

2024 RABBIT RULES

Any/all pre-fair requirements (i.e. QA, pictures, pen assignments, etc.) MUST be completed by posted due date(s). Failure to complete any/all requirements, as required, will result in the exhibitor not being allowed to bring, able to show and/or sell livestock projects.

The following rules shall be used to govern the rabbit events at the Greene County Fair. These rules are in conjunction with, and do not supersede, the general rules governing the fair established by the Senior Fair Board. If an incident occurs, either having a contradiction of rules or not having a rule covering the incident, the Rabbit Committee will resolve the conflict. All rabbit projects shown at the Greene County Fair (except for Pet Rabbit) must be purebred pedigreed American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) recognized.

These "Project Numbers" are to be used when you sign up for your Rabbit Projects.

All exhibitors may enter up to 20 classes. This maximum includes Pet Rabbit and Market Projects.

#225 – Breeding Rabbits - Exhibitors must secure all animals May 15. The only exclusions for this date are animals entered in Pre. Jr. Classes and the litters associated with the Doe and Litter class. Exhibitors will use book #225.

#226 – Market Rabbits – This is a stand-alone 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 13.** Only one Meat Pen, one Single Fryer and one single Roaster may be entered by a single exhibitor.

For the home-grown roaster class the Rabbit committee will be verifying with pictures of the doe and litter with visible tattoo numbers, pedigrees, and possible home visit. These Roasters will also have a **MANDATORY** tag in date of April 27 FROM 10-12 AT THE FAIRGROUNDS. You may bring up to 3 rabbits per exhibitor to this tag in. You will only be exhibiting 1 Roaster at the fair. **ROASTERS WILL WEIGH IN THIS YEAR AND MUST BE BETWEEN 6-9 POUNDS.** A home-grown form will be available from the extension office for this class. The form will be turned in at the tattooing date.

New for 2024 exhibitors will be able to sell a meat pen and a home-grown roaster if you choose to do so. You can still only sell up to 3 projects across all market projects.

#227 – Pet Rabbit – Only one rabbit is exhibited. Pet rabbit must come for pre-fair judging, but pet rabbit exhibitors may also enter their rabbit in the **PET RABBIT CLASS** at the fair. This is **not mandatory**, but if a member chooses to do this, **the rabbit must stay at the fair all week and must be tattooed if it will be entered in the Pet Rabbit Class.** Showmanship, judging, and royalty contests are open to the Pet Rabbit project; however, Pet Rabbit exhibitors are not eligible for the Champion Project. These rabbits can participate in Costume Contest. **Pet rabbits cannot be exhibited in the breeding class.**

All rabbit exhibitors are encouraged to have access to #228R, the Rabbit Resource Handbook.

*Exhibitors may show multiple rabbits within each age group in a particular breed. For example, you could show 2 junior bucks in the Mini Lop Breed. We are allowing this to accommodate more rabbits at the fair. This change does not affect Market Rabbit Rules. Exhibitors may still only enter ONE Meat Pen, ONE Single Fryer, and ONE Roaster.

Special Notes

1. All rabbit projects must be purebred pedigreed stock, except "Pet Rabbit" class.
2. Exhibitors should read and complete an appropriate project guide. The committee encourages exhibitors to include a pedigree for all rabbits. When a rabbit is purchased from a reputable breeder, they should receive a pedigree. For second year rabbits, members should be able to demonstrate the ability to make pedigrees for the rabbits they breed. Pedigrees could be required during check-in for any rabbits being shown in the breeding and market classes.
3. **All rabbits being purchased for use in the current membership year must be secured by May 15 except for meat pen rabbits and Pre Juniors which need to be secured by July 13.**
4. Proper care, feeding and cleaning of cages and aisles done according to Rabbit Committee specifications throughout the week of the fair. **Cages must be cleaned daily with PINE SHAVINGS OR PINE PELLETS.**
5. **New for the 2024 Fair year exhibitors will be eligible to sell a meat pen and a roaster if you choose to do so.**

Exhibitors wishing to privately sell rabbits will be permitted to advertise (by using signs and procedures established by the Rabbit Committee) **after the rabbit show**. Private sale rabbits **will not** be released until the general release time established by the Greene County Agricultural Society.

Fair Exhibit Classes

*All of these classes marked with an asterisk may be obtained from the doe and litter class. Ages are determined on the day of the fair check-in.

