

## **RABBIT**

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 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. Youth also have the opportunity to develop responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communication skills through active participation in the 4-H Rabbit Project.

**Superintendent:** Sara Grayless

**Superintendent Assistants:** Julie Lanzone and Jesse Kirkpatrick

**Committee Members:** Stephanie Blair, Kevin Carpenter, Leticia Edington, Samantha Merryman, Kim Williamson

State Fair Entries: *Check with the Indiana State Fair for sign up deadlines without penalties. (web: [www.indianastatefair.com](http://www.indianastatefair.com) )*

### **PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:**

1. To exhibit **beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, poultry and rabbits**, 4-H members must be certified through the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals program. This is an annual program that can be completed via online modules or in-person trainings. For more information about in-person trainings in your county, please contact your County Extension Office. More information about YQCA is available at <http://yqca.org/>. Multiple in-person trainings will be offered during the spring.
2. Each club member may show 15 rabbits plus one from each of the following: Meat Pen, Single Fryer, Stewer, and Roaster. All rabbits must be of a breed and variety recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association Standard of Perfection or must have a current certificate of development. All entries must be made by May 15<sup>th</sup> on the 4-H Rabbit Enrollment Form and be listed with breed, class and ear tag to match.
3. Before judging starts, all rabbits must be permanently marked for identification in the left ear with a letter, number, or both. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** No markers to be used for tattooing.
4. All exhibitors must be present on the day of judging to assist with bringing their stock to and from the judging table.
5. All classes will be judged according to age, sex, weights as established by the State Fair Rules.
6. Rabbits must be checked in and checked out by officials. 4-H Rabbit Activity Books and Record Sheets must be complete and turned in when animals are entered for Fair on Saturday to be eligible to show. During check-in animals will be check for communicable diseases by adult leaders. Animals may be denied check-in if any communicable diseases are present.
7. There will be no does with litter allowed at the Fair.
8. Any rabbits showing signs of disease will be barred from the Fair.
9. A meat pen consists of three (3) rabbits of the same breed and same variety, each not over 10 weeks of age. A meat pen is not considered a breed. Weight will be taken on check in day with certified scales to determine minimum weight to qualify for auction. Weight loss or class placement will have no bearing on auction qualification. Meat pen rabbits must weigh between 3.5 to 5.5 lbs. each in order to sell in the 4-H Livestock Auction.
10. All rabbit cages must be cleaned and inspected by a 4-H Rabbit Committee member before rabbit will be released.
11. Each contestant must dress accordingly at county level as they would for State Fair competition. This includes accessories as suggested by ARBA.
12. All issues not addressed in these requirements and guidelines will be discussed by

the Adult Rabbit Committee and any decisions will be approved by the Purdue Extension 4-H Youth Development Educator, Parke County 4-H Council, and/or the Parke County Fair Board.

#### **4-H RABBIT SHOW CLASSES**

**All breed, meat, and fur classes will be judged with the American Rabbit Breeders Association "Standard of Perfection" as the authority on standard by licensed judges whose decisions are final.** Reference this book to learn what is required for your specific class. The breeds are divided into two general classes, which are broken down further by age and sex.

#### **BREED CLASSES**

**4 Class Breeds** have an ideal weight under 9 pounds and are shown as:

**Senior Bucks** - rabbits at least 6 months of age or over the maximum junior class weight on the day of show. **Senior Does** - rabbits at least 6 months of age or over the maximum junior class weight on the day of show. **Junior Bucks** - rabbits under 6 months of age and under the maximum junior weight on the day of show. **Junior Does** - rabbits under 6 months of age and under the maximum junior weight on the day of show.

