

BARRY COUNTY 4-H

RABBIT NOTEBOOK

GUIDELINES



**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY** | Extension

Revised 2026

Barry County 4-H Rabbit Project Area Notebook Guidelines

Rabbit General Notebook Guidelines

1. It is the responsibility of the 4-H'er to obtain a copy of the notebook guidelines. All notebooks will be judged based on these guidelines.
2. Rabbit educational notebooks can take up to two years to complete. See individual notebook guidelines and samples. All requirements for one notebook level must be completed before going on to the next level.
3. Each notebook **MUST** include a copy of the guidelines for that notebook with the year completed filled out. (Not including the guideline information will result in a lower award.)
4. Each notebook **MUST** include a decorative cover.
5. Each notebook **MUST** include a title page. Title page should include Name, Age, Years in 4-H, Years in Project Area, Club Name, Leader Name, and Date.
6. Each notebook **MUST** include a table of contents.
7. Each notebook **MUST** include your 4-H story.
8. Your notebook is to include information for the current year only.
9. You can add anything to the notebook that is related to the notebook content.
10. All notebooks must be bound in a binder. All pages must be fastened within the covers. No loose notebooks will be accepted.
11. Enter your notebook in the proper age group; refer to the fair book.
12. Be sure to read the Pre-Registration and the fair book.
13. Any questions regarding notebooks should be taken to your 4-H leader or the Barry County 4-H Rabbit/Cavy Developmental Committee.

Barry County 4-H Rabbit Project Area
Notebook Guidelines
Rabbit Educational Notebook #1

Items A, B, C, D are required for all notebooks.

- A. Decorative Cover
- B. Title Page
- C. Table of Contents and Notebook Guidelines
- D. Your 4-H Story – tell about your rabbit project

Level one (1) Rabbit notebook options:

Option #1 - First year - complete 5 of the following items.
 - Second year - complete the remaining 5 items.

Option #2 - First year - complete all of the following items 1 through 10.

* Remember, you must have completed all of the items 1 through 10 before beginning notebook level two (2).

Year Completed	
_____	1. Describe and tell the important characteristics of three (3) breeds of rabbits. Start with your own and two (2) others. Include origin, breed standard and uses.
_____	2. Parts of the rabbit- using a diagram, locate and identify the parts of the rabbit.
_____	3. Define the term disqualification and give examples of temporary and permanent disqualifications.
_____	4. Explain the following terms - registered, purebred and crossbred.
_____	5. Define these terms - disease, virus and parasite.
_____	6. Describe the cause, symptoms, treatment and prevention of ear canker.
_____	7. Describe the cause, symptoms, treatment and prevention of snuffles.
_____	8. Describe the proper procedure for tattooing a rabbit.
_____	9. Describe and draw a diagram of your rabbit hutch or cage and the equipment you use in the care of your rabbits. May use photograph with your own written explanation.
_____	10. Describe your feeding and watering program.

Barry County 4-H Rabbit Project Area
Notebook Guidelines
Rabbit Educational Notebook #2

Items A, B, C, D are required for all notebooks.

- A. Decorative Cover
- B. Title Page
- C. Table of Contents and Notebook Guidelines
- D. Your 4-H Story – tell about your rabbit project

Level two (2) Rabbit notebook options:

Option #1 - First year - complete 5 of the following items.
 - Second year - complete the remaining 5 items.

Option #2 - First year - complete all of the following items 1 through 10.

* Remember, you must have completed all items for notebook level one (1) before beginning this notebook, and you must complete all of the items 1 through 10 below before beginning notebook level three (3).

Year Completed	
_____	1. Name and describe eight (8) additional breeds of rabbits. Include origin, breed standards and uses. Total of eleven (11) breeds.
_____	2. Describe and /or draw a diagram of a carrying case, tattoo box and two different kinds of nest boxes. May use photographs with your own written explanation.
_____	3. Describe the symptoms, cause, treatment and prevention of sore hocks, pneumonia, skin mange and coccidiosis.
_____	4. Describe the desirable characteristics of the rabbit's hip, loin, saddle, shoulders and legs.
_____	5. Learn and describe the different ways that rabbit breeders tattoo to identify their animals.
_____	6. Describe how YOU tattoo a rabbit. Include how YOU tattoo to identify your animals.
_____	7. Explain the difference between a hare and a rabbit.
_____	8. Illustrate and label the parts of the rabbit's digestive system.
_____	9. Describe a trip you took to a rabbit show, commercial rabbitry or any other rabbit event.
_____	10. Add pictures of you and your rabbits.

