

RABBITS

PLEASE NOTE: Any changes/updates from the previous year will be *BOLDED and ITALICIZED!* Pay special attention to any projects with **BOLD, ITALICIZED WORDS because they have changed from last year.**

The 4-H Rabbit project provides youth a fun and hands-on learning experience that develops life skills, as well as teaches valuable information about properly caring for their animal. Subjects such as general care, nutrition housing, and health care are presented in the curricular materials, through workshops and activities such as Rabbit Ambassadors and in preparation of an exhibit. Youth also have the opportunity to develop responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communication skills through active participation in the 4-H Rabbit Project.

| <i>Completion, exhibition participation, and State Fair information for Rabbits</i> | | | |
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| <i>Division/Level</i> | <i>Grades</i> | <i>Completion Activities Needed*</i> | <i>Maximum State Fair Entries</i> |
| <i>Level 1</i> | <i>Grades 3-5</i> | <i>Complete 7 Activities*</i> | <i>Check IN St Fair Website</i> |
| <i>Level 2</i> | <i>Grades 6-8</i> | <i>Complete 7 Activities*</i> | <i>Check IN State Fair Website</i> |
| <i>Level 3</i> | <i>Grades 9-12</i> | <i>Complete 7 Activities*</i> | <i>Check IN State Fair Website</i> |

****“Activities” are defined as project manual activities and/or Hendricks County 4-H Workshops related to this topic. Members must be able to prove attendance by getting a signature from 4-H Leader/Project Advisor that conducts the workshop. Activity sheets available in the Extension Office with Rabbits Project Manuals. Fair Exhibit requirements are listed below.***

RULES:

1. Refer to the Hendricks County 4-H policies, Entry and Exhibit Requirements, State Health Requirements and the Livestock Section General Rules.
2. 4-H Members must be enrolled in the Rabbit Project in Hendricks County.
3. All rabbits must be owned by and under the care of the 4-H member by May 15th. 4-H'ers may show only rabbits in their care as of this date. 4-H Rabbits must be entered on 4-HOnline by May 15th in order to exhibit in the Hendricks County 4-H Fair. In addition to the 4-HOnline, 4-H members must also identify which animal(s) and classes they intend to exhibit in during the Hendricks County 4-H Fair on the FairEntry Online system by designated date.
4. A 4-H member may enter and show a maximum of 20 entries with only one (1) entry per class for each variety allowed. If entering meat classes, these must be counted as part of the 20 maximum with only one of each meat class per exhibitor being allowed. We recommend that no one bring a doe due to have babies to the fair.
5. A meat pen is made up of three (3) rabbits of the same breed and same variety, but not necessarily from the same litter; each rabbit weighing a minimum of three and a half (3 ½) pounds and a maximum of five and a half (5 ½) pounds and not over ten (10) weeks of age on the day of the show.
6. Meat pens must be kindled and raised by the 4-H member who enters them. Litters will not be shown with doe. Meat pens must be tattooed at the designated June meat pen tattooing date, which will be scheduled by the Rabbit Project Superintendent. A meat pen entered, but not tattooed at this meat pen tattooing date will not be eligible to show at the fair ***in the rate of gain class.***
7. Single fryer rabbits may be selected and shown from the same 4-H'er's rabbit meat pen.
8. No rabbit may be exhibited in more than one class. Animals shown in the fryer, roaster, stewer and meat pen classes cannot be shown as breed animals.
9. The show will follow the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. Show Rules, and all classes will be judged according to ages and weights as established by the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. Standard of Perfection.
10. All rabbits will be shown by breed standards but do not need to be pedigreed. Mixed-breed rabbits are not eligible for the 4-H show but they may be entered and shown in the Little Critters project.
11. All entries in good health will be judged. Any rabbit found to be not in good health during the health check at the Rabbit check in will be removed from the 4-H Fairgrounds immediately and will not be shown.
12. 4-H'ers will bring their rabbits to the show table when their class is called. They will stay and watch the rabbits being judged, then return them to their cages. Only 4-H members may show rabbits at the judging table, no adults. If a rabbit is not on the table at the time the class is judged, the rabbit will not be judged.
13. All rabbits must be tattooed prior to the Fair in the left ear. Tattooing will be done at County 4-H Rabbit

Workshops only (not at the Fair). Any rabbit now showing a visible tattoo at check-in time will not be allowed to exhibit.

14. All members will feed, water, clean the pens, and care for their own stock. Pens will be furnished. 4-H'ers should provide bedding, food, and bowls for their own animals.
 15. Any entry having any eliminating or disqualifying features will be awarded a green ribbon placing.
 16. A clean and neat appearance should be kept in aisle way and around cages.
 17. All carriers must be removed from barn during Fair. All supplies must be kept on the outside walls and clear from walkways.
 18. Members shall stay out of the aisle ways except while cleaning the cages.
 19. Only one (1) Commercial Meat Pen per exhibitor may go to Auction.
 20. Only rabbits entered in the show are allowed in the Small Animal Pavilion.
 21. Rabbits may be penned AFTER show forms and health checks are completed. If during the show there is no show form for the particular rabbit, it will be judged but no placing will be given to the exhibitor.
 22. Exhibitors should be aware that animals showing signs of any sickness or communicable disease after check in will be asked to leave the building at the discretion and upon the final decision of the Rabbit Project Superintendent.
 23. Entry of animals in the Hendricks County 4-H fair show constitutes permission by the owner for the possible use of the rabbit(s) for the Rabbit Ambassador competition – Breed I.D. portion.
 24. Entries in the Doe and Litter Class must include the following:
 - a. Does must be lactating
 - b. Doe needs to have kindled the litter
 - c. Proper number of kits (ex. 2-4 lb. does = 2-4 kits, etc.)
10. To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits, 4-H members must be certified through the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals. See General Livestock Guidelines for more information.

