



rabbit school

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2018 Fulton County Fair Rabbit Projects

Market Fryer: This is a born and raised project. The doe must be in your possession by June 1. Minimum weight of 3.5 pounds and maximum weight of 5.5 pounds. Recommended breeding dates for litters: This is a terminal project, and the rabbit will be sold in the auction.

Breeding date for 2017: 10 week fryers – May 21st
9 week fryers – May 28th

Market Roaster: May be purchased. Must be in your possession by June 1st. Minimum weight of 5.5 pounds. Maximum weight of 9.0 pounds. This is a terminal project, and the rabbit will be sold in the auction.

Breeding dates for 2017: 150 days – March 2rd
140 days - March 12th
130 days – March 22rd
120 days – April 1nd

Breeds Rabbit: Can be any breed of rabbit recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association. There will be a cross breed class as well. You may show no more than 1 doe and 1 buck in each breed, and a maximum of 4 animals may be brought to the fair for this class. These animals return home.

Pet Rabbit: This project does not go to the fair and can be any recognized or non-recognized breed or variety.

2018 Important Dates

- June 2** Mandatory Roaster Rabbits Tattoo Day
8:00-11:00 a.m., Fulton Co. Fairgrounds, Rabbit Barn
- July 28** Mandatory Market Rabbit Fryer & Tattoo Day
8:00-11:00 a.m, Fulton Co. Fairgrounds Rabbit Barn (Must bring the mother of the litter too).
- August 1** Mandatory Junior Fair Entry Forms are due (excludes pet rabbit project).
Fill out and submit your form online **starting July 1st**
<http://fulton.osu.edu/programareas/4-h-youth-development/youth-forms-and-applications>
- September 1** Rabbit Poster Contest @ fair, submit during weigh-in
- August 30** Animal check in. Enter the fair **on County Road J**, down by the grain silos. You MUST have all animals vet checked and get a vet slip. Do not let them tell you that rabbits do not need a vet slip. THEY DO! Turn your Drug Use Notification Form (DUNF) into the vets. Animals must be checked in before you put them in their cages. Market rabbits will be weighed, breed rabbits will not. Pick up your back tag numbers upon check in (and do not lose them).

Supplies & Equipment

Cages

Cages should have a wire bottom 1" x ½" or ½" x ½" flooring. 14 ga or 16ga wire is preferred. Anything less will sag and not hold its shape. If you're buying stackable cages urine guards are highly recommended to prevent accidents outside of the cage.

- Cage Sizes:
 - 24 x 36 – Medium to Large breeds
 - 18 x 24 – Small Breeds
 - 12 x 18 – Netherland Dwarf

If you are using stackable cages, you're going to want to line the trays with something to soak up the urine and feces. Pine or Cedar shavings are great, but the wood pellet bedding is even better. It has additional enzymes in it to help break down and control urine odor. Use a very thin layer of pellets in the bottom of the tray.



Feeders & Water Crock

Outside mounted feeders prevent rabbits from soiling in their food. They also help to sift out the fines and make feeding quick and easy.

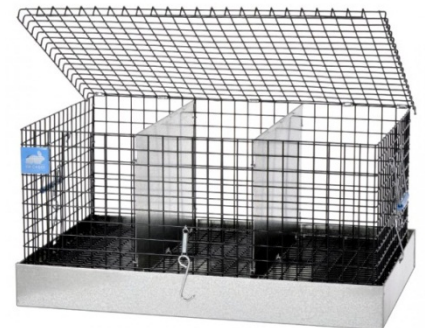
A good heavy stone water crock or one that locks to the side of the cage will prevent the water from being spilled. Also, crocks are much easier to clean than a water bottle and DO NOT LEAK!



Carrying Cage

A carrier with a wire bottom will keep your rabbit clean and cool on show day.

All plastic carriers with solid floors are NOT recommended for rabbits. They are hot, stuffy, are difficult to get your rabbit out of, and if your rabbit pees in the carrier, you now have a wet and very dirty rabbit on your hands.



Scales

If you are taking a market rabbit project, it is important to track your rabbit's weight. A baby scales, or other scales that has a bucket or hopper for the rabbit works great. One that will read to the nearest ounce if possible so you can take accurate records of your animal's weight gain.



False Bottom

You will need to make false bottoms for your cages at the fair. Please see additional sheet for false bottoms plans/dimensions.

