

Rabbits

State Fair Entries: Entries must be made to the Indiana State Fair by July 1st.

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| References: | BU-8080 | What's Hoppening (grades 3-5) |
| | BU-8081 | Making Tracks (grades 6-8) |
| | BU-8082 | All Ears (grades 9-12) |
| | 4-H-517-W | Rabbit Record Sheet https://extension.purdue.edu/4h/Documents/Resources/4-H-517-W.pdf |
| | 4-H-1013 | Rabbit Resource Handbook for Breeding |

American Rabbit Breeder Association (A.R.B.A.) Standards of Perfection
Rabbit Ambassador Handbook
Rabbit Resource Handbook (Ohio State Publication)

Enrollment:

1. Member must be enrolled in Clay County 4-H by and in the Clay County 4-H Rabbit Project by May 15th.
2. Rabbits must be under the continuous care, responsibility, and ownership of the 4-H member by May 15th.
3. All rabbits must be enrolled by paper form or via 4HOnline by May 15th. Forms must be turned into the Extension Office or the Rabbit Superintendent by May 15th in order to exhibit. Deadline for Show Entries is July 1st and must be completed online at <https://faireentry.com/>. The online entry must include all animals to be shown at the Fair, including all Meat Classes (Meat Pen, Single Fryer, Roasters, and Stewers), Breeders, and Fur.
4. Substitutions will be allowed at Fair Check-in; given the rabbit being substituted is on the exhibitors herd record sheet and is the same class, same breed, same sex, and same variety.
5. All Clay County 4-H Rabbit project members are recommended to attend a minimum of four (4) Rabbit Club meetings per year.
6. Any rabbits that are 6 months or older by **May 1st**, must be already tattooed (Left ear) **BY** or **BEFORE May 15th**. **AFTER** May 15th, a scheduled tattoo session(s) will be available for tattooing the younger animals, juniors and Meat Pens.
7. **Each Exhibitor is expected to help with Set-up or Clean up during the Fair.**
8. All animal exhibits: Tattoo in left ear of animal **MUST** be legible and appear exactly the same as what was entered on the Herd Record and the Show Entry form.

Health:

1. At the time of check-in with the Rabbit Superintendent and for the remainder of the time at the fairgrounds, the animal must not show symptoms of a communicable disease.
2. Exhibitors must check **IN** and **OUT** (at Entry and Release at Fair) with the superintendent(s).
3. **DISEASED or UNHEALTHY RABBITS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Grooming

4-H Exhibitors may receive clipping and grooming assistance from members of their immediate family (father, mother, and siblings), from a current Indiana 4-H member, and from individuals enrolled in the Indiana 4-H Approved Animal Grooming Assistance Program. Temporary

guardianships are not permitted and shall result in immediate disqualification.

a. At the County and State Fair, State Fair and 4-H officials reserve the right to request identification from any individual grooming any animal(s), violations to the policy may result in the disqualification of an animal entry.

b. **NEW FOR 2019 - Beginning in 2019 applicants must also complete the online Animal Ethics modules located here**

<https://extension.purdue.edu/4h/Pages/Online-Animal-Ethics-Program.aspx>

every two years. These 4 modules are intended to reiterate the importance of providing a foundation for 4-H families to start a conversation about livestock ethics and an understanding of why rules are in place. Ensure 4-H parents and adult mentors realize they are representatives of a larger livestock industry and give them tools to communicate effectively with the general public on behalf of that community. Last but certainly not least, to ensure animals in the Indiana 4-H Program are treated with the utmost care. At the conclusion of 4 modules please enter your name and county of primary residence.

Once enrolled in the program, you will be able to assist any 4-H member from any county on any animal species. To be enrolled in the program for the state fair, this application must be completed by **July 1** annually and the modules must be completed once every **2 years (starting April 2019)**.

It is the intent that the 4-H member take responsibility for caring for and grooming his/her own animals. However, it is recognized that all youth need assistance. The purpose of this program is to provide an avenue for equal access to qualified animal grooming assistance. Those enrolled in this program should not see this as a way to do the work for the 4-H member, but should provide hands-on learning opportunities that further the skills and abilities of the 4-H member.

