

2026 JUNIOR FAIR RABBIT RULES

REGISTRATION

1. All animals must be registered by April 1st in order to participate at the fair. Complete registration is required. Please be sure to write neatly. Participant's name, breed of the rabbit, color, tattoo number, sex, and age of the animal must be included to best of knowledge. Please reference the American Rabbit Breeders Association Book of Standards to ensure you are selecting the proper color/class for your specific breed. Registration Forms must be fully updated at Skill-a-Thon.
2. Rabbit Check-In Required to be eligible for fair. Ear tattoo, variety and sex will be verified during check in. Rabbit Check-in can be done via:
 - A. Any Rabbit clinic held by the Trumbull County Rabbit Committee.
 - B. Skill A Thon
 - C. Virtually with Trumbull County Rabbit Committee members.
 - D. Market rabbits and Doe & Litters will have to check in virtually or home visit from a Rabbit committee member.
3. Rabbit sponsorships are due to Rabbit Committee by March meeting for returning members and April for new members. Sponsorship forms and money must be turned into Rabbit Committee only. Sponsorship forms can be obtained at clinics, from your advisor, and online. This money is to help with supplies, clinics, and awards for all of the counties Rabbit project youth.

General Rabbit Rules

1. All rabbits to be exhibited at Junior Fair must be registered at the 4-H office.
by April 1st. All rabbits exhibited at Junior fair must be owned by the exhibitor.

Registration information is as follows:

1. Age of Rabbit on the first day of the fair. If it is determined on the first day of the fair that a rabbit is overweight for its age group, the rabbit can be moved up a class. A rabbit cannot be moved down an age group.
2. Sex of rabbit
3. Breed and color or variety of the rabbit. Reference the American Rabbit Breeders Association Book of Standards for selecting proper color/variety and class for your breed.
4. Tattoo identification- all rabbits must have a permanent ear tattoo for Fair competition.
5. Indicate class which is based on rabbits age per ARBA Standard: Junior (under 6 months old), intermediate (6-8 months if rabbit breed is a 6 class), senior (6 months and over for 4 class, 9 months and over for 6 class) or doe and litter. If registering a back-up doe and Litter please mark as such on registration, Highly recommending to list a back up.

6. Mixed breeds, those far from standard and altered rabbits are highly suggested to be entered in the Utility/Altered class. No animal altered via banding will be able to show.
7. Back ups recommended for all projects. Please list on form incase of casualties.

2. Casualty Class- any Jr Fair Exhibitor who has registered only one rabbit whose rabbit dies or is diseased has until the first day of the Fair to re-register for the Casualty Class. . Casualty class is for grade only. Rabbits can be used in Showmanship but cannot be entered/shown in regular Junior Fair classes.

3. Exhibitors may use up to the following number of cages at the Fair.

A. First year-2 cages

- a. One Rabbit for Breed Show + One Meat Pen
- b. One Rabbit for Breed Show + One Fryer
- c. One Rabbit for Breed Show + One Roaster Pen
- d. One Rabbit for Breed Show + One Doe and Litter
- e. Two Rabbits for Breed Show

B. Second year and on- **Maximum of 5 pens per exhibitor**, provided pen space is available . One pen must be a Pet Rabbit. Only one Doe and Litter per Exhibitor- backups maybe listed on registration. Meat pen(s), Roaster pen(s) and Fryer(s) count towards pen total. **If extra pens are available Rabbit Committe will reach out to see if anyone would like more cages, please make sure those extras are on your registration forms turned in April 1.**

4. All rabbits will go through a health check prior to being put in a coop/cage. Health check station will be set up with designated dates and times posted on the Trumbull Rabbit Group Facebook page. The Rabbit committee will appoint people to perform health check.

- a. Any animal that shows any sign of illness will be sent home.
- b. If the rabbit is determined to be extremely dirty it will be sent home.
 - i. They should be brought in ready for the public to see and ready to show.

5. Exhibitors will furnish their own water and feed containers. Self-feeders that can be attached inside, crocks that are large enough so they will not be easily tipped and water bottle are all acceptable. Absolutely no Cool Whip or butter bowls. Water containers must be attached in way to keep from spilling. No locks on cages, zip ties are permitted. All totes in the storage room need a name and club name on them.

6. Each exhibitor is responsible for cleaning under their rabbits' cages each morning BEFORE 10:00 a.m. Jr. Fair exhibitors with Market Pen or Doe and Litter pens must clean their cages twice daily due to a higher number of rabbits in the cage. 4Her will be given 2 warnings, 3rd warning will also notify the advisor by a Rabbit committee member. If the cage is still not cleaned 4Her will not be able to bring Doe and litter or Market the following year.

