

Lucas County 4-H Rabbit Project Information



Helpful Information for your Rabbit Project.

The contents of this guide are meant to be just that, a **guide and may be subject to change without notice. Be vigilant about referencing the Lucas County Fair website for the most up to date information regarding the fair.

Rabbit Project Summary

There are several Rabbit 4-H Projects that you can enroll in as a 4-H member. Below is a summary of each project:

4-H #	Title	Description
225	Breeding Rabbit	Raise any breed of Rabbit for breed or production purposes.
226	Market Rabbit	Raise a meat breed of rabbit to harvest weight. The exhibit for this project is a pen of 3, so you must have a minimum of 3 meat rabbits.
227	Pet Rabbit	Raise any breed of rabbit as a pet. Note: This rabbit project does not participate in the Rabbit Show, instead will participate in 4-H Project Judging, and does not stay in the Rabbit Barn during Fair.

Project Literature

You will need the following project materials for your Rabbit project:

- **Rabbit Project Handbook** (\$20) - Designed to be used for all years of your rabbit projects.
- **Rabbit Project and Record Book** (\$12) - Obtain and keep for the resource info it contains.
 - One record book per year, even if you are taking multiple types of rabbit projects.
 - You will need to purchase a new record book each year you take a rabbit project.

**Note to those with Market Animal Projects; as a food animal producer you are required, by law, to keep a record of any treatments, medications, drugs, etc. that are used for the health of your animal. Use the Treatment Record within your Lucas County Livestock Record Insert to keep this information.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR 4-H PARTICIPATION: * = Mandatory

Activity	Due Date	Location	Reference Page # (in this guide)
*Enroll in 4-H	No later than April 1	https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in	2
*4-H Project Interview Judging	Monday of Fair	Lucas County Fairgrounds Entertainment Tent	2
*County Fair Entry	May 15	https://go.osu.edu/lclivestockfaireentry	3
*Skill-a-thon	Monday of Fair	Lucas County Fairgrounds Entertainment Tent	3

Activities that will take place prior to the fair

The following 4-H activities are described below.

4-H Enrollment

Membership requires enrollment in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or an approved adult volunteer. Your 4-H club Advisor will assist you with the online enrollment process. Joining Ohio 4-H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University. Members must remain in good standing with their 4-H club, meaning: attending a minimum of five meetings, completing a demonstration, fully participating, etc.

Project Interview

Project judging is an exciting time to showcase your hard work spent on your 4-H project. Our judges love talking with you and learning about your project. Project judging is the last station of skillathon. Please be patient and understand if a judge is running behind. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Tips to be Successful

- Arrive at the Entertainment tent with your record books. Remember to wear nice attire to judging. See Dress Code below.
- Check in at the registration desk.
- Be prepared to talk about your project, know what you did, how you did it, and what you learned. Be proud of your accomplishments! You worked hard. Have a seat, talk to friends and RELAX!

Dress Code Rule for All Junior Fair Exhibitors

The Junior Fair Dress Code is in effect for Livestock Shows and all Interview Judging Days.

- Livestock Interview: No rips or cut-offs and no tank-tops or sleeveless tops. Appropriate length shorts or pants.
- Livestock Shows: exhibitors must wear a white long sleeve buttoned shirt or white lab coat. Pants should be black, khakis or jeans, reach exhibitors shoes and have no holes. Shoes are closed toe.

- **Consequences for not following this rule may include class disqualification, or no interview until wardrobe is changed.

Skill-a-thon

This is where you have the chance to shine as an exhibitor. This is a contest to show who knows the most about their species. You will study various topics on Rabbit and then at 4-H Project Interview, you will go into the skill-a-thon and answer the questions they pose for you. There are 3 levels: juniors (8-12 years old), Intermediate (13-15 years old) and seniors (16-18 years old.) The exhibitors with the highest scores can earn ribbons and then have a chance to earn cash prizes.

- The Rabbit Skill-a-thon is an activity that takes place prior to fair, at 4-H Project Interview. It is a series of stations on topics you are learning about in your Rabbit project. The goal of the Skill-a-thon is to facilitate learning about your Rabbit project.
- Prizes are awarded to exhibitors who perform well in the Skill-a-thon. Prizes typically include cash and rosettes which are handed out at Sunday awards in the Livestock Arena.

