

Department 11: 4-H/FFA Rabbits

Market Rabbit Show: #50 Show Arena, **Tuesday**, October 7th 2025, 8:30 a.m.
Rabbit Showmanship: #50 Show Arena, **Tuesday**, October 7th, 2025, 12:30 p.m.
Breeding Rabbit Show: #50 Show Arena, **Thursday**, October 9th, 2025, 11:00 a.m.

Superintendent: Greg Coulter

Assistant Superintendents: Tom Bobbitt, Nannette Spires, Mandi Collins, and Julie Littleton

Tattooing/Tagging: All MARKET animals (including Homegrown and Regular Market Rabbits)

- All market animals will be family tattooed/tagged and any member of the family can show any animal tattooed/tagged.
- As defined in [Ohio Administrative Code 901-19-01](#), "Family" means the immediate family of an exhibitor, including but not limited to the exhibitor's parent, stepparent, foster parent, grandparent, step-grandparent, foster grandparent, brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, half-brother, half-sister, son, daughter, step-son, step-daughter, or guardian.
- No tattooing/tagging will be performed after the designated weigh-in/tag-in day.
- ALL market rabbits will be tattooed/tagged in the 2nd Saturday of September - Saturday, September 13th, 2025. Exhibitors can tattoo/tag up to six (6) rabbits with a family maximum of 24 rabbits tattooed/tagged.

Housing Forms: Junior Fair Exhibitors housing animal(s) in a location other than the property on which they reside must obtain and file a Livestock Housing Form with the OSU Extension Office. Deadline for filling out this form is the deadline set forth for possession of the animal. For more specifications, refer to the General Rules.

- Please note that Homegrown Market Rabbit exhibitors must house rabbits on their property, a parent(s) property, or a grandparent(s) property. They cannot be housed elsewhere. If rabbits are housed anywhere other than the exhibitor's residence, the buck, doe, and offspring must all be housed at the same location for the offspring to be considered for a homegrown project.

Quality Assurance: As mandated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, each exhibitor must have attended an educational experience by June 30th of the current year. Club/Chapter Quality Assurance Clinics taught by a trained and certified assistant instructor, or the countywide make-up clinics are required for exhibitors to meet this requirement. The 4-H Youth Development Educators at OSU Extension can provide locations of workshops provided in our county.

Skillathon: Each exhibitor must participate in a Skillathon. Youth are encouraged to attend the species you are exhibiting. If an exhibitor plans to compete for Rabbit Premier Exhibitor, they must attend the Rabbit Skillathon at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds on Sunday, September 21st, 2025, to be eligible.

Project Record Books:

- 4-H and FFA Record Books are required to be COMPLETED for each project.
- 4-H Members should have a NEW 4-H Record Book each year they take the project.
- 4-H and FFA Records Books will be reviewed at Skillathon.
 - For those who forget or don't bring their book – the book will need be completed and turned into the OSU Extension Office by Friday, September 19th, 2025
 - Exhibitors who do not properly complete a record book for each of their fair projects WILL NOT be allowed to exhibit at the fair. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
 - No books will be reviewed after September 21st, 2025.

Health Papers: Are not required except for a valid and current Drug Use Notification Form (DUNF) for all Market Rabbits. DUNF forms are to be filled out online. DUNF forms must be filled out by 11:59 p.m. after weigh-in on Saturday, October 4th, 2025. **All livestock must be free from any/all drugs in their system on fair weigh-in/check-in day.**

Entries: Fair entries are required by 4-H and FFA exhibitors to be eligible to compete at the Fairfield County Junior Fair. 4-H exhibitors must be enrolled in the corresponding 4-H project by enrollment deadline, April 15th. Fair entries will open in early August and close at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, August 29th, 2025. All entries will be made online in the FairEntry program:

<http://go.osu.edu/fairfieldfairentry>.

