

RABBITS

General Livestock Information: See page 13 for more information

Manual Information: See page 11 for more information.

Mini 4-H: Refer to Mini 4-H rules on page 14.

Animal Enrollment Deadline: ALL animals MUST be identified in FairEntry by May 15th. See page 13 for more information.

Quality Livestock Assurance: In order to show an animal, 4-H members must be certified through Quality Assurance Training. Please See page 15 for more information.

Animal Education Posters: See Animal Education page 45. **ALL POSTERS** need to be turned in on check-in day for the exhibit buildings. **DO NOT** turn any posters in at animal check ins.

Stall Selection Process: Pens are set up on stall selection night but not assigned. Pens are given first come first serve at check in.

County Eligibility & Possession

1. Member must meet all requirements of the Rabbit Project and Dubois County 4-H membership.
2. Rabbits must be owned and cared for by the 4-H member or their immediate family **by May 15**.
 - a. Ownership and identification must be recorded in 4-H Online by May 15.
 - b. Rabbits must be housed at the member's home/farm and cared for by the member.
 - c. **All rabbits must have a permanent legible ear tattoo** (left ear).
3. Rabbits sold, traded, or exhibited by someone outside the member's family after May 15 are **ineligible to show**.

Mini 4-H Rabbit (County Opportunity Only)

1. Open to youth in grades K–2 enrolled in Mini 4-H (liability release required).
2. One rabbit per child — may be shared with a sibling or brought from home.
3. Rabbits brought from home must check in Sunday and remain all week.
4. Sign up for showmanship via FairEntry before or at check-in.
5. Mini members are not eligible for meat classes.
6. Rabbits will be judged by ARBA age/weight standards.
7. Mini 4-H members may also exhibit a poster.

Number of Animals Exhibited Exhibitors may show any number of rabbits by breed/class if:

1. Enrolled and active in 4-H Online by May 15
2. Rabbits are identified in 4-H Online by May 15

County Exhibition and State Fair Exhibition

To participate, a member may choose one or more of the following:

1. Exhibit a **live rabbit** (ARBA or Grade/Mixed Breed) during the fair.
2. Exhibit a **poster** (turn in on exhibit building check-in day).

3. Give a **Rabbit Interactive Demonstration** (informal 3–5 minute demo during fair; not judged).
4. Participate in all three sections of the **Rabbit Ambassador Competition** (see below).

Rules:

- Early removal of rabbits or posters forfeits awards.
- Rabbits not picked up at checkout become property of the fair.
- State Fair entries follow Indiana State Fair Rabbit 4-H Entry Book (deadline approx. July 1).
- Mini 4-H members are not eligible for State Fair.

Substitute Showman:

- Only 4-H members may handle rabbits on the judging table.
- If a substitute is needed, it must be another 4-H rabbit member and a form must be completed at check-in.

Animal Health

- All rabbits must pass health check by committee staff before penning.
- Rabbits with sores or illness will be sent home.
- Exhibitors whose rabbits are dismissed for health reasons may still participate by:
 - Exhibiting a poster,
 - Giving an Interactive Demo, or
 - Entering the Rabbit Ambassador Competition.
- Health decisions by check-in staff are final.

Sanitation

- Exhibitors are responsible for clean pens and attractive displays.
- Provide own feed, bedding, water bowls, and feed containers.
- Dispose of waste in designated areas only.
- Wire-bottom inserts (20"×20", raised 2–3") may be used.
- Consider travel time, heat, and ventilation when transporting rabbits.

Breed Classes

1. Breed classes are determined according to the appropriate standards as listed in the most current edition of the "Standard of Perfection" as published by the ARBA. Classes will also be judged according to ages and weights as established by the A.R.B.A.
 - **No breed animal may be shown in the Small Pets project.**
2. 6 Class animals are defined as those animals that are exhibited in the following classes;
 - Senior Buck – 8 months of age or over
 - Senior Doe - 8 months of age or over
 - Intermediate Buck – between 6-8 months of age
 - Intermediate Doe - between 6-8 months of age
 - Junior Buck – under 6 months of age
 - Junior Doe – under 6 months of age
3. 4 Class animals are defined as those animals that are exhibited in the following classes;
 - Senior Buck – 6 months of age or over

- . Senior Does – 6 months of age or over
- . Junior Bucks – under 6 months of age
- . Junior Does – under 6 months of age

Other Breed Classes

1. Grade (Mixed Breed) rabbits are not considered a breed by A.R.B.A. Standard of Perfection and as such are not eligible to be shown in the breed classes. The same Grade rabbit can only be showed in either the Other Breed Class or in the Meat Classes. The same rabbit cannot be in both.
2. Grade (Mixed Breed) are defined as those animals that are exhibited in the following classes, and in this class the grade (Mixed Breed) animals can only be as good as a Champion Rabbit they will not showed in the six-class championship or Best of Show.
 - . Senior Buck – 8 months of age or over
 - . Senior Doe – 8 months of age or over
 - . Intermediate Buck – between 6-8 months of age
 - . Intermediate Doe – between 6-8 months of age
 - . Junior Buck – under 6 months of age
 - . Junior Doe – under 6 months of age
3. Grade rabbits can be shown in the meat classes.

