

# EXPLORE



## Texas 4-H Rabbit Project

*Showing Rabbits*



[texas4-h.tamu.edu](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu)

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.



# EXPLORE

## TEXAS 4-H RABBIT PROJECT



### Description

The Texas 4-H Explore series allows 4-H volunteers, educators, members, and youth who may be interested in learning more about 4-H to try some fun and hands-on learning experiences in a particular project or activity area. Each guide features information about important aspects of the 4-H program, and its goal of teaching young people life skills through hands-on experiences. Additionally, each guide contains at least six learning experiences, which can be used as a project guide, or as activities for six different 4-H meetings.

With a network of more than 6 million youth, 600,000 volunteers, 3,500 professionals, and more than 25 million alumni, 4-H helps shape youth to move our country and the world forward in ways that no other youth organization can.

### Texas 4-H

Texas 4-H is like a club for kids and teens ages 5-18, and it's BIG! It's the largest youth development program in Texas with more than 550,000 youth involved each year. No matter where you live or what you like to do, Texas 4-H has something that lets you be a better you!

You may think 4-H is only for your friends with animals, but it's so much more! You can do activities like shooting sports, food science, healthy living, robotics, fashion, and photography.

Look for 4-H clubs at your school, an after-school program, a community center, or even on a military base or through the reserves for military families.

Texas 4-H is part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M System. Founded in 1908, 4-H is the largest youth development program in Texas, reaching more than 550,000 youth each year.

### The 4-H Motto and Pledge

"To Make the Best Better!"

I pledge: My HEAD to clearer thinking, My HEART to greater loyalty, My HANDS to larger service and My HEALTH to better living, For my Club, my Community, my Country, and my world.

### Participating in 4-H

4-H is a great program because it provides options for young people to participate. From a 4-H club located in your community, a SPIN club that focuses on one particular project area, or participating in 4-H through your classroom at school, 4-H allows youth to learn in many different environments. If you are interested in joining 4-H, contact your County Extension Office and ask for a list of the 4-H clubs in your area. If you are a school teacher/educator and would like to use 4-H curriculum or these project guides in your classroom, contact your Extension Office as well for assistance.

### Purpose

Texas 4-H is designed to develop the youth of our state into productive adult citizens. The 4-H Program uses a non-formal educational process of engaging youth in a "learning by doing" process. This includes hands-on opportunities, participation in workshops and clinics conducted by volunteer leaders or professionals, as well as competitive experiences which allow 4-H members to demonstrate the knowledge they have gained. Through this entire process, the youth are learning key life skills such as working with others, teamwork, cooperation, and goal setting. Through all experiences, youth get to interact with adult volunteers and county Extension agents.

### What is 4-H?

4-H members across the nation are responding to challenges every day in their communities and their world.

As the youth development program of the Cooperative Extension System of land-grant universities, 4-H is the nation's largest youth development organization, empowering six million young people throughout the United States. Cooperative Extension of 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities provide leadership to engage young people in 4-H in all 3,007 counties of the United States. The impact of the Cooperative Extension partnership is profound, bringing together National Institute of Food and Agriculture of USDA, land grant universities and county government to resource learning opportunities for youth.

