BARRY COUNTY 4-H RABBIT AND CAVY PROJECT AREA
Pre-Registration And Rules Packet

A. Barry County 4-H Rabbit/Cavy Developmental Committee

1. All meetings are open to the public. It is encouraged that at least one person from each club attends these meetings.

2. All meeting dates are posted in the Reminder Calendar of Events. Scheduled meetings are usually the fourth (4th) Monday of each month. Additional meetings may be called as required. Watch the news column and Facebook for exact dates.

3. This committee keeps the rabbit and cavy program organized. If you have problems or questions, they can help. The Extension Office will have a list of phone numbers for the current executive board.

B. RULES

1. All Rabbit and Cavy Exhibitors that plan to participate in the current fair are required to pre-register at the Extension Office by April 1. This includes young clovers.

2. All rabbits and cavies must be entered in the name of the bonafide 4-H member, FFA owner or other youth.

3. All rabbits and cavies must be owned and in the exhibitor’s possession by April 1.

4. All market entries must be bred and raised by the exhibitor, with the doe being in the exhibitor’s possession and pre-registered at the Extension Office by April 1.

5. All exhibitors that are showing in this project for their first or second years are requested to attend a Mandatory Rabbit/Cavy meeting to be able to show at fair. (Exception: Exhibitors with siblings that have been in the project more than 2 years do not have to attend a mandatory meeting.)

6. Superintendent is to be informed of the number of pens each club/group needs when fair entries are due. Each exhibitor will be assigned a pen(s) and entry is to remain there for the duration of the fair. No rabbits or cavies may leave before the last Sunday of fair without permission from the superintendent.

Exhibitors will be limited to seven (7) breed (7 rabbit and 7 cavy each) and two (2) market rabbit units. All entries must be included on the MDA form due in June.

Exhibitors in the Progeny Class may bring one or two additional senior animal(s) (2 rabbit and 2 cavy) that will not be entered in breed classes and will not be eligible for premiums. This must be checked on your pre-registration form that is due April 1 and listed on your MDA form due in June. On the MDA form list it as “Progeny Senior Animal. No Premium”. This may mean that you have 8 or 9 rabbits and/or cavies listed on the MDA form.

The number of entries per exhibitor is subject to the approval of the superintendent and the Barry County 4-H Rabbit/Cavy Developmental Committee executive board. Under the current rules, it is possible that one exhibitor could have 7 rabbit breed pens, 2 senior rabbit progeny pen, 2 market rabbit pens, 7 cavy breed pens and 2 senior cavy progeny pen for a total of 20 pens.

7. No entry changes will be allowed at check-in or during the show. Extenuating circumstances need to be in writing to the superintendent one week before check-in.

8. In 2014, the Fair Board decided exhibitors are no longer required to do more than 1 notebook per specie. In the rabbit/cavy project area this means the following:

1) If you are doing market, you MUST do a market notebook and do not need to do another educational notebook or poster.

2) If doing a Pet/Mixed breed rabbit, you MUST do the Pet/Mixed Breed notebook and do not need to do another educational notebook or poster.

3) If doing NEITHER market or Pet/Mixed, you must still do an educational notebook or poster.

4) If doing both Rabbits and Cavies, you must still do one notebook or poster for each specie.

Failure to present a completed educational project at time of check-in will disqualify your entry (you will not be able to show your animal(s) at fair). Refer to the non-livestock notebook guidelines (available from the Extension Office) for rules. See Non-livestock Notebook Department in fair book for entry information.

Revised 2-2015
Check in will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. the Saturday before fair. You must have the following with you in line: your rabbits and cavia with their nails trimmed in an approved, leak proof carrier (NO cardboard boxes or baskets), your educational project, your pet/mixed breed notebook if doing pet/mixed breed class, your market notebook if doing market, your Small Animal Sale data entry form if doing market, your signed thank you card(s), your thank you sign(s) (8 ½” X 11”) if you sold in the Small Animal Sale last year, your clean crocks and water bottles and food for your animals. All notebooks must be in 3-ring binders. These will all need to be checked before you can check in your animals.

No exhibit is to be placed in the building until examined by the superintendent or their representative. Exhibits will be admitted on Saturday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Exhibits must be in place by 7:00 p.m. on Saturday.

No parents will be allowed in the barn during check-in. Teen superintendents are there to help the members get their animals to their cages.

