

2020 Rabbits

Ohio State University Extension

Erie County 4-H

2900 Columbus Ave, Sandusky, OH 44870

419-627-7631 or 1-888-399-6065

Project Numbers	Interview	Show
225 - Breeding Rabbit	July 23 rd 5-8 pm - EHOVE	Thursday, August 13 th - 9:00 am in the Multipurpose Bldg.
226 - Market Rabbit	July 23 rd 5-8 pm - EHOVE	Thursday, August 13 th - 9:00 am in the Multipurpose Bldg.

Note: **225 Breeding Rabbit** - this project is for anyone who wants to learn about rabbits, the different breeds, and possibly raise a litter. **You do not have to raise a doe & litter with this project**, but can if you so choose. Pure bred only! **226 Market Rabbit** - the goal of this project is to raise a meat rabbit(s) for market.

****Please be sure you are in the correct project.** If you are uncertain, please call the Extension Office or a Rabbit Committee Member!!

Rabbit Committee - Bev Baum (Chair) 419-706-7670, Carolyn Charville 419-677-1116; Bridget Jones 419-357-1908

NOTE: Contact Carolyn Charville (419-677-1116) for questions concerning where to get rabbits and questions concerning tattooing.

Extension Educator Responsible - Mary Beth Albright

Other Important Dates:

Rabbit Check In – May 9th 9:00-10:00 a.m. (for breeding rabbits and does that will be used for doe and litter)

Breeding Rabbit Possession Deadline – May 9th

Erie County Rabbit Clinic (specifically aimed at beginners, but all are welcome) – May 9th –10:00 a.m. immediately following tattooing

Market Rabbit Check In – July 18th **1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

Market Rabbit Possession Deadline – July 18th

Erie County Rabbit Clinic – July 18th – **2:00 p.m.** immediately following tattooing

Fair Registration (breed and tattoo numbers) - July 23rd @ Interview Judging

Rabbits brought to the Fair - Monday, August 10th 5-9 pm

Weigh-in (market rabbits only) – As rabbits are brought to the fairgrounds on Monday, Aug 10th from 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Animals released from fair – August 16th, 7 pm

In addition to the Erie County Rabbit Clinics listed above, Erie County members are also welcome to attend Huron County Rabbit Clinics. These clinics build upon one another, most will be split into beginners and advanced youth. Huron County clinics are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, April 8th at 7 pm –Basement of Huron Co. Office Building – 180 Milan Ave. (St. Rt. 250)

Breeds, Care & Housing (Rabbits are not needed)

Wednesday, April 29th at 7 pm - Basement of Huron Co. Office Building – 180 Milan Ave. (St. Rt. 250)

Health with John Douds, DVM (Rabbits are not needed)

Wednesday, May 13th at 7 pm - Basement of Huron Co. Office Building – 180 Milan Ave. (St. Rt. 250)

Body & Skeletal Parts and Conformation

(May bring rabbits to this clinic to confirm sex & that they are not crossbred)

Wednesday, May 27th at 7 pm – Huron County Fairgrounds – Beginners Clinic (bring rabbits)

Wednesday, June 24th at 7pm - Huron County Fairgrounds - Showmanship Clinic (bring rabbits)

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Book and Interview Requirements

Project

Required Book(s)

225-Breeding Rabbit	#225 Breeding Rabbit Project & Record Book & #228R Rabbit Resource Handbook
226-Market Rabbit	#226 Market Rabbit Project & Record Book & #228R Rabbit Resource Handbook

****Books # 228R Rabbit Resource Handbook** only need to be ordered once and can be used for several years. It contains essential subject matter information for all rabbit projects

Interview Requirements

All exhibitors must be interviewed, have up-to-date records, and a complete project book in order to show and sell their animal at the fair. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Interview date, time and location is listed above. If the exhibitor cannot attend interview judging on July 23rd, he/she must contact the Extension Office to schedule on one of the three alternative interview dates (listed in the 4-H calendar), which all occur **PRIOR** to the July 23rd interview judging.

Skillathon/interview judging stations will include: body parts; breed identification; disqualifications & ailments; and a book check/general questions from the rabbit resource book.

