

Section F – YOUTH RABBIT & CAVY SHOW

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A. RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All entries must be completed and submitted online by Friday, August 1, 2026, at 5:00 pm here:

<https://nysfys.fairwire.com/>

- a) For instructions on using the online entry system visit www.nysfair.ny.gov/competitions/how-to-enter/
 - b) All New York State Fair Dept 51 entries must be quality endorsed by a 4-H Cornell Cooperative Extension Youth Educator, or by an Agricultural Education (FFA) Advisor, or by an authorized representative of a qualified related youth organization before they can be accepted by the NYS Fair.
 - c) 4-H'ers are responsible for emailing their entry receipt to their County Educator and Department Superintendent. A directory of these contacts is located at www.nys4-h.org/new-york-state-fair
 - d) 4-H youth unable to qualify through their county due to illness, family travel, etc. should notify their CCE Educator as soon as possible of desire to qualify through other means. Non-4-H youth should contact the youth goat superintendent for other avenues of qualifying their animals for NYS Fair Youth Goats.
 - e) In no case will an entry be accepted after 5:00 p.m., on Friday August 7. In situations where Cornell Cooperative Extension entries cannot be finalized until after the State Fair ENTRY DEADLINE of Aug. 7 at 5:00 pm.
2. There is a limit of 15 total rabbits/cavies that can be exhibited per youth.
 3. In situations where Cornell Cooperative Extension entries cannot be finalized until after the State Fair entry deadline, ALL potential entries should be entered by the deadline, and the State Fair Entry Dept. should be notified of scratches prior to the start of the Fair.
 4. All Youth Rabbits and Cavies must conform to the rules and regulations of the Livestock Health Requirements as determined by the Department of Agriculture and Markets printed at the beginning of the catalog. All Youth Rabbits and Cavies must go through a compulsory health check at registration before they will be allowed to show.
 - a) Each animal only needs to be health checked once, upon arrival (unless the animal travels home and back for each day).
 - b) All rabbits and cavies must be health checked. 4-H standards of health may be stricter than American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) requirements.
 - c) Under adult supervision, youth may be health checking animals. These youth will be experienced rabbit raisers and have had prior training.
 - d) Animals not passing the health check will need to be housed in a specially designated area until it is possible to bring them home.
 - e) Health Checkers will be available according to the following SCHEDULE (please schedule your arrival accordingly):

Saturday 7:30-9:30 a.m.

Sunday 7:30-9:30 am

Animals arriving on Friday or Saturday night need to be placed in a specially designated area (NOT the same as the area housing animals that have passed the health check) until they can be health checked.

5. Rabbits and cavies must be brought to the fair in a suitable carrying case/cage. Each exhibitor must assume complete responsibility for his or her animal(s) while at the show. The State Fair or designated superintendent assumes no responsibility for animals brought to the show or exhibited.
6. Total State Fair Youth Rabbit and Cavy Events last two days. Exhibitors who wish to participate in events on both Saturday and Sunday may wish to house their rabbits and/or cavies overnight (Friday and Saturday night). Space is available in the Youth Tent, rabbits and cavies may be housed there overnight. Animal cages, feed, etc. are to be supplied by the exhibitors.
7. All Youth Rabbit and Cavy Events will be held in the Youth Tent. (This is not the Poultry Building where the Open Show Rabbits are housed.)

