

## Rabbit Exhibitor Info

### WELCOME TO THE RABBIT PROJECTS

We have attempted to make the rules as simple as we can but have discovered that some questions come up each year. If you still have questions, please feel free to call one of the 4-H Rabbit Committee members below. This includes help with breeding, sexing, tattooing, diseases, etc. If your rabbit should die before the fair, please contact the 4-H Rabbit Committee.

### RABBIT COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Preston Simmons	937-481-1412
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- **We encourage everyone to follow the Greene County Rabbit Committee on Facebook. We will keep posting updates to the fair and any potential schedule changes there. This form of communication allows us to reach everyone faster. All date changes and updates will also be sent to the extension office and individual clubs if Facebook is not an option for you.**

### Breeding Rabbits #225

1. You will need to learn a lot about rabbits in this project such as selection of breeds, breeding, raising, feeding, tattooing, marketing, fur conformation, and many other interesting factors involved with the rabbit industry. It is advisable to be involved in other educational opportunities that are made available for a person to be successful regarding the raising and showing of rabbits. Clinics are made available throughout the year for individuals to attend to have many of the specific skills necessary in the production of rabbits and rabbit showmanship.
2. All exhibitors taking project 225 will need to secure book #225 Breeding Rabbit Project and Record Book. Only exhibitors taking a market project, meat pens, or single fryer will need to secure book #226, Market Rabbit Project and Record Book. It is recommended that all exhibitors have access to the Rabbit Resource Handbook.

### Market Rabbits #226

This is a standalone project and does not have to be taken in conjunction with #225. First year exhibitors ARE ALLOWED to take this project. **Exhibitors may breed OR purchase a meat pen.** If purchased, the rabbits must be in possession by **July 12. We will hold a rabbit tag in on Saturday July 23rd from 9am-12pm for ALL meat pen and single fryer rabbits.** Rabbits **MUST** be brought to this tag in and tattooed by the Rabbit Committee in order to be shown at the Greene County Fair. Rabbits not tagged in by the Rabbit committee on this date **WILL NOT** be allowed to be entered into the Greene County Fair Show. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Only one Meat Pen and one Single Fryer may be entered by a single exhibitor. An exhibitor may tag in a maximum of eight rabbits.

### Pet Rabbits #227

1. Exhibitors may enter one rabbit and will show against other Pet Rabbits. Pet Rabbit Exhibitors may only enter this class, and the rabbit is required to stay at fair all week long, as well as participate in pre-fair judging. It is not mandatory for the pet rabbit to be entered in the Pet Rabbit Class at fair. Any rabbit entered the Pet Rabbit Class is not eligible for Best in Show. Judge will pick a Best Pet Rabbit Class rabbit. **Only Pet Rabbits may be entered into this class, whether they have a pedigree or not.** Pet Rabbit exhibitors will need to secure book #227.

**Quality Assurance is MANDATORY for ALL exhibitors.** You must have completed Quality Assurance in order to be eligible to show your animal at the fair.

### Birth Rabbit Dates for 2021 Fair

- Meat Pen and Single Fryer = 5/22/2022
- Seniors = 11/30/2022 and earlier
- 6/8 = 12/01/21 – 01/31/22
- Juniors = 02/01/22 - 05/01/22
- Pre-Juniors = 05/2/22 and after

- Fancy D&L = 06/05/22 - 06/19/22
- Commercial D&L = 05/22/22 - 06/19/22
- Matching Breeding Pair = 02/01/22 and earlier

#### WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE FAIR:

1. At check-in time, you will be assigned a cage and your rabbit will stay in this cage during the fair. The committee members will check rabbits for obvious health problems and a veterinarian will be asked to check rabbits of serious concern. Any rabbit not acceptable will be required to go home in order to prevent infecting other rabbits. There will be a **mandatory exhibitors meeting containing announcements at 6:30 p.m. the day of check-in**. If you cannot attend check in or the exhibitor meeting, please contact a rabbit committee member to make other arrangements.
2. To keep your rabbits cool, you can provide them with a plastic bottle that has been filled 3/4 with water and then frozen.
3. **Cages are to be cleaned once a day, every day by 2:00 p.m. Dirty bedding is to be deposited in the designated pile outside. Only bedding made of pine shavings is acceptable. There are no exceptions to these rules.** Clean the aisles in front of your cages. There are brooms, dust pans, and trash cans available for this. Please don't put paper or other trash in these cans. Rabbits are to be fed daily and watered at least twice a day (morning and night). Remember crocks only. Remember to always keep aisles clean and free of clutter.
4. **The day of the show, stay out of the barn until your class is called.** Being in the aisles during the show makes it hard for those trying to show their rabbits. Don't worry! We will NOT judge a class until all the rabbits are there. If you have other commitments during your show time, please ask a teen leader or one of the committee members to get your rabbit to the table. Please do not ask your parents to show your rabbit. Most of you will get your rabbit out of its cage and bring it to the table. You may stand behind your rabbit as it is being judged. Listen to the judge's comments. They will give useful information for improvement. You can use this information to breed better rabbits. Be a good sport.
5. **Showmanship** – Check calendar for this date.
6. **Rabbit Judging-** Check calendar for this date- simultaneously as Showmanship. Please do not worry about doing both contests. The committee will ensure every participant is able to take part in each contest. We will not use live animals for rabbit judging. Photographs or live animals of different breeds will be judged. If live rabbits are not available, we will be using pictures showing three different views of each rabbit: side view, top view, and back view of three different rabbits of the same breed. Each participant will have six minutes with each breed. Each participant will judge the class of rabbits as a judge would and place them 1st – 3rd.
7. Exhibitors wishing to compete for the Champion Exhibitor award will need to participate in showmanship and rabbit judging contest to be eligible. The scores from class placing, showmanship, rabbit judging contest, and skill-a-thons are used to determine the Champion Exhibitor.

