



2023 Ashtabula County Rabbit & Cavy 4-H & Junior Fair Project Guidelines for Members, Advisors & Parents

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4-H Youth Development Ashtabula County
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With my signature below, I affirm that I have read and understand the following Rabbit and/or Market Rabbit Guidelines. All participants, members, parents, adult volunteers, and 4-H staff, shall adhere to the core values and code of conduct of the 4-H Youth Development Program.

Exhibitor's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____

Please present this signed copy of the guidelines with your project book at the time of project judging.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

2023 4-H Rabbit/Cavy Project Guidelines

Breeding/Market Rabbit Chair

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We Ask That ALL Families Taking a Rabbit (Market OR Breeding) and/or Cavy Project Download the app "BAND" and join the Rabbit / Cavy Group for ALL updates and educational information!! Once the app is downloaded, please use this link <https://band.us/n/a1a747seP3p8h> to be sent directly to our group! If you have any questions or need assistance joining our group please contact one of the Species Chairs listed above!

***NEW 2023!!* 228 RABBIT PROJECT AND RECORD BOOK**

Complete and date appropriate sections of the required record book every year a showing/breeding rabbit project is taken. Use in conjunction with the 228R Rabbit Resource Handbook to manage and evaluate your production practices. May take project more than 1 year as long as new interest areas are explored annually. **PAGE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE RELEASED LATER THIS YEAR**

215 CAVY PROJECT AND RECORD BOOK

Complete and date appropriate sections of the required record book every year a cavy project is taken. Use in conjunction with the 215R Cavy Resource Handbook: A 4-H Guide to Guinea Pigs.

1. **Anyone taking cavies to the fair must be enrolled in this project.** See FAIR EXHIBITION GUIDELINES FOR CAVIES for details about numbers of animals.
2. All Junior Fair Exhibitors are **REQUIRED** to participate in Skillathon Project Judging and Cavy Showmanship held during the fair to be eligible for a project grade and ribbon.
3. **THE CAVY RESOURCE HANDBOOK (228R) IS REQUIRED*. READ IT!**

*Families only need to purchase one per household if multiple children are enrolled in rabbit projects.

4. Project Book Page Requirements:

- A. All levels must complete pages: 4-27, 31, and 34-40.
 - B. Breeding (sow & litter) projects must also complete pages: 28-30.
5. Record books may not be reused. Participants may take this project more than 1 year as long as new project activity areas are explored annually. You must transpose the dates (month & year) from your previous project book so we can see the growth in your project. Records/pictures must be current.
 6. Record books must be reviewed, dated & signed by an Advisor upon completion of the required pages for the current year/grade level and include a copy of these Guidelines.
 7. Can be taken in conjunction with any Rabbit or other Pocket Pet Project.
 8. See **GENERAL PROJECT GUIDELINES** for details about project requirements.
- Rabbit and Cavy Participants are asked to bring their previous years book to Skillathon if possible to show the progression of their project. **From 2023 on this will be a required.**

RABBIT AND CAVY PROJECT POSTERS

Cavy project exhibitors are required to complete an educational poster. These need to be brought to Skillathon with their project books and turned in at fair check in to be displayed. This is optional, but encouraged for rabbit project exhibitors (to be turned in at fair check in).

FAIR EXHIBITION GUIDELINES FOR RABBITS.

First Year Exhibitors:

- May bring only one breeding, show or commercial meat rabbit to the fair.
- May enter one Market Rabbit Meat Pen project and/or Single Roaster class
- May enter one Doe and Litter project.

Second Year Exhibitors:

- May bring two breeding/show rabbits to the fair.
- May bring additional rabbits to compete in one Doe & Litter Class, see rule #4.
- May enter one commercial rabbit breed in the Single Roaster Class, see rule #6.
- May enter a Market Rabbit Meat Pen Project, see rule #7.

Third Year & Over Exhibitors:

- May bring three breeding (non-market) rabbits to the fair. **Only these three rabbits are eligible to be shown in the Breeder's Herd class if all criteria are met, see rule #5 of this section.**
- *Note: If cage space is limited in the rabbit barn exhibitors will only be able to bring two rabbits unless they are entering a Breeder's Herd. If this happens you will be contacted by the species chair prior to fair.
- May bring additional rabbits to compete in one Doe & Litter Class, see rule #4.
- May enter one commercial rabbit breed in the Single Roaster Class, see rule #6.
- May enter a Market Rabbit Meat Pen Project, see rule #7.

IF exhibitors have additional rabbits/cavies they wish to show a pen reservation must be made. Please add "extra rabbit/cavy" to the comment section on your reservation. Space will be given out equally with consideration to the size of the breeding class. IF additional rabbits/cavies are brought to fair, the exhibitor must have assistance at the show table in order to keep the show moving in a timely manner. Approval will be made by the end of July.

The Doe & Litter Class:

- A. 1st, 2nd and 3rd year members can enter one Doe & Litter Project per Jr. Fair exhibitor,
- B. 4th year and above may enter 2 Doe & Litter Projects providing there is space in the barn (the Rabbit Species Advisor will advise the exhibitor after Pen Reservations have been processed). One doe per project – mothers with a large litter cannot be entered twice.
- C. **Litters MUST be 10-12 weeks of age and WEANED separated from their mother) by fair check in on August 6th 2023.** Suggested breeding dates: April 13th-April 27th Must be born between May 14th-May 28th.