Please note that the program as described above is for the Indiana State Fair. While it is likely that some counties will adopt this policy for their county fairs, those decisions are made by the respective county fair boards and/or county 4-H councils. Please check with your County Extension Office for specific county fair rules.

Steps for registering for the Indiana 4-H Grooming Assistance Program

1. Read through grooming assistance program requirement overview document
2. Complete the 4 online Animal Ethics modules entitled: [Purpose of 4-H Livestock Programs, Ethical Decision Making, Public Perceptions, Putting into Practice](#) located here: <https://extension.purdue.edu/4h/Pages/Online-Animal-Ethics-Program.aspx> once every 2 years (starting April 2019)

3. Annually submit the Indiana 4-H Approved Animal Grooming Assistance Program Application and a copy driver's license to Courtney

Email: dickerso@purdue.edu Fax: 765-494-5876 or

Mail to: Purdue Extension, State 4-H Office

615 W State St

West Lafayette IN 47907

Penning:

1. Each 4-H member will be responsible for the care, feeding, watering, and cleaning of their animals during the Fair.
2. Pens will be assigned by the superintendents.

Show:

1. Each exhibitor may show up to a total of 20 rabbits, plus a maximum of the four (4) entries in the Meat Classes.
2. Each member may show one (1) rabbit per class, per breed.
3. Rabbits must meet age and weight requirements as specified by the American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) Standard of Perfection for each breed/class by the day of the show.
4. Only A.R.B.A. recognized breeds and Classes will be accepted. All A.R.B.A., County and Club show rules will apply.
5. On judging day, exhibitors will be responsible for carrying rabbits to and from judging table.
6. Grooming will be allowed up to 15 minutes prior to judging time.
7. ALL exhibitors are required to stay for the entire judging of all animals. Superintendent and or 4-H Council must approve any exceptions.
8. Recommended Show Attire: long sleeve shirt/jacket, long pants and closed toe shoes.
9. SIX CLASS:
 - a. Senior Buck
 - b. Senior Doe
 - c. 6-8 Buck
 - d. 6-8 Doe
 - e. Junior Buck
 - f. Junior Doe
10. FOUR CLASS:
 - a. Senior Buck
 - b. Senior Doe
 - c. Junior Buck,
 - d. Junior Doe
11. MEAT CLASSES:
 - a. Members may ONLY show one (1) entry in any of the following four Meat classes Meat Pens (3 rabbits), Single Fryer, Roaster and Stewers.
 - b. A member may enter one or more of the four Meat Classes.
 - c. All entries in the Meat Classes must be listed on the Show Entry form by July 1st.
 - d. Rabbits shown in Meat Classes CAN NOT be shown in regular breeding classes.
 - e. Meat Classes will be judged according to A.R.B.A. Standard of Perfection
 - f. Meat Pens
 - Consist of three (3) rabbits, all of the same breed and variety. Broken group meat pens must also be of the same variety.
 - Each rabbit must weigh a minimum of 3 ½ lbs. and not exceed 5 ½ lbs.
 - Rabbits must NOT be over 10 weeks old on the day of show.
 - Any meat pen not within the above guidelines cannot be shown, and if disqualified for health reasons, will NOT be eligible to sell at the Auction
 - Members must own and provide care for the Dam (of the Meat Pen exhibit) on or Before May 15th. This Dam must be listed on the Herd Record Form.



