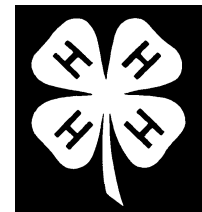


# LINN COUNTY 4-H RABBIT PROJECT 2008-2009



<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn>

## IMPORTANT FACTS:

### ➤ Dates to remember

- March 15<sup>th</sup> Add/Drop Project - Register for Rabbit/Cavy Project (sign up through local club)
- May 15<sup>th</sup> Animal ID. Enter ALL rabbits/cavies you may want to bring, in case some are ill or out of condition. Must be tattooed/tagged in left ear. Unborn litters, enter intended ear number.
- **If attending State Fair, FSQA Training Dates:** 2/24/09 Extension Office 6:30 PM Larry McMullin, Presenter; 3/31/09 Extension Office 6:30 PM Denise Schwab, Presenter; 5/7/08 Tippie Beef Center, Kirkwood, 6:30 PM Terry Chapman, Presenter. Youth ages 9-11 on 1/1/09 will need to attend an approved FSQA training class. Youth ages 12-14 (or 15-18) on 1/1/09 will have the option of attending a training class **or** completing a test which will certify them until they turn 15 (or 19).
- Linn County Fair Rabbit Show – **Saturday, July 11, 2009** – Limit 15 rabbits/cavies. Meat pens = 1 entry.

### ➤ 4-H Attendance Requirements – In order to show a rabbit at the fair:

- First & second year exhibitors **MUST attend two (2) Linn County 4-H Rabbit Workshops**
- Third year & above must participate in one of the following:
  - Attend 1 Linn County Rabbit Workshop
  - Participate in an approved area wide rabbit event (ARBA sanctioned rabbit show or regional rabbit clinic) from a list provided to members. Exhibitor is responsible for turning in a signed Non Linn County 4-H Rabbit Training form to a committee member by July 1, 2009.
  - Serve as an approved mentor for younger 4-H rabbit youth in lieu of the attendance requirement. Written report will be required.
  - Serve on the 4-H Rabbit Committee

### ➤ Linn County 4-H Rabbit Workshops

- **Tuesday, December 10, 2008 at FFA Room, Central City High School, 7 PM**
- **Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at Extension Office, 7 PM**
- **Thursday, April 27, 2009 at 7 PM. Watch Newsletter for location. *Rabbit/cavies for sale***
- **Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at Linn County Fairgrounds, 6 PM *carrier workshop+ tattooing***

### ➤ State 4-H Rabbit Workshops (Counts as 1 county clinic for 3<sup>rd</sup> years and above. Must sign in with Linn County Rabbit Committee representative)

- Saturday, April 4, 2009 12:30 – 4:30 PM Eastern Iowa 4-H/FFA Rabbit Workshop – Cedar County Fairgrounds, Tipton, IA. Carrier building + tattooing + practice show.
- Sunday, April 5, 2009 12:30 – 4:30 PM Central Iowa Rabbit Workshop – Jasper County Fairgrounds, Colfax, IA (immediately south of I-80 at Colfax interchange) Same activities as Tipton

### ➤ Iowa ARBA Rabbit Shows (Counts as 1 county clinic for 3<sup>rd</sup> years and above. Must sign in with Linn County Rabbit Committee representative for credit)

- March 1, 2009 – Mississippi Valley RBA, Dewitt Fairgrounds, contact Myron Dinsdale 641-751-5316
- March 21, 2009 – South Central Iowa RBA, Colfax Fairgrounds, contact Tim Johnson 515-490-6281
- April 18 & 19, 2009 – Cedar Rapids RBA, Campgrounds Amana, Iowa, contact Leone Rusbult 319-668-2675
- May 10, 2009 – Waterloo RBA, National Cattle Congress Grounds, Waterloo, contact Sharon Mixdorf 319-894-9292
- June 6, 2009 – Indian Hills Rabbit & Cavy Breeders, Oskaloosa Fairgrounds, contact Janet Ritchie 641-842-4895
- June 27, 2009 – Butler County Fair, Allison Fairgrounds, Myron Dinsdale 641-751-5316

