



CLAY COUNTY 4-H RABBITS

*Updated for 2026

Leader: Melissa Orman (melissaorman827@gmail.com)

ENROLLMENT:

- Members must be enrolled in Clay County 4-H by and in the Clay County 4-H Rabbit Project by May 15th.
- Rabbits must be under the continuous care, responsibility, and ownership of the 4-H member by May 15th.
- All rabbits must be enrolled via [4HOnline](#) by May 15th. Deadline for Show Entries is **July 1st** and must be completed online at [faireentry.com](#). The online entry must include all animals that are intended to be shown at the fair, including all Meat Classes (Meat Pen, Single Fryer, Roasters, and Stewers), Breeders, and Fur.
- Siblings will be allowed to co-enroll rabbits on 4Honline.
- At fair check-in, if your rabbit's ID does not match what is enrolled in 4HOnline (variety or gender), they will be shown in an exhibition class and will not be eligible for the Best of Show award.**
- All Clay County 4-H Rabbit project members are recommended to attend a minimum of four (4) Rabbit Club meetings per year.
- ALL show rabbits (meat pen exception) MUST be tattooed by May 15th.**
- Each Exhibitor is expected to help with Set-up and Clean up during the Fair.**
- All animal exhibits: Tattoo in left ear of animal MUST be legible and appear exactly the same as what was entered on 4HOnline.

HEALTH:

- 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.
- Exhibitors must check **IN** and **OUT** (at entry and release at fair) with the superintendent(s).
- DISEASED or UNHEALTHY RABBITS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- The undersides of rabbits should not be matted.

GROOMING:

Clay County 4-H encourages members and their immediate families to be the primary groomers of their animals. However, exhibitors may use outside groomers for show day assistance if needed. If you plan to have grooming help at the State Fair, please review their updated rule book to ensure all requirements are met. Contact the Extension Office with any questions.

PENNING:

- Each 4-H member will be responsible for the care, feeding, watering, and cleaning of their animals during the Fair.
- Pens will be assigned by the superintendents. **The # of rabbits staying during the fair per exhibitor will be announced after FairEntry is complete.**
- Members will have a pen fee of no more than \$5 per pen due at the beginning of the fair. Please see your leader for continued communication on this fee.

SHOW:

- Each member may show one (1) rabbit per variety, per class, per breed.**
- 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.**
- Only A.R.B.A. recognized breeds and Classes will be accepted. All A.R.B.A., County and Club show rules will apply.
- On judging day, exhibitors will be responsible for carrying rabbits to and from the judging table.
- Grooming will be allowed up to 15 minutes prior to the start of the show.**
- All rabbits should only be in the show arena or rabbit barn on show day, not in the bleacher area.
- ALL exhibitors are required to stay for the entire judging of all animals. The Superintendent and or 4-H Council must approve any exceptions.
- Recommended Show Attire: long sleeve shirt/jacket or club t-shirt, long pants and closed toe shoes.
- The Mini 4-H Show will include members that are enrolled in the Clay Co. Mini 4-H program and have met the grade/age requirement per species as listed in their handbook. Mini 4-H members must be entered in the rabbit project by **May 18, 2026** to allot time for pairing with an older 4-H member & their animal.

Continued on the next page...