Nest Box

You only need a nest box if you are raising your own litter.
Please see additional sheet for nest box plans/dimensions

First Aid Kit

Acid-Pak 4 Way or Bounce Bac

A supplemental source of live, naturally occurring microorganisms, acidifiers, electrolytes and enzymes. Helps to lower the stomach pH, allowing the passage of the Probiotics that it contains, thereby leading to improved mortality rates due to enteritis. Particularly beneficial to post weaning rabbits (3-8 weeks old), and rabbits under stress. Add 1/8 oz. to 1 gal drinking water.

Vi-Tal Vitamins

A water soluble powder formulated to assure adequate intake of essential vitamins, electrolytes, and minerals to combat stress conditions. Add 1/2 tsp to 1 gal.

Bag Balm

Famous time-tested medicated ointment. Promotes healing of wounds and sore hocks.

Energel or Nutri-Cal

A nutritional supplement for small mammals which contains essential vitamins, minerals and trace elements as well as protein and a high energy fat source.

Sweet oil or Mineral Oil

Used to treat ear mites. Apply a few drops into the ear, or apply with a q-tip. Massage into ear so it covers the affected area.

Cat Flea Powder

Used to treat fur mites. Follow the directions as recommended on the package.

Grooming Supplies

Small spray bottle with water (or water & white vinegar mix)

Toenail clippers (the human kind work just fine!)

Slicker brush and metal toothed comb – only for woolled breeds!

Carpet square – this is used not only when grooming but when working with your rabbit on a daily basis.

Rabbit Cage & Supply Dealers

Plank Cage & Supply

Hillsdale, Mi
(517) 437-2984

Retcher Rabbits & Feed /Cages by Clarke Defiance, Oh
(419)782-9220

KW Cages - www.KWCages.com

Bass Equipment - www.BassEquipment.com



Feed & Nutrition

- The most important nutrient: WATER! Fresh water should be available at all times. If a rabbit can't drink, it will not eat.
- Feed a good, quality pelleted feed. These are a complete, balanced feed for your rabbits.
- Avoid feeding leafy greens, fruits, veggies, etc to your rabbits. These "wet" feeds can cause scours and throw off their diet.

Some available brands in the area.

Formulas listed are recommended for market rabbits and growing litters.



	Mana Pro	Pen Pals	Kent	Kalmbach	Purina
	<i>GRO formula</i>	<i>Professional 18%</i>	<i>Top Show Family</i>	<i>18% Optum Gold Show/Breeder</i>	<i>Professional Wholesome AdvantEdge</i>
Crude Protein	18% min	18% min	17% min	18% min	18% min
Crude Fat	2.5% min	3.0% min	2.5% min	2.5% min	1.4% min
Crude Fiber	16%-21%	16%-19.2%	16%-19%	15%-20%	14.5%-18.5%
Calcium	.75%-1.25%	.7%-1.2%	.7%-1.2%	.75%-1.25%	.75%-1.25%
Phosphorus	.55% min	.5% min	.6% min	.6% min	.5% min
Salt	.25%-.75%	.2%-.7%	.3%-.8%	.55%-1.1%	.25%-.75%
Vitamin A	3,000 IU/lb	2,600 IU/lb	5000 IU/lb	2500 IU/lb	N/A

Feed Tags

Below are ingredients listed on two feed tags. This is also one of the most important parts of reading a feed tag. The ingredient list tells you exactly what is in the feed, and the ingredients are listed by weight, giving you a better idea of what exactly is in your feed. The highlighted items are in BOTH feeds. Check out the other ingredients...

Mana Pro GRO Formula	Pen Pals Professional 18%
dehydrated alfalfa meal	Dehydrated Alfalfa Meal
wheat middlings	Wheat Middlings
soybean hulls	Soybean Meal
soybean meal	Soybean Hulls
feeding oatmeal	Cottonseed Meal
cane molasses	Cane Molasses
brewers dried yeast	Calcium Carbonate
saccharomyces cerevisiae	Lignin Sulfonate
fermentation solubles	Brewers Dried Yeast (Saccharomyces Cerevisiae)
dl-methionine	Dried Yeast Fermentation Solubles
calcium carbonate	Vegetable Oil
monocalcium phosphate	Salt
dicalcium phosphate	Zinc Oxide
salt	Vitamin E Supplement
ferrous carbonate	Zinc Polysaccharide Complex
ferrous sulfate	Copper Sulfate
copper sulfate	Manganous Oxide
manganous oxide	Ferrous Sulfate
manganese sulfate	Manganese Polysaccharide Complex
zinc oxide	Copper Polysaccharide Complex
zinc sulfate	Sodium Selenite
cobalt carbonate	Iron Polysaccharide Complex
calcium iodate	Vitamin A Supplement
sodium selenite	Mineral Oil
vitamin asupplement	Niacin Supplement
vitamin d3 supplement	Vitamin B12 Supplement
vitamin e supplement	Menadione Sodium Bisulfite Complex
thiamine mononitrate	Vitamin D3 Supplement
riboflavin supplement	Biotin
niacin supplement	Calcium Pantothenate
choline chloride	Riboflavin Supplement
calcium antothenate	Magnesium Polysaccharide Complex
pyridoxine hydrochloride	Calcium Iodate
folic acid	Thiamine Mononitrate
biotin	Pyridoxine Hydrochloride
vitamin b12 supplement	Cobalt Carbonate
yucca schidigera	Folic Acid
	Choline Chloride
	Lactobacillus Acidophilus Fermentation Product
	Lactobacillus Casei Fermentation Product
	Bifido Bacterium Thermophilum
	Fermentation Product
	Enterococcus Faecium Fermentation Product
	Propionic Acid (A Preservative)
	DL-Methionine
	Yucca Shidigera Extract
	L-Lysine

