



2012 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

Breeding rabbits exhibited must be owned solely by the member, member's family or leased by agreement (if leased, complete information on back of RIDA). The family includes the 4-Hers parents or guardians and siblings living together as a family unit. The definition of family includes an extended family where the animals may be owned by grandparents with the 4-Hers parents 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.

- For a fryer or meat pen, the 4-Her must own the doe producing the fryers by May 15.
- Rabbits must be owned and ID affidavits submitted to extension office by May 15 (Juniors born after May 15 are not eligible for State Fair).

Leasing Program

- If a 4-Her cannot own their own rabbit, breeding rabbits may be leased by May 15.
- **PureBred** Fryers and meat pens may not be leased.

Breeds

- **All breeding rabbits and fryer or meat pen rabbits must be purebred.**

Identification Details

- Each rabbit must be permanently and legibly tattooed in the *animal's left ear*.
- A legible tattoo is "a tattoo that shows ink below the skin and must be readable".
- Permanent marker or ink is not acceptable.

Identification Forms & Deadlines

- "Minnesota 4-H Rabbit Ownership Affidavit" (RIDA) must be returned to your species ID coordinator for submission to the extension office by May 15.
- If an animal is leased, the appropriate "Minnesota 4-H Lease Agreement" must be submitted along with the "Minnesota 4-H Rabbit Ownership Affidavit" (RIDA) to your species ID coordinator for submission to the extension office by May 15.

Dates of State Fair 4-H Livestock Encampment & Show Details

- 4-H Livestock Encampment ~ Wednesday, August 22 – Sunday, August 26
- 4-H members must be present to show their rabbits or forfeit awards and premiums.
- 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, 2012.**
- 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 dressing and evaluation, but must have a rabbit processed.
- Single Fryer – purebred. Not over 70 days of age, weighing 3-5 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 3-5 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.

State Fair Health Requirements

- No unhealthy animals will be allowed to show. They will be sent home (no premium).

State Fair Premier Exhibitor ~ age Divisions: Intermediate = grades 6-8, Senior = grades 9-10, Advanced = grades 11 & up+

- To qualify for any awards above and beyond a blue ribbon, exhibitors must participate in the Rabbit skill-a-thon.
- Finalists will be called back for an interview and will receive a t-shirt.
- 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.
- Members may not wear advertising of any kind (except the 4-H emblem).
- 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 should bring your own feed and water dishes. **Water bottles should be inside of cages.** Ice bottles are permissible.
- Rabbit platforms- these will be available to use for angora rabbits. The advantages to using these platforms are: cleaner cages, animals stay cooler and cleaner.
- 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.
- 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 and out of the Promotion Booth and 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 - Grade 5 ~ Grades 6 - Grades 11 +
- 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-Hers 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, 8:30 am to 11:30 am, Open Class Sheep Arena (in Poultry Barn near Poultry Office).**
- Divisions: Intermediate = grades 6-8 & Senior = grades 6-13
- Please refer to the Rabbit Judging Contest section of the State Fair 4-H Premium Book for more details.

Open Quiz Bowl

- Patterned after the 4-H Project Bowl program that takes place in the Spring.
- Open to any 4-Her. There is no pre entry required. (You do not have to be exhibiting at State Fair.)
- 4-Hers assemble into teams of four and strive to answer questions related to rabbits. Mixed County teams are allowed.

Demonstrations

- Open to any 4-Her. There is no pre entry required. (You do not have to be exhibiting at State Fair.)
- Sign up in the 4-H Rabbit Promotional booth.