

ELKHART COUNTY 4-H  
RABBIT CLUB  
2023 HANDBOOK



**I Pledge:**

**My Head to clearer thinking,  
My Heart to greater loyalty,  
My Hands to larger service,  
My Health to better living, for  
My club, My community,  
My Country and My world**

**4-H Motto:**

**"To Make the Best Better"**

**Welcome to the Elkhart County  
4-H Rabbit Club**

**FACEBOOK:**

[www.facebook.com/ECRabbitClub](http://www.facebook.com/ECRabbitClub)

**Elkhart County 4-H Rabbit Club Email:**

[ec4hrabbitclub@gmail.com](mailto:ec4hrabbitclub@gmail.com)

**Remind Text (club texting alerts)**

Get club texting alerts by texting the message @ecrabbit to 81010

**4Hfair.org**

**extension.purdue.edu/Elkhart**

**Indianastatefair.com**

Please contact your Leaders with any questions you may have.

**Israel Stark - 574-849-8823**

**Tammy Stark - 574-849-8824**

## Table of Contents

Page 1	Handbook Cover
Page 2	Club "Get Connected" Info
Page 3	Table of Contents
Page 4	Club Introduction
Page 5	Leadership Contact Information
Page 6	Project Leader Contact Information
Page 7	Calendar
Page 8	Breeds of Rabbits
Page 9-12	Live Rabbit Exhibit, Exhibiting at Fair, Rabbit Poster Exhibit
Page 13	Auction Rules
Page 14	Club Dues, Mentor Program, Jr. Officer Positions
Page 15	Advisory Board, ARBA, Meat Pen, Special Class
Page 16	Petting Pen, Bunny Hut, Barn Supervision
Page 17-18	Rabbit Ambassador Contest
Page 19	Rabbit Showmanship, Round Robin
Page 20	Breed ID, Knowledge Test, Illustrated Talk
Page 21	Action Demonstration Contest, Costume Contest, Photo Contest
Page 22	4-H Fair Queen Contest
Page 23	Marvin J. Yoder 4-H Rabbit Club Scholarship
Page 24-25	Rabbit Club Achievement Points

## Check Off List

- Enrolled in 4-H online
- Completed YQCA
- Completed Animal ID
- Signed up for Remind Text and Facebook
- Check club calendar for upcoming events/work days
- Mentor Program
- Paid Club Dues
- Signed up for Bunny Hut Shift
- Signed up for Bunny Hut Food Donations
- Signed up for Barn Supervision
- Signed up for Contest
  - Ambassador
  - Showmanship
  - Illustrated Talk
  - Costume Contest
  - Breed ID
  - Knowledge Test
  - Fair Queen

## **Parents and Members**

Welcome to the Elkhart County 4-H Rabbit Club! There is so much to learn about rabbits and we want to make this the best learning experience possible. We want to encourage the entire family to get involved with the activities, fundraisers, workshops and meetings. You will soon learn that the time and effort that you put into your project and club will be rewarding and educational.

To start out, please take time to read the member handbook in its entirety. Our goal is to make sure you are up to date as possible with the club.

It is never too late to get involved with Rabbit Club. We are always in need of helpers throughout the year. Without the assistance of volunteers, we would not be able to be the amazing club that we are. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions that you may have throughout the year. Thank you in advance for your time and dedication to the Elkhart County 4-H Rabbit Club.

## **Objectives of the 4-H Rabbit Club**

1. Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship skills along with many other valuable character traits.
2. Experience the pride and responsibility of owning an animal along with the care, feeding and learning about the related cost.
3. Learn safety precautions so that injuries to you and other members, and the animals can be prevented.
4. Promote a love for animals and a humane attitude towards them.
5. Prepare for citizenship responsibilities by working together, supporting community projects and activities. Remember this is your club.
6. Become aware of the opportunities for careers in the rabbit industry or animal field.

The information below is provided so that you can plan ahead for activities during Fair Week. Times will be announced at a later date.

### **FAIR WEEK CALENDAR**

Thursday	July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Check-In
Friday	July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Costume Contest, Rabbit Ambassador Knowledge Test & Breed ID, Queen Contest
Saturday	July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	ARBA Youth Rabbit Show
Sunday	July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Parade
Monday	July 24 <sup>th</sup>	Showmanship Contest
Tuesday	July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Illustrated Talk and Action Demonstration
Wednesday	July 26 <sup>th</sup>	4-H Rabbit Show
Thursday	July 27 <sup>th</sup>	Round Robin Competition for Showmanship Champion
Friday	July 28 <sup>th</sup>	Auction, Check-Out
Saturday	July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Battle of the Barns (Members of your team need to have completed the 7 <sup>th</sup> grade or higher)

