

228MA – MARKET RABBIT

4-H PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

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

- Enroll in 4-H Club by March 1
- Be 4-H member in “Good Standing” by completing county and club requirements
- Complete Project Book or Livestock Record Book
- Attend Quality Assurance Training (*NOT required for breeding rabbits*)
- 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 (#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 Skillathon** with all information completed up to the date of the Skillathon.

2. QUALITY ASSURANCE (*IS required 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 at least 45 days prior to the opening date of the exhibition. Deadlines: **June 24, 2026** 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 on January 1):** <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 Skillathon to exhibit, show and/or sell 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 7, 5:00pm-7:00pm
 - July 18, 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): Optional contest. 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*.

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 by March 1
 - 4-H members sign up through 4Honline
 - FFA members sign up with their 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 online DUNF form at fair weigh-in (*market only. Not required for breeding rabbits*)

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

IMPORTANT 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.** (refer to #3 Weight Requirements)
 - 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 24 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm at Fairgrounds** or
 - Saturday, June 27 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.

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

1. **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).

2. FAIR VETERINARIAN.

The Fair Veterinarian is hired by the Ross Co. Agricultural Society per Ohio Dept. of Agriculture guidelines. Determinations related to animal health, care, and wellbeing are up to the discretion of the Fair Veterinarian up to and including animal removal and possession. (clarification that the Fair Veterinarian gets final say)

3. MEDICATIONS.

If a prescription is written that requires medication/treatment, a superintendent must be present each time the medicine/treatment is administered to ensure compliance with the guidance in the prescription. The superintendent must be present before any medicine/treatment is mixed through delivery.

4. DUNF FORMS

- A. All DUNF forms must be submitted online at the fair weigh-in.
- B. Exhibitor will submit ONE form for each Pen of 2 (not one form per rabbit).
- C. DUNF form must be correctly submitted, or exhibitor will not be allowed to weigh-in their animal(s).

5. 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.

6. FAIR MOVE-IN & WEIGH-IN.

- A. **First Saturday of the fair from 4:00pm – 8:00pm** - 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 2 market rabbits and only one time**. Weight rulings are final.
- D. 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.

7. JUNIOR FAIR MARKET RABBIT SHOW - Wednesday of the Fair

8. Must show to sell

All market animals must be shown in their respective market show to be eligible to participate in the Ross Co. Jr. Fair Premium Sale (*3 exceptions– see below). If the animal is lightweight or overweight, they can receive packer price but not premium or add-on funds.

A. Exceptions:

- I. Exception 1 - If the animal dies after weigh-in but before showing in the respective species market show the exhibitor will be eligible to receive add-ons.
- II. Exception 2 - If the animal dies after the respective species market show, then the exhibitor will be eligible to participate in both the Jr. Fair Premium Sale and receive add-ons.
- III. Exception 3 – If the animal dies after showing in their respective species showmanship show and before their species market show, then the exhibitor will be eligible to participate in both the Premium Sale and receive add-ons.
 - Note: if the exhibitor's animal does not die and they have shown in showmanship, they must still show in the market show to be sale eligible.
 - Note: This is a temporary exception that will be evaluated after the 2026 fair.

- B. Exhibitors will have 3 minutes from when other exhibitors enter the showing to enter the showing before the Superintendents/Judge moves on with the show. All exhibitors must participate in the Market Rabbit; page 3 of 4
- participate in the Ross Co. Jr. Fair Premium Sale.

9. SALE INFORMATION.

- 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

10. **“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:

- i. Own at least one doe AND buck
- ii. Breed their doe(s)
- iii. Take the offspring from the doe(s) as a Market Rabbit project

RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP:

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

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