- D. Exhibitors must provide birth date of litter and a Proper Care Pamphlet. (This will be released once pen reservations are complete)
- E. A doe and two of the litter will compete for judging. The doe, and her offspring will all be housed in separate cages.
- F. Rabbits shown in this class **CANNOT BE SHOWN IN ANY OTHER CLASS.**

The Breeder's Herd Class:

- Consists of the three breeding rabbits already being shown by the exhibitor. **May use Single Roaster but NOT Market Pen. Doe and Litter projects may NOT be entered into this class.**
- Requires any combination of 3 rabbits with a first-generation relationship. Two parents (Sr Buck & Doe) and an offspring (Jr Buck or Doe) or one parent (Sr Buck or Doe) and two offspring (Jr Bucks and/or Does).
- **May bring "extra rabbits" if space permits. Please indicate them on your pen reservation.**

Single Roaster Class: (This is a non-terminal Market Rabbit Project.)

- See separate Market Animal Committee (MAC) Guidelines for specific project information (attached)
- Exhibitors may have 2 entries in the Single Roaster Class
- **Target weight: 5-9 pounds (Rabbits that are under/over the target weight will not be disqualified)**

Rabbit Meat Pen Project:

- Meat Pen Rabbits are now Roasters and will consist of a pen of two (2) rabbit 4-6 months of age. See Market Rabbit Guidelines at the end of this document and separate Market Animal Committee (MAC) Guidelines for specific project information.

Cross-Breed Rabbit Class:

- This class is only open to exhibitors with rabbits who have been cross breed with different breeds (for example a French Lop/New Zealand cross). All other rabbits MUST be shown in its appropriate breed group. This is not a "pet" rabbit class.

Replacement Class:

- This class is only open to those exhibitors **with single rabbit entries**. If project animal is ill or has passed away after the May 1st possession deadline. Please notify the 4-H Extension Office or Rabbit Species Chair if this occurs and a replacement animal was obtained.

FAIR EXHIBITION GUIDELINES FOR CAVIES

All ARBA (American Rabbit Breeder Association) breeds of Cavies will be accepted **along with breeds with COD's (Certificate of Development) Any Cavy not purebred will be judged in the class of the breed class that they represent the closest.** –

First Year Exhibitors:

- One cage per exhibitor that can house up to 2 cavies.
- One Sow and Litter

Second Year Exhibitors:

- Two cages per exhibitor that can house up to 2 cavies each.
- One Sow and Litter

Third Year Exhibitors:

- Three cages per exhibitor that can house up to 2 cavies each.
- One Sow and Litter

Fourth Year Exhibitors:

- Four cages per exhibitor that can house up to 2 cavies each.
- Two Sow and Litters

Sow and Litter Class:

- A. Sow must be separated from Boar 12 weeks before August 7th at fair check in.
- B. Babies must be 4-8 weeks old to be exhibited. Suggested breeding dates April 7th-May 5th and born between June 12th-July 10th
- C. A proper Care Pamphlet must be completed.
- D. Exhibitor will choose best two offspring to exhibit with Sow.
- E. The complete litter may come to fair.
 - Sows shown in this class **CANNOT BE SHOWN IN ANY OTHER CLASS.**
 - Members anticipating entering the Sow & Litter Class must include appropriate info on pen reservation. **If a sow does not kindle or loses the litter, please contact the 4-H Extension Office or Rabbit Species Advisor as soon as possible to cancel your entry.**

The Breeder's Herd Class:

- Consists of the three Cavies already being shown by the exhibitor. **Sow and Litter projects may NOT be entered into this class.**
- Requires any combination of 3 Cavies with a first-generation relationship. Two parents (Sow & Boar) and an offspring (Sow or Boar) or one parent (Sow or Boar) and two offspring Sow and/or Boars).
- **May bring "extra cavies" if space permits. Please indicate them on your pen reservation.**

(The number of entries above may be subject to change depending on cage availability and will go on a seniority basis for cage space.)

Additional Cavies can be added to your Pen Reservation for display purposes. The Species Chair will notify exhibitors if there is enough room.

RABBIT/CAVY PROJECT JUDGING

- All Junior Fair exhibitors are **REQUIRED** to participate in Project Judging on Super Saturday and Showmanship held during the fair to be eligible for a project grade and ribbon. Project is considered incomplete if requirements are not met.
- Members are required to have their completed project record book on hand for judging or five (5) points will be deducted from the total score.
- Books must be signed/dated by the exhibitor's club Advisor to verify that they contain current information and that the required pages for the project year are complete.
- Parents or Advisors need to contact the Rabbit or Pocket Pet Species Advisor if they have a participant with a learning or physical disability. **Winning 4H Plans must be turned into the Extension Office by the June Small Animal Clinic.**
- Rabbit Exhibitors will need to be familiar with **all** chapters of their project book, except Chapter 9, Meat Production and Processing (unless enrolled in a Market Rabbit Project) and Chapter 14, The Pet Rabbit. During Rabbit Project Judging, exhibitors will be interviewed or asked to perform skills on the knowledge they gained while enrolled in their rabbit project. Questions will be asked about terminology, basic care, housing, nutrition, anatomy, breeding, diseases, breeds of rabbits, etc. and will be age/skill-level appropriate, see study guides posted on line.
- Cavy Exhibitors must complete General Project Judging on Super Saturday which will include skill-a-ton stations and an interview. Please review Breeds, Diseases, Anatomy, Safe Foods, Faults/DQs, and Conformation. Create and bring a poster that will be hung in the educational area of the Small Animal Barn. **See General Project Guidelines**

PRE-FAIR INFORMATION:

1. Rabbits must be in member's possession by May 1st 2023. Does that will produce litters for the doe and litter classes must be in member's possession by May 1st 2023.
2. ALL Rabbit/Cavy exhibitors **WILL** be required to pay a cage deposit of \$35 PER EXHIBITOR. The cage deposit will be due upon fair check in. The cage deposit will be returned after the Species Chair has inspected each of the exhibitor's cages for proper sanitation. If the Species Chair does not deem the cage properly sanitized, the deposit will not be returned until the cage has been properly sanitized. **ALL CAGES MUST BE PROPERLY SANITIZED BY MAC CLEAN UP ON AUGUST 19, 2023 AT 10AM IN ORDER FOR THE DEPOSIT TO BE RETURNED.** Checks will be distributed between 9am-10am. Any checks that are not picked up **ON THIS DATE** will be destroyed. **IF** you need your check returned via mail, you must provide a self-addressed envelope with a stamp to the Species Chair by the end of fair. Any exhibitors who's cages are not properly sanitized by the deadline, will have their deposited forfeited, and will be deposited into the Rabbit/Cavy account.

