2017 Rabbit Information Sheet

Prepared by the 4-H State Fair Rabbit Show Committee and the Center for Youth Development

This information sheet gives details on the rules for this year’s Minnesota State Fair 4-H Rabbit Show. Although some counties may follow slightly different guidelines, these rules will apply at the state level.

OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Ownership Requirements for All Animal Science Projects are uniform for Beef, Cats/Pets, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Dog, Horse, Lama, Meat Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep and Swine: Animals must be owned solely by the 4-Her or the 4-Her’s family. The family includes the 4-Her’s parents/guardians and siblings living together as a family unit. The definition of family includes an extended family where the animal may be owned by grandparents as long as the 4-Her’s parents are actively involved with and working on the farm. Animals owned in partnership with non-family members (as defined above) must be leased and follow guidelines within the lease agreement. Lease agreements must be submitted by May 15 with 4HOnline data. Market animals (with the exception of prospect calves) cannot be leased.

All Animal Ownership Deadlines:
February 15: Market Beef (beef steers, market heifers & dairy steers)
May 15: Breeding beef, dairy, dairy goats, dog, horse, lama, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, swine. Fryer rabbits (should be 70 days old at show) 4-Her must own the doe of fryer rabbits and doe must be identified by May 15.
June 1: Jr. Meat Does
July 1: Jr. Doe Kid Dairy Goats

Projects in Minnesota may be started at any time during the year. However, if the project is to be shown at a county or state event, certain requirements must be met. Each of the requirements listed pertain specifically to state events. Identification worksheets are available in most species for use by families to gather data needed to complete 4HOnline Identification process. Please keep ID worksheets for records.

ANIMALS UNDER LEASE ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE SHOWN AS A MARKET ANIMAL

BREEDS

- All breeding rabbits and fryer or meat pen rabbits must be purebred.
- Caging: The following breeds could receive a double cage (depending on size and availability): Checkered Giant, Flemish Giant, Giant Chinchilla, French Lop and Giant Angora

IDENTIFICATION DETAILS, FORMS & DEADLINES

- Refer to your county ID letter and online at: www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID
- Each rabbit must be permanently and legibly tattooed in the animal’s left ear by May 15.
- A legible tattoo is “a tattoo that shows ink below the skin and must be readable”.
- Permanent marker or ink is not acceptable.
- For a fryer or meat pen, the 4-Her must own the doe producing the fryers by May 15.
- Rabbits ID data must be entered online or the ID worksheet submitted to your county extension office by May 15.
- 4-Hers exhibiting a leased rabbit must complete & turn in a “Minnesota 4-H Animal Science Lease Form” by May 15

DATES OF STATE FAIR 4-H LIVESTOCK ENCAMPMENT & SHOW DETAILS

- 4-H Livestock Encampment ~ Wednesday, August 24 – Sunday, August 28
- 4-H members must be present to show their rabbits or forfeit awards and premiums.
- 4-H Rabbits cannot be shown in the Open Rabbit Show.
Each member will carry his/her rabbits to the judging table and show it while it is being judged.
Fryers and meat pens will be judged on conformity and condition only. Because of disparity of county and state fair dates, a new rabbit may be shown at state fair.
Entries that do not meet the identification requirements will receive no higher than a blue ribbon.
For State Fair eligibility, the only currently approved breeds or varieties are those published in the ARBA book of standards or on the ARBA web site as of February 1, 2017.
Number of entries shown in current year will determine the following year’s lots. Breeds with 10 or more entries will be shown in their own class. Breeds with nine or less entries shown go into the "Other Purebreds" class.

SINGLE FRYERS AND MEAT PENS
4-Hers with market rabbits are encouraged, but not required, to attend the carcass show, but must have a rabbit processed.
Single Fryer – purebred. Not over 70 days of age, weighing 3 1/2-5 1/2 lbs. Fryers will be judged live then dressed out for carcass placing. Exhibitor will receive ribbons for both live and carcass placing
Pen of 3 fryers – purebred, all the same breed and variety, not over 70 days of age on day of show, weighing 3 ½ -5 ½ lbs. The exhibitor will select one rabbit of the pen to enter in the carcass contest prior to live judging. This rabbit will be eligible for all carcass awards. No duplicate tattoos in a meat pen.

4-H MARKET RABBIT SHOW
A 4-H market rabbit show will be held at 5 p.m. on Friday in the sheep arena. More details can be found in the 4-H State Fair Premium book.

