



# 4-H RABBIT PROJECT

Livestock  
Projects



Do you like rabbits? Do you want to learn how to raise and care for rabbits? Then this project is for you. It is suggested that you start with a doe rabbit and extend the project each year that you take the project. You will want to enroll in the fall to prepare for receiving your animal.

## Project Available Breeding Rabbit Market Rabbit Companion Rabbit-- (County Only Project)

### Resources

- Rabbit Resource Handbook
- Companion Animal e-Record (Jr./Int./Sr.)
- Showmanship Standard Resource: [www.arba.net](http://www.arba.net)

### Tips

- Rabbits should have an all-wire cage for a 6-7 lb. rabbit and should be at least 2' wide by 18" high by 2' long. The best wire to use is wire that is 1/2" x 1". Hardware cloth wire is extremely rough on rabbits feet. Rabbits need a sitting board 6-8" square or larger to prevent sore hocks and feet.
- Outside cages need a shady roof and protection from rain, wind, drafts, dampness, and direct sun during the hot summer months. Rabbits are extremely susceptible to heat. Baby rabbits cannot stand a chilly draft.
- To cool a rabbit, put a gallon jug of frozen water in the cage. Put long wet towels on the sides of the cage. Dampen the roof with cool water.
- Rabbits need plenty of fresh, clean ice-free water each day.
- Clean the crock or water bottle every few days with a mild solution and warm soapy water.
- A doe and her litter will drink about a gallon of water a day.
- Clean the cage regularly by removing all droppings from the cage every day.
- At least once a month, clean, and disinfect the cage and tray.
- Keep the area around the pen clean and neat.
- Keep other pets and rodents away.
- Do not handle pregnant females too much and keep males away.
- Always check for parasites such as lice and fleas.
- Market Meat Pen Rabbits-when purchasing meat rabbits be sure to communicate with your club leader or a reputable breeder.

Starting Out Beginner	Learning More Intermediate	Exploring Depth Advanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about rabbits</li> <li>• Learn to identify the parts of a rabbit</li> <li>• Identify breeds of rabbits</li> <li>• Evaluating different rabbit breeds</li> <li>• Purchase, feed and care for rabbits</li> <li>• Learn about goal setting</li> <li>• Evaluate project with leader</li> <li>• Learn how to keep records</li> <li>• Learn how to assume responsibility</li> <li>• Do a demonstration about rabbits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about nutritional requirements for rabbits</li> <li>• Investigate rabbit breeds</li> <li>• Learn how to select the type of rabbit project -breeding, market or companion</li> <li>• Learn about goal setting</li> <li>• Identify common rabbit diseases</li> <li>• Exhibit the rabbit at the county fair or other rabbit shows</li> <li>• Develop public speaking skills</li> <li>• Do a demonstration about rabbits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to deal with current issues relating to raising rabbits</li> <li>• Gain leadership skills by helping other learn about rabbits</li> <li>• Explore career opportunities in the rabbit industry</li> <li>• Investigate technology's impact in the rabbit project</li> <li>• Exhibit rabbits at the county fair or other rabbit shows</li> <li>• Develop public speaking skills</li> <li>• Build lifelong friendships</li> </ul>