Judging: SUNDAY - Showmanship begins at 8 a.m. for Cavies (followed by Breed Classes) and 9 a.m. for rabbits (followed by Market & Breed Classes). Non-livestock (notebooks, posters, exhibits) begins at 9 a.m. and must be judged by 2 p.m. Young clover showmanship begins at noon.

During the fair, Monday thru Saturday, the barn will be open 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Barn duty schedules will be posted for all clubs. See your leader for your club’s barn duty schedule and times. Leaders, if your assigned time is a problem, please inform the superintendent to work it out with another club.

Children 11 and under must have a parent/guardian with them when on barn duty.

No electronics allowed in the barn. This includes members, parents and leaders.

All animals, including pet/mixed breed classes, must be tattooed or ear tagged for identification in the left ear. If needed, breed (not market) animals can be tattooed or ear tagged at the Showmanship Clinic in June.

All market entries are required to have an official emblem tattooed in their left ear in addition to the assigned letter and the required personal identification to qualify for market entry. The personal identification tattoo is the responsibility of the exhibitor and must include the letter assigned by the superintendent added to the beginning of each tattoo and must be done before the market tattoo can be put in. Market entry official emblem tattooing will be done in June (watch news column for exact date) by a member of the executive committee or fair superintendent. Youth exhibitor must be present for market entry tattooing and must present their beginning records for the project.

Heavy Crocks are to be provided by the exhibitor for water. Light plastic, aluminum bowls, glass bowls, tin cans and dirty, chipped or broken crocks are not acceptable. Clean water bottles are recommended for cavia only. These must be with you at check-in and checked by the superintendent or their representative.

Screen bottom feeders are provided in each cage for food by the Rabbit/Cavy Developmental Committee. Please do not move or remove these feeders. If you do not think your cavy will eat from a screen bottom feeder, you may bring a HEAVY CROCK. Light plastic, aluminum bowls, glass bowls, tin cans and dirty, chipped or broken crocks are not acceptable. You must have these with you at check-in and checked by the superintendent or their representative.

Daily cleaning, feeding and watering are the responsibility of the exhibitor. Lack of barn space allows for ABSOLUTELY NO STORAGE in the barn. All cages are to be cleaned by 10 a.m. every day. If this is not done by 10 a.m. the exhibitor’s cage will be tagged. It will be the exhibitor’s responsibility to contact the Superintendent or an Assistant Superintendent to see why the cage(s) have been tagged. After 3 tags, the exhibitor’s animal(s) will be sent home and no premiums will be awarded.

Rabbits and Cavies may not have loose hay or straw in their pens. Use hay cubes if needed.

Breed classes will be judged by ARBA Standards. Exceptions: Pet/mixed breed classes which will be judged on condition (fur or coat, body, etc.) and market classes that will be judged on meat production.

All animals with the market emblem must be shown in a market class or its respective breed senior class and make senior weight requirements.

Rabbits must be 3 months old or older as of show day to be shown in breed classes and must weigh at least one half of the minimum senior show weight. No unworthy, undersized animal will be awarded a premium whether or not there is competition.

Cavies must be 4 weeks old or older as of show day and must weigh at least 12 ounces to be shown in breed classes. No unworthy, undersized animal will be awarded a premium whether or not there is competition.

Revised 2-2015
Only purebred animals may be shown in breed classes. If you know your animal is not purebred, enter it in the pet/mixed breed class no matter what it looks like.

Due to bruising, market rabbits can be shown ONLY in market classes. They cannot be used in Showmanship or the Show of Champions. They should not be handled except for show and sale days.

17. No breeding during fair week. One animal per cage with the exception of the rabbit fryer and roaster pens.

18. Each exhibitor must handle their own animal(s) during judging. Exceptions: Breed classes due to conflict of showing other livestock species, then must be shown by another exhibitor. **NO ADULTS.**

19. Exhibitors are asked not to leave the area until after **ALL** judging is complete. Classes will not be re-judged if an exhibitor is absent. **Remind**er: - The Best of Breed Winners (those who win plates) will return at the end of the show to compete for Best in Show and Reserve. Market and pet/mixed breed classes are not eligible.