- An exhibitor **showing for their first or second year** may enter a maximum of two (2) breeding classes (**not eligible for junior rabbit entries**) and two (entries) in market for a total of 4 entries.
- Exhibitors **in their third year or more** may enter up to six (6) different classes. An exhibitor with three or more years showing rabbits will be able to enter four (4) entries in the breeding show and two (2) entries in the market show for a total of six (6) different classes.
- Any exhibitor may enter a maximum of 2 pairs of market rabbit entries. Exhibitors will not need to declare if fryers or roasters at the time of fair entries. Exhibitors can show two pairs of roasters, two pairs of fryers, or one pair of each. No rabbit may be shown in more than one market class.
- For breeding rabbits, animals of different breeds or sex are of different classes.
- **Mixed Breed & Crossbred Rabbits:** These rabbits will show with the PET RABBITS. See Department 14 - 4-H Companion Animals.

Breeding Rabbit Division

Breeding Rabbit Classes: Breed will be entered into FairEntry when making fair entries as you add your animal to the respective fair entry. In order to designate the correct breed of your breeding rabbit entry, identify the breed of your rabbit by using this ARBA site: <https://arba.net/recognized-breeds/>

1. Breeding Buck
2. Breeding Doe
3. Junior Breeding Buck (4 to 6 months of age) *See Junior Age Class Breeding Rules.* (Only enter if an exhibitor has entered two (2) other rabbits into the breed class and is showing rabbits for the 3rd year or more. Junior entry must be the same breed as one or both of the Senior entries.
4. Junior Breeding Doe (4 to 6 months of age) *See Junior Age Class Breeding Rules.* (Only enter if an exhibitor has entered two (2) other rabbits into the breed class and is showing rabbits for the 3rd year or more. Junior entry must be the same breed as one or both of the Senior entries.
5. Breeding Buck/Doe and Offspring - Senior buck OR doe and their offspring that is entered as a Junior Breeding Buck or Doe. Senior buck OR doe must be entered into the respective breeding buck/doe class AND the offspring must be entered in the junior buck/doe class.

Market Rabbit Division

Market Rabbit Classes:

1. MARKET RABBITS: (1 entry= pen of 2 rabbits). If an exhibitor is entering one (1) pair of market rabbits, only enter the class once. If an exhibitor plans to enter two pairs of market rabbits, you must enter the class twice.
2. HOMEGROWN MARKET RABBITS: (1 entry= pen of 2 rabbits). If an exhibitor is entering one (1) pair of homegrown market rabbits, only enter the class once. If an exhibitor plans to enter two pairs of homegrown market rabbits, you must enter the class twice.

Showmanship Divisions: Showmanship entries are submitted through FairEntry by the fair entry deadline.

Rabbit Showmanship Classes:

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| 1. Rabbit Showmanship (Ages 17-18) | 6. Rabbit Showmanship (Age 12) |
| 2. Rabbit Showmanship (Age 16) | 7. Rabbit Showmanship (Age 11) |
| 3. Rabbit Showmanship (Age 15) | 8. Rabbit Showmanship (Age 10) |
| 4. Rabbit Showmanship (Age 14) | 9. Rabbit Showmanship (Age 9) |
| 5. Rabbit Showmanship (Age 13) | 10. Rabbit Showmanship (Age 8) |

Arrival Time: All rabbits, market and breeding, are due to the fairgrounds by 12:00 p.m., Saturday, October 4th, 2025. **All entries must complete check-in in the #50 Show Arena from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. prior to entering the rabbit barns.**

- Market Rabbits will complete weigh-in at check-in. Each exhibitor can bring a maximum of four (4) rabbits to weigh-in. If a rabbit pair does not make weight, they will be entered into the under/over class and will receive a "B" grade.
- Breeding Rabbit Registration: Exhibitors are responsible to confirm their class entries are correct and report any discrepancies to the Rabbit Committee. Any class changes must be made prior to the start of the Rabbit Exhibitor Meeting. This is only if a breed or sex is wrong. There will be no other additions to the show.

Rabbit Exhibitor Meeting: There will be an exhibitor meeting for all market and breeding rabbit exhibitors on Saturday, October 4th, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the #50 Show Arena.