7. Barn duty schedule will be posted in the barn at barn set up, listed by 4Her and created by Trumbull Rabbit Committee. Time slot sign up will be at skill a thon. Sheet with a list of responsibilities will be available. If you do not want your rabbit watered by whoever has barn duty please put a sign on the cage with a cell phone number you can be reached at.

8. Advisors and exhibitors will tentatively meet TBD by SR Fair at 9:00 a.m. to set up the Rabbit area. ALL TRAYS MUST BE EMPTIED AND WASHED ON SUNDAY NIGHT BEFORE LEAVING THE FAIRGROUNDS. Barn Clean up is Saturday following the fair, all cages will need cleaned and put away, storage room cleaned and closed up.

9. All rabbits must remain in place until time designated by the Sr. Fair Board on the last day of the Fair unless excused by the Vet. If there is an issue with a rabbit please reach out to a Rabbit Committee member or Rabbit Chair person to assist with getting aid to the barn. Any rabbits registered in Open Class must be released by Vet and Rabbit Chair.

10. All ARBA breeds are acceptable and there will be a class for each breed entered.

11. Utility/Altered Class will be used for all mixed-breed and Altered rabbits.

12. The Best and Reserve in Show placements (4 class, 6 class, Best in Show) will go to the two best animals. Not necessarily the opposite sex rabbit for Reserve.

13. All Junior Fair Participants are responsible for showing their own rabbits. If they are showing a project in another area they must make arrangements for another 4-H member, preferably from your club or Trumbull County 4Her, to show their rabbits.

14. ARBA licensed judge will be provided.

15. Project judging is required.

16. Doe and Litter projects must be 8-10 weeks old.

- a. Back-up Doe and Litter can be registered and is highly suggested, but only taken if the original Doe & Litter is Lost.
- b. Q&A must be completed to bring a Doe and Litter Project.
- c. List Doe under pet project registration in case there is no litter.
- d. Doe & Litter must be a single breed. Doe and Kits must be recognized ARBA breed or have an ARBA working standard. No Cross Breeds.

17. Please turn in all scratches, Market confirmations and Doe and Litter confirmations by Skill A Thon date.

18. Cages will be individually assigned for Doe and Litter and Market. Cages will be assigned by the Trumbull Rabbit Committee per club. Rabbit committee will try to keep

each club's rabbits together.

19. If assisting someone learning showmanship for supershowmanship please locate Eric, Charlene, Chelsea, Jennifer, or Cathy to have them demonstrate that they can safely flip the rabbit. They will receive a card to present at supershowmanship to use a real rabbit instead of stuffed or the judge flipping the rabbit for them.

MARKET

Market Rabbit Projects are offered to help members learn the science of raising a Market Rabbit Meat Pen, Roaster and/or Single Fryer. The project involves raising one or more litters to market weight. The main emphasis should be on the learning and development of the project, not using the project to make money.

Eligibility:

All First year members are eligible with proper guidance given. Up to 4 market animal projects are eligible to be exhibited and sold at the Livestock sale per Livestock Committee rules. Members are responsible for getting Livestock Sale Committee information by attending their meetings. All animals must be registered by April 1st, see general rabbit rules on registrations.

1. Meat pens must be a pen of three rabbits of the same breed or crossbreed and color/variety.

2. Meat pens and single Fryers must weigh 3.5-5.5 pounds (each rabbit) and be the maximum of 70 days old Wednesday of fair. Meat pens and Single Fryers over or underweight at weigh-in will go home from the weighing station.

3. Roaster Pen Rabbit Project is 2 rabbits that must weigh 5.5-9lbs each and no more than 6 months of age as of Wednesday of Fair. Roasters over or underweight at weigh-in will go home from the weighing station.

3. All Market Rabbit Projects will be weighed at time and date assigned by the Livestock Sale Committee. Weigh in will be conducted per livestock committee guidelines and by a certified weigh master. Weights will be recorded and turned into the livestock committee within 2 hours of weigh in.

4. An exhibitor may take up to 4 market rabbit projects to fair, please list as many as you may take in each group allowing for back up. All pens must be listed on registration. List what you may bring including back ups. Any questions please reach out to the Rabbit Committee.

5. Market rabbits must be selected from a litter raised from one or more does owned, cared for and registered with the Extension Office by the exhibitor.

- a. Rabbits must be a commercial breed. Suggested breeds are: Champagne D'Argent, Creme D'Argent, Californian, American Chinchilla, Cinnamon, New Zealand, Palomino, Satin, Argente Bruns, or a cross of any commercial breeds.
- b. Obtaining Stock: Breeding and rearing your own stock is required for our county. It is

strongly suggested to look for stock in the fall. Generally they are more affordable then. You may look on line or attend an ARBA sanctioned show and talk to breeders before purchase.

- c. Rabbit Committee reserves the right for virtual or physical home visit to verify Doe and project.

