

DIVISION H - RABBITS

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The fitting and preparation of all animals for exhibit is the responsibility of the Exhibitor. Exhibitors may receive guidance only from immediate family members, Maryland 4-H/FFA Members and appointed UME Volunteers/FFA Advisors.

Division Rules & Regulations:

Pre-entry is required. **YOU MUST USE THE INTERNET ENTRY SYSTEMS FOUND AT www.marylandstatefair.com** Internet entries are due **July 15th**. Exhibitors without internet access should contact their County Extension Educator for assistance. All release forms are to be completed via the online entry system at time of registration. **After online entry, you will receive via mail an exhibitor letter and an attachment (show entry form) with instructions that must be returned to the Superintendent prior to the show.** Reminder you must have completed the Animal Husbandry & Quality Assurance program to be able to exhibit your animals. Check with your county to make sure you are up to date with this requirement.

All rabbit exhibitors must fill out a [Self Certification of Rabbit Health](#) prior to loading animals at home and shall be presented upon request to the designated fair and show representative upon arrival at the show. The required form may be found on the Maryland Department of Agriculture website at <https://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/Fairs-Shows.aspx>

Entries for the 4-H Rabbit Show will be received at the South End of the Cow Palace Building beginning at 8:00 am on Saturday, September 12, 2026. The 4-H Rabbit Show will begin at 9:00 am with Meat Pens judged first. This will be a carrier show with animals being released at the end of the show or as allowed by the Superintendent.

- Exhibitors and their exhibits must comply with the "General State Fair Rules & Regulations", "General 4-H and FFA Rules & Regulations", "Animal Rules & Regulations", the "Maryland 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics", the "Health Regulations for Livestock Exhibited in Maryland", these "Division Rules & Regulations" and the applicable "Section Rules & Regulations".
 - Ear number substitutions will be allowed in same breed, variety, age and sex on the day of the show. No substitutions will be allowed for a different breed. **Rabbits must be permanently tattooed in left ear.**
 - All exhibits must be a breed recognized by ARBA. Mixed breeds are not allowed. The book, "Standard of Perfection" outlines the standards for each recognized breed. It can be ordered online at www.arba.net or by calling (814) 297-8233. Exhibitors are responsible for obtaining a Rabbit Breeds and Varieties List from their 4-H Extension Educator to assist in properly filling out the entry form.
 - Exhibitors are limited to a total of 8 entries in the breed classes and 1 entry in the market pen class (3 rabbits/pen).
 - Any exhibit displaying signs of disease or in poor fleshing condition will be refused entry. The decision of the Superintendent is final.
 - With the exception of meat pens, rabbits under 3 months old or over 2 weeks pregnant will not be allowed. Meat pens should be at least 10 weeks old and not over 70 days of age.
- Ownership:** All rabbits must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor by June 1st of the current year.
- Judging:** This is an official American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) sanctioned show.
- Only rabbits entered in the show may be brought onto the fairgrounds. **The selling of rabbits on the fairgrounds is NOT PERMITTED.**
- Spectators, including family members/friends of Exhibitor, will only be allowed to observe the judging table from a reasonable distance as determined by the Superintendent. No one will be allowed in the cage area during judging except carriers and Exhibitors.
- The ARBA National Convention will be held October 24-28, 2026 in Reno, NV ([2026 ARBA Convention](#)). ARBA Contact: Eric Stewart, Executive Director, PO Box 400, Knox, PA 16232-0400 Phone (814) 297-8233. ARBA Website: <https://arba.net/>
- The Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Market Rabbit Market Pens will receive a cash award from the Maryland State Fair Livestock Fund.

BREEDS (Sections 1-54)

Section Rules & Regulations:

- The Market Pen consists of 3 rabbits that are all the same breed & variety, mixed breeds are not allowed. Age restriction: must be under 70 days old. Market Pen weight restriction: each rabbit must weigh a minimum of 3 ½ lbs. and cannot weigh more than 5 ½ lbs. All breeds will compete together in meat pens.
- The Champion and Reserve Champion Market Pens will be eligible to be sold in the Livestock Sale. Refer to Youth Livestock Sale Rules found in 4-H/FFA Division X, Section XIV for additional information pertaining to market rabbit sale animals.
- Following the Market Pen judging, all ARBA recognized breeds will be judged in an order decided on by the show superintendent based on the number in each breed and will be posted at the judging table prior to the start of the show.
- Awards:** Premiums and ribbons will be awarded to the 1st – 10th Place exhibits in each breed. Rosettes will be awarded for Best of Breed in all breed classes.