What feed do I buy?

High protein feeds 18% are recommended for market rabbits and litters that you need to grow quickly.

Smaller breeds like Mini Rex, Holland Lops or Netherland Dwarfs don't require as high of a protein feed and will do fine on a 14%-16% feed.

When you purchase your rabbit from the breeder, ask what feed they use and recommend. Ask what their feeding plan is for their lines. Also ask them about additives and supplements that they use or recommend.

If you are not going to feed the same brand and formula as the breeder, ask them for some feed to take home. You need to mix their feed and your feed together to transition them onto the new pellets. It's good to do this gradually over a 1-2 week period.

Day 1-2: Feed A

Day 2-4: Feed A (75%), Feed B (25%)

Day 5-7: Feed A (50%), Feed B (50%)

Day 8-9: Feed A (25%), Feed B (75%)

Day 10: Feed B

When buying feed, try to only purchase what you will use within a month. Check the mill date on the bag. Avoid purchasing feed with dates older than 2 months.

If the feed is damp, moldy or just doesn't smell or look right, TAKE IT BACK!

How much do I feed?

A good guideline is 1 oz of pellets for every 1 pound of adult weight. So a mature Californian rabbit who weighs 8.5 lbs, should be getting just a little more than 1 cup of feed. A tiny breed such as a Netherland Dwarf who weighs about 2lbs is going to get around ¼ cup of feed per day.

Nursing does and litters should be on full feed.

What about Hay?

Rabbits should be fed a quality grass hay such as Timothy. The extra roughage is important to their diet. This is also a great first food for kits just learning to eat.

Some rabbits LOVE hay to the point that they may snub their pellets. These rabbits should be fed limited amounts of hay at a time separate from their pellets. Other rabbits may be fed hay free-choice. If doing this, a hay rack is recommended so the rabbit isn't urinating and defecating onto its food.

Treats

"Treats" should be fed in limited amounts. Safe treats include: Rolled oats, Black Oil Sunflower Seeds, Shredded Wheat (NOT the frosted kind), apple branches to chew on.

Supplements

These are all added to feed to help enhance and condition show rabbits.

- ShowBloom
- Oxy-Gen
- Bunny Bloom
- Doc's Rabbit Enhancer
- ManaPro Select Series SHO
- Calf Mana

General Care

Hot weather

House your rabbits in an area out of the sun, wind, rain and snow but with good ventilation.

During the summer months, keep fans going to circulate the air. This helps to keep them cool and helps keep flies at bay. You can also freeze gallon jugs of water. Heavy duty bleach bottles or pool chlorine bottles, are great but you need to clean them out!!! Keep 2 bottles on hand per rabbit so you can switch them out during the day.

Another way to cool your rabbit down is to moisten his/her ears. Rabbits don't sweat, but heat leaves their body quickest at their ears. If you dampen their ears, it simulates sweating and helps them to lower their body temp.

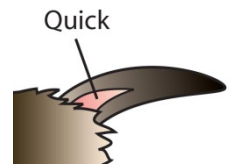
Grooming & Nail Trimming



DO NOT BATHE YOUR RABBIT! Keeping your rabbit clean is EASY. If their cage is clean, the rabbit will stay clean. If for some reason your rabbit gets dirty, you can spot clean the area. Use white vinegar to dampen the soiled area, then apply baking soda to make a paste. Work it in and let it dry, then comb out. Waterless shampoo may also help to remove the stain.