General Exhibit Rules and Requirements

1. Every exhibitor of a market, dairy, or breeding animal **MUST** attend a Quality Assurance program with his/her parent or legal guardian to be eligible to bring the animal(s) to fair to exhibit, show, or sell. There are no exceptions. **This Quality Assurance program must be completed after October 1, 2019 at by June 27, 2020 (45 days prior to the start of the Erie County Fair).** **This does NOT include Pet Rabbit projects.
2. Every exhibitor of a market or lactating animal will turn in a signed Drug Use Notification Form for each animal upon arrival and check-in at the fair.
3. A premier exhibitor will be named for juniors, intermediates, and seniors based on skillathon, live placing, and showmanship. Individuals not attending the livestock interview judging on July 23rd will **NOT** be eligible for premier exhibitor.
4. All livestock trailers must be removed from the fairgrounds after animals are unloaded. No trailers are to be left on the fairgrounds.
5. Exhibitors must have a complete project book with up-to-date records at interview judging. Books will be checked by key leaders and any exhibitor without a complete book will not be permitted to show at fair.
6. All exhibitors will be asked to complete a form on the night of interview judging informing the committee what rabbits (including doe & litter) they plan to bring to the fair. **This will be considered the exhibitor's official fair entry. Forms will be provided the evening of interview judging; however, there is a sample form at the end of this fact sheet.**
7. Breeding rabbit check in will be held at the fairgrounds on Saturday, May 9th from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. All breeding rabbits must be in the exhibitor's possession by this date. Exhibitors may tattoo up to four breeding rabbits. How does an exhibitor know if their rabbit needs to come to the fairgrounds on May 9th?

Scenario #1: My rabbit does not have a tattoo.

Action Needed: Bring the rabbit to the fairgrounds for tattooing

Scenario #2: My rabbit received a tattoo from a member of the rabbit committee in 2009-2019 when it was in my possession (not the possession of another exhibitor).

Action Needed: It is **NOT** necessary to bring the rabbit to the fairgrounds to be tattooed. Simply inform the rabbit key leaders that you will be bringing this rabbit to the fair during interview judging in July.

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Scenario #3: My rabbit has a tattoo that was put in by someone other than a member of the rabbit committee.

Action Needed: Bring the rabbit to the fairgrounds on the day of tattooing so the rabbit key leaders can verify the tattoo number and verify that you have possession of the rabbit. The rabbit will not be tattooed again.

8. Exhibitors enrolled in a breeding rabbit project may show a maximum of two breeding rabbits. Exhibitors may have only one entry per class. Therefore, members showing 2 rabbits must have rabbits of different breeds.
9. Large breeding classes may be divided into two classes, using age of the rabbit to determine a junior and a senior division or sex or rabbit, doe and buck.
10. If Member shows a doe and litter, the litter must be between four and eight weeks of age.
11. Every exhibitor MUST compete in showmanship to be eligible to compete in any other class.
12. Exhibitors must dress appropriately for interviews, show and the sale. Dress should be neat, clean, and respectful. No shorts, low rise pants, tank tops, tube tops, mid-riff tops, or hats should be worn. Proper attire for the rabbit show at the fair is long black pants and a long sleeved white shirt.
13. Drenching is prohibited. Drenching is defined as the act of using an instrument (including a bottle) placed in an animal's mouth to orally administer a liquid, food, or any other substance (Ohio Livestock Tampering Exhibition Rule 901-19-01). Administering any substance to a rabbit through a syringe in an effort to 'make weight' is prohibited.
14. The exhibitor must show his or her own project animal(s) unless an exception is permitted by the committee. In this case, the animal(s) must be shown by another Erie County Fair Junior Exhibitor.
15. Exhibitors that leave before Sunday's release time, without approval from the Rabbit Committee or Senior Fair Board, will not be allowed to show rabbits at the following year's fair.
16. All exhibitors are required to provide their own wood chip bedding.
17. Exhibitors may not bring any tack, bedding, equipment, etc. to the fairgrounds until 8 a.m. the Saturday before the fair.
18. Rabbits must be cared for daily, including feeding, watering and cleaning pens.
19. Exhibitors are expected to provide food and water to animals on a regular basis and keep livestock pens/cages clean and neat. If an animal is not being taken care of or a pen/cage is found to be unacceptable by the appropriate livestock committee, a notice will be posted on the pen/cage. Failure to comply within 24 hours will result in the animal being sent home, forfeiting the exhibitor's ability to show or sell.
20. Grooming of animals during the Erie County Fair is limited to the Junior Fair exhibitor, exhibitor's immediate family, 4-H Advisor, FFA Advisor, or livestock species committee members. Immediate family is defined as members of the exhibitor's household limited to parents, step-parents, or legal guardian, brothers and sisters. Exhibitors must be present and actively engaged during the grooming of their project animal(s).
21. All decisions of the Rabbit Committee are final. Grievances will be handled in accordance with the grievance policy which can be found at <http://eriefair.com/>

