

## **Kalamazoo County 4-H Rabbit Project Guidelines**

Updated 2017

### **Project General Requirements**

All Breed, Pet, Cloverbud, and Agility rabbits must be in the 4-H Member's possession by June 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Market Rabbits must be in the 4-H Member's possession at least four weeks prior to the beginning of fair. Breed Rabbits must be purebred and an ARBA recognized breed.

Each Rabbit may only be entered and shown in one class with the exception of Progeny. If more than one Rabbit is being exhibited, each individual rabbit must be entered separately on the fair entry form.

Rabbit entries will be limited by the number of cages available. If entries exceed cage space, the Superintendent(s) will determine the most fair and equitable way to reduce the number of entries.

Rabbit Fitting and Showmanship is **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** for all 4-H members including Cloverbuds.

All Rabbit trophy winners (breed, market, and fitting and showing) will be responsible for clean up of the show arena after the completion of Fitting and Showing. This includes; trash pick-up, and putting tables and chairs away. Winners are also responsible for cleaning the show arena prior to the Auction on Thursday.

It is the responsibility of all 4-H Members to sign up for at least one 2-4 hour barn duty shift during fair week. Members under the age of 11 must have a parent present at all times. It is mandatory that each 4-H member and/or family help with the set up and tear down of the barn before and at the end of fair.

### **Project Animal Verification**

Breed, Pet, Cloverbud, and Agility rabbits will be verified by tattoo at the MANDATORY Fit and Show/Picnic in June prior to fair. Those rabbits not verified by a Rabbit Superintendent will not be allowed to show at the Kalamazoo County Fair.

Market Rabbits will be weighed and verified by tattoo at the MANDATORY Market Rabbit check in 3 weeks prior to fair. Those Market Rabbits not verified by a Rabbit Superintendent will not be allowed to show or go to auction at the Kalamazoo County Fair. Rabbits that have not met the above tattooing requirements may not be exhibited at the fair.

All Project Rabbits must be permanently and legibly tattooed in the left ear. It is the responsibility of the 4-H member to tattoo their project animals or make a request to a Rabbit Superintendent for their rabbits to be tattooed prior to the Mandatory Fit and Show/Picnic.

### **Rabbit Educational and Notebook Requirements**

4-H Members may choose one of the following to complete their educational project:

- A. Science notebook to be cumulative, and conforming to county guidelines.
- B. Poster or 3-D Exhibit
- C. Market Rabbit Records (Required for all Market Rabbit projects)
- D. Public Education

Notebooks may be typed or handwritten and should include the following materials **in order** in a 3 ring binder. Number all pages, label all illustrations, drawings and pictures, and note research sources.

1. 4-H Rabbit Notebook Requirements
2. Cover Page.
3. Table of Contents.
4. Your personal Journal, including:
  - Goals
  - Activities and Learning Experiences
  - Herd/Rabbitry information/changes
  - Photos of you and your rabbit(s)
5. Yearly requirements as outlined below based on number of years in the project.
6. List research sources.
7. Include prior years in reverse order, however only the current year (on top) will be judged.

## **Yearly Rabbit Science Notebook Requirements**

- 1<sup>st</sup> year: Choosing your rabbit and/or breed  
Basic Care – Housing, feeding, equipment, and handling  
Parts of a Rabbit diagram – hand labeled  
Describe one breed
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year: Nutrition for your rabbit  
Breeding basics  
Describe two more breeds
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year: Describe the five body types – Arched; Semi-arched; Compact; Commercial;  
and Cylindrical/Snaky  
Describe the fur types – Normal, Rex, Satin and wool  
Describe two more breeds
- 4<sup>th</sup> year: Record keeping  
Health – Diseases and ailments  
Describe Showmanship  
Describe two more breeds
- 5<sup>th</sup> year: Describe Breed showing  
Judging – breed and market rabbits  
Describe two more breeds
- 6<sup>th</sup> year: Choose two from the following list:
- Report on at least two rabbit products; Meat; hides, wool, manure, worms, or marketing.
  - Genetics and Heritability
  - Diagram of the reproductive system
  - Diagram of the digestive system
  - Describe two more breeds
  - Independent studies to be approved by individual leader and/or a Rabbit Superintendent

## **Breeding Stock Rabbits**

Rabbits will be exhibited by breed, sex, and age (Senior bucks, Senior Does, Intermediate Bucks, Intermediate Does, Junior Bucks, Junior Does) as designated by the ARBA Standard of Perfection. Rabbits exhibiting a disqualification will receive a B rating.

Market Rabbit Records are required to be completed for the market project. Market Pens will consist of three (3) fryer rabbits of the same breed (or crossbreed) and variety to be sold at the 4-H livestock auction.

Fryer Rabbits must weigh between 3.5 – 5.5 lbs and be 12 weeks old or less by the week of fair. Roaster Rabbits must weigh between 5.5 – 9.0 lbs and be less than 6 months old. Market classes include: Market Pen (3 fryer rabbits), Single Fryer, and Single Roaster.

Market animals exhibiting a disqualification will receive a B rating but may still sell at auction. Disqualifications affecting the meat quality will receive a C rating and may not be sold in the 4-H livestock auction.

4-H Members must be 9 years old by January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year to sell in the 4-H Livestock auction. Members may have no more than 4 sales of any species in the 4-H Livestock auction. Grand Champions and Reserve Champions are exempt from this count to insure that all Champions will be included in the sale.

Members selling in the 4-H Livestock auction are expected to assist on the sale day to transport animals, serve buyer refreshments, etc. Members must be present at the 4-H Livestock auction to sell their project(s). The only exception to this rule would be members that are participating in the 4-H horse show or other 4-H animal project that requires their presence. Please see the Rabbit Project Superintendent if you will not be able to be at the sale.

A 4" x 6" photo of you and your project animal(s) is needed for each sale. The photo is to be turned in to a Rabbit Superintendent no later than Fair check in. Please dress neatly, SMILE, and print on photo paper. Put your name and rabbit's tattoo ID on the back of each photo. These photos are often displayed in the buyer's place of business so they need to look good!

### **Pet Rabbits**

There is a limit of one pet rabbit per member and 2 per family. The member's family may not own or raise any other rabbits. The Pet Rabbit Project is designed for members that cannot breed or improve the quality of their project animals but still want to participate in 4-H Rabbits.

## **Cloverbud Rabbit Project**

Open to ALL Cloverbuds 5-8 years of age by January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Cloverbuds may choose any rabbit project, but cannot sell market animals in the 4-H Livestock Sale. Cloverbuds may choose a Rabbit Science Notebook, Poster, or Still Exhibit to satisfy their rabbit science requirement.

### **Progeny**

Progeny class entries must consist of a purebred Senior buck or Senior Doe AND a Junior Buck or Junior Doe that is an offspring of the senior animal. The senior animal must be shown in its appropriate breed class. The junior animal must be shown in its appropriate breed or market class. The object of the class is to show the member's progress in improving the quality of their project. The junior rabbit must show improvement over the senior rabbit.

### **Rabbit Agility**

Each 4-H member will be allowed to bring either one pet or breed rabbit to fair to participate in rabbit agility. Each rabbit will need to be verified with a tattoo and follow all other requirements within the Rabbit Project guidelines. Each rabbit will need to be entered in the appropriate class on the fair entry form.