

MARKET RABBIT (#228MA)**4-H PROJECT REQUIREMENTS**

To complete a livestock project in 4-H, member must annually:

- Enroll in 4H Club by March 1
- Sign up for the project in 4Honline by March 1
- Be 4-H member in "Good Standing" (complete county and club requirements)
- Complete Project Book and Livestock Record Book
- Attend Quality Assurance Training
- Complete Livestock Skillathon

*NOTE: 4-H Members may also choose to exhibit their livestock at the Ross County Junior Fair. Members are NOT required to exhibit at the fair to complete a project in 4-H.

1. PROJECT BOOK & LIVESTOCK RECORDS

- **PROJECT BOOKS:** First-year members will receive a **Rabbit Project/Record Book (#228)** and a **Rabbit Resource Handbook (#228R)**. Members must retain these books for use in future years. The Resource Handbook is given one per family and must be retained for future family members.
- **LIVESTOCK RECORD:** Each member will receive a **Livestock Record** annually. **Members are required to bring their completed Livestock Record to the Animal Project Skillathon** with all information completed up to the date of the Skillathon.

2. QUALITY ASSURANCE (mandatory for Market Rabbits; not required for Breeding Rabbits):

- Exhibitors of Market and Dairy Projects must attend Quality Assurance training annually in order to show, exhibit and/or sell their animal at the county or state fair. This training is mandated by the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture for any producer that contributes to the food industry and must be completed 45 days prior to the opening date of the exhibition. Deadlines: June 18, 2024 for Ross County Fair and June 1 for State Fair.
- **QA OPTIONS:**
 - **Ross County** dates/times go to ross.osu.edu
 - **QA Sessions (all ages):** Pre-register **by March 1** at go.osu.edu/rcqualityassurance
 - **Test-Out (ages 15-18 on January 1):** Youth will complete QA for the current year and will then take a test. Youth scoring 70% - 100% will "test out" of QA for next three years.
 - **Other In-Person (all ages):** Exhibitors may attend approved QA programs or clinics. To get credit, it is the member's responsibility to submit proof of completion to the Extension office.
 - **YQCA Online (ages 14-18):** <http://yqcaprogram.org> (\$12/person). Must use 4-H online log-in. To get credit, it is the member's responsibility to send a copy of the completion document to the Extension office.

3. SKILLATHON

- All Ross County Jr. Fair Animal Project Exhibitors must complete an Animal Project Skillathon to exhibit, show and/or their animal(s). Exhibitors may complete either the Ross County Skillathon OR the Ohio State Fair Skillathon (if offered) for their species. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to submit proof of completion to the Extension office, if attending the OSF Skillathon.
- **Skillathon Dates:**
 - Location: Fairgrounds
 - July 9, 5:00pm-7:00pm
 - July 20, 9:00am-11:00am
- **Age Categories:** Members complete Skillathon according to their age (as of January 1).
 - Junior (8-11 years)
 - Intermediate (12 – 14 years)
 - Senior (15 – 18 years)
- **PREMIER SKILLATHON** (all ages): An optional contest held during the Animal Project Skillathon. Participants will compete in a Premier Skillathon station in each specie area. Details will be in the *May Family Hotline* and *Ross County Fair Book*.



JR. FAIR INFORMATION

→ *This is not a complete list of all Jr. Fair rules. Refer to Ross County Fair Book for all rules.*

To exhibit, show and/or sell an animal at the Ross County Junior Fair, exhibitors must:

- Enroll in 4-H Club and/or FFA Chapter
- Sign up for the project by March 1
 - 4-H members sign up through 4Honline
 - FFA members sign up with Ag Teacher
- Be 4-H/FFA members in "Good Standing" by completing county and club/chapter requirements
- Complete Project Book or Livestock Record Book
- Attend Quality Assurance Training
- Complete Livestock Skillathon
- Tattoo and/or weigh in animal(s) at the June Rabbit Tattoo/Weigh-in
- Submit online "Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form" by July 15
 - One form includes Market, Breeding, and Showmanship entries
- Submit DUNF form

*NOTE: Members are NOT required to exhibit at the fair to complete a project through 4-H or FFA.