Meat Classes

1. **Any animal being shown as a BREED ANIMAL or GRADE/MIXED BREED IS NOT eligible to be shown at the same fair in any meat class.**
2. Meat pens shall consist of:
 - . Three (3) rabbits, all of the same breed and variety;
 - . A meat pen does not necessarily have to come from the same litter;
 - . Maximum age limit for a meat pen is not over 10 weeks;
 - . The minimum weight is 3 pounds for each rabbit;
 - . The maximum weight for each rabbit is 5 pounds each.
 - . **None of the 3 meat pen animals can be a breed animal being exhibited at the current fair.**
3. Single Fryers shall consist of:
 - . One (1) animal
 - . Maximum age limit for a single fryer is not over 10 weeks of age
 - . The minimum weight is 3 pounds
 - . The maximum weight is 5 pounds.
 - . **Single fryers can come from a meat pen being exhibited by the same person however, they cannot be a breed animal being exhibited at the current fair.**
4. Single Roasters shall consist of:
 - . One (1) animal;
 - . Maximum age limit for a single roaster is under 6 months of age;
 - . The minimum weight is over 5 pounds;
 - . The maximum weight is 8 pounds.
 - . **Single Roasters cannot come from a meat pen or be a breed animal being exhibited at the current fair.**
5. Single Stewers shall consist of:
 - . One (1) animal;
 - . Minimum age limit for a single stewart is over 6 months of age;

- . The minimum weight is over 8 pounds.
- . **Single Stewers cannot come from a meat pen or be a breed animal being exhibited at the current fair.**

Rabbit Ambassador (Showmanship)

1. **Purpose:** Allow 4-H youth the opportunity to show a working knowledge of the rabbit industry. In particular, youth are encouraged to show their knowledge of the various breeds and varieties of rabbits as defined by the American Rabbit Breeders Association and to demonstrate knowledge of care, breeding and management of rabbits. In addition, this competition is also designed to allow 4-H youth to demonstrate their knowledge of the handling, presentation, and judging of the rabbit breed of their choice.
2. **Eligibility:** Youth must be enrolled in the 4-H program in Dubois County in the current year and enrolled in the Dubois County Rabbit Project for the current year.
3. For purposes of this competition youth will be divided as follows:
 - . **Novice:** 4-H member in the 3rd or 4th grade on January 1st of the current year.
 - . **Junior:** 4-H member in the 5th or 6th grade on January 1st of the current year.
 - . **Intermediate:** 4-H member in the 7th or 8th grade on January 1st of the current year.
 - . **Senior:** 4-H member in the 9th or 10th grade on January 1st of the current year.
 - . **Master:** 4-H member in the 11th grade or above on January 1st of the current year.
 - . **Supreme:** 4-H member who has won Master but is still 4-H eligible.
4. **Note:** Category winners are not eligible in the same category again. Winners are eligible to compete in the next higher category the following year. Winners of the Master category may come back in the Supreme category. Contact Extension Office for next level higher manual for study if needed.
5. **Competition Format:** The Dubois County 4-H Rabbit Ambassador Competition will be divided into three parts. Those three parts are:
 - . **Knowledge test – 100 points**
 - . The knowledge test will be a written test consisting of true-false, word definitions, and multiple-choice questions. The questions will be taken from the project manuals as supplied by the Dubois County Extension Office and from the American Rabbit Breeders Association “Standard of Perfection.” The most current versions of these documents will be used. In the event there is a conflict of information, “The Standard of Perfection” will be considered the definitive authority.
6. **Breed Identification - 100 points**
 - . Identify ten (10) rabbits according to their showroom breed name, variety, breed class, profile, and a specific question for that specific Breed. IE: six class or four class.
7. **Showmanship - 100 points**
 - . Each contestant must furnish his/her own rabbit and bring the rabbit to the judge in a carrier. Rabbit **MUST** be tattooed.
8. **Other Items:**
 - . **All grading by 4-H Rabbit Committee is Final**
 - . Youth are not permitted to have or consult any study materials or notes from the time the competition begins until the competition is complete.
 - . Youth are requested to remain in the barn during the competition.
 - . If a youth must leave the barn for any reason, please check in with the show staff before leaving.