Rabbit Age Classes

- Senior Bucks/Does – Over 6 months of age.
- Intermediate* Bucks/Does - Between 6-8 months of age in 6-class rabbits (breeds that have an ideal weight of nine pounds and over).
*Addition of this class will be determined by the judge depending on size of class.
- Junior Bucks/Does – 12 weeks to 6 months of age. **NO PRE JUNIORS MAY BE SHOWN**

Cavy Age Classes

- Senior Boars/Sows - Over 6 months of age or weight over 32 ounces
 - Intermediate Boars/Sows - Up to 6 months of age, OR weight over 22 ounces and maximum weight of 32 ounces.
 - Junior Boars/Sows – 4 week to 4 months of age, minimum weight of 12 ounces, maximum weight of 22 ounces.
 - All project Cavies must be in the possession of the exhibitor by May 1st to be able to show at the Ashtabula County Junior Fair. Exceptions are: Intermediates, Juniors, and Sow & Litter projects which are raised by the exhibitor. Exhibitor must have sow by May 1st.
3. If leasing an animal(s) for 2023 please fill out a lease form (attached) and show your Species Chair at Skillathon.
4. Exhibitors must turn in pen reservations ONLINE by **JULY 1st**.
If you plan to enter rabbits for a Doe & Litter and/or Sow & Litter mark them on the pen reservation but remember these classes require the young to be of a certain age. See guidelines provided and breed accordingly. If your breeding was unsuccessful, please contact the 4-H Extension Office or Rabbit Species Advisor as soon as possible to cancel your entry.
5. **The age, sex and variety (color) of your rabbit/cavy will be required for the Jr. Fair Rabbit Show. Please try to know this information prior to fair week.** Ask a breeder, take your rabbit to a show, or attend one of the many Small Animal Rabbit clinics offered to find out this information.
6. Project grades are given on the combined scores of rabbit/cavy project judging and showmanship.

THINGS TO DO BEFORE FAIR:

1. Assemble or purchase things* you will need to take to the fair:
 - A. Individual feed and water containers. **Heavy crocks** for both food and water are highly recommended. Use water bottles with metal nozzles at your own risk.
 - B. Locks for cages (must have 2 keys - 1 for Advisor and 1 for member or combination must be given to Advisor).
 - C. Cleaning supplies (dust pan & whisk broom) to clean cages.
 - D. Carry cage or other type of secure container to transport your animals to and from fairgrounds and rabbit/cavy show (see Additional Fair Information, Rule #12). Cardboard boxes and soft sided carriers are not acceptable due to the temperature.
 - E. All Supplies brought to the fair, i.e.: carrying cages, feed containers, totes, etc., should be labeled with the exhibitor's name and club name to ensure items can be returned to the proper owner.
- *Use familiar items from home to lessen the stress on your animal(s) if at all possible.
2. Begin grooming your rabbit; clip toenails if needed.
 3. Plastic bottles of ice help cool your rabbit/cavy when placed in cages when temperatures are high. Keep the size of the bottle appropriate to the size of the animal. It would be a good idea to have these ready ahead of time in case they are needed.
 4. Rabbit/Cavy Exhibitors are required to participate in the Pre-Fair Clean Up, or MAC Clean Up Day. Please See the newsletter for information and times.

ADDITIONAL FAIR INFORMATION

1. All animals must enter the fairgrounds at the Poplar Street Ambulance entrance (between the Track and Race Barn). You must first speak with the fair veterinarian and market rabbit exhibitors must turn in their Drug Use Notification Forms (DUNF). Then proceed to the rabbit barn. All rabbits/cavies must be checked in by the Rabbit Species Chair or designee according to fair guidelines **NO EXCEPTIONS. You must provide a signed Check In Slip from the vet to the Species Chair.**
2. All animals must be visually inspected by the appropriate Rabbit Species Chair or designee upon entry to the rabbit barn. Animals must be free of disease and in good physical condition, no injuries, mites, lice, or wolf's teeth. A second opinion will be given by the Fair Veterinarian before rejection of any animal that shows any health related issues or concerns.
3. Exhibitors are encouraged to permanently tattoo their rabbits. If a rabbit is not permanently tattooed at the time of check in, the exhibitor will be required to manually mark their rabbit with a black marker. Cavies will be stickered prior to the show.
4. Cages will be assigned by the appropriate Species Chair at check in.
5. Only appropriate toys and resting boards will be permitted in the cage. Rabbits should not be given soft plastics and/or rubber objects. Carpet is unacceptable. Rabbits may eat the synthetic fibers, which causes digestion problems and/or death. Wood, slate, and hard plastic grates are acceptable options. The Rabbit Species Chair reserves the right to remove any/all inappropriate items. This is for the safety of the rabbits and the exhibitors. Same applies for Cavies.
6. Decorating cages: Clubs may decorate their sections of cages, *however*, please use paper, wood, or fabric only and limit the decorations to areas inaccessible to the animals. The Rabbit Species Advisor reserves the right to remove any/all inappropriate items/decorations. This is for the safety of the rabbits and the exhibitors. Please cover the bottom on your tack area with fabric, plastic, etc. **All staples and zip ties used to attach decorations/equipment MUST be removed when the rabbit is removed.**
7. Bedding will need to be provided by the individual 4-H exhibitor and/or club. Remember you only need to remove the heavily soiled/wet areas in the tray. This will help conserve bedding.
CEDAR SHAVINGS ARE PROHIBITED!!!
8. Bring your own feed. Because of limited space, store feed in a small container similar to a 3 pound coffee can. If you bring hay it must be in some type of container. Feed on the same schedule as you do at home. Do not overfeed. Water must be available at all times. Please check or have someone check on your rabbit(s) often throughout the day. All small items should be stored in a club tote or tack box labeled with your name or club. Items should be waterproof due to wet floors.
9. No one is to handle a junior fair member's animal(s) without the permission of the junior fair exhibitor unless there is an emergency. Committee members may handle animals during the normal course of their duties (i.e., show, sale, weigh-in, pictures, loading, unloading).
10. **All cages must be cleaned daily and rabbits/cavies fed and watered before 9:00 a.m. and again by 6:00 p.m.***

