



**New York State Fair
2023 Youth Rabbit and Cavy Events**



EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

Youth Rabbit SUPERINTENDENT - Nick D'Amaro, 75 Greenhill Terrace, West Seneca, NY 14224 e-mail: ndamaro@gmail.com

Youth Rabbit Events are held in the Youth Arena (near the 4-H Horse stalls and FFA building) -- NOT in the Poultry Building with the Open Show Rabbits. Become familiar with the [NYS Fairground Maps](#).

4-H educators submitting entries in New York State Fair Youth Rabbit and Cavy Events must ensure that each exhibitor and his/her family, volunteer leaders and any other persons supervising exhibitors, read and become familiar with the rules that follow as well as the rules and regulations published in the Youth Department 51 Animal Science Premium Book (specifically Section F). For a downloadable copy see the [NYS Fair How to Enter](#) webpage. The premium book is listed under Youth Livestock, under General Information and Rules. Exhibition class for Rabbit Hopping and Agility immediately following the breed show. For more details see the [NJ Rabbit Hopping and Agility Guidelines and Competition Rules](#).

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Bring the filled out "Day of Show Entry" form, downloadable from [NYS 4-H Animal Science Programs State Fair Entry Forms](#) webpage, with you to the health check. **There is no limit on the number of rabbits and cavies that can be exhibited; however, only 1 per class per breed is allowed.**
2. Public rabbit/cavy sales are not allowed. The State Fair requires sellers to have sales permits.
3. Negative public responses about breeding rabbits in or near the Youth Arena require us to strongly discourage the breeding of rabbits at the State Fair.
4. All exhibitors are expected to select and enter animals that are in the best condition at the time of the State Fair. There is **NO FUR CLASS**. **We will be using ear tattoo numbers rather than coop numbers, so please make sure some combination of numbers/letters can be easily read in the left ear, not necessarily permanent.**
5. Cavies will again be judged. If you have a cavy, please mark **Class 715** on the exhibitor entry form. There will be a "Day of Show" entry form available at the registration desk at the show. Cavies need tag numbers written on tape applied to ear. Please bring your own tape.
6. Each county with youth taking part in the Decathlon **is expected to provide 1 adult for every 4 youth participating. Volunteers** ask questions at the various stations throughout the contest. All volunteers are asked to remain at their station until all rounds are completed. Adults will also be needed to help record information on Show Day.
7. **Pet Care Class:** On your entry forms, remember that the Pet Care Class is for 4-H project rabbits that are of unknown or mixed breed origin and which, therefore, cannot be shown in any of the purebred classes. It is also open to rabbits with one or more disqualifications. Please mark "Pet Care Class" on your entry form if your rabbit qualifies for Pet Care Class.

8. **YOUTH BREED SHOW** - THE FORM REQUIRES THE NAME OF THE BREED AND VARIETY=Color.
9. **4-H RABBIT SCIENCE DECATHLON:** The top ten individuals scoring in each division (Novice, Junior and Senior) will receive special recognition ribbons. The top 3 cavy individuals and the top 2 cavy teams will be recognized with a rosette. Teams may have 3 or 4 members. Only the top three scores will be added together for the team score. Up to 4 members of the top teams in each division will receive a rosette. Counties may combine to form teams. **The current quota is a maximum of 2 teams per division per county.**
10. **Good Sportsmanship is expected at all events. The superintendent may dismiss youth who show poor conduct or disrespectful behavior to any youth or adult.**

There are 10 stations in the NYS 4-H Rabbit Science Decathlon: Participants are given approximately 4 minutes at each station to answer verbal questions.

