

Division G – Rabbits

Livestock Committee Members: Lisa Osterloh and Heather Guthrie

Dates

Animal ownership	Brood does for market roaster pens by March 1; for market fryer pens by April 1; All others May 1
Rabbit Cage Reservation	At Skillathon
Fair Check-in & Market Pen Weigh-in	July 4, 5-8 p.m.
Mandatory Barn Meeting	July 5, 9:15 a.m.
Jr. Fair Rabbit Show	July 8, 9 a.m.
Skill-a-thon Awards	During Rabbit Showmanship
Jr Fair Rabbit Showmanship	July 9, 9 a.m.
Youth Rabbit Judging	July 10, 9 a.m.
Fun Show	July 12, 3 p.m.
Check-out/Animals Released	July 12, 9-11 p.m.

Breed Class Division

*Show day classes will be determined based on entries.

4 Class Rabbits

Junior (exhibitor age 8-11 as of Jan 1)

- 801 Senior Buck
- 802 Senior Doe
- 803 Junior Buck
- 804 Junior Doe

Intermediate (age 12-14 as of Jan 1)

- 805 Senior Buck
- 806 Senior Doe
- 807 Junior Buck
- 808 Junior Doe

Senior (age 15-18 as of Jan 1)

- 809 Senior Buck
- 810 Senior Doe
- 811 Junior Buck
- 812 Junior Doe

6 Class Rabbits

Junior (ages 8-11)

813 Senior Buck

814 Senior Doe

815 Intermediate Buck

816 Intermediate Doe

817 Junior Buck

818 Junior Doe

Intermediate (ages 12-14)

819 Senior Buck

820 Senior Doe

821 Intermediate Buck

822 Intermediate Doe

823 Junior Buck

824 Junior Doe

Senior (age 15-18)

825 Senior Buck

826 Senior Doe

827 Intermediate Buck

828 Intermediate Doe

829 Junior Buck

830 Junior Doe

Market Pen Division

831 Pen of Three Fryers

832 Single Fryer

833 Pen of Two Roaster

834 Single Roaster

835 Single Stewer

Doe and Litter

836 Doe & Litter

Rabbit Showmanship

Classes may be split or combined if necessary. Showmanship is required for all exhibitors.

Senior Division

837 17 years & older

838 16 years

839 15 years

Intermediate Division

840 14 years

841 13 years

842 12 years

Junior Division

843 11 years

844 10 years

845 8 & 9 years old

Rabbit Showman of Showmen

Jr. Fair Rabbit General Rules

1. Pre-Fair Requirements

1.1 Exhibitors must be a member in good standing of a county 4-H or FFA club according to club rules.

1.2 Exhibitors must have possession of their breed class rabbits and brood does for doe & litter by **May 1**. In order to meet breeding, age, and weight requirements for market meat pens exhibitors will need to have brood does **by March 1 for Roasters and by April 1 for fryers!**

1.3 All rabbits must be **weaned** and at least **8 weeks old (56 days)**; except kits in a doe & litter pen.

1.4 All rabbits to be shown at the fair must be entered in FairEntry along with pictures and tattoos by May 15. This includes breed class rabbits, meat pens, and brood doe for doe & litter. Pictures must clearly show the exhibitor with their rabbit(s) and/or litter(s).

- 1.5 Only rabbits registered by May 15 may show at the fair.
- 1.6 Cage requests/reservations will be confirmed at Skillathon.
- 1.7 Rabbit meat pens must be tattooed prior to the fair.
- 1.8 All exhibitors must complete a new project book (#228) or new species/supplement pages each year. Project books must be brought to skill-a-thon.
- 1.9 Exhibitors MUST go through the rabbit skill-a-thon. Skill-a-thon awards will be presented during the Rabbit Showmanship.
- 1.10 All exhibitors MUST attend Quality Assurance.

2. Fair Exhibition Specifics

2.0 ALL exhibitors must participate in SHOW AND SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of eligibility to show any project during the following year's fair.

2.1 First year exhibitors MUST show a doe or a buck in a breed class but may participate in any/all other classes except Doe & litter.