**6 Class Breeds** have an ideal weight over 9 pounds and are shown as:

**Senior Bucks** - rabbits at least 6 months of age or over the maximum intermediate weight on the day of show.

**Senior Does** - rabbits at least 6 months of age or over the maximum intermediate weight on the day of show.

**Intermediate Bucks** - rabbits between 6 and 8 months of age or over the maximum junior weight on the day of show.

**Intermediate Does** - rabbits between 6 and 8 months of age or over the maximum junior weight on the day of show.

**Junior Bucks** - rabbits under 6 months of age and under the maximum junior weight on the day of show.

**Junior Does** - rabbits under 6 months of age and under the maximum junior weight on the day of show.

**In addition to the Breed Categories, a 4-H'er may show in the following meat classes.**

**Meat Pen**- consists of 3 rabbits of the same breed and variety. Rabbits are to be under 70 days or 10 weeks of age and weighing between 3.5 and 5.5 pounds the day of the show. Weight is measured by judge and documented on remark card by scribe. Members may show one meat pen only.

**Single Fryer**- A rabbit is to be under 70 days or 10 weeks of age the day of the show. Members may show one single fryer only. The fryer may come out of the meat pen but entry is to be made on the day of check-in and must weigh between 3.5 and 5.5 pounds on the day of the show (weight recorded by judge).

**Stewer** - One rabbit weighing 8 pounds or more on the day of the show and being 6 months of age or more. Members may show only one Stewer.

**Roaster** - One rabbit weighing between 5 and 8 pounds on the day of the show and less than 6 months of age. Members may show only one Roaster.

#### **FUR CLASSES**

Members will be allowed to enter one rabbit in each of the ARBA FUR categories offered below. The rabbit is to have been shown in one of the regular breed or meat classes. The following fur classes will be offered:

**A. COMMERCIAL NORMAL COLOR FUR**

**B. COMMERCIAL NORMAL WHITE FUR**

All breeds described by their ARBA standard as having the fly back types of fur are to be included in the commercial fur class.

**C. REX FUR**

Includes the Mini Red & Standard Rex.

**D. SATIN FUR**

Colored Satin fur includes all varieties except for white and Californian. White Satin fur includes white and the Californian Variety. Satin Fur Trophy winners will be selected from the two Color groups, and awarded to the judge's choice.

**E. WOOL FUR** Colored or White breeds including: All Angora breeds, American Fuzzy Lops and Jersey Woolly. Wool Trophy winner will be selected from the two Color groups, and awarded to the judge's choice.

**Please reference the American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) Book "Standard of Perfection" for the standard of the breed you are showing and rules for the show.**

**RABBIT POSTER EXHIBIT**

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 web site 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 manner in which references are listed.

Each 4-H Rabbit Project Member may exhibit a 4-H Rabbit Poster at the 4-H Fair. **Posters will be accepted at Rabbit check-in times as they are judged by the Rabbit Judge.** They will be kept on display during this time in the Small Animals Pavilion. Exhibiting a Rabbit Poster is an optional activity but is highly encouraged for the benefit of the 4-H'er and the viewing public. Additional information and requirements are as follows:

1. There are 3 categories of poster competition-Level 1, Level 2, Level 3. Level 1 is 4-H'ers in grades 3 thru 5 as of January of the current year: Level 2 is 4-H'ers in grades 6 thru 8 as of January of the current year. Level 3 is 4-H'ers in grades 9 thru 12 as of January 1 of the current year.
2. A Champion ribbon and Reserve Champion ribbon will be awarded in each category provided there are blue ribbon entries and based upon the judge's decision and choice.
3. Each county may send one poster in each level to the State Fair. Selection is based upon the judge's decision.
4. Only 4-H'ers enrolled in the 4-H Rabbit Project may exhibit posters.
5. Each poster must be 22"x28" in size displayed horizontally (able to stand stiff without buckling, with or without backing) and covered with a plastic or cellophane wrap to keep it clean. The exhibit label (available from the 4-H Leader of the Extension Office) should be placed in the lower front right hand corner.
6. Posters will be judged according to the following: Content and Information (50 points); Neatness and Appearance (25 points); Originality (15 points); and Purpose (10 points); for a total of 100 points.

NOTE: The purpose shall be to visually demonstrate 4-H Rabbit Project knowledge and to demonstrate to others 4-H Rabbit Project possibilities.