1. **Anatomy & Physiology** (involves questions about mammalian digestive systems, body parts, bones etc.) 3 divisions.
2. **Nutrition** (involves questions about feed content, water and feed requirements, nutritional needs for different stages of development) 3 divisions.
3. **Housing & Equipment** (involves questions about hutches, cages, floor space, nest boxes, feeders, ventilation, environment in general) 3 divisions.
4. **Health & Diseases** (includes questions about any health problem, identification of symptoms, treatments) 3 divisions.
5. **Terminology** (may include questions about breed standards) 3 divisions
6. **Reproduction & Genetics** (involves questions about sexing, responsible breeding practices, general inheritance patterns) 3 divisions.
7. **Breed Identification** (all participants will identify 5 breeds of live rabbits. Novice will identify the breed only, Juniors will identify the breed and variety, Seniors will identify the breed, variety and class (4 or 6) or body type. 3 divisions.
8. **Records & Project Evaluation/Management** (participants **MUST** bring a downloadable [NYS 4-H Rabbit Project Record](#) or [NYS 4-H Cavy Project Record](#) to the station.) They are evaluated on what they know and have recorded.
9. **Handling & Evaluation** (Novice and Junior participants handle, examine, pose, and judge their own rabbit in front of a proctor). Bring a rabbit that you can handle and one for which you know the breed standard requirements. This station resembles showmanship in other states. Show coats are not required. Expected attire at this station will include either a long sleeve show coat of any color OR a long sleeve collared white button shirt. **A live judging or culling component may be included for Seniors only.**
10. **Standards of Perfection.** Novice, Juniors and Seniors will have an opportunity to use a standard of perfection reference at this station. Participants should be familiar with body types and know the difference between full arched, semi-arched, commercial, compact, and cylindrical body types. Questions about judging a rabbit will also be asked.

Seniors Only will have an opportunity to rank a live class of rabbits OR cull a young litter of bunnies. Seniors will assess which rabbit would be judged higher on certain standard characteristics. These characteristics might include head, ears, general type, fur quality, color,

markings, condition or disqualifications. In addition to choosing the correct rank order, the participant may be asked to state why the particular rabbits were selected.

To encourage 4-H'ers to work as a team before the day of the event, the NYS 4-H Rabbit & Cavy advisory committee has agreed to repeat a component in the decathlon contest for teams only. Teammates will meet to solve a problem scenario and they will select a captain or leader amongst themselves to take notes for their group's work. Each team will receive points for their effort. These points will be added to the individual scores of the top 3 team members of each team in order to ascertain the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th place teams in each division.

Although other sources may be used, most questions will be taken from information obtained from the following sources:

1. Standard of Perfection 2021- 2025, available from the American Rabbit Breeder's Association (ARBA).
2. Your Rabbit/Your Cavy - A Kid's Guide to Raising and Showing by Nancy Searle
3. Kansas State University 4-H Rabbit Curriculum available from Cornell Dept. of Animal Science.
4. Rabbit Production by Cheeke, Patton, Lukefahr and McNitt (9th Edition).
5. Official Guidebook: Raising Better Rabbits & Cavies (2000), available from ARBA.
6. 4-H Skills for Life Animal Science Rabbit Series, available from National 4-H Curriculum Supply Service <http://www.4-hmall.org>.
7. Ohio State University Rabbit Resource Handbook for Breeding, Market and Pet Rabbit Projects Publication 4-H 228R, available from Ohio State.
8. Ohio State University Rabbit Learning Lab Kit, available from Ohio Curriculum Materials service. County 4-H programs may also borrow a kit from Cornell University Department of Animal Science.
9. Washington State 4-H Cavy Project Leader Guide EM4664.
10. Journal of American Cavy Breeders Association <http://www.acbaonline.com>.
11. Care of the Domestic Rabbit by Dr. Chris Hayhow, DVM, Ph.D. ISBN: 1-58597-197-9.

DIVISION DEFINITIONS

Novice competitors must be at least 8 and in 3rd grade by January 1 of the current year and less than 19 years of age on January 1 of the current year. This must also be their first time competing in the contest at state fair.

New Rule Change made in 2007: Senior Division includes all youths who are 15 and less than 19 on January 1 of current year. Junior Division includes all eligible youths 14 and under on January 1 of current year.

The Cavy Science Decathlon will have 2 Divisions. Junior and Senior. The rules concerning what division the competitor should enter are the same as the Rabbit Decathlon. This contest will be held on the same day as the Rabbit Science Decathlon. Every participant will be scheduled to go to each station just as they do for rabbits. Participants may judge a class of cavies only. Cavy participants may enter as teams or individuals. Novice (1st time participants) may enter Junior division.

THINGS TO DO PRIOR TO THE FAIR

1. **You and your animals** must have been properly entered by **August 4, 2023**. PLEASE BE SURE TO READ THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT ANIMAL SCIENCE PREMIUM BOOK. There are three sections to review (pages pertaining to ALL youth entries, especially note exhibitor age requirements; Department 51 pertains to all animal science exhibitors; the Youth Rabbit (Section F) is specific to youth rabbit and cavy exhibitors).
2. **Request and obtain exhibitor passes and parking permits through your County 4-H office.** Parking spots for RV's may be available. Check with State Fair Entry Department.
3. Plan a special public rabbit exhibit. Tables are available on a first come, first served basis.