REMINDERS:

1. **Any exhibitor taking a market rabbit project is ineligible to show that same rabbit in breeding class, and vice-versa. An exhibitor may have a breeding rabbit project and a market rabbit project using different animals.**
2. *At the Pre-fair and Fair Weigh-ins: heavily soiled, oiled, or wet rabbits will not be allowed across the scales until the problem is corrected.*

BEFORE THE FAIR

1. NUMBER OF ANIMALS.

- A. Exhibitors may take up to two (2) market species to the Ross County Junior Fair. Exhibitors must follow the guidelines of the number of animals per species and abide by the specific rules for each species.

2. MARKET RABBIT TATTO & WEIGH-IN DATES & TIMES.

- A. Rabbits **must** be weighed and tattooed on either:
 - Wednesday, June 19** from 6:00pm – 8:00pm at Fairgrounds or
 - Saturday, June 22** from 9:00am – 12:00noon at Fairgrounds
- B. Market Rabbits will be weighed prior to tattooing, strictly by assigned club time.
- C. Exhibitors must own and have possession of their market rabbits by **the June Weigh-in date.** No leased or borrowed animals.
- D. Market rabbits may be does or bucks.

3. WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS.

- A. Each exhibitor may weigh-in up to **(4) rabbits** at the June weigh-in
NOTE: There will be NO "Family Rabbits". All rabbits will be weighed-in and assigned to one exhibitor.
- B. Rabbits should be approximately 5 weeks old at the June weigh-in.
- C. Only rabbits weighing between 1 lb. -- 2½ lbs. will be tattooed.
- D. Must **weigh at least 1 lb. and not weigh over 2½ lbs.** at the June weigh-in to be eligible to show in the Market Rabbit /Pen of 2 class or sell in the sale.

4. JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS due July 15

- A. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
- B. Animals brought to the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.

5. ONLINE DUNF forms

- A. All DUNF forms must be submitted online by Date TBA
- B. DUNF form must be correctly submitted, or exhibitor will not be allowed to weigh-in their animal(s).

AT THE FAIR (Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for complete rules!)

1. WEIGHT REQUIREMENTS.

- A. If one or both rabbits in the Pen of 2 **weigh less than 4 lbs. or more than 6 lbs. at the August Fair weigh-in**, then that pen will not be eligible to show for championship or sell.
- B. Exhibitors of rabbits that do not make Fair weigh-in requirements must meet with a superintendent.
- C. If an exhibitor has one rabbit remaining at the August Fair weigh-in, it will be considered a lightweight.
- D. Pen of 2 rabbits that do not make weight requirements on Saturday of the fair will show in a special class for project grade and premium.
- E. Exhibitors of Light/Heavy-weight rabbits are eligible to participate in the Showmanship Contest.
- F. Light or heavy-weight rabbits will NOT sell at the Fair Rabbit Sale; the animals must go to the packer. Lightweight and heavyweight rabbits are NOT allowed to go home. The exhibitor is REQUIRED to continue to take care of their rabbits during the week of the fair.

2. FAIR MOVE-IN & WEIGH-IN.

- A. **First Saturday of the fair from 4:00pm – 9:00pm** - ALL rabbits (market, breeders, and fancy) must be **weighed and caged by assigned club time** to be eligible for show and sale.
- B. **No re-weighs.**
- C. Exhibitors will be permitted to **weigh in only two (2) market rabbits and only one time**. Weight rulings are final. Rabbits with an average pen weight of 4 - 5 lbs. will be classified as fryers; and pens with an average of 5 - 6 lbs. will be classified as broilers.

3. JUNIOR FAIR MARKET RABBIT SHOW.

- A. **Wednesday of the Fair, 8:30am:** Market Rabbit Show

4. “HOMEGROWN PEN of 2 MARKET RABBIT CONTEST.