Barry County 4-H Rabbit Project Area
Notebook Guidelines
Rabbit Educational Notebook #3

Items A, B, C, D are required for all notebooks.

- A. Decorative Cover
- B. Title Page
- C. Table of Contents and Notebook Guidelines
- D. Your 4-H Story – tell about your rabbit project

Level three (3) Rabbit notebook options:

Option #1 - First year - complete 5 of the following items.
 - Second year - complete the remaining 5 items.

Option #2 - First year - complete all of the following items 1 through 10.

* Remember, you must have completed all items for notebook level two (2) before beginning this notebook and you must complete all of the items 1 through 10 below before beginning notebook level four (4).

Year Completed	
_____	1. Name and describe nine (9) additional breeds of rabbits. Include origin, breed standards and uses. Total of twenty (20) breeds.
_____	2. What is the ARBA? Explain their goals and describe how they help you as a 4-H rabbit raiser.
_____	3. Describe the symptoms, cause, treatment and prevention of mucoid enteritis (mucoid enteropathy), enterotoxemia and mastitis.
_____	4. Describe how to sex a rabbit. Explain what to look for and the proper procedure.
_____	5. Explain why a doe is always taken to the buck's cage for breeding. Give at least two reasons.
_____	6. Keep a very detailed record of one of your does from the time of breeding until the young are weaned. Include type of breeding (forced or natural), kindling date, number of young, weights of the litter (especially at three weeks and eight weeks) and also any young that die (give reasons when and why). Include the final disposition of the litter, i.e. sold, kept for replacement, marketed or slaughtered.
_____	7. Define the following terms: breeding, conception, pregnancy, gestation, dry doe, kindle, buck and doe.
_____	8. Illustrate and label the reproductive system of the doe and buck.
_____	9. Prepare a sample pedigree using your own rabbit's pedigree or make up an imaginary one.
_____	10. Describe the five different breeding programs - line breeding, cross breeding, in breeding, out breeding and random mating. List the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Barry County 4-H Rabbit Project Area
Notebook Guidelines
Rabbit Educational Notebook #4

Items A, B, C, D are required for all notebooks.

- A. Decorative Cover
- B. Title Page
- C. Table of Contents and Notebook Guidelines
- D. Your 4-H Story – tell about your rabbit project

Level four (4) Rabbit notebook options:

Option #1 - First year - complete 5 of the following items.
 - Second year - complete the remaining 5 items.

Option #2 - First year - complete all of the following items 1 through 10.

* Remember, you must have completed all items for notebook level three (3) before beginning this notebook, and you must complete all of the items 1 through 10 below before beginning notebook level five (5).

Year Completed	
_____	1. Name and describe twelve (12) additional breeds of rabbits. Include origin, breed standards and uses. Total of thirty-two (32) breeds.
_____	2. Describe the symptoms, cause, treatment and prevention of vent disease, abscesses, wry neck and conjunctivitis (weepy eye).
_____	3. Describe the symptoms, cause, treatment and prevention of ringworm, fur chewing and warbles (bot fly).
_____	4. Illustrate and label the respiratory system of the rabbit.
_____	5. Label and display at least five different labels from rabbit feeds.
_____	6. Explain the functions of protein, carbohydrates, fats, water, vitamins and minerals in rations for rabbits.
_____	7. Figure the feed conversion of one litter of rabbits that you are raising.
_____	8. Calculate the cost per pound for one of your market fryer rabbits weighing approximately four to five pounds.
_____	9. Describe the different feeding programs for: dry does, bucks, wet (nursing) does, bred does, bucks not being used and replacement stock from weaning until breeding age.
_____	10. List the advantages of purebred stock versus mixed breed rabbits.(i.e. feed conversion, marketable animals, etc.)

Barry County 4-H Rabbit Project Area
Any Other Notebook Guidelines
Rabbit Educational Notebook #5

Items A, B, C, D are required for all notebooks.

- A. Decorative Cover
- B. Title Page
- C. Table of Contents and Notebook Guidelines
- D. Your 4-H Story – tell about your rabbit project

Option #1 - Complete all of the following items 1 through 8.

* Remember, you must have completed all items for notebook level four (4) before beginning this notebook.