## Leadership Team

### **Organizational Leaders:**

<b>Israel Stark</b>	<b>574-849-8823</b>
<b>Tammy Stark</b>	<b>574-849-8824</b>

### **Advisory Board:**

<b>President</b>	<b>Sheryl Kliewer</b>	<b>574-238-6941</b>
<b>Vice President/New Family</b>	<b>Dina Valdez</b>	<b>574-346-2318</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Sheila Kantz</b>	<b>574-215-7910</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jamie Holdeman</b>	<b>574-361-1597</b>
<b>Fair Board Rep.</b>	<b>Jennifer Igney-Noffsinger</b>	<b>574-612-3146</b>
<b>New Family Rep.</b>	<b>Alyssa Yutzy</b>	<b>574-370-4420</b>
<b>New Family Rep.</b>	<b>Rachel Zarse</b>	<b>574-538-7159</b>
<b>Buildings &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>Kathy Fackelman</b>	<b>574-536-3471</b>
<b>Bunny Hut Rep.</b>	<b>Jeanette Keene</b>	<b>574-349-5394</b>
<b>Jr. Advisory Board</b>	<b>Brianna Stark</b>	<b>574-849-1153</b>
<b>Jr. Advisory Board</b>	<b>Gracie Fackelman</b>	<b>574-238-6716</b>

### **Jr Officers**

<b>President</b>	<b>Brianna Stark</b>	<b>574-849-1153</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Gabbee Kantz</b>	<b>574-215-0935</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Savannah Kliewer</b>	<b>574-536-1293</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Connor Yutzy</b>	<b>574-370-2393</b>
<b>Reporter</b>	<b>Sami Fackelman</b>	<b>574-536-9607</b>
<b>Devotions</b>	<b>Leah Yutzy</b>	<b>574-370-2248</b>
<b>Photographer</b>	<b>Logan Cook</b>	<b>574-732-7281</b>
	<b>Libbee Kantz</b>	<b>574-368-3812</b>
	<b>Kaylenna Igney</b>	<b>574-202-9204</b>

## **Project Leaders**

### **First Year Families Rep.**

Dina Valdez	574-346-2318
Alyssa Yutzy	574-370-4420
Rachel Zarse	574-538-7159

### **Project Leader (6 Members Only)**

Cora Cook	574-336-4291
Monica Newton	574-536-7373
Lindsey DeGeeter-Baker	574-575-7352
Megan Nunemaker	574-354-8894
Kelsey Fish	574-360-7011
Michael Yutzy	574-370-3764

## January

- 9<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board @ 7pm Board Room
- 12<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting @ 7pm Martin / Fidler Room ECCC
- 15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for 4-H Registration
- \*\*Start Chocolate Bunny fundraiser\*\*

## February

- 2<sup>nd</sup> New Family Meeting @ 7pm Martin Room
- 6<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board @ 7pm Martin Room
- 9<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting @ 7pm Home & Family Arts
- 25<sup>th</sup> Breed ID Expo @ 10-1 Home & Family Arts

## March

- 2<sup>nd</sup> New Family Meeting @ 7pm Martin Room
- 6<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board @ 7pm Martin Room
- 9<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting @ 7pm Martin / Fidler Room ECCC
- \*\*Chocolate Bunny Orders Due\*\*
- \*\*Nominate Queen Candidate\*\*
- \*\*Start Geranium Order\*\*
- \*\*Tattooing at Meeting (6 per Family)\*\*
- \*\*Start T-Shirt Designs\*\*

## April

- 10<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board @7pm Martin Room
- 13<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting @ 7pm Martin / Fidler Room ECCC
- TBD Geranium Order Turn IN
- TBD Geranium Pick up on Fairgrounds
- \*\*T-Shirt Designs need to be turned in\*\*
- \*\*Tattooing at meeting (6 per Family)\*\*

## May

- 1<sup>st</sup> Advisory Board @ 7pm Board Room
- 11<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting @ 7pm Building E
- 15<sup>th</sup> Animal ID MUST be completed online
- 15<sup>th</sup> YQCA Must be completed
- 20<sup>th</sup> Club Work Day #1 @ 8am
- \*\*Donations for Parade Candy, Zip Ties, Food Drive\*\*
- \*\*Tattooing at Meeting (6 per Family)\*\*

## June

- 5<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board @ 7pm Martin Room
- 8<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting @ 7pm Home & Family Arts
- 10<sup>th</sup> Club Work Day #2 @ 8am
- 24<sup>th</sup> Bunny Break Down @10-1 Rabbit Barn
- \*\*Record Books are due at meeting\*\*
- \*\*Donations for Parade Candy, Zip Ties, Food Drive\*\*
- \*\*Tattooing at Meeting (6 per Family)\*\*

## July

- 10<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board @ 7pm Clover Hill #2
- 13<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting @ 7pm Building E
- 15<sup>th</sup> Club Work Day #3 @ 8am
- 20<sup>th</sup> Rabbit Club Check-In
- 21<sup>st</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> Fair Week
- 29<sup>th</sup> Rabbit Club Auction, Check-Out
- 29<sup>th</sup> Club Work Day #4
- \*\*Resume Due at Meeting for Ambassador Contest\*\*
- \*\*Tattooing at Meeting (6 per Family)\*\*

## August

- 8<sup>th</sup> Rabbit Club Banquet @ 7pm Mennonite / Showalter ECCC
- \*\*Vote on New 2024 Board Members\*\*
- \*\*Vote on New 2024 Jr. Officers\*\*

## Other Dates

- Sept 11<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board @ 7pm Board Room
- Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> Advisory Board @ 7pm Board Room
- Nov 6<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board @ 7pm Martin Room
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board @ 7pm Clover Hill #2

