

Rabbits

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project allows the 4-H member to learn about rabbits. This includes proper selection of the rabbit, proper care, safety and good showmanship practices. Also, learning about the rabbit industry and how it works is another part of this project. **All Rabbit members must be YQCA certified to show.**

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Youth may complete the 4-H Rabbit Project through any one or more of the following activities:

LEVEL 1 – WHAT’S HOPPENING?

1. Showmanship/Rabbit Ambassador
2. Rabbit Educational Poster
3. Illustrated Rabbit Talk/Action Display
4. Exhibit one or more rabbits owned and cared for since May 15

LEVEL 2 – MAKING TRACKS

1. Showmanship/ Rabbit Ambassador
2. Rabbit Educational Poster
3. Illustrated - Rabbit talk/Action Display
4. Exhibit one or more does and a buck owned and cared for since birth, focus on raising more than one breed of rabbits

LEVEL 3 – ALL EARS!

1. Showmanship/Rabbit Ambassador
2. Rabbit Educational Poster
3. Illustrated - Rabbit talk/Action Display
4. Exhibit rabbits owned and cared for in all show room classes for your breed plus a commercial meat pen

GENERAL RULES FOR FAIR EXHIBITION

1. A club member must be enrolled in the project by May 15 and complete the 4-H Rabbit enrollment form.
2. Individualized identification by tattoo in each left ear is required.
3. An accurate expense record will be kept throughout the year. The record must be turned in before showing rabbits.
4. **A member may show a maximum of sixteen (16) entries whether that be for exhibition or commercial classes. A commercial entry cannot be shown as an exhibition entry. An exhibition entry cannot be shown as a commercial entry.**
5. Any breed recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association is acceptable for show.
6. Members may be asked for proof of pedigree on show animals.
7. No crossbred rabbits will be shown.
8. Classes divided by Solid Variety and Broken Variety can only have one entry per member per class. For example, only one solid Mini Lop Sr. Buck can be shown or only one broken Mini Lop Sr. Buck – no matter what color it is. It is either solid or broken.
9. All members will be responsible for carrying their rabbits to and from the judging table. Only 4-H members can substitute for another member. No exceptions.
10. Exhibitors must complete a sub form and turn into the 4-H Rabbit leader if a member needs a substitute showman because of another 4-H activity. **This has to be approved by Extension Educator. If approved, the substitute showman, must be enrolled in the Clinton County 4-H program.**
11. **No family members or other individuals, other than 4-Hers exhibiting rabbits, are allowed in the show area. This will be strictly enforced. If the 4-H member needs assistance with rabbits, he/she should let the leader know and arrangements will be made for assistance from another 4-H member.**
12. All rabbits must remain on the fairgrounds until the release time.

13. Exhibitors will be personally responsible to maintain clean pens and keep an attractive exhibit.
14. All classes will be determined by the superintendent after animal enrollment.
15. Showmanship classes are determined by age of 4-Her. Division winners are eligible to advance to the next level the following year, if desired.
16. Rabbit Ambassadors Contest consists of a written test, showmanship and breed identification and divisions are determined by grade level of 4-Her. Division winners are eligible to advance to the State Fair.
17. Entry forms and entry fees are due no later than May 15. No exceptions.
18. **All ear numbers and final scratches must be declared no later than the last Friday of June (same day as the fair entry.com enrollment date).**
19. **Rabbit substitutions will be allowed up to the day of the show as long as rabbit was listed by the May 15 enrollment deadline. The substitution will be of the same breed.**

Commercial Rabbit Classes:

A 4-Her may exhibit one entry in each commercial class. Commercial animals are not eligible to show exhibition classes.

Meat Pen: Three (3) rabbits of the same breed and same variety weighing a minimum weight of 3.5 pounds and a maximum weight of 5.5 pounds and not more than ten (10) weeks of age. Broken meat pens must be of the same variety.

Single Fryer: A rabbit weighing a minimum of 3.5 pounds and a maximum of 5.5 pounds, not over 10 weeks old on the day of show. Single fryers may be selected and shown from the same 4-Hers meat pen.

Roaster: A rabbit weighing at least 5.5 pounds with a maximum weight of 9 pounds and under six months of age on day of show.

Stewer: A rabbit weighing over 8 pounds and more than six months of age on day of show.

Animals shown in the commercial rabbit classes cannot be shown as breed animals.

Exhibition Rabbit Classes:

1. Breeds must meet the ARBA standards for class placement.
2. **Descriptions:**

- a. **Senior Buck:** Male, more than 8 months of age or ideal senior weight, on the day of the show, if a six class rabbit; A male more than 6 months of age, on the day of show, if a four class rabbit.
- b. **Senior Doe:** Female more than 8 months of age or ideal senior weight on the day of the show, if a six class rabbit; A female more than 6 months the day of show if a four class rabbit.
- c. **6 – 8 Buck** Male, 6 – 8 months of age on the day of the show, for a six class rabbit.
- d. **6 – 8 Doe** Female, 6 – 8 months of age on the day of the show, for a six class rabbit.
- e. **Junior Buck:** Male, more than 3 months of age but less than 6 months old, on the day of the show.
- f. **Junior Doe:** Female, more than 3 months of age but less than 6 months old, on the day of the show.

4 Class Rabbit: Any breed weighing less than nine (9) pounds. Juniors that meet senior weight can be shown as a senior.

Example: Dutch, Mini Rex, Netherland Dwarf.

6 Class Rabbit: Any breed weighing more than nine (9) pounds. Juniors that are intermediate weight can be shown as intermediate. Intermediates that meet senior weights can be shown as a senior. Example: New Zealand, Crème D 'Argent, Flemish Giants.

POSTER PROJECT

The Rabbit project may be completed by Poster at the County Fair and can advance to State Fair.

Poster exhibits must have the standardized exhibit card in the lower right-hand corner with the 4-H member's name, project and club. Allow room on your poster for the exhibit card. The exhibit cards will be available at check-in time at the fair.

1. Posters must be 22" x 28" and DISPLAYED HORIZONTALLY ■ and not vertically ▮.
2. POSTER MUST BE SELF-SUPPORTING (remain standing when leaned at a slight angle). Use heavy cardboard or foam board. For foam board, contact the Extension Office.
3. All posters must be covered with clear plastic (NOT SARAN WRAP). Contact the Extension Office to purchase acetate poster sleeves.
2. All poster type projects must have a title or theme on the poster. Check your manual for specifications. Be sure the poster accurately meets the guidelines and objectives of the activities in the manual.
3. All items must be securely mounted on the poster or display board
4. When designing your poster, you should consider: lines, shapes, textures, colors and placement of items.