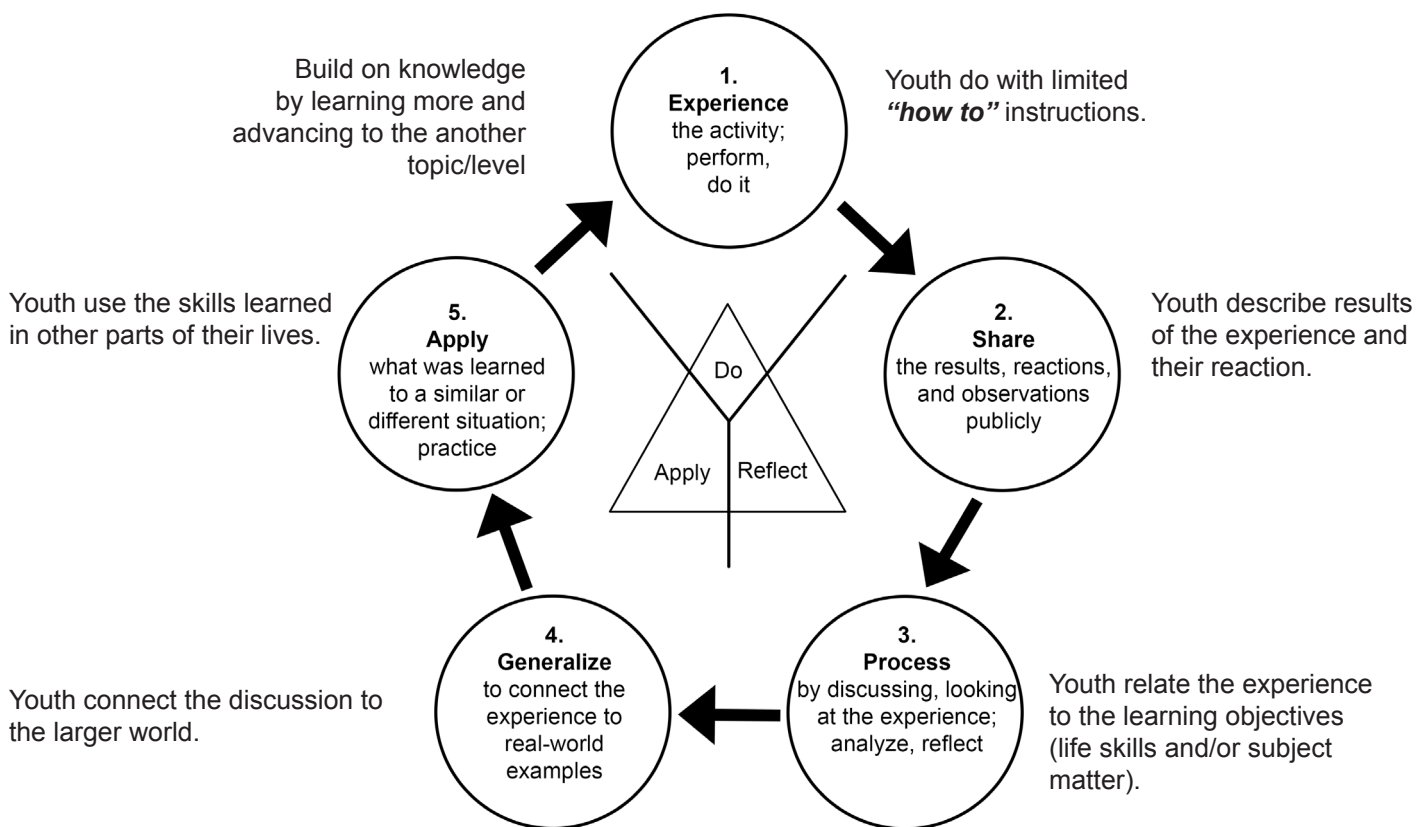
Through America's 110 land-grant universities and its Cooperative Extension System, 4-H reaches every corner of our nation—from urban neighborhoods to suburban schoolyards to rural farming communities.



## 4-H “Learning by Doing” Learning Approach

The Do, Reflect, Apply learning approach allows youth to experience the learning process with minimal guidance from adults. This allows for discovery by youth that may not take place with exact instructions.

### EXPLORE THE CONTENT Introduction of the topic, overview and exploration of content, and review of objectives





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# Getting Started, Things to Think About



## TIME:

30 to 45 minutes

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Handout of questions for each participant
- Pens/pencils for each participant

## OBJECTIVES:

The 4-H member will:

- Identify skills learned through the rabbit project.
- Decide if the project is the right one for them.

## EXPLORE THE CONTENT:

Why the Rabbit Project?

A rabbit project is a great way to get started with an animal science project. Rabbits do not require a lot of fancy or expensive housing or equipment, which makes them one of the more affordable animal projects to begin your animal science experience. Many times youth who are living in an urban area are not able to have an animal project, but since rabbits are housed in hutches, they are great for urban and rural settings.

The rabbit project will provide you with opportunities to learn and practice a number of skills including:

- Communication
- Decision Making
- Leadership
- Patience
- Record Keeping
- Responsibility
- Understanding and concern for living creatures

Other experiences you will have while participating in the rabbit project include:

- Learning how to care for and raise your rabbits
- Learning about animal behavior, animal science, nutrition, as well as health and disease control
- Sharing and learning from other members of your 4-H club

## DO:

Give each participant a copy of the handout (see end of activity)

Have each family sit together and discuss the questions below in detail.

