RABBIT PROJECTS
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********************************** IMPORTANT **********************************
● Rabbits must be owned and in the care of exhibitors by May 1, 2019. This includes the brood doe of the litter from which the fryers/roasters are selected.
● All rabbits must be tattooed in the left ear and/or have the ear tattoo recorded in ShoWorks by June 1, 2019 to be eligible to be shown in any rabbit classes at the Madison County Junior Fair.
● Final tattoo and cage registration will be done at Skillathon. COME PREPARED WITH RABBIT & TATTOO INFO!
● First year members may take a market pen and participate in the Junior Fair Premium Livestock Sale (more information below)
● All rabbits (except kits in doe & litter) must be weaned & at least 8 weeks old.

Rabbit Project Book Numbers:
225 Breeding Rabbit Project and Record Book
226 Market Rabbit Project and Record Book
228R Rabbit Resource Book
*All Rabbit Exhibitors need to purchase 228R Rabbit Resource Book
**ARBA Standards of Perfection is recommended, but not required

Rabbit Age Requirements
Jr. Rabbit (4 & 6 Class) = under 6 months
Sr. Rabbit (4 Class) = 6 months and older
Intermediate Rabbit (6 class) = 6 to 8 months
Sr. Rabbit (6 Class) = 8 months and older
*refer to the Rabbit Resource Book or ARBA Standards of Perfection, to determine if your rabbit breed is a 4 or 6 class

First Year Exhibitors
● First year exhibitors MUST show a doe or a buck, but may show one of each or a meat pen for a maximum of 2 pens. Possible combinations are:
  One buck or one doe
  One doe + one buck
  One doe + one meat pen
  One buck + one meat pen

Second Year and Up Exhibitors
● Second year and up Breeding project exhibitors MUST show a doe and buck, and may participate in any or all other classes.
● Second year and up Market project exhibitors MUST show a doe and buck, and may participate in any or all other classes.
● Second year and up exhibitors switching between breeding and market MAY start with second year options.

Pen of Three and/or Single Fryer Class
● Exhibitor must raise animals in the pen of three or a single fryer class from birth. Advisors and/or key leader need to verify date of birth. Exhibitors must know date of birth when weighing in.
● Each rabbit in the pen and a single fryer must weigh between 3 1/2 and 5 1/2 pounds and not be older than 70 days old. All will be judged. Only those who meet weight and age can sell in the livestock sale. Others may sell through Sales Committee to the packer.
● All pens of three and/or single fryers must be tattooed before fair.

Pen of Two Roaster Class
● Exhibitor must raise animals in the pen of two roaster class from birth (Advisors and/or key leader must verify).
● Must be tattooed before fair.
Each rabbit in the roaster pen must weigh between 5 1/2 and 9 pounds and be under six months old. Exhibitors must know date of birth at weigh-in. All will be judged. Only those who meet weight and age can sell in the livestock sale. Others may sell through Sales Committee to the packer.

**Doe and Litter Optional Class for second year & up exhibitors**

- Does from doe & litter class may not show in a doe class
- There can be any number in the litter. They can be of any breed and should be between 21 and 52 days old. Advisor and/or key leader need to verify.
- Only one doe & litter per exhibitor

**Selling your project through the Junior Fair Sale:**

- Grand & Reserve Champions must sell.
- Exhibitors will only go through the sale ring once with rabbit project.
- Those members who do not wish to sell their market pen projects must notify, in writing, a member of the Madison County Sale Committee and/or Key Leader at weigh-in.
- Grand and Reserve Breeding rabbits will sell but will not go to the packer. These rabbits will go home.

**Reminders:**

- All rabbits must be in exhibitor's possession by May 1.
- All rabbits (except kits in doe & litter project) must be tattooed by June 15th
- All rabbits must be tattooed and registered with the key leader by skillathon.
- All rabbits (except kits in doe & litter) must be weaned and at least 8 weeks old.
- Exhibitors entering pen of three, single fryer, and roaster classes must take project number 226
- **Skillathon dates:** June 18 & 26
- Bring completed project book and wear show clothes to skill-a-thon and interview.
- Showmanship, Skill-a-thon/interview, and Quality Assurance are required events.
- Rabbit Youth Judging required for Rabbit Premier; highly encouraged for all.

**What do I need for Fair?**

- Shavings (not cedar) (NO STRAW)
- Food crock or feeder
- Mat or resting board (if desired)
- Grooming tools (if needed)
- Cage cleaning equipment (i.e. cat litter scooper, dust pan)
- Bucket to carry dirty shavings away
- Small tub for supplies (if desired) that will fit under cage area

**Where to buy:**

- Breeder who can provide pedigree, papers, receipt etc.
- Fellow 4H member
- You can often find breeders through online & Facebook listings like: American Rabbit Breeders Association, "Pedigreed Rabbits for Sale in Ohio," "Springfield Rabbit & Cavy Breeders," perform web search for specific breed club or breeder type
- Rabbit Shows around state – listing can be found on ARBA website
  - I.e.: Darke County Rabbit Show -- March 31, 2019; Springfield Rabbit Show --- April 6-7, 2019

**Resources:**

- Rabbit project book (required)
- Green Rabbit Resource book (need to own or have access to)
- ARBA Standard of Perfection book
- ARBA website [https://arba.net/](https://arba.net/)
- Ohio State 4-H Extension website [https://ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/rabbit/rabbit-resources](https://ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/rabbit/rabbit-resources)
- OSU Rabbit Basics [https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/4h-31](https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/4h-31)

*As stated in the Junior Fair General Rules any broken rules or regulations could result in removal of animal, loss of premiums, and the exhibitor forfeiting the right to participate the following year.*