

2023 Rabbit and Cavy Skillathon and Fair Prep Guide

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EVERYTHING you need to know from Skillathon to Fair!

Important Dates

Friday July 1 st	Pen Reservations Due
Saturday July 15 th	Rabbit/Cavy Skillathon
Saturday July 29 th	Fair Set Up and Barn Cleaning
Sunday August 6 th	Fair Check In (Market Rabbits MUST be weighed in today)
Monday August 7 th	Fair Check In
Wednesday August 9 th	Rabbit/Cavy Showmanship
Thursday August 10 th	Rabbit/Cavy Show
Sunday August 13 th	Animals Go Home
Saturday August 19 th	Fair Clean Up, Cage Deposit Pick Up, MAC Clean Up

Important Links

2023 Rabbit and Cavy Project Guidelines:

https://ashtabula.osu.edu/sites/ashtabula/files/imce/Program_Pages/4H/Info_and_Forms/Official%202023%20Rabbit%20%26%20Cavy%20Guidelines.pdf

2023 Pen Reservation Form (MUST BE COMPLETED BY JULY 1ST BY 4:30PM! Animals not registered with a Pen Reservation will not be permitted on the fairgrounds. PLEASE review the 2023 Rabbit and Cavy Guidelines to see how many animals/projects you are eligible to bring!) https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Y3goUMpUJ3KG3k

MANDATORY Market Animal Parent Presentation (MUST BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 1st!)

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vQEzQP8ICsZ-uKCguED--tNRRctbodA4V_CQOhrSVV0N8A95F9BGD2csOvv6c0vVom0kzLuj8-K5uX/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g36e3944d23_1_0

2023 Rabbit Skillathon Study Guides:

https://ashtabula.osu.edu/sites/ashtabula/files/imce/Program_Pages/4H/Info_and_Forms/2023%20Rabbit%20Skillathon%20Guide.pdf

2023 Cavy Skillathon Study Guide:

https://ashtabula.osu.edu/sites/ashtabula/files/imce/Program_Pages/4H/Info_and_Forms/Guinea%20Pig%20Skillathon%20Study%20Guide%202022.pdf

Rabbit and Cavy Band App: <https://band.us/n/a5a17025kfsf3>

Skillathon

Cavy and Pocket Pet Skillathon Saturday July 15th from 8:30am-12:00pm @ the FFA Building

What Do I Need to Bring?

1. **Completed** project book (Make sure this is signed by your advisor)
2. **Signed** copy of the 2023 Rabbit and Cavy Guidelines
3. Poster about project

Breeding / Market Rabbit Skillathon Saturday July 15th from 1:00pm-4:00pm @ Small Animal Barn

What Do I Need to Bring?

1. **Completed** project book (Make sure this is signed by your advisor)
2. **Signed** copy of the 2023 Rabbit and Cavy Guidelines

*Animals DO NOT attend Skillathon.

*IF your child needs special accommodations for Skillathon, a Winning 4H Plan MUST be on file. If a Winning 4H Plan is not completed and on file, no accommodations will be made.

*IF you cannot attend Skillathon, you must reach out to Ebony Lucas, or Jenna Hoyt to set up a home judging. If Skillathon or a Home Judging is not completed, your project will not be considered complete, and you will not be permitted to bring your animal(s) to fair.

*Those participating in Skillathon will not be permitted to use cell phones after checking in. They will need to be given to a parent or placed in the basket that will be provided. Parents will be asked to wait in a designated area away from the barn.

Fair Set Up / Barn Cleaning

Saturday July 29th at 8am at the Small Animal Barn.

Help get the Rabbit/Cavy barn cleaned up for fair. Dress in “play clothes”. Feel free to bring your own cleaning supplies (gloves, bleach, scrub brushes, rags, brooms, etc).

In order to get the barn cleaned, **FULL PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED!**

2023 Fair Prep

- Animals should be groomed PRIOR to fair check in. Animals SHOULD NOT be groomed at the fair. This includes cutting nails, brushing fur, baths, etc. This causes additional, unnecessary stress on your animal. If animals are being properly groomed/taken care of, grooming at the fair should not be necessary!
- DO NOT bathe or submerge your animals in water. Rabbits/Cavies do not require baths. A damp wash cloth (with **no** soap), or a baby wipe will work just fine.
- If you are bringing a Doe and Litter project, they MUST be weaned by fair check in. This means they are not being fed by or housed with the doe.

What Do I Need for Fair?

- Food trays and water bottles (crops are permitted but not recommended as they can be easily flipped by your rabbit or the public).
- Nesting boards for your animal to sit on (nesting boards with holes are recommended, however, tiles from Lowe's / Home Depot that are kept frozen are good for helping keep your animals cool)
- Frozen water bottles (with labels removed), along with cold tiles are great for keeping your animals cool)
- Bedding/shavings for cage trays. **CEDAR BEDDING/SHAVINGS ARE NOT PERMITTED!! THESE ARE DANGEROUS FOR THE ANIMALS!!!**
- Locks are strongly recommended for cages. We advise you to leave a spare key with your advisor/club member who will be in the area in the case of an emergency and you are not on the grounds.
- Small tack boxes are welcome to store any supplies. We recommend bringing just enough bedding per day to keep space open. Using empty coffee cans/container to bring in bedding every morning/evening is an easy way to store bedding, and food without having to store large bags/totes of feed/bedding. Gallon water jugs can be used to bring water from home. Changes to water can be stressful to your animals.
- Feel free to attach plastic table cloths/fabric to the bottoms of your cages to hide tack underneath. Please make sure you remove any staples when you are done.
- Animal name tags are permitted. Please make sure these are animal friendly as your animal may chew on them.
- Wire carrying cages are REQUIRED however do not need to be left at the fair all week. These take up extra room under the cages, and space is limited to begin with.

