

## **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:** Kevin Carpenter

**Superintendent Assistants:** Sara Grayless and Jesse Kirkpatrick

**Committee Members:** Stephanie Blair, Leticia Edington, Renee White, Valerie Barnett, Ashley Hutchins, Jason Frazier  
State Fair Entries: *Check with the Indiana State Fair for sign up. (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 either the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care program or the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) program. Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care is taught in person in Parke County. YQCA can be completed online at [yqcaprogram.org](http://yqcaprogram.org). For more information about in-person trainings in your county, please contact your County Extension Office.
2. Each club member may show 15 rabbits plus one from each of the following: Meat Pen, Single Fryer, Stewer, Roaster and Hopping/Agility. 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 checked 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 or pregnant does beyond 14 days gestation allowed at the Fair.
8. Any rabbits showing signs of disease will be barred from the Fair.
9. All rabbit cages must be cleaned and inspected by a 4-H Rabbit Committee member before rabbit will be released.
10. Each contestant must dress accordingly at county level as they would for State Fair competition. This includes accessories as suggested by ARBA.
11. 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.

### **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. **ROLLBACK FUR**-any breed that the SOP describes the fur returning to normal position slowly when stroked from tail to head.

B. **FLYBACK FUR**- any breed that the SOP describes the fur as returning quickly or snapping back.

C. **REX FUR** - any rabbit from the Rex or Mini Rex breeds that possess rex fur by definition.

D. **SATIN FUR** - any rabbit from the Satin or Mini Satin breeds and possess a satin sheen.

E. **WOOL FUR**-rabbit from any of the angora breeds, Jersey Woolly, Fuzzy lop, and Lion Head.

F. **UPRIGHT FUR**-returns to a standing position and currently is only in the Silver Fox breed.

**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.**

### **RARE BREED CLASS**

Each exhibitor can enter one rabbit of a breed designated by American Rabbit Breeders Association as a Rare Breed. This class will be done as a Grand Champion Drive format and is used to encourage members to help in efforts to preserve breeds of the National Livestock Conservancy List who are in danger of becoming extinct. The rabbit chosen must be entered in one of the required classes on the May 15<sup>th</sup> Ownership Entry Form but entry into this category is not declared until check-in.

### **HOMEGROWN CLASS (Formerly County Born and Bred)**

Each exhibitor can enter one rabbit that they had born in their rabbitry. In order to qualify the exhibitor must be or have been in physical possession of the mother rabbit at time of birth. The rabbit must be raised by the 4-H member since birth. No leased animals qualify for the homegrown class, including the mother. The fathering buck does not have to be in possession of the 4-H member but a copy of the complete pedigree of the mother and father must be presented in the Homegrown Record for the rabbit to qualify. This class will be done as a Grand Champion Drive format. Homegrown status must be indicated on the May 15<sup>th</sup> Ownership Entry Form.

### **HOPPING AND AGILITY**

Exhibitors will train and practice with one rabbit to complete the obstacle course. Practice workshops will be provided at specified club meetings. Use of lease and harness is not required but can be used at owner's discretion. Age Groups: Junior (Grades 3-5), Intermediate (Grades 6-8), Senior (Grades 9-12)

### **RABBIT POSTER EXHIBIT**

See "Animal Education" project requirements

Rabbit posters should be checked in with your animal during set check-in day and time.

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

## **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) Domestic Rabbits Guide
  - 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 thereof
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 Woolly 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.