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General Faults – All Breeds (including market rabbits)

conditions which would lower, or subtraction from total points

- Rabbits in molt
- Hutch stains
- Stray white hairs in a colored coat
- Abnormal tail carriage
- Bad ear carriage
- Poor eye color
- Excessively fat or flabby
- Poor flesh condition

General Disqualifications - All Breeds (including market rabbits)

() Judgment calls and therefore not subject to protest.*

1. (*) Snuffles, ear cankers, slobbers, pot belly, vent disease, scurvy, mange, scales on the skin or base of fur, infestation of fleas, mites, or lice, tumors, abscesses or ruptures, hernias, abnormal eye discharge, , blindness or clouded cornea, wrong color eyes, wall eyes, spots on eye, moon eyes or unmatched eyes, split penis, crooked legs(cow hocked), bowed legs or deformed bones, torn ear, pigeon breasted, screw tail, sore hocks, white spots on colored coats, colored hairs on white fur, wrong under color, vicious animals.
2. (*) Colds:
The rabbit must exhibit thick nasal discharge. Wetness of the nose or front paws isn't included.
3. (*) Illegible tattoo: or in the wrong ear.
4. Overweight or underweight (if specified in that breeds standards)
5. Testicles:
All senior males must show two normally descended testicles. Juniors must show both or neither.
6. Wrong sex, breed, group, or variety
7. (*) Dewlap in the following breeds: Britannia Petite, Dwarf Hotot, Tan, Himalayan, Polish, Silver, Netherland Dwarf
8. Malocclusion:
Missing or broken teeth, wolf or buck teeth. Top teeth must be overlapping the lower teeth to be acceptable
9. (*) Toenails:
Missing or wrong color. Including the dewclaw.
10. Smut:
No smut allowed on the pelt of Pointed whites, Californians, or Himalayan marked breeds or varieties.
11. Tan pattern:
No smut allowed on the pelt of Pointed whites, Californians, or Himalayan marked breeds or varieties.
12. (*) Excessive white hairs:
usually considered three hairs or more in a group or patch.
13. (*) Altering of appearance:
No dying, plucking, trimming or clipping of the fur. No grooming products or powders. *Note...any exhibitor disqualified of this reason may result in the disqualification of the exhibitor's entire entry under ARBA rules.*
14. (*) Unworthy of an award:
a rabbit exhibiting such a deviation from the breeds standards that it is non-representative of the breed.

Please check your specific breeds Standards of Perfection for further information.

Market Rabbit Project Rules & Requirements

- There are two different entries for the market rabbit project:
 - Pen of Three** Can show up to 2 pens. Each pen must have 3 rabbits of the same breed, not over 10 weeks of age. Each rabbit must weight 3 ½ to 5 ½ lbs.
 - Single Rabbit** Can show up to 2 rabbits. Each exhibit is 1 rabbit. Rabbits cannot be over 10 weeks of age and must weigh 3.0 - 5.5 lbs.
- Market rabbits will be divided into lightweight and heavyweight classes, which will be determined following weigh-in.
- Market rabbit check-in will take place on Saturday, July 18th from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds. All market rabbits must be tattooed and in the exhibitor's possession by this date. **Tattooing will be available on July 18th from 1:00-2:00 pm but exhibitors are encouraged to have rabbits tattooed before July 18th if possible. An exhibitor may check in an unlimited number of rabbits, but rabbit committee members will only tattoo up to ten rabbits per exhibitor on July 18th. Additional rabbits need to be tattooed ahead of time.** Exhibitors are still limited to 8 market rabbits at the fair (up to 2 pens and up to 2 single rabbits).

