

Important Dates 2023

- **4-H Enrollment Deadline** is April 1st
- **Tattooing**- July 8, (8 to 10am market rabbits), (10-11am breeding and pet projects)
- All Market & Lactating projects must attend one Quality Assurance training:
 - 2/22 - 6:00 p.m.
 - 3/9 - 6:00 p.m.
 - 4/10 - 6:00 p.m.
 - 5/2 - 6:00 p.m.
- Submit **Pen Forms** for fair online in FairEntry (if exhibiting at the fair) between 6/1 and 7/1
- Livestock **Judging** and **Skill-a-thon** (July)
- Send **Market Sale Flyers** to potential buyers
- **Take a Photo** of member with their exhibit and send to: hclivestockphotos@gmail.com between 7/1 and 7/31
 - *Remember the dress code for all photos!*
- **Fair Weigh-in** on 8/6/23 at Harvest Ridge
- **Show at the Holmes County Fair** (refer to the Holmes County fair book for schedule).
- **Livestock Sale**

Remember to thank your buyer(s) after the sale!

Rabbit Committee Contacts

Questions about your Rabbit Project?

Contact a member of the Holmes County 4-H Rabbit Committee or visit the [Holmes County 4-H Rabbit Website](#).

Committee Members:

- ❖ **Jenni Brown**- (330) 231-2835 (Text Preference)
- ❖ **Jason Gurley**- (330) 473-3359 (Text Preference)



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OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Holmes County 4-H

Species Guide for First Year Projects



Rabbit



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Considering a Rabbit Project?

Keep in mind the following project descriptions and requirements for a Holmes County 4-H Rabbit Project.

- The **Pet Rabbit** project is meant for household pets living in the home or mixed breed animals.
- The **Breeding Rabbit** project is for any pure-bred rabbit, and it does not mean you need to breed the rabbit.
- The **Market Rabbit** project is a pen of three rabbits sold at the Holmes County Fair.
- There are 49 recognized rabbit breeds.
- Rabbits can be raised in town or in the country & is a relatively inexpensive project.

Members must:

- Enroll in 4-H by the April 1st Deadline
- Purchase the animal by deadline listed in fairbook or have possession of the breeding animal by June 1, 2023.
- Tattoo Market fryers **July 8th** – see Holmes County 4-H Calendar for dates
- Attend Quality Assurance training (if taking a market project).
- Complete Project Book and attend Livestock Judging and Skill-a-thon (July)
- Complete Pen Assignment(s) for fair exhibits online in FairEntry (register between 6/1-7/1)
- Submit a photo of member with their exhibit between 7/1-7/31 (market projects only)
Submit at: hclivestockphotos@gmail.com
- Bring rabbit to the fair at scheduled time

Resources for Rabbit Projects

[Holmes County 4-H Rabbit Website](https://holmes.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/livestock-project-information/rabbit) –
<https://holmes.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/livestock-project-information/rabbit>

Rabbit Resource Handbook – available for purchase at the OSU Extension office. This book contains essential information for project completion and evaluation.

[State Rabbit Website](https://ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/rabbit) - <https://ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/rabbit>

Equipment & Cost Considerations

- Space required: Cage suited to size of your chosen breed. Ranges from 18"x24" to 30" x 36"
- Very few breeds should be housed on a solid floor surface
- Costs of Rabbits can vary
- Cost of feeds can vary
- A clean continuous water supply is needed
- Cages must always be out of the sun

Recommended Items

- Purchase a Rabbit Resource Book
- Attend the Holmes County Rabbit Clinic. "Bunny Day Camp" on 5/20/23 is strongly encouraged for education on basic care, housing, nutrition, & showmanship.



Exhibiting a Rabbit Project

- A 4-H member will be able to show rabbits in pet, showmanship, breed show and costume class for both rabbit and exhibitor.
- Showmanship is a recommended class as it shows what you have learned during the project. It is encouraged, but not required.
- Pet rabbit projects have their own show and cannot compete in showmanship.
- **Market projects need to weigh 3.5lbs to 5.5lbs.** They can be no smaller than 3.0 lbs. to be accepted as a fair exhibition. Any animals who do not meet this requirement will be sent home.

Items needed for the fair:

- Must provide your own waterer
- Show box that locks to keep your supplies in
- Feeder, feed tub or pan
- Brushes
- Spray bottle
- Shampoo
- Shavings
- Floor mat is optional but recommended as the floor in the Livestock Building is slippery

The Holmes County Fair Book lists all exhibition rules & requirements

Dress code: White, long-sleeved shirt or lab coat. Pants with no holes. No open toed shoes.

Possession/Breeding Dates

- **Breeding/Pet:** 4-H members must own no later than June 1, 2023
- **Market:** Does cannot be bred earlier than April 17, 2023
- Age limit for a fryer is 12 weeks, and does **MUST NOT** be bred earlier than 115 days before the show.