**SHOW CLASSES**

- a) **SIX CLASS:**
- Senior Buck
 - Senior Doe
 - 6-8 Buck
 - 6-8 Doe
 - Junior Buck
 - Junior Doe
- b) **FOUR CLASS:**
- Senior Buck
 - Senior Doe
 - Junior Buck
 - Junior Doe
- c) **MEAT CLASSES:**
1. Members may **ONLY** show one (1) entry in any of the following four Meat classes; Meat Pens (3 rabbits), Single Fryer, Roaster and Stewers.
 2. A member may enter one or more of the four Meat Classes.
 3. All entries in the Meat Classes must be listed on 4HOnline by **July 1st**.
 4. **Rabbits shown in Meat Classes CAN NOT be shown in regular breeding classes.**
 5. Meat Classes will be judged according to A.R.B.A. Standard of Perfection
 - **Meat Pens**
 - (1) Consist of three (3) rabbits, all of the same breed and variety. Broken group meat pens must also be of the same variety.
 - (2) Each rabbit must weigh a minimum of 3 ½ lbs. and not exceed 5 ½ lbs.
 - (3) Rabbits must **NOT** be over 10 weeks old on the day of show.
 - (4) 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
 - (5) Members are not required to own and provide care for the Dam (of the Meat Pen exhibit).
 - **Single Fryer**
 - (1) Consists of one (1) rabbit.
 - (2) Must weigh a minimum of 3 ½ lbs. and not exceed 5 ½ lbs.
 - (3) The rabbit must **NOT** be over 10 weeks of age as of the day of show.
 - (4) **Fryer can come from your meat pen.**
 - **Roasters**
 - (1) Consist of one (1) rabbit
 - (2) Must weigh a minimum of 5 ½ lbs. and not exceed 9 lbs.
 - (3) The rabbit must be under 6 months of age and over as of the day of the show.
 - **Stewers**
 - (1) Consist of one (1) rabbit
 - (2) Minimum weight over 8 pounds.
 - (3) The rabbit must be 6 months of age or older as of the day of the show.
- d) **BREEDERS CLASS** (Born and Raised Rabbits by 4-H Exhibitor):
1. **Rabbits must have been born at the exhibitor's rabbitry and raised by that exhibitor and listed on 4HOnline.**
 2. Rabbits 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.
 3. Members may **ONLY** show one (1) rabbit in this class and this entry must be listed on FairEntry **WITH** a copy of the rabbit's Pedigree presented at check-in. **DO NOT** bring your original pedigree.
 4. This class will be judged after Regular Classes are judged. Champion and Reserve Champion will be chosen.
- e) **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 do apply.
 3. **Rabbits in this class must be shown FIRST in the Regular Class. If it is disqualified in Regular Class, then it is not eligible to be 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's fur description.

Continued on the next page...



SHOW AWARDS

Champion & Reserve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Four Class • Best Six Class 	Champion & Reserve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustrated Talk 	Best In Show	
Champion BBQ Individual: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novice • Junior • Intermediate • Senior 	Champion BBQ Team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novice • Junior • Intermediate • Senior 	Champion Ambassador: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novice • Junior • Intermediate • Senior • Master 	Champion & Reserve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breeders Class • Fryer • Fur Class • Stewer • Meat Pen • Roaster

RABBIT ILLUSTRATED TALK

- 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
- Illustrated Talks will be delivered at the beginning of Rabbit Show and judged by rabbit judge.
- Illustrated Talk entries must be entered via online at fairentury.com by **July 1st**.

RABBIT AMBASSADOR CONTEST RULES

- Submit entry online at fairentury.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 the 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 the contest.
- All material for tests comes from the Domestic Rabbit Guide by the ARBA and the ARBA Standard of Perfection.
- In case of tie-scores, the highest test score will place higher, or if needed, additional test questions will be added.
- Awards will be given for the three top placings in each division.

RABBIT BARBECUE CONTEST

- 4-H Rabbit members must enter online at fairentury.com by **July 1st**.
- 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 (4) Divisions: Novice Single (grades 3-4), Jr. Single (grades 5-6), Intermediate Single (grades 7-8), Sr. Single (grades 9-12); Novice Team (2 individuals), Junior Team (2 individuals), Intermediate 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.

Continued on the next page...



Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training

To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training. This is an annual program that can be completed in-person by attending one of the classes on the following dates at the Fairgrounds:

- **March 18, 2026**
- **April 27, 2026**
- **May 21, 2026**
- **June 30, 2026**

An online option is available for \$12 through the YQCA program. Once you complete this [online course](#), you must email the Extension Office your final certificate emailed to you at completion showing your certification number.

CLAY COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK AUCTION:

Rabbit members may designate any type of 6 Class rabbit for the auction or a meat pen.

The livestock auction will be held at the conclusion of the fair. In order to participate, you must show an animal at the fair and designate an animal to go through the auction at fair check-in. A small auction fee percentage will be deducted from each member's check. Detailed auction information will be finalized closer to fair.

REFERENCES:

[Purdue Extension Rabbit Project](#)
[Indiana State Fair Book - Rabbits](#)

IMPORTANT RABBIT DATES:

May 18, 2026	Mini 4-Her's must be signed up to participate in the Mini rabbit show.
May 15, 2026	Deadline to enroll rabbits online—Your enrollment will not be complete if your show animals are not identified online. Exhibitors who fail to register their animals online before the May 15th deadline will not be eligible to exhibit at the county or state fair.
July 1, 2026	Fair Entry due
TBD	Deadline to register rabbits online for the State Fair.
TBD	Rabbit Ambassador Contest
July 18 - 24, 2026	Clay County Fair
July 17, 2026	Rabbit check-in at the Clay County Fair
July 18, 2026	Rabbit show at the Clay County Fair
July 18, 2026	Mini 4-H Rabbit show
July 23, 2026 (9:00 PM)	Rabbits released
July 24, 2026	Clay County livestock auction
August 7 - 23, 2026	Indiana State Fair

