

**Sussex County 4-H
Rabbit and Small Animal Projects
2021 Members Exhibitor Guide**



**2021 NJ STATE FAIR
Sussex County Farm and Horse Show**

NJ State Fair
Sussex County Farm and Horse Show

RABBIT AND SMALL ANIMAL 4-H CLUBS
4-H Program Associate Dave Foord 973 948-3040
Saturday August 7, 2021 Fair opens at 10:00 am to Saturday August 14, 2021
closing at 10 pm

Club Leaders 2021

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>All Star Rabbits</u> | | <u>Cuddly Critters</u> | |
| Don Meisinger | 973-383-6783 | Lynn Prtorich | 862-268-2779 |
| | Cell: 862-268-0900 | Sandie Koch | 973-214-3623 |
| Donna Meisinger | 973-383-6783 | Laurie Corroll | 551-206-5714 |
| | Cell: 862-268-0805 | | |
| Gina Barbagallo | 973-222-3744 | <u>Little Critters</u> | |
| Tara Vaughan | 973-234-4605 | Melissa Teague | 973-600-2613 |
| Jesse Vaughan | 973-362-5066 | Karyn Carter | 973-903-2181 |
| Dennis Hullings | 973-534-2579 | Jessie Goytil | 973-713-8456 |
| Cheryl Rosendale | 973-670-4240 | Michelle Schadegg | 862-266-7379 |
| Allyson Hensley | 732-512-7729 | | |
| Jenn Post | 862-258-0783 | <u>Regal Rabbits</u> | |
| <u>Bunnies-N-Buddies</u> | | Cathy Kratzsch | 201-400-2070 |
| Mackenzie Kratzsch | 973-459-8679 | Mackenzie Kratzsch | 973-459-8679 |
| Cathy Kratzsch | 201-400-2070 | Megan O'Keefee | 973-600-9358 |
| Jessica Garrigan | 973-903-8763 | Melissa Ordway | 315-532-1287 |
| Jason Garrigan | 973-670-6996 | Linda Viersma | 973-271-9933 |
| | | Amanda Tasillo | 862-268-2533 |
| <u>Bunny Bunch</u> | | <u>Whiskers & Squeals</u> | |
| Cathy Lawrick | 973-827-7059 | Linda Keller | 973-534-2941 |
| | | Joann Johnson | 973-626-9994 |
| | | Cathleen Permunian | 973-464-6177 |
| | | Carol Utskins | 973-615-1866 |

Registration for the Show

1. **REGISTRATION FORMS**, along with code of conduct, must be filled out and signed by member and parent, and returned to your club leader by June 1st. **PROJECT BOOKS** must be turned in to your club leader by June 1st. The leaders will turn them in at the June Meeting. All entry forms will be collected at the leader's meeting in June. **NO ENTRIES ARE TO BE GIVEN TO THE FAIR OFFICE OR ACCEPTED LATE.** Anyone failing to meet the required date will not be allowed to show at the Fair.

2. There will be no changes to the registration form unless it is to substitute a project animal of the same breed, sex and age. Leaders should be consulted if there is uncertainty in type, sex, color, etc., before the entry form is signed. Leaders will not be held responsible for errors on entry forms. **IF YOU SCRATCH A RABBIT OR CAVY AT REGISTRATION, YOU MUST SIGN THE ENTRY FORM TO SHOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THIS RABBIT/CAVY CANNOT BE SHOWN.** If you are uncertain as to whether to scratch a rabbit/cavy or not, wait until Sunday.

Project animals registered as wrong gender and/or breed must show as registered on the entry form and will be disqualified by the judge.

3. Each member may show a total of 10 project animals.

4. All 4-H members must have completed their Showmanship and Skill-a-thon by **June 2021** in order to receive fair passes and fair privileges for the 2021 NJ State Fair/Sussex County Farm & Horse Show in August.