- g. Single Fryer
 - Consists of one (1) rabbit.
 - Must weigh a minimum of 3 ½ lbs. and not exceed 5 ½ lbs.
 - The rabbit must NOT be over 10 weeks of age as of the day of show.
 - Members must own and provide care for the Dam (of the Single Fryer exhibit) on or Before May 15th. This Dam must be listed on the Herd Record Form.
 - h. Roasters
 - Consist of one (1) rabbit
 - Must weigh a minimum of 5 ½ lbs. and not exceed 9 lbs.
 - The rabbit must be under 6 months of age and over as of the day of the show.
 - i. Stewers
 - Consist of one (1) rabbit
 - Minimum weight over 8 pounds.
 - The rabbit must be 6 months of age or older as of the day of the show.
12. BREEDERS CLASS (Clay County Born and Raised Rabbits by 4-H Exhibitor)
1. Rabbits must have been born at exhibitor's rabbitry and raised by that exhibitor and listed as such on their Herd Record form.
 2. All 4-H general Rabbit Rules do apply. (See above) and raised a complete story by a member of a Clay County 4-H Rabbit club.
 3. Rabbit in this class must be shown FIRST in the Regular Class. If it is disqualified in regular class, then it is not eligible to show in the Breeders Class.
 4. Member may **ONLY** show one (1) rabbit in this class and this entry must be listed on the Show Entry form (July 15th) WITH an attached copy of the rabbit's Pedigree. **DO NOT** attach your original pedigree.
 5. This class will be judged after Regular Classes are judged. Champion and Reserve Champion will be chosen.
13. FUR CLASS: (to be judged following the Breeders Class judging)
1. Members may **ONLY** show one (1) rabbit in this class and this entry must be listed on the Online Fair Entry (July 1st).
 2. All 4-H general Rabbit rules to apply.
 3. Rabbit in this class must be shown FIRST in the Regular Class. If it is disqualified in Regular Class, then it is not eligible to shown in Fur class.
 4. Best of each type of Fur will be chosen. Then an overall Champion and Reserve Champion will be chosen.
 5. The fur class will be judged according to the ARBA Standard, which describes the four different types of fur: Normal, Rex, Satin, Wool, and each breed fur description.
 6. Members may substitute a rabbit in this class at Fair Check In **ONLY**. Any rabbit may be substituted.

Rabbit Action Demonstration

- A method by which 4-H'ers can show off their skills and abilities they have learned in the rabbit project.
- Same grade levels (divisions) will be used as for the Rabbit Ambassador
- Entry to be made on Show Entry Form.
- Action Demonstrations will be delivered at beginning of Rabbit Show and judged by rabbit judge.
- Action Demonstration entries must be entered via online at <https://fairentry.com> by July 1st.

Rabbit Ambassador Contest Rules

- Submit entry online at <https://fairentry.com/> by July 1st.
- Any 4-H members enrolled in the Rabbit Project by May 1st of the current year may participate.
- Contact leader for procedures and the date and time. Awards and Placing are announced during Rabbit show at 4-H County Fair.
- Contest has 3 parts: Breed Identification, Written test, and Showmanship.
- Five categories are: Novice 4-H member 3rd or 4th grade; Junior 5th or 6th grade; Intermediate 7th or 8th grade; Senior 9th or 10th grade and Master in 11th or 12th grade on January 1st of the current year.
- Contestants will be required to move up to the next level either because of grade in school or if they placed 1st in a Rabbit Ambassador category at State Fair the previous year.
- Contestants should have a long-sleeve shirt/jacket and long pants and must provide their own rabbit, clipboard and pencil for the Showmanship section of contest.
- Questions for the contest will be taken from one or more of the following: your grade level 4-H Project Manual, A.R.B.A. Standards of Perfection book, the Rabbit Ambassador Handbook, and Rabbit Resource Handbook from Ohio State.
- In case of tie-scores, Highest Test Score will place higher, or if needed, additional test questions will be added.
- Awards will be given for the three top placing in each division.

Rabbit Barbecue Contest

- 4-H Rabbit member must enter online at <https://fairentry.com/> by July 1st
- There will be an entry fee for the Rabbit Barbeque Contest. The fee will be based on the cost of the rabbit for the event.
- The 4-H Rabbit Clubs will furnish awards and meat needed.
- All contestants will furnish their own barbecue grill (non-electric), fuel, utensils, meat thermometer and sauce.
- ONLY the 4-H contestants may do preparation and actual cooking. Adult supervision will be present.
- There will be (3) Divisions: Jr. Single (grades 3-7); Sr. Single (grades 8-12); Junior Team (2 individuals); Senior Team (2 individuals). If a team consists of a junior and senior member you must compete in the Senior Team Division.
- Meat will be labeled with weight.
- There will be a "Finished Time" set.
- It is up to contestants to determine how long meat will need to be cooked. Points will be deducted if finished product is not done.
- Presentation to the Judges of the finished product SHALL BE on one (1) platter.
- A guide line for judging will be: (A) practical equipment, (B) Skill in starting and controlling fuel and using the equipment, (C) Thoroughness of cooking, (D) Time accuracy of doneness to the time to be completed by.