**Optional Registration** – Exhibitors (or a representative) will be able to register all rabbits that will be exhibited at the Greene County Fair on **June 5, 2022 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** All registration containing breed, age and sex will be completed at this time. Tattooing will be offered by the Rabbit Committee during this time. Rabbits previously tattooed need not be physically brought on this date; *just rabbits needing tattooing*. Rabbits needing to be tattooed by the committee will be charged 1.00 per rabbit at the time of tattooing. Checks may be made payable to Greene County Fair Rabbit Committee. **If exhibitors are unable to attend registration session, work with the Rabbit Committee or Extension Office prior to July 12. This will be the final date to enter pen assignments into fair entry. Meat Pens and Single Fryers will be tattooed at the July 23 tag in day. You may also bring in additional rabbits that need tattooed in the 23rd as well.**

Exhibitor's fair grade will be determined by:

1. All rabbits must be of purebred pedigreed stock except Pet Rabbit Class.
2. Exhibitors must fulfill the number of projects suggested for each project number.
3. All rabbits must be tattooed prior to fair check-in.
4. All check-in and check-out procedures followed.
5. Proper care, feeding, and cleaning of cages and aisles done according to Rabbit Committee

specifications throughout the week of fair.

6. All registration materials turned in by established date.
7. All “thank you” cards completed

For any small doe and litters, chicken wire must be used on cages to prevent rabbits from getting out.

### Rule Reminders

1. No drinking bottles – crocks only
2. Frozen cooling bottles are permitted
3. No re-weighs for meat pens or single fryer
  - a. Can weigh-in four rabbits only
  - b. Four rabbits are meat pen and single fryer or meat pen and declare single fryer out of your meat pen.
4. All rabbits, except for pet class, must be a recognized ARBA breed. There is no mixed breed class at the Greene County Fair.
5. Use pine shavings for bedding

### RABBIT CALENDAR

January 31	Rabbit Scholarship Applications due to OSU Extension Office by 4:00pm
May 29	Rabbit Royalty Applications due to OSU Extension by 4:00 p.m.
June 5	Rabbit Registration/Tattooing & Clinic 9:00am-12:00pm
June 23	Royalty Judging
July 15	All entries (pen assignments) completed through Fair Entry
July 10 & 11	Skillathons, check calendar for times
Saturday July 30	Rabbit Check in, 9:00-12:00 p.m.
Saturday July 30	Exhibitors Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Weigh-in, starts at 7:00 (single fryers, meat pens) followed by pictures
Sunday July 31	Rabbit Showmanship, Following Show Rabbit Judging Contest, Following Show
Monday August 1	Rabbit Show, 8:30 a.m. Awards presented immediately following show
Wednesday, August 3	Costume Contest Show, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, August 5	Meat pen sale, 6:30 p.m., Goat barn, Champion Project awarded during sale
Saturday, August 6	Rabbits released 6:00 p.m., except Meat pens which are released after the sale

**NOTICE:** If you cannot get your rabbits between 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Saturday, please have someone else get them. The people who tear down the cages need to start as soon as they can! If rabbits are left after 8:00 p.m. on August 5th, the exhibitor will be ineligible to show any livestock the following year.

**Quality Assurance is MANDATORY for ALL exhibitors.** You must have completed Quality Assurance in order to be eligible to show your animal at the fair.

Any youth exhibitor who wins an award, either trophy or rosette, or who will be selling a meat pen of rabbits, will need to turn in “thank you” notes to Jr. Fairboard Members by posted date.

### MEAT PEN

It is recommended that each 4-H'er contact at least two prospective buyers (family, friends, local businesses). Enclosed is a sample letter for you to rewrite appropriately and send to prospective buyers. Doing this should help to increase the selling price of your animals at the auction. **Prepare a sign thanking those who bought your pen at last year's fair.**

**BUYERS ARE INVITED TO ENJOY A TASTE OF RABBIT THE DAY OF THE SALE AT THE RABBIT BARN.**

BUYER LETTER  
YOUR NAME ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE, ZIP  
DATE  
To: Business or Person

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a 4-H member asking for your support at the **2019 Greene County Jr. Fair Market Rabbit Sale**. The Jr. Fair Rabbit Meat Pen Sale will be held during the Greene County Fair on **Friday, August 5, 2022**.

Purchasing a Market Rabbit Meat Pen is an excellent way to support the 4-H Program and advertise your business or yourself, county wide.

Below is the information you will need to know to purchase rabbits at the 4-H Rabbit Sale:

1. Arrive early and register for a buyer's number. Numbers can be obtained at the Junior Fair Sales Office.
  2. We encourage you to work with other individuals or businesses to buy as groups. This will help those who may not have enough funds to participate as individuals.
  3. The Rabbit Sale will be conducted by a licensed Auctioneer, the same as any public auction.
  4. A Rabbit Meat Pen consists of 3 fryer size rabbits weighing about 3.5 – 5.5 lbs. each.
  5. Once you have made a purchase, you will have the following choices.
    - a. Let the 4-H'er keep the animals.
    - b. Take the live animals home.
  6. Return to the building you received your buyer's pass in to pay for your purchase with cash or check.
- Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and I hope to see you at the 2021 Greene County 4-H Rabbit Sale.

Sincerely,

This letter was written with the assistance of the Greene Co. 4-H Rabbit Committee.

If after reading this letter you still have questions or concerns about anything regarding rabbit projects and the Greene County Fair, please do not hesitate to contact one of the committee members listed on the first page of this Exhibitor letter or the Greene County Extension office. We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2021 Greene County Fair.

Sincerely,  
Greene County Rabbit Committee