



# 4-H RABBIT PROJECT



In the rabbit project, youth can learn about selecting and raising a rabbit. Youth learn about the breeds, characteristics, and sound care and management practices.

- Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on rabbits.
- Explore knowledge of sound breeding, feeding, and management practices.
- Investigate marketing, project expansion, and how you can start a career in the rabbit business. Learn how to market the animals and products for breeding, fur, meat or pets.

## Starting Out *Beginner*

- Gather information and determine the best rabbit for your family.
- Determine the purpose of your rabbit projects.
- Develop a rabbit care management plan.
- Identify rabbit equipment and their uses.
- Locate and name parts of a rabbit.
- Learn proper feeding
- Learn proper grooming

## Learning More *Intermediate*

- Learn the different types of breeds and their ideal weight.
- Learn and explain judging criteria for rabbit health.
- Learn the difference between class 4 and 6 rabbits.
- Explore rabbit body types and their functions.
- Design a plan for preparing rabbits for

## Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Learn about rabbit breeding programs and genetics.
- Design a rabbitry.
- Manage your rabbitry.
- Learn palpation techniques to determine pregnancy.
- Identify bones on a skeleton.
- Evaluate rabbit health.
- Complete rabbit pedigree and registration papers.

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

## 4-H THRIVE

### Help Youth:

### Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find

### Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to

### Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

**Goal Selection:** Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.

**Pursue Strategies:** Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.

**Shift Gears:** Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal.

### Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their



# Expand Your Experiences!

## Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

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

## Healthy Living

- Discuss the necessity of washing your hands before and after handling your rabbit.
- Discuss your rabbit's life expectancy, what to look for when they get older.

## Citizenship

- Use the confidence obtained through shows and expos in all aspects of life.
- Use your animal as therapy for sick and disadvantaged individuals.
- Create a presentation or book on the origin of the "lucky rabbit foot." Present to a

## Leadership

- Become a role model for others by taking the position of junior/teen leader in your project.
- Recruit younger youth into a 4-H rabbit project.

## Resources

- Iowa 4-H Pets  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/livestock/pets.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/livestock/pets.htm).
- Service Animal  
[//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service\\_animal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_animal).
- Animal Assisted Therapy  
[//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal-assisted\\_therapy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal-assisted_therapy).
- Healthy pets  
[www.cdc.gov/healthypets](http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets)  
[//vetmed.illinois.edu/pet\\_columns](http://vetmed.illinois.edu/pet_columns)  
[www.avma.org/firstaid/procedures.asp](http://www.avma.org/firstaid/procedures.asp)
- American Red Cross Pet First Aid/CPR  
[www.redcross.org/pets](http://www.redcross.org/pets)
- California State Fair  
[www.bigfun.org](http://www.bigfun.org)
- American Rabbit Breeders Association

Connections & Events	Curriculum	4-H Record Book
<p><b>Presentation Days</b> – Share what you've learned with others through a presentation.</p> <p><b>Field Days</b> – At these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.</p> <p><b>County &amp; State Fair</b> - Enter your rabbit(s) and show the judge what you have learned in showmanship! Contact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What's Hopping Level 1 (4H 663A)</li> <li>• Making Tracks Level 2 (4H 663B)</li> <li>• All Ears Level 3 (4H 663C)</li> <li>• Rabbit Leader Guide (4H 663 LDR)</li> </ul> <p>Available from <a href="http://www.4-hmall.org/Product/4-hcurriculum-rabbit/08084.aspx">http://www.4-hmall.org/Product/4-hcurriculum-rabbit/08084.aspx</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rabbits, Rabbits, Rabbits (4H 662)</li> </ul>	<p>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.</p> <p>4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.</p>



## University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources