

Rabbit Project Information and Reminders 2023

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
Brittany Skaggs	269-598-6638	Asst. Superintendent

Sunday,
July 9th

10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Rabbit Clinic featuring Katie Holcomb

We are meeting in the chicken barn on the fairgrounds. This is a learning opportunity and will include information on illnesses, diseases, feeding, management and picking a market pen. Katie will spend time practicing showmanship with members as well.

Monday,
July 31st

6:00-7:30 p.m. Practice Session (Hosted by Heather)

We will meet under the grandstands on the fairgrounds for practice with quiz questions, showmanship and skill-a-thon. You will also have the opportunity to weigh your rabbits and ask any questions that you may have.

Tuesday,
August 8th

6:30-7:30 p.m. Practice Session/Meeting (Hosted by all 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 9th

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 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.

Saturday,
August 12th

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Each species superintendent will be holding a half hour skillathon practice. This will be near the livestock pavilion or species barn. It is designed to accommodate those members who are taking more than one species.

- 9:00-10:00 Beef/Dairy
- 10:00 -10:30 Sheep
- 10:30-11:00 Rabbits
- 11:00-11:30 Poultry
- 11:30-12:00 Goats
- 12:00-12:30 Swine

- Sunday,
August 13th 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 in order 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.
- Wednesday,
August 16th 6:00-7:30 p.m. Practice Session (Hosted by Nancy)
We will meet under the grandstands on the fairgrounds for practice with quiz questions, showmanship, and skill-a-thon. You will also have the opportunity to weigh your rabbits.
- Monday,
August 21st 6:00-7:30 p.m. Practice session (Hosted by Brittany)
We will meet under the grandstands on the fairgrounds for practice with quiz questions, showmanship and skill-a-thon. You will also have the opportunity to weigh your rabbits
- Tuesday,
August 29th **6:30-8:00 p.m. Rabbit Clinic featuring Bryan Shirk** (Hosted by Heather)
We will meet under the grandstands on the fairgrounds. This is a learning opportunity and the last practice session before fair. You will also have the opportunity to weigh your rabbits.
- Thursday,
September 14th 5:30-7:30 p.m. Barn Set-up
Leaders and Members in Burr Oak and Happy Herdsmen are responsible for this.
Unload Shavings and Feed, Weeds pulled, feeders attached, trays filled with shavings and put shade cloth around the rabbit barn.
- Friday,
September 15th 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 will weigh in at the east end of the barn. Breeding stock will check in at the west end of the barn.
 - There will be check stations as there have been in the past. Each station must be initialed to move on to the next step. These are to help you make sure everything is completed.

Saturday,
September 16th 6:00-8:00 a.m. - Morning chores
***New for 2023: You are responsible to bring your own rakes, shovels, and 5 gallon bucket or wheelbarrow to clean out your pen(s).**
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 16th 2:00-6:00 p.m. - Interviews and Skill-a-thon
The Skill-a-thon portion will be held in the Community Tent across from the rabbit barn and next to the chicken barn. 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(s) 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**

Sunday,
September 17th SHOW DAY
6:00-8:00 a.m. Morning Chores
Clean out the tray or the ground under your rabbit's cage, replace shavings, sweep around your area, then feed and water. This must be done EVERY MORNING. Please make sure you are finishing 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 A.M. 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
- 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 18-21 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 chores before 8 a.m., not starting at that time.

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

Wednesday,
September 20th 7:00 p.m. Set up for the sale - HELP IS NEEDED

- Thursday,
September 21st Sale Day – Please dress appropriately.
Small Animal sale begins at 10:00 a.m. - Sale order: Rabbits, Goats, Turkeys, Chickens
- 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 Brittany will be there to help line you up. Get your number tag from them. **I would recommend being in the area by 9:00 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 to help you.
- Saturday,
September 23rd 10:00 p.m. Load out of Market Rabbits
Clubs responsible: Farmtastic, Leonidas, Countryside
When we are finished, you may come get your crocks if your rabbits are gone.
- Sunday,
September 24th 5:30-8:00 a.m. Barn Clean Out
Clubs responsible: Rolling Clovers, Mendon Green Clovers, and Howardsville (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.

Together we make the best better!!