4-H RABBIT PROJECT

In the rabbit project youth can learn about selecting and raising a rabbit. Youth learn about the breeds, characteristics, and sound care and management practices.
• Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on rabbits.
• Explore knowledge of sound breeding, feeding, and management practices.
• Investigate marketing, project expansion, and how you can start a career in the rabbit business. Learn how to market the animals and products for breeding, fur, meat, or pets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Starting Out</th>
<th>Learning More</th>
<th>Exploring Depth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginner</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gather information and determine the best rabbit for your family.</td>
<td>• Learn the different types of breeds and their ideal weight.</td>
<td>• Learn about rabbit breeding programs and genetics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Determine the purpose of your rabbit projects.</td>
<td>• Learn and explain judging criteria for rabbit health.</td>
<td>• Design a rabbity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Develop a rabbit care management plan.</td>
<td>• Learn the difference between 4-Class breed and 6-Class breed rabbit shows.</td>
<td>• Manage your rabbity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Identify rabbit equipment and their uses.</td>
<td>• Explore rabbit body types and their functions.</td>
<td>• Learn palpation techniques to determine pregnancy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Locate and name parts of a rabbit.</td>
<td>• Design a plan for preparing rabbits for show.</td>
<td>• Identify bones on a rabbit skeleton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Learn proper feeding.</td>
<td>• Practice or learn how to tattoo rabbits.</td>
<td>• Evaluate rabbit health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Learn proper grooming.</td>
<td>• Learn about diseases and environment concerns.</td>
<td>• Complete rabbit pedigree and registration papers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Discover proper rabbit showmanship steps.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Market your rabbits to others.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.
Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Research the nutritional needs of rabbits and compare to nutritional needs of other animals.
- Explore the need for biosecurity measures when handling animals. Create a list of recommendations for competitive rabbit events.
- Design and test various habitats to find the one that works best for your rabbit.

Healthy Living

- Discuss the necessity of washing your hands before and after handling your rabbit.
- Discuss your rabbit’s life expectancy and what to look for when they get older.
- Create a display or skit on rules for rabbit safety.

Citizenship

- Use the confidence obtained through shows and expos in all aspects of life.
- Use your animal as therapy for sick and disadvantaged individuals.
- Create a presentation or book on the origin of the “lucky rabbit foot.” Present to a group.
- Work with a local animal shelter to help with rabbit adoptions or “dumping.”

Leadership

- Become a role model for others by taking the position of Junior or Teen Leader in your project.
- Recruit younger youth into a 4-H rabbit project.

The UC 4-H Youth Development Program does not endorse, warrant, or otherwise take responsibility for the contents of unofficial sites.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

To order or obtain ANR publications and other products, visit the ANR Communication Services online catalog at http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/ or phone 1-800-994-8849. You can also place orders by mail or request a printed catalog of our products from:

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Communication Services
2801 Second Street
Davis, CA 95618
Telephone 1-800-994-8849
E-mail: anrcatalog@ucanr.edu

©2018 The Regents of the University of California. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/ or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

Publication 8619

The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) prohibits discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, pregnancy (which includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), genetic information (including family medical history), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, status as a protected veteran or service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 [USERRA]), as well as state military and naval service.

UC ANR policy prohibits retaliation against any employee or person in any of its programs or activities for bringing a complaint of discrimination or harassment. UC ANR policy also prohibits retaliation against a person who assists someone with a complaint of discrimination or harassment, or participates in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a complaint of discrimination or harassment. Retaliation includes threats, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to any of its programs or activities.

UC ANR is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment and/or participation in any of its programs or activities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status.

University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws.

Inquiries regarding the University’s equal employment opportunity policies may be directed to: John Sims, Affirmative Action Contact and Title IX Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1397. Email: jsims@ucanr.edu. Website: http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/.

To simplify information, trade names of products have been used. No endorsement of named or illustrated products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned or illustrated.

An electronic copy of this publication can be found at the ANR Communication Services catalog website, http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/. This publication has been anonymously peer reviewed for technical accuracy by University of California scientists and other qualified professionals. This review process was managed by ANR Associate Editor for Human and Community–Youth Development Lynn Schmitt-McQuitty.

California 4-H Project Sheet Series Authors
JOHN BORBA, 4-H Youth Development Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Kern County; CLAUDIA DIAZ, 4-H Youth Development Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Riverside and San Bernardino counties; MARCEL HOROWITZ, Healthy Youth, Families, and Communities Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Yolo County; ANNE IACCOPUCCI, 4-H Healthy Living Academic Coordinator, California State 4-H Office; SHANNON KLISCH, UC CalFresh Community Education Supervisor, UC Cooperative Extension, San Luis Obispo County; KENDRA LEWIS, 4-H Evaluation Academic Coordinator, California State 4-H Office; KATHERINE SOULE, Youth, Families, and Communities Advisor and Director of UC Cooperative Extension, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties; and STEVEN WORKER, 4-H Youth Development Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Marin, Napa, and Sonoma counties.