RABBIT
(See General Livestock Rules on page 123)

PROJECT SUPERINTENDENT:		Tom Koch, 317-439-4344, koch_75@hotmail.com
EXHIBIT CHECK-IN:		Wednesday, July 15, 2-8 PM
JUDGING:	Rabbit Ambassador	Thursday, July 16, 6 PM, Open Judging
	Rabbit Show	Friday, July 17, 8:30 AM, Open Judging
RELEASE TIME:		Tuesday, July 21, 7 AM-12 PM Noon, All Non-Auction livestock released
AUCTION:		Tuesday, July 21, 6:30 PM
STATE FAIR ENTRIES:		All livestock for STATE FAIR must be properly identified and enrolled. Refer to indianastatefair.com for entry information.

Project Description:
The 4-H Rabbits educational program and related activities (such as workshops, tours, etc.) provide youth a fun and hands-on learning experience which develops both rabbit subject skills (such as nutrition, housing, and health care) and life skills (such as responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communications) under the direction of caring adult volunteers.

Levels:

Junior	**Grades 3-5**
Intermediate	**Grades 6-8**
Senior	**Grades 9-12**

Project Guidelines:

- To exhibit at the county and state fair 4-H members showing beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy goats, meat goats, poultry, rabbits, sheep, and swine, must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Program or the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA). The purpose of this program: Youth will be more prepared to be ambassadors for animal agriculture in their role as youth livestock exhibitors; Animals from youth livestock programs are treated with the utmost care; 4-H members are contributing to a safe, wholesome food supply. This is an annual program that can be completed via online modules or in-person trainings. More information about this program will be provided from the Extension Office.
- In each project manual level, it is recommended to complete a minimum of four (4) different activities each year. These activities can include the “Bounding Ahead” activities.

- 4-H'er will use and complete one (1) project manual in three (3) years. (You will use the books according to your grade as of January 15 of the current year).
- It is recommended to complete a record sheet.

4-H RABBITS:
Identification deadline- May 15

- All 4-H rabbits must have a completed 4-H Rabbit ID enrollment in the 4-H Online system by **May 15**. A paper identification form is optional.

Exhibit Requirements:

- Rabbit Identification/Enrollment form must be turned in to the Extension Office by **May 15** of current year to be eligible to show at the 4-H Fair.
- Owning or showing an animal is not required. Animal exhibitors have the option of exhibiting a poster in place of, or in addition to, exhibiting an animal. Members can create an educational poster, notebook, or display about any manual activity or on any specie related topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate. Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be used, with parent permission, when creating this exhibit and is to be documented as a reference. A majority of the work to create this exhibit is to be the 4-H member's original work. All posters, notebooks, and display boards must include a reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving credit to the original author, to complete the 4-H member's exhibit. This reference list should/might include website links, people and professionals interviewed, books, magazines, etc. It is recommended this reference list be attached to the back of a poster or display board, be the last page of a notebook, or included as part of the display visible to the public. A judge is not to discredit an exhibit for the way references are listed.

  Posters are to be 22"x28" and displayed horizontally and placed in a clear plastic sleeve or covered with clear plastic to protect contents. The poster must be mounted on a firm backing to add stiffness to the exhibit, for example: a foam core board. Display boards should be designed to sit on a table using no more than 36" of tabletop space. Space should be left in the lower right-hand corner to place an exhibit tag provided by Purdue Extension staff. (See poster rules - page 30, #14)

  Judges evaluating exhibits should recognize individual differences and creativity, therefore using information in this document as a guide rather than a requirement. Champion poster will be chosen in each level (Junior, Intermediate, Senior) for each animal species (Example: Dog, cat, goat, sheep, etc.). A Grand Champion animal poster will be selected from all eligible Champion animal posters.
- All rabbits or parent rabbits shall be owned or co-owned by members by **May 15** of current year and have a permanent, dry, legible identification marking or tattoo in the left ear before being admitted to the barn on the day of exhibit judging. No wet ink tattoo's will be allowed into the barn.
- It is highly recommended that rabbit exhibitors attend one (1) of the last two (2) regular Harey Hoppers monthly rabbit club meetings for fair information and instruction.
- All rabbit exhibitors are encouraged to sign up for a minimum of one (1) rabbit barn duty and one (1) producer tent shift. Sign up sheets will be made available at the Harey Hoppers rabbit club meetings and in the barn.
- A 4-H member may show a maximum of twelve (12) individual rabbit entries plus one (1) meat pen entry. One (1) entry is constituted as any of the following: one (1) senior buck, one (1) senior doe, one (1) 6/8 buck, one (1) 6/8 doe, one (1) junior buck, or one (1) junior doe. Each entry must be shown in a breed class. More than one (1) entry per breed class will be allowed. A 4-H member may not show more than three (3) breeds of rabbits. Meat Pen is not considered a breed class.
- The exhibitor may show one (1) entry in each meat class, if they have a qualifying entry. Each entry must also be shown in a breed class as one (1) of the twelve (12) total entries.
- Meat classes will be single fryer (10 weeks or younger and 3½ to 5½ pounds), roaster (under 6 months and over 5½ and up to 9 pounds), stewer (over 6 months and over 8 pounds), or meat pen (3 rabbits, 10 weeks or younger, between 3½ and 5½ pounds). A single fryer entry may be taken from a meat pen.
- The exhibitor may show one (1) entry in each fur class, if they have a qualifying entry. Each entry must also be shown in a breed class as one (1) of the twelve (12) total entries.
- Fur classes will be white and colored in each of the following: normal fly back, normal roll back, rex, satin, wool.
- The rabbit exhibitor is responsible for correctly filling in required information on the fair entry paperwork and choosing the proper showing classes for breed, fur, and/or meat showing for their rabbits.
- A 4-H member may not show more than three (3) breeds of rabbits. Meat Pen is not considered a breed class.
- A Meat Pen is constituted by three (3) rabbits of the same breed and same variety weighing 3½ to 5½ pounds each and not over ten (10) weeks of age. The Meat Pen must have been kindled and raised by the exhibitor. (Litter will not be shown with doe.) The meat pen is not to be purchased outright.
- Carcass Class (Rabbit out of Meat Pen or Single Fryer. 3=1 dressed, 2 live carcass), will be dressed out after day of show.

