



# 4-H Rabbit Project



## Are you Into It?

Want to learn about the selection, care and health of rabbits? - then this project is for you!

In the rabbit project you can learn about selection and raising your animals, but also dive into health issues, management practices and careers!

You will be able to:

- Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on one or more rabbits
- Explore knowledge of sound breeding, feeding, and management practices
- Investigate marketing, project expansion and how you can start a career in the rabbit business

## Here's what you can do all year!

### Starting Out Basic

- Learn the different breeds, varieties and ideal weights
- Locate and name parts of a rabbit
- Determine the use of your rabbit projects
- Develop a rabbit care management plan
- Identify rabbit equipment and its uses
- Learn proper feeding techniques

### Learning More Intermediate

- Learn to judge rabbits and give oral reasons
- Learn the difference between 4 class and 6 class
- Explore the different rabbit body types and their function
- Design a plan for preparing rabbits for show
- Learn proper grooming techniques
- Learn about diseases and environment concerns

### Expanding Horizons Advanced

- Learn about rabbit breeding programs and genetics
- Learn to manage your rabbitry
- Determine pregnancy and palpation techniques
- Design a rabbitry
- Identify bones on a skeleton
- Evaluate rabbit health
- Develop and maintain a rabbit pedigree system
- Expand your project

## Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started...

### Citizenship/ Leadership

- Volunteer your rabbit(s) for a community activity (i.e., nursing home, ag activity, etc.)
- Hand out food samples at your local grocery store
- Volunteer to help at the county fair rabbit show
- Volunteer to give a promotional presentation

### Communication

- Explain the use of rabbits for meat production
- Teach someone about the rabbit industry or showing rabbits
- Participate in a judging contest and give oral reasons

### Healthy Living

- Explore the nutritional advantages to protein sources
- Learn about eating a balanced meal with MyPlate ([www.choosemyplate.com](http://www.choosemyplate.com))

### Science

- Analyze and plan proper facilities for rabbits
- Learn the science behind rabbit nutrition, growth and development, genetics, and the multiple aspects of the rabbit industry



## Expand Your Experiences in Rabbit project!

- Tour a rabbit producer's farm
- Attend a rabbit show and observe the judge and their techniques
- Attend a rabbit project meeting
- Design a business card or marketing brochure for your farm or imaginary farm
- Write an educational article about some aspect of rabbit production for your newspaper
- Participate in a rabbit skill-a-thon
- Organize a rabbit showmanship contest
- Attend a national rabbit conference
- Ride with a local veterinarian to learn about animal health
- Learn about the different uses for rabbits; meat vs. non-meat production
- Consider showing in your local county fair poultry show or the Florida State Fair
- Interested in a career in Animal Science or Veterinary Science? Schedule a visit to the University of the Florida: [ufl.edu](http://ufl.edu)
- Register for 4-H University to attend workshops, participate in community service events, hear keynotes, compete in contests, have fun, and meet other youth from across Florida who may share common interests: [florida4h.org/](http://florida4h.org/)
- Search the internet and see what other state 4-H programs are doing in rabbits
- Contact your county Extension office for other local workshops, activities, and events

### Project Sharing Ideas

Participate in the 4-H rabbit show

- Standard Bred Rabbits
- Commercial
- Fancy
- Market Rabbits
- Meat Pen
- Single Fryer (meat type)
- Roaster (meat type)
- Presentations and Posters
- Showmanship

Consider an exhibit, notebook or display showing what you've learned in a rabbit-related topic

## Resources

### 4-H Project Resources

Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your county 4-H office or you can order directly. Available at National 4-H: [www.4-hmall.org](http://www.4-hmall.org)

#### Rabbits

Level 1: What's Hopping  
Level 2: Making Tracks  
Level 3: All Ears

Available on EDIS:  
Rabbits, Rabbits, Rabbits  
[edis.ifas.ufl.edu](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu)

One stop shop 4-H Rabbit website:  
[florida4h.org/projects/\\_rabbits/Intro.html](http://florida4h.org/projects/_rabbits/Intro.html)

### Connections and Events

Attending events and taking advantage of opportunities that will expand your project learning will help you become the best you can be. Contact your county 4-H office.

Rabbit Production, Health  
[smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/livestock\\_and\\_forages/rabbits.Html](http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/livestock_and_forages/rabbits.Html)

American Rabbit Breeders Association Youth Division  
[arba.net/youth.htm](http://arba.net/youth.htm)

American Satin Rabbit Breeders Association  
[asrba.org](http://asrba.org)

Florida White Rabbit Breeders Association  
[fwrba.net/](http://fwrba.net/)

### Record Keeping

Learning to take good records of what you do and what you spend for your project is a 4-H life skill.

The following forms can help you keep a record of your activities.

Project Report Forms can be found at [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org)

- Junior (ages 8-10)
- Intermediate (ages 11-13)
- Senior (ages 14-18)
- Financial Summary
- Member Portfolio (ages 8-13)

### Awards and Recognition

Florida's Recognition Program involves feedback through:

- Participation
- Setting Goals
- Meeting Standards
- Peer Competition
- Cooperation

Certificates, pins, ribbons, trophies, trips and/or scholarships are awarded based on quality of performance at the county, district, state and national levels.

To learn more about current recognition opportunities contact your county 4-H agent or visit the Florida 4-H website: [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org)