***The Species Chair will inspect cages daily to ensure that all rabbits/cavies are properly cared for by the exhibitor (i.e.: - fed, watered, clean animal and pen, etc.). All animals must be properly cared for daily by 4-H and FFA members (fed, watered, cleaned as needed) or they will be sent home.**

Pens and/or rabbits/cavies not cared for will be tagged with a colored sticker (yellow- 1st warning, orange - 2nd warning, and red - 3rd warning). Exhibitors whose pens are red flagged will forfeit all awards including Jr. fair Auction.

NOTE: It is only necessary to remove the wet/soiled areas in the tray. This will help conserve bedding. Manure/bedding is to be placed in wheelbarrow ONLY – wheelbarrow is to be emptied at the manure bin located on the west side of the block show barn. Emptying the wheelbarrow is everyone's responsibility! Please clean up after yourself and help keep the aisles clean and clear.

11. Each participant is responsible for at least one day of Barn Duty. See guidelines posted in rabbit barn for barn duty responsibilities and assignments.

12. Grooming tables are provided for you to work with your rabbit/cavy. Please be courteous and clean up after yourself and your animal. **DO NOT** use picnic tables for grooming or to practice showmanship. It is recommended that all animals are groomed PRIOR to animal check in!

***AT THE TIME OF CHECK IN, ANIMALS MUST ARRIVE IN PROPER SHOW CONDITION! Example: NO wet, or soiled animals. Animals will not be checked in, in this condition. Please plan accordingly. YOUR ANIMALS DO NEED TO BE BATHED AS THIS IS DAMAGING TO THEIR COAT**

13. Carrying cages at fair are limited to one per club as long as there is room to store it under the cages. All other carriers must be taken home. They can be brought back to transport animals for showmanship and rabbit/cavy judging - then again on Sunday night to transport animals home.

14. **Exhibitors are limited to the space underneath their cages, please be mindful of others! You may only have 24 inches by 24 inches to store tack boxes, any thing larger will cause other exhibitors items to be pushed into the aisle, causing a danger hazard. The Species Chair is at the discretion to ask exhibitors to downsize.**

15. Animals cannot leave the fairgrounds unless written permission is obtained from the Fair Veterinarian and/or the Sr. Fair Board member in charge of rabbits. The Jr. Fair Office or Rabbit Species Chair should also be notified. If animals are removed early, without permission, Junior Fair exhibitors may be banned from showing at the fair the following year.

16. If animals become sick at the fair, all club Advisors will be notified of the circumstances by the appropriate Rabbit Species Chair. It is suggested that fair exhibitors quarantine their animals for 2-3 weeks once returning home.

17. Does/Sows that kindle during fair may be sent home. Manage breeding schedules to prevent this.

18. **NO "For Sale" signs may be posted until after the Rabbit/Cavy Show on Thursday night!!!. The Species Chair has the right to remove postings BEFORE the permitted time. NO EXCEPTIONS!! You must use the FOR SALE signs available from the Junior Fair Office.** The collection of fees and writing

of receipts will be the exhibitor's responsibility. Buyers must be informed that animals may not leave the fairgrounds until 7:00 PM Sunday night. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the rabbit barn bulletin board for exhibitors wanting to advertise rabbits/cavies for sale. An animal care sheet and bag of transitional feed MUST be provided to your buyer. Your care sheet MUST be approved by the Species Chair at check in .

19. Practice Good Sportsmanship: The desire that the activity will be enjoyed for its own sake, with proper consideration for fairness, ethics, respect, and a sense of fellowship with one's competitors.

RABBIT & CAVY SHOWMANSHIP GUIDELINES:

WEDNESDAY 6:00pm – Show Barn

- A. All Showmanship will begin at 6:00pm. Pre-registration required.
- B. Participation in a showmanship class is **REQUIRED** for all rabbit/cavy projects to be eligible for a project grade ribbon. Exhibitors should have a good understanding of what is expected of themselves and their animal before entering showmanship classes. Watch for clinic dates.
- C. Rabbit Exhibitors are only required to compete in showmanship once. If you take Market or Single Roaster you do not have to complete showmanship again for your breeding/show rabbit project *unless* you want the opportunity to place in your age/skill level. Market and Roaster exhibitors should refer to Market Rabbit and MAC guidelines.
- D. Exhibitors must show his/her OWN project animal. (See I. for exceptions).
- E. **The following Dress Code is required for all Showmanship Judging:**
 - Long sleeve shirt OR show/lab coat.
 - Clean, long pants with no holes.
 - Socks and clean, closed-toed shoes.
 - Hair must be pulled back and out of the exhibitor's face.
 - No sunglasses, hat, or jewelry are permitted at the judge's table or in the show ring.
 - PROPER WIRE CARRYING CAGES ARE REQUIRED!! (See the last page of the guidelines for examples) Points WILL be deducted from the exhibitor's score for improper carrying cages.
- E. Showmanship Classes are determined by exhibitor's age as of January 1 2023.