2.2 Second year and up exhibitors MUST show a doe AND buck in a breed class and may participate in any/all other classes.

2.3 An exhibitor may have one entry per eligible class.

2.4 An exhibitor may not enter only a market pen.

2.5 Rabbits in market meat pens; the Pen of Three, Single Fryer, Single Roaster, Pen of Two Roasters, and Stewer classes **MUST** be raised from birth by the exhibitors. **THESE RABBITS MAY NOT BE BOUGHT.**

2.6 The market meat pens (pen of three fryers, single fryer, single roaster, pen of two roasters, and stewer classes) must be a breed from the following list.

American	Crème D'Argent
American Chinchilla	New Zealand
Beveren	Palomino
Californian	Rex
Champagne	Satin
Cinnamon	Silver Fox

2.7 Market meat pens not making the required weight will still go through judging but will not be eligible to place Grand or Reserve Champion nor sell in the Livestock premium Sale. These projects may still go on the packer truck for market price.

2.8 Each rabbit in the Pen of Three and Single Fryer classes must weigh between 3 ½ and 5 ½ pounds and not be older than (10 weeks) 70 days old. Each rabbit in a Pen of Three must be of the same breed. Exhibitors must know the date of birth at check in.

2.9 Each rabbit in the Pen of Two and Single Roaster classes must be 10 weeks to under 6 months of age and be over 5 ½ pounds to a maximum of 9 pounds at check in. Exhibitors must know the date of birth at check in. Each rabbit in the Pen of Two Roasters must be of the same breed. Exhibitors must know the date of birth at check in.

2.19 Stewer rabbits must be over 6 months of age and over 8 pounds at check in. Exhibitors must know the date of birth at check in.

3. Doe and Litter Optional Class

3.1 All second year and up exhibitors may show a doe and litter pen.

3.2 Does from doe and litter class may not show in a doe class.

3.3 There can be any number in the litter. The litter must be **28 to 49** days old, of the same breed, and from the same litter.

4. Barn information

4.1 All rabbits will go through a visual inspection at check in before entering the barn.

4.2 Barns will be closed and locked every night when the fair closes.

4.3 Exhibitors must attend a mandatory barn meeting Saturday, July 5, at 9:15 a.m. Failure to attend may affect eligibility to show. Attendance will be taken.

4.4 Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their animals during the fair and until check out time or loaded on the packer truck. Each exhibitor is to provide feed, feed cups and water for their animals. If rabbits do not have sufficient food, water and ice bottles, if required, the animals may be dismissed from the fairgrounds and all awards will be forfeited. This includes those cages in the Champion Row area.

4.5 Cages MUST be cleaned by 8 a.m. Tuesday-Thursday. Cages MUST be cleaned by 9 a.m. all other days. Daily inspections will take place. Cages must be cleaned by exhibitors at the end of the fair. Exhibitors cannot use cedar shavings. Pine shavings are required

4.6 Cages will be inspected daily by the Rabbit Committee to ensure rabbits are properly cared for by the exhibitor (i.e., fed, watered, clean rabbit and cage, etc.). Exhibitors whose pen and/or rabbit are found to not be appropriately cared for will be issued a warning. Exhibitors that accrue 3 warnings will forfeit premiums, the right to participate in the Premium Sale, and the right to exhibit the following year.

4.7 Receptacles for feed and water (crocks/bottles) must be properly secured. Paper, Styrofoam, or glass drinking cups are not permitted as feed/water containers.

4.8 Supplies, boxes, tubs must fit under cages. Remember, you are sharing this space with others! Fire safety and wheelchair guidelines require aisles be kept clear. Large tack items may be kept in the tent next to the barn.

4.9 Exhibitors are responsible for knowing all barn rules posted.

4.9 "For sale" signs may be posted after the Showmanship program is completed on Wednesday.

5. Shows

5.1 Dress code is required for the Rabbit Show and Showmanship.

5.2 All exhibitors must participate in their appropriate Show classes.

5.3 All rabbit project exhibitors MUST show in rabbit showmanship. An exhibitor must show their own animal that was shown in a Breed class. If an exhibitor advances, they must continue to exhibit with the animal with which they have won.

