

Rabbits



Beyond
Ready

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-H'ers: 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.