- A. To participate, the exhibitor must submit an **online HOMEGROWN RABBIT CERTIFICATE by JULY 15, current year**. Link go.osu.edu/homegrown
- B. To qualify for this class, exhibitor must:
 - (1) Own at least one doe and buck
 - (2) Breed their doe(s)
 - (3) Take the offspring from the doe(s) as a Market Rabbit project

5. JUNIOR FAIR RABBIT SALE

- A. Jr. Fair Market Rabbit Show is a terminal show.
- B. An exhibitor may show and sell **one** Pen of 2 Market Rabbits.
- C. Refer to **the current Fair Book for Livestock Sale procedure/rules**. (i.e. Exhibitors may sell only one time through the sale unless exhibiting more than one overall species Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion)
- D. Last Saturday of the Fair: Refer to *Ross County Fair Book* for information.

- 6. **JR FAIR EXHIBITOR DRESS CODE**: Exhibitors **must** adhere to the following dress requirements **at all shows and sales** at the fair: must wear nice jeans or slacks (no low-rise, no holes or tears); a shirt, blouse or polo with a collar and sleeves AND without slogans or advertisements (4-H club/member name is acceptable); no cleavage showing; no undergarments showing. Shoes must be closed-toe (no sandals or flip flops).

RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP:

Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for complete rules (age divisions, fitting/showing rules, show order, etc.)

Showmanship Sign-ups

- A. **July 15** –Showmanship sign-ups (Beginner, Junior, Intermediate & Senior) are included in the online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form due July 15.

ROSS COUNTY
RABBIT & GUINEA PIG PROJECTS - 2024 IMPORTANT DATES



Thursday, May 2:

- Rabbit Clinic (1st Year Members) 6:00pm – 7:00pm @ Ross County Service Center

Thursday, July 8:

- Pre-fair Rabbit Clinic 6:00pm – 7:30pm @Fairgrounds

Wednesday, June 19:

- Rabbit Weigh-in & Tattoo 6:00pm - 8:00pm @Fairgrounds (*by assigned club schedule*)

Saturday, June 24:

- Rabbit Weigh-in & Tattoo 9:00am - 12:00noon @Fairgrounds (*by assigned club schedule*)

Monday, July 15:

- Due: online Jr. Fair Livestock Entry Forms for Market Rabbits, Breeding Rabbits, Guinea Pigs and all Showmanships. (link TBA)
- Due: online Homegrown Rabbit Certificates (link go.osu.edu/homegrown)

Thursday, August 1:

- Due: online DUNF form (link TBA)

Saturday, August 3:

- Rabbit Weigh-in & Caging at the Ross County Fair 4:00pm – 9:00pm (*by assigned club schedule*)

Sunday, August 4:

- Guinea Pig Show & Guinea Pig Showmanship 10:00am
- Fancy & Breeding Rabbit Show Rabbit Show 10:00am

Monday, August 5:

- Rabbit Showmanship 8:30am

Tuesday, August 6:

- Change cedar under cages (*top cage cleans this day*)

Wednesday, August 7:

- Market Rabbit Show 8:30am

Friday, August 9

- Breeding Rabbits released 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Saturday, August 10:

- Jr. Fair Rabbit Sale
- Clean cedar under cages (*bottom cage cleans this day*)



Reminders:

- Exhibitors must transport their rabbits in an appropriate carrying cage. Proper transportation cages have openings in the bottom to let urine and feces through, but not large enough for the rabbits' feet to fit in. **Closed-bottom pet carriers and laundry baskets are not allowed.** Wire carrying cages with an attached manure tray or milk crates work the best.
- No livestock is permitted in the campgrounds.
- Barn Hours
 - The Rabbit / Poultry barn will be open daily from 7:00am - 9:00pm, during the fair.
 - The **barn** will be **closed** during the rabbit show on **Wednesday** and during the sale on **Saturday** (**exception: exhibitors may enter building to water/feed their rabbits, but leave afterwards*).
- Exhibitors may keep **one coffee can size container of feed** on the available shelves in the barn. Larger containers will be removed by the barn superintendents.
- Exhibitors' **personal items** must be **removed** from the barn by closing on **Saturday after the sale**. Items left will be disposed of Saturday night.