Rabbit Showmanship Classes are as follows:

<i>Beginner – 1st year projects</i>	Ages 8 – 13
<i>Beginner - 1st year projects</i>	Ages 14 & up
<i>Experienced</i>	Ages 9 – 11
<i>Experienced</i>	Ages 12 – 14
<i>Experienced</i>	Ages 15 & up
<i>Market Rabbit Exhibitors</i>	(separate age classes)

Cavy Showmanship Classes* are as follows:

<i>Junior</i>	Ages 8 – 11
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Intermediate	Ages 12 - 14
Senior	Ages 15 & up

*These classes are subject to change depending upon the number of exhibitors entered in the project.

- F. ARBA and ACBA Showmanship score sheets will be used, sample provided with these guidelines.
- G. During judging, showmanship presentations are limited to a maximum of 10 minutes per exhibitor.
- H. Scores that result in a tie for 1st place will require both exhibitors to compete in a Tie-Breaker Question(s). The winner will be chosen from the exhibitors present at the time of the tie-breaker questioning.
- I. If unable to exhibit your rabbit/cavy at the fair, you may use another animal already housed on the fairgrounds for showmanship. You must advise the SAC Species Chair and the showmanship judge the night of the show (exhibitors will be ineligible to compete for Super Showman). Thus you can still complete your project and earn a project grade ribbon.
- J. **No one but the exhibitor and judge may be at the showmanship table during judging. The exhibitor will lose points if assistance is required to bring the rabbit/cavy to the table. Exhibitors must bring the rabbit/cavy to the table using an approved carrier so the judge can see how you handle your animal. EXCEPTIONS MUST BE LISTED AND APPROVED IN A WINNING 4H PLAN.**

ADDITIONAL SHOWMANSHIP INFORMATION

- Showmanship judging will begin at 6:00 p.m. and run until completed.
- A schedule will be posted in the rabbit barn at the start of animal check in for pre-registration for a showmanship time slot. Some showmanship classes are shorter than others, and judges will **NOT** be expected to wait. The show **WILL** move on without you!!
- If you are not present when your name is called the next exhibitor on the list will be called. You will then have to wait for the next opening. **If there is a conflict due to other Jr. Fair obligations, contact the rabbit species chair so we can accommodate your needs.**
- Tables will be identified with signs that correspond to the above showmanship classes.
- Scores/placings will be announced at the Rabbit Show on Thursday. The eligible breeding rabbit and market rabbit exhibitors with the highest scores will complete showmanship again for a different judge to determine Super Showman.
- Show stands for cavies will be available at the judge's table (and registration table for long-haired cavies). The Senior Cavy Showman winner will now be eligible to compete in the Super Showman contest Sunday of fair week.

SUPER SHOWMANSHIP / SHOWMAN OF SHOWMEN

Cavy and Rabbits only receive one representative for Super Showman. To compete in Super Showman participants must 13 years old and shown in their respective species for 3 years. The top showman who is eligible in each age group will compete at the end of showmanship for the Showman of Showmen.

PLEASE NOTE: Participants will be asked to do showmanship with a Guinea Pig **AND** Rabbit. The animals will be chosen by the Species Chair.

JUNIOR FAIR RABBIT & CAVY SHOW

THURSDAY 4:00pm – MAC Arena

6:00 p.m.- Jr. Fair Rabbit Meat Pen Judging, Commercial Single Roaster Class, Cavy Judging, Rabbit Breed Judging, Best of Show, Breeder's Herd, Doe & Litter, Showmanship Results, Costume Contest to follow.

- A. Exhibitor must show his or her own rabbit/cavy except for the following reasons:
- A natural occurring circumstance such as sickness, accident, family death. If sickness, etc. occurs after a rabbit is brought to fair another Ashtabula County Junior Fair exhibitor may show the project rabbit. If something occurs before the fair, the rabbit must be home judged and may not be exhibited at fair.
 - Fair/Judging schedule conflict - In this case another Ashtabula County Junior Fair exhibitor may show the project animal. Rabbit species chair must be notified.
 - All Market Rabbit and Roaster exhibitors should refer to Market Animal Guidelines.
 - Additional 4H exhibitors may assist exhibitors with multiple animals.
- B. **Dress The following Dress Code is required for showing in the ring:**
- Long sleeve shirt OR show/lab coat.
 - Clean, long pants with no holes.
 - Socks and clean, closed-toed shoes.
 - Hair must be pulled back and out of the exhibitor's face.
 - No sunglasses, hat, or jewelry are permitted at the judge's table or in the show ring.
- C. On show night take your animals to the MAC Arena in a PROPER wire carrying cage – **NO cardboard boxes or soft sided carriers.**
- D. The show will run like an ARBA sanctioned show. Breeds will be posted and each breed will be broken down by age and sex. A judging schedule will be posted at the show and in the barn for your convenience. Please check the order of the show to see when your breed is being judged and plan accordingly.
- Listen for your breed and class to be called. Then take your animal to the judging table, place your rabbit/cavy on the table in one of the slots provided and wait there. A limited number of cavy platforms are available for long haired breeds to prep for the show table.
- E. Remember **only** Junior Fair exhibitors and designated show officials are allowed at the judging table with the judge. If assistance is needed for some reason, ask an Advisor or show official to help you not a friend/family member. **PLEASE NOTE-EXCEPTIONS MUST BE LISTED AND APPROVED IN A WINNING 4H PLAN.**