## **BREEDS OF RABBITS**

### **4 Class Rabbits (32)**

American Fuzzy Lop  
American Sable  
Angora (English)  
Angora (French)  
Angora (Satin)  
Belgain Hare  
Britannia Petite  
Chinchilla (Standard)  
Czech Frosty  
Dutch  
Dwarf Hotot  
Dwarf Papillion  
English Spot  
Florida White  
Harlequin  
Havana  
Himalayan  
Holland Lop  
Jersey Wooly  
Lilac  
Lionhead  
Mini Lop  
Mini Rex  
Mini Satin  
Netherland Dwarf  
Polish  
Rex  
Rhineland  
Silver  
Silver Marten  
Tan  
Thrianta

### **6 Class Rabbits (19)**

American  
Angora (Giant)  
Argente Brun  
Beveren  
Californian  
Champagne D Argent  
Checkered Giant  
Chinchilla (American)  
Chinchilla (Giant)  
Cinnamon  
Creme D Argent  
Flemish Giant  
Hotot  
English Lop  
French Lop  
New Zealand  
Palomino  
Satin  
Silver Fox

### **Wednesday Show Only:**

The show order (by breed name) will be A to Z on even numbered Fair years and Z to A on odd numbered Fair years. With the exception of meat pens, fuzzy breeds and larger 6 class rabbits.



### Live Rabbit Exhibit

(Showing at the fair)

Exhibiting at the Fair is NOT a completion requirement. If you do not own a rabbit, or an ARBA recognized breed, PLEASE see the section on completion requirements.

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR SHOWING A LIVE RABBIT EXHIBIT AT FAIR:**

1. Rabbit must be an ARBA (American Rabbit Breeders Association) recognized breed.
2. Two (2) purchased rabbits will be allowed. (Must be purchased by the May meeting) All other rabbits must be raised by the member. Meat pen rabbits CANNOT be purchased since only 2 purchased rabbits can be shown. (Definition of RAISED: kits born on Rabbit Club member's property. **NOTE:** There is a Special Class available for those not able to meet this requirement. Non-recognized breeds or mixed breeds must be shown in Special Class. We do not have a Special class for meat pens.
3. Each Member may enter **THREE** (3) breeds of rabbits for the 4-H Rabbit Show.
4. Each Member may have up to **FIFTEEN** (15) cages

As part of the **FIFTEEN** (15) cages, each member may exhibit one (1) six-class Meat pen (Three rabbits of the same breed and variety) which must be displayed in 1 cage. **NOTE:** These rabbits MUST weigh a min of three (3) pounds and a max of five and one half (5 ½) pounds each, and be under 70 days old. (Unless ARBA standard is changed)

#### 4-Class Rabbits

Meat Pen	(70 days)
Senior Buck	(Over 6 Months Old)
Senior Doe	(Over 6 Months Old)
Junior Buck	(Under 6 Months Old)
Junior Doe	(Under 6 Months Old)

#### 6-Class Rabbits

Meat Pen	(70 Days)
Senior Buck	(Over 8 Months Old)
Senior Doe	(Over 8 Months Old)
6/8 Buck	(6-8 Months Old)
6/8 Doe	(6-8 Months Old)
Junior Buck	(Under 6 Months Old)
Junior Doe	(Under 6 Months Old)
Pre. Jr. Buck	(Under 70 Days Old)
Pre. Jr. Doe	(Under 70 Days Old)

**NOTE:** Many breeds have weight limits for Juniors and 6/8 (Intermediates). Consult the ARBA stands for weight limits on ALL ages and breeds. It is your responsibility to know your breed(s) of rabbit(s) weight limit(s).

5. The rabbits MUST be in good health to show. If any health problems occur with any of your rabbits at any time during the duration of FAIR WEEK: AN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADER AND A BOARD MEMBER MUST BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY!!
6. All rabbits MUST have a permanent ear tattoo in its LEFT ear, BEFORE entering the Fairgrounds. THE TATTOO MUST BE CLEAR AND EASY TO READ or the Rabbit could be disqualified by the Judge. There will be opportunities to have rabbits tattooed at some of the club meetings. There will be a limit of 6 rabbits per member per meeting to be tattooed. THE CLUB AND THE PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEER TO TATTOO RABBITS WILL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR INJURIES TO RABBITS DURING THE TATTOOING PROCESS.
7. ALL rabbits must be weaned.