Before you decide that the rabbit project is the right one for you, answer the following questions:

1. Do you have the time and money to care for your project?
2. Are rabbits allowed where you live? Hint - Check with your city ordinances and HOA's for restrictions.
3. Do you have a place for the hutches?
4. Do you have a way to make sure your rabbits are protected from other animals in the area?

## REFLECT:

- Are there other things you need to look into before starting the rabbit project?





- What is one of the benefits of participating in the rabbit project?
- Who can participate in the rabbit project?

**APPLY:**

- How has this information helped you to decide if you should have a rabbit project?
- How will you prepare for your rabbit project if you decide to be involved?
- Are the questions you answered for the rabbit project applicable for other animal science projects? If so, how are they?
- How can you use this information to help others to decide if they want to be a part of the rabbit project or other animal science projects?

**REFERENCES:**

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (2000). Rabbit Project Reference Manual. Retrieved on May 12, 2016 from: [http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/publications\\_projects\\_rabbit\\_project\\_reference\\_manual.pdf](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/publications_projects_rabbit_project_reference_manual.pdf)

# TEXAS 4-H RABBIT PROJECT



# THINK ABOUT IT?

**Before you decide that the rabbit project is the right one for you, answer these questions with your family.**

**Do you have the time and money to care for your project?**

**Are rabbits allowed where you live?**

*Hint - Check with your city ordinances and HOA's for restrictions.*

**Do you have a place for the hutches?**

**Do you have a way to make sure your rabbits are protected from other animals in the area?**



# Market vs. Breeding, Which is for Me?



## TIME:

45 minutes

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Cards with separate rabbit pictures and species descriptions for matching
- Master copy of pictures and characteristics

## OBJECTIVES:

The 4-H member will:

- Understand the difference between showing breeding and market rabbits.
- Decide whether breeding or market animals is the best option for each youth and their family.

## EXPLORE THE CONTENT:

It's important to know the difference between showing market rabbits versus breeding rabbits in order to make an informed decision about which one is best for each participant in the rabbit project.

### Market Rabbit Project:

- Raised predominantly for meat production.
- Can be shown as a meat pen, single fryer, or roaster.
  - Meat Pen – 3 rabbits that are of the same breed, age and size and are shown as a unit.
  - Single Fryer – a single rabbit between 3.5 to 5.5 lbs., not over 10 weeks old and can be crossbred.
  - Roaster – a single rabbit between 5 to 8 lbs., under 6 months old, can be crossbred.
- *Be sure to check with each particular show for rules on species that can be shown.*
- Breeds most commonly shown:
  - White New Zealand
  - Californian
  - Champagne d'Argent
  - Satin
- Generally, a short-term project.
- Rabbits shown as a market animal are generally sold at auction, and the exhibitor relinquishes ownership to the buyer.

### Breeding Rabbit Project:

- Used as breeding stock for the exhibitor.
- Can be shown in multiple types of divisions including: Buck Divisions, Doe Divisions, Fur Divisions and Fancy Divisions. They are judged individually.
  - Buck – unaltered male rabbit
  - Doe – female rabbit
- *Be sure to check with each particular show for rules regarding divisions.*
- Most commonly shown fancy breeds:
  - Silver Marten
  - Polish
  - Himalayan
  - Dutch
  - Mini Lop
  - Dutch
- Generally, a long-term project.
- After shows, rabbits generally return home with the exhibitor to continue being shown or become breeding stock.





**DO:**

Match the Rabbit!

1. Group youth in pairs and provide them with a set of photos and a separate set of names and descriptions of popular show rabbit breeds.
2. Have the participants match the photo to the name/description and check for accuracy.
3. Once names and descriptions are completed, place them in the market or breeding category.
4. Discuss responses as a group

**REFLECT:**

- What are the differences between showing market rabbits and breeding rabbits?
- What is a judge looking for when judging a meat pen?
- What happens to your breeding rabbits after the show?

**APPLY:**

- How can this activity help you decide which type of show rabbits you want?
- What type of rabbit project will fit better in you and your family's lifestyle?
- How can you find out more about the shows in which you are interested in participating?

