



Missouri 4-H

University of Missouri
4-H Center for Youth Development

Rabbits Project Brief

Learning Objectives

- Learn life skills in communicating, decision-making and organizing
- Set goals to be completed during program year
- Learn skills for successful rabbit production
- Develop knowledge of breeds, equipment needed, feeding, breeding, management
- Learn to judge and select quality stock.
- Study possible careers working with rabbits
- Complete the Show Me Quality Assurance Program
- Keep records on your rabbit project
- Understand desirable carcass characteristics

Fair Projects

- Grooming kit
- Rabbit box
- Rabbit cage
- Breeds of rabbits education display
- Identification methods
- Breeding strategies
- Animal Care Poster
- Best Practice Poster

Demonstration Ideas

- Picking up a rabbit
- How to groom a rabbit
- Tattooing a rabbit
- Proper care of a rabbit
- Administering health care to rabbits
- Building a hutch
- Caring for the litter
- Caring of pelts or wool
- Preparing rabbits for show
- Cooking/preparing Rabbit - Rabbit recipes
- Animal Care

Field Trips

- Pet store
- Veterinary clinic
- Local producer
- State Fair Rabbit show
- Local or regional Rabbit show

Ideas for Speech Topics

- Rabbit experiences
- Selection of a rabbit
- Rabbit production
- Identification methods
- Breeding strategies
- How to keep them cool
- Best feeds for show and or production
- Animal Care

Critical Thinking

- How has taking care of your rabbits helped you learn responsibility?
- What are some careers that you are interested in exploring with rabbits?
- What effect does over feeding have on rabbits?
- How can you turn your project into a money maker?

Community Service

- Volunteer at veterinary clinic
- Volunteer at pet store
- Serve on fair committee
- Take rabbit to elementary school
- Take rabbit to petting zoo

Science & Technology

How have you used the science and technology process in this project area?

Examples:

- Troubleshoot production problems raising and breeding rabbits.
- Optimize space and facilities for production of rabbits or for pets.
- Communicate and demonstrate the benefits of rabbits both as food and as pets.
- Observe to know what your rabbits need to maintain health and raise babies.

Show Me Character

Trustworthiness - includes honesty, promise keeping and loyalty.

- Show only animals you have cared for and trained
- Follow the rules of the competition
- Only use approved products for show
- Follow animal ownership guidelines

Respect - includes courtesy and proper treatment of people and things.

- Judge other participants on their character not on the quality of their livestock
- Be understanding of other's viewpoints.
- Always be courteous

Responsibility - includes the pursuit of excellence, accountability and perseverance.

- Meet all obligations to sales centers and buyers
- Set a good example for other showmen.
- Work hard and don't quit if results don't turn out the way you want
- Get your entries in on time

Fairness - involves consistently applying rules and standards appropriately for different age groups and ability levels.

- Use only stall space paid for and assigned to you
- Follow the rules set by the organization running the show
- Don't question consequences if they are a result of your choices

Caring - promoting the well being of people and things in a young person's world. It denotes action and not just feelings.

- Show consideration for other's livestock
- Help less experienced showmen practice before competitions
- Thank people who help you care for your livestock

Citizenship - includes making the home community and county a better place to live for themselves and others.

- Learn the rules and make sure you and others follow them
- Do what's best for everyone
- Protect the environment by disposing of waste according to law
- Be open to learning from others

Show Me Standards

Missouri 4-H members will acquire the knowledge and skills to gather, analyze and apply information and ideas, communicate effectively, recognize and solve problems, make decisions and act as responsible members of society.

4-H members will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of:

- **Communication Arts** - participating in formal and informal presentation and discussions of issues and ideas
- **Science** - characteristics and interactions of living organisms; impact of science, technology and human activity on resources and the environment
- **Social Studies** - economic concepts (including productivity and the market system) and principles (including the laws of supply and demand)

Resources

111 Rabbits Unit 1

Y620 4-H Project Record
Y1110 What's Hoppening?
LG1140 Helper's Group Activity Guide

112 Rabbits Unit 2

Y620 4-H Project Record
Y1120 Making Tracks
LG1140 Helper's Group Activity Guide

113 Rabbits Unit 3

Y620 4-H Project Record
Y1130 All Ears
LG1140 Helper's Group Activity Guide

To Order

Extension Publications online at <http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/shop/> or by phone 1-800-292-0969

For additional resources check with your local University of Missouri Extension Center or the 4-H Source Book at <http://www.4-hmall.org/educationalresources.aspx>.