

Date: March 27, 2024

To: 4-H Rabbit Project Members and Leaders

From: Kayla Mitchell, Program Coordinator - 4-H Youth Development

Re: 2024 Rabbit Project Important Information

This is a quick update on the events that will take place for the 2024 fair season within the rabbit department. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact the MSU Extension office at 269-467-5511. **Please note that the information contained in this letter is subject to change.**

New for 2024:

- Market pens must be **commercial breeds** that are raised primarily for meat consumption per ARBA (i.e. Californian, New Zealand, Silver Fox, etc.). Contact Heather Teadt, Rabbit Superintendent, if you are unsure whether a breed qualifies.

Reminders

- **Countywide tattooing and registration** will be at the fairgrounds near the rabbit barns on Wednesday, August 7, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, August 11, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. All rabbit exhibitors must attend one of these dates with their rabbits.
- Each individual market rabbit must weigh **at least 3 lbs.** at fair check-in. Each pen must weigh a minimum total of 9 lbs. and maximum total of 17 lbs.
 - **Underweight and overweight** pens will be ineligible to exhibit at the fair and will be sent home. *Exception:* rabbits may be moved to breeding stock classes where appropriate.
- There will be an **“unofficial”** set of scales available for use prior to getting in line at fair check-in on Friday, September 13, 2024. Please remember that you may weigh your rabbits officially only ONCE at the rabbit barn entrance.
- All rabbit exhibitors are required to feed and water their own market and/or breeding stock rabbits each day between 6:00 - 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Exhibitors must clean under their cage **every morning**.
- **Dress Code** for *Showmanship* classes: long sleeve white shirt, dark colored pants, and closed-toed shoes. Dress code for *CloverBud, Market, and Breeding Stock* classes: long sleeve shirt, dark colored pants, and closed-toed shoes.



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Important dates, deadlines, and events

Event or Deadline	Date(s)	Comments
Initial tattooing & registration	August 7, 5:00 - 7:00p.m. August 11, 10:00a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Required for all exhibitors
Barn set up	September 17, 5:30 - 7:00p.m.	See Job List for Club(s) responsible for 2024
Fair weigh-in/check-in	September 13, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.	
Interview and Skill-a-Thon	September 14, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Community Tent
4-H Market & Breeding Stock Show	September 15, 9:00 a.m.	Livestock show arena
4-H Small Animal Sale	September 19, 10:00 a.m.	Order of sale: turkeys, chickens, rabbits, goats
Market Animal Load-out	September 21, 10:00 p.m.	See Job List for club(s) responsible for 2024
Breeding Stock released & Barn Clean-up	September 29, 5:30 a.m. until done	See Job List for club(s) responsible for 2024