### **Exhibiting at the Fair**

1. Record books MUST be turned into the 4-H Rabbit Club by the June Meeting record books need to be completed in order to receive your Fair Passes. A penalty of 10 points will be deducted from workbooks/record sheets turned in after the June Meeting.
2. Animal ID must be completed online by the May 15th deadline. Untattooed kits must be added to Animal ID with an assigned tattoo. Only the gender of kits can be changed at check in. All tattoos must match the Animal ID registration at check-in.
3. Rabbits MUST be on exhibition by 7:00pm the Thursday before Fair begins. There will be only ONE check-in. There will NOT be any Friday check-ins. All rabbits must be weaned. Rabbits must be checked out by 3:00pm the last Friday of Fair. The Rabbit Club WILL NOT be responsible for the safety and well-being of any rabbits remaining in the barn after the check-out time.
4. ANY RABBIT THAT HAS A STAR, OR OTHER SYMBOL, IN ITS EAR, MAY NOT BE BROUGHT TO THE LOCAL 4-H FAIR OR THE STATE FAIR FOR EXHIBIT. A registration tattoo is an exception to this.
5. All members are to have their remark card(s) for the 4-H Show on Wednesday filled out at check in. If this is not done, you may not be eligible to show on Wednesday.
6. Each member is responsible for the feeding and watering of their rabbit(s), and cleaning under the cages daily.
7. 4-H MEMBERS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SEEING THAT THEIR RABBITS ARE BROUGHT TO AND FROM THE SHOW TABLES.
8. Rabbits will be shown by breed in alphabetical order. The show order will be A to Z on even numbered Fair years and Z to A on odd numbered Fair years. This is for the Wednesday Show Only!
9. The 4-H Rabbit Club Organizational Leader(s) and at least 2 Advisory Board Members will rule on any special situations that may arise. Their decision will be final.
10. Any animal showing signs of illness or disease may be sent home.
11. NO Rabbit breeding will not be allowed on the Fairgrounds at any time.
12. Any 4-H exhibit removed from display prior to official release time could be disqualified. Any 4-H placing/prizes (including ribbons, money, medal, trophies, etc.) awarded to that exhibit could be forfeited.
13. For Sale Signs will not be allowed to be hung on the members cage(s) or on bulletin boards in the barn at any time during Fair week. There will be a binder located at the office for members to advertise in. The member will be responsible to keep their information up to date.
14. All members will be allowed to display above their cages, the rabbit's cage card, Open show and 4-H Show ribbons and Rosettes.

15. No 4-H exhibited rabbit(s) will be removed from the barn until after auction paperwork is received and the checkout process has begun on the last Friday of Fair, unless for health reasons. Any animal removed from display prior to the official release time will be disqualified. NO EXCEPTIONS Any 4-H placing/prizes (ribbons, money, medals, trophies, etc.) awarded to that exhibit will be forfeited and tickets for the following year will not be given. (Taken from the Fair catalog under "Indiana 4-H Program Statement of Policy Exhibition)
16. Special Class Rabbits will be defined as:
- o Mixed breed rabbits
  - o Any other rabbit not meeting the Live Rabbit Exhibit Requirements.
  - o Rabbits purchased after May Rabbit Club meeting
  - o Any rabbit that has been altered

**4-H Rabbit Club Completion Requirements**

<b>Displaying a Rabbit</b>	<b>Not displaying a rabbit - doing a poster</b>
Must be enrolled in 4-H online by Fair Office Deadline	Must be enrolled in 4-H online by Fair Office Deadline
Must have entered rabbit(s) in Animal ID on or before May 15th	Rabbit Poster must be on display in ECCC Building
Record Book Must be turned in	
YQCA must have been completed	YQCA must have been completed
Rabbit(s) must be checked in by 7pm on check in day	

**Parent and Member Requirements**

1. Each member and 1 parent per family is required to work a complete shift in the Bunny Hut. Parents are important to help supervise the running of the Bunny Hut. (We need to have 4 members and 2 parents working at each shift to keep our Bunny Hut running smoothly. At the end of your shift you are allowed a small pop or water.
2. Each member and 1 parent per family is required to work a complete shift in the Rabbit Barn. We need to have more supervision to keep our rabbits safe.
3. Parents are needed to spend the night in the barn. We will provide you a cot to sleep on, and a treat from the Bunny Hut in the morning. Hours are 10pm - 8am
4. Each member and 1 parent per family is required to work a 2-hour shift on a Work Day.
5. If you cannot make the shift you signed up for, YOU need to find a replacement before the beginning of the shift. YOU need to let the Board Memeber know who that person is.

### **Rabbit Poster Exhibit**

The 4-H Rabbit Poster project is open to any 4-H member and is not limited to exhibitors of 4-H rabbits. Members can show a rabbit AND complete a poster. 4-H'ers may also use their 4-H poster as a part of their Illustrated Talk and Action Demonstrations. "The purpose shall be to visually demonstrate 4-H Rabbit poster knowledge and to demonstrate to others the 4-H Rabbit poster possibilities"

The 4-H participants will be grouped in the following categories:

Level 1: 3rd, 4th, 5th Grade

Level 2: 6th, 7th, 8th Grade

Level 3: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th Grade

#### **Requirements**

- Use a white 22 x 28 poster board to be displayed horizontally with stiff backing and the front covered with clear plastic. Leave a space in the lower front right-hand corner for a 3 ½ x 4 1/4 name tag. The name tag will be filled out when the poster is checked in. The entry date is determined by the Elkhart County 4-H Fair.
- Each poster must have been made by the 4-H member enrolled in the current year 4-H program
- Proper footnoting should be used for any reference materials. Attach a 3 x 5 file card to the back of the poster listing all references.

Standards of evaluation: 100 points total

- Content and information (accuracy and completeness) 40 points
- Originality and Creativity (attracts interest and encourages thought) 25 points
- Overall appearance (neatness, arrangement, background, detail) 15 points
- Suitable subject and age appropriate (matches 4-H'ers age/ability) 10 points
- Conveys message/accomplishes purpose 5 points
- Meets exhibits requirements 5 points

Entering Date:

The entry date is determined by the Elkhart County 4-H Fair.

State Fair:

There will be (1) one poster from each level that will be chosen by the judges to represent Elkhart County at the State Fair in August, unless the judges feel none are worthy of State Fair exhibit.

