

4-H

Rabbit Proficiency Program

A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The **4-H Rabbit 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 rabbits.
- **Level II – “Producer”**, you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising rabbits.
- **Level III – “Consumer”**, you become an experienced rabbit 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 rabbit husbandry, 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.

Rabbit Proficiency

Level I - Explorer

Date _____

Completed _____

- _____ 1. Name five different breeds of rabbits and tell a characteristic of each.
- _____ 2. Demonstrate how to properly and safely take a rabbit out of a cage, how to properly hold it, and then how to put it back in the cage.
- _____ 3. Tell what the difference between a 4-class and 6-class rabbit is.
- _____ 4. Explain what the terms "Junior", "Intermediate" and "Senior" mean.
- _____ 5. Explain why you would take water from home when traveling with your rabbit.
- _____ 6. Describe how to tattoo a rabbit. Explain the reason(s) for doing this.
- _____ 7. Describe three pieces of equipment you should have to begin raising a rabbit.
- _____ 8. Name the "varieties" of your breed of rabbit.
- _____ 9. Describe the symptoms of the following and how to cure the problem: fur block, sore hock, and ear mites.
- _____ 10. While feeding your rabbits, what are three things you should keep a watch on.
- _____ 11. Name and label all the parts of the rabbit, include forequarter and hindquarter.
- _____ 12. Describe how to protect your rabbits from the extremes of summer and winter. Take in account wind and rain.
- _____ 13. Tell the normal body temperature for a healthy rabbit.
- _____ 14. Demonstrate how to properly clip a rabbit's nail.
- _____ 15. Find out the regulations related to raising/keeping a rabbit where you live.
- _____ 16. Define the 5 types of Rabbits: semi arch, compact, full arch, commercial, cylindrical.
- _____ 17. Describe what an abscess is and how to treat it.
- _____ 18. List three types of external parasites and how to treat them.
- _____ 19. Tell how many teeth a rabbit has, both top and bottom.

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, January 2001
Developed by Barbara Rosenthal, 4-H Project Leader*

Rabbit Proficiency

Level II - Producer

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. Demonstrate how to complete a rabbit's pedigree paper.
- _____ 2. Explain what a "disqualification" is at a rabbit show. List 3 disqualifications for a breed of rabbit.
- _____ 3. Tell the proper junior and senior weights for your particular breed of rabbit. Include the intermediate weight if it applies.
- _____ 4. Define the following show terms: BIS, BOB, BOSV, BOV
- _____ 5. Describe what a "leg" is and how many legs a rabbit must have to receive a grand champion certificate.
- _____ 6. List at least eight items you should keep on hand to treat rabbits for sickness or injury.
- _____ 7. Define gestation, kindle, wean, palpate.
- _____ 8. Define the terms: fly back, roll back, broken, molt, guard hair.
- _____ 9. Describe the signs of the following and tell what should be done: Snuffles, Myxomatosis, Malocclusion, and Pasteurella Multocid
- _____ 10. Demonstrate how to tell the sex of a rabbit.
- _____ 11. Submit management records covering at least 90 days or more in providing fresh water, clean feed, clean cages, nail clipping, etc.
- _____ 12. Describe three ways to make an income from a rabbit project, and a marketing strategy.
- _____ 13. Explain what you can do for your rabbitry to help keep sickness and disease out.
- _____ 14. Participate in a 4-H rabbit show, rabbit field day and/or judging event.
- _____ 15. Tell how you would prepare a nestbox. Be sure to include how you would do it differently for summer and winter.
- _____ 16. Describe how to sanitize a cage. Explain why you would do this if you received a "used" cage or other equipment.

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Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Level III - Consumer

Date _____

Completed _____

- _____ 1. Give a report about the history of a breed of rabbit to your rabbit project.
- _____ 2. Explain why the buck is the most important in a breeding pair of rabbits. Tell why he should be of better quality than the doe.
- _____ 3. Work on keeping a "library" of rabbit information.
- _____ 4. Demonstrate how to pose the five different types of rabbits for judging.
- _____ 5. Tell what the term "palpation" means. Describe how this is done.
- _____ 6. Name the four fur types, describe them and give a breed example for each fur type.
- _____ 7. Define cross breeding, line breeding, and inbreeding.
- _____ 8. Know the junior, intermediate and senior weights of two breeds of rabbit.
- _____ 9. Keep track of the weight gain of a litter of kits. Record their weights once a week until they are weaned. Make a chart that compares this litter with other litters.
- _____ 10. Explain possible reasons a breeding doe is not producing litters. Describe different solutions to this problem.
- _____ 11. Describe the following symptoms and treatment and what should be done for rabbits with these problems: Mastitis, Nestbox Eyes, Ketosis.
- _____ 12. Describe the cause and different symptoms of fur block, and how to treat this condition.
- _____ 13. Join the specialty club for your particular breed of rabbit.
- _____ 14. Participate in a 4-H rabbit showmanship class, and rabbit show or judging contest.
- _____ 15. Make something useful for your rabbitry. For example, a nestbox or first-aid box.
- _____ 16. Teach a younger member how to clip nails or tattoo a rabbit's ear.

Member's Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Rabbit Proficiency

Level IV - Leader

Date _____
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 rabbit event in your community or a nearby county.
- _____ 7. Assist younger members in learning a specific topic in their rabbit project.
- _____ 8. Develop your own special rabbit activity. Chart your progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and problems, and report on findings.

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Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Rabbit Proficiency Level V - Researcher

Date _____
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 report at project 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: _____

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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

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