- The judge will evaluate all animals and then award places. Please be attentive and listen to the judge's comments. When the judge has finished placement, you may return your animal to its carrying cage. If your animal does not receive a Best of Breed placing it can be returned to the rabbit barn. Please return to the front of the show ring to pick up your comment card(s)/* ribbons
- F. Rabbits/cavies chosen as Best of Breed will compete again at the end of the show for Best of Show and Reserve Best of Show. Cross-Breed or Replacement Class animals are not eligible for Best of Show. After the show, animals should be returned to the rabbit barn and carrying cages should be taken home.
- G. **If you win a trophy or plaque, please send a thank you note to the sponsor.**

AT THE END OF THE FAIR - GOING HOME

All animals will be released at 7:00 PM IF YOU ARE CARRYING THEM FROM THE MAIN FAIRGROUNDS TO A VEHICLE IN THE PARKING LOT WEST OF POPLAR STREET. You may not drive a vehicle onto the fairgrounds until after 9:00 PM on Sunday night to pickup animals or equipment. If animals are removed early, without permission, Junior Fair exhibitors may be banned from showing at the fair the following year. **NO ANIMALS MAY LEAVE THEIR CAGE BEFORE 7PM!!!**

ALL ANIMALS MUST BE PICKED UP BY 12:00 NOON THE MONDAY AFTER FAIR.

ALL EXHIBITORS MUST DUMP AND WASH CAGE TRAYS BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE FAIRGROUNDS. BE SURE TO TAKE HOME ALL PERSONAL BELONGINGS.

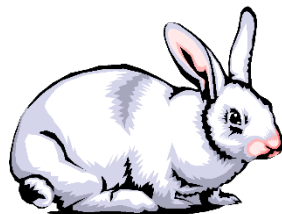
NO CAGES CAN BE CLEANED SUNDAY NIGHT PER SENIOR FAIRBOARD! Please make arrangements to clean your cages by Saturday at 10am.

All score sheets and project ribbons will be available to the Advisors/exhibitors the night of the rabbit/cavy show. Any unclaimed score sheets/ribbons will be turned in to the Extension Office. Market Rabbit awards/ribbons will be awarded at the MAC awards on Sunday.

NOTE: If any concerns or problems occur during the fair, club Advisors, a species Advisor, or the 4-H Educator will make a ruling. They may contact Fair Board members or members of the 4-H Committee for additional input

MARKET RABBIT MEAT PEN & SINGLE ROASTER PROJECT GUIDELINES

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Introduction:

Market Rabbit Projects are offered to 4-H and FFA to help members learn the science of raising a Market Rabbit Meat Pen. The project involves raising one or more litters to market weight. Members are judged on the quality of the market rabbit meat pen produced as well as the knowledge gained from the project. The sale of the project is not a requirement for project completion, animals may be shown at the fair or be home judged, in the event the animal(s) cannot come to fair. The main emphasis should be on learning and the development of the project not the sale or using the project to make money.

Eligibility

- All first year 4-Hers and FFA members are eligible with proper guidance given.
- Members may purchase or breed for this project so long as other requirements (age) are met. (See Obtaining Stock)
- Only one market animal project is eligible to be exhibited.

MARKET RABBIT MEATPEN & SINGLE ROASTER REQUIREMENTS

Project Requirements (Age & Weight)

- Meat Pen Rabbits are now Roasters and will consist of a pen of two (2).
- A Market Rabbit Meat Pen is to consist of two (2) rabbits. The rabbits must be of the same breed and variety and they may NOT exceed six months of age* at the time of weigh-in at fair. ***Meat pen entries and single roasters are permitted to be between 4-6 months of age.**
- Requirements for the single roaster project are the same as the meat pen project with a few exceptions: A single roaster is a single market rabbit and is a non-terminal project that does not go through the MAC Sale. It is a class generated to gather interest in the market rabbit meat pen project. Single roasters are not required to be tattooed, but they must be designated as such at the time of check-in Sunday of fair and will be weighed after your market rabbit meat pen entry. Exhibitors entering a single roaster are required to participate in Market Rabbit Project Judging and Market Rabbit Showmanship to complete project. Please consult the market rabbit species chair for project clarification if needed.
- Each rabbit in the meat pen must weigh between five (5) and nine (9) pounds at the time of weigh-in. If one rabbit in the pen is under/over weight, the entire pen is considered to be underweight or overweight.
- Rabbits *must* be of a commercial breed. Suggested rabbit market breeds include: Champagne d'Argent, Crème d'Argent, Californian, American Chinchilla, Cinnamon, New Zealand, Palomino, Satin, or a cross of a previously listed breed. Please consult the market species chair for guidance if you are considering a non-listed breed.

Obtaining Stock

8. The Market Rabbit Pen and/or Single Roaster must be in possession of the owner by May 1st. Suggested Breeding for the 2022 fair is January 6th–March 6th to be four-six months old at fair.
9. Breeding and rearing your own stock is preferred for the project and the exhibitor's experience. If breeding does not go as planned and an exhibitor needs to complete a pen of two rabbits of the same breed/variety a combination pen of bred and purchased rabbits is allowed.
 - **If purchasing rabbits for this project, they are to be six (6) weeks old at the time of purchase and CANNOT be born prior to February 6, 2023**
 - **A Bill of Sale receipt with date of birth is required for any purchased animals.** *A receipt is attached to the rules for your convenience.* **A pedigree is encouraged if the breeder can provide one.** These documents must be presented at the time the animals are tattooed.
 - The young are not to be over six (6) months at the time of weigh-in at the fair.
 - The young must be of the same breed and variety (color).

