



St. Joseph County, MI 4-H Rabbit Information and Reminders 2024



Some clubs are having meetings to practice showmanship, quiz questions, rabbit health and handling and skill-a-thon. As a countywide program, we will be holding a practice session every week until fair for anyone that would like to attend. Everyone is welcome. Below is a timeline of events. If you have questions or need information, please don't hesitate to contact me or the assistant Superintendents. **Read all the way through because there is IMPORTANT INFORMATION THAT YOU MUST KNOW.**

Heather Teadt	269-625-6266	Superintendent
Nancy Mangus	269-760-8808	Asst. Superintendent
Kaley Thornburgh	269-760-2975	Asst. Superintendent

***ALL MEMBERS WILL NEED TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN RABBIT FEED**

Thursday, August 1st @Adams Park in Centreville

6:00-7:00 p.m. Pre-Fair Meeting & Practice Session

(Hosted by all 3 Rabbit Superintendents)

This is for members, parents and leaders. It will be held under the grandstand at the fairgrounds. We will have a practice session for skill-a-thon, showmanship and quiz questions for members on one end and the Meeting on the other end. We would encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to learn and be part of the "Crew" it takes to pull this off every year.

Wednesday, August 7th

@ Fairgrounds, Near Rabbit Barn

5:00-7 :00 p.m. Tattoo Rabbits (1st opportunity)

BRING A TOWEL WITH YOU so that you can wrap your rabbit up while we tattoo. Each member should have their own towel in order to prevent possible transmission of any parasites/diseases.

This will take place near the Rabbit barn on the fairgrounds. Each market rabbit and breeding stock rabbit must have a tattoo in its left ear to attend fair. If your breeding stock already has a tattoo, you do not need to bring it with you, but you must come and register it. Each member can register 6 market rabbits and 6 breeding stock rabbits. Market rabbits will be cross-tagged for each family member that lives in the same household. We are allowing each member to bring a meat pen and 2 breeding stock if they would like. We want to fill our barn and have lots of participation. Breeding stock rabbits are 1 per class, so you can't have 2 senior bucks or whatever that may be. For clarification, please ask.

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Sunday, August 11th

@ Fairgrounds, Near Rabbit Barn
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Tattoo Rabbits
(LAST OPPORTUNITY)

BRING A TOWEL WITH YOU so that you can wrap your rabbit up while we tattoo. Each member should have their own towel to prevent possible transmission of any parasites or diseases.

This will take place near the Rabbit barn on the fairgrounds. Each market rabbit and breeding stock rabbit must have a tattoo in its left ear to attend fair. If your breeding stock already has a tattoo, you do not need to bring it with you, but you must come and register it. Each member can register 6 market rabbits and 6 breeding stock rabbits. Market rabbits will be cross-tagged for each family member that lives in the same household.

We are allowing each member to bring a meat pen and 2 breeding stock if they would like to. We want to fill our barn and have lots of participation. Breeding stock rabbits are 1 per class, so you can't have 2 senior bucks or whatever that may be. For clarification, please ask.

Monday, August 12th **@Adams Park in Centreville**

6:00-7:00 p.m. Practice Session (Hosted by Heather)

We will meet under the pavilion for practice with quiz questions, showmanship and skill-a-thon. You can also weigh your rabbits.

Tuesday, August 20th **@Adams Park in Centreville**

6:00-7:00 p.m. Practice session (Hosted by Kaley)

We will meet under the pavilion for practice with quiz questions, showmanship and skill-a-thon. You can also weigh your rabbits

Wednesday, August 28th

@Adams Park in Centreville

6:00-7:00 p.m. Practice Session (Hosted by Nancy)

We will meet under the pavilion. This is a learning opportunity and the last practice session before the fair. You can also weigh your rabbits.

Tuesday, September 10th

5:30-7:30 p.m. Barn Set-up

Leaders and Members in Mendon Green Clovers, Howardsville, and Rolling Clovers are responsible for this.

Unload Shavings, Weeds pulled, feeders attached, trays filled with shavings and put shade cloth around the rabbit barn.

