



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(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

4-H
GROWING TOGETHER

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!

Starting Out Basic / Level 1

- Learn the different breeds, varieties and ideal weights
- 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

Learning More Intermediate / Level 2

- Learn to judge rabbits and give oral reasons
- Discover 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
- Tattoo your rabbits
- Learn about diseases and environment concerns

Expanding Horizons Advanced / Level 3

- Learn about rabbit breeding programs and genetics
- Manage your rabbitry
- Determine pregnancy and palpation techniques
- Design a rabbitry
- Identify bones on a skeleton
- Evaluate rabbit health
- Develop and maintain a rabbit pedigree system
- Market your rabbits to others
- Expand your project into other areas
- Learn to write for a judge at a sanctioned show



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 http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/rabbit • What's Hoppening 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rabbit Project Worksheet • 4-H Yearly Summary (4H0096) • Basic 4-H Project Record (4H-0096A) • Experienced 4-H Project Record (4H0096B) • Advanced 4-H Project Record (4H0096C) • Record keeping Self-Evaluation (4H98)