6. An exhibitor must enter an additional rabbit in the breed show to participate with a meat pen, roaster pen and/or Single Fryer project.

7. Market projects are only shown in their market class and can not be shown in breed class.

8. Judging will be based on meat type and guidelines as outlined by the ARBA.

9. All Market rabbits will be tattooed with numbers/letters assigned by the Rabbit Committee prior to coming to the fair.

10. All Meat pens must be sold through the Junior Fair Livestock Sale. The Livestock Sale Committee receives a commission of your sale price. If you pull a project there is a charge by the Livestock Sale Committee.

11. All Market Projects are self haul and must be removed by buyer or authorized representative. Rabbit committee will provide a list of processors for buyers to make arrangements with. We suggest this is listed in your buyers letters. Rabbits do not have to be processed.

12. Quality Assurance Certification is required.

13. All market 4-Hers must abide by livestock sale committee rules. All Livestock Sale Committee prefair requirements must be completed prior to fair. All other Livestock Sale Committee requirements must be met to receive a check from sale.

14. Market page portions of Rabbit project book must be completed and will be checked at Skill-A thon.

15. Market Rabbits will be sold in 3 categories. Sale order will be:

1. Market Pen
 - a. Grand Champion
 - b. Reserve Grand Champion
 - c. Followed by rest of Market Pens in order by show placement
2. Single Fryer
 - a. Grand Champion
 - b. Reserve Grand Champion
 - c. Followed by the rest of the Single Fryers in order by show placement
3. Roaster Pen
 - a. Grand Grand Champion
 - b. Reserve Grand Champion
 - c. Followed by rest of roasters in order by show placement.

SHOWMANSHIP

1. Showmanship is not required by the rabbit committee but should be encouraged. Clubs can make this a requirement in their rules. If you are showing elsewhere Rabbit Committee will work with you to get to participate as much as possible.
2. Parents or Advisors need to contact Rabbit Committee Chairs if they have a participant with a winning plan. Winning plans must be turned into the 4 H office by April 1st.
3. All exhibitors must show their own 4-H project animal in showmanship classes otherwise will be disqualified.
4. Animal may only be used 1x for safety of animal.
5. No kits (babies) from Doe & Litters may be used.
6. Rabbit being used will be declared at health check at fair.
7. The following age categories will be followed for showmanship classes based on 4H age:
 - a. Novice- All 1st year rabbit project members, regardless of age
 - b. Junior- All participants ages 9-12
 - c. Intermediate- All participants 13-15
 - d. Senior- All participants 16-18
8. All 4-Hers are to report at 1pm to check in area , they will remain there time on deck on deck will wait in the open cooping area till called to get rabbit and go to table. After their showmanship 4her will report to the designated area and remain till showmanship is over. We will try to have activities for after if you want something specific to have in the check in area prior to the show.
9. No phones, parents, or books in sight during the entirety of showmanship.
10. Dress Code:
 - a. Long sleeve shirt OR show/lab coat
 - b. Clean long pants with no holes
 - c. Closed toed shoes
 - d. Hair must be pulled back out of exhibitor's face
 - e. No sunglasses, hat, or Jewelry are permitted at the judge's table
11. Be sure animal is clean and nails are trimmed
12. If you win an award make sure to send a Thank You to the Sponsor. See rabbit committee if address is needed.

2026 Trumbull County JR Fair Rabbit King, Queen, Prince, Princess

Pre requisitions:

- Open to all 2nd year and beyond rabbit youth.
- Be in good standing with the club/organization.
- Not been awarded honor prior. If you win as Prince/Princess you will not be able to compete again till you reach King/Queen age group. Once you win King/Queen you will not be able to compete again.

Age groups: age as of January 1st

King and Queen: 15- 18 years old

Prince and Princess: 9- 14 years old

Position is from Fair 2025- Fair 2026

- Crowning is after showmanship at Fair.

Application Due: April 1, 2026 5pm @ OSU office

Interviews: May/June : Date to be posted on Rabbit Group Facebook May 1st and emailed to candidates by May 6, 2026

Responsibilities and Duties

- Attend a minimum of 3 fairs and/or ARBA shows to get ideas to bring back to Rabbit Committee. Ideally at least 4-5 ideas/info brought back to the county.
- Attend a minimum of 2 Rabbit Committee meetings.
- Assist at Clinics.
- Help with awards during the fair.

Scoring:

- Skill A Thon - out of 100 points
- Rabbit Clinic attendance 100 points total
 - 5 county clinics x 20 points a clinic
- Leadership - 25 points total
 - Held office 5 points
 - Community service 10
 - Leadership opportunities (presenter, counselor) 10 points
- Showmanship completed year prior 25 points
- Interview 50 points
- Total of 300 points.