN 46350

For “Indiana 4-H Rabbit
Leaders Handbook” Ph. – 324-9407

For further information on ARBA materials contact committee members.



SUMMARY OF EXPERIMENT

INSTRUCTIONS:

Following this outline in writing about your experiment where animals or exhibits are not to be shown at the County Fair.

1. State briefly what you set out to do in the experiment.
2. List the equipment, tools or instruments, and live animals used in the experiment. Tell where any unusual materials were obtained and how they were used.
3. List in order the things you did and what you observed while conducting your experiment. Include important dates and figures. Give an explanation for the more important things which you observed to happen.
4. Evaluate your experiment. Tell if it did what you wanted it to do and if it answered the questions you wanted answered. How successful was it? Tell what you learned from it.
5. State hypothesis. (can be positive or negative)

Use additional paper in order to write the complete story.

RABBIT EDUCATION RECORD SHEET

NAME _____

CLUB _____

CHECK ONE: _____ LEVEL 1 _____ LEVEL 2 _____ LEVEL 3

I HAVE TAKE THIS PROJECT FOR _____ YEAR(S)

CHECK THE TYPE OF ACTIVITIES YOU COMPLETED. (The most you will check is probably 3-5)

MY CHOSEN ACTIVITIES WERE ABOUT

___ SELLING LIVE RABBITS (STOCK OR MEAT)

___ RABBIT FEED (SECTION I)

___ BUTCHERING RABBITS FOR CONSUMPTION (EATING)

___ DISEASES

___ RAISING RABBITS

___ HOUSING

___ COOKING PREPARED RABBIT MEAT

___ THE RABBIT (SECTION IV)

___ PROCESSING BUTCHERED RABBIT MEAT INTO SAUSAGE, FRYERS, ETC.

___ HOW RABBIT MEAT IS SOLD IN GROCERY STORES (OVER-THE-COUNTER)

___ WHY RABBIT MEAT IS HEALTHY FOOD SOURCE/NUTRITIONAL COMPARISON

___ HOW RABBIT MEAT IS SOLD TO CUSTOMERS

___ HOW TO ADVERTISE

___ BREEDS AND BREEDING

___ SIMPLY MORE BOUT RABBITS (ORGANIZATIONS)

___ SHOWING AND JUDGING

___ A DEMONSTRATION (COUNTY)

THREE THINGS I LEARNED FROM THIS PROJECT WERE:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I HAD THE MOST FUN WITH

THE THING THAT WAS THE HARDEST FOR ME WAS _____
_____ BUT I SUCCEEDED!

MY FAIR EXHIBIT WAS _____

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE PROJECT _____

LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____