



4-H RABBIT PROJECT



Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

Communication

- Design a poster on parts of the animal
- Participate in a judging contest and give oral reasons
- Explain the use of rabbits for meat production

Citizenship

- Volunteer your rabbit for a community petting zoo
- Hand out food samples at your local grocery store
- Volunteer to help at the county fair rabbit show

Leadership

- Invite other 4-H members to tour your farm
- Teach others how to safely handle rabbits
- Lead a rabbit selection and feeding clinic



Are You Into It?

In the rabbit project you can learn about selection and raising your animals, but also dive into health issues, management practices and careers!

- Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on one or more head of rabbits
- Explore knowledge of sound breeding, feeding, and management practices
- Investigate marketing, project expansion and how you can start a career in the rabbit business

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic / Level 1	Learning More Intermediate / Level 2	Expanding Horizons Advanced / Level 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn the different types of breeds and their ideal weight groups • Determine the use of your rabbit projects • Develop a rabbit care management plan • Identify rabbit equipment and its uses • Locate and name parts of a rabbit • Learn proper feeding techniques • Discover proper rabbit showmanship steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn to judge rabbits and give oral reasons • What's the difference between 4 class and 6 class? • Explore the different rabbit body types and their function • Design a plan for preparing rabbits for show • Learn proper grooming techniques • Tattooing rabbits • Learn about diseases and environment concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about rabbit breeding programs and genetics • Managing your rabbitry • Determine pregnancy and palpation techniques • Design a rabbitry • Identify bones on a skeleton • Evaluate rabbit health • Complete a rabbit pedigree and registration paper • Marketing your rabbits to others • Expand your project into other areas



Take Rabbits further!

Here are other opportunities to explore Rabbits:

- Contact your county ISU Extension office for other local workshops, activities, and events
- Tour a rabbit producer's farm
- Attend a rabbit show and observe the judge and their techniques
- Attend a rabbit project meeting
- Design a business card or marketing brochure for your farm
- Write an educational article about some aspect of rabbit production for your newspaper
- Participate in a rabbit skillathon
- Organize a rabbit showmanship contest
- Attend a national rabbit conference
- Ride with a local veterinarian to learn about animal health
- Learn about the different uses for rabbits; meat vs. non-meat production
- Attend Animal Science Round-Up as part of the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference and participate in one of the livestock tracks, participate in the community service project, bringing ideas back to your community.
- Is it fair time? Consider showing in your County Fair rabbit show or the Iowa State Fair.
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine?
Schedule a visit with Iowa State University to explore those majors. www.iastate.edu

Exhibit Ideas

- Participate in the 4-H rabbit show
 - Standard Bred Rabbits
 - Commercial
 - Fancy
 - Market Rabbits
 - Meat Pen
 - Single Fryer
 - Roaster
 - Presentations and Posters
 - Showmanship
- Consider an exhibit, notebook or display showing what you've learned in a rabbit-related topic
 - Economic value of a rabbit
 - Preparing an emergency medical kit
 - Genetic variations and line-breeding
 - Feeding rations
 - Preventative vaccinations
 - Photos of different breeds
 - Daily routine in caring for animals
 - Grooming techniques
 - Developing a breeding herd
 - Video interview with a rabbit producer
 - Best care techniques for newborns
 - Constructing a nest box
 - How to properly tattoo a rabbit
 - Expanding your rabbit knowledge into other 4-H projects

Resources

4-H Resources	Other Resources	Record Keeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa 4-H Rabbit www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/Livestock/rabbit.htm • What's Hopping Level 1 (4H 663A) • Making Tracks Level 2 (4H 663B) • All Ears Level 3 (4H 663C) • Rabbit Leader Guide (4H 663 LDR) • Rabbits, Rabbits, Rabbits (4H 662) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa State Rabbit Breeders Association http://iasrba.110mb.com/ • American Rabbit Breeders Association www.arba.net • American Satin Rabbit Breeders Association www.asrba.org 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rabbit Project Worksheet • 4-H Yearly Summary (4H-0096) • Basic 4-H Project Record (4H-0096A) • Experienced 4-H Project Record (4H-0096B) • Advanced 4-H Project Record (4H-0096C) • Recordkeeping Self-Evaluation (4H-98, PDF)