
RABBITS

Rabbits Judged: Saturday, August 1, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Rabbit Superintendent: Kelsey Horst

Show in Sheep Barn

Decisions made by the superintendents will be final.

RABBIT RULES

Illinois Health Requirements for Rabbits

There are no requirements governing the movements of rabbits within or into Illinois.

1. Appropriate attire is expected at the show table and in the sale ring. Safety should be considered – long sleeves are recommended.
2. **Due to the possibility of rabbit and poultry overheating, exhibitors are to bring water dishes/bottles so their animals will have water available at all times.**
3. Exhibitors may enter up to 2 rabbits per class with a maximum of 6 rabbits but should make special note of rule #4.
4. ***4-H members are limited to receive one premium per class exhibited in premium eligible projects. Example: If a 4-H'er has 2 rabbits they exhibit in class 152 Small Breed Sr. Buck, the 4-H'er will only receive one premium for that class. This rule was established by the Agriculture Premium Fund.***
5. Rabbits will be checked in between 9:15 and 9:45 a.m. on Saturday.
6. Rabbits may be shown in 1 of 3 classifications (Large Breed, Small Breed or Pet/Mix Breed.) Large Breed and Small Breed are to be purebred animals.
7. For the Small Rabbit Breeds the classes will be divided by Jr. Rabbits shall be under 6 months of age and Sr. Rabbits shall be 6 months and over.
8. For Large Rabbit Breeds the classes will be divided by Jr. Rabbits under 6 months of age, Intermediate Rabbits 6-8 months of age and Sr. Rabbits over 8 months of age (as of the day of show).
9. Pet class will be judged on the condition of the animal and the owner's knowledge of rabbit care. These animals **will not be** eligible for Grand Champion Rabbit of Show.
10. Rabbits entered in Large and Small Breed and Meat Pen classes must have a tattoo in the left ear prior to check in. Tattoo may be permanent or written with permanent marker. Tattoo number will be recorded at check in.
11. Rabbits entered in the Pet class may need a temporary tattoo (marker) placed in the left ear at check in for identification purposes during the show.
12. Only rabbits entered in the fair will be allowed on the fairgrounds. Rabbits 4-H'ers wish to sell must be exhibited in the 4-H Rabbit Show. No extra rabbits are allowed on fairgrounds.
13. All pens are to be cleaned and stacked neatly before leaving for home. Cleaning up the pens is the responsibility of the exhibitors.
14. Due to the possibility of rabbits overheating, exhibitors are to bring water dishes/bottles so their animals will **have water available at all times.**
15. Exhibits will be released after the completion of rabbit judging.
16. All exhibitors are responsible for carrying their rabbit(s) to and from the judging table. Only exhibitors may place rabbits on the table, no adults or parents.
17. Meat pen shall consist of 3 rabbits of the same breed and color. They must be less than 10 weeks of age

and weigh a minimum of 3 pounds and a maximum of 5 pounds each. They cannot be entered in other classes. Meat pen rabbits should be from stock bred and raised by the exhibitor, and in their possession by June 1, 2026.

18. Exhibits will be released after the completion of rabbit judging. All used pens are to be stacked neatly in the dirty cage pile before leaving for home.
19. Both the meat pen exhibits at the fair, and the Grand Champion Rabbit of Show and the Reserve Grand Champion of Show will be eligible for the Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction, and they will retain ownership.
20. Production Class consists of a doe and two offspring from the same litter. Babies must be at least 8 weeks old and not more than 4 months old. These rabbits should be from stock bred and raised by the exhibitor and in their possession by June 1.
21. 4-H Premiums paid will be using an X factor. Premium values will be:
Blue: 5X, Red: 4X, and White: 3X
22. Rabbits entered in Large and Small Breed classes will be judged according to the ARBA Standard of Perfection.

Small Rabbit Breeds

American Fuzzy	Lop
American Sable	Lionhead
Belgian Hare	Mini Lop
Britannia Petite	Mini Rex
Dutch	Mini Satin
Dwarf Hotot	Netherland Dwarf
English Angora	Polish
English Spot	Rex
French Angora	Rhineland
Florida White	Satin Angora
Harlequin	Silver
Havana	Silver Marten
Himalayan	Standard Chinchilla
Holland Lop	Tan
Jersey Wooly	Thrianta
Lilac	

Large Rabbit Breeds

American	New Zealand
American Chinchilla	Palomino
Beveren	Satin
Blanc de Hoto	Silver Fox
Californian	
Champagne D'Argent	
Checkered Giant	
Cinnamon	
Crème D'Argent	
English Lop	
Flemish Giant	
French Lop	
Giant Angora	
Giant Chinchilla	
Hotot	

Members showing rabbits, for the first time, are required to participate in the Quality Assurance & Ethics training via Zsuite to be eligible to participate in the 4-H Fair.

4-H RABBIT CLASSES

- 150 Pet Class – Buck or Doe** (see rule 10)
- 151 Production Class** (see rule 21)
- 152 Small Breed Sr. Buck** - 6 months and over
- 153 Small Breed Sr. Doe** - 6 months and over
- 154 Small Breed Jr. Buck** – under 6 months of age
- 155 Small Breed Jr. Doe** – under 6 months of age
- 156 Large Breed Sr. Buck** – over 8 months day of show
- 157 Large Breed Sr. Doe** – over 8 months day of show
- 158 Large Breed Intermediate Buck** – 6 to 8 months
- 159 Large Breed Intermediate Doe** – 6 to 8 months

- 160 Large Breed Jr. Buck – under 6 months of age
- 161 Large Breed Jr. Doe – under 6 months of age
- 162 Meat Pen – Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion pens may be auctioned. (See rule 18)

Junior Rabbit Showmanship (11 and under)

Intermediate Rabbit Showmanship (12 – 14 years)

Senior Rabbit Showmanship (15 -18 years)

RABBIT CHAMPIONS

4-H

Champion Pet Rabbit	Rosette
Res. Champion Pet Rabbit	Rosette
Champion Large Rabbit	Rosette
Res. Champ Large Rabbit	Rosette
Champion Small Rabbit	Rosette
Res. Champion Small Rabbit	Rosette
Champion Production	Rosette
Grand Champion Meat Pen	Rosette
Reserve Grand Champion Meat Pen	Rosette
Grand Champion Rabbit of Show	Award
Res. Grand Champion Rabbit of Show	Rosette
Senior Showmanship: 15 years & over	Award
Reserve Senior Showmanship	Rosette
Intermediate Showmanship: 12-14 years	Award
Reserve Intermediate Showmanship	Rosette
Junior Showmanship: 11 years & under	Award
Reserve Junior Showmanship	Rosette

The Department of Agriculture shall use its best efforts to secure sufficient appropriations to fund premiums. In any year for which the General Assembly of the State of Illinois fails to make an appropriation sufficient to pay such premiums, premiums amounts may not be accurately reflected in this Premium Book.