EXHIBITS:

In order to exhibit, members must complete the number of suggested activities listed in the member's guide as per county guidelines. Then, members may select one or more of the following options for each level:

Level 1 - Grades 3, 4 and 5

Exhibit Options

- Rabbit Educational Poster
- Showmanship/4-H Rabbit Ambassador
- Exhibit one or more rabbits owned and cared for since May 15

Level 2 - Grades 6, 7, and 8

Exhibit Options

- Rabbit Educational Poster
- Showmanship/4-H Rabbit Ambassador
- Exhibit one or more rabbits owned and cared for since May 15

Level 3 - Grades 9 - 12

Exhibit Options

- Rabbit Educational Poster
- Showmanship/4-H Rabbit Ambassador
- Exhibit one or more rabbits owned and cared for since May 15

CLASSES:

Only classes and breeds recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. will be accepted.

- Senior Buck
- Senior Doe
- 6/8 Buck
- 6/8 Doe
- Junior Buck
- Junior Doe
- Pre-Junior
- Meat Pen
- Roaster
- Fryer
- Stewer
- Doe and Litter

THE RABBIT AMBASSADOR CONTEST

The Rabbit Ambassador Contest will be held on Sunday in the Small Animals Pavilion. The age groups as determined on January 1st of the current year are as follows:

- **Novice** - 4-H member in the 3rd or 4th grade
- **Junior** - 4-H member in the 5th or 6th grade
- **Intermediate** - 4-H member in the 7th or 8th grade
- **Senior** - 4-H member in the 9th or 10th grade
- **Master** - 4-H member in the 11th or 12th grade

4-H Rabbit members will be tested on their knowledge of rabbit breeds, management, feeding, marketing, and showing. The County winners may participate in the State Contest. Special Awards will be presented to County Winners.

RABBIT POSTER EXHIBIT

Remember: All posters, notebooks, and display boards **MUST** include a reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving credit to the original author, to complete the 4-H member's exhibit. This reference list should/might include web site links, people and professionals interviewed, books, magazines, etc. It is recommended this reference list be attached to the back of a poster or display board, be the last page of a notebook, or included as part of the display visible to the public. A judge is not to discredit an exhibit for the manner in which references are listed. Reference Sheets are available at the Extension Office for use. For personal safety, do not include personally identifiable information such as mailing address or phone numbers on posters/displays/exhibits.

Each 4-H Rabbit Project Member may exhibit a 4-H Rabbit Poster at the 4-H Fair. Posters will be accepted at Rabbit check-in times. They will be kept on display during this time in the Small Animals Pavilion. Exhibiting a Rabbit Poster is an optional activity but is highly encouraged for the benefit of the 4-H'er and the viewing public. Additional information and requirements are as follows:

1. There are 3 categories of poster competition-Level 1, Level 2, Level 3. Level 1 is 4-H'ers in grades 3 thru 5 as of January of the current year: Level 2 is 4-H'ers in grades 6 thru 8 as of January of the current year. Level 3 is 4-H'ers in grades 9 thru 12 as of January 1 of the current year.
2. A Champion ribbon and Reserve Champion ribbon will be awarded in each category provided there are blue ribbon entries and based upon the judge's decision and choice.
3. Each county may send one poster in each level to the State Fair. Selection is based upon the judge's decision.
4. Only 4-H'ers enrolled in the 4-H Rabbit Project may exhibit posters.
5. Each poster must be 22"x28" in size displayed horizontally (able to stand stiff without buckling, with or without backing) and covered with a plastic or cellophane wrap to keep it clean. The exhibit label (available from the 4-H Leader of the Extension Office) should be placed in the lower front right-hand corner.
6. Posters will be judged according to the following:
 - 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)
 - g. Total: 100 points

NOTE: The purpose shall be to visually demonstrate 4-H Rabbit Project knowledge and to demonstrate to others 4-H Rabbit Project possibilities.

RABBIT ILLUSTRATED TALK (Poultry and Rabbits)

- 4-H'ers must provide their 4-H Completion Card at entry of the contest to participate.
- An illustrated talk is offered at the Hendricks County and Indiana State Fair in poultry and rabbits.
- Entries for this event must sign up on FairEntry by designated date.
- All participants must complete the Indiana State Fair Rabbit or Poultry entry form if you plan to participate in the contest at the State Fair. This completed form is to be submitted to the rabbit or poultry barn office, respective to the contest, at check-in. There is no Indiana State Fair entry fee for this event.
- Categories will be Novice (grades 3-4), Junior (grades 5-6), Intermediate (grades 7-8), Senior (grades 9-10), and Master (grades 11-12).
- An illustrated talk is for any 4-H member and allows the member to present a 5-7-minute speech to the audience on a topic related to that project while using props and/or a PowerPoint, Prezi, or other digital presentation.
- There is no interaction with the audience.
- Check the Hendricks County 4-H Fair Schedule and Indiana State Fair 4-H Premium book for the time, date, and location of this event.
- State Fair entries will be accepted through the county Purdue Extension office or on-site at the poultry or rabbit show for the respective event. Check the Indiana State Fair 4-H Premium book for the time, location, and deadline to enter if entering on-site.
- Live animals that would be eligible to show in that project may be used in the illustrated talk.
- The State Fair Achievement Trip may be awarded by the judges to a maximum of the top two (2) blue merit Masters Category rabbit members and poultry members at the discretion of the judges. Trip winners must be of blue merit quality.