

# **Division G – Rabbits**

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Rabbit Registration & Picture submission	May 15th deadline
Selecting Market Pens Clinic	TBD after 4H enrollment
Market Pen Picture submission	See below
Rabbit Cage Verification	At Skillathon
Fair Check-in & Market Pen Weigh-in	July 10, 5-8 p.m.
Mandatory Barn Meeting	July 11, 9:15 a.m.
Jr. Fair Rabbit SHOWMANSHIP	July 14, 9 a.m.
Jr Fair Rabbit SHOW	July 15, 9 a.m.
Youth Rabbit Judging	July 16, 9 a.m.
Fun Show	July 18, 3 p.m.
Check-out/Animals Released	July 18, 9-11 p.m.

## **Breed Class Division**

\*Final classes will be determined based on entries. If there are at least three (3) rabbits of the same breed entered by two (2) exhibitors these rabbits may show in a Breed Class.

## **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

**Born & Raised Market Pen Division**

- 831 Pen of Three Fryers
- 832 Single Fryer
- 834 Single Roaster
- 835 Stewer

**Born & Raised OR Purchased Market Pen Division**

- 836 Pen of 2 Roasters
  - A. Born & Raised
  - B. Purchased

**Doe and Litter**

- 837 Doe & Litter

**Rabbit Showmanship**

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

Senior Division

- 838 17 years & older
- 839 16 years
- 840 15 years

Intermediate Division

- 841 14 years
- 842 13 years
- 843 12 years

Junior Division

- 844 11 years
- 845 10 years
- 846 9 years old
- 847 8 years old

**Jr. Fair Rabbit General Rules**

***1. Pre-Fair***

A. POSSESSION DATES:

- In order to meet breeding, age, & weight requirements exhibitors must have possession of brood doe for Born & Raised market pens by the following dates:
  - for Born & Raised Stewer class by **December 1, 2025**
  - for Born & Raised Roaster pens by **March 1, 2026**
  - for Born & Raised Fryer pens by **April 1, 2026**
- PURCHASED Pen of 2 Roasters must be in possession & care of the exhibitor by **May 1, 2026**.
- Exhibitors must have possession of their breed (fancy & commercial) class rabbits by **May 1, 2026**
- Exhibitors must have possession of their brood does for doe & litter by **May 1, 2026**.

- B. PICTURE SUBMISSIONS to [losterlo@yahoo.com](mailto:losterlo@yahoo.com) are required by the following dates:
  - of Stewer by **March 15, 2026**
  - of brood does for roaster pens by **March 15, 2026**
  - of brood does for fryer pens by **April 1, 2026**
  - pictures of ALL RABBITS coming to the fair: breed class entries, market litters, purchased Pen of 2, and brood doe for Doe & litter due by **May 15, 2026**.
- C. Submit pictures by appropriate dates to [losterlo@yahoo.com](mailto:losterlo@yahoo.com) or in FairEntry.
- D. All rabbits must be **weaned** and at least **8** weeks old (56 days); except kits in a doe & litter pen.
- E. All rabbits, except kits in doe & litter, must be tattooed prior to the fair.
- F. Only rabbits properly registered by May 15 with the Rabbit Committee may show at the fair. This includes any “alternates” you may have.
- G. After May 1 & prior to June 15, permission to replace an animal in a **breed class** due to an extreme circumstance in which the exhibitor is not the cause of the animal’s death or illness, will be considered by the Livestock Committee, Junior Fair Advisory Committee, & the Junior Fair Board division members of that project area.
- H. Doe & litter and market pen entries may not be replaced with animals not already registered by May 1, 2026.
- I. An exhibitor not able to exhibit their animal after June 15 will have the option to display a poster or scrapbook about their project to present to the judge on SHOW day.
- J. Cage requests/reservations will be confirmed at Skillathon.
- K. All exhibitors must complete a new project book (#228) or new species/supplement pages each year. This includes the **mandatory online focus questions**, accessible at [go.osu.edu/4hrabbitresources](http://go.osu.edu/4hrabbitresources). Project books must be brought to skill-a-thon.
- L. ALL rabbit exhibitors **MUST** go through the rabbit skill-a-thon and attend Quality Assurance.

## 2. Fair Exhibition Specifics

- A. BREED CLASSES
  - Exhibitors must sign up for appropriate BREED classes based on years in the project.
  - First year exhibitors **MUST** show a doe OR a buck in a breed class and **MAY** participate in any/all other classes except Doe & Litter and Stewer classes.
  - Second year exhibitors **MUST** show a doe OR a buck in a breed class and **MAY** participate in any/all other classes.
  - Third year & up exhibitors **MUST** show two rabbits in breed classes and **MAY** participate in any/all other classes.
  - All exhibitors may show up to 2 entries per breed class.
- B. DOE & LITTER CLASS
  - Second year & up exhibitors may show one doe and litter pen in addition to their breed class entry.
  - There can be any number in the litter. The litter must be **28 to 49** days old, of the same breed, & from the same litter.
  - Does from doe & litter class may not show in a doe class.
- C. BORN & RAISED MARKET CLASSES
  - Exhibitors must participate in SKILLATHON, SHOW and SHOWMANSHIP classes or risk ineligibility to show any project during the following year’s fair.
  - Exhibitors may not bring only a market pen; appropriate breed class entry required.
  - Rabbits in born & raised market meat pens; the Pen of Three, Single Fryer, Pen of 2 Roasters, Single Roaster & Stewer classes **MUST** be raised from birth by the exhibitors. **THESE RABBITS MAY NOT BE PURCHASED.**
  - Each rabbit in the Pen of Three and Single Fryer classes must weigh between 3 ½ and 5 ½ pounds and under (10 weeks) 70 days old. Each rabbit in a Pen of Three must be of the same breed and from the same litter. Exhibitors must know the date of birth at check in.
  - To meet the ideal harvest age & weight guidelines a Roaster class rabbit must be over 10 weeks to 16 weeks of age & 6 pounds to a maximum of 9 pounds at check in. Therefore,

they must have been born between March 20 and May 1, 2026. Exhibitors must know the date of birth at check in.