Market Classes: This is a non-terminal show. See [ODA Rules 901-19-01 CC.](#)

- There will be two divisions (fryers and rosters) for homegrown and market rabbits. Total pen weight is determined at weigh-in on Saturday, October 4th, 2025.
 - Underweight and overweight pens of two market rabbits will be permitted to be shown and will receive a B grade for their project and receive a packer price.
 - **All pairs that weigh 6.99 pounds or less will be able to show for grade and showmanship. Will not be eligible for packer bid. Will need to be taken home at the conclusion of the Market Rabbit Show and Showmanship.**
- Rabbit pairs will be shown as fryers and roasters. This will be determined at fair weigh-in.
 - **Fryers:** 7.00 to 11.00 pounds total pen weight (suggested each rabbit within the pair weigh 3.50 to 5.50 pounds at weigh-in). Suggested age of 70 days maximum.
 - **Roasters:** 11.01 to **16.00** pounds total pen weight (suggested each rabbit within the pair weigh 5.51 to **8.00** pounds at weigh-in). Suggested age of 120 days maximum.
- Market Rabbit Exhibitors will have the option to take home their animals. [Click here to review information to consider when making this decision.](#)
 - Take home forms will be available at each specie's fair/final weigh-in.
 - **The NUMBER of take home animals must be declared at the scale (no exceptions).**
 - **Tag numbers of take home animals must be declared to the Show Superintendent within one hour of the conclusion of that species show.**
 - Take home animals will lose their sale slot and will not be eligible for a premium and packer bid.
 - Exhibitors who do not take home must qualify for their sale slot (as individual or group) at the discretion of the species show committee.
- Exhibitors who do not take home must qualify for their sale slot (as individual or group) at the discretion of the species show committee.
 - In the event that a pen of animals with a completed Take Home Form place as Grand or Reserve Grand Champion placings, the Take Home Form is null and void. These pairs of animals are required to be sold per General Rules.
 - Exhibitors who do not take home must qualify for their sale slot (as individual or group) at the discretion of the species show committee.

Market Rabbit Sale: Friday in Feeder Creek Vet Show Arena. **Sale order is pending.** All exhibitors who placed in the show must report to the sale. All rabbits that made weight at weigh-in will be sold either individually or in groups at the livestock sale on Friday of the fair. Please review rules on the sale page: <http://u.osu.edu/livestocksale>.

Release Time: No animals will be removed from the fairgrounds prior to the stated release time without approval from the Junior Fair Director or Senior Fair Board. Any exhibitor violating this rule will be barred from exhibiting that particular specie the following year.

- **Breeding Rabbits:** After 12:00 p.m. and before 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 11th, 2025. All rabbits left in the barn after the close of fair on Saturday will be considered abandoned and will be removed from the barn unless prior arrangements have been made with the Rabbit Superintendent by the exhibitor or family of the exhibitor. Breeding exhibitors must clean trays, feed, and water dishes out by 3:30 p.m. Abandonment and/or failure to clean trays and dishes will result in suspension from future shows.
- **Market Exhibitors:** If market pairs are not sold or returned to the exhibitor by the buyer, these rabbits must be removed from the fairgrounds immediately following the end of the sale on Friday, October 10th, 2025. All locks should be removed from pens immediately following the sale. Market exhibitors must have their trays cleaned completely out by 3:30 p.m. and placed on top of the pen's upside down. Market exhibitors must also wash feed and water dishes and place in boxes by Superintendent's table. Market rabbit champion pairs that are being returned to the exhibitor must remain the champion pens until Saturday, October 11th, 2025, after 12:00 p.m.
- **Market Rabbits who have completed a Take Home Form will be released THREE HOURS after the Rabbit Show on Tuesday, and this release time window will last for TWO HOURS. Any exhibitor violating this rule will be barred from showing that species the following year. Exhibitors must check with the Superintendent before leaving the fairgrounds to ensure animals are accounted for before the sale.**

Premiums: Project books will be checked during county Skillathon. If an exhibitor does not complete a project book and turn it in at Skillathon, he or she will be ineligible to receive a premium and will not show that specie at the county fair for that year. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to complete project books annually for their exhibit.

