

# 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	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	Check IN State Fair Website
Level 2	Grades 6-8	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	Check IN State Fair Website
Level 3	Grades 9-12	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	Check IN State Fair Website

SUGGESTED REFERENCE MATERIALS (available for purchase in Extension Office or [shop4-h.org](http://shop4-h.org))

- Level 1: What's Happening
- Level 2: Making Tracks
- Level 3: All Ears

## 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. Be sure to enroll in the project on 4-HOnline and enter exhibit information into FairEntry by designated date.  
**2025 designated FairEntry Deadline is Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:59 p.m.**
3. Complete the Record Sheet (if not exhibiting at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair).
4. 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 24 for details)

## RABBITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. A 4-H member may enter and show a maximum of 20 entries with only 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 (1) of each meat class per exhibitor allowed. Does that are due to kindle during the fair week are not allowed to show at the fair.
2. To be eligible to show, rabbits **MUST** be in your possession, and entered, including their tattoo number into 4Honline by the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. A tattoo number may not be changed at check in with the exception of meat pens/fryers.
3. A meat pen is made up of three (3) rabbits of the same breed and variety, but not necessarily from the same litter; each rabbit weighing a minimum of three and a half pounds and a maximum of five and a half pounds and not over ten (10) weeks of age.
  - a. Meat pens **MUST** be bred, kindled, and raised by the 4-H member who enters them.
  - b. All 3 meat pen rabbits should be penned in the same cage with no additional dividers (other than those provided in the furnished pen).
  - c. All meat pens must be tattooed by the Rabbit Superintendent in order to be eligible to show at the fair. Meat pens will have a designated tattoo time in June, which will be scheduled by the Rabbit Superintendent. If meat pens is not able to be tattooed at the designated June date, then they will not be eligible to compete in the Rate of Gain class.
4. Only one (1) Commercial Meat pen per exhibitor may go to auction.
5. Single fryer rabbits may be selected from a litter that was kindled from a meat pen and tattooed by the Rabbit Superintendent. If a single fryer rabbit is registered by a sibling on 4Honline, it can be exhibited by a different sibling but that rabbit may not be shown by 2 exhibitors (i.e. from a sibling's meat pen).
6. Animals shown in doe and litter, fryer, roaster, stewer, and meat pen classes cannot be shown as breed animals.
7. Entries in the Doe and Litter class must include the following:
  - a. Doe needs to have kindled the litter.
  - b. Doe must be lactating.
  - c. Proper number of kits (ex. 2-4 lb does = 2-4 kits)
  - d. Litter must be between 30-45 days old by the last day of the fair.

8. The show will follow the American Rabbit Breeders Association Inc. rules and all classes will be judged according to ages and weights as established by the American Rabbit Breeders Inc. Standard of Perfection.
9. 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 can be shown in the Little Critters project.
10. All entries in good health will be judged. Any rabbit found to not be 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.
11. 4-H'ers will bring their rabbit to the show table when their class is called. They will stay to watch their rabbits be judged. Only 4-H members may show rabbits at the judging table. Any rabbit not on the table when called, will be brought to the table by another 4-H Member.
12. The Ambassador Contest will follow the State Fair Rules:
  - a. No communication with parent/family once the contest has started.
  - b. All electronics must be turned into a parent/guardian or a rabbit leader prior to the contest.
  - c. No pictures may be taken of the Breed ID area until the completion of the entire contest.
  - d. All rabbits must be in carriers prior to the start of the contest, and placed in the show area. Once the Breed ID rabbits have started being pulled, the 4-H members will not be able to go back to the cage area.
13. All rabbits must have a visible tattoo in the left ear. Any rabbit not having a visible tattoo at check in may result in not being able to exhibit. Tattooing will be offered at designated times by the Rabbit Superintendent, but not at the fair.
14. Pens will be furnished.
15. Rabbits may be penned AFTER show forms and health checks are completed.
16. Entry in the Hendricks County 4-H Fair Rabbit Show constitutes permission by the owner for the possible use of the rabbit(s) for the Rabbit Ambassador contest- Breed ID portion.
17. 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 of the Rabbit Superintendent
18. Clean and neat appearance should be kept in the aisle way, along the walls, and around the cages. All fire exits and electrical areas must be clear of people and possessions at all times.
19. All carriers must be removed from the barn during the fair, with the exception of show times.

## **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.
- Completion of record sheet if not exhibiting at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair.

### **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.