



SHOW READY: LIVESTOCK STARTER GUIDE

Rabbits



Q How do I identify and enter my animal in the fair?

A All livestock species, except Poultry, must be identified in the 4-H Online system (<https://v2.4honline.com>) by May 15. Ensure that you are meeting the animal ID requirements listed in the 4-H handbook when entering your animal. Poultry exhibitors will identify their animals at <https://tinyurl.com/26Poultry>. Identify any animals you may want to show. By July 1, go to <http://vanderburghcountyin.fairentry.com> to enter what classes your animal(s) will be participating in. This is where you'll select which animals you will be bringing to the fair, what classes they will be in, and you can enter showmanship. To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy goats, meat goats, poultry, pygmy goats, rabbits, sheep and swine, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care program by July 1. If you plan to exhibit at the Indiana State Fair, be sure to check out state guidelines and registration details at <https://indianastatefair.com>. Suggestion - if showing multiple animals/species, create a list of all ID information to help with animal ID entry. Enter all possible entries on May 15. Only animals entered by May 15 can be shown. Just because they are entered, does not mean they have to go to the fair; however, if they are not entered, they are not eligible.

Q How do I prepare for fair?

A Brush your rabbit and cut its toe nails. Make sure it is healthy, and teeth, ears, eyes, and fur are in good condition.

Q Where do I find set-up, check-in, check out, and clean up times for my species?

A You will find this in the handbook, in the summer LINK newsletters, and in a mailing that goes out before fair.

Q How does check-in work?

A Bring your rabbit in a cage. Know your breed and if it is male or female. If you are unsure, ask the superintendents. We will check and get in placed in the correct category. Know if it is Fancy, Commercial, or a grade rabbit. Come to the table and check in. We will have a pen assigned with your name on it. Bring your rabbit and all your supplies.

Q What supplies/equipment do I need to have at fair?

A You will need to have food and bowls for both food and water. Bring any grooming supplies you use on your rabbit. We will have bedding and cleaning supplies for you to use. Think about what you use to care for your animals on a daily basis.

Q

How does check out work?

A

Let the superintendent know you are leaving. Make sure your cage is cleaned out and all personal items have been removed. Clean up supplies will be provided.

Q

How do I participate in the livestock premium auction (if eligible)?

A

To participate in the livestock premium auction, complete the auction card that will be mailed to you and return to the Extension Office at the fair by noon on Monday of the fair. If you decide to change the animal or species you plan to exhibit in the auction, let the Extension Office know by 5:00 pm on Thursday of fair week. Photos will be taken of you with your animal immediately after you take your animal in the ring. You will also be asked to write thank you notes to your auction buyers after you have exhibited in the auction. Exhibitors will be asked to pick up their auction check when available (typically about 1-2 months after the auction) and checks must be cashed/deposited within 90 days.

Q

What do I wear on show day?

A

Please wear jeans and a nice show shirt (no tshirts or shorts).

Q

What supplies do I need to show?

A

Grooming supplies

Q

How should my animal be prepped for the show?

A

Make sure it looks clean and healthy. Check fur, teeth, ears and toenails for any disqualification. Groom it daily to help it look its best.

Q

What does the judge expect of me?

A

Know about your rabbit - breed, if it's a male or female, etc. Control your rabbit and pay attention to the judge. For showmanship, know the ARBA showmanship scorecard.

Q

Who can I contact if I have questions?

A

Your species superintendent or assistant superintendents can answer your questions. Their contact information can be found in the 4-H handbook in the livestock section. You can also reach out to the Purdue Extension Office at (812) 867-4935 with questions.



We hope you have a
great year in 4-H!