20. **FITTING AND SHOWMANSHIP** – All exhibitors are required to participate in showmanship. Dress code for showmanship and the small animal sale is dark long pants, white long sleeve shirt or show coat with a white shirt under it, long hair tied back, closed toed shoes, no sandals, no jewelry or nail polish, no hats, neat and clean. The showmanship animal must be shown in its own breed or pet/mixed breed class. Only one entry in showmanship classes per exhibitor per specie. Exhibitor may not change showmanship animal during the show. First year exhibitors have the option of showing in the novice class or the appropriate class for their age. Classes will be judged using the Michigan 4-H Rabbit or Cavy Showmanship guidelines. Awards of A, B or C will be given to each exhibitor. The First Place winner in each division shall receive a showmanship pin.

**Overall Showman** - The first three (3) places, 1st thru 3rd in each showmanship class for rabbits will return and compete for the Kiwanis showmanship plaque as follows: Junior Plaque will be Novice 9-12 and Junior; Senior Plaque will be Intermediate, Novice 13-18 and Senior. All cavy showmen will compete together for one (1) Kiwanis showmanship plaque. The winner will be the showman that receives the highest points score in their showmanship competition. In the case of a tie, the individual showmen will be called back to compete for the Kiwanis plaque.

**MARKET UNITS** – All market entries must be bred and raised by the exhibitor, with the doe being in the exhibitor’s possession and pre-registered by APRIL 1. Record keeping is required for each market unit (guidelines available from the Extension Office). The market notebook must be in a 3-ring binder. If showing 2 units, information for each unit should be in the same 3-ring binder and separated by unit. Failure to present a completed market notebook at check-in will disqualify the entry. (See Non-livestock Notebook Department in fair book for entry information.) Market notebooks must be validated by the superintendent or their representative at the time of check-in. Market notebooks must also be judged on Sunday beginning at 9 a.m. and must be judged by 2 p.m. Exhibitor must be present for judging. All market units MUST be sold through the Small Animal Sale. Refer to the rules for the Small Animal Sale.

The purpose of the market class is to promote salesmanship and meat production. Judging of these classes will be solely on meat type, condition and, for the fryer and roaster pens, uniformity. Standard ABRA breed disqualifications will not apply. However, any health related issues may disqualify the entry.

**FRYER PENS** – shall consist of three rabbits, same breed and variety, 3 ½ to 5 pounds each in weight and not over 12 weeks (84 days) old. To be judged on meat type, condition and uniformity.

**ROASTER PENS** – shall consist of three rabbits, same breed and variety, 5 to 7 pounds each in weight and not over 6 months (180 days) old. To be judged on meat type, condition and uniformity.

**SINGLE FRYER** – shall consist of one fryer rabbit weighing 3 ½ to 5 pounds and not over 12 weeks (84 days) old. To be judged on meat type and condition. This rabbit CANNOT be shown as part of a fryer pen class.

**SINGLE ROASTER** – shall consist of one roaster rabbit weighing 5 to 7 pounds but not over 6 months (180 days) old. To be judged on meat type and condition. This rabbit CANNOT be shown as part of a roaster pen class.

Exhibitors of Market animals should wear showmanship clothes during their sale time and for pictures at the Small Animal Sale on Thursday.

22. **PET / MIXED BREED CLASS** – The purpose of this class is to give the single animal owner, who keeps their animal as a pet, an opportunity to show and exhibit their project. The animal will be judged on its own merit and not by the ARBA standard.

**Pet/mixed breed judging with Notebook** – Exhibitors must comply with pet/mixed breed class guidelines available at the Extension Office. Failure to present a completed notebook in a 3-ring binder at time of check-in disqualifies the entry. This notebook will be judged as a non-livestock project and must also accompany the animal to the judging table.
There is a limit of one pet/mixed breed rabbit and cavy per child. Exceptions can be brought before the Barry County 4-H Rabbit/Cavy Developmental Committee. The family cannot own or raise other rabbits or cavies. Pet/mixed breed class plate winner is NOT eligible for Best in Show or Reserve.

23. **NOTEBOOKS** – Educational Notebooks will be checked in Saturday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and will be judged Sunday beginning at 9 a.m. and must be judged by 2 p.m. Exhibitor must be present for judging. Notebook is to contain ONLY current years work with the exception of all the previous year's signed table of contents and, beginning in 2013, the previous year's signed comment cards. Also include the previous year's pages if you choose to take 2 years to complete all the steps for a single guideline. Each notebook must be in a 3-ring binder and must be displayed in the rabbit barn during fair.