5. Each member will be limited to 2 cages. You may only leave 2 project animals for the week. You must keep the cage filled for the entire fair week. Any project animals over this amount should be brought for the day of the show only. **All rabbits/cavies must remain all ten days of the fair, or premiums will be forfeited.**

6. Project animals shown may include: rabbits (any breed including mixed), guinea pigs (cavies), gerbils, hamsters, mice, chinchillas, hedgehogs and rats. All project animals to be shown at the fair must be included in your project book. All rabbits must be 10 weeks or older to be shown and cavy must be 9 weeks or older.

All rabbits must be born by **May 29th** to be eligible to be shown.

All cavies must be born by **June 5th** to be eligible to be shown.

Doe & Litter –Litter must be born between June 20th and July 4th.

Fair Admission:

Only 4-H members with entry forms and project books will be entitled to fair passes for admission. The cost for these is \$30 for a family of two parents and 4-H member(s) or \$15 for a family of one parent and 4-H member(s). You need to turn your money into the leader of your club at the time they designate, as your leader will pick up the badges for your club in July. Contact your leader as to the date he/she needs the money and when you will get the badges from your leader. Only one exhibitor parking pass will be given per family. Should you require an additional pass, it must be requested. If a member is not showing their animal, they still must fill out an entry form and participate in showmanship/skill-a-thon and turn it in with a completed project book to get fair passes: ***Member also must participate at the Rabbit and Cavy show and stay for its entirety to receive and maintain fair passes.***

If for some reason a 4-Her cannot exhibit or show something from their project area, then they are expected to be actively involved in planning and implementing 4-H activities during the fair (such as, but not limited to: 4-H club booth display, 4-H Knowledge quest, Shotwell Building 4H Volunteer Table, the 4-H Prep/Cloverbud Carnival) ***and PARTICIPATE*** in the showmanship and skillathon tests, in addition to the Rabbit and Cavy Show.

Fair Set Up:

NEW! Barn power washing Saturday July 31st at 9:00 am – Bring power washers, hoses, push brooms, scrub brushes, scrapers and leaf blowers. Contact Donna Meisinger (973) 383-6783 if you can help. The leaders & members will bleach cages before they are set-up. **WEAR OLD CLOTHES!**

Fair Cages Set-Up Saturday July 31st 7pm- Help set the caging up

Members are asked to help with atleast one fair set up task- Barn cleaning or cage set up

Fair Clean Up

Cages will be taken down and the area cleaned and swept on Sunday, August 15th beginning at 9am. Bring a scraper and/or broom. All members required to help.

SHOW ANIMAL CHECK IN:

According to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, all members exhibiting poultry, rabbit, cavy and small animals must have a leader complete a state Health Form within 30 days before the 1st day of the fair.

ONLY club leaders will check in ALL SHOW ANIMALS. All animals must be checked by a leader for health before going into a cage or shown. At the following dates and times leaders will be checking in rabbits/cavies.

Friday, August 6th 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Saturday, August 7th 8:00 AM-9:30 AM

**SHOWING AND PREP ANIMALS ONLY - SUNDAY AUGUST 8th
1-3 PM**

All animals coming for the show only must be checked in between 12-3 pm on Sunday, August 8th. The leaders will not be able to check in any rabbits/cavies after 3:00 pm, as we will be preparing for the show at that time. Members should have their animal(s) in proper carriers ready to go to the arena by 5:30 pm. Please remember that it may be very hot and cat-type carriers may cause your rabbit to get overheated.

Leaders will be checking to make sure your rabbit/cavy is healthy. If there is any question as to the health of your rabbit/cavy and two leaders decide that your rabbit/cavy cannot stay, it will have to be taken home immediately.

At check in, you will be given a coop number. This number must be placed in the right ear with permanent marker for identification and show purposes. Small animals will get masking tape with a number placed on their ear. Please check this number for legibility before the show.

IF YOU ARE RUNNING LATE, YOU MUST CALL OR TEXT YOUR LEADER.