CLASSES

- H1 Senior Buck
- H2 Senior Doe
- H3 Junior Buck
- H4 Junior Doe
- H5 6-8 Buck
- H6 6-8 Doe
- H10 Market Pens

SHOWMANSHIP (Section 54)

Section Rules & Regulations:

1. **Pre-entry is required. See above for entry details.** Exhibitors will compete according to their 4-H Age (age as of 1/1/26) except for those entering in the Novice class (1st project year participating in Showmanship). Superintendents may at their discretion split classes.
2. Rabbit used must be entered in the State 4-H Rabbit show and be owned by the Exhibitor competing in this section.
3. There will be a 15-minute limit on presentations. Exhibitor's knowledge may be tested by answering questions related to the breed exhibited, diseases and standard management practices.

CLASSES

- H15 Showmanship - Novice (1st year - 4-H ages 8-18)
H16 Showmanship – Junior (4-H ages 8-10)
H17 Showmanship – Intermediate (4-H ages 11-13)
H18 Showmanship – Senior (ages 14-18)

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS (Section 55)

Section Rules & Regulations:

1. 4-H'ers are invited to plan an educational exhibit to be on display during the State Fair in the 4-H/Home Arts Building. **4-H'ers will bring their exhibits to the South End of the Cow Palace Building on Saturday, September 12, 2026 from 9am to 10am.** Exhibits can be picked up before leaving on September 12, 2026. The exhibit may be an informational poster or other educational display. Each Exhibitor may enter two (2) exhibits (only one premium will be awarded).
2. 4-H Members enrolled in a Rabbit project in the current year are eligible to participate. A \$5 Participation Premium will be paid. Reminder– Cavy Educational Exhibits are offered in Department J, class 100.

CLASS

- H100 Rabbit Educational Exhibit

<u>PREMIUM SCHEDULE</u>	<u>Classes</u>	<u>1st Place</u>	<u>2nd – 20th Place</u>
	All Rabbit Classes except H100	\$5	\$3
	H15-H18 Showmanship	\$5 participation	
	H100 Educational Exhibit (only 1 premium will be paid)	\$5 participation	

Breed Listing

Section 1 American Chinchilla	Section 31 Mini Lop <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>
Section 2 American Fuzzy Lop <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>	Section 32 Mini Rex <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>
Section 3 American	Section 33 Netherland Dwarf <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>
Section 4 American Sable <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>	Section 34 New Zealand
Section 5 Belgian Hare <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>	Section 35 Palomino
Section 6 Beveren	Section 36 Polish <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>
Section 7 Britannia Petite <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>	Section 37 Rex <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>
Section 8 Californian	Section 38 Rhinelander <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>
Section 9 Champagne D'argent	Section 39 Satin Angora <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>
Section 10 Checkered Giant	Section 40 Satin
Section 11 Cinnamon	Section 41 Silver Fox
Section 12 Creme D'argent	Section 42 Silver <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>
Section 13 Dutch <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>	Section 43 Silver Marten <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>
Section 14 Dwarf Hotot <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>	Section 44 Standard Chinchilla <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>
Section 15 English Angora <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>	Section 45 Tan <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>
Section 16 English Lop	Section 46 Mini Satin <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>
Section 17 English Spot <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>	Section 47 Thrianta <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>
Section 18 Flemish Giant	Section 48 Lionhead <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5/H6)</i>
Section 19 Florida White <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>	Section 49 Argente Brun
Section 20 French Angora <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>	Section 50 Dwarf Papillon
Section 21 French Lop	Section 51 <i>Blue Holicer</i>
Section 22 Giant Angora	Section 52 Czech Frosty
Section 23 Giant Chinchilla	Section 53 Mini Californians
Section 24 Harlequin <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>	Section 54 Market Pen
Section 25 Havana <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>	
Section 26 Himalayan <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>	
Section 27 Holland Lop <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>	
Section 28 Blanc de Hotot	
Section 29 Jersey Woolly <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>	
Section 30 Lilac <i>(Not eligible for breed classes H5, H6)</i>	