24. **RECORD KEEPING** – Class includes records or notebooks required for pet/mixed breed class, market classes and other. Failure to present completed records in a 3-ring binder for pet/mixed breed class or market classes at time of check-in disqualifies the entry. Guidelines are available from the Extension Office. (See Non- Livestock Notebook Department in fair book for entry information.) Judging is Sunday beginning at 9 a.m. and must be judged by 2 p.m. and exhibitor **MUST** be present for interview.

25. **POSTERS AND EXHIBITS** – Posters and Exhibits will be checked in on Saturday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and will be judged Sunday beginning at 9 a.m. and must be judged by 2 p.m. Exhibitor must be present for judging. Posters and Exhibits must be displayed in the rabbit barn during fair. Maximum size for a poster is 22" X 28". If you exceed these dimensions, please show your project as an exhibit. Posters and Exhibits should be age appropriate.

26. **PROGENY CLASS** – Each entry shall consist of two (2) animals owned by the same exhibitor. One shall be a senior doe/sow OR buck/boar and the second animal shall be one of its offspring. Rabbit offspring must be 3 months but under 6 months of age. Cavy offspring must be 4 weeks but under 6 months of age. The junior animal (offspring) **must** also be entered in its respective breed class. Exhibitor has the choice with the senior animal(s) to enter it in the appropriate breed class or to have it judged only for the progeny class (with no premiums awarded for the senior animal). One exhibitor may have up to 2 progeny entries per specie (2 rabbit & 2 cavy). To encourage breed improvement, the Progeny Class will be judged 40% on the senior animal and 60% on the offspring. (You must check the PROGENY box on the pre-registration form). Ribbons will be awarded.

27. **CLUB HERD** – This is a FUN class only. Shall consist of four animals from the same club. No more than two animals can be shown by one exhibitor. These animals will be judged on their own merits and how they fit together as a unit. The class can consist of any breed, sex or age group. A club may have more than one entry (exhibitor however can only have two entries in the class). Entry should be made under the club name and entered day of the show. Ribbons will be awarded.

28. **RABBIT JUDGING CONTEST** - Four individual meat rabbits to be judged and oral reasons to be given. To be held Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. Check-in at the rabbit barn. Ribbons will be awarded.

29. **RABBIT/CAVY SKILL-A-THON** – A test of your knowledge related to rabbits/cavies will be held on Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Check-in at the rabbit barn. Ribbons will be awarded.

30. **RABBIT AND CAVY BREED ID** – A test of your knowledge related to the different breeds of rabbits and cavies will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Friday. Check-in at the rabbit barn. Ribbons will be awarded.

31. Each exhibitor must write one Thank-you card for our sponsors and have it with them at check-in. Two will be required if exhibiting both rabbits and cavies. The cards should be filled out and signed. Do **not** seal them in an envelope.

32. Do not hang ribbons on the rabbit or cavy cages. They will eat them and the fair board will not replace them. Hang them on your club sign.

33. **Each club will be responsible for signing up at least 2 people to help with the grandstand cleanup. This is usually on Friday at 8 a.m.**

34. All trophies and plates must be on display in the display case in the barn for the entire fair. Each club should send one person to collect the club’s educational projects and trophies on the last Saturday evening beginning at 10 p.m.

35. All animals must be removed **by** 7:00 a.m. on the last Sunday of fair. Any animals remaining after that time will be disposed of. The barn will open at 6:30 a.m. to begin taking animals out.

Upon removal of animals on Sunday, each exhibitor is responsible for cleaning and disinfecting all cages and equipment and storing them for next year. Wear old clothes as the cages are washed with a soap/bleach/water solution.

Revised 2-2015
It is very important that you read your fair book.

All rules are explained and printed in this packet. Some may not be printed in the fair book, but are still rules you must follow. This packet supersedes any information printed in the fair book.

There are guidelines at the Extension Office and online for the Non-Livestock class notebooks, posters, exhibits and the Small Animal Sale Rules.

All awards are conditional depending on available funds.

Each exhibitor should obtain at least $20 in sponsor money. Without these funds we cannot continue the rabbit and cavy program in the same way we have done in the past.
For the sponsor’s name to be printed in the fair book and be on the board outside the barn during fair, the money is due to the Rabbit/Cavy Developmental Committee Treasurer by March 1st.
To just get the sponsor name onto the board exhibited outside the barn at fair, the money is due by June 15.

If you have any questions, the extension office will have a list of the current Rabbit/Cavy Developmental Committee officers and the fair superintendents.
FAIR EXHIBITOR PRE-REGISTRATION

Due April 1 to Extension Office. One registration required per exhibitor. Not accepted without signatures.

