

DIVISION J - CAVIES

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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.

Entries for the 4-H Cavy Show will be received at the South End of the Cow Palace Building from 8:00-8:30am on Saturday, September 12, 2026. The 4-H Cavy Show will begin at 9 am. This will be a carrier show with animals being released at 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".
 - All cavy 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>
 - Substitutions will be allowed in the same group, variety, age and sex on the day of the show.
 - 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 an ARBA Standard or List of Breeds & Colors from their 4-H Extension Educator to assist in properly filling out the entry form.
 - Exhibitors are limited to seven (7) entries in the breed classes. (If showing both Rabbits and Cavies, exhibitors may enter seven (7) animals in each species.)
 - Cavies must have numbered ear tags.**
 - Any exhibit displaying signs of disease or in poor fleshing condition will be refused entry. The decision of the Superintendent is final.
- Ownership:** All cavies must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor by June 1 of the current year.
- Judging:** This is an official American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) sanctioned show. However, if a dual licensed judge is not available, a non-ARBA judge/individual will judge and place the entries. If this occurs, ARBA legs will not be issued. Show classes are listed as: Junior Boars & Sows - 12 oz. to 22 oz., Intermediate Boars & Sows - 23oz. to 32 oz., Senior Boars and Sows - over 32 oz.
- 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.
- Only cavies entered in the show may be brought onto the fairgrounds. **The selling of cavies on the fairgrounds is NOT PERMITTED.**
- Rosettes will be awarded for Best of Breed in all breed classes.
- 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/>

BREEDS (Sections 1-13)

Recognized Breeds are as follows: Abyssinian Satin, Abyssinian, American, American Satin, Coronet, Peruvian, Peruvian Satin, Silkie, Silkie Satin, Teddy, Teddy Satin, Texel, and White Crested. New working standards breeds: Lunkarya and Swiss (may be shown but may not compete for BIS)

CLASSES

J1 Senior Boar J2 Senior Sow J3 Intermediate Boar J4 Intermediate Sow J5 Junior Boar J6 Junior Sow

SHOWMANSHIP (Section 14)

Section Rules & Regulations:

- Pre-entry is required. Please 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). Superintendent may, at their discretion, split classes.
- Cavy used must be entered in the State 4-H Cavy show and be owned by the Exhibitor competing in this section.
- 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

J10 Showmanship – Novice (1st year – 4-H ages 8-18)
J11 Showmanship – Junior (4-H ages 8-10)
J12 Showmanship – Intermediate (4-H ages 11-13)
J13 Showmanship – Senior (4-H ages 14-18)

J14 Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Champion - Novice Showmanship - Rosette
J15 Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Champion - Junior Showmanship - Rosette
J16 Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Champion - Inter. Showmanship - Rosette
J17 Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Champion - Senior Showmanship - Rosette

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS (Section 15)

Section Rules & Regulations:

1. 4-H'ers may plan an educational exhibit to 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 on Saturday, September 12, 2026 from 8am to 9am.** Exhibits can be picked after the show. The exhibit may be an informational poster or other educational display. Each exhibitor may enter two (2) exhibits. 4-H Members carrying a Cavy project in the current year are eligible to participate. A \$5 Participation Premium will be paid (only one premium will be paid)

CLASS

J100 Cavy Educational Exhibit

PREMIUM SCHEDULE	Classes	1st Place	2nd – 20th Place
	All Cavy Classes except J100	\$5	\$3
	J10-J13 Showmanship	\$5 Participation	
	J100 Educational exhibit	\$5 participation	