### **Auction Rules**

On the LAST Friday of the fair, each member has the opportunity to auction (1) **ONE** rabbit that has been exhibited during the week of fair. Members are NOT required to auction. **A Special Class rabbit CANNOT be auctioned.** If you cannot be at the auction, you **MUST** make arrangements with another 4-H Rabbit Club member to take your rabbit to the auction ring. The club will not be responsible for finding your rabbit and getting it to the auction ring.

At check-in, the rabbit to be auctioned will be “flagged”. It is possible to flag more than one rabbit, however, the final decision **MUST** be made by the 3pm **DEADLINE** after the 4-H Rabbit Show on Wednesday during Fair week. The member (parent or guardian) must make the Advisory Board Vice President aware of their final decision and pay the **\$3.00** transaction fee by the previously mentioned deadline.

If you choose to keep your rabbit, you may buy it back a the club for **\$5.00** after the auction is over and the paperwork has been received at the Rabbit Barn from the Fair Office. Whoever buys the rabbit at the auction **MUST** have a receipt to pick up the rabbit.

**Rabbits who are buyer retained or have been bought back from the auction will have a specially designated tattoo placed in the RIGHT ear prior to being released.**

**There will be NO EXCEPTIONS for missing the 3pm DEADLINE for auction. The chance to auction will be forfeited.**

\*Please don't forget to send your buyer a handwritten “Thank You” note. Buyer information will be included on your check fro the Fair Office

### Parents/Guardians

During the judging process, we ask that everyone please use the provided seating area to watch the shows. ONLY 4-H Members, Leaders, Advisory Board Members and Show Workers will be allowed in the roped-off area. We need to keep the aisles free and clear so the 4-Hers can bring their rabbit(s) to and from the show tables. During the shows only the 4-H member may put the rabbit(s) on the show table. There will be older members available to help the younger members if they need help.

### Rabbit Club Dues

The Elkhart County 4-H Club fee is \$20 for the 1st child and \$15 for each additional child. These fees will be due by the May meeting. The fees help cover the cost of running the club. This is in addition to the fees required by Purdue Extension. ALL 10-year members club dues will be waived!!

### Mentor Program

We strongly encourage all 9-12th grade members to become a part of our mentoring program. We believe members learn from members. We want each member to connect with one another and know they can count on each other for help and direction with their project in Rabbit Club or any other project. We want the younger members to know if they need help at the fair during a show or contest, they will be able to reach out to a mentor, project leaders or leaders for help.

For the mentor program, we ask that you show up a half hour before the meeting, usually 6:30pm to meet with the leaders. We will explain the lesson for the month. We then will assign you a group to work with. You will also have an adult project leader to assist.

### Junior Officer Positions

The club encourages the members to become involved with the club as much as possible. One way is to become a Junior Officer. Junior Officers are elected at the banquet every year. To be eligible for election you **MUST** turn in an application (available from the leaders) and fill out a questionnaire. These forms must also be signed by a parent or guardian. **Forms MUST be turned into a leader by 8pm the last Thursday of Fair.** Club officers are expected to be a positive role model for the club and its members. To work cooperatively with other officers, members, leaders and the extension office. Promote a positive atmosphere at meetings, 4-H functions and in the community. Help at workshops and participate at club meetings. We ask that you attend at least 5 of the 7 club meetings in order to hold your position. The position can be removed at any time if you cannot fulfill your obligation. The following are junior officer positions available: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Devotions, Photographer, (3) Jr. Advisory Board

### **Advisory Board**

The purpose of the Advisory Board is to serve as a governing body that will assist the leaders of the 4-H Rabbit Club Program. It is the responsibility of the board to uphold and demonstrate the 4-H values. The Advisory Board is made up of 14 people, (3) Jr. Advisory Board, 9 elected voting members, 2 Organizational Leaders. The 9 elected members serve for a 3-year term. The Advisory Board is elected at the banquet by the parents/guardians of the member. The board meets on the 1st Monday of every month all year long. If you are interested in becoming an Advisory Board member, please see the current year's Advisory Board President for information. Names need to be turned into the Elkhart County Purdue Extension office by June. There will be an interview with the Extension Educator and a background check will be performed.

### **ARBA**

American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. is the world's leading domestic rabbit breeder's organization. The Standard of Perfection is a published guide. It represents the standards of all 51 breeds, from the breed description, fur, color, classes, weight limits markings and conditions and disqualifications. This publication is subject to revision every 5 years. We highly encourage you to visit their website [ARBA.net](http://ARBA.net) You can also download their app to any electronic device. It is the members responsibility to know their breed standards.

### **Meat Pen**

A meat pen shall consist of three rabbits, all of the same breed and variety. Broken group meat pens must also be of the same variety. A Meat pen does not necessarily have to come from the same litter. Age limit is 10 weeks. 6 Class: Minimum weight 3 ½ pounds each. Maximum weight 5 ½ pounds each. A meat pen CANNOT be purchased since only two (2) purchased rabbits can be shown. If you want to enter one of your rabbits from your meat pen as a pre-junior class you MUST decide at check-in which one you will enter for the 4-H show.

### **Special Class Rabbit**

**A Special class rabbit is of last resort. You will not be able to have a special class rabbit if you have other rabbits to exhibit.**

### **Definition of Special Class**

Non recognized ARBA breed, mixed breed, or fixed (altered) rabbit. A special class rabbit is NOT eligible for auction. If a member has to show a special class rabbit, the member is ONLY eligible for a participation ribbon. No placement ribbons will be given.

