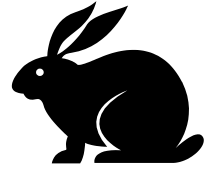


4-H Rabbit Project Record Book



Kent County 4-H Program



Place a photo of you and your rabbit here

Name: _____

4-H Age (age on Jan 1 of current year): _____ # of years in rabbit project: _____

4-H Club: _____

4-H Leader: _____



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Revised 1/2014

Kent County 4-H Rabbit Program Project Guidelines

Welcome to the 4-H rabbit project. This is a methodical and useful opportunity to learn about the care and maintenance involved in owning a rabbit or rabbits. Keeping good records is an important part of your 4-H experience. Accurate records will guide your progress and educate leaders about the development and needs of your 4-H rabbit project.

The Notebook Requirements that you will complete will depend on the number of years you've spent in this particular project area. Your records will help you prepare for questions that will be asked during rabbit showmanship at the fair and other 4-H competitions.

If you have any questions regarding the 4-H rabbit project or completing this record book:

- Ask your 4-H club project or teen leaders.
- Many answers can be found in the current *Standard of Perfection, Official Guide to Raising Better Rabbits and Cavies, Rabbit Production*, and the *Domestic Rabbits Magazine*.
- Borrow resources, books, or the Rabbit Learning Lab from Kent/MSU Extension.
- Visit websites such as the American Rabbit Breeders Association or other reputable websites pertaining to your area of interest.

Rabbit Project Book Requirements for Kent County Youth Fair Exhibitors

Every participant is responsible for completing this record book in it's entirely and to the best of his/her ability in order to be eligible to participate in this year's Kent County Youth Fair. The record book must be completed and submitted to the Kent County Fairgrounds office by the last Friday in June of the current year for judging. The record book should be displayed in your club's booth during the week of fair.

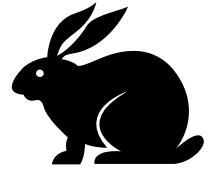
The current year's record book must be submitted in a sliding bar report recover or a pocket portfolio with fasteners. **No three-ring binders or individual page protectors please.** Include current year only. There will be point deductions for failure to follow these guidelines.

Each exhibitor must complete the minimum number of Notebook Requirements for their appropriate years in project. Additional Notebook Requirements may be completed at the exhibitor's discretion, with each extra credit topic being worth up to an additional 10 points according to quality and completeness.



General Questions About Your 4-H Rabbit Project

Please complete questions for your showmanship animal



1. What breed is your rabbit? _____

2. What variety (and color group *if it applies*) is your rabbit?

3. Is your rabbit a 4-Class or 6-Class breed? _____

4. What are the complete weight ranges for each class for your breed according to the *Standard of Perfection*? _____

5. Name the 4 fur types recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA):

What is the fur type of your rabbit? _____

6. What color should your rabbit's eye color be for its variety according to the *Standard of Perfection*?

Does your rabbit have the correct eye color? (*circle*) Yes No

Is incorrect eye color a fault or a disqualification (DQ)? (*circle*) Fault DQ

7. Name the 5 body types recognized by the ARBA:

What body type is your rabbit? _____

8. How many breeds are currently recognized by the ARBA? _____

1st year – Choose a minimum of 3 topics below – include these in your Rabbit Record Book

1. Using a picture or diagram, label the major external parts of the rabbit in your own hand writing. You may use the diagram on the MSUE website or you may create your own.
2. Write a description of at least 5 responsibilities of rabbit ownership, and explain why each one is important.
3. Describe the proper process of grooming your rabbit.
4. Choose 3 showmanship steps, explain how to perform them, and why they are important.
5. List and describe the 5 step process of handling a rabbit.
6. List 3 things you should not feed your rabbit and describe why they are harmful.

2nd year – Choose a minimum of 3 topics below – include these in your Rabbit Record Book

1. Name the five body types and name a breed as an example of each body type.
2. Choose 3 breeds of rabbits. Describe the important characteristics of three different breeds of rabbits, including body type, fur type, breed standard, and uses.
3. Define “disqualification” and give three examples.
4. List 5 ways to prevent disease in your rabbitry and tell why each one is important.
5. Identify the characteristics of a disease found in rabbits. Tell about the cause, symptoms, treatment, and prevention.
6. Complete a report on sportsmanship, appropriate dress and conduct for rabbit showmanship. *Minimum 300 words*
7. Explain the correct procedure for removing a rabbit from a cage, as well as the correct procedure for placing the rabbit back in it’s cage. Draw a diagram, if necessary.