Special needs participants - Please inform the superintendent about participants with special needs. We do not wish to draw attention to these participants, but will offer special help in the areas where needed. A short note describing the assistance needed on the exhibitor's entry form will help contest coordinators plan. Officials will do the best they can to accommodate if notified prior to entry deadline of **August 12**.

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU TO THE FAIR

1. Your rabbit(s) and covies in appropriate cages!!
2. Your Day of Show entry form sheet filled out.
3. Feed, feed dish and water dish.
4. Grooming equipment.
5. Show clothes. Show coats are not required. Expected attire will include either a long sleeve show coat of any color OR a long sleeve collared white button shirt.
6. Money for incidentals.
7. County banner to hang near where your county is sitting in the bleachers.

OVERNIGHTERS

1. Rabbits and Covies may be housed overnight in the **Youth Arena** on Friday night and/or Saturday night. Please do not arrive earlier than 5:00 pm on Friday. No animals may be left in the **Youth Arena** Sunday night. You are completely responsible for your own animals.

WHAT TO DO UPON ARRIVAL

1. Check in at the Youth Arena. (Early arrivals must wait until 7:00 pm to check in on Friday). **UNTIL YOUR RABBIT\CAVY HAS BEEN HEALTH CHECKED, DO NOT PLACE YOUR RABBIT\CAVY IN THE BLEACHER AREA.** The "holding area" for unchecked rabbits is the Youth Arena floor by the large doors closest to the horse rings.
2. **BRING COMPLETED ENTRY FORM TO HEALTH CHECK.**

Rabbit health check-in times:

Friday, Sept. 1 - 7:00-9:30 pm Saturday, Sept. 2 - 8:00-9:45 am. No health checks on Sunday.

All sick animals **will be** isolated from others. Please consider bringing rabbits in separate carriers. Otherwise all animals in a carrier with ill animals will be isolated.

3. Each animal must be housed in an appropriate carrier with enough room for the rabbit or cavy and a **leak proof** tray under the carrier. The carrier must be tagged with the name of the exhibitor, county, where the exhibitor is sleeping (dorm, specific trailer, etc.) and breed(s) of animal. Be sure to place the tag on or near the carrier in a location safe from your animal's curiosity (and teeth!!).

4. If you are sleeping in the Youth Building Dorm, check in as soon as possible after arriving at the fair. No exhibitors are allowed to sleep in the youth arena. Youth must be properly registered by county 4-H office personnel.
5. Show catalogs will be available on Saturday. Since this is a "day of show entry", the catalog will only contain a list of exhibitors.

OTHER INFORMATION

1. The Rabbit and Cavy Breed Shows will be on **Saturday, Sept. 2**. The Decathlon Contest will be on **Sunday, Sept. 3**. There will be 3 judges judging simultaneously, like an ARBA show. Stay alert!! Each class will be called **ONLY ONCE** so you must listen and watch when your breed is on the table. There will be no break between morning breeds and afternoon breeds. The most populous breeds start at 10 a.m.
2. **Only exhibitors are allowed in the show ring during any event.** Youth are expected to bring their own animals to the table for any contest/breed class. If they are already at one table during the breed show when a second animal of theirs is needed at another table, another registered youth should be asked to bring the second animal to the appropriate table.
3. **REGISTRATION** - Please note, **ALL** exhibitors for the Youth Rabbit and Cavy Show are expected to register between 8-9:45 am.
4. Judging is planned in this order. Cavies first. Pet Class to follow. Then all Rabbit Breeds will be evaluated (with most populous first). No formal lunch break is planned. Exhibitors need to be prepared to go to the next available judge to make the judge's time efficient.

CARE OF ANIMALS

1. All rabbits and cavies should be offered water throughout the day.
2. As always, youth are expected to treat their animals humanely.
3. Any perceived infractions should be reported immediately to the Superintendent.
4. **Show management is not responsible for animals and equipment remaining in Youth Arena after 5 pm on Sunday.**

Enjoy the Fair!!