### **Petting Pen**

We will have a petting pen set up at the front of the barn during Fair week that the public is welcome to come in and “touch” the rabbits. Rabbits that are on display at the Fair for your exhibit are NOT allowed to be in the petting pen. Petting pen rabbits must be brought from home, have a health check at the back of the barn by an advisory board member before they are allowed into the barn. They will not be permitted to stay on the Fairgrounds during the night and must be taken home each day. The petting pen will need members to work at least a 2hr shift. Sign-up links will be available on SignUpGenius.com beginning in April. There will be laptop available to use at the meetings.

### **Bunny Hut**

The Elkhart County 4-H Rabbit Club has a concession stand open for food sales during the Fair. This is the biggest fundraiser for the club. The Bunny Hut is located near the main entrance of the Fairgrounds. It is staffed by Rabbit club volunteers, members and their families. Rabbit meat is used in various items in the hut. The rabbit meat is obtained first from members and then outside sources if the members cannot fulfill the need. Processing dates will be announced throughout the year. Donations of various food items from club members will help keep the cost down. Sign-up links will be available on SignUpGenius.com beginning in April for food donations. Also, at that time will be an opportunity to sign up for the **required work shift**. There will be laptop available to use at the meetings. We need to have 4 members and 2 adults working at each shift to keep the Bunny Hut running smoothly. If you sign up for a shift and are unable to work it **YOU** are responsible to find someone to cover for you, and then make your shift up at a different time. At the end of your shift you are allowed a small pop or water.

### **Barn Supervision**

Each member and parent are **required to work a complete barn shift**. The more supervision we have during the Fair in the barn the safer your animals will be. During the barn supervision you will be responsible for walking the aisles asking the public nicely not to pet, touch, or poke the rabbits. Sweep the walkways and turn over any bedding as needed. If any issues arise, please see an Organizational Leader and Board Member. Sign-up links will be available on SignUpGenius.com beginning in April. There will be laptops available to use at the meetings.

Parents are always needed to spend the night in the barn. We will provide you a cot to sleep on. And a treat from the Bunny Hut in the morning. Hours are from 10pm-8am



## **4-H Rabbit Ambassador Contest**

Clothing attire for showmanship consists of: **WHITE SHIRT, BLACK PANTS, and BLACK CLOSED-TOED SHOES.** A show coat will be available if you do not have your own.

Each Contest is able to be participated in alone, or in combination with one or more other contests.

In order to compete in the Ambassador Competition, members **MUST** submit a resume by the designated due date provided in the Handbook

### **1. Written Test (maximum of 100 points)**

Questions will be taken from the Standard of Perfections book and Domestic Rabbit Guide.

Novice (3rd and 4th Grade)	25 True/False questions each worth 4 points
Junior (5th and 6th Grade)	25 True/False questions each worth 4 points
Intermediate (7th and 8th Grade)	50 questions comprising of True/False and multiple choice each worth 2 points
Senior (9th and 10th Grade)	50 questions comprising of True/False and multiple choice each worth 2 points
Master (11th and 12th Grade)	50 questions comprising of True/False and multiple choice each worth 2 points

### **2. Breed Identification (maximum of 60 points)**

You will need to identify the breed, showroom classification and class of 10 rabbits. Rabbit Club will add a registration variety column to only be used to break a tie in the Breed ID Contest not for Ambassador Test. The registration variety is NOT part of the Indiana State Fair testing.

### **3. Showmanship (maximum of 100 points)**

Each contestant must have a rabbit that has been cleared through health check. No Rabbit should be used more than once.

### **4. Resume (maximum of 30 points)**

The resume must be completed and turned in to the leaders at the July meeting. DO NOT put your name on the resume. You will be assigned a number upon submission. Use the following as a guide:

- Skills and Accomplishments (20 points possible)
  - One Point per life skill (maximum 5)
  - One point per experience for above life skills (maximum of 3 per life skill = 15 points)
- Future Goals (4 points possible)
  - List 1 Short term 4-H Goal
  - List 1 Long term 4-H Goal
  - List 1 Short term Life Goal
  - List 1 Long term Life Goal
- Honors (2 points possible)
  - 4-H Honors specific to category
  - Outside honors
- Format
  - Use bulleted or outline format
  - Use correct font (minimum 10)
  - Observes correct length (2 pages, 1 sided)
  - Correct Spelling

- **Contestant Categories** - determined by the grade in which they were enrolled on January 1 of the current year.
  - Novice - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - Junior - 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - Intermediate - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - Senior - 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - Master 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade
- **Division Winners** are not eligible to participate in the same division again if they have won at the state level
- **Contestants** must furnish a #2 pencil
- **Participants** may use no resource or reference materials during the contest.
- **Contestants** will complete:
  - A quiz/test (100 points maximum score)
  - Breed Identification (60 points maximum score)
  - Showmanship (100 points maximum score)
  - Resume of Rabbit Project (30 points maximum score)
- **Breaking Tie** Scores.
  - Highest test score
  - Oral test given by committee of two appointed by the Ambassador chairperson
  - Ties will only be broken if needed to determine who will go on to State Ambassador Contest

### **State Fair Eligible**

The Grand Champion of each grade level will be eligible to represent Elkhart County 4-H Rabbit Club at the State Fair. If the Grand Champion of a level is unable to participate at State Fair, the reserve Grand Champion will be selected to go. **Please let the Leaders know by 6pm Wednesday if you plan on participating at State Fair.**

### **4-H Rabbit Showmanship**

Open to all 4-H'ers enrolled in the Elkhart County 4-H Rabbit Club

4-H'ers MUST have a rabbit that has been cleared through health check.

