

In the 4-H Rabbit Project youth learn about selection and raising their animals, but they also explore science, technology, health issues, management practices, careers, and much more! It is important for 4-H members to learn how science and technology are a vital part of many aspects of the 4-H Rabbit Project. The 4-H Rabbit Project is a livestock project format that is accessible to both rural and urban 4-Hers.

The overall learning objectives of the 4-H Rabbit Project are:

- To learn and practice basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on one of more rabbits
- To explore and develop knowledge of sound breeding, feeding, and management practices
- To investigate marketing, project expansion, and how you can have a career in the rabbit industry

## Starting Out Beginner

- Learn the different breeds of rabbits and what breed is right for you
- Learn proper care for your rabbit(s)
- Learn about rabbit nutrition and proper feeding
- Learn proper grooming techniques for exhibition
- Learn about proper biosecurity practices

## Learning More Intermediate

- Learn proper housing and care for rabbits
- How to set up and run a breeding program
- Choosing the best rabbits for exhibition
- Tattooing rabbits for identification
- Learn the different body types and their functions
- Develop a sound biosecurity plan for your rabbitry

## Exploring Depth Advanced

- Learn about genetics
- Learn how to read & prepare a pedigree
- Learn to market your rabbits to others
- Learn palpation techniques for determining pregnancy
- Evaluating rabbit health

## 4-H Thrive

### Positive Youth Development

#### Developing Competence

Adults create environments where youth can develop competence in their chosen project area.

#### Building Confidence

Youth build confidence as they learn to think for themselves, build mastery, and are recognized for their efforts.

#### Nurturing Caring

Adults nurture a caring environment where mutual trust between youth and adults is established. Caring relationships with adults are key to resilient youth.

#### Finding Connection

Youth build solid connections which are critical to their well-being.

#### Forming Character

Create a community where youth play an active role in developing their character.

#### Determining Contribution

Youth actively contribute to their clubs and communities.

***Mississippi State University is  
an equal opportunity  
institution.***

## Expand your experiences!



### Suggested Activities

#### Competitive Activities

##### Judging/ Visual Presentations/etc.:

- Cloverbud: participate in Cloverleaf Exhibits at county or PAD level
- Junior 4-Hers: participate in Visual Presentations at District PAD
- Senior 4-H'ers: participate in Rabbit Skill-a-Thon contest at 4-H Club congress

##### Miscellaneous:

- Mississippi State Fair Rabbit Show
- Mississippi State Fair Rabbit Art & Photography Contest
- Dixie National Jr. Roundup Rabbit Show
- County 4-H/Fair Rabbit Shows
- ARBA shows

### Resources

1. American Rabbit Breeder's Association (ARBA) Showmanship Scorecard. Retrieved from: <https://arba.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024-Rabbit-Showmanship.pdf>
2. Standard of Perfection. ARBA.
3. ARBA Proper Posing & Evaluation. Retrieved from: <https://arba.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/PosingSpring2014.pdf>
4. Rabbit Level 1: What's Hoppening . National 4-H Curriculum.
5. Rabbit Level 2: Making Tracks. National 4-H Curriculum.
6. Rabbit Level 3: All Ears. National 4-H Curriculum.