

Sussex County 4-H Rabbit and Small Animal Projects



2023 Members Exhibitor Guide

RABBIT AND SMALL ANIMAL 4-H CLUBS

4-H Program Associate Dave Foord 973 948-3040

Club Leaders 2023

<u>All Star Rabbits</u>		<u>Regal Rabbits</u>	
Gina Barbagallo	973-222-3744	Cathy Kratzsch	201-400-2070
Katie Swisshelm	862-268-6130	Megan O’Keeffe	973-600-9358
		Melissa Ordway	315-532-1287
		Linda Viersma	973-271-9933
<u>Bunnies-N-Buddies</u>		<u>Whiskers & Squeals</u>	
Mackenzie Kratzsch	973-459-8679	Linda Keller	973-534-2941
Jessica Garrigan	973-903-8763	Joann Johnson	973-626-9994
Jason Garrigan	973-670-6996	Cathleen Permunion	973-464-6177
Amanda Agne	862-268-6516	Richard Hrynoveski	
Ashley Cosh	973-362-6626	Tonia Hrynoveski	
<u>Little Critters</u>			
Karyn Kuter	973-903-2181		

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. Anyone failing to meet the required date will not be allowed to show.

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. All 4-H members must have completed their Showmanship and Skill-a-thon by **June 1st, 2023** in order to receive fair passes and fair privileges for the 2023 NJ State Fair/Sussex County Farm & Horse Show in August.

4. 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 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 28th** to be eligible to be shown.

All cavies must be born by **June 4th** to be eligible to be shown.

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 \$34 for a family of two parents and 4-H member(s) or \$17 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 by entering an exhibit in the Shotwell building and barn sitting.***

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) ***and*** PARTICIPATE in the showmanship and skillathon tests, in addition to the Rabbit and Cavy Show.

Fair Set Up:

Barn power washing Saturday July 29th at 10:00 am – Bring power washers, hoses, push brooms, scrub brushes, scrapers and leaf blowers. Contact Mackenzie Kratzsch if you can help. The leaders & members will bleach cages before they are set-up. **WEAR OLD CLOTHES! All Market Animal Sale Members MUST Participate or you'll be asked to do additional barn sitting hours.**

MAS Cage Clean Up

Cages will be taken down and the area cleaned and swept on Wednesday, August 9th beginning at 9am. Bring a scraper and/or broom. Cages must be returned to the trailer if possible. All participants are REQUIRED to help.

MAS 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 that you bring. You must supply feed for your rabbit, and you are in charge of making sure your rabbit is fed and watered daily before 9:30am. If you cannot be there one day, it is your responsibility to make sure that someone else knows to feed your rabbit on that day. You may store feed for your rabbit 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 and MUST be used. They fold in half for cleaning and contain the waste, so it doesn'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 by **9:30am**. Animal waste must 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. Morning barn sitter should be sure wheelbarrows are emptied and placed upright behind cages in storage area by 10am.

DO NOT SWEEP DEBRIS OUT THE BARN DOORS!

FYI- the dumpsters where we dispose of animal waste are locked at 10 am; thereafter, you are responsible for disposing of the waste 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 the duration of their stay, may result in the loss of privilege to keep animals at the fair in the future. This will be at the discretion of the club leaders and/or the small animal director.

THE RABBIT AND CAVY SHOW:

This year's show will be on **Sunday, August 6th** at 10am at the Hampton Township Fire House.

All project animals must arrive in appropriate carrier for the species. If a project animal is not in an appropriate cage for the species they will be asked to leave. 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 area.** No premiums will be awarded for Disqualified Animals.

**** No food is allowed in the show area: 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 at the show until the show has been completed.**

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

BARN SITTING

Each exhibitor's family will be asked to spend some time Barn-sitting in the Shotwell building during the duration of fair. Families will be responsible for 1- 2hour shift for one member or 2- 2hour shifts for families with 2 or more members and Market Animal families will do 3- 2hour shifts. There will be club night barn sitting shift assignments during the fair week as well. A sign-up genius will be used, shift is first come first served. An adult **21** years of age or older must be present at all times.

BARN SITTING DUTIES:

All 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.

There will be only water consumed at the Rabbit Barn sitting table. NO FOOD or other beverages.

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 leader 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 leader 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 leader spending the night). Adult staying overnight may not leave till 9 am the following day or when next shift Barn sitter arrives.

If it is a parent covering the overnight barn sitting no children other than their own may stay with them.

If you are barn sitting as a club, there must be 2 leaders present with the members. Members must be accompanied to the bathrooms etc.

Market Animal Rabbit Stay Rules

1. All carrying cages must be cleaned and disinfected prior to coming to fair and once you return home. We recommend the following to be used in carrier trays/bottoms: newspaper or puppy pads.

2. No hay will be allowed to be used as bedding in carriers or coops. All hay used for feeding must be contained using something like a toilet paper roll, zip tie, or small piece of PVC pipe.

3. NO fruits or vegetables will be fed to rabbits while being exhibited at fair.

4. All rabbits being cooped and exhibited at fair will be housed on risers.

5. All rabbits entering fair will be permanently tattooed in the left ear. Tattoos must be legible.

6. Weigh In of all Pens will be 10am on Saturday 8/5 in Shotwell Building, the show will be Saturday 8/5 at 7pm.

7. Check In of 1- Meat Pen per exhibitor must be checked in on Friday 8/4.

8. NO Rabbits can be taken out of cages to interact with the public, they must stay in their cages.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in being asked to leave and give up your chance to show/sell.

FUN ACTIVITIES DURING THE FAIR WEEK:

Market Animal Sale: Tuesday, August 8th – Come support fellow members as they sell their Market animals. 6pm-? Livestock Arena

Round Robin: Thursday, August 10th- Livestock arena. Test your knowledge about all types of livestock and other 4-H programs. 7pm

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.