4-H RABBIT PROJECT

Are You Into It?

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

- Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on your rabbit(s)
- 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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Starting Out Basic / Level 1</th>
<th>Learning More Intermediate / Level 2</th>
<th>Expanding Horizons Advanced / Level 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learn the different breeds, varieties and ideal weights</td>
<td>Learn to judge rabbits and give oral reasons</td>
<td>Learn about rabbit breeding programs and genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determine the use of your rabbit projects</td>
<td>Discover the difference between 4 class and 6 class</td>
<td>Manage your rabbitry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a rabbit care management plan</td>
<td>Explore the different rabbit body types and their function</td>
<td>Determine pregnancy and palpation techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify rabbit equipment and its uses</td>
<td>Design a plan for preparing rabbits for show</td>
<td>Design a rabbitry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locate and name parts of a rabbit</td>
<td>Learn proper grooming techniques</td>
<td>Identify bones on a skeleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn proper feeding techniques</td>
<td>Tattoo your rabbits</td>
<td>Evaluate rabbit health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discover proper rabbit showmanship steps</td>
<td>Learn about diseases and environment concerns</td>
<td>Develop and maintain a rabbit pedigree system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Market your rabbits to others</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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(s) for a community activity (i.e., nursing home, ag activity, etc.)
- 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
- Lead a tattoo clinic and project workshops

*For more information or to obtain project materials contact your county ISU Extension Office or go to: www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/rabbit*
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

Resources

4-H Resources

- Iowa 4-H Rabbit
  http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/rabbit
- What’s Happening
  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)
- Rabbit Showmanship Video

Other Resources

- Iowa State Rabbit Breeders Association
  http://www.iasrba.com/
- Check us out on Facebook!
  https://www.facebook.com/groups/IowaStateRBA/
- American Rabbit Breeders Association
  www.arba.net
- American Satin Rabbit Breeders Association
  www.asrba.org
- American Rabbit Breeders Association Youth Division
  http://www.arba.net/youth.htm

Record Keeping

- Rabbit Project Worksheet
- 4-H Yearly Summary (4H0096)
- Basic 4-H Project Record (4H0096A)
- Experienced 4-H Project Record (4H0096B)
- Advanced 4-H Project Record (4H0096C)
- Record keeping Self-Evaluation (4H98)

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

*For more information or to obtain project materials contact your county ISU Extension Office or go to: www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/rabbit