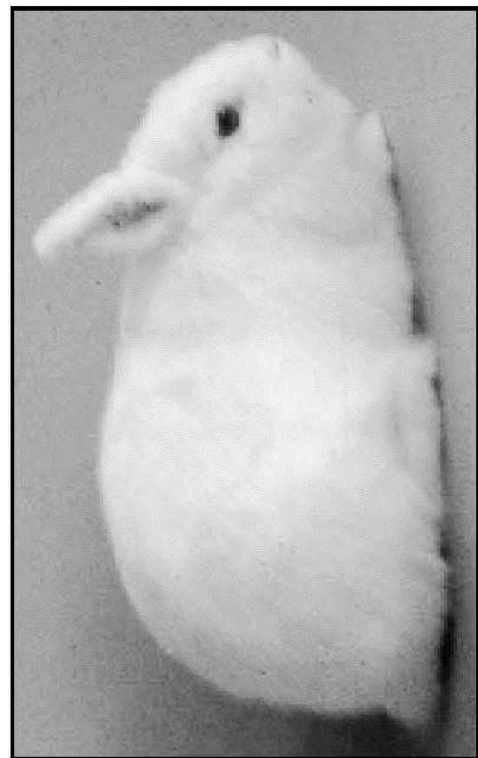
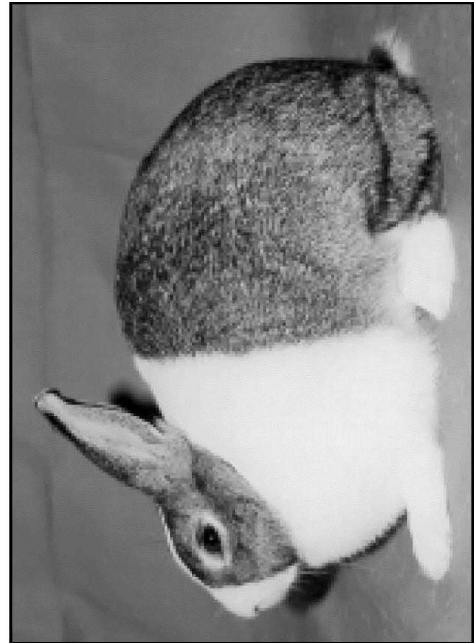
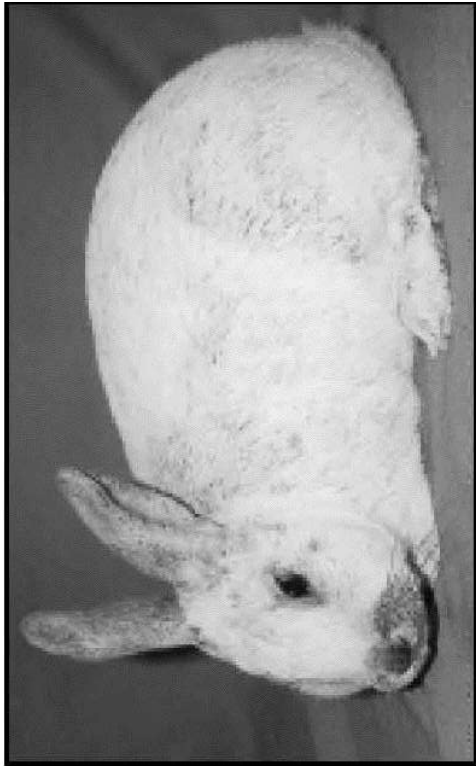
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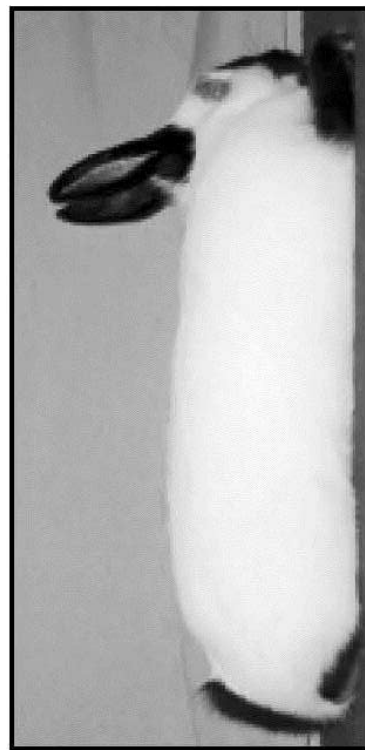
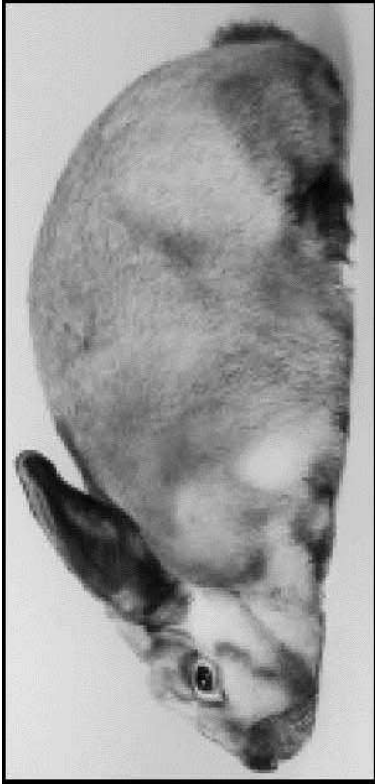
## Match the Rabbit Exercise

