



Rabbit Project



Monthly Lesson Plan
January 2023



Upcoming Deadlines

- ✓ February 1st - Re-enrollment deadline
- ✓ April 1st - New member enrollment deadline



Project Progress

Suggest the following as things your members should work on or accomplish with their project this month. Follow up to see which they achieved:



- E Record Books:** Download the 2023 Livestock Recordbook
- Hands On:** Inspect hutch for any weak or hazardous areas. If hutch is outdoors, equip it for winter by reducing drafts and keeping it dry.
- Knowledge:** Members should review rabbit breeds and characteristics if considering purchasing a new project rabbit to show. (Rabbit resource handbook pg. 12)
- Other:** Update your calendar with 2023 Animal Project Dates

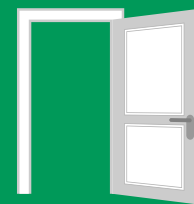
2023 Animal Project Dates



Opportunities

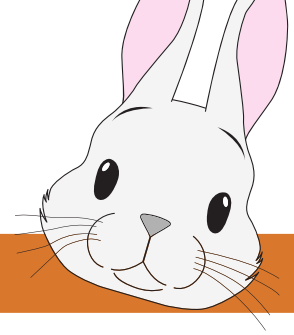
See 4-H Calendars for full details & more recently added events

- **Late January (Tbd)** - Rabbit Project 101 - in person
- **January 21** - Rabbit & Cavy Show - adco fairgrounds
- **February 11** - Rabbit Show Tour - Exploring Rabbit Breeds





Rabbit Project



January 2023

Attached Activities

Use these suggested activities at club project meetings to increase member knowledge and keep members engaged in their project.

Group: "Identifying Rabbit Breeds"

- These fun activities can help youth learn rabbit breeds and identify them by images and characteristics.

Individual: "Rabbit Selection & Handling"

- Members can complete this activity worksheet at home to help them learn rabbit breeds and reflect on their favorite breeds.

for more Rabbit project activities, order the National 4-H Curriculum "Rabbit Helpers Guide" through the 4-H Office



Fun Fact

Like cats, happy rabbits purr when they're content and relaxed.



Timely Tips to Share

It is important that your rabbit receives a sufficient supply of water in the winter. Whatever method you use they should be watered at least twice a day. It takes much more energy (feed) to keep warm when the temperatures are cold, so slightly increase the amount of feed you are feeding.



Resources



- The following & more can be found on the ADCO 4-H Rabbit Project Webpage: <http://adams4h.org/4-h-rabbit-project/>
 - 2023 Animal Project Save the Dates
 - Rabbit Resource Handbook (Ohio State)
 - E Record Books
 - Fourcast Newsletter Signup
 - Project Tipsheets



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ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Identifying Rabbit Breeds

One of the first interests of youth in the rabbit project is to be able to name each of the breeds and even the varieties within the breeds. As the project helper you can involve them in many fun activities to help them learn the breeds and varieties. Just some of the many ways are outlined in this activity. By involving them in fun activities you'll also be helping them learn how to learn.

Rabbit Skill:



Identify breeds of rabbits.
Learning to learn
Researches and identifies 15 rabbit breeds.

Life Skill:

Success Indicator:

One hour

Time Involved:
Suggested Group Size: 5 to 15

Materials Needed:

A chart of rabbit breeds.

Getting Started

A good supply of breed pictures is very helpful. Often youth enjoy looking for pictures of their favorite breeds. Prior to the meeting ask youth to collect breed pictures. Encourage some to write to the A.R.B.A. and breed associations to obtain pictures.

“Hop to it!”

Here are several ways for youth to learn the breeds.

Breed on the Back. Simply tape different names of a breed and perhaps pictures of a breed on the back of each youth. They then ask question of other youth until they have guessed the breed on their back. Encourage only yes/no answers at first.

Matching. Divide the group into teams of two to four youth. Give each team a set of 10 or so breed pictures on cards with breed names and cards with varieties listed. Have each team match the breed, pictures, breed names and breed varieties. When each group has completed its match pair the team with another and have one team check the other's match. This activity often stimulates excellent discussion about the breeds.

Barn Breed Scavenger Hunt. The rabbit barn at the fair or at a rabbit show is an excellent place for youth to discover breeds new to them. Have teams of two see how many different breeds and varieties they can find at the show. A notecard and pencil works well to record. In just 15-20 minutes youth will often be able to fill the notecard. After this introductory activity more in-depth discussion about certain breeds is appropriate.

Flash Cards. Again divide into teams and have each team see how many breeds they can identify.

Quiz Bowl. The quiz bowl format works well to learn

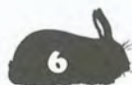
in-depth information about the breeds. Questions might relate to any of the following areas:

1. Breed origin
2. Mature weight
3. Varieties
4. Use
5. Popularity
6. Identifying features
7. Other

Breed Reports. Ask each youth to draw a breed name from a hat and either prepare a short report using resource materials available or perhaps give an impromptu speech about the breed. If you have a small group perhaps they can chose a breed. This is a good way to help youth develop communication skills as you quickly learn what they know.

