

Wood County 4-H Rabbit Project Information



Helpful information for your rabbit project.

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Rabbit Project Overview

There are several rabbit projects that you can enroll in as a 4-H member. Here is a brief summary of each project:

4-H #	Title	Description
228BR	Breeding Rabbit	Raise any breed of rabbit for breed or production purposes.
228MA	Market Rabbit	Raise a meat breed of rabbit to harvest weight.
228PE	Pet Rabbit	Raise any breed of rabbit as a pet. Note: This rabbit project does not participate in the Rabbit Show, instead will participate in 4-H Project Judging, and does not stay in the Rabbit Barn during Fair.

Project Literature

You will need the following project materials for your rabbit project:

- **Rabbit Resource Handbook** (\$20) - Designed to be used for all years of your rabbit projects.
- **Rabbit Project and Record Book** (\$12) - Obtain and keep for the resource information it contains. Note: do not use for your annual record keeping (with the exception of the first year).
- **Wood County Livestock Project Record Book** (free) - Download this document and use as your Record Book for your project. You may also purchase one from the Extension Office for \$4. Obtain a new one each year. *You will need to bring this completed document to 4-H Project Interview Judging.

In Summary: obtain the first two books listed above and keep and use them for all years you are taking a Rabbit Project. Each year, download a new Livestock Record book and use it to keep your annual project records.

Note to those with Food Animal (Market) Projects: as a food animal producer you are required, by law, to keep a record of any treatments, medications, drugs, etc. that are used for the health of your animal. Use the Treatment Record within your Wood County Livestock Record Book to keep this information.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR 4-H PARTICIPATION: * = Mandatory

Activity	Due Date	Location	Reference Page # (in this guide)
*Enroll in 4-H	No later than March 15	https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in	2
*4-H Project Interview Judging	Thursday, July 16 th	Wood County Fairgrounds Junior Fair Building	2
Skill-a-thon	Thursday, July 16 th	Wood County Fairgrounds Junior Fair Building	3

Activities that will take place in order to complete your 4-H rabbit project

The following 4-H activities are described below.

4-H Enrollment

Membership requires enrollment in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or an approved adult volunteer. Your 4-H club Advisor will assist you with the online enrollment process. Joining Ohio 4-H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University. Members must remain in good standing with their 4-H club, meaning attending a minimum of five meetings, completing a demonstration, fully participating, etc.

Project Interview

Project judging is an exciting time to showcase your hard work spent on your 4-H project. Our judges love talking with you and learning about your project. Please be patient and understand if a judge is running behind. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Judging Hints

- Arrive at the Junior Fair Building with your project book and record books. Remember to wear nice attire to judging. See Dress Code below.
- Check in at the registration desk.
- Complete the top of a judging interview sheet. Be prepared to talk about your project, know what you did, how you did it, and what you learned. Be proud of your accomplishments! You worked hard. Have a seat, talk to friends and RELAX!
- If you are unable to attend the specified project interview judging day in July at the Junior Fair Building, your advisor may judge the project and provide a grade to the Extension Office by the required date.
- **Please note** To be eligible for awards (premier livestock interviewer) you must be judged on the day your project is assigned at the Junior Fair Building.



Dress Code Rule for 4-H Project Interview Judging

Exhibitors must wear a collared polo or buttoned shirt with some sleeve and nice blue jeans (no rips or cut-offs and no tank-tops, t-shirts or sleeveless tops).

- **Consequences for not following this rule may include class disqualification, or no interview until wardrobe is changed. This rule was adopted by the 4-H Committee and Jr. Fair Board.

Skill-a-thon

This is where you have the chance to shine as an exhibitor. This is a contest to show who knows the most about their species. You will study various topics on rabbits and then at 4-H Project Interview Judging, you will go into the skill-a-thon and answer the questions they pose for you. There are 2 levels: juniors (8-13 years old) and seniors (14-18 years old.) The exhibitors with the highest scores can earn ribbons and then have a chance to earn cash prizes.

- The Rabbit Skill-a-thon is an activity that takes place prior to fair, at 4-H Project Interview Judging. It is a series of stations on topics you are learning about in your Rabbit project. The goal of the Skill-a-thon is to facilitate learning about your rabbit project. It is not *expected*, but *highly encouraged* that you participate in the Rabbit Skill-a-thon.
- A Rabbit Skill-a-thon Study Guide is available to assist your learning. The Study Guide can be found on the Wood County 4-H web site:
https://wood.osu.edu/sites/wood/files/imce/Program_Pages/4H/skillathon/rabbitsskillstudy17.pdf
- Online Study Resources:
 - <https://ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/rabbit/rabbit-resources>
- Additional information for Rabbit Skill-a-thon can be found in your Rabbit Resource Handbook.
- Prizes are awarded to exhibitors who perform well in the Skill-a-thon. Prizes typically include cash and rosettes which are handed out at 4-H Spirit Night in October.