Tattooing/Tagging

- Meat pens will be permanently tattooed on MAC Tagging Day, June 17, 2022 beginning at 9:00am immediately following the Small Animal Meeting.
- **Each exhibitor will be required to schedule a time for tagging.** At this time you are to give the species chair a number of animals being tagged as to ensure a smooth transition from one child's animals to the next. Please contact the market species chair to designate your time. This time is only to ensure an efficient movement of animals through the tattooing process. For this reason, please try to be there during the time of which you scheduled and perhaps a few minutes earlier.
- Only animals tattooed on this date will be eligible to participate in the fair and sale.
- The meat pen is to be chosen from any two (2) rabbits tattooed at the tagging.
- Complete the Online Registration Forms
- Breeding projects may tattoo: up to (24) rabbits.
Purchasing projects may tattoo: up to (12) rabbits.
- All Market Rabbits will be tattooed in the following format: The identifying tattoo number and 4-H clover symbol will be placed in the left ear. Rabbits may come with a personal rabbitry tattoo, but all must receive the official 4-H clover for tracking purposes.

Competition Requirements

- *American Rabbit Breeder Association (ARBA) guidelines will be followed in terms of disqualifications from competition. Please consult the 2016-2020 ARBA Standard of Perfection for a list of disqualifications (available at the Extension Office with the other study materials).*
- If one rabbit in the pen is under/overweight, the entire pen is considered to be underweight or overweight. Underweights and overweight's will be sent home Monday after weigh-in and will not show or sell at fair (see MAC guidelines). Exhibitors will be eligible for a project grade ribbon if they participate in market rabbit project judging and showmanship. See Rabbit Species Advisor for further information. Underweight/overweight Roasters may stay and will show at fair with their class.

Pen Reservation

- Each exhibitor must ensure that a pen reservation made online before July 1st. The Advisor or FFA Instructor must also ensure that these reservations are returned to the extension office no later than July 1st. No animal is eligible to compete at the fair without a pen reservation

Entrance and Health Requirements

- *All animals must be in place no later than four (4) p.m. on the Monday of fair.* **PLEASE NOTE, ALL MARKET RABBITS MUST COME IN SUNDAY-PLEASE SEE MAC GUIDELINES.** Please check with your Advisor prior to the fair to verify details and times as well.
- Market Rabbit Meat Pens will go through a brief health check PRIOR to being placed in their designated pens. Please allocate time for this health check to be performed. Each rabbit must be free of cold symptoms, parasites, and any other illness. If questions arise as to the health of the animal, the fair veterinarian will be notified to examine the animal(s) in question.
- Please check the fair handbook for any other further updated information or clarifications on health and exhibition requirements.

Weigh-In

MARKET ANIMALS WILL BE WEIGHED UPON ENTRY, AND SALE PHOTOS TAKEN.

- Each rabbit in the meat pen is required to weigh between five (5) and nine (9) pounds at the time of weigh in. In the event that one rabbit does not make the above mentioned requirements, the entire pen will be either classified as overweight or underweight.

Exhibition

- All market animals must be watered and cared for by 9:00 a.m. and again by 6:00 p.m. The first failure to comply will result in a written warning by the Species Chair, and if it continues, the Department Superintendent may levy a fine of \$10.00 for each occurrence.
- **Please ensure your animals have enough water and ice bottles (if needed due to heat) throughout the day.**
- Exhibitors must provide carriers (preferably actual rabbit carriers made of wire), to transport their animals to the judging area. Please consider that heat could play a factor at the time of fair since rabbits do overheat rather easily. Carriers must be taken home when not in use.

Project Judging

Quality Assurance

- **All members exhibiting a Market Rabbit Meat Pen are required to attend Quality Assurance.** Please check the 4-H Insight or county website for a listing of offered sessions. Deadline for QA to be completed is June 1st.

Project Judging

- All members are required to participate in Market Rabbit Project Judging in order to be eligible for completion. Judging will be conducted on Super Saturday in conjunction with all the breeding rabbit and cavy projects.
- Bring your completed, signed project book to project judging, as this will be part of your grade, along with a signed copy of these Guidelines and the Market Animal Committee (MAC) Guidelines. Points will be deducted from your score if you are missing information.

- Skillathon packets with all information to study will be available online at <http://ashtabula.osu.edu/topics/4-h-youth-development> under Ashtabula County 4-H Forms and Applications.

Showmanship

- Market showmanship is required to be eligible for project completion.
- Showmanship will be conducted on Wednesday during the fair. Market showmanship will begin at 6 p.m. at the Show Barn, no make-ups.

Judging

- All animals in the Market Rabbit Meat Pen will be judged at the Rabbit Show on Thursday during the week of fair. Once again, please check with your Advisor, instructor, or species chair for more information.
- Weight classes will be established if there are more than six (6) meat pens entered for judging. These classes will be determined by the number of meat pens being shown and may vary in $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, or $\frac{3}{4}$ pound increments. The exhibitor will be notified by the rabbit species advisor of their proper weight class prior to the show.

Pre-Sale

- All Market Animal Exhibitors are **REQUIRED** to be at their pens to greet potential buyers ONE HOUR before the sale begins ALL MARKET ANIMAL EXHIBITORS SELLING AT THE SALE ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A GENERIC THANK YOU CARD WRITTEN AND TURNED IN AT THE TIME THE EXHIBITORS ENTER THE SALE RING.