How does an exhibitor know if their rabbit needs to come to the fairgrounds on July 18th?

Scenario #1: My rabbit does not have a tattoo.

Action Needed: Bring the rabbit to the fairgrounds for tattooing

Scenario #2: My rabbit has a tattoo that was put in by someone other than a member of the rabbit committee (for example, maybe the breeder tattooed the rabbit).

Action Needed: Bring the rabbit to the fairgrounds on the day of tattooing so the rabbit key leaders can verify the tattoo number and verify that you have possession of the rabbit. The rabbit will not be tattooed again.

- See General Faults and General Disqualifications above in fact sheet. These are for market rabbits as well as breeding rabbits.
- Buyers' plaques will be available at interview judging and at the sale office during the fair. Exhibitors are strongly encouraged to obtain buyers plaques, attach a picture of themselves and their project animal, and present the plaque(s) to their buyer(s) at the sale.
- All market rabbits will be weighed as they are brought to the fairgrounds on Monday, August 10th from 5:00-9:00 p.m. Exhibitors should be present when rabbits are checked in and weighed.
- Adding any substance to externally build up, change, or alter the shape or conformation of the livestock, including but not limited to rope, false hair, graphite, hemp, and powders (Ohio Livestock Tampering Exhibition Rule 901-19-33). This includes anything with pigment to change or enhance the color of the animal, including but not limited to paint and baby powder.
- An exhibitor may only go through the sale ring twice during the Small Project Auction on Friday evening. Exhibitors may group their two meat pens together (6 rabbits), their two fryers together (2 rabbits), or may group a meat pen with a fryer (4 rabbits).
- It is the responsibility of the exhibitors to care for the rabbit(s) until the buyer takes possession. Exhibitors are to provide a box, for carrying the rabbit(s), for the buyer.
- Exhibitors are responsible for cleaning their pens and taking the bedding to the proper place for disposal. **Exhibitors must clean their pen(s) on Sunday evening before leaving the fairgrounds with their rabbits.**
- Exhibitors who sell their project through the fair auction will be required to submit a written thank you note(s) in order to receive their sale check. Look for further details in the 4-H newsletter and at the fair.

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Market Rabbit Project Rules & Requirements Continued

12. **No checks from the Livestock Sale or the Small Project Auction will be mailed! All checks will need to be picked up at the Erie County Fair Sr. Fairboard Office on Saturday, October 17, 2020 from 9am to 1pm. Checks can be picked up by the exhibitor or immediate family member with a valid form of ID. If the exhibitor or an immediate family member cannot pick up, anyone presenting a signed letter from the exhibitor or the exhibitor's legal guardian can pick up the check. All checks will require a signature of the person picking up the check. All sale checks must be cashed by November 25th of the current year or funds are forfeited. This includes issued checks and checks held for not meeting requirements, i.e. Thank you notes or poultry cards not submitted. No exceptions allowed.**

Show Order

Doe & Litter (Judge will evaluate in the barn)
 Showmanship (Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Beginner)
 Pure Breeds
 Market Rabbits

These rules are reviewed and adopted annually by the Erie County Senior Fair Board and apply to all Junior Fair exhibitors.

*Junior Fair projects may not be sold on the fairgrounds except through the fair project auctions.
 For sale signs may not be posted on projects.

2020 Rabbit Entry Card

Name: _____

Showmanship Class: Beginner Junior (8 to 11) Intermediate (12 to 14) Senior (15 to 18)

****Beginner is the first year taking rabbits no matter your age*

Please fill in what you are bringing to fair:

Breed Class:	Tattoo	Breed	Color
<i>** You can only bring 2 and they must be different breeds.</i>			

Doe & Litter:	Tattoo	Breed	
<i>**Must be different breeds.</i>			

Pen of 3:	1	2	(Circle number you are bringing)
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Fryer:	1	2	(Circle number you are bringing)
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