

# 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. You will learn the basic principles of animal husbandry by owning and/or caring for and keeping records on one or more rabbits.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- The University of California Davis has free resources available online by visiting: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/4HYouthDevelopment/>. This site lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- The Solano County 4-H Resources and Lending Library at our 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 is a breeder's organization in your community that conducts 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 raiser of rabbits.
- ◆ 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 rabbits, 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.

# RABBIT

## Level I - Explorer

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Identify and describe three breeds of domestic rabbits.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Name, point out and spell the following parts of a rabbit:
  - Hindquarters
  - Loin
  - Dewlap
  - Hock
  - Saddle
  - Shoulder
  - Belly
  - Chest
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Demonstrate how to properly lift, hold and carry a rabbit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Describe a good type of hutch and the equipment that a beginner should have.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Explain what feeds are important to feed rabbits.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Know the standard weights for your breed of rabbit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Demonstrate how to tell the sex of a young rabbit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Explain the tattoo of a rabbit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Explain why a doe should be taken to the buck's hutch for breeding, give at least two reasons.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Prepare a nest for a doe and put it in a hutch at the right time before kindling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Submit management records covering a minimum of 90 days or more in providing fresh water, clean feed, clean hutch, financial records, and general care of your rabbit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Be familiar with rabbit showmanship techniques.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Name and describe six breeds of domestic rabbits.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Give one or more examples each of rabbits used for meat, fur, fancy and laboratory purposes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Describe desirable characteristics of meat type rabbits: hind quarters, loin, saddle, and shoulders.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Tattoo a rabbit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Give a demonstration at County Presentation Day.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## RABBIT Level II - Producer

Date  
Completed

1. Describe or demonstrate what you might do for the protection of your rabbit during hot weather and during cold weather.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Describe and give control measures for at least three diseases or problem conditions of rabbits, such as ear canker, sore hock, diarrhea, or vent disease.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Visit an approved rabbitry and learn how rabbits are housed, fed, watered and bred; how the young are cared for; and how the rabbits are marked.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Keep a doe production and breeding record for 90 days minimum.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Make out a pedigree for one of your rabbits.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Invite and introduce a guest speaker at one of your club meetings. For example, a local producer, butcher, farm advisor, feed dealer, or a housewife who cooks and serves rabbit.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Help butcher a rabbit and demonstrate how rabbits are cut up.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Cook and help eat a rabbit.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Demonstrate how to check a doe for pregnancy  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Attend at least two rabbit shows.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Attend a 4-H rabbit showmanship or judging contest.  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Build a piece of equipment for use in your rabbitry (a picture should be shown to verify).  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Give a demonstration on rabbits at County Presentation Day.  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Tattoo a rabbit.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RABBIT**  
**Level III - Consumer**

Date  
Completed

1. Show how a rabbit is registered at a project meeting and show the pedigree of the animal.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Develop a breeding program for your own rabbit stock. Chart the procedures and analyze genetic results for key characteristics. Make an oral or written report on the findings.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Learn the costs and income from your rabbit project. Did you make enough to support your project?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Make a chart explaining how good selection can improve your stock, using your own animal in the chart. Explain inbreeding, advantages of each.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Develop your own special project related activity. Chart your progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and problems, and report on your accomplishments to your club.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RABBIT**  
**Level IV - Leader**

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 or judging event or train a junior team for a judging activity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Speak on a project-based subject before an organization other than your 4-H group.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Assist at a show as a clerk, secretary, recorder, assistant to the judge, ring master or with set up, registration, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Teach younger members about learning a specific topic in the project.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RABBIT**  
**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 rabbits
- Feeds, feeding and nutrition
- Diseases, prevention, control and general sanitation
- Markets and methods of marketing
- Reproduction, breeding and genetics
- Fur preparation for market, how marketed and used
- Keeping and using records as a basis for improving your rabbit project
- Other

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Certificate of Achievement

*This certifies that*

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*has completed the Rabbit Proficiency*

*in Solano County.*

*Explorer*

*Producer*

*Consumer*

*Leader*

*Researcher*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

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