Instructions: Print a copy of the rabbit cards and the descriptions and cut them into individual cards. Have the youth read the description and match it to the breed of rabbit. Print a copy of the key to check the youths work.



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The **Dutch**, said to have originated in Holland, was improved and developed for exhibition purposes in England. One of the fanciest popular breeds, it rates tops with rabbit fanciers. This breed has six varieties: black, blue, chocolate, tortoise, steel gray and gray. Because it is a small rabbit, weighing from 3 1/2 to 5 1/2 pounds, the Dutch is ideal for fanciers with limited space. The Dutch is cobby and compact with a well-rounded body, smooth in every respect. Markings of the Dutch, sometimes difficult to achieve, should be clean cut, clear and sharp



White **New Zealand**, an American creation that appeared after the Red New Zealand, is one of the best all-around commercial breeds. It is an all-white rabbit whose fur can be dyed many colors for use as garment trims. The ideal weight of bucks is 10 pounds; does, 11 pounds.

The **Champagne d'Argent**, also known as French Silver, is probably one of the oldest breeds known and has been raised in France for more than 100 years. A well-known commercial breed, its fur is useful in its natural state and is still one of the leading furs used in garment manufacturing throughout Europe. This rabbit is born black. At about 3 to 4 months, it takes on the adult color, a silver or skimmed-milk color with a dark slate blue undercoat. The ideal weight for bucks is 10 pounds; does, 10 1/2 pounds

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**Polish** is a neat, cobby (stout or stocky), sprightly rabbit with well-furred, short ears. The first Polish were all white with ruby-colored eyes. Although their origin is unknown, they probably were bred from Dutch or Himalayan stock. Polish are recognized in four colors: ruby-eyed white, blue-eyed white, black and chocolate. Polish fur is short, dense and soft, resembling the Himalayan. For this reason, it was known in Germany as the Ermine rabbit, because its coat is white like that of the ermine, a member of the weasel family. Polish have become so popular in this country that in most shows they rank among the top 10 breeds in numbers exhibited. They are nicknamed "The Little Aristocrat." 4-H members can have lots of fun exhibiting this toy rabbit, which weighs 2 1 / 2 to 3 1 / 2 pounds.

**Silver Marten** fanciers have a choice of four colors: black (the most popular variety), blue, chocolate and sable. Choose a compact animal with a well-filled back and shoulders to bring out the desired type of the breed. Never stray from proper body shape. The basic color is as jet black as possible. Blue is a medium shade. A dark chocolate color is the standard, while the sable blends into various shades. All colors should be free from white hair, molt (shed fur) or stained fur. Proper color contrasts vividly with the silver-tipped guard hair, which adds much to this breed's beauty. Silver-tipped guard hair should be evenly distributed along the sides and rump. In weight, bucks range from 6 1 / 2 to 8 1 / 2 pounds; does from 7 1 / 2 to 9 1 / 2 pounds

The **Satin** is an American breed that occurred as a mutation in a litter of Havanas. The Satin mutation affects fur structure and sheen, which are determined by a recessive gene. This means that if you breed a Satin with another breed, the babies will probably have the other breed's fur structure and sheen. Therefore, it is best not to breed Satins with rabbits that have normal fur. Nine colors are recognized. The breed is popular for two reasons: its type and size make it a good commercial breed; its sleek coat with commercial properties, brilliant sheen and rich, vivid colors make it an excellent show rabbit. Mature bucks weigh 9 pounds; does, 9 1/2 pounds.

