



Rabbit

Description:

The 4-H Rabbit program provides youth with educational information and experiences about different rabbit species.

Decatur County Expectations

One (1) or more animals fed and cared for by member by May 15th (or by tattoo date). Rabbit record sheets should be completed and returned at check-in.

State Fair Entries

An animal does not need to be shown locally in order to be shown at the state fair. If you do not show at the county level, the animal must still be registered by May 15th in 4-H Online.

Exhibit Guidelines

Tag and Tattoo Requirements: All rabbits must have a tattoo even meat pen rabbits. Tattoo date is May 13th, 9:00am – 12:00pm. The tattoo information must be accurately listed in the 4-H Online System. Any animal not officially enrolled by the enrollment date is not eligible to show at the county or state fair.

General Rabbit Rules:

A participating 4-H member may show a maximum of 8 entries plus one meat pen and/or single fryer (you will be provided one (1) pen at no charge for supplies). For information on YQCA or Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care or grounds fees, please refer to the website. Additional questions and situations will be handled by the Rabbit Project Leaders, 4-H & Youth Development Extension Educator and the 4-H Council President.

Animals that are not participating in the 4-H auction, will be released at the conclusion of the Tom Swain Memorial Showmanship Competition. Any special circumstances that may result in early release will be determined by the Project Leader(s) and the 4-H Youth Educator.

Exhibit Class Guidelines:

4-H Rabbit Illustrated Talk Contest

Each 4-H Rabbit Illustrated talk should be original and of a practical nature related to some phase of the rabbit industry. Elaborate and expensive equipment cannot be justified. The Illustrated Talk should last 5 – 7 minutes for Level One and Level Two, and 5-10 minutes for Level Three. Judges will deduct points when the presentation exceeds ten (10) minutes for a Level 1 and 2, and fifteen (15) minutes for a Level 3.

4-H Rabbit Poster Contest

Any participating 4-H rabbit project member may enter one rabbit poster. The purpose of the poster is to share something learned from the rabbit project this year. Posters must be the original work of the 4-H member. Posters used in previous years will be disqualified.

The poster will be 22" x 28" displayed horizontally with a stiff backing and covered in plastic. Your name should be on the back of the poster and a tag will be furnished for the front of the poster; listing the level, club, county, etc. (poster board and plastic sleeve can be purchased at the Extension Office).

A 3" x 5" card should be placed on the back of the poster listing the references. It is required that all posters, notebooks, and display boards include reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving credit to the original author, to complete participating 4-H member's exhibit. This reference list should include website links, people and professionals interviewed, books, magazines, etc. A judge is not to discredit an exhibit for the manner in which references are listed.

Each 4-H rabbit poster exhibit will receive a blue, red, or white ribbon based on quality as determined by the judge. A Grand Champion rosette will be awarded for the overall poster winner.

4-H Rabbit Ambassador Contest

The participating 4-H member must furnish their own rabbit. Preparation of the rabbit will be completed before the contest. Attention to the cleanliness of the rabbit and its health is very important. Rabbits used in the contest must be one of the rabbits entered for the regular show. The grades for divisions are as of January 1st of the current year. Divisions are as follows:

Novice: Grades 3-4

Junior: Grades 5-6

Intermediate: Grades 7-8

Senior: Grades 9-10

Master: Grade 11 and above

Questions, for all divisions of the contest, will be taken from the following publications: Rabbits, Rabbits, Rabbits (4-H publication #288) and Standard of Perfection 2006 (published by ARBA). In the event there is conflict of information, the Standard of Perfection is considered the authority. Tie scores will be broken as follows: highest test score, then, if necessary, highest breed identification score, then, if necessary, oral test given by a committee of three (3) people appointed by the rabbit ambassador chairperson.

Contest Procedures:

Test: 100 Points – Questions may be true/false, multiple choice or a combination of thereof

Novice and Junior Categories: twenty-five (25) questions

Intermediate, Senior and Master Categories: fifty (50) questions

Breed Identification: 60 Points

Identify and classify ten (10) rabbits according to show room classification and class. Show room classification refers to the term used to enter the rabbit in a show thereby indicating how it is shown. Specifically, the Netherland Dwarf rabbit is shown by a variety and should be identified by variety only. The Jersey Wooly breed is shown by groups and should be identified by group only.

Showmanship: 100 Points

Each contestant must furnish their own rabbit and bring the rabbit to the judge in a solid bottom carrier. Rabbit must be tattooed. Rabbits used in the Ambassador contest must be entered in the rabbit show. Contestants should refer to the 4-H Rabbit Ambassador Contest Showmanship Score Sheet resource. This form will be available in the Extension Office or on the 4-H website.