Cage ID Tags

Each cage will have a number. Go to the Information Desk where there will be a sheet with the cage numbers listed on it. Find your cage number and fill in your contact information. Do not put personal information on your cage: your contact information will be kept at the Information Desk to preserve your privacy.

Food, Water and Feeding:

You will need to bring a food bowl and water bowl/bottle for each rabbit/cavy that you bring – this also includes your sale rabbits/cavies. You must supply feed for your rabbit/cavy, and you are in charge of making sure your rabbit/cavy is fed and watered daily before 10 am. If you cannot be there one day, it is your responsibility to make sure that someone else knows to feed your rabbit/cavy on that day. You may store feed for your rabbit/cavy under your cages. Animals with special watering needs must be labeled and water needs to be provided. Cages will be checked for cleanliness and leaders will be notified if cage is dirty!

****On very hot days – Frozen Water Bottles should be changed 2x/day with special attention paid to the Lop-ear rabbits****

Cage risers will be provided for each animal staying at the fair. They fold in half for cleaning and contain the shavings, so they don't go all over. You may bring a mat to put on the wire if you desire.

Cleaning Cages and Keeping the Exhibit Area Clean:

Cages need to be cleaned every day before **10 am**. Dirty shavings need to be removed from the cages and taken by the club member to the dumpsters. You may want to bring gloves or a dustpan for cleaning your cages. Sale rabbits/cavy must be fed and changed by 10 am also. Do not leave dirty shavings in boxes or wheelbarrows throughout the barn for someone else to clean up. Morning barn sitter should be sure wheelbarrows are emptied and placed upright behind cages in storage area by 10am.

DO NOT SWEEP SHAVINGS OUT THE BARN DOORS!

FYI- the dumpsters where we dispose of the shavings are locked at 10 am; thereafter, you are responsible for disposing of the shavings offsite. Cages will be checked for cleanliness and leaders will be notified if cage is dirty. Do not leave any garbage around the cages or behind the cages. Make sure that your sleeping bags, clothes, etc., are either in the car or under the cages by 10 am. People like coming to our exhibit at the fair. Please keep it an attractive area.

IMPORTANT Please note: Failure to comply with any of the rules covering the care of your animal[s] and upkeep of the barn during all ten days of the fair may result in the loss of privilege to keep animals at the fair. This will be at the discretion of the club leader and/or the small animal director.

THE RABBIT AND CAVY SHOW:

This year's show will be on **Sunday, August 8th** from 6 pm to 9:30 pm (approx. ending time) in the livestock show arena. Since we are following another event in the arena we hope to start our Show at 6 pm, but please bear with us if they do not finish on time and we are put behind schedule. There is no way that we will be able to start the show any sooner. Judges are to be announced.

All project animals must be moved to the show arena in an appropriate carrier. **No project animal can be carried to the show arena in a member's arms.** This is not safe for the 4-H member or the animal. If you do not have the proper carrier, talk to your leader.

During the show, please listen carefully for your class and have your animals at the show table on time. If you are showing several breeds and two or more are called to the table at the same time, please arrange for another 4-H member to assist you. All Leaders and senior 4-Hers will be present to assist members in need. **Parents are not allowed in the show arena.** No premiums will be awarded for Disqualified Animals, nor are premiums awarded for the Senior Citizen category.

**** No food is allowed in arena: only water is allowed. Each club will make arrangements to keep members hydrated; however, if you miss your breed showing class time, it is the 4-Her's responsibility. ****

At the end of the show all best of breed rabbits will be brought to the table for the best of show judging. **All members must remain in the show arena until the show has been completed.**

*****Remember good sportsmanship and ENJOY!*****

Pre- Show Staging Protocol- For the safety of our members and the animals, everyone is to remain/stage inside BARN 6 while they await for their club to be called over to the Show Arena. Do not line up outside the building as the livestock trailers will be moving in and out.