Charades. One at a time have youth draw the name of a breed out of a hat and present a charade to the rest of the group until the group identifies it. Verbal charades where the youth give clues to the group works well for this activity.

Draw and Color. Many youth enjoy drawing their favorite breeds and coloring them. These can then be used for several of the activities previously described.



Rabbit Rap

Share What You Did

- What new breeds did you discover?
- What did you learn about a breed that you didn't know before?

Process What's Important

- Why are some breeds more popular than others?
- What breeds are primarily raised for show? Commercial production?

Generalize to Your Life

- How does knowing the correct names of items help you learn about them?

Apply What You Learned

- Which method of learning do you prefer? Why?



Fur and Wool



There are four different types of hair among rabbit breeds: normal fur, satin fur, rex fur and wool. **Normal fur**

has a dense undercoat protected by longer guard hairs. **Satin fur** is finer than normal fur and has a glass-like, transparent hair shaft which reflects light and produces a bright luster or sheen. **Rex fur** is very dense. Its **guard hairs** are nearly the same length as the undercoat, and the fur stands at a 90 degree angle to the skin, giving a plush, velvet-like feeling. The **wool type** has long fibers that are collected and spun into yarn to make crafts and garments, or sold in a raw state. There are four distinct types of wool: **French wool, English wool, Giant wool** and **Satin wool**. They reflect the four distinct breeds of Angora rabbits. Examples of wool breeds are: American Fuzzy Lop; Jersey Woolly; along with English, French, Giant and Satin Angoras.

Run your hand lightly up the back from the tail. Normal fur should appear bright and alive. The fur should not be soft and downy. There are three points to check: texture, density, and balance and condition.

Texture. The feel of the fur when stroked from head to tail. The texture of the fur should not be harsh or wire like, nor do you want woolly fur. Look for fur that is coarse enough in guard hairs to offer some resistance when you stroke the fur. Guard hairs are heavier hairs that protrude above the undercoat and protect it. The undercoat should be fine and soft. The rabbit should also have the proper surface and undercoat color for the breed and fur or wool type.

Density. The amount of fur in a given area (number of hairs per square inch). Look for a good, thick coat of fur.

Balance and Condition. The even length and smoothness of the fur. Look for fur of a uniform length, not too long and not too short. A dense coat of short fur is better than a long, thin coat. Good texture and density along with uniform length make up proper balance. The hair should be set tight in the skin. There should be no breaks in the fur, no mats of fur and no stains. The guard hairs should be supple and glossy. The fur should look alive and brilliant.



The A.R.B.A. Standard of Perfection is an excellent source of breed information including pictures.



Explore more at

www.4-hcurriculum.org

National 4-H Curriculum

Bounding Ahead

1. Help a youth select a breed to raise.
2. Make a scrapbook of rabbit breeds.
3. Make a display about your favorite rabbit breed.



Rabbit Selection and Handling



Hop on Board

In the rabbit project you will make decisions about housing, feeding and breeding. There are more than 40 breeds (kinds) of rabbits. Your first choice is to select your rabbit.

Rabbit Skill: Create a rabbit breed chart.
Life Skill: Decision making
Success Indicator: Uses decision making skills to select a rabbit project breed.
Science Standard: Characteristics of organisms

“Hop to it!”

Visit with your project helper, county Extension educator, local breeder and/or teen leaders in the rabbit project about various breeds of rabbits.

Pick 10 breeds from Rabbit Facts. Show in the chart what you discover about each breed. Tape or draw a picture of your favorite breed in the picture frame.

My Favorite Breed

I like this breed best because _____

Breed	Ideal Weight	Color(s)	Origin of Breed	Size	Class	Comments



Rabbit Rap

Share What You Did

- Which breed did you like best? Why?
- Why do you like the rabbit you chose?

Process What's Important

- How did you decide on this breed? If you choose this rabbit what will you have to do to take care of it?

Generalize to Your Life

- What other decisions did you make today?

Apply What You Learned

- How does making a chart help to make better decisions?



See breeds and varieties on front and back covers. The ARBA Standard of Perfection contains all the breeds recognized in the U.S.



Rabbit Breeds and Ideal Weight Groups

Four Class Rabbit Breeds	
Small (2 to 6 lbs.)	Medium (over 6 to 9 lbs.)
American Fuzzy Lop Britannia Petite Dutch Dwarf Hotot Florida White Havana Himalayan Holland Lop Jersey Wooly Mini Lop Mini Rex Netherland Dwarf Polish Silver Tan	American Sable Belgian Hare English Angora English Spot French Angora Harlequin Lilac Rex Rhineland Satin Angora Silver Marten Standard Chinchilla
Six Class Rabbit Breeds	
Large (over 9 to 11 lbs.)	Giant (over 11 lbs.)
American American Chinchilla Beveren Blanc de Hotot Californian Champagne D'Argent Cinnamon Creme D'Argent English Lop New Zealand Palomino Satin Silver Fox	Checkered Giant Flemish Giant French Lop Giant Chinchilla Giant Angora



A rabbit hide is called a pelt.

Bounding Ahead

1. Visit a rabbitry or show. Make a list of the different kinds of rabbits you see. Go to the library and check out a book on your favorite kind of rabbit. How many breeds did you find?