4-H Rabbit Judging

All rabbits must be purebred, no mixed breed rabbits will be accepted. Rabbits will be brought in approximately six (6) weeks prior to the fair for identification, with the exception of the meat pen rabbits. You will receive a postcard designating the time, date, and place from the 4-H Project Leader. Rabbits will be divided into classes according to breed sections:

Senior Buck: eight (8) months and older

Senior Doe: either (8) months and older

6/8 Buck: six (6) to eight (8) months

6/8 Doe: six (6) to eight (8) months

Meat Pen: between 3½ lbs. up to 5½ lbs., not over 70 days

Junior Buck: under six (6) months

Junior Doe: under six (6) months

Each participating 4-H member may show one meat pen. A meat pen is constituted by three (3) rabbits of the same breed and the same variety; each rabbit weighing between 3½ lbs. up to 5½ lbs., not over 70 days. Meat pen rabbits must weigh a minimum of 3½ lbs. each to sell in the livestock sale.

Entry must be permanently marked with a readable ear tattoo (in left ear) when presented to the Project Leader(s) for entry. No rabbit will be accepted unless checked in by the Project Leader(s). Any rabbit showing signs of disease or defect will be rejected by the designated health inspector and/or Project Leader(s). The designated health inspector's word is final.

All cages will be filled by order of entry. No animals or equipment will be placed in cages until animals have been checked-in. All exhibitors must furnish their own feed, feeders, and waterers. Animals will be released the last day of the fair at 6:30pm, expect for meat pen rabbits to be sold in the auction. Rabbits removed before the last day without consent of the Project Leader(s) will forfeit all prizes.

A rabbit entered in one class may only be shown in that class. It may not be shown in another class, except for the Single Fryer Class. Single Fryer rabbits may be selected and shown from the 4-H members Meat Pen entry. All participating 4-H exhibitors are responsible on the day of judging for carrying their rabbits to and from the judging table. Show personnel will not carry any 4-H rabbits for judging.

Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons will be given for each breed. Each exhibit will receive a blue, red, or white ribbon based on the quality as determined by the judges.

Mini 4-H Requirements

To be eligible to show in any Mini 4-H animal show, the participating Mini 4-H member must be enrolled in the 4-H Online System by May 15th. All rabbits shown in the Mini 4-H Show must be a preregistered rabbit. A Mini 4-H Show will be held at the start of the Rabbit Show in the Rabbit Barn. A participation ribbon will be presented to each participant.

Fraud and Deception

Fraud and/or deception will not be allowed relative to 4-H exhibits. Fraud and/or deception being defined to include, but not limited to, the following terms:

Tampering (altering) and/or misrepresentation relative to an animal's breeding, age, ownership, and/or method of preparation or completion.

Artificial enhancements of adding, removing and/or remedying physical filling under the skin, use of artificial heels, methods to give the appearance of hair in locations where it is not grown naturally and false swatches.

Unethical fitting of animal exhibits considered as consisting of administration of any substance (this includes, but is not limited to, carbonated beverages, alcoholic beverages, forced consumption of water, etc.) or performance of any surgical procedure, altering the animal's conformation and/or rendering its tissue unfit at the time of exhibition. Exceptions include hoof trimming, dehorning, removal of hair, manipulation of normally attached hair, and treatments or surgical procedures applied to relieve pain and suffering of sick or injured animal, providing such treatments do not render the animal's tissue unit for human consumption.

Determination of Fraud & Deception

Species Project Leader(s), Extension Youth Educator & 4-H Council President will determine if fraud and deception have occurred. Any suspected animals may be required, upon conclusion of judging, to submit to examination or tests as prescribed by the 4-H Council. If the Project Leader(s) determines that fraud and deception have occurred, the result may be disqualification.

Penalty: upon determination that fraud and/or deception has occurred prior to, during, or after judging, any one or more of the following penalties may be imposed:

- The exhibit in question may be immediately disqualified
- Any or all premiums, trophies and awards won by the exhibitor in any or all Fair departments may be withdrawn and required to be refunded or returned to the species Project Leader(s).

- The 4-H Exhibitor may be barred from the competition at the Decatur County 4-H Exhibition shows in the project where the fraud or deception for up to three years.

Due Process

The assessment of any or all penalties for fraud and/or deception, excepting immediate disqualification shall follow the below listed processes:

- The director in charge of the department will determine which penalties to impose.
- The exhibitor will be notified in writing of the penalties imposed.
- Within 15 days of receiving written notification, the exhibitor may appeal the decision in writing to the Decatur County 4-H Council.

A date will be set for the hearing by the 4-H Council and the exhibitor will be notified in writing.