STATE FAIR HEALTH REQUIREMENTS
No unhealthy animals will be allowed to show. They will be sent home (no premium).

STATE FAIR INTERVIEWS
Age Divisions: Intermediate = grades 6-8, Senior = grades 9-10, Advanced = grades 11 & up
All State Fair interviews will occur on the U of M campus in 2017 – watch for times on Wednesday and Thursday.
To qualify for any awards above and beyond a blue ribbon, exhibitors must participate in the Rabbit Interviews.
The Rabbit interview process will include a workshop and interview. Questions will be taken from the workshop and Rabbit Curriculum, including all health, management, careers and current industry issues. Interviews will emphasize many life skills such as communication skills, responsibility, decision making and problem solving. Award Winners will be selected from the Finalists.

STATE FAIR SHOWMANSHIP:
Age Divisions: Intermediate = grades 6-8, Senior = grades 9-10, Advanced = grades 11 & up
All 4-Hers must participate in showmanship. No pre-entry is required.
Ribbons will be awarded to all participants. Champion and Reserve Champion awards will be given for each group.
Exhibitors receiving past champion honors in their division must advance to the next age level.

STATE FAIR GROOMING RULES AND HERDSMANSHIP
All grooming of livestock, including clipping, trimming and blocking (all species) must be clearly done by the exhibitor, members of the immediate family or any other registered Minnesota 4-H member. Immediate family members are defined as being parents, step parents, legal guardians, grandparents, brothers or sisters. The 4-Her exhibiting the animal should be present and involved in the fitting process at the fair.
Animals must be maintained and look presentable to the public from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. daily.
No locks will be allowed on cages. Non-locking clips are permissible as long as they are no larger than 2½”.
Signs, including “For Sale” signs, are not permitted on pens. Decorations or nameplates are not allowed.
Display all of your awards (sticker only) on the stall card and replace soiled and torn cards immediately.
You will also need a dust pan, whiskbroom and container for disposal of soiled shavings.
Shavings are available daily (7-9 a.m. & 3-5 p.m. only). You will need a container for transporting shavings to cages.
Cage should be clean and the area kept neat.
Animals should have adequate feed and water. They need to have water at all times and should have evidence of adequate care.
Carrying cages, boxes, or crates are to be stored under the cages (maximum height 20”). A single hole carrier works best to transport your rabbit to and from the show table.
You must bring your own feed and water dishes. Water bottles must be inside of cages. Ice bottles are permissible.

Any county may use the platform for any rabbit if they make and bring their own. Platforms measure 2½” high x 23½” wide and 23” long. These can be entirely made of wire mesh or wire mesh on a wooden frame. Wire bottom must be ½” x ½” (minimum) or ½” x 1” (maximum). Plexiglas (24” X 18”) may be brought to prevent interaction between rabbits.

All wool breeds are suggested to bring platforms

Please refer to the Basis for Scoring Rabbits section of the State Fair 4-H Premium book for more details.

PROMOTION BOOTH

All rabbit exhibitors are expected to help in the Rabbit Promotion Booth.

A sign-up sheet will be posted by the Rabbit office.

Counties are expected to sign in & out of the Promotion Booth & to have 4-Hers present for their county’s entire scheduled time period.

Counties which complete their shift will have 10 points added to their county’s Herdsmanship Score for that day.

POSTER CONTEST

Any 4-Her enrolled in the Rabbit Project may enter a poster. (You do not have to be exhibiting a rabbit at State Fair to enter.)

Age Divisions: Grades K - 2 ~ Grades 3-5 ~ Grades 6-8 ~ Grades 9 +

Poster size is 14” by 22”. (Larger size posters will not be judged.) Posters should be portrait.

Posters must be labeled on the back with the 4-Her’s name, grade completed, and county.

There are two categories: 1) Promoting 4-H Rabbits and 2) Educational 4-H Rabbit. T-shirt design and next year’s show catalog cover will be selected from posters entered.

JUDGING CONTEST

Date and Time: Thursday, 8:00 am to 11:30 am

Divisions: Intermediate = grades 6-8 & Senior = grades 6-13

All 4-Hers must be listed on the “State 4-H Judging Contest Registration Form”. All 4-Hers must also register on the state fair registration form and pay the 4-H State Fair program fee.