



# Animal Science 4-H Rabbit

## North Dakota 4-H Project Sheet

In the rabbit project, you can learn about selection and raising your animals, health issues, management practices and careers.

- Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for and keeping records on one or more head of rabbits.
- Explore information on sound breeding, feeding and management practices.



**Pass it on!**  
Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

### Communication

- Design a poster on parts of the animal.
- Participate in workshops.
- Explain the use of rabbits for meat production.

### Citizenship

- Volunteer your rabbit for a community petting zoo.
- Volunteer to help at the county rabbit show.

## Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic/Level 1	Learning More Intermediate/Level 2	Expanding Horizons Advanced/Level 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn the different types of breeds and their ideal weight groups.</li> <li>• Determine the use of your rabbit projects.</li> <li>• Develop a rabbit care plan.</li> <li>• Identify rabbit equipment and its uses.</li> <li>• Locate and name parts of a rabbit.</li> <li>• Learn proper feeding techniques.</li> <li>• Discover proper rabbit showmanship steps.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn to judge rabbits and give oral reasons.</li> <li>• Determine the difference between class 4 and class 6 breeds.</li> <li>• Explore the different rabbit body types and their function.</li> <li>• Design a plan for preparing rabbits for show.</li> <li>• Learn proper grooming techniques.</li> <li>• Learn about tattooing rabbits.</li> <li>• Learn about diseases and environmental concerns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about rabbit breeding programs and genetics.</li> <li>• Managing your rabbitry.</li> <li>• Determine pregnancy and palpation techniques.</li> <li>• Design a rabbitry.</li> <li>• Identify bones on a skeleton.</li> <li>• Evaluate rabbit health.</li> <li>• Complete a rabbit pedigree and registration form.</li> <li>• Market your rabbits to others.</li> <li>• Expand your project into other areas.</li> </ul>

### Leadership

- Invite other 4-H members to tour your farm.
- Teach others how to handle rabbits safely.
- Lead a rabbit selection and feeding clinic.

### Entrepreneurship

- Breed and sell your favorite breed of rabbits.

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Learn more at [www.ndsu.edu/4h/](http://www.ndsu.edu/4h/) or contact your county NDSU Extension office.

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### Opportunities to explore the 4-H rabbit project:

- Contact your county NDSU Extension office for other local workshops, activities and events.
- Tour a rabbit producer's farm.
- Attend a rabbit show and observe the judges and their techniques.
- Attend a rabbit project meeting.
- Design a business card or marketing brochure for your farm.
- Write an educational article about some aspect of rabbit production for your newspaper.
- Participate in a rabbit skillathon.
- Organize a rabbit showmanship contest.
- Attend a national rabbit conference.
- Ride with a local veterinarian to learn about animal health.
- Learn about the different uses for rabbits: meat vs. nonmeat production.
- Consider showing in your county fair rabbit show.
- Interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine? Schedule a visit with [North Dakota State University](http://www.ndsu.edu) to explore those majors.



### Exhibit Ideas

- Participate in a 4-H rabbit show.
- Make presentations/posters on showmanship.
- Exhibit a notebook or display showing what you've learned.
- Create a display on a rabbit's economic value.
- Prepare an emergency medical kit.
- Create a display on genetic variations.
- Develop a display on feeding rations.
- Create a display on vaccinations.
- Display photos and descriptions of different breeds.
- Create a display on caring for rabbits.
- Make a display of grooming techniques.
- Develop a breeding herd.
- Interview a rabbit producer.
- Make a display on caring for newborns.
- Construct a nest box.
- Create a display on how to tattoo a rabbit.
- Explain a feed label.

#### 4-H Resources

- [National 4-H Rabbit Curriculum](#)
- [What's Hoppening? \(GBI151\)](#)
- [Making Tracks \(GBI152\)](#)
- [All Ears \(GBI153\)](#)
- [Rabbit Helper's Guide \(GBI257\)](#)

#### Other Resources

- [American Rabbit Breeders Association](#)
- [American Satin Rabbit Breeders Association](#)

#### Recordkeeping

- [4-H Rabbit Record \(GBI095\)](#)
- [Planning for My Project Adventure \(PA093\)](#)
- [ND 4-H Project Plan \(PA095\)](#)
- [ND 4-H Plan of Action \(PA096\)](#)
- [ND 4-H Participation for 11- 19 \(PA098\)](#)

Learn more at [www.ndsu.edu/4h/](http://www.ndsu.edu/4h/) or contact your county NDSU Extension office.