NO FOOD OR DRINK IS PERMITTED IN THE BARN

As per the Fair Exhibitor Information, there will be no food and only water allowed in livestock barns 1-6, the livestock show arena, the milking parlor, or any other structure in the agricultural area which contains livestock, poultry or animals of any kind. All 4-H members and their families are required to follow these rules or **be subject to loss of fair passes and privileges.**

(N.B. Judges are permitted to have bottled water in the livestock show area during their show).

We need two parents from each club to be writers: we also need parents from ALL clubs to help set up and tear down the Rabbit and Cavy Show.

BARN SITTING

Each exhibitor's family will be asked to spend some time Barn-sitting during their club's assigned day. Each club will be responsible for a day and night barn sitting shift during the fair week. Leaders of each club will assign shifts noting the day, times, and duties of the members and families. An adult 21 years of age or older must be present at all times.

BARN SITTING DUTIES:

All animals, sale and non-sale animals, need to have water checked every two hours. Animals with special water needs will be labeled. Do not feed any rabbits/cavy other than your own. Sweep floors if needed and make sure all personal items are hidden under cages and behind green skirting. Protect all animals from fair visitors. The hardest job is trying to keep people from poking at the rabbits/cavy and putting their fingers in the cages. **NOTIFY A LEADER OF ANY SICK OR STRESSED ANIMALS IMMEDIATELY!!!!!!!**

Make sure the barn-sitting logbook is completed before and at the end of your shift.

IF YOU SIGN UP TO BARN- SIT, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE THERE ON TIME OR FIND A REPLACEMENT.

OVERNIGHT BARN SITTING

Each club must make arrangements for one leader or a parent to spend at least one night at the fair in the rabbit building. An adult staying cannot be a member of 4-H and must be at **least 21 years of age**. If a club member wants to spend the night, you must check with the adult in charge to see if you can stay and you must fill out and return a 4-H permission slip to that adult (get form at desk). That way we know that your parents know where you are and we can seek medical help in an emergency. For liability, Parents/adults should fill out an adult overnight volunteer form as well.

The adult in charge may determine who will be allowed to stay with them on the night that they have duty. All youth who do spend the night are expected to be in the rabbit barn by ten (unless other arrangements are made with the adult/parent spending the night). Adult staying overnight may not leave till 9 am the following day or when next shift Barn-sitter arrives.

We are looking into getting a walkie-talkie or an emergency number for Security.

Sale Animals and Equipment

To be eligible to sell animals at the fair the member must:

- be a member in good standing in a Sussex County 4H club
- submit a completed project book
- complete Skill-a-thon and Showmanship

Sale animal and equipment check in- Leaders only may check in sale animals and equipment. **Sale animal and equipment can only be checked in between 8 am and 10 am each morning UNLESS other arrangements with a leader are made.**

Cloverbud members are not eligible for selling.

Rabbits must be at least 10 weeks old and must be born by May 29th of the current year to be sold. Cavies must be at least 9 weeks old and born by June 5th to be sold. If two leaders feel that your animal(s) are unsuitable to be sold, you must take it home.

Animals can only be sold in the sale area. NO animals can be sold from the exhibit area. Mice and Hamsters must supply their own cage and carrier box.

Please note the following new rule:

It now will cost \$2.00 to be listed in a sale book and have a small animal in a sale cage at the Fair. The book will have the seller's phone number associated with his/her cage number which then will be provided to persons making inquiries about the seller's sale animal. It will be the responsibility of the seller to make arrangements directly with a buyer and will no longer be the responsibility of the people who are barn sitting. No one but the seller may take the sale animal out of its cage. In addition, there will not be set prices anymore for sale animals. The price of the sale animal(s) is to be set by the seller and negotiated with the buyer directly as well. There can be no 'Holds'; upon sale of the small animal, the animal needs to be removed from the sale cage. If money is exchanged, the animal must leave the Fair. Equipment sales will work similarly, with a \$2.00 fee to sell, and sellers and buyers dealing directly with each other.