- Rabbit Breeding Premiums: "A" =\$2.00; "B" =\$1.25; "C" =\$0.75
- Market Rabbit Premiums: "A" =\$2.00; "B" =\$1.25; "C" =\$0.75

Livestock Sale Exhibitor Checks: Exhibitors must submit a stamped thank you note to their advisor prior to November 1st. Advisors will be required to mail thank-you notes and maintain their buyer checklist to receive the exhibitors' checks. If a check is not cashed within the specified 90-day period from the check date, there will be a Stop Payment Fee deduction imposed and a replacement check issued to the exhibitor.

READ THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR GENERAL RULES AND HEALTH REGULATIONS

Rabbit Special Rules

1. Exhibitors who neglect their rabbits during the fair or abandon them at the end of the fair will forfeit all premiums, prize money, and sale money. They will be barred from the rabbit show at the fair for one or more years. Neglect will be determined by the Rabbit Superintendents.
2. ALL RABBITS (market and breeding) MUST BE HOUSED AT THE FAIR UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT.
3. No one without an assigned task shall be permitted in the show ring area of the show arena. Family/friends of exhibitors and visitors to the fair are not permitted in the show ring or staging areas (#18 small market barn) during all shows. All barns will be closed to anyone except the exhibitors during shows.
4. Breeding rabbits must be in the exhibitor's possession by July 1st of the current year.
5. All animals exhibited must have been completely and fully owned (as evidenced by a bill of sale or registration papers) and in the complete possession and continual care of the exhibitor on and after the designated date. (Breeding - July 1, Market - by the 2nd Saturday of September).
6. Rabbit exhibitors may be disqualified if any straw, hay, or any other organic bedding is used. A resting board is allowed. Timothy hay may be given if in the feed dish (for nutrition and dietary needs).
7. If a rabbit is removed prior to the stated release time, that exhibitor will be banned from showing rabbits the following year.
8. An exhibitor may have one breeding entry per class.
9. Exhibitors who have completed two years of showing rabbits at previous Fairfield County fairs and are registering for their third year have the option of showing EITHER:
10. A junior rabbit entry (see information below), or
11. An additional senior rabbit entry, which is a different breed other than the doe/buck entered. For example:
 - If the exhibitor is showing a buck and doe of the same breed, such as a Polish buck and a Polish doe, the third rabbit must be of another breed that is different than a Polish;
 - If the exhibitor is showing a Polish buck and a Mini Lop doe, the third rabbit must either be from a third breed of rabbit or a Polish Doe, or a Mini Lop buck. It cannot be in the same class as the first two breeds of rabbits).
12. Exhibitors must keep name tags on their pens. Do not remove them.

Junior Rabbit Class - Breeding Rules

1. A junior rabbit is an animal that is defined as pure bred by A.R.B.A. standards. Fairfield County defines "junior" rabbits to be as 4-6 months of age. Senior breeding classes start at 7 months of age.
2. The junior age rabbit class is reserved for an exhibitor that is at least a 3rd year rabbit showman. Exhibitors who have completed two years of showing rabbits at previous Fairfield County fairs may show a junior rabbit their third year.

3. The breed of their junior rabbit must be the same breed as one of the senior breeding entry rabbits. The entry will be removed as a junior entry if it is not one of these breeds. This is an advanced project for an exhibitor to take once they have bred their own stock, with the intention to show the offspring from the exhibitor's own doe and own buck. The number of breeds will dictate the number of classes that are created and will be shown at the beginning of the breeding show.
4. Junior rabbits can only be shown after the other two breeding rabbit entries have been entered and shown. The junior rabbit entry will be eliminated from the show order if the exhibitor does not have two other registered entries at the fair and will not show as a junior entry.
5. Exhibitors must have entered two entries in the breeding class to enter in a junior class. Breed class is defined as either: Two does of different breeds, two bucks of different breeds, or a buck and a doe of any breed including the same breed. Exhibitors may then enter a junior rabbit as a third entry.
6. The junior rabbit must be of the same breed as one of the other two breed entries. Example: If an exhibitor enters two New Zealand rabbits, the junior entry must be a New Zealand. If the breeding entries are two different breeds, such as Standard Rex and a Satin breed, the junior entry must be a Standard Rex or Satin. No other breed will be accepted. If an exhibitor does not enter three rabbits, the first two will be entered into the breeding classes and they will not qualify for the junior class.
7. An offspring class will be available for exhibitors who have entered a junior rabbit. This class will include the Breeding Buck/Doe and their Offspring. Senior buck OR doe must be entered into the respective breeding buck/doe class AND the offspring must be entered in the junior buck/doe class.

