

# 4-H Cavy Proficiency Program A Member's Guide

## OVERVIEW

The 4-H Cavy Proficiency program helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project. Your project leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. You will learn the basic principles of animal husbandry by owning and/or caring for and keeping records on one or more Cavies.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- The University of California Davis has free resources available online by visiting: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/4HYouthDevelopment/>. This site lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- The Solano County 4-H Resources and Lending Library at our county 4-H Office includes other books, videos, and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.
- Check to see if there is a breeder's organization in your community that conducts educational activities and shows. Local breeders are excellent sources of help and information.

There are five levels in the Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

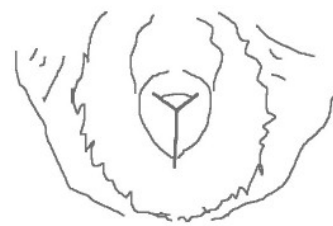
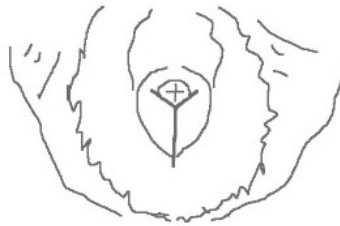
- ◆ Level I – “Explorer”, you begin to learn about many different aspects of raising Cavies.
- ◆ Level II – “Producer”, you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising Cavies.
- ◆ Level III – “Consumer”, you become an experienced raiser of Cavies.
- ◆ Level IV – “Leader”, allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- ◆ Level V – “Researcher”, you carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of Cavies, and prepare a paper or portfolio.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your leader will sign the Certificate of Achievement.

# CAVY Level I - Explorer

Date  
Completed

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrate how to handle your cavy properly; take cavy in and out of cage and carry the cavy.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Identify the external parts of a cavy from a diagram or live cavy.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Describe the basic housing and equipment requirements to care for your cavy on a daily basis.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Explain the daily nutrition requirements of your cavy; how, when, what, how much and what kind of feed. Name required vitamin supplements.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Indicate the sex of each cavy shown below. Explain how to determine the sex of a cavy with proper terminology.



6. \_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrate basic grooming techniques and equipment necessary for the daily care of your cavy. Describe differences in grooming requirements for a long haired and a short haired cavy.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Submit management records for a week that indicates how often you provided fresh water, clean feed, and bedding. List any money spent raising your cavy.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Explain how to tell if your cavy is ill and needs to be seen by a veterinarian.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Describe two different ways in which you keep your cavy safe.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Explain how temperature extremes affect your cavy and things you can do to help the cavy withstand them.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Explain and demonstrate a simple health check.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Present a project meeting report to your 4-H Club.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Attend any 4-H event (does not need to be in a cavy project) outside of your county.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Participate in a community service/citizenship activity related to your project.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CAVY**  
**Level II - Producer**

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Name the thirteen recognized cavy breeds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Name the four variety groups of cavies. Give two examples of a variety in each group.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Describe the coat characteristics of three breeds of cavies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Compare and contrast the conformation and coat characteristics of at least three cavies in the same breed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Give the three weight classifications that a cavy is shown. Name each classification, and give the maximum age that a cavy may be shown in that class.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Choose a breed of cavy, and describe how to choose a good representative of that breed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Explain the process followed to register a cavy. Discuss the benefits of having registered cavies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Explain and demonstrate how to ear tag a cavy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Demonstrate how to clip your cavy's toenails.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Demonstrate competency in the showmanship of your cavy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Attend and/or participate in one cavy show.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Submit management records for a week that indicates how often you provide clean housing and grooming for your cavy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Describe and/or demonstrate how and why you sanitize your cavy's equipment and facilities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Describe and give control measures for at least three diseases or problems.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Display your cavy to youth that are not in your project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Obtain contact information for the ARBA and identify at least two types of information you can obtain from them. Also identify and obtain contact information for two other cavy producers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Participate in a 4-H event outside of your county.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CAVY**  
**Level III - Consumer**

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Judge a class consisting of a minimum of three cavies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Name five internal organs and their functions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Describe and differentiate between at least ten faults and disqualifications.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Describe and explain a positive breeding program including equipment, gestation, terminology, and choosing mates.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Describe the development of a cavy from birth to adulthood and how and why you care for the animal at each stage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Describe the three basic uses for cavies. Name at least one breed that is predominantly used for each category.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Choose and design your own lesson plan and implement it in your project with the appropriate materials.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Prepare and give a speech or demonstration relating to cavies outside of the project group.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Start a reference library for your project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Explore local, state and/or national affiliation and opportunities associated with the project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Continue to demonstrate skills in record keeping by submitting records including feeding, cleaning, grooming, and breeding records.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Participate in or organize a community service/citizenship activity related to your project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Assist in organizing a county or state event. The focus here is on learning the process of organization.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CAVY**  
**Level IV - Leader**

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Assist younger members in designing and constructing needed equipment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Name some genetic factors you should consider as it relates to a breeding program for cavies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Describe the characteristics a cavy might be sold for and give 3 reasons for each area:  
Competition                      To a laboratory                      One in the pet market
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Describe the nutrient requirements of your cavy using proper terminology as it relates to a breeding program, show and pet cavy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. List the normal pulse, respiration, temperature, and number of teeth for a cavy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Explore some aspect of the project through a historical perspective.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Explore a career and industry related options.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Explore the science of the project. Ex: dissection, specific genetics, physiology, immunology
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Explore the economics and consumer impact of the project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Prepare and present a presentation about cavies to a group outside of your 4-H club.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Learn courtesy and appropriate etiquette by inviting and introducing a speaker on a project related topic. Describe five things to consider when inviting, introducing, and thanking a guest speaker.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Design or improve some aspect related to the project: marketing, equipment, materials.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Participate in planning a 4-H county, state or sectional event.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Prepare an aspect of your project and contribute it to the county resource library for others to use, like a CD, record keeping forms, etc.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CAVY**  
**Level V - Researcher**

Date  
Completed

1. Carry through and report on the results of a demonstration comparing measurable differences in management procedure. (Experiment)

2. Prepare a paper of 300 words or more on one of the following subjects. Orally summarize report at project meeting or other educational event.

- Management of cavies
- Feeds, feeding and nutrition
- Diseases, prevention, control and general sanitation
- Markets and methods of marketing
- Reproduction, breeding and genetics
- Keeping and using records as a basis for improving your cavy project
- Other

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Certificate of Achievement

*This certifies that*

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*has completed the Cavy Proficiency*

*in Solano County.*

*Explorer*

*Producer*

*Consumer*

*Leader*

*Researcher*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

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