8. Only **exhibitors** will be allowed in the show tent during any event. Youth are expected to bring their own rabbits and cavies to the table for any contest/breed class. If they are already at one table during the breed show when a second animal of theirs is needed at another table, another youth should be asked to bring the second animal to the appropriate table.
9. Attire- for Showmanship- show coats are **not** required. Expected attire will include either a long sleeve show coat OR a collared white long-sleeved shirt. clean, tidy, pants and close toed sturdy footwear.
 . For Breed show and Knowledge competitions- casual, weather appropriate, attire that follows the 4H code of conduct is acceptable
10. Breed Show.
 - a) Rabbits and Cavies will be judged on the Danish System in each class, but American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) standards will be followed.
 - b) The Best of Breed and Reserve Best of Breed will be selected from the class winners. The owners of the Best of Breed winners are expected to bring their animal back to the show table at the completion of the judging for the selection of Best Reserve in Show and Best in Show.
 - c) Cavy exhibitors will be awarded ribbons on the Danish System (Blue, Red, White).
 - d) All exhibitors must register on the day of the show at the Youth Arena. **Tattoos in the left ear will be required. Tags required for cavies.**
 - e) The rabbit/cavy show will begin at 10 a.m. There will be **NO** "break" during the show. Breeds will be judged beginning with the most populous breed exhibited.
 - f) Rabbits housed and shown in Open classes may be shown in Youth classes but must comply with entry and registration procedures as stated above, and with Open Class rules.
12. More detailed information is posted on the Cornell University Animal Science Including guidelines for Market rabbit Showmanship Department website at <https://cals.cornell.edu/nys-4-h-animal-science-programs/companion-animals/rabbits-and-cavies>

B. EVENT SCHEDULE:

Saturday, September 5

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| 8:00 -9:30 a.m. | Registration for all classes (Rabbits & Cavies) |
| 10:00 a.m. | Breed class Judging Begins
Awards will be presented immediately following the show |
| 10:30a.m. | Showmanship Judging Begins - novice, junior, and senior divisions |
| TBD. | Hopping exhibition |

Sunday, September 6

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| 8:00 a.m. | registration begins |
| 9:00 a.m. | 4-H Rabbit Science Decathlon & Cavy Science Decathlon |
| 3:00 p.m. | Awards (unless otherwise announced during the Decathlon) |
| 5:00 p.m. | Youth Arena closes. All animals must be removed by 5:00 p.m.
State Fair is not responsible for anything remaining in building after 5:00 p.m. |

C. BREED SHOW CLASSES:

This show will be a DAY OF ENTRY showing. In order for a youth to participate in breed show classes, he/she **MUST BE ENTERED** by the August 7 deadline. The actual rabbits to be shown do not need to be entered until the day of the show. This will allow the youth to evaluate his/her rabbits and cavies closer to show day and decide which animals are in the best condition to bring to the fair. County requirements must be met where applicable. An estimated number of rabbits is appreciated. Entry estimates to include BREED, SEX, and AGE of each rabbit or cavy

The youth must be entered in class #710 Youth Rabbit Breed Show Exhibitor or #715 Youth Cavy Breed Show Exhibitor by August 1, 2025. All ARBA recognized breeds and varieties will be judged on Saturday, September 5th, , starting at 10:00 a.m.

Section FA- RABBIT CLASSES

to follow American Rabbit Breeders Association standards for each breed All breeds accepted.

Section FB – CAVY CLASSES:

To follow American Rabbit Breeders Association standards for each breed all breeds accepted

- a) Senior – over 6 months of age, or weight over 32 ounces
- b) Intermediate –up to 6 months of age, or weight over 22 ounces. maximum weight 32 ounces

- c) Junior – up to 4 months of age, minimum weight 12 ounces; maximum weight 22 ounces

Section FC – 4-H PET PROJECT RABBIT

This class is for 4-H project rabbits that are of unknown or mixed breed origin and which, therefore, cannot be shown in any of the purebred classes. Also open to pet rabbits with one or more disqualifications.

D Meat/ Market Rabbit classes – (Judged on meat production qualities) to follow American Rabbit Breeders Association standards. Not eligible for Best of Show. A Champion Market Rabbit (or pen) will be selected and a rosette ribbon awarded. Weight of the rabbit is very important in these classes. Be sure to weigh before making entries and follow the weight ranges by class. Mixed breed market animals may not be shown in a breed class. Market Rabbits do NOT need to be purebred they can be mixed.