Each participant will be graded on their technique with a score sheet. A copy of the score sheet and instructions are available online at Indiana State Fair website.

The 4-H'ers should be neat and appropriately dressed for the occasion: (Black pants, white shirt, show coat - are available to borrow from the club)

The 4-H'ers should be alert and follow the instructions that are given. Have your attention on the judge and the animal at all times.

100 points are available - 90 are from showmanship techniques and 10 are from appearance and attitude. In case of a tie between Master/Senior Division, a written test will be given, members with the highest test score will then advance to the Small Animal Round Robin Contest.

Level categories are determined by the grade in which they were enrolled on January 1 of the current year.

Novice (3rd and 4th Grade)

Junior (5th and 6th Grade)

Intermediate (7th and 8th Grade)

Senior (9th and 10th Grade)

Master (11th and 12th Grade)

### **Small Animal Round Robin Participation**

The highest showmanship score between the Master division and the Senior division will be eligible to represent the Rabbit Club in the Small Animal Round Robin Contest. The reserve Master/Senior showmanship will be the alternate. In the event there are no eligible Senior/Master members, the representative will be the showmanship in the Intermediate Division.

Prior to the Small Animal Round Robin Contest, the Rabbit Club Showman and the alternate are responsible for contacting the other participating clubs Showmanship winners in order to obtain information on the species and get instructions on their showmanship techniques. In case of a tie in the Small Animal Round Robin Contest, the participants will be required to answer questions that have been taken from these information sheets, in order to determine the placing. If you win the Small Animal Round Robin Contest you will not be able to compete in any following years. Any other placing is eligible for the following years.

### **BREED ID CONTEST**

The Breed Identification will have a maximum of 60 points. You will need to identify the breed, showroom classification and class of 10 rabbits. Rabbit Club will add a registration variety column to only be used to break a tie in the Breed ID Contest not for Ambassador Test. The registration variety is NOT part of the Indiana State Fair Ambassador Contest.

### **KNOWLEDGE TEST**

The quiz will have a maximum of 100 points available. Questions will be taken from the Current Standard of Perfections Book and Domestic Rabbit Guide. Both available from ARBA website store.

Novice (3rd and 4th Grade)	25 True/False Questions each worth 4 points
Junior (5th and 6th Grade)	25 True/False Questions each worth 4 points
Intermediate (7th and 8th Grade)	50 Questions comprising of True/False and multiple choice each worth 2 points
Senior (9th and 10th Grade)	50 Questions comprising of True/False and multiple choice each worth 2 points
Master (11th and 12th Grade)	50 Questions comprising of True/False and multiple choice each worth 2 points

### **4-H RABBIT ILLUSTRATED TALK**

The Rabbit Illustrated Talk Contest is an educational contest for any 4-H Rabbit Project member. This contest will be implemented and sponsored by the State 4-H Advisory Board Committee.

- The Illustrated Talk is a presentation to an audience.
- The 4-H participant will be grouped in the following categories:
  - Novice (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade)
  - Junior (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade)
  - Intermediate (7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade)
  - Senior (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade)
  - Master (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Previous winners may compete again, but MUST select and present a different topic.
- Requirements:
  - Presentation should be of original and of practical nature related to some phase of the rabbit industry. Elaborate and expensive equipment cannot be justified.
  - Each category will have a Grand Champion and a Reserve Grand Champion.
  - Additional information is available from the Leaders.
- Achievement Points will be given to Rabbit Club members participating in this contest. All Rabbit Club participants are encouraged to use this opportunity to promote the Rabbit Club and the Rabbit Industry.

### **Action Demonstration Contest**

- This contest is sponsored through the Extension Office.
- The 4-H Action Demos will have the following Levels:
  - Novice (3rd and 4th Grade)
  - Junior (5th and 6th Grade)
  - Intermediate (7th and 8th Grade)
  - Senior (9th and 10th Grade)
  - Master (11th and 12th Grade)
- All 4-H'ers completing an Action Demo will be awarded a special activity ribbon. In addition, participants will be eligible to represent Elkhart County at the Indiana State Fair.
- Achievement Points will be given to Rabbit Club members participating in this contest. All Rabbit Club participants are encouraged to use this opportunity to promote the Rabbit Club and the Rabbit Industry.

### **4-H Costume Contest**

This contest is open to any 4-H Rabbit Club member. One of the biggest contests with the club. This is a great time to get creative and have fun. There is no specific theme so you can choose from a variety of ideas. There are two options to choose from to enter into the contest: Rabbit Only or Member and Rabbit. The Rabbit Only option is just that, you create a costume for your rabbit. The Member and Rabbit option is where the member and the rabbit have a costume. Both categories are judged on originality, creativity, overall presentation. You must use one of your rabbits that are on display at Fair.