3rd year – Choose a minimum of 3 topics below – include these in your Rabbit Record Book

1. List and describe the proper steps to take in posing your particular rabbit based on the breed standard in the American Rabbit Breeders Association *Standard of Perfection*.
2. Paste an ingredient label from your rabbit’s food on a separate sheet, and choose 3 nutrients or ingredients and tell why each is an important part of your rabbit’s diet.
3. Choose one external parasite and one internal parasite that can affect rabbits, explain how each is transmitted, the signs/symptoms, treatment, and prevention.
4. Describe the difference between 4 and 6 class breeds. Give at least 5 examples for each.
5. Draw and label the rabbit digestion system.
6. Describe the process of fostering kits.
7. List and describe the four different types of teeth found in rabbits, including how many individual teeth there are of each type.

4th year – Choose a minimum of 3 topics below – include these in your Rabbit Record Book

1. Describe your rabbit hutch/cage as well as other equipment you use in your project. Draw your supplies and cage set up or include a photograph with your explanation.
2. Write a report on how to litter train a rabbit.
3. List and describe the differences in the four types of rabbit fur. Give an example of a breed for each type.
4. List and describe the three types of malocclusion.
5. Determine the scientific order and family classification of rabbits and describe what characteristics rabbits have that fit into those categories. List 3 close relatives.
6. Explain the process a doe goes through from breeding through weaning, including timeframe and feeding requirements.
7. Describe the differences between fryer, roaster, stewer and meat pen classes. List 3 meat breeds and give the pros and cons of raising each breed for meat.

5th year – Choose a minimum of 3 topics below – include these in your Rabbit Record Book

1. List and describe the three uses for rabbits. Tell about your use of rabbits.
2. Discuss the process and purpose of coprophagy in rabbits.
3. List 3 running breeds, and describe something unique about each one.
4. List the two types of tattooing and include materials needed for each type.
5. Describe the difference between inbreeding and outcrossing, and give pros and cons of each breeding method.
6. Keep a record of your income and expenses for the year and include these in your notebook. Tell why financial accountability is an important life skill.

6th year – Choose a minimum of 3 topics below – include these in your Rabbit Record Book

1. Describe the process and requirements of becoming an American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) Registrar and then an ARBA judge.
2. Write a report on the history of the ARBA and tell why it is important. *Minimum 300 words*
3. List six differences between rabbits and hares.
4. Explain several reasons why rabbit manure is the best fertilizer compared to other farm types of commercial and animal fertilizers.
5. Name the different breeds of Angora and describe the differences between each one.
6. Describe a trip you took to a rabbit show, commercial rabbitry, or other rabbit event, and tell three important things you learned there.

7th year – Choose a minimum of 3 topics below – include these in your Rabbit Record Book

1. Research and report on the new rabbit pasturella vaccine including it's production, administration, and efficacy.
2. What is the difference between a dominant and a recessive gene?
Name 2 characteristics in rabbits that are controlled by each type of gene.
3. Describe the proper procedure for tattooing a rabbit using each method (clamp and pen).
Draw a diagram if necessary.
4. List at least eight (8) items that you would need to have in your rabbit first aid kit and why each item is important.
5. Prepare a sample pedigree using your own rabbit's pedigree as an example.
6. Name three diseases that affect the gut, and describe the causes, symptoms, treatment and prevention of each.

8th & 9th year – Choose a minimum of 2 topics below – include these in your Rabbit Record Book

1. Attend an ARBA or 4-H sanctioned rabbit show and serve as a writer. Describe the process and any challenges or observations.
2. Attend a 4-H rabbit development committee meeting and write a report about what was discussed, any suggestions or input you gave, and what you learned.
3. Analyze the differences between the rabbit and cavy showmanship processes.
4. Attend a state rabbit workshop and write a report on how the information gained at the workshop can be used in your community.
5. Design and draw an efficient rabbitry for 100+ rabbits. Label clearly and tell why you chose each piece of equipment.
6. Discuss two vitamin deficiencies in rabbits. Describe troubles the deficiency may cause.
7. Attend Exploration Days including at least one rabbit-related workshop, and write a one-page report on what you learned.

10th & 11th year – Choose a minimum of 2 topics below – include these in your Rabbit Record Book

1. Describe the proper method for processing a meat rabbit for human consumption.
2. Serve as a year-long mentor to a novice or explorer exhibitor, and write a one-page story about your experience.
3. Research a recent piece of legislation that will affect rabbit producers and write a one-page report on it.
4. Interview a local veterinarian regarding what he/she thinks is the biggest challenge to overcome when raising rabbits, and write a one-page report on your experience. Include the veterinarian's name and contact information in your report.
5. With a show superintendent's permission, serve under a judge as a ramrod for the judging of at least one breed. Write a one-page story detailing what you've learned about the judging process.
6. Compete in at least 3 events at the Michigan State Rabbit and Cavy Expo, and write a one-page report about your experience. Include pictures.
7. Prepare and deliver a presentation to your club regarding an important aspect of raising and/or showing rabbits. Use visual aids and demonstrations to aid in the effectiveness of your delivery. Write a one-page summary about your topic and include pictures of your demonstration.