Mandatory Parent and Advisor Market Project Meeting: At least 1 parent/guardian of each market project member and 1 MAC advisor per club must attend the online virtual meeting by August 1st https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vQEzQP8ICsZ-uKCguED--tNRRctbodA4V_CQOhrSVV0N8A95F9BGD2csOvv6c0vVom0kzLuj8-K5uX/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g36e3944d23_1_0

What Should I Leave at Home?

- Toys
- Other décor that your animals may not be used to, or that may not be safe for the animals.
- Large Tack Boxes
- Cage space is limited so please be mindful of what you are putting inside your animals cage.

Fair Check In- @ The Small Animal Barn

Sunday August 6th Breeding Rabbit/Cavy check in from 2:00pm-8:00pm

Monday August 7th Breeding/Rabbit Cavy check in from 10:00am-3:00pm.

Market Rabbit Weigh In from 2:00pm-5:00pm (Market Rabbits MUST be weighed in on Sunday)

ALL animals must enter the fairgrounds through the Poplar Street entrance and be checked by the fair vet at the gates prior to entering the fairgrounds. Animals will then be checked in with Ebony, the Species Chair at the Small Animal Barn. Animals will be check in and cages will be assigned.

If you plan on checking your animals in on Monday, please plan accordingly! Animals MUST be checked in by 3pm, and we ask that you do not wait until the last minute to enter the grounds.

\$35 exhibitor deposits are due at the time of check in. EACH exhibitor must submit a deposit. This is PER CHILD, not per cage. (Market Rabbit Exhibitors are EXEMPT). Please make checks out to the "Small Animal Committee". Cash deposits is not accepted.

At the Fair

Cages MUST be cleaned out daily. Cages are expected to be cleaned out by the exhibitors NOT parents.!

Animals must be fed and watered daily. We ask that you tend to your animals once in the morning, and check on them once in the evening.

Each child/club will be asked for sign up for barn duty. Barn duty requires children/clubs to remain in the barn for their assigned times to assist in keeping the barn clean, and that the public is not touching/feeding the animals, leaving garbage behind, etc. We ask that at least one adult remain present in the case that any issues need to be addressed. Sign-ups will be at fair check in.

Showmanship- Wednesday August 9th @ 6pm in the Show Arena

All exhibitors are required to participate in Showmanship. During fair check in sign-ups will be available.

Dress Code

- Plain long sleeves, with no wording. Show lab coats with wording are acceptable
- Long pants
- Closed toed shoes
- No Jewelry (This includes necklaces, bracelets, dangling earrings, and facial piercings. Small stud earrings are acceptable.)
- Hair Tied Back

Points will be removed for improper dress code.

Wired carrying cages are **REQUIRED**. Points will be deducted for improper carrying cages. You may share with others if you have not obtained your own cage.

The Rabbit Show- Thursday August 10th @4pm in the MAC Arena

All exhibitors are required to participate in the Rabbit Show. Awards for Skillathon, and Showmanship will be presented at the beginning of the show. Each rabbit breed will have a perspective time slot. However, should you be late, you will be called 3 times. After the 3rd and final call, the show will move on without out.

Dress Code

- Plain long sleeves, with no wording. Show lab coats with wording are acceptable
- Long pants
- Closed toed shoes
- No Jewelry (This includes necklaces, bracelets, dangling earrings, and facial piercings. Small stud earrings are acceptable.)
- Hair Tied Back

Market Animal Sale- Saturday August 12th @11am

- Please be by your cages at 9am to talk with potential buyers
- Please have a poster made with photos of your pen of rabbits to hold during your time on the sale block.
- Please have a handwritten thank you card in an envelope to hand to your buyer.

Going Home

Animals are permitted to leave their cages to exit the fairgrounds at 7pm. If you plan to drive onto the fairgrounds, you cannot do this until 9pm.

NO ANIMALS ARE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THEIR CAGES BEFORE 7PM!! NO EXCEPTIONS!

If you take your animal out of its cage prior to 7pm you will be asked to put it back. We ask that you do not start to pack up your belongings until 7pm to keep the barn organized and free of clutter. Once it is 7pm, an announcement will be made that you are permitted to pack your belongings.

Cages MUST be cleaned by fair clean up on August 19th 2023 by 12pm in order to receive your cage deposit back. Cages should be free of fur, hay, urine/feces, staples, zip ties, etc in order you receive the deposit back. The Species Chair MUST check your cages.

Deposits will be returned on August 19th at 9am ONLY. If you are unable pick up your check, please contact the Species Chair. You may have a club advisor, 4H volunteer, or other 4H member pick up your check if you cannot be at the fairgrounds on the 19th. The Species Chair will only release your check to someone other than you IF prior arrangements have been made.

We are looking forward to a great summer!

Please contact Ebony Lucas if you have any questions/concerns!