## ❖ 4-H RABBIT COMMITTEE & CONTACTS:

- Diane & Candace Coberly: home: 849-2093 / email: [bluecreekmeal@aol.com](mailto:bluecreekmeal@aol.com) /
- Candace Coberly: home: 849-2093 / email: [ccoberly2180@mustangs.mtmercy.edu](mailto:ccoberly2180@mustangs.mtmercy.edu)
- Deb and Katie Stockman: home 854-6511/ cell 551-1481/ email: [dknmrabbits@gmail.com](mailto:dknmrabbits@gmail.com)
- Karen, Craig & Neill: Karen cell 389-0536/Neill cell 270-7539 / email: [Karen@dunlapintl.com](mailto:Karen@dunlapintl.com)
- Tina & Melanie Jochimsen: home 447-6251 / email: [trjochim@rockwellcollins.com](mailto:trjochim@rockwellcollins.com)
- Kathy & Mikayla Hartl: home 439-6643 / email: [patchworkarabian@aol.com](mailto:patchworkarabian@aol.com)

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- 4-H Rabbit Books:
  - Level 1 *What's Hoppening?*
  - Level 2 *Making Tracks*
  - Level 3 *All Ears!*
- American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) *Domestic Rabbit Magazine*
  - Dues
    - Individual Youth - 1 year - \$12.00 - 3 years - \$18.00
    - 1 Yr Single Adult Family - \$20.00 (1 adult) plus \$5.00 per youth
    - 1 Yr Husband/Wife Family Membership - \$30.00 (2 adults) plus \$5.00 per youth
  - Website [www.arba.net](http://www.arba.net)
    - ◆ Breed photos & links to national specialty clubs
    - ◆ Show dates and information
    - ◆ Registered rabbitries as a source for quality rabbits
  - Books:
    - *Standard of Perfection* - \$16.00
    - *Raising Better Rabbits & Cavies* - \$15.00
    - *A Practical Beginning to Successful Rabbit Raising* - \$3.00
    - *Domestic Rabbit Guide* - \$3.00
- Iowa State Rabbit Breeders Association (ISRBA) – *Hawkeye News*
  - Website <http://www.iowastaterba.com>
  - Dues: Youth membership \$6.00, Family \$13.00 with each youth \$2.50
- Cedar Rapids Rabbit Breeders Association (CRRBA)
  - Website <http://allrabbits.net>
  - Dues: Youth \$2.00 / Couple \$5.00 / Single Adult \$3.00 / Family \$5.00 + each youth \$2.00
  - Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month (except summer) at Skogman Bldg, 410 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids (across from Five Seasons Center Parking Ramp.) Enter ground floor door facing railroad tracks & watch for signs to CRRBA meeting room. 4-H/FFA visitors & families always welcome!!! For more info contact Rabbit Committee Members: Coberlys or Dunlaps.
- Books by specific breed clubs
- Handouts
  - Parts of the body
  - Vocabulary
- Lynne Rechterman (Cedar & Linn County 4-H Rabbit Resource person) [larecht@iastate.edu](mailto:larecht@iastate.edu) 377-9839

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW YOUR RABBITS:

- Iowa State Fair (4-H)
  - Entry requirements
  - FSQA training required to show rabbits at Iowa State Fair
    - Deadlines – Must register through County Extension Office by July 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - Costs \$1.00/rabbit, limit 5 rabbits, for breed competition. No charge for showmanship and posters.
    - Forms available at Linn County Extension Office in June
- ARBA Shows
  - Partial listing of area shows:
    - DeWitt, Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, Oskaloosa, Tipton, Davenport, Des Moines, Ft. Dodge
  - Sources of information for upcoming shows:
    - American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) website [www.arba.net](http://www.arba.net)
    - Iowa State Rabbit Breeders Association (ISRBA) website <http://www.iowastaterba.com>
    - Cedar Rapids Rabbit Breeders Association (CRRBA) Website <http://allrabbits.net>

## LINN COUNTY WORKSHOP 1 – TUES., DECEMBER 2, 2008 (no rabbits)

- ❖ **OVERVIEW OF DATES AND PROJECT REQUIREMENTS**
- ❖ **FOOD SAFETY QUALITY ASSURANCE (FSQA) TRAINING**
- ❖ **SELECTING YOUR RABBIT**

- Personalities of different breeds
- Size considerations
- What is available in your area
- Competition factors – age of rabbit at time of show, coat condition, number of competitors, etc.
- Health of rabbit: teeth, toenails, markings,

*Buy from a  
reputable rabbit  
breeder.*

*Ask for a show  
quality rabbit!*

- ❖ **TYPES OF RABBITS**

- Rabbit Breeds
- Fair Classes – Commercial, Fancy, Market, Home Grown, Meat Pen & Single Fryers