Friday, September 13th

4:00-7:00 p.m. Fair Check-In

ALL RABBIT LEADERS NEED TO HELP

- EACH rabbit must weigh at least 3 lbs for a minimum of 9 pounds for the market pen. **A pen that weighs 17 pounds or over will be sent home.**
- **Bring carpet square samples or towels** for the health check table so we don't spread disease.
- Extra scales will be available to double check weights, you must do this BEFORE you present your rabbits to be health checked. These scales are located at the East end of the barn, between the rabbit barn and storage shed.
- **If one of your rabbits does not pass the health inspection or does not make weight, you cannot substitute, so do your own health check before bringing them to be checked in.**
- Market pens and Breeding stock will start with health checks prior to being registered.
- There will be check stations as there have been in the past. Each station must be initialed by staff to move on to the next step. These are to help you make sure everything is completed.
- **REMEMBER to bring your own rabbit food!!**

Saturday, September 14th

6:00-8:00 a.m. Morning chores

***You are responsible to bring your own rakes, shovels, and 5-gallon bucket or wheelbarrows to clean out your pens.**

Clean out the tray or the ground under your rabbit cage, replace shavings, sweep around your area, then feed and water. **Please make sure you FINISH before 8 a.m. this is not the starting time. This must be done EVERY MORNING.**

Saturday, September 14th

2:00-6:00 p.m. Interviews and Skill-a-thon

The Skill-a-thon portion will be held in the Community Tent, which will be located towards the front gates. We will have signage to help you get to the right place. First come, first serve. **We will not take anyone after 5:45 p.m.** This will take some time to complete and those of us that are volunteering and the judges would appreciate it if you were COMPLETING everything by 6:00 p.m. at the latest.

This is for Breeding Stock and Market Rabbit Pens.

EVERY member that is bringing a rabbit/rabbits to fair must participate on this date

6:00-8:00 p.m. Evening Chores – Feed and water only
And **Set up for the Show**

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Sunday, September 15th

SHOW DAY

6:00-8:00 a.m. Morning Chores

Clean out the tray or the ground under your rabbits' cage, replace shavings, sweep around your area, then feed and water. This must be done EVERY MORNING. Please make sure you finish your chores before 8 a.m. not starting at that time ESPECIALLY TODAY.

8:00-8:30 a.m. Cloverbud Check In

8:30 a.m. Pre-Show Meeting – ALL MEMBERS

Exhibitor Number Tags will be passed out at this time.

9:00 Rabbit Show Begins

Show order: Cloverbuds, Showmanship, Lunch Break, Breeding Stock, Home Kindled Market Rabbits, Purchased Market Rabbits

Showmanship Class attire: Black Pants and White Shirt and closed toed shoes. No fingernail polish or jewelry and remember if you have long hair to pull it back so it does not hinder the judge from viewing of the animal or you.

Market Class attire: Dark pants, long sleeve shirt, no jewelry, nail polish, hats. Those showing horses will be allowed to borrow a white coat for their classes.

6:00-8:00 P.M. Evening Chores - Feed and Water Only

Monday-Thursday, September 16-19th

6:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. Morning Chores

Clean out the tray or the ground under your rabbits cage, replace shavings, sweep around your area, then feed and water. This must be done EVERY MORNING. Please make sure you finish chores before 8 a.m., not starting at that time.

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Evening Chores - Feed and Water Only

Wednesday, September 18th

7:00 p.m. Set up for the sale - HELP IS NEEDED

Thursday, September 19th Sale Day – Please dress appropriately.
Small Animal sale begins at 10:00 a.m.
Sale order: Turkeys, Chickens, Rabbits, Goats
Do not get your Rabbits out too early, they will get warm and it adds extra stress on them. You will bring 1 rabbit ***in your carrying cage***. Nancy and Kaley will be there to help line you up. Get your number tag from them.

I would recommend being in the area no later than 11:15 a.m. to get your tag and line up. Each member should bring 1 rabbit IN THE CARRY CAGE. You must be on time and in order. Heather will be writing down your buyer information and sales amounts. She will hand you this paper, use it to fill out your cage tag with buyer names and sales price. There will be sharpies available if needed. This needs to be completed by Thursday night chores. An adult will be at the barn after the sale to help you.

Saturday, September 21st 10:00 p.m. Load out of Market Rabbits
Clubs responsible: Burr Oak & Happy Herdsmen

When we are finished, you may come get your crocks if your rabbits are gone.

Sunday, September 22nd 5:30-8:00 a.m. Barn Clean Out
Clubs responsible: Leonidas, Countryside and Farmtastic (we need someone to provide a power washer and hose).

All breeding stock and pick-ups for market pens will be released. You can also get your crock during this time.

Let's have an amazing time learning new things, making friends and being proud of your accomplishments. Remember to thank those who helped you, it takes SO many volunteers to make this all happen.

Be watching for the date of our post-fair meeting - everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Together we make the best better!!