- All rabbits will be shown by breed markings as determined at the Fair.
- There will be a Best of Breed (Champion) and Best Opposite Sex (Reserve Champion) in each breed, if these animals do meet the A.R.B.A. standard for that breed. If the only available exhibited animals in a breed do not meet the standard, there will be no champion or reserve champion for that breed. Ribbons will be given out for all exhibited animals based on the judges interpretation of the standard and how each rabbit compares to the standard. Ribbons will be blue, red, or white.
- A Grand Champion 6 Class and a Grand Champion 4 Class will be picked from each class group of respective champion's. A Reserve Grand Champion will also be picked from each group.
- A Grand Champion Best-in-Show will be picked from the two (2) classes (6 class and 4 class Grand Champions.)
- All rabbits will be shown by classes and weights, as defined in the American rabbit Breeders Association Book of Standards. All rabbits over or under weight for the class that they are entered in will be given white ribbons and cannot show for Best of Breed or Best Opposite Sex.
- Classes will be provided for all breeds according to the A. R.B.A. Standard of Perfection.
- All exhibitors should be present at the pre-show meeting to receive instructions on showing the rabbits. Rabbits must be shown by the owner exhibitor or another 4-H member with the owner still present. Note: Rabbits to be sold in the auction must be shown by the owner.
- All members will bring their rabbits to the show table when their class is called. They will stay and watch the rabbit being judged, then return it to the cage. If a rabbit is not on the table when the class is judged, the rabbit will not be judged. (Maximum of three (3) calls will be given if needed, then judging begins.) Parents or other non 4-H members are not permitted to carry rabbits to and from the show table.
- Any rabbit not in good health will be removed from the 4-H grounds immediately and will not be shown.
- Pens will be assigned to entries by the rabbit superintendent or their delegate. The 4-H member is responsible to house their animals and for keeping them fed and watered. If an animal is not being properly cared for, the exhibitor may be asked to remove them from the barn.
- A clean pen award will be made to the 4-H members who keep their pens clean throughout the entire Fair. Excessive bedding is not needed.
- Rabbits going through the auction must be shown in a Meat Class (single fryers, roasters, stewers, and meat pen) and be one of the following breeds:

  American, American Chinchilla, American Sable, Argente Brun, Beveren, Blanc de Hotot, Blue Holicer, Californian, Champagne d'Argent, Checkered Giant, Cinnamon, Creme d'Argent, Czech Frosty, English Lop, Flemish Giant, Florida White, French Lop, Giant Chinchilla, Lilac, Mini Lop, New Zealand, Palomino, Rex, Satin, Silver Fox, Silver Marten, Standard Chinchilla.
- Showmanship is the Ambassador Contest. Winners will compete in the State Fair Ambassador Contest. Ambassador Contest will be held on the first day of the fair. Ribbons will be given to all Ambassador participants.
- Royal Showmanship Representatives from rabbits will be the winner from Senior or Master category with the highest point total.

RABBIT AMBASSADOR/SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST
Requirements/Rules:

- 4-H'ers must have knowledge of rabbit breeds, management, feeding, marketing, and showing.
- No resource or reference material may be used during the contest by the participants.
- Questions for the contest will be taken from the following publications:
  - Domestic Rabbit Guide
  - Standard of Perfection (published by ARBA)
  - 4-H project books
  - ARBA.net website
- Contest is divided into five (5) groups:
  - ◊ 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
  - ◊ 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 or 12th grade on January 1st of the current year

- Winners will be determined on point scores totaled from:
  Written test
  Oral interview and rabbit demonstration with a judge
  Rabbit breed identification

- Tie scores will be broken as follows:
  Highest test score, then, if necessary
  Highest breed ID score
  Oral test given by a committee of three (3) people appointed by Barn Superintendent.
  Decision of the judges shall be final.
- A rabbit may be used for the ambassador contest that is not housed at the fair (brought from home for the contest), however that rabbit must have a completed 4-H Rabbit ID enrollment in the 4-H Online system by **May 15** of the current year.

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RABBIT POSTER REQUIREMENTS: (Optional)

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