### **CUTEST BUNNY PHOTO CONTEST**

This is a contest that takes place during our Wednesday 4-H Rabbit Show. You may turn in a photo during the check in process on Thursday before the Fair begins and up to 8pm Monday night. Any Rabbit Club member can enter up to (1) one picture involving rabbit(s) in a cute or adorable photo. People are not allowed to be in the photo. Any photo showing any animal in a dangerous or harmful way will not be used. The photos will be arranged and on display during the 4-H Show for all members. Voting will last until the show ends on Wednesday. The ballots will be counted and the winner will be announced at the banquet. Pictures will be returned in the members banquet packet. Please make sure you put your name on the photo before you turn it in.

### **4-H FAIR QUEEN CONTEST**

Any female interested in competing in the Elkhart County Queen Contest must be at least 16 years old by the first day of the State Fair. (For additional rules/responsibilities see application) Any female member of the 4-H Rabbit Club may nominate herself or be nominated by another member for consideration. The nominees will be voted on during the March meeting. The nominee with the most votes will be the representative for the 4-H Rabbit Club.

The winner will be announced after the voting.

Once elected to represent the Elkhart County 4-H Rabbit Club, the club will pay for the entry fee. The contestant will be given the entry form to complete and turn into the Fair office along with a picture and a biography. The contest is only open to the first 50 complete applications, so it is very important you get this done right away. All participants are expected to be present and assist throughout the Fair. (Volunteering at least 5 hours)

## THE MARVIN J. YODER 4-H RABBIT CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

The Marvin J. Yoder Scholarship has been created to say "WELL DONE" to our senior members in the Elkhart Co. Rabbit club. These members have worked hard and participated in the growth and function of the club. We would like to be a partner with them and show our support as they pursue their post High School education. Marvin J. Yoder was a long-time resident of Elkhart Co. His contributions to the community were many. As a member of the Elkhart County 4-H Rabbit Club Advisory Bd., Marvin served as Fair Board Representative. Marvin had a love for learning and competition. Out of that love, came a desire to support the youth in Rabbit club through generous gifts of time and money. Each year at the 4-H auction, young people could count on Marvin's bid. On more than one occasion, he purchased prize-winning animals to reward the hard work that a 4-H'er had put forth. On August 18, 1995 Marvin J. Yoder died after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Although he will no longer be there to bid on 4-H livestock, his competitive spirit and love for learning can live on through this scholarship.

**Eligibility and Requirements:** Every eligible senior who applies and has met the requirements will be awarded the scholarship. The application will need to be returned to the Treasurer on or before Aug.1st of your graduation year. Scholarship money will be sent directly to the school of enrollment.

### **Requirements**

- Be a completing member for at least 5 years in the Elkhart Co. 4-H Rabbit Club
- Earned at least 3 Gold Achievement ribbons
- Complete at least 5 approved activities:
  - Ambassador Contest
  - Illustrated Talk
  - Action Demo
  - Costume Contest
  - Round Robin Showmanship
  - Showmanship
  - Club Officer
  - Rabbit Poster Exhibit
  - Parade Float
  - State Ambassador Contest
  - Rabbit Club 4-H Queen Representative
  - Jr. Livestock
  - Breed ID
  - Workshop
  - Knowledge Test

Funding: This scholarship is an endowment fund set up by the Yoder Family and the Elkhart County 4-H Rabbit Club. Donations consist of endowment funds and immediate monies. The Rabbit Club will be making contributions through fundraising programs and we will be accepting donations from the community members who also believe in our youth and would like to help them pursue their dreams. If you are a Senior Member of the 4-H Rabbit Club, Scholarship applications forms are available from the Treasurer.

### **Rabbit Club Achievement Points**

The purpose of the Rabbit Club Achievement Award Program is to encourage all the members to be as active in the Rabbit Club as you want.

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>POINTS EARNED</b>
Club Officer	Hold an officer position full term	15
Attendance	Attend a monthly meeting	10 per meeting
	Perfect attendance	10
Rabbit Workshop(s)	Participation	10 per event
Record Book	Turned in on time and complete	20
	Turned in late (after June meeting)	10
Club Donations	Parade candy, zip ties, canned goods	5 per event
Fundraisers	Participate during year	10 per event
Work Day	Working a 2hr shift	10 per work day
Action Demo Contest	Participation	30
Illustrated Talk Contest	Participation	30
Breed ID Contest	Participation	10
Written Knowledge Test	Participation	15
Ambassador Contest	Participation	60
Showmanship Contest	Participation	25
Cutest Bunny Photo	Participation	5
Costume Contest	Participation	10
Poster	Participation	25
Float	Ride on float during parade	10
Bunny Hut	Working a 2hr shift	10 per shift (max 30 points)
Bunny Hut food donation	Donate food for Bunny Hut use	10
Display Rabbit at Fair	Per cage	2
Dues	Paid by March Meeting	5
Barn Clean up	Help with total Barn clean up after Fair	15
Community Service	Participation	10 per event
Attend an ARBA Show	Participation	5 per day (max 25 points)
Barn Supervision	Working a 2hr shift	10 per shift (max 30 points)
Fair Week Volunteer	Various	Various to the event



**To be eligible for a gold award you MUST reach the point requirement, attend at least 1 meeting, work a 2-hour shift in the Bunny Hut, 2-hour shift on a work day, and a 2 hour shift in the barn.**

Gold Award: 225 points or above

Silver Award: 150 - 224 points

Blue Award: 100 - 149 points

Red Award: 50 - 99 points

Green Award: up to 49 points