Did you know that a cavy is what we commonly know as a guinea pig? In the cavy project, you can learn about selection and raising your animals, but also dive into health issues, management practices, and careers!

- Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on one or more head of cavies.
- Explore knowledge of sound breeding, feeding, and management practices.
- Learn about the important breeds and varieties of cavies and their characteristics.

### Starting Out
**Beginner**
- Learn the different types of breeds and their ideal weight groups.
- Determine the use of your cavy projects.
- Develop a cavy care management plan.
- Identify cavy equipment and its uses.
- Locate and name parts of a cavy.
- Learn proper feeding techniques.
- Discover proper cavy

### Learning More
**Intermediate**
- Learn to judge cavies and give oral reasons.
- Design a plan for preparing cavies for show.
- Learn proper grooming techniques.
- Learn proper techniques for ear tagging cavies.
- Learn about diseases and environment concerns.

### Exploring Depth
**Advanced**
- Learn about cavy breeding programs and genetics.
- Manage your caviary.
- Determine pregnancy and palpation techniques.
- Design a caviary.
- Identify bones on a skeleton.
- Evaluate cavy health.
- Complete a cavy pedigree and registration paper.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.
Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Research the nutritional needs of cavies and compare to nutritional needs of humans and other mammals.
- Explore the need for bio-security measures when handling animals. Create a list of...

Healthy Living

- Discuss the benefits and practice of washing your hands before and after handling your cavy.
- Discuss your cavy’s life expectancy, what to look for when they get older, and how...

Citizenship

- Use the confidence obtained through shows and expos in all aspects of life.
- Bring your cavies as therapy for sick and disadvantage individuals.
- Use showing/raising of cavies as a cultural exchange with other nations.

Leadership

- Teach others the importance of caring for another animal.
- Become a role model for others by taking the position of junior/teen leader.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Connections &amp; Events</th>
<th>Curriculum</th>
<th>4-H Record Book</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation Days</strong> – Share what you’ve learned with others through a presentation.</td>
<td>[book] Guinea Pig: A Kid’s Guide to Raising and Showing</td>
<td>4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.</td>
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<td><strong>Field Days</strong> – At these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.</td>
<td>ARBA Standard of Perfection <a href="http://www.arba.net/">http://www.arba.net/</a></td>
<td>4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.</td>
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<td><strong>County &amp; State Fair</strong> - Enter your cavy or cavies and show the judge what you have learned in showmanship!</td>
<td>Learning Lab Kit: Rabbit Pet Pals Level 1 (4H 563A) Scurrying Ahead Level 2 (4H 563B) Scaling the Heights Level 3 (4H 563C) Available from <a href="http://www.4-hmall.org/Product/4-">http://www.4-hmall.org/Product/4-</a></td>
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