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| * Pre-Jr. Buck | Male animal up to 3 months of age |
| * Pre-Jr. Doe | Female animal up to 3 months of age |
| Jr. Buck | Male animal between the age of 3 to 6 months |
| Jr. Doe | Female animal between the age of 3 to 6 months |
| 6-8 Buck | Male animal between 6 to 8 months |
| 6-8 Doe | Female animal between 6 to 8 months |
| Sr. Buck | Male animal 8 months of age or older |
| *Sr. Doe | Female animal 8 months of age or older |
| * Meat Pen (Commercial Breeds Only) | Consists of three animals of the same breed and color, each weighing between 3.5 and 5.5 pounds and not over 69 days of age. To be the most competitive, the meat pens should be uniform in weight, size, and condition as possible. |
| * Pet Rabbit | One Rabbit only. You must be taking Pet Rabbit Project #227. Rabbit stays in barn all week like the other rabbit projects. |
| * Single Fryer | One animal weighing between 3.5 to 5.5 lbs. and not over 69 days of age. |
| Roaster | One animal weighing between 6 to 9 lbs. and not over 6 months. Must be homegrown and raised by the Exhibitor. |

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| Doe and Litter (No nest boxes allowed) | Fancy and Commercial Doe and Litters must be at least 8 weeks old up to 10 weeks old. To be most competitive, the litter should be uniform in size, weight, and condition. A commercial litter should consist of at least 4 kits. Small breed doe and litters should consist of at least 2 kits and must have additional containment wire around the lower perimeter of the cage to prevent kits from exiting the cage. |
| Matched Breeding Pair | This pair is to be at least 6 months of age or older. Members are to choose a Buck and Doe that they think would produce a good litter if the best qualities of both rabbits were combined. |

Rules:

1. **Securing Rabbits for Breeding Rabbit Project #225** – Rabbits must be secured by the Exhibitor by **May 15 of the participating year to be eligible for county fair competition with the exception of: Pre-Jrs. , and Litters exhibited as part of the Doe and Litter which must be bred and raised by exhibitor.** Due to death or disability of animal, members may substitute until mandatory registration. **Exhibitors will be allowed to replace one class after registration deadline.**
2. **Mandatory Registration** – Exhibitors (or a representative) will be required to register **all** rabbits that will be exhibited at the Greene County Fair on a date held in early July (check calendar), at which time, all registration paperwork containing breed, age and sex will be completed. There will be no additional entries after this date. All rabbits **must** be tattooed by this date or they may be brought to the a Tag-in and Clinic for tattooing put on by the Rabbit committee in July (check calendar). Rabbits previously tattooed need not be physically brought on this date; *just rabbits needing tattooing.*
3. **Tattooing** – All rabbits, except kits (babies), being exhibited at fair are to be permanently ear tattooed in the left ear *prior to being taken to the county fair.* All rabbits except Meat Pens, Single Fryers, and Pre-Jrs **may** be tattooed at the **JULY** Tag-in and Clinic. For 2024 this date will be July 13th. This will occur from 9 until noon at the fairgrounds.
4. **Rabbit Sales** – Only Commercial Rabbit Meat Pens will be sold in the Junior Fair Livestock Sale. 4-H and FFA members are to indicate by 12:00 noon following show of fair week if they do not wish to sell their Meat Pen or Roaster. Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Meat Pens and Roasters must be sold. Meat pens and Roasters must be weighed on Saturday after check-in starting at 3:30pm. Tattoos will be verified at this time. A total of four rabbits will be allowed to weigh for Meat Pen and Single Fryer classes. Only 1 Roaster may be weighed in. Any unnatural forced consumption of water, feed, or other substance will be subject to disqualification. **There will be no re-weighs.** Any rabbit being sold through the Junior Fair Sales may be requested to provide a pedigree to the buyer at the time of the sale.
5. **Equipment** – Watering/feeding crocks (no hanging water bottles permitted) and bedding (**pine shavings or pine pellets ONLY, no straw or cedar shavings allowed**) must be provided by the exhibitor. It is suggested that heavy (ceramic) crocks be used to maintain clean hutches and adequate water/feed for the rabbits. No nest boxes allowed. **False bottoms are MANDATORY for each rabbit cage at the fair.** False bottoms are available for rental at the fair.
6. **Clothing** – Members exhibiting rabbits or competing in any rabbit contest are expected to wear white long-sleeved shirts, white show coats, or a button-down show shirt with a show type apron along with jeans and closed toed shoes. T-Shirts are not permitted under the show aprons.
7. **Securing Cages**-Exhibitors may choose to secure rabbit cages with zip ties(preferred), key locks, or combination locks for the safety of their animals. The Rabbit Committee reserves the right to open the cage via any means necessary including removal of any locks if the safety or welfare of the animal is in question and we are unable to contact the exhibitor.

