

RABBIT

MANUALS: BU-8080 (Gr. 3 – 5) What's Happening? ; BU-8081 (Gr. 6 – 8) Making Tracks;
BU-8082 (Gr. 9 – 12) All Ears!, 4-H 288 Rabbits, Rabbits, Rabbits (one per family)

RECORD SHEETS: Level 1(Gr. 3 – 5); Level 2 (Gr. 6 – 8); Level 3 (Gr. 9 – 12)

CHECK-IN: Monday, July 13, 2009 from 8:00 – 10:00 A.M.

RABBIT AMBASSADOR CONTEST: Monday, July 13, 2009 at 1:00 P.M. (Livestock Pavilion)

JUDGING: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 12:00 Noon (Show Arena)

RELEASE: Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 10:00 P.M. – Release all animals, **EXCEPT** those to be sold in the auction

OBJECTIVE: The purpose of the 4-H Rabbit project is to familiarize the 4-H member with the principles of feeding, breeding and management of rabbits. Boys and girls can find some phase of rabbit raising which will stimulate and keep their interest. With good management, rabbits offer a pleasant 4-H project and an opportunity for modest financial profit. The rabbit manual gives good guidelines for the project; however, if you own only one rabbit, or can only buy one rabbit, you can still take the project.

1. Rabbits must be in the member's possession by MAY 15TH with the exception of meat pens. Meat pens must be raised by exhibitor with doe in exhibitor's possession by May 1ST. Tattoo numbers of meat pen rabbits must be registered with the Extension Office by JUNE 15TH also.
2. Rabbits must be owned by the 4-H Club member or owned in partnership. See Rule #3 under Livestock Exhibit Rules for further information on ownership and partnership requirements.
3. Rabbits should be purebred, either fancy or commercial breeds.
4. The 4-H members must identify what breed their rabbit(s) are when entering and must show pedigree papers to verify breed, sex, date of birth, and ownership. Rabbits without pedigree papers will be entered in the crossbred classes. Crossbred rabbits will be allowed to show for Champion.
5. A 4-H member may show a maximum of eight (8) rabbits plus one (1) meat pen entry with no more than one (1) entry per class.
6. All meat pen entries must be accompanied by at least one buck or doe entry at the fair to be eligible to show.
7. A class is defined by the age of the rabbit as of the day of the show.
 - a. **Fancy** (Four Class):
 - i. Junior - under 6 months of age
 - ii. Senior - over 6 months of age
 - b. **Commercial** (Six Class):
 - i. Junior - under 6 months of age
 - ii. Intermediate - 6 to 8 months of age
 - iii. Senior - over 8 months of age
8. There must be a legible and permanent tattoo number or letter in the LEFT EAR of each rabbit. This procedure helps the exhibitor to keep record of the rabbit breeding; helps straighten out mix-ups which might occur in the show and exhibit; and helps to identify any animals that may be stolen.
9. 4-H members **MUST BE PRESENT** to hold their own animals at the time of judging. See Rule #9 under Livestock Exhibit Rules for further information.
10. Does with suckling litters will not be allowed to show.



11. A health inspection of rabbits will be done at the time of check-in. If a rabbit is unhealthy and/or in danger of spreading disease to other animals, it will be dismissed from the grounds.
12. In the event of conflict of general rules or any matter not covered by rules, the Rabbit Superintendent will govern in consultation with the Extension Educator.
13. **All rabbits must be entered on form and sent to Extension Office by June 15th (breed, variety, sex, age/class, tattoo numbers) or will not be allowed to show. This includes single rabbits and list of meat pen rabbits.**
14. Your completed record sheet and project manual are to be turned in when you check-in your rabbit(s) at the fair.
15. All 4-H members must pre-enter all 4-H rabbits for state fair. All pre-entries must be postmarked by a date to be announced.

CLASSES:

1. Purebred rabbits will be judged by breeds and placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc., similar to livestock judging. The best of breed, best of opposite sex of breed, best of variety, and best of opposite sex of variety will receive different ribbons.
2. Crossbred individual rabbits will be judged similar to other livestock - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.
3. A Best Fancy (Four Class) rabbit will be chosen from those rabbits that were chosen as Best of Breed in each Fancy breed.
Fancy (Four Class) breeds are: American Fuzzy Lop, American Sable, Angora-English, Angora-French, Belgian Hare, Britannia Petite, Chinchilla-Standard, Dutch, Dwarf Hotot, English Spot, Florida White, Harlequin, Havana, Himalayan, Jersey Wooley, Lilac, LOP-Holland, LOP-Mini, Mini-Rex, Netherland Dwarf, Polish, Rhinelander, Silver, Silver Marten, and Tan.
4. A Best Commercial (Six Class) rabbit will be chosen from those rabbits that were chosen as Best of Breed in each Commercial breed.
Commercial (Six Class) breeds are: American, Beveren, Angora-Giant, Angora-Satin, Californian, Champagne D'Argent, Checkered Giant, Chinchilla-American, Chinchilla-Giant, Cinnamon, Creme D'Argent, Flemish Giant, Hotot, LOP-English, LOP-French, New Zealand, Palomino, Rex, Satin, and Silver Fox.
5. A Best of Show will be selected from the Best Fancy (Four Class) and Best Commercial (Six Class) rabbits.
6. **Meat Pen:** There will be one (1) class consisting of three (3) rabbits of the same breed and same variety, weighing between three (3) and five (5) pounds each and not over 10 weeks of age by the day of the show. Only commercial breed rabbits will be accepted in the meat pen class. A Champion and Reserve Champion will be chosen. Meat pen rabbits will not be eligible to show as individual rabbits.
7. **Rabbit Ambassador Contest** –The 4-H Rabbit Ambassador Contest will be conducted as it would be at the Indiana State Fair. 4-H members who participate in the Rabbit Ambassador Contest have the chance to demonstrate their knowledge of rabbit breeds, managements, feedings, marketing, and showing. All parts of the Rabbit Ambassador Contest except showmanship will be held the Monday of fair week. The showmanship portion will be held at the beginning of the 4-H Rabbit Show during the county fair and that score will be added to the previous scores to announce the Rabbit Ambassadors at the conclusion of the 4-H Rabbit Show. The contest is divided into grade groups:
 Novice: 4-H member in the 3rd or 4th grade on January 1 of the current year.
 Junior: 4-H member in the 5th or 6th grade on January 1 of the current year.
 Intermediate: 4-H member in the 7th or 8th grade on January 1 of the current year.
 Senior: 4-H member in the 9th or 10th grade on January 1 of the current year.