

RABBITS

PLEASE NOTE: Any changes/updates from the previous year will be *BOLDED and ITALICIZED!* Pay special attention to any projects with *BOLD, ITALICIZED WORDS* because they have changed from last year.

The 4-H Rabbit project provides youth a fun and hands-on learning experience that develops life skills, as well as teaches valuable information about properly caring for their animal. Subjects such as general care, nutrition housing, and health care are presented in the curricular materials, through workshops and activities such as Rabbit Ambassadors and in preparation of an exhibit.

| Completion, exhibition participation, and State Fair information for Rabbits | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Division/Level | Grades | Completion Activities Needed* | Maximum State Fair Entries |
| Level 1 | Grades 3-5 | Complete 7 Activities* | Check IN State Fair Website |
| Level 2 | Grades 6-8 | Complete 7 Activities* | Check IN State Fair Website |
| Level 3 | Grades 9-12 | Complete 7 Activities* | Check IN State Fair Website |

*"Activities" are defined as project manual activities and/or Hendricks County 4-H Workshops related to this topic. Members must be able to prove attendance by getting a signature from 4-H Leader/Project Advisor that conducts the workshop. Activity sheets available in the Extension Office with Rabbits Project Manuals. Fair Exhibit guidelines are listed below.

GUIDELINES

1. Refer to the Hendricks County 4-H Livestock and Animal Section for General Guidelines related to all livestock projects. See 4-H Policies, Entry & Exhibit Guidelines for poster and general display guidelines.
2. If wanting to exhibit a poster/display/notebook related to this species, 4-H members may do so under the "Animal Education" Project. (see page 23 for details)

RABBITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. A 4-H member may enter and show a maximum of 20 entries with only one (1) entry per class for each variety allowed. If entering meat classes, these must be counted as part of the 20 maximum with only one of each meat class per exhibitor being allowed. We recommend that no one bring a doe due to have babies to the fair.
2. A meat pen is made up of three (3) rabbits of the same breed and same variety, but not necessarily from the same litter; each rabbit weighing a minimum of three and a half (3 ½) pounds and a maximum of five and a half (5 ½) pounds and not over ten (10) weeks of age on the day of the show.
3. Meat pens **must be** kindled and raised by the 4-H member who enters them. Litters will not be shown with doe. Meat pens must be tattooed at the designated June meat pen tattooing date, which will be scheduled by the Rabbit Project Superintendent. A meat pen entered, but not tattooed at this meat pen tattooing date will not be eligible to show at the fair in the rate of gain class.
4. Single fryer rabbits may be selected and shown from the same 4-H'er's rabbit meat pen.
5. No rabbit may be exhibited in more than one class. Animals shown in the fryer, roaster, stewer and meat pen classes cannot be shown as breed animals.
6. The show will follow the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. Show Rules, and all classes will be judged according to ages and weights as established by the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. Standard of Perfection.
7. All rabbits will be shown by breed standards but do not need to be pedigreed. Mixed-breed rabbits are not eligible for the 4-H show but they may be entered and shown in the Little Critters project.
8. All entries in good health will be judged. Any rabbit found to be not in good health during the health check at the Rabbit check in will be removed from the 4-H Fairgrounds immediately and will not be shown.
9. 4-H'ers will bring their rabbits to the show table when their class is called. They will stay and watch the rabbits being judged, then return them to their cages. Only 4-H members may show rabbits at the judging table, no adults. If a rabbit is not on the table at the time the class is judged, the rabbit will not be judged.
10. Tattooing will be offered at County 4-H Rabbit Workshops (not at the fair). Any rabbit not showing a visible tattoo at check-in time will not be allowed to exhibit. Tattoo must be entered by May 15th. Tattoos must match what was entered in 4HOnline at check-in.
11. Pens will be furnished.
12. A clean and neat appearance should be kept in aisle way and around cages.

13. All carriers must be removed from barn during Fair. All supplies must be kept on the outside walls and clear from walkways.
14. Only one (1) Commercial Meat Pen per exhibitor may go to Auction.
15. Rabbits may be penned AFTER show forms and health checks are completed. If during the show there is no show form for the particular rabbit, it will be judged but no placing will be given to the exhibitor.
16. Exhibitors should be aware that animals showing signs of any sickness or communicable disease after check in will be asked to leave the building at the discretion and upon the final decision of the Rabbit Project Superintendent.
17. Entry of animals in the Hendricks County 4-H fair show constitutes permission by the owner for the possible use of the rabbit(s) for the Rabbit Ambassador competition – Breed I.D. portion.
18. Entries in the Doe and Litter Class must include the following:
 - a. Does must be lactating
 - b. Doe needs to have kindled the litter
 - c. Proper number of kits (ex. 2-4 lb. does = 2-4 kits, etc.)
 - d. Litter must be between 30-45 days old by the last day of the fair.

EXHIBITS

In order to exhibit, members must complete the number of suggested activities listed in the member's guide as per county guidelines. Then, members may select one or more of the following options for each level:

Exhibit Options:

- Showmanship/4-H Rabbit Ambassador
- Exhibit one or more rabbits owned and cared for since May 15.

Level 1-3 Exhibit Options

CLASSES

Only classes and breeds recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. will be accepted.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| • Senior Buck | • Pre-Junior |
| • Senior Doe | • Meat Pen |
| • 6/8 Buck | • Roaster |
| • 6/8 Doe | • Fryer |
| • Junior Buck | • Stewer |
| • Junior Doe | • Doe and Litter |

THE RABBIT AMBASSADOR CONTEST

The Rabbit Ambassador Contest will be held on Sunday in the Small Animals Pavilion. The age groups as determined on January 1st of the current year are as follows:

- **Novice** - 4-H member in the 3rd or 4th grade
- **Junior** - 4-H member in the 5th or 6th grade
- **Intermediate** - 4-H member in the 7th or 8th grade
- **Senior** - 4-H member in the 9th or 10th grade
- **Master** - 4-H member in the 11th or 12th grade

4-H Rabbit members will be tested on their knowledge of rabbit breeds, management, feeding, marketing, and showing. The County winners may participate in the State Contest. Special Awards will be presented to County Winners.