## **Illustrated Talk (Poultry and Rabbits)**

- 4-H'ers must provide their 4-H Completion Card at entry of the contest to participate.
- An illustrated talk is offered at the Parke County and Indiana State Fair in poultry and rabbits.
- Entries for this event must notify the Parke County Extension Office by July 1\* if you plan to participate in this event at the Parke County 4-H Fair.
- All participants must complete the Indiana State Fair Rabbit or Poultry entry form if you plan to participate in the contest at the State Fair. This completed form is to be submitted to the rabbit or poultry barn office, respective to the contest, at check-in. There is no Indiana State Fair entry fee for this event.
- Categories will be Novice (grades 3-4), Junior (grades 5-6), Intermediate (grades 7-8), Senior (grades 9-10), and Master (grades 11-12).
- An illustrated talk is for any 4-H member and allows the member to present a 5-7 minute speech to the audience on a topic related to that project while using props and/or a PowerPoint, Prezi, or other digital presentation.
- There is no interaction with the audience.
- Check the Parke County 4-H Fair Schedule and Indiana State Fair 4-H Premium book for the time, date, and location of this event.
- State Fair entries will be accepted through the county Purdue Extension office or on-site at the poultry or rabbit show for the respective event. Check the Indiana State Fair 4-H Premium book for the time, location, and deadline to enter if entering on-site.
- Live animals that would be eligible to show in that project may be used in the illustrated talk.
- The State Fair Achievement Trip may be awarded by the judges to a maximum of the top two (2) blue merit Masters Category rabbit members and poultry members at the discretion of the judges. Trip winners must be of blue merit quality.

## **Rabbit Ambassador Contest**

All participants must complete an entry form with 4-H member and parent signatures.

### **Class Description:**

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 at the State Fair but is still 4-H eligible

### **Requirements:**

1. 4-Hers must have shown in and been nominated from their respective county. 4-Hers with special needs must indicate the need for accommodation on their Rabbit Ambassador entry form.
2. Each county may nominate only five (5) contestants. (one (1) novice (grade 3 or 4), one (1) junior (grade 5 or 6), one (1) intermediate (grade 7 or 8), one (1) senior (grade 9 or 10), and one (1) master (grade 11 or above)). State category winners are not eligible in the same category again. State winners are eligible to compete in the next higher category the following year. Winners of the Master division may come back in the Supreme division.
3. In the event that the nominated contestant is unable to participate, one (1) alternate in each division may be substituted provided written or verbal confirmation comes from the

County Extension Office to the 4-H Rabbit Show Manager.

4. No resource or reference material may be used during the contest by the participants. Contestants must provide a #2 pencil for writing purposes.
5. Questions for the contest will be taken from the following publications: For All Levels:
  - a) Ohio State Rabbit Resource
  - b) Standard of Perfection (published by ARBA)
6. Tie scores will be broken as follows:
  - a) highest test score, then, if necessary,
  - b) highest breed identification score, then, if necessary,
  - c) oral test given by a committee of three (3) people appointed by rabbit ambassador chairperson.
7. Decision of the judges/Contest Committee shall be final.
8. In the event there is a conflict of information, the Standard of Perfection is considered the authority.
9. Each contestant must dress accordingly at county level as they would for State Fair competition. This includes accessories as suggested by ARBA.

**4-H Rabbit Ambassador Contest Procedures:**

1. Test - 100 points
  - a) questions may be true-false, multiple choice or a combination there of
2. Breed Identification - 60 points
  - a) identify and classify ten (10) rabbits according to show room classification and class.
  - b) Show room classification refers to the term used to enter the rabbit in a show thereby indicating how it is shown. Specifically, the Netherland Dwarf rabbit is shown by variety and should be identified by variety only. The Jersey Wooly breed is shown by groups and should be identified by group only.
3. Showmanship - 100 points.
  - a) Each contestant must bring their rabbit to the judge in a solid bottom carrier. Rabbit must be tattooed.
  - b) Contestants should refer to the 4-H Rabbit Ambassador Contest Showmanship Score Sheet as a resource. This form will be available in Extension Offices or on the 4-H website. ([www.four-h.purdue.edu](http://www.four-h.purdue.edu)) 4-H publications may be obtained from your County Extension Office or State 4-H Office, Purdue University, 615 W. State St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2053. ARBA publications may be obtained from ARBA, 8 Westport Court, Bloomington, IL 61702.