

CAVY FITTING & SHOWMANSHIP LEADER'S SUPPLEMENT

4-H Youth Programs • Michigan State University Extension

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Introduction

Cavy fitting and showmanship can be an enjoyable learning experience for 4-H members. It can help young people develop self-confidence by demonstrating their handling skills and knowledge of cavies in a competitive setting. **Cavy Fitting and Showmanship — Member's Guide** (4-H 1345) is available to assist 4-H members interested in the cavy project. This supplement provides information on cavy fitting and showmanship for the 4-H leader.

The leader's supplement and member's guide should be studied and followed by all individuals involved in conducting or judging 4-H cavy shows. Following these guidelines ensures uniform procedures for evaluating cavy fitting and showmanship throughout the state.

How to Organize and Conduct the Contest

- A contest committee made up of 4-H leaders and members should meet well in advance of the show date to discuss and plan the event.
- Select a judge or judges for the contest months ahead.
- Inform the county fair board months in advance of the special requirements for conducting the contest.

- Include the cavy fitting and showmanship class in the appropriate section of the fair book (for example, the small animals section). Give details such as rules and regulations, separate sections for age groups, and premiums.
- Hold workshops and practice sessions to familiarize 4-H members, parents, leaders, and other volunteers with contest procedures. Individuals experienced in cavy fitting and showmanship should be invited to assist with these events.
- Secure local sponsors for the contest.
- Promote the event in advance through the local news media.

Materials Needed

- Judging arena
- Tables
- Rug or carpet pieces
- Holding pens for cavies
- Scorecards
- Judge's checklist
- Identification numbers for the contestants
- Calculator
- PA system
- Awards

People Needed

- *Show Superintendent* — Coordinates the program.
- *Judge(s)* — Must be familiar with cavy fitting and showmanship guidelines as listed in the Member's Guide.

- *Secretary(ies)* — Checks entries and assigns numbers to participants. The secretary should also total the scorecards and assist in ranking the contestants within each division.

Suggested Details for the Fair Book

Class: Cavy fitting and showmanship class

- All participants must be active 4-H members.
- All participants must be enrolled in the cavy project during the current calendar year.
- Age of participants will be determined as of December 31 of current calendar year.

Section 1: Junior division — under 12 years

Section 2: Intermediate division — 12 to 14 years

Section 3: Senior division — 15 to 19 years

Group: In a contest, the number of participants should not exceed eight at any one time in any one section. If there are more than eight participants in a section, they should be divided into groups of eight or fewer. In these cases, select the first three places from each group and combine the top three participants from each group for the final contest.

Scorecard

	Points Allowed
I. Handling of cavy	15
II. Posing cavy on table	20
III. Examination of cavy	30
IV. Condition of cavy	15
V. Cavy quiz	10
VI. Appearance and attitude of participant	10
TOTAL POINTS	100

Scorecard Worksheet for Cavy Contest

Characteristics Scored	Points Allowed	Contestants' Numbers							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I. Handling cavy	15								
II. Posing cavy on table	20								
III. Examination of cavy	30								
IV. Condition of cavy (fitting included)	15								
V. Cavy quiz	10								
VI. Appearance and attitude of participant	10								
Maximum Points Allowed:	100								

To break ties, ask the participants to repeat any steps such as handling, posing, or examination. If this does not help, ask a few more questions.



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