Sale

- ***All animals in the meat pen are terminal and are therefore required to be processed through a MAC approved processor.***
- *Grand Champion Project, Reserve Champion Project, Best of Show and Reserve Best of Show must sell at the sale. All other properly tattooed animals may withdraw from the sale within one hour after the end of the rabbit show by contacting the species chairperson. (See MAC Guidelines for further information).*
- Grand Champion Project and Reserve Champion Project will be first through the sale followed by Best in Show and Reserve in Show. The remainder of the pens will be sold in order of project judging score. In the event that the project exceeds fifteen (15) pens, the top five (5) pens after Best in Show and Reserve in Show will be sold according to placement by the judge and the remainder of the pens will be sold by project judging score.
- Members must show their own animal for the sale. If a members in unable to show his or her own animal for the sale, that members must notify the species chairperson before the day of the sale. The livestock superintendents along with the species chairperson and the 4-H Educator will then determine whether or not that member's animal can be sold.

As a reminder, these rules are meant as a guideline for the Market Animal Project. All rules and guidelines are subject to the MAC and must also comply with any other rules regarding the Jr. Fair and MAC Sale. These other rules can be found in the Fair Handbook.

RABBIT/CAVY PURCHASE SALES RECEIPT

Please fill out a separate receipt for each child purchasing and present a copy of the receipt to the market species chair the day of tag-in.

Date of Purchase: _____

BUYER'S INFORMATION (to be completed by buyer)

4-H/FFA Exhibitor Name: _____

4-H/FFA Exhibitor Address: _____

4-H/FFA Exhibitor Phone Number: (____) _____

SELLER'S INFORMATION (to be completed by seller)

Seller's Name: _____

Seller's Address: _____

Seller's Phone Number: (____) _____

ANIMAL'S INFORMATION (to be completed by seller)

Date of Birth: _____

Breed: _____

Variety: _____

Number Purchased: _____

I hereby certify that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SELLER'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Rabbit/Cavy Lease Agreements

ASHTABULA COUNTY 4-H RABBIT LEASE AGREEMENT RULES

Lease Agreements:

1. Each Rabbit/Cavy Junior Fair Exhibitor with leased animals must show his or her own leased animals for the showmanship classes.
2. Each Junior Fair Exhibitor is limited to one leased animal per class.
3. All health papers or animal's registration and lease papers must accompany the animal to the fair.

[Click here for Ohio 4-H's leasing rules.](#)

EXAMPLE Rabbit LEASE AGREEMENT - ASHTABULA COUNTY

It is agreed by the parties as follows:

For the purpose of this lease agreement, _____
(Name)

_____, shall be known as the LESSOR,

and _____,
(Name) (Address)

shall be known as the LESSEE.

The Lessor does hereby let and lease the use of the following described animal:

BREED _____ NAME _____

BIRTH DATE _____ ID # / Tattoo # _____ to the lessee for a period beginning on the * _____ day of _____, 20____, and ending on the _____ day of _____, 20____, for the purpose of said animal becoming the 4-H project upon the following conditions:

1. Lessee will treat the animal in a careful and proper manner, including feeding, stabling, training of animal for showing and veterinary attention as may be required, and will not allow the animal to be mistreated by others.
2. Lessee shall abide by the terms as agreed upon and stated below on the following conditions:
 - A. Area of housing _____
 - B. Provider of feed and bedding _____

C. Vet expenses incurred by _____

D. Responsible party for breeding of animal _____

E. Responsible party for transportation of animal _____

F. Responsible party for grooming supplies & Show halter _____

G. Additional _____

Terms _____

3. In case of death of the animal while in possession of LESSEE, it is mutually agreed as follows: _____.

4. LESSEE shall not have this agreement broken by LESSOR without serious infringement of the terms listed above.

5. A copy of this agreement must be turned in to the Extension office by May 1st.

6. Is the lessee approved to bag for show _____ If so, what are the maximum number of hours permitted in udder _____

*Remember, project animals must be in the care and possession of the member by May 1

Leaser's Signature: _____

Lessee's Signature: _____

Parent of Lessee's Signature _____ Date: _____

Safely Transporting Your Rabbits and Cavies:

To keep your **rabbits** safe and healthy during transport it is highly recommended to use carriers specifically designed for rabbits. Carriers should be made of sturdy wire mesh with a wire floor that sets into a watertight tray. This is to keep the rabbit clean during transport. The tray hooks on so that the cage moves as a unit. Most carriers open from the top allowing safe and easy access to remove or place the rabbit inside (pictured top left). These cages come in many sizes and configurations based on the size of the rabbit and how many rabbits fit in the cage with separators. Plastic "Pet Taxis" are **not** suitable for transporting rabbits. There is inadequate ventilation, the rabbits are often wet and soiled when you take them out, and it is difficult to get the rabbits out the small opening. You could catch the rabbit's toenails or feet trying to pull it out or even get bit reaching in to grab the rabbit. Cardboard boxes and fabric sided carriers are also poor choices for transporting your rabbit. They are hard to secure (remember rabbits can chew) and are not properly ventilated. Remember, rabbits stress easily and can not take the heat. Same basic principal applies to **cavies**. Cage should have a solid or small mesh floor. Rabbit carriers will not work, cavies can step through the wire and harm their legs/feet. Cardboard boxes and soft sided carriers are NOT acceptable due to the heat. Small pet taxi's (pictured bottom right) are available at most pet supply stores.

If proper wire carrying cages are not used during Wednesday Showmanship, the exhibitor will have points deducted from their score.

Here are some resources for purchasing rabbit carriers:

arba.net (American Rabbit Breeders Association website, click on Links)

bassequipment.com

bunnyrabbit.com

Ace Brewer (440)257-7950 (Local rabbit breeder in Mentor who may still be selling carriers)