Year
Completed

- _____ 1. Name and describe fifteen additional breeds of rabbits. Include origin, breed standards and uses. Total of forty-seven (47) breeds.
- _____ 2. Describe how to butcher a rabbit and do it if possible. Describe any problems you encountered.
- _____ 3. Describe how a fryer rabbit is cut up and packaged for the market.
- _____ 4. Learn to cook rabbit. Plan and prepare a dinner for your family using rabbit as the main course. Describe your family's comments. Include your menu and how you prepared the rabbit.
- _____ 5. Illustrate and label the skeletal and muscular systems of the rabbit.
- _____ 6. Prepare a report of 300 words or more on one of the following topics:
 - a. General management of rabbits
 - b. Rabbit feeds, feeding and nutrition
 - c. Rabbit diseases, prevention, control and general sanitation
 - d. Markets and marketing rabbits
 - e. Reproduction, breeding and genetics
 - f. Fur preparation for market, how marketed and uses
 - g. Keeping and using records as a basis for improving your 4-H rabbit project
- _____ 7. Describe your leadership activities in the rabbit project in your club, at the fair and with other rabbit exhibitors.
- _____ 8. Illustrate a class of four (4) fryer meat rabbits. Place the class and then write a sample of oral reasons as to why you placed the class the way you did. Use correct terms and the correct format.

**Barry County 4-H Rabbit Project Area
Any Other Notebook Guidelines
Rabbit Educational Notebook #6**

Description of your rabbit

Photograph(s) of your rabbit

(Continued on next page)

Drawings or photos of your rabbit's housing

Your feed and management schedule (How you feed and care for your rabbit.)

Show the cost of feeding your rabbit and tell how you finance it.

Describe any health problems. How did you solve them?

Other suggestions...include articles and photos of rabbits, equipment or any area pertaining to rabbits or related areas. You can also get ideas from the regular rabbit notebook guidelines at the Extension Office or at <http://barrycounty4h.com> .

Any Other Rabbit Record Keeping Notebook # 7

Items A, B, C, D are required for all notebooks.

- A. Decorative Cover
- B. Title Page
- C. Table of Contents and Notebook Guidelines
- D. Your 4-H Story – tell about your rabbit project

The record keeping notebook class allows the 4-H'er to present a historical log of information on a particular aspect of their project area. The most common type of record keeping notebook is for market animals for the Small Animal Sale (see separate guidelines for market records).

These guidelines are for other types of record keeping. Some possible ideas for this class might be (but are not limited to):

Show Records. A collection of remark cards, ribbons, pictures of your rabbit, shows attended, etc.

Pedigree Records for your animals.

Breeding/Production Records. Records showing the result of breeding specific animals. How successful was the breeding: number of kits, how many lived, how many died, results of additional breedings, etc.

Herd Improvement. These records would show your plan for improving your project area in some way. Examples might be increasing the number of animals per litter, increasing or decreasing the senior weight of your animals, or how you were able to get better animals (closer to the standard of perfection).

Management Records. A comprehensive record of the management practices you used while raising your project animal.

Use your imagination when designing and setting up your notebook and your records. Be sure to keep things neat and readable.

Notebooks must also conform to the General Notebook Guidelines. Enter a record keeping notebook under the Rabbit and Cavy Record Keeping & Meat Records section in the fair book. Any record-keeping notebook entered as an educational notebook will receive a lower award.

Good Luck and Have Fun!!!

****This is a sample title page****

Barry County 4-H
Rabbit
Educational Notebook #1

Sample

Sample

Sample

Sherry Lane
Age: 10
4th Year in 4-H
1st Year in Project Area
Hop-2-It Club
Leader: Jeff Hide
2006

****This is a sample title page****

revised 2026

*****This is a sample Table of Contents page*****

**Table of Contents
Rabbit Notebook #1
First Half**

4-H Story

Sample

page 2

Rabbit Breeds: New Zealand
Satin
Mini Lop

Sample

page 3

Parts of the rabbit

Sample

page 4

Ear Canker

Sample

page 5

Snuffles

Sample

page 6

My Hutch and Rabbit Equipment

Sample

page 7

Feeding and Watering

Sample

page 8

*****This is a sample Table of Contents page*****

**Table of Contents
Rabbit Notebook #1
Second Half**

4-H Story	page 9
Explanation of terms - registered, purebred, and crossbred	page 10
Definition and examples of disqualification temporary and permanent	page 11
Explanation of terms - disease, virus, and parasite	page 12
How to tattoo a rabbit	page 13
My rabbit records	page 14
Pictures of my rabbit and awards	page 15

*****This is a sample Table of Contents page*****