

Rabbits Things to Consider

First thing – county show requirements

- breed your own or purchase
- date of show
- Californians or New Zealands

If county requires exhibitor to raise own bunnies --

Count back 100 days from weigh in date of show to start breeding does

Keep all adult rabbits in their own cages

Bring the doe to the buck when breeding

- should breed in a minute or two
- if does not breed quickly remove doe and try again in couple days
- if successful bred, repeat the breeding in 10 or so minutes

Care before and after kindling (birth)

- 29 days post breeding; put in breeding boxes with bedding
- 31 days post breeding, kits (baby rabbits) should be born
- 5 to 7 days after birth replace bedding and check eyes for infection
- 14 days after birth replace bedding
- 21 days remove breeding boxes or when kits getting out of box
- 5 weeks wean the kits
- litters range from 5 to 10
- cannibalism by mother not uncommon
- born on wire not uncommon
- doe cage should have baby saver wire on bottom and minimum of 3 inches up the side.
- when weaning kits keep litters together in same cage with mom next to the litter (if you have cage space)
- try to keep litters together to select pens from siblings
- Does and bucks should fed 8 to 10 ozs of pelleted feed per day
- Fresh water (self watering system worth the investment)
- Wire boxes are 2' deep, 30" wide and 18" tall
- Temperature comfort zone is 60 to 75 degrees
- Fresh air ventilation is important

Feeding market rabbits

- Self feeder and fresh feed (check it)
- Add crock if several rabbits in cage
- Clean plentiful water
- Snack mix (barley and black oil sunflower seeds) start couple weeks before the show to aid hair coat quality
- If go off feed, give hay
- Need to hold, give oats or hay

Health

- Establish a relationship with your veterinarian
- Ear mites – treat does before breeding, 0.2 mls of ivermectin on back or in ears
- Watch eyes for infections
- Coccidia – Corid – 0.6 ml of the 9.6 % solution in 500 mls of water

Weighing

- Start two weeks out from county weigh-in date
- Groom them as weigh with damp rag or brush
- Get them used to being handled
- Practice showmanship (videos for steps)
- if possible, have separate showmanship bunny

Selection

- Think clones, same litter is plus
- Think half a soccer ball, width of loin equal in size as height of top loin from table & width of loin should carry through the hip (no pinching or catching)
- Three Cs
- Smooth flesh covering
- Weight should be uniform
- Hair is a tiebreaker, should fly right back when rub it in the opposite direction.
- Check teeth (top over bottom)
- Toe nails – a nail on each toe and of uniform color

Rabbit Validation

Texas 4-H Explore Guide

<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/rabbits/>

Texas Youth Livestock

<https://texasyouthlivestock.com/rabbit/>

County based shows-

Typically tattooing done 4 to 6 weeks prior to the show date. Most will require rabbits be presented to committee to be tattooed. Tattoo placed in right ear per county show rules.

Major Show Validation:

Consult each major show rules. Rabbit show rules will be found in the “Youth Show” section of the Stock show premium guide.

Houston – Exhibitors must own does from which their meat pen rabbits are selected for showing. Permanent id tattoo in left ear, breeder id for example and Houston Livestock Show Tattoo in the rabbit's right ear at a date (Mid February) and location set by Houston LS. Last year's show validation date was February 10 and locations were Belton, Fort Worth, Henderson, Houston and San Antonio.

Breeding Rabbits – Tattooed in left ear required.

San Angelo – For the Market and Commercial Divisions, exhibitor must put permanent tattoo in the rabbit's left ear and each must have their own individual number (ie. D1, D2, D3). Tattoo numbers must be included with entry form and sent with entries.

Fort Worth – Youth and Open Breeding Show – all rabbits must have permanent tattoo in left ear.

EXPLORE



Texas 4-H Rabbit Project

Showing Rabbits

texas4-h.tamu.edu



The members of Texas A&M Agrilife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M Agrilife.



EXPLORE

TEXAS 4-H RABBIT PROJECT



Description

The Texas 4-H Explore series allows 4-H volunteers, educators, members, and youth who may be interested in learning more about 4-H to try some fun and hands-on learning experiences in a particular project or activity area. Each guide features information about important aspects of the 4-H program, and its goal of teaching young people life skills through hands-on experiences. Additionally, each guide contains at least six learning experiences, which can be used as a project guide, or as activities for six different 4-H meetings.

Purpose

Texas 4-H is designed to develop the youth of our state into productive adult citizens. The 4-H Program uses a non-formal educational process of engaging youth in a "learning by doing" process. This includes hands-on opportunities, participation in workshops and clinics conducted by volunteer leaders or professionals, as well as competitive experiences which allow 4-H members to demonstrate the knowledge they have gained. Through this entire process, the youth are learning key life skills such as working with others, teamwork, cooperation, and goal setting. Through all experiences, youth get to interact with adult volunteers and county Extension agents.

What is 4-H?

4-H members across the nation are responding to challenges every day in their communities and their world.

As the youth development program of the Cooperative Extension System of land-grant universities, 4-H is the nation's largest youth development organization, empowering six million young people throughout the United States. Cooperative Extension of 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities provide leadership to engage young people in 4-H in all 3,007 counties of the United States. The impact of the Cooperative Extension partnership is profound, bringing together National Institute of Food and Agriculture of USDA, land grant universities and county government to resource learning opportunities for youth.

Through America's 110 land-grant universities and its Cooperative Extension System, 4-H reaches every corner of our nation—from urban neighborhoods to suburban schoolyards to rural farming communities.

With a network of more than 6 million youth, 600,000 volunteers, 3,500 professionals, and more than 25 million alumni, 4-H helps shape youth to move our country and the world forward in ways that no other youth organization can.

Texas 4-H

Texas 4-H is like a club for kids and teens ages 5-18, and it's BIG! It's the largest youth development program in Texas with more than 550,000 youth involved each year. No matter where you live or what you like to do, Texas 4-H has something that lets you be a better you!

You may think 4-H is only for your friends with animals, but it's so much more! You can do activities like shooting sports, food science, healthy living, robotics, fashion, and photography.

Look for 4-H clubs at your school, an after-school program, a community center, or even on a military base or through the reserves for military families.

Texas 4-H is part of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service and the Texas A&M System. Founded in 1908, 4-H is the largest youth development program in Texas, reaching more than 550,000 youth each year.

The 4-H Motto and Pledge

"To Make the Best Better"

I pledge: My HEAD to clearer thinking, My HEART to greater loyalty, My HANDS to larger service and My HEALTH to better living. For my Club, my Community, my County, and my world.

Participating in 4-H

4-H is a great program because it provides options for young people to participate. From a 4-H club located in your community, a SPIN club that focuses on one particular project area, or participating in 4-H through your classroom at school, 4-H allows youth to learn in many different environments. If you are interested in joining 4-H, contact your County Extension Office and ask for a list of the 4-H clubs in your area. If you are a school teacher/educator and would like to use 4-H curriculum or these project guides in your classroom, contact your Extension Office as well for assistance.