Grooming your rabbits should be done prior to a show or when they're molting. To groom them, moisten your hands with some water (or vinegar water) and stroke the coat from neck to rump, occasionally going the other direction. The loose, dead hair will come out on your hands.

Rabbits also need their toenails trimmed every 3 weeks or so. Use a regular nail trimmer and cut the nail off right after the quick. If you get too short, it will bleed, but the rabbit WILL BE OKAY. Apply some pressure until the bleeding stops and continue on. There are 5 nails on the front (4 and a dewclaw) and 4 nails on the back.



Cage Cleaning

Manure should be cleaned out weekly (or more often if needed). Scrub out cages once a month with bleach water and a wire brush. This is a great time to also wash and disinfect all feeders and crocks. If there is hair build up, use a propane torch to burn off all the hair first. REMOVE THE RABBITS FROM THE CAGES WHEN DOING THIS!

If you are using plastic pans and notice a buildup of calcium on the pans, THE WORKS toilet bowl cleaner will cut through this stuff and make your pans look like new. This stuff will burn your skin, and kill the grass, so wear protective clothing and gloves. Squirt the liquid on, let it sit for a while then use a broom or long handled scrub brush. Rinse well. If you have a pressure sprayer, you can use that too once all of the cleaner has been rinsed off (you don't want that coming back in your eyes). DO NOT mix The Works with Bleach!!!

Fair Time

What to bring

- Heavy feed & water crocks or ones that lock to the cage
- Feed & Water
- False Bottoms – these keep your rabbit up off of their urine and feces
- Bucket & Scoop for cleaning pens - clean them often, or you will get written up
- Carrying Cage

Show Day

- Rabbit – should be clean, groomed and nails trimmed
- Carrying cage – The show will be long. Leave rabbits in their carriers.
- Water & Ice Bottles – Provide your rabbit with water and an ice bottle if it's hot
- Exhibitor Number – Pin this to your back. If you have more than 1 number MARKET number goes on top

Fulton County Dress Code:

- White Long Sleeved Shirt (no designs or writing on it) or white show coat without any lettering
- Jeans or Dress Pants
- Hard soled shoes, Loafers, Boots, Dress Shoes - Pretty much anything but sandals & tennis shoes...

Other tips for dressing right:

- It will probably be hot, so you may want to wear a plain white sleeveless shirt, tank top or t-shirt under your show shirt so you can stay cool while waiting.
- Wear a belt if you have belt loops
- If you have long hair, pull it back
- Try not to wear jewelry that will get in the way or distract anyone

Proper Handling

Posing your rabbit – different breeds are NOT posed the same way

My breed _____ should be posed:

Lifting & Carrying

When lifting your rabbit decide which arm you are going to tuck the rabbit under. For this example we'll say the left arm. So the right hand slides under the rabbit's belly, the left hand goes on the rabbit's rump. Lift with your right hand, and then tuck the rabbit under your arm – just like a football player does with the ball.

Make sure no legs are hanging out and keep your right hand down do your side if possible. If the rabbit gets squirrely, put your right hand onto its back to keep it safe. If you feel you may drop your rabbit, drop down to one knee so if they do fall, it's not nearly as far of a drop.



Flipping your rabbit



- Lay your hand flat across the shoulders. Pinch the BASE of the ears between your thumb and forefinger.
- Put the opposite hand on the rump and slide the rump towards you and under the rabbit.
- Use the hand on the ears and shoulders to guild the rabbit's head down towards the table. You may rest your arm on the table.

Showmanship

It's hard to say exactly what question the judge is going to ask. Questions will range from how you care for the animal to specific breed knowledge. The older you are, the more detailed information you need to know about your rabbit.

Example: What do you feed your rabbit?

- Basic: Rabbit Pellets
- Intermediate: PenPals Professional 18% protein
- Advanced: We free feed PenPals 18% protein to our does with litters and market rabbits. We also add 1 Tablespoon of Show Bloom supplement for all of our show rabbits.

Example Questions

1. What breed is your rabbit?
 - a. _____
2. What Sex is your rabbit?
 - a. _____
make sure you say buck or doe – not boy or girl
3. What do you feed your rabbit?
 - a. _____
give the brand of pellet, fresh water & hay
4. How much do you feed your rabbit?
 - a. _____
give measurement in cups
5. Tell me something about your rabbit.
 - a. _____
Tell about the breed, if it is a four or six class breed, if it's raised for meat, wool, etc and if you know the history or any additional facts about the breed, add that in as well. The more, the better!

