



Rabbit Project



The 4-H Rabbit Project is part of the Animal Science education program and gives youth hands-on experience in raising and caring for rabbits. Through this project, you will develop life skills, explore animal science, and build confidence as you manage your own rabbits. Members can expand their project by starting with a doe and exploring breeding, care, and management practices. Members will apply their knowledge by selecting, feeding, managing, and breeding rabbits. This project helps youth become Beyond Ready by strengthening decision-making, communication, and real-world animal care skills that prepare them for future opportunities in agriculture, science, and community leadership.

Starting Out *Beginner:*

- Explore rabbit breeds.
- Select a project animal that fits your interests and abilities.
- Identify rabbit body parts.
- Learn about different types of feed and the amount the rabbit needs.
- Recognize healthy rabbits and learn preventive care.
- Learn to properly groom, train, and show your rabbit.
- Develop responsibility skills through daily care and record keeping.

Learning More *Intermediate:*

- Learn appropriate handling techniques and housing.
- Understand a rabbit's digestive system; identify common health issues.
- Create a rabbit care management plan including health, feed, breeding, and vaccination records.
- Explore ethical decision-making related to animals.
- Develop rabbit judging and evaluation skills.

Expanding Horizons *Advanced:*

- Become familiar with the rabbit industry to understand production and marketing.
- Design a balanced feeding program to optimize health, growth, and reproduction.
- Learn about breeding and reproduction techniques.
- Maintain and document a rabbit pedigree system.
- Develop leadership and mentorship abilities in helping younger members.

Beyond Ready

Ready to Lead

Youth involved in 4-H are **two times more likely to have the goal of becoming a leader.** Through real-world experiences and the guidance of caring mentors, they develop the confidence, communication, and decision-making skills needed to lead in today's changing world.

Ready to Serve

Youth who participate in 4-H are **three times more likely to engage in community service.** Service learning provides them with purpose and connection at a time when **more than 53% of Gen Z report feeling lonely.** Through 4-H, youth are empowered to serve with compassion and make a meaningful impact.

Ready to Build

With nearly **10 million unfilled jobs and 77% of employers seeking real-world skills,** 4-H helps youth build what matters. Through hands-on projects and career exploration, youth gain adaptability, problem-solving, and workforce readiness.

Ready to Conquer

While 52% of young people feel like they're failing at life goals, 4-H youth rise with resilience. Backed by research and supported by caring adults, they learn to overcome challenges, set goals, and take charge of their future with confidence.

Building a Ready Generation in a World of Change!

Rabbit Project

Expand Your Experiences!

Healthy Living:

- Research practices to help prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases.
- Explore how consistent feeding, hydration, and housing support both your rabbit's well-being and your own sense of responsibility and routine.
- Reflect on how caring for your rabbit can strengthen your overall mental health.

Science and Agriculture:

- Study the body and skeletal structures of the rabbit.
- Research the organ systems of rabbits.
- Experiment with habitat design or feeding trials.

Community Vitality:

- Serve as a junior project leader or superintendent.
- Plan and lead a grooming or showmanship clinic for 4-H members.
- Coordinate an educational tour or presentation with a rabbit breeder.

Communication and the Arts:

- Create a poster or project display highlighting different rabbit breeds and their characteristics.
- Facilitate a showmanship demonstration for rabbit project members.
- Design and deliver a creative presentation, video, or social media post about your rabbit journey and encouraging others to get involved in 4-H.

Career Exploration:

- Job shadow a rabbit breeder.
- Job shadow a judge to learn about employment opportunities.
- Job shadow an animal nutritionist.
- Visit a feed mill.
- Conduct an interview with a veterinarian.
- Explore the KSU pet food program.
- Create a real/conceptual rabbit product or service business and participate in a YEC (Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge) competition.
- Explore cybersecurity jobs in the rabbit industry.
- Visit KSU Animal Science Department

Contact Information

Kansas 4-H
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Website: kansas4-h.org

Resources & Events:

Share what you have learned with others through a Club Day presentation.

Exhibit at a county fair, regional rabbit shows, and State Fair

Enter your rabbit(s) to learn the ideal judging standards.

Participate in rabbit showmanship.

Participate in rabbit judging contests.

Kansas 4-H Discovery Days

[Kansas 4-H Animal Science Webinar Series](#)

Curriculum & Resources:

Contact your local Extension office.

Go to [National 4-H Curriculum](#)

Go to [Kansas 4-H project website](#)

Go to [K-State Extension Bookstore](#)

Go to [Kansas 4-H Animal Science Webinar Series](#)

4-H Record Keeping:

Learning to keep accurate records is a life skill. The following forms can help you:

- [Setting 4-H Project Goals \(4H1100\)](#)
- [Kansas 4-H Record Keeping](#)
- Complete a Rabbit Journal that tracks items including:
 - Name, breed, sex, color, tattoo, date of birth.
 - Feeding, cleaning, maintenance
 - Weights and body condition score.
 - Grooming practices.
 - Veterinary visits and treatments.
 - Reproduction records (if applicable).

Project Exhibit Ideas:

- Exhibit your rabbit in shows.
- Create a poster about rabbit breeds.
- Create a poster on rabbit body parts or anatomy.
- Create a display comparing rabbit feeds and nutrition needs.
- Create a display of proper grooming tools and their uses.
- Create a display of pictures demonstrating showmanship techniques.
- Display a rabbit pedigree chart and explain how to read it.

