4-H RABBIT PROJECT

Image: National 4-H Council

Image: Janna Cline, UK

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Are you Into It?

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Participate in a 4-H Rabbit Project!

- Learn the basic principles of raising and caring for rabbits.
- Demonstrate responsible rabbit ownership.
- Investigate different uses of rabbits, including breeding, meat production, fur, wool, and companionship.
- Learn how to handle and show rabbits.

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic/Level 1	Learning More Intermediate/Level 2	Expanding Horizons Advanced/Level 3
- Selection and handling - Management - Health and nutrition - Breeding and general care	- Showing - Housing - Disease prevention - Administering medications - Processing and cooking	- Breeding and genetics - History and taxonomy - Shows and sportsmanship - Marketing and project expansion

Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

Communication

- Demonstrate how to properly handle a rabbit.
- Prepare a speech on how to raise and care for rabbits.

Citizenship

- Organize and lead a rabbit activity for Cloverbuds.
- Volunteer to assist at a local rabbit show or event.

Leadership

- Mentor a younger 4-Her on proper showmanship techniques.
- Lead a club session on the different uses of rabbits.

4-H is a community of young people who are learning leadership citizenship and life skills.

Take Rabbits Further!

Here are some other opportunities to explore rabbits:

- Give a speech or demonstration related to rabbits.
- Attend a rabbit show and make note of the different breeds of rabbits and the different fur types.
- Visit a local rabbit breeder and ask about their management plan.
- Participate in a county, district, and/or state rabbit show.
- Interview a veterinarian about their educational background and job responsibilities.
- Attend a class on how to properly process and prepare rabbit meat.
- Learn how to tattoo a rabbit.
- Visit an agriculture supply store to compare costs of purchasing a pre-made cage versus purchasing materials for building a cage at home.

For additional information visit the 4-H Rabbit Program Website at https://4-h.ca.uky.edu/rabbit.

Resources

4-H Resources	Record Keeping
- Rabbit 1: What's Hoppening? Grades 3-5 - Rabbit 2: Making Tracks Grades 6-8 - Rabbit 3: All Ears Grades 9-12 - Rabbit Helper's Guide - Rabbit Learning Laboratory Kit	- Record time each day spent feeding, grooming, training, and caring for your rabbit. - Record costs associated with owning and caring for your rabbit, including veterinary expenses, grooming, training, food, supplies, etc. - Record veterinary and health care provided for your rabbit.

Exhibit Ideas

- Create a poster showing the costs associated with purchasing, caring for, and showing a rabbit.
- Develop a video demonstrating how to properly groom a rabbit for show.
- Prepare an exhibit showcasing the various equipment needed to care for your rabbit.
- Create a poster showing the body parts of your rabbit.
- Develop a display featuring different cuts of meat and how to properly prepare each one.
- Create a poster that includes important rabbit terminology.

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