- a. Meat Pen – Three young meat rabbits; weighing between 3.5 and 5.5 lbs.
 - i. Not over 10 weeks of age
 - ii. Uniformity is important – All three must be the same breed, color/variety, size/weight and fur type.
- b. Fryer –
 - i. A single young meat rabbit weighing between 3.5 and 5.5 lbs.
 - ii. Not over 10 weeks of age
- c. Roaster –
 - i. A single meat rabbit weighing between 5.5 and 9 lbs.
 - ii. Under 6 months of age
- d. Stewer –
 - i. A single meat rabbit weighing 8 lbs. or more.
 - ii. 6 months of age and older

E SHOWMANSHIP

To follow the American Rabbit Breeders Association showmanship scorecards for rabbits and cavy's respectively.

1. Novice division- 1st time showmanship competitors
2. Junior division- to follow 4h age guidelines 8-13 yrs
3. Senior division- to follow 4h age guidelines 14-19 yrs

F. RABBIT HOPPING

1st year trial exhibition to follow American Rabbit Hopping Association guidelines

Competition if entries allow – 5 rabbits minimum for competition

G. RABBIT EXHIBITS

1. Counties bringing educational posters, county banner, or other display items will be encouraged.
2. Additional tables and space will be available on a first come, first served basis

H. 4-H RABBIT AND CAVY SCIENCE Skillathon

*****New this year*****

**To help build our question bank, each participating county will be asked to submit 20–25 questions by August 1st Questions may be written by coaches, volunteers, or youth and must include the correct answer, reference source, and page number.

1. The written part of the contest based on Management and Achievement will be taken prior to the state fair between August 1 and August 15th.
 - a) ****Written Test- based on management and achievement**
 - b) Must be administered between August 1 and August 15 of current year by a 4-H Educator in a county office or a similar location proctored by a 4-H Educator or an approved staff person.

- c) Youth are not allowed to be assisted at any point for answer to questions by a coach, parent/adult, other youth, or county educator.
 - d) If a student needs to be read questions, an educator or another person that the educator deems appropriate may do so.
 - e) If the student must have a test printed and handwritten, that test must be scanned and sent directly to the NYS 4-H Youth Livestock Specialist prior to August 15th.
 - f) Youth cannot have any resources or other electronics with them during the test and must always stay within the test platform.
 - g) If other accommodations are needed, please have the 4-H Educator reach out the NYS 4-H Youth Livestock Specialist prior to August 5th so appropriate accommodations can be made by the August 15th deadline.
2. This contest will be conducted at six (6) stations. Refer to Cornell University Animal Science Website: <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/rabbits/index.html> for a description of subjects and topics addressed at each station. Station topics may include Anatomy & Physiology, Nutrition, Housing & Equipment, Health & Diseases, Terminology, Reproduction & Genetics, Breeds, Records & Management, Handling & Evaluation, Body Type using the American Rabbit Breeder's Association (ARBA) standards.
 3. **THE NYS 4-H RABBIT AND CAVY PROJECT RECORDS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE RECORDS STATION.** They are downloadable here: <https://cals.cornell.edu/nys-4-h-animal-science-programs/companion-animals/rabbits-and-cavies>
 4. This contest is open to all 4-Hers having any knowledge and/or interest of rabbits and cavyes. Entry will be in Novice, Junior or Senior divisions.
 5. **NOVICE** participants must be participating in the contest for the **very first time**. The **NOVICE** division is designed for exhibitors who are in their first year in the 4-H rabbit project regardless of age. The **NOVICE** division is available for any youth who meets the NYS Fair 4-H age eligibility criteria. **JUNIOR** division includes all eligible youth 14 and under as of January 1 of the current year. **SENIOR** division includes all eligible youth who are at least 15 and less than 19 as of January 1 of the current year.
 - a. All participants will be considered as "individuals" (they do not have to belong to a "team" to participate).
 - b. For these contests, a "team" is defined as a group of either three (3) or four (4) individuals whose contest scores will be considered as a "team score" to be determined by scores at the stations only. There will be NO team scenario station. Overall team awards may be presented if applicable. **ALL TEAMS SHOULD BE ORGANIZED IN ADVANCE OF THE COMPETITION, MULTI COUNTY TEAMS ARE ACCEPTABLE.** The three highest scores will be used.