

Jasper County 4-H FAQ sheet – Rabbits

General Information

Enrollment

- Enroll at 4h.zsuite.org by March 15
- For more information about enrollment in the Jasper County 4-H program, please contact the Jasper County Extension office

Fair Entry

- Opens May 1
- Go to fairentree.com to register for specific classes
- If you are unsure if you will be showing, go ahead and register for the class—it is easier to scratch than add after the show starts
- All entries should be submitted by May 15

*General-project guidelines updated in March—4-H Handbooks can be viewed online at <https://extension.illinois.edu/cefj/4-h-jasper-county> under the Fairs and Shows tab.

Project Guidelines

Check guidelines for your project in the 4-H Handbook on the Jasper County 4-H website at <https://extension.illinois.edu/cefj/4-h-jasper-county> under the Fairs and Shows tab.

Ownership, and Tagging Deadlines

- All livestock and small animals must be owned by April 30
- Animals exhibited at the Illinois State Fair have specific birth & ownership dates; you must follow guidelines listed under the **Illinois State Fair Junior Show** section of the 4-H Handbook

Birthdates

- Jr Buck (Purebred & Crossbred) – born during current year
- Sr Buck (Purebred & Crossbred) – born prior to current year
- Jr Doe (Purebred & Crossbred) – born during current year
- Sr Doe (Purebred & Crossbred) – born prior to current year
- Market Pen – born within 12 weeks of the Rabbit Show

Show Requirements

- Exhibitors may enter no more than one entry per class
- Animals shown in breeding classes may not be part of a market pen exhibit
- Purebreds will be judged on the breed standard and crossbred animals will be judged on a meat standard
- Market pens will consist of 3 rabbits under 12 weeks of age

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Health Guidelines

- Go to the website provided in the back of the 4-H Handbook for a full list of requirements

Certified Veterinarian Inspection (CVI)

- To ensure rabbits are in appropriate condition for fair, a CVI is recommended but not required.
- Any rabbits not in appropriate condition may be disqualified

Records

- A livestock record must be up to date for each animal species and turned into the Extension office or emailed to turkal@illinois.edu by June 10.
- 4-H members that are also FFA members may use their SAE record books in place of the 4-H Livestock Record
- Livestock records can be found online at <https://extension.illinois.edu/cefi/4-h-jasper-county> under the Fairs and Shows tab, or can be picked up at the Extension office

Registration papers

- ARBA rules will be followed at the judge's discretion

QAEC

- Members enrolled in a Rabbit project must have completed the Quality Assurance and Ethics training at least one time in order to show
- This training can be completed online at web.extension.illinois.edu/qaec

4-H Shows

- Animals may return home after the 4-H Rabbit show is complete, or with approval, can stay on the fairgrounds in pens provided
- The 4-H member must show his/her own animal
- 4-H members may enter no more than one entry per class
- Members should be familiarized with ARBA standards
- Please visit edis.ifas.ufl.edu for a great reference including ARBA standards

Auction – Sponsored and hosted by the Jasper County 4-H Auction Committee

- The 4-H member must be present to sell their animal and are encouraged to arrive at least 1 hour prior to the auction
- Only Market Pen exhibits will be sold in the 4-H Auction
- There will be a \$5 auction fee for Rabbit projects. This fee is to be paid when registering for the auction at the conclusion of the 4-H Rabbit Show. Members who choose not to sell their animal will not be charged a fee.
- Please refer to the 4-H Livestock Auction section in the 4-H Handbook for a complete list of requirements and guidelines

****For a complete list of guidelines and rules, please check the Jasper County 4-H Handbook****

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Sept – December

- Submit previous year's records to the Extension office (permanent record, livestock record(s), Honor Member form, and general project form, if applicable); Deadline to submit records is Sept. 30
- Enroll in 4-H ZSuites
- Plans for breeding for Junior stock

Jan – Feb

- Plans for breeding for Market Pen stock (market pen exhibits must be 12 weeks of age and under for the show)

March – May

- Complete QAEC training online; QAEC **must** be completed (1 time, **not** yearly) once in order to show
- Ownership of Rabbits is required by April 30
- Register for 4-H show classes by May 15 at fairentury.com

June

- Fair clean-up (early June)
- State Fair Jr Show registration, must be signed by FFA or Extension staff by July 1
- Have Livestock record up to date and email to Katie at turkal@illinois.edu by June 10
- Weigh-in/4-H show/Auction/after fair clean-up

July – August

- Complete livestock records
- Cash checks from the 4-H Auction
- Send Thank You card (cookies, BBQ tickets, etc.) to Award donors and/or Auction buyers

*In order to advance to the Illinois State Fair for general projects, or to sell an animal at the 4-H Auction, members must attend a minimum of 2 meetings and 1 event. For clarification, please contact your 4-H Leader or the Jasper Co.

Extension office*

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Helpful Hints to make your show year a success!

- Wear show-appropriate clothing
 - Close toed shoes, preferably boots
 - Long pants
 - Short or long-sleeved shirts
 - No attire promoting business, companies or farm names
- Practice, practice, practice!
 - Work with your animal from beginning of ownership to the show/auction
 - Do a mock show at home with the help of family or friends
- Study up!
 - Reference your 4-H project book
 - Go to Livestock clinics/workshops
 - Check out YouTube videos of other rabbit shows
- Smile 😊
 - While showing, animals may be difficult—it is a new environment for many animals
 - Try to keep a positive attitude and have fun
 - Keep a relaxed smile as much as possible
 - Make eye contact with the judge (but don't try to start a staring contest)
 - Whenever possible, leave several feet between you and the handler in front of you
 - Calm confidence will be part of your overall presentation

Jasper County Extension contact information

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