



## **RABBIT**

**PROJECT SUPERINTENDENT:** Erin Uhl, ethackeruhl@gmail.com

**STATE FAIR ENTRIES:** All livestock for STATE FAIR must be properly identified and enrolled. Refer to indianastatefair.com for entry information.

### **Levels:**

**Junior Grades 3-5**

**Intermediate Grades 6-8**

**Senior Grades 9-12**

### **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.

### **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.
- To participate in the auction youth must exhibit at least one indoor project and participate in the auctioned animal's showmanship competition.
- It is recommended to complete a record sheet.

### **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 into the Extension Office by **May 15** of current year to be eligible to show at the 4-H Fair.



All animals must be permanently and legibly earmarked in the left ear. The tattoo is to only contain numerals 0-9 and/or letters A-Z. The tattoo is to contain no language of a profane or sexual nature.

- Animal exhibitors have the option of exhibiting a poster in place of, or in addition to exhibiting an animal. The poster should cover a topic of one (1) of the activities or learning experiences in the completed grade level of the project manual. All posters, notebooks, and display boards must include a reference list that indicates where information was obtained, giving credit to original author. A 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 tattoos will be allowed into the barn.
- A 4-H member may show a maximum of six (6) 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 six (6) 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 rabbit exhibitor is responsible for correctly filling in required information on the fair entry paperwork and choosing the proper showing classes for breed, and/or meat showing for their rabbits.
- 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.
- All rabbits will be shown by breed markings as determined at the Fair.
- A Grand Champion 6 Class and a Grand Champion 4 Class will be picked from each class group of respective champions. A Reserve Grand Champion will also be picked from each group.
- 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.
- 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.

## **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.

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