6. How old is your rabbit?
 - a. _____
Know the date of birth, as well as the age. It also helps if you know if it is a Senior, 6/8, Junior or Pre-junior.

7. What variety is your rabbit?
 - a. _____
Not only know the variety, but also know about the variety. For example, if you have an otter, be able to identify the triangle, lacing, ticking and so forth.

8. What are the weight requirements for your breed?
 - a. Senior: _____
Intermediate: _____
Junior: _____

9. What varieties does your breed come in?
 - a. _____

10. What is a buck?
 - a. A male rabbit

11. What is a doe?
 - a. A female rabbit

12. What is a baby rabbit called?
 - a. Kit

13. What are rabbits raised for?
 - a. Meat, fur, wool, fancy stock, pets, lab animals

14. How do you groom a rabbit with normal fur such as a Californian, Mini Lop or Netherland Dwarf?
 - a. Moisten your hands and stroke the fur from neck to rump, only going from rump to neck occasionally. If done too many times it will break the hair down. Continue to do this until the hair is dry. By doing this you're removing any loose or dead hair.

15. What is a disqualification?
 - a. One or more defects, deformities or blemishes, which render a rabbit unfit for competition or ineligible for registration.

16. Name a general fault for all breeds.
 - a. Molt, hutch stains, poor ear & tail carriage, poor eye color, loose in flesh, too fat, too bony...

17. Name a general disqualification for all breeds.
 - a. Over or under the weight requirements, screw tail, split penis, malocclusion, simple malocclusion, cold, tumor, hernia...

18. When is the best time to feed your rabbit?
 - a. Early evening or at night. It's cooler during these times and since rabbits are nocturnal (they're active at night) this is the most practical.

19. What are two important requirements for water?
 - a. Keep it clean and fresh.

20. How should you store your feed?
 - a. In a covered container to keep it fresh, dry and free from mice and insects.
21. What is the most important nutrient you can give your rabbit?
 - a. Water. It aids in digestion and without water a rabbit will not eat.
22. How much of a rabbit's weight is water?
 - a. Two-Thirds
23. What is the purpose of a tattoo?
 - a. Identification
24. Where does a tattoo go?
 - a. In the left ear.
25. Where does the registration mark or number go?
 - a. In the right ear.
26. What is gestation?
 - a. The length of time between conception and birth.
27. How long does gestation last?
 - a. 28 – 34 days
28. What are sore hocks & how are they treated?
 - a. Dry, sore, cracked hocks, which sometimes will bleed. Treat with Preparation H or Bag Balm.
29. What are ear mites?
 - a. A mite that will nest down in the ear of the rabbit. The rabbit will shake or itch its ears and you will notice small scabs in the base of the ear.

Examination

- Ears
 - Ear mites or ear canker, proper carriage, thickness, color, torn or missing portions and fur covering.
- FLIP RABBIT OVER
- Eyes
 - Proper Color, Blindness, Wall eye, Moon Eye Weepy Eye or Signs of Conjunctivitis
- Nose
 - Snuffles, Nasal Discharge Foreign Spots or Colors
- Teeth
 - Malocclusion, Buck teeth, Wolf Teeth Peg Teeth, Broken Teeth
- Front Feet/Legs
 - Broken, Extra & Missing Toes Mismatched, White, Missing Toenails Bone Density, Dewclaw, Pads
- Belly
 - Abscess, Tumor, Abnormalities Pigeon Breast, Blemishes, Mastitis
- Rear Feet/Legs
 - Broken & Missing Toes Mismatched, White, Missing Toenails Bone Density, Straightness, Sore Hocks
- Sex
 - Buck/Doe, Vent Disease, Hutch Burn, Split Penis, Descended Testicles in Intermediate or Senior

- Tail
 - Wry tail, Dead tail, Bobbed tail, Straightness
- Fur
 - Examine the coat and use terms like: Density, Texture, Sheen, Luster Rollback, Flyback, Rex, Standing, Wool Undercolor, Ring Color, Surface Color, Molt
- Comments
 - Give comments on your rabbit's type, fur and condition. Use words like Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Balance Condition, Finish Did not use word "Nice"

Show Etiquette

- BE ON TIME! - Judges and other exhibitors don't want to have to wait
- Stand upright
- Stay about a foot away from the table
- Keep your hands off of your rabbit
- If you have a bad habit of petting your animal, put your hands behind your back
- Keep your eye on the judge
- Don't be looking at Mom & Dad in the crowd
- Smile!
- This is your time – have fun out there!
- **Be a courteous winner & a gracious loser**