Name: ___________________________________________ Years in 4-H ________________________________
Address_________________________________________ Age (as of Jan.1) ________________________________
City:_____________________________________________ Birth Date:____________________________________
Zip:_____________________________________________ Phone:________________________________________
Club:_____________________________________________ Years in Project:______________________________
Member email:____________________________________
Leader:_________________________________________ Leader Phone:_______________________________
Leader email:____________________________________
List all other species shown at fair:

PRE-REGISTERING FOR THE FOLLOWING:  
(check ALL that apply)

_____Member  
_____Young Clover

_____Rabbit  1 or 2 Rabbit Progeny Extra Animal(s)  
(circle 1 or 2 for each specie you are bringing)

_____Cavy  1 or 2 Cavy Progeny Extra Animal(s)

_____Market Project (also see below)

SMALL ANIMAL SALE PRE-REGISTRATION

Youth may only sell 2 units in the sale in any specie combination.

Number of years in sale_____________ Rabbits___________
What specie(s) do you plan to sell? Poultry___________
( write the number of units next to the specie)  
Goats___________
You must also fill out a separate Small Animal Sale Pre-registration form and turn it in to the extension office with your specie pre-registration.

MARKET RABBIT DOE PRE-REGISTRATION

**You need to pre-register the Adult Doe Rabbits that you are using to raise your meat entries from.**

Breed:_________________________________________ Does Tattoo Number:____________________________

Breed:_________________________________________ Does Tattoo Number:____________________________

Breed:_________________________________________ Does Tattoo Number:____________________________

(If more space is needed for does, please use a blank sheet of paper and attach it to this form.)

I have read the pre-registration guidelines and if this is my family’s first or second year in the project I have attended a mandatory rabbit/cavy meeting.
I understand the rules and what is expected of me in the rabbit and cavy project areas.

_________________________________________  ________________  ______________________________________
Member Signature  Date  Parent Signature

Revised 2-2015
APPLICATION
BARRY COUNTY 4-H RABBIT & CAVY CLUBS
RABBIT/CAVY MANAGEMENT AWARD

Guidelines: Applicants must meet ALL of the following criteria:
1. Must be at least 13 years old.
2. Must have completed at least two (2) years in the rabbit/cavy project area.
3. You must be available for an interview by the committee at your rabbitry/caviary.
4. You may only win this award one time.
5. A monetary award will be given to the winner.

Due: April 1st

Name: ____________________________ Age (as of Jan. 1): __________________
Address: _________________________ Phone: __________________________
City: ____________________________ Zip: __________________________
Club: ___________________________________________________________________
Leader: _________________________ Leader Phone: _______________________

In 100 words or less, explain what the term “Management” means to you.
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Applicant’s Signature: ______________________________________________________
Leader’s Signature: ______________________________________________________

Revised 2-2015
BARRY COUNTY 4-H RABBIT & CAVY DEVELOPMENTAL COMMITTEE
4-H Activity Scholarship Application

Date:______________________________________________

Name and/or Club:________________________________________ Age (as of Jan 1.):_______________

Address:_____________________________________________________________________________________

City:________________________________________ , MI Zip Code:______________________________

Name of Event or Activity:_____________________________________________________________________

Date of Event or Activity:__________________________ Location:__________________________

Tell us what you expect to learn by attending this event or activity, in relationship to leadership, rabbits and/or cavies:
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

4-H Member Signature:________________________________________ Date:________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature:________________________________________ Date:________________________

4-H Leader’s Signature:________________________________________ Date:________________________

Revised 2-2015
Small Livestock Sale
Pre-registration Form
All youth selling in the sale must have this form turned into the Extension Office

With your rabbit, goat or poultry pre-registration form

- Youth may only sell the number of units allowed by fair book rules (any specie combination) at fair.
- This form is to be completed in addition to your specie pre-registration forms. Please complete all information requested, this information helps generate the sale catalog and is the address the checks will be sent to.
- All fair book rules apply

_________________________________________  ______________________________________
Youth Name                                              Phone Number

_________________________________________  ______________________________________
Address                                              City          Zip

_________________________________________  ______________________________________
Club                                                   Leader

_________________________________________  ______________________________________
Leader’s Phone #                                      No of years in the Sale

Rabbits ______
Poultry ______
Goats ______

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Created 2010