- ❖ **PARTS OF THE RABBIT - Handout**

- ❖ **CARE FOR YOUR RABBIT**

- Shelter – indoor vs. outdoor hutches, cages. Shelter from heat!!!! Fans, water bottles
- Transporting rabbits – carriers
- Holding & carrying your rabbit
- Feed – Quality feed helps develop a quality coat & skin condition for your rabbit, feed supplements
- Water (LOTS!)
- Health Issues

- ❖ **CONSIDERATIONS IN BREEDING RABBITS – HOME BRED RABBIT COMPETITION**

## LINN COUNTY WORKSHOP 2 – TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009 (no rabbits)

- ❖ **REVIEW IMPORTANT FACTS & DATES – CARRIER SHOW INSTEAD OF COOPED**

- Evaluation of types of carriers. Alternatives for 2009 show.

- ❖ **BREED COMPETITION** (rabbit is judged, not youth)

- Identifying your rabbit (ARBA breed book)
  - Breed Types
    - Compact (Dutch, Mini Rex), Full Arch (Britannia Petite), Semi-Arch (Flemish Giant), Cylindrical (Himalayas), Commercial (New Zealand, Silver Marten)
  - County Fair Classes (4 vs. 6 class)
    - Fancy Classes – generally smaller breeds -4 class rabbits
    - Commercial – generally larger breeds raised for meat or fur purposes-6 class rabbits
    - Market, Fryer and Meat Pen Classes
    - “Home Grown” – Bred by exhibitor
  - Buck or Doe
- How to bring rabbit to the judging table

- ❖ **POSTER COMPETITION**

- Poster paper size
- Content more important than elements of style (at county level)
- Breed poster – highlight something important about a specific breed
- Science poster – may be about health issues, housing, care of rabbits, etc.

- ❖ **SHOWMANSHIP COMPETITION** (youth is judged on knowledge of rabbit)

- Need to know information about the breeds
- Demonstration & hands-on in handling a rabbit
  - How to show a judge the parts of the rabbit
  - Setting up a rabbit to show
  - Breed specific differences – running breeds (Tans, English Spots)
- Senior 4-H youth explain what they have experienced from judges
- The written quiz on breed and general rabbit knowledge

## LINN COUNTY WORKSHOP 3 – THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2008

### ❖ REVIEW OF IMPORTANT FACTS & DATES

- Deadlines For Entry
- How to enter unborn litters
- FSQA training
- 4-H General Rules, Animal Division Rules, and Rabbit Dept Rules
- Dress Code (4-H t-shirt, jeans)
- Code of Conduct
- Rabbit ID's – Ear tattoos

### ❖ REVIEW BREED, SHOWMANSHIP & POSTER COMPETITIONS

### ❖ REVIEW OF THE REVISED LINN COUNTY FAIR TIMELINE

- **FRIDAY**– CLEAN RABBIT BARN, SET UP FOR COMPETITION
- **SATURDAY AGENDA**
  - Arrival time
  - Health Check
  - What to expect for paperwork
  - Carrier Show– what to bring
  - Keeping your rabbits/cavies cool in the summer
  - Responsible for feeding and watering own rabbits/cavies!
  - **Poster Competition**
    - Junior, Intermediate, Senior
    - Breed, Science
  - **The Breed Competition routine**
    - Remarks cards
    - Classifying your rabbit
    - Carrying your rabbits to table (Parents cannot carry the rabbits up, only 4-H ers)
    - Best Variety, Best of Breed, Best Opposite, Best Fancy, Best Commercial, Best of Show
  - **Showmanship Competition routine**
    - Written test
    - Knowledge of breeds
    - How to show a judge the parts of the rabbit
    - Setting up a rabbit to show
  - Potluck for Rabbit/Cavy Exhibitors & families
  - Procedures if rabbits need to be removed early due to schedule conflict.
  - Tear Down & Cleanup of Rabbit Barn

### ❖ SHOWMANSHIP WRITTEN TEST

### ❖ TATTOOING SESSION AT END OF MEETING

## LINN COUNTY WORKSHOP 4 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2008

### ❖ PRACTICE SESSION FOR LINN COUNTY FAIR

- Filling out the forms to show
- Written Test
- Breed Competition & Showmanship run through
- Record Book forms for year end.

### ❖ PREPARING FOR STATE FAIR COMPETITION

### ❖ SHOWMANSHIP WRITTEN TEST

### ❖ TATTOOING SESSION AT END OF MEETING