Market Rabbit Rules

1. Market rabbits must be in the exhibitor's possession by the second Saturday of September of the current year.
2. Pen weight will determine the class (fryers or roasters) that market rabbits are entered.
3. All market rabbits will be tattooed/tagged on the second Saturday of September by the Fairfield County Junior Fair Rabbit Committee at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds. Market rabbits cannot be tattooed/tagged by family. Exhibitors can tattoo/tag a total of six (6) rabbits and a family can tattoo/tag no more than 24 rabbits. (Only 6 per exhibitor).
4. Market rabbits will be weighed at the fair and the tag on the ear will be used as identification.
5. If a pen receives 1st through 10th place, the exhibitor is required to sell the animal in the livestock auction.
6. All market rabbit pens (roasters and fryers) placing 1st through 10th may be sold individually at the livestock auction according to [ODA Rule 901-19-01 AA and CC](#). All other eligible market rabbits may be sold in groups at the livestock auction according to [ODA Rule 901-19-01 AA and CC](#).
7. Exhibitors entering the market class twice are doing so with the intention of entering two (2) pairs of rabbits. Their weights will place them in either the fryer/homegrown fryer or roaster/homegrown roaster class(es).
8. Rabbits will be picked up by the packer by Saturday morning. Any rabbits remaining in the market barn after 9:00 p.m. Friday shall belong to the packer.
9. Rabbits not sold through the livestock auction may not be sold to the packer while on fairground property. In addition, market rabbits sold in the livestock auction at the fair are not permitted to be resold while on the fairgrounds. This not only includes the sale of any animal that was returned to the exhibitor by the buyer, but also rabbits that are going to the packer directly. Resale of these animals on the fairgrounds is against state law.
10. Exhibitors competing in the homegrown fryer and roaster classes must own both the sire (buck) and dam (doe) and have bred their own litter. These adult rabbits must be bred by the exhibitor, and these offspring are then brought to the fair. Exhibitors are not permitted to breed their does from another owner.
11. Exhibitors competing in the homegrown market fryer and roaster class must fill out an intent form (signed by the exhibitor, parent, and advisor) by May 1st of the current year, stating they are planning to raise their own litter and enter in the class. If the litter does not come, the exhibitor will still be able to purchase a pair for the other class (fryer or roaster) by the second Saturday of September. See Market Rabbit Rule #12.
12. The birth date of homegrown rabbit litter should be no later than August 1st. This litter should be available for inspection by August 10th of the current year, by a member of the Rabbit Committee or Junior Fair Director. (Not all exhibitors will be visited in a given year; a random, countywide sweep will be made to ensure all exhibitors are honoring their intent).
13. If rabbits entered as homegrown rabbits are found to not be owned by the exhibitor, he or she may be excused from exhibiting in the market class show for that year.
14. Exhibitors may enter in up to two (2) market classes during the fair entry process in August.

Rabbit Showmanship

1. Exhibitors should sign up for Showmanship when making fair entries in August. Fair entries are due Friday, August 29th, 2025. Showmanship entries should be made for each species you plan to participate in.
2. Exhibitors must have an animal entry in that specie to show in showmanship for that respective specie.
3. All ages are as of January 1 of the current year.
4. Rules and conditions apply to all divisions.
5. Each exhibitor must show their own animal, but during the competition they may be asked to show another animal. Each exhibitor must show one of their declared animals (if more than one), but during the competition may be asked to show another animal. However, if they are called back into the ring for another heat of showmanship, it must be with the same animal.
6. Winners from each age division will come back and compete for Rabbit Showman of Showmen.
7. The Rabbit Showman of Showmen Winner will compete in the Super Showmanship Contest on Thursday morning of the fair. An exhibitor can continue to return to Super Showmanship until they win the title of Champion Super Showmanship Overall.