



## CLAY COUNTY 4-H RABBITS

\*Updated for 2025

4-H Rabbit Club leaders: Dani Miller – (812)870-4788 ([daniella.miller17@yahoo.com](mailto:daniella.miller17@yahoo.com)) and  
Derick Modesitt – (812)236-4261 ([modesittderick@yahoo.com](mailto:modesittderick@yahoo.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 15<sup>th</sup>. Deadline for Show Entries is **July 1<sup>st</sup>** and must be completed online at [fairentry.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 or 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:

\*NEW FOR 2025\*

4-H Exhibitors that use groomers for show day assistance at the Clay County 4-H Fair, your groomers **WILL NOT** be required to be enrolled in the Indiana 4-H Approved Animal Grooming Assistance Program. However, if you plan to have groomers assistance at the State Fair, those individuals *may be required* to be enrolled in the Indiana 4-H Approved Animal Grooming Assistance Program. Please reach out to the Extension Office in the Spring for enrollment assistance or refer to the State Fair rule books.

### 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 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 judging time.
- 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 9, 2025** to allot time for pairing with an older 4-H member & their animal.



## 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.

#### ■ 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** (Clay County 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.



## SHOW AWARDS

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

## 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 [fairentry.com](http://fairentry.com) by **July 1st**.

## RABBIT AMBASSADOR CONTEST RULES

- Submit entry online at [fairentry.com](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade; Junior 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade; Intermediate 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade; Senior 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade and Master in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 [fairentry.com](http://fairentry.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.

## 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 19, 2025
- April 29, 2025
- May 22, 2025
- June 30, 2025

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/Benefit for the Barns Event will be held upon the conclusion of the fair. In order to be eligible, you must show an animal at the fair and have a designated animal for auction. A small percentage auction fee 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:**

<b>May 9, 2025</b>	Mini 4-Her's must be signed up to participate in the Mini rabbit show.
<b>May 15, 2025</b>	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.
<b>July 1, 2025</b>	Fair Entry due
<b>TBD</b>	Deadline to register rabbits online for the State Fair.
<b>July 6, 2025</b>	Rabbit Ambassador Contest
<b>July 12 - 18, 2025</b>	Clay County Fair
<b>July 11, 2025 (6:00 PM - 10:00 PM)</b>	Rabbit check-in at the Clay County Fair
<b>July 12, 2025</b>	Rabbit show at the Clay County Fair
<b>July 12, 2025</b>	Mini 4-H Rabbit show
<b>July 17, 2025 (9:00 PM)</b>	Rabbits released
<b>July 18, 2025</b>	Clay County livestock auction
<b>August 1 - 17, 2025</b>	Indiana State Fair
<b>August 8 - 10, 2025</b>	State Fair Rabbit shows & Ambassador Program



*Clay County Terms & Conditions*