5.4 All rabbit exhibitors are highly encouraged to participate in the youth rabbit judging contest. To be considered for Premiere Rabbit Exhibitor, one MUST participate.

5.5 Exhibitors must be present at the time of judging. If an exhibitor has a conflict with another show, they must indicate this by check in time for the show.

5.6 Judging will be based on ARBA standards.

5.7 All exhibitors are responsible for carrying their rabbits to and from the judging tables on show day. A junior fair member may assist another junior fair member with this task. Only exhibitors may show rabbits at the judging table. No adults at the show table.

5.8 Pet Rabbit entries will show on Thursday during the Small Animal Show. Bring completed project book. SEE SMALL ANIMAL SECTION OF FAIR BOOK for more information.

6. Youth Rabbit Judging

6.1 All exhibitors are encouraged to participate in the Youth Rabbit Judging event. The event is **MANDATORY** for Premier Exhibitor consideration!

6.2 Exhibitors will demonstrate what they have learned about selecting quality rabbits by placing 2 classes of rabbits, first through fourth and answer questions based on the rabbits they examined.

7. Dress Code

7.1 All exhibitors must wear black or blue cotton or corduroy dress pants, jeans, or ankle-length skirts as well as a collared, button-down shirt or polo shirt that must be tucked in.

7.2 Any length sleeve is acceptable.

7.4 No shirts or lab coats identifying family, farm, or club names shall be worn during shows.

7.5 Close-toe and close-heel shoes are to be worn.

7.6 Plain lab coats are permitted but the dress code MUST be worn under the coat.

7.7 No discrimination will be made against religious beliefs.

7.8 Persons not abiding by this dress code will not be allowed to place in their class.

8. Sale

8.1 All Grand and Reserve Champions will sell at the Livestock Sale.

8.2 Rabbit exhibitors will go through the sale ring once with their rabbit project.

9. Check-out & Packer

9.1 Release time is Saturday July 12, from 9-11 p.m. for rabbits NOT going to the packer.

9.2 Exhibitors wanting to send additional commercial rabbits (those not part of an entered meat pen) to the packer must notify a Rabbit Committee member by the end of check-in/weigh in.

9.3 Market Rabbit exhibitors are responsible for the watering and feeding of animals until the packer pickup and/or check-out time.

9.4 If a rabbit and/or equipment is removed prior to the stated release time or without permission, the exhibitor may be prohibited from showing rabbits the following year.

9.5 Exhibitors must remove any remaining tack and supplies by Sunday July 13, 2025, between 8-11 a.m. or may forfeit the right to exhibit next year.

9.6 Animal abandonment will result in the exhibitor being banned from showing any project at the following year's fair.

Premiere Rabbit Exhibitor

1. A premiere rabbit exhibitor will be named based on points earned by the youth in the following areas:
 - a. Skill-a-thon 20%
 - b. Animal placement during Show 30%
 - c. Showmanship 30%
 - d. Youth Rabbit Judging 20%
2. Participation in all four areas is required.

3. Purpose:
 - a. To increase the knowledge of animal selection and exhibition
 - b. To recognize excellence in all areas of competition
 - c. To improve the overall quality of the Junior Fair program
4. Presentation will be during the Grand Showman of Showmen on Friday.

Outstanding Rabbit Exhibitor

Harry Campbell Memorial Rotating Trophy

1. Any current Madison County 4-H or FFA member is eligible to apply after completing **three years** in the rabbit project area. Applicants must write a 500-word (minimum) essay on experience as a rabbit exhibitor, awards received, extracurricular activities (i.e.: school, church, community), and worthiness of the award. Essay/application must be turned into the Madison County OSU Extension Office by June 15.
2. Based on: general 4-H activities, leadership, citizenship and various rabbit project participation. Applicants should show evidence of project development and educational growth.
3. Members will be eligible to win once every two years and only one award will be presented per year.
4. Presentation will be during the Rabbit Showmanship on Wednesday.