- To meet the ideal harvest age & weight guidelines Stewer rabbits must be over 6 months to 10 months of age & over 8 pounds at check in. They must have been born after September 10, 2025 but before January 10, 2026. Exhibitors must know the date of birth at check in. This class is for the experienced 4Her who breeds year round.
- 1 entry per Born & Raised market class per exhibitor.

D. PURCHASED PEN OF 2 MARKET CLASS

- 1st year market pen exhibitors must attend the Madison County Clinic on Selecting Quality Market Rabbits to enter this class. The date of the clinic will be announced following March 15, 2026 4H Enrollment.
- Purchased Pen of 2 class consists of 2 purebred meat breed rabbits from the same litter. They must be a breed from the approved list below. Exhibitors should choose 2 that are similar in meat type, conformation, and fur quality
- Receipt with name of breeder, date of purchase & contact information required.
- Rabbits may not be purchased from a family member or self.
- Rabbits must be between 6 & 16 weeks old by May 1, 2026 (possession day)
- Each rabbit in the Pen of 2 must be over 16 weeks to 26 weeks and over 5 ½ pounds to a maximum of 9 pounds at check-in.
- “Purchased market class” must participate in SKILLATHON, SHOWMANSHIP & SHOW CLASSES to sell in Premium Sale. Failure to do so may risk ineligibility to show any project during the following year’s fair.
- “Purchased market class” exhibitors may also bring additional “breed class” entries that can be sold, taken home, or declared for the packer truck (see bullet point below).
- If no additional rabbit is brought to enter in a breed class one of the 2 rabbits in the pen must also show in a 6 class breed junior class and in Showmanship.
- 1 purchased market class entry per exhibitor. Declaration must be made by May 15th, 2026.
- Exhibitors may not also enter a Born & Raised Pen of 2.

E. THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO ALL CLASSES

- Exhibitors must participate in SKILLATHON, SHOW and SHOWMANSHIP classes or risk ineligibility to show any project during the following year’s fair.
- Exhibitors may post “for sale” signs following the Wednesday Show.
- ALL market meat pens (pen of three fryers, single fryer, single roaster, pen of 2 roasters & stewer) and breed class entries wishing to be sent to the packer must be a breed from the following list.

American	Champagne	Palomino	Florida White
American Chinchilla	Cinnamon	Rex	Silver Marten
Beveren	Crème D’Argent	Satin	American Sable
Californian	New Zealand	Silver Fox	

- Exhibitors bringing breed class rabbit(s) from the accepted market list may declare to send rabbit(s) to the packer for market price instead of taking home or selling themselves. Declaration and weighing must take place at check-in. Due to needing an accurate count for the packers to bid on, once a declaration has been made the decision is final.
- As stated in the Junior Fair General Rules any broken rules or regulations could result in removal of animals, loss of premiums, and the exhibitor forfeiting the right to participate the following year.

### **3. Barn information**

- All rabbits will go through a visual inspection at check in before entering the barn.
- Barns will be closed and locked every night when the fair closes.
- Exhibitors must attend a mandatory barn meeting Saturday, July 11, at 9:15 a.m. Failure to attend may affect eligibility to show. Attendance will be taken.

- Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their animals during the fair & until check out time or loaded on the packer truck. Each exhibitor is to provide feed, feed cups & water for their animals. If rabbits do not have sufficient food, water & ice bottles, if required, the animals may be dismissed from the fairgrounds & all awards will be forfeited. This includes cages in the Champion Row area.
- 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 or straw. Pine shavings are required
- 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, & the right to exhibit the following year.
- Receptacles for feed & water (crocks/bottles) must be properly secured. Paper, Styrofoam, or glass drinking cups are not permitted as feed/water containers.
- Supplies, boxes, tubs must fit under cages. Fire safety & wheelchair guidelines require aisles be kept clear. Large tack items may be kept in the tent next to the barn.
- Exhibitors are responsible for knowing all barn rules posted.

#### **4. Shows**

- Dress code is required for Skillathon, the Rabbit Show and Showmanship.
- 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.
- 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.
- Judging will be based on ARBA standards.
- 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.
- 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.

#### **5. Youth Rabbit Judging**

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

#### **6. Dress Code**

- 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.
- Any length sleeve is acceptable.
- No shirts or lab coats identifying family, farm, or club names shall be worn during shows.
- Close-toe and close-heel shoes are to be worn.
- Plain lab coats are permitted but the dress code MUST be worn under the coat.
- Persons not abiding by this dress code will not be allowed to place in their class.

#### **7. Sale**

- All Grand and Reserve Champions will sell at the Livestock Sale.
- Rabbit exhibitors will go through the sale ring once with their entire rabbit project.

#### **8. Check-out & Packer**

- Release time is Saturday July 18, from 9-11 p.m. for rabbits NOT going to the packer.
- 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. These rabbits need to be weighed.

- Market Rabbit exhibitors are responsible for the watering and feeding of animals until the packer pickup and/or check-out time.
- 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.
- Exhibitors must remove any remaining tack and supplies by Sunday July 19, 2026, between 8-11 a.m. or may forfeit the right to exhibit next year.
- 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 in the following areas: Skill-a-thon (20%), Showmanship (30%), animal placement during Show (30%), and Youth Rabbit Judging (20%)
2. Participation in all four areas is required.
3. Participants must have at least 1 rabbit breed class entry to be considered.
4. 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

### **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; only one award will be presented per year.