Congratulations on the successful completion of your project!

County Fair Entry

For exhibition information, such as move-in, possession and show information, visit the Lucas County Fair junior fair exhibition rules at: <https://lucascountyfair.com/exhibitors/#junior> then select "Livestock Rules"

- Fair Entry is due **May 15** and is completed online using this link: <https://go.osu.edu/lclivestockfairentry>
- Late or edited entries will be accepted until **May 22 with a \$50 fee payable to the Lucas County Fair.**
- For Entries after the late entry date, May 22, penalties are Grade and Exhibition only, \$50 fee, no premium, awards, or auction. Exhibition request will need approval.

Find a Breeder

- Your 4-H Advisor can assist you in finding sources of animals. You can sometimes find reputable breeders on ARBA.net under the member resources tab.
- Make sure you contact breeders well in advance and let them know the date of the fair so that your rabbits are the correct age for showing.
- Create a relationship with a veterinarian in your area. Verify that they are willing and able to see your animal(s) should the need arise and share contact information so that you are prepared.

Market

- You must show 3 rabbits, as a pen, at the fair. It is advisable to start with at least 4, if not 5-6, rabbits in the case of sickness and to have more options for matching up the rabbits.

Breeding

- For exhibit purposes, there will be classes for Junior Bucks, Senior Bucks, Junior Does and Senior Does. A rabbit age 6 months of age or over is a senior.

At Home Care Tips

Cages

- You should have a cage at least 24x36 inches for one rabbit and size should increase with more rabbits.
- Rabbits should be kept in a cage with a wire bottom so droppings can fall easily to the ground or tray. Wire bottom cages are the most sanitary choice. Determine where you will house them- they need to be in a cool, shaded area and out of direct sunlight.
- If rabbits are going to be in a garage or building, make sure they have proper ventilation.
- Be sure that your rabbits cannot reach any hazards (wires, strings, any chemicals they could bite into) outside of their cages as they will chew on things. On this note, giving your rabbit a NON-treated piece of wood is a good thing to chew on to keep them busy and to keep their teeth short.

Food/ Water

- Complete pelleted feed- you can buy this at any feed store. 16-18% protein is recommended. Check with your breeder for a feed recommendation.
- Breeders typically give “switchover feed” which is used to gradually switch your rabbit to a new pelleted diet. Do this over the course of a few days, slowly mixing the old feed with the new feed so the rabbits have time to adjust.
- Water- decide if you are going to use a crock or hanging bottle- make sure your rabbit **ALWAYS** has access to fresh water. Check with your breeder to see what they use. If you choose to use a water bottle it is always a good idea to start your rabbit with both a bottle and a bowl underneath it until you know the rabbit can use the bottle.

Bringing Your Rabbits Home

- Rabbit carrier- you will need a carrier to transport your rabbits. Many people purchase a wire carrier that will fit their 3 rabbits. This carrier will also be used to transport to the fair and during show day.
- Check with your breeder before taking your rabbit home; they may be able to tattoo a rabbit for you.

During Project

- **Care for your rabbits daily!!** Fresh water and proper feed are a MUST.
- You will want to make sure that your rabbits are checked regularly for any signs of distress.



- CLEAN- Their cage/ hutch should be kept clean to keep pests and diseases away. This can include cleaning out the pan (if you have one), cleaning feces from under the cage, scraping the wire if they mess, and cleaning urine guards if you have them as well. Keeping a clean area will keep pests and odors away.
- Market Rabbits- You should check their weights regularly and compare rabbits to find the best three that you have. Remember, you will only take 3 rabbits to the fair. Lucas County Fair requires rabbits to weigh 3.5 to 5.5 pounds each. Weighing outside of that range will make you not eligible for grand or reserve champion
- Breeding Rabbits- These rabbits have specific weights depending on their breeds. The required weights can be found in the ARBA Standard of Perfection or on ARBA.net.
- You will also want to practice with one rabbit or two that you will take for showmanship.