

# 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. Through your project, you will learn animal care basics, good management practices and record keeping. You will also learn about the size and scope of the animal industry as it relates to your project.

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

- ◆ The *4-H Publications Catalog* lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- ◆ The *Region 4-H Educational Resource Lending Library* at your 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 are any local rabbit groups or other organizations in your community that conduct 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 cavy raiser.
- **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 and notify your 4-H office.

# Cavy Proficiency Level I - Explorer

Initial & date as Completed:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Identify and describe 6 breeds of cavies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Name and identify 5 parts of a cavy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Demonstrate (show and tell) how to properly lift, hold and carry a cavy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. What do you NEED to have when you are going to bring a new cavy into your home? Basic housing and equipment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. What would you want to do for your cavy if it was hot outside or if it was cold outside? Why would you want to do this?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Explain the following terms:  
A. Boar    B. Sow    C. Pup    D. Crown
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Describe the term "pea eye". What is it and how do you treat it?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Explain what an ear tag looks like, what is it used for and how you put an ear tag on.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Explain 3 safety tips to tell a new cavy owner.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Name and describe 3 different illnesses a cavy can get. What are some ways you can prevent them from spreading to your cavy?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Demonstrate cavy showmanship.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. What would you do if you have two or more cavies in the same pen that do not get along?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Explain how would you keep a cavy safe from other house pets.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Describe some things that would be in a cavy first aid kit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Explain the nutritional requirements of your animal at each development stage. (how, when, what, how much to feed).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Submit management records for a minimum of 90 days that indicate how often you provide fresh water, clean feed, clean housing, and general care to your animal.

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

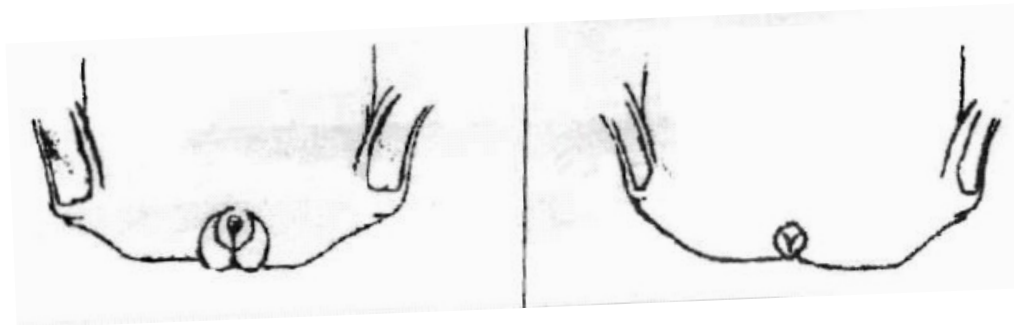
**KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH YOUR PROJECT RECORDS.**

*Approved by Lake County 4-H Council,  
Developed by Bryce Hayes, 4-H All Star*

# Cavy Proficiency Level II - Producer

Initial & date as Completed:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Name all 13 breeds of cavies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Teach at least two people outside your cavy group about cavies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Describe the fur texture and color of 3 breeds of cavies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Explain bio-security and demonstrate how to sanitize your equipment and cage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Complete an art project related to your project and display it at a meeting or event.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Name 5 things a cavy **loves** to eat. Name 5 things a cavy can **never** eat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Identify the parts of a cavy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Using the diagram below tell your leader which is a boar and a sow.



- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Explain how many toes a cavy has on both front feet and back feet, and how many teeth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. State the normal range of weight, age, and breed of your fowl.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. List the showmanship steps.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Help someone else by sharing your knowledge or by giving away a product from your project to demonstrate positive citizenship.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Describe the desirable characteristics in the conformation of your cavy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Demonstrate basic grooming techniques and equipment needed for cavies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Prepare and give a presentation at project or club level.

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH YOUR PROJECT RECORDS.**

*Approved by Lake County 4-H Council,  
Created by Bryce Hayes, 4-H All Star*

## Cavy Proficiency Level III - Consumer

Initial & date as Completed:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Identify and describe all different breeds of cavies and give examples.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Participate in the preparation and maintenance of facilities for a cavy during production, breeding, or birthing. Report what you learned to your project group.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Explain when is a sow ready to breed, how many teats a cavy has, and describe a new born cavy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Invite a guest speaker to one of your project meetings and introduce them to the group.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Alone or with your project group, plan, and complete a community service activity related to your project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Explain the gestation period of a cavy and the average litter size.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Describe five ways to save money and be economical in raising your animals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Contact a local, state, or national association related to your animal breed and report to your group what the association has to offer to its members and other interested individuals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. What are the age and weight ranges for each cavy group?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Explain the following breeding terms: line breeding, cut breeding, and the advantages or disadvantages of each.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Demonstrate how to complete one of the management records required for cavies (example: pedigree, registration, production record, etc.).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Take a cavy to a show besides your fair and write a report on all that you did there and turn it into your leader.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. State the normal vital signs (temperature, respiration, heart rate, etc.) for your animal species.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Serve as a Jr. Teen Leader for your cavy group.

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH YOUR PROJECT RECORDS.**

*Approved by Lake County 4-H Council,  
Created by Bryce Hayes, 4-H All Star*

## Cavy Proficiency Level IV - Leader

Initial & date as Completed:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Complete one year as Junior or Teen leader in this project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Assist younger members in designing and constructing needed equipment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Prepare teaching materials for use at project meetings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Develop and put on a demonstration, judging event or train a junior team for such an event.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Speak on a project-based subject before an organization other than your 4-H group.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Assist at a cavy event in your community or a nearby county.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Assist younger members in learning a specific topic in their cavy project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Develop your own special cavy activity. Chart your progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and problems, and report on findings.

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH YOUR PROJECT RECORDS.**

*Approved by Lake County 4-H Council,  
Created by Bryce Hayes, 4-H All Star*

## Cavy Proficiency Level V - Researcher

Initial & date as 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 the report at a club, council meeting, or other educational event.
- Management of animals
  - Feeds, feeding, and nutrition
  - Diseases, prevention and control, and general sanitation
  - Markets and methods of marketing
  - Reproduction, breeding and genetics
  - By-product preparation for market, how marketed, and used
  - Keeping and using records as a basis for improving your rabbit project
  - Other

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH YOUR PROJECT RECORDS.**

*Approved by Lake County 4-H Council,  
Created by Bryce Hayes, 4-H All Star*

# *Certificate of Achievement*

*This certifies that*

---

*has completed the \_\_\_\_\_ Proficiency*  
*in \_\_\_\_\_ County.*

*Explorer*

*Producer*

*Consumer*

*Leader*

*Researcher*

---

*Date*

---

*Date*

---

*Date*

---

*Date*

---

*Date*

---

*Leader's Signature*  
*Signature*

---

*Leader's Signature*

---

*Leader's Signature*

---

*Leader's Signature*

---

*Leader's*

# *NOTES*