****In addition, a 10% (of the total sale price) fee may be taken as well by the NJ State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show for each animal/item sold.****

Taking Rabbits and Cavies Home:

If barn space is available, **all** 4H animals staying at the fair must remain for the duration of the Fair or the premiums paid by the New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show are forfeited. You may take your rabbit/cavy home on Sunday, August 15th at **9am at the end of the fair**. However, if your rabbit/cavy is showing signs of stress (i.e. eating poorly or acting strangely), speak to a leader about taking that animal home, as their health is important. If a leader decides that one of your animals is showing signs of stress or is ill, you will need to take that animal home that day.

Market Animal Sale Meat Pens

Qualifying Meat 6 Class Breeds: Champagne d'Argent, Crème d'Argent, Californian, American Chinchilla, Cinnamon, New Zealand, Palominos, Satin

Market Pen Guidelines

1. Rabbits used to be bred for your pen must be on your property by April 1st.
2. Yellow Forms must be handed in at the July meeting
3. Does should be bred 100 days prior to show date
4. Pens must have permanent ear identification
5. Meat pens shall consist of three rabbits, all of the same breed and variety. Broken group meat pens must also be of the same variety
6. A pen does not necessarily have to come from the same litter
7. Rabbits must be no older than 10 weeks but ideally 6-8 weeks
8. Each rabbit in the pen must be a minimum of 3 ½ lbs. and not over 5 ½ lbs
9. Meat Pens must be weighed and checked in of Aug. 8th (Day of the Show) by Mackenzie Kratzsch at 2pm
10. Meat Pens must be judged by a licensed ARBA Judge, and a scale will be provided to the judge at the show table
11. Only blue ribbon pens may be sold at the Market Animal Sale at the option of the exhibitor
12. Best and Reserve Meat Pen MUST be sold at the Market Animal Sale
13. A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) is required for every animal 30 days prior to the Fair
14. All General Market Animal Sale Rules & Guidelines must also be followed including but not limited to market animal sale dinner, sponsorships and attending the parent meeting to be held prior to the Fair.
15. No premiums will be awarded for rabbits entered under this section, Meat Pen.
16. Rabbits entered under Meat Pen do not count against the 10 entries permitted for each member.

Please see the Sussex County 4-H Exhibit Catalogue for full rules and regulations regarding market animal sale which can be found on the Sussex County 4H website under the 'Events' heading.

Market Animal Sale

1. Animals must be weighed in again on Monday morning starting at 8 am by the certified scale.
2. Meat Pen participants must help with the MAS Social held prior to the auction.

Any questions or concerns please contact Mackenzie Kratzsch at:
littlethumpsrabbitry@yahoo.com or 973 459-8679

Point Schedule for Judging Meat Pens

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Meat Type..... | 40 Points |
| Condition of Flesh..... | 30 Points |
| Uniformity of body and weight..... | 20 Points |
| Fur..... | 10 Points |

Total..... 100 Points

FUN ACTIVITIES DURING THE FAIR WEEK:

Market Animal Sale: Tuesday, August 10th – Come support fellow members as they sell their Market animals. 6pm-? Livestock Arena

Round Robin: Thursday, August 12th- Livestock arena. Test your knowledge about all types of livestock and other 4-H programs. 7pm

Garden State RCBA Rabbit & Cavy Show: Saturday, August 14th – Come show your rabbit or cavy for a second time during fair. Show starts at 9am in Barn 2. Pet and pedigreed animals can be shown. To register your animal please check out the catalog for entry deadline and entry forms <https://gardenstatercba.vpweb.com>

4H Information Table: Shotwell Building. Contact Dave Foord or Tanya Patrie at 973 948-3040 to schedule your time.

We are looking forward to a really great year. With your help and cooperation this will be possible. If you have any questions, please call your leader. Thank you, the 4-H Rabbit and Small Animal Leaders.