Congratulations on the successful completion of your project!



Basics for your Rabbit Project

Market Rabbits- You want to show rabbits that are very close to identical in every way. They should look, weigh, and feel the same. One way to evaluate your rabbits is by weighing them and measuring the width of their loin and hindquarters.

Breeding Rabbits- You do not have to breed (produce offspring) with your rabbit but can if you so choose. The animal must show breed characteristics but does not have to be registered. Find a reputable breeder who can provide you with a quality rabbit. Avoid purchasing from pet stores as they are often low quality or mixed breeds.

Find a Breeder

- Your 4-H Advisor and/or Extension Office can provide a list of possible sources of animals. You can sometimes find reputable breeders on Facebook or at ARBA.net under the “member resources” tab.
- Make sure you contact breeders well in advance and let them know the date of the fair so that your rabbits are the correct age for showing.

Bringing Your Rabbits Home

- Rabbit carrier- you will need a carrier to transport your rabbits. Many people purchase a wire carrier that will fit up to three rabbits. This carrier will also be used to transport to the fair and during show day.
- Breeding rabbits should be tattooed for identification purposes. Check with your breeder before taking your rabbit home; they may be able to tattoo a rabbit for you. If they are not able to tattoo, that can be done for you at ID Day in June.

Cages

- You should have a cage at least 24x36 inches for one rabbit and size should increase with more rabbits.
- Rabbits should be kept in a cage with a wire bottom so droppings can fall easily to the ground or tray. Wire bottom cages are the most sanitary choice.
- Determine where you will house them- they need to be in a cool, shaded area and out of direct sunlight.
- If rabbits are going to be in a garage or building, make sure they have proper ventilation.
- Be sure that your rabbits cannot reach any hazards (wires, strings, any chemicals they could bite into) outside of their cages as they will chew on things. On this note, giving your rabbit a NON-treated piece of wood is a good thing to chew on to keep them busy and to keep their teeth short.

Food/ Water

- Complete pelleted feed- you can buy this at any feed store. 16-18% protein is recommended. Check with your breeder for a feed recommendation.
- Breeders typically give “switchover feed” which is used to gradually switch your rabbit to a new pelleted diet. Do this over the course of a few days, slowly mixing the old feed with the new feed so the rabbits have time to adjust.



- Water- decide if you are going to use a crock or hanging bottle- make sure your rabbit **ALWAYS** has access to fresh water. Check with your breeder to see what they use. If you choose to use a water bottle it is always a good idea to start your rabbit with both a bottle and a bowl underneath it until you know the rabbit can use the bottle. At fair, it is only permitted to use a hanging bottle.



Wood County Junior Fair Participation

All Wood County Junior Fair Rabbit information can be found here: <https://www.woodcounty-fair.com/rabbits> or in the Wood County Fair Book (printed annually each spring.)

Project Requirement for Exhibition at the Wood County Junior Fair

Participation is an opportunity available to you because you are a 4-H member. Exhibition at the Wood County Fair, is not mandatory to fulfill the commitments of taking your 4-H project, but it is highly recommended. If you are interested in exhibiting a rabbit project at the Wood County Fair, you need to know and meet the exhibition requirements. Basic exhibition requirements include (additional mandatory requirements can be found online):

- You must be enrolled in 4-H (or FFA), no later than March 15th, in the project you want to exhibit.
- You must be a member in good standing of your 4-H Club: meaning attending a minimum of 5 meetings, completing a demonstration, fully participating, etc.
- You must participate annually in Livestock Quality Assurance Education, by the deadline of June 1st for market ready projects only. This training is provided by your 4-H club advisor or the county extension agent.
- You must register your animals in FairEntry online by the deadline of June 1st.
- Complete a Drug Use Notification Form (DUNF) online by the required date set by Junior Fair.
- Health Requirements can be found under the Junior Fair Rules & Guidelines section in the Wood County Fair Book.

Fair Entries and Fair Rules

Each exhibitor is responsible for creating a fair entry for every animal that you plan to bring to the fair. Registering in 4-HOnline does not register you for fair. You register for fair in the FairEntry online program (with instruction from the Junior Fair Coordinator) by June 1st. Instruction on this will likely take place at one of your club meetings (another reason it is especially important to attend meetings). Your Advisor will be able to answer questions about the fair entry process.

When you choose to become a Junior Fair Exhibitor; you are responsible for knowing the general fair rules and the department rules for the project you are exhibiting. These can be found on the Wood County Fair website or in the Fair Book under Junior Fair Rules, Rabbit.

You should also be familiar with Ohio Revised Code Sections 901.70, 901.71, 901.72, 901.73, 901.74, 901.75, 901.76, 901.99 and 2925.94. These govern all livestock shows in the state of Ohio.

Should you have any questions about rules, please contact the Fair Board Rabbit Committee.

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<https://www.woodcounty-fair.com/>

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