Commercial Breeds: Americans, Crème D'Argent, Angora (Giants), Flemish Giant, Beveran, Hotot, Californian, Lop (English), Champagne D'Argent, Lop (French), Checkered Giant, New Zealand, Chinchilla (American), Palomino, Chinchilla (Giant), Satin, Cinnamon, Silver Fox, or any other breed sanctioned by ARBA.

Fancy Breeds: American Fuzzy Lop, Havana, American Sable, Himalayan, Angora (English), Jersey Wooly, Angora (French), Lilac, Angora (Satin). Lop (Holland), Belgian Hare, lop (Mini), Britannia Petite, Mini Rex, Chinchilla (Standard), Netherland Dwarf, Dutch, Polish, Dwarf Hotot, Rex, English Spot, Rhinelander, Florida White, Silver, Harlequin, Silver Marten, Tan, Lionhead, Czech Frosty, or any other breed sanctioned by ARBA.

RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST

Procedure: The contest will be conducted and scored according to state 4-H standards. Helpful information can be found in the Rabbit Resource Book and in the ARBA Standard of Perfection (available from the American Rabbit Breeders Association).

Rules:

1. Open to any 4-H or FFA member with a rabbit exhibit at the Greene County Fair.
2. Contestants must wear long sleeved shirts, show coats, or a button-down show shirt with a show type apron, No T-Shirts.
3. Contestants must stay out of the contest area until they compete.
4. There will be three divisions: Beginning (ages 8-10), Intermediate (11-13), and Advanced (14 and up). Note: Age is as of January 1 of the current calendar year.

RABBIT JUDGING CONTEST

Guidelines and Rules:

1. Open to any 4-H or FFA member who has a rabbit exhibit at the Greene County Fair.
2. All contestants must sign up before the contest begins.
3. The person in charge of the contest can excuse a contestant or place them any place in the order of judging to prevent conflict with other departments.
4. The objective is to judge each rabbit like a rabbit show judge would do. Mark the score sheet for each rabbit, placing each rabbit lettered A, B, C and D in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place. Sign your sheet and turn it in to the person in charge. Contestants must write legibly.
5. The correct answer will be determined by the visiting judge.
6. We may use live animals. Multiple breeds may be judged. If live animals are not available, we will be using pictures showing 3 views of each rabbit: side view, top view, and back view of four different rabbits of the same breed.
7. The contest will be in an area with **different breeds** or the **rabbit's pictures**. Each contestant will have up to 3 minutes to place in the class.
8. One person, the timer, will signal time to start judging. The timer will also give a warning when there is twenty (20) seconds remaining.
9. No contestant is allowed in the judging area prior to having judged the animals.
- a. Divisions: Beginning (age 8 -10), Intermediate (age 11-13), and Advanced (age 14 and up). Note: Age is as of January 1 of the current calendar year.

Rabbit Costume Contest

1. Contestant must be a 4-H or FFA member and must show an exhibited rabbits at the Greene County Fair
2. You must sign up in advance of the contest. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the Rabbit Barn.
3. Will take place on Wednesday of fair week at 7:00 pm. following the Pee Wee Showmanship.
4. An exhibitor may dress up only one single rabbit.

5. Rabbit costumes may be purchased or homemade. Contestants can dress up to match their rabbit.
6. Costumes MUST be appropriate, which is determined by the committee.
7. The committee will provide an uneven number of judges.
8. Awards will be awarded after the contest.

Pee Wee Showmanship

1. This is open to any child ages 4-9 not enrolled in 4-H. Cloverbuds are permitted.
2. This will take place on Wednesday at the fair at 6pm.
3. There will be a liability waiver in the fair book that needs to be turned into the committee prior to the show.
4. There will be a sign-up sheet posted in the barn. The sign-up sheet will be removed at 8pm on Tuesday night.

Birth Rabbit Dates for 2024 Fair

- Meat Pen and Single Fryer = 5/19/2024
- Roasters= 01/29/24- 04/28/24 with a maximum weight of 9 pounds, Must be at least 3 months old.
- Seniors = 11/28/2023 and earlier
- 6/8 = 11/29/23 – 01/28/24
- Juniors = 01/29/24 - 04/28/23
- Pre-Juniors = 04/05/24 – 06/01/24
- Fancy D&L = 05/19/24 - 06/01/24
- Commercial D&L = 05/19/24 - 06/01/24
- Matching Breeding Pair = 01/29/24 and earlier

Recommended Breeding Dates for Meat Pens and Single Fryers

- 4/19/2024: This is 100 days prior to the show day. Remember that each individual rabbit must weigh between 3.5 and 5.5 pounds. Any under or overweight rabbits will be ineligible for placing in the show.