The **Rex**, meaning king, was named for its short hair by M. Amedee Gillet of Coulange, France. Rex have medium-length bodies with good depth, well-rounded hips and a well-filled loin. They come in several varieties and have excellent meat-producing qualities. The ideal weight for bucks is 8 pounds and does, 9 pounds



## Match the Rabbit Exercise

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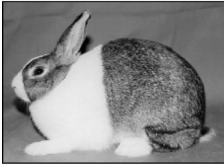
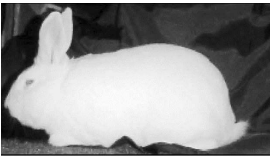


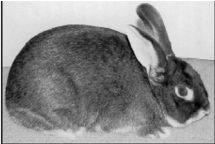

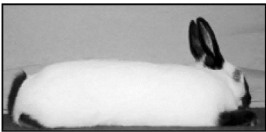

The **Himalayan** rabbit came from the Himalayan Mountains in Asia, but has long been known as an inhabitant of countries north and south of the Himalayan range. One of the oldest breeds, it is distributed more widely throughout the world than any other rabbit. Thousands of these rabbits are sacrificed annually in China to the gods of crops and fruits of the earth. The Himalayan characteristics are distinctive: a trim, well-built body covered with short, sleek white fur, ears erect and black, a black, egg-shaped nose with the small end coming well up between the eyes, black front and hind feet, a black tail and ruby red eyes. One peculiar characteristic of the Himalayan is that it weaves its head from side to side when sitting at ease. Mature animals weigh up to 3 1/2 pounds.

The **Californian** breed is another American creation. After experimentation and crossbreeding, this rabbit was produced in 1923. It was bred as a meat rabbit to have broad shoulders, meaty back and hips and a good dressing percentage (percentage of edible meat). This rabbit is white except for ears, nose, feet and tail, which are a dark gray or black. The ideal weight for bucks is 9 pounds; does, 9 1/2 pounds



## Match the Rabbit Exercise - Answer Key

Instructions: Print a copy of the rabbit cards and the descriptions, then have the youth read the description and match it to the breed of rabbit. Print a copy of the key to check the youths work.

	<b>Champagne d'Argent</b>
	<b>Dutch</b>
	<b>White New Zealand</b>
	<b>Polish</b>
	<b>Satin</b>
	<b>Silver Marten</b>
	<b>Rex</b>
	<b>Himalayan</b>
	<b>Californian</b>



# Bringing Your Animals Home

**TIME:**

45 to 60 minutes

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Sketch Paper
- Pencils
- Rulers

**OBJECTIVES:**

The 4-H member will:

- Know what to have ready before picking up animals.
- Learn the proper space needed for rabbits.

**EXPLORE THE CONTENT:**

Preparing to bring your animals home is an exciting time for participants. Be sure to do your research beforehand to ensure the best possible care for your animals.

Proper housing and good equipment are vital in having a successful rabbit project. When looking at setting up the space in which your rabbits will be housed, it is important to make sure the animals are comfortable and that you will be able to easily handle them.

The first thing to consider is the hutch. When purchasing a hutch, you want one that allows for the rabbits to receive fresh air and sunlight. Hutches should protect your rabbits from bad weather, other animals, and provide enough space for growth and exercise. Each individual rabbit should have a space at least 36" wide x 30" deep x 18" high. Hutches should remain clean for the rabbits.

Secondly, you want to think about the feeders you want to use in your hutches. You can use a feed crock, trough, hopper or an outside mounted self-feeder. Each feeder has its own pros and cons, however, selecting the one best for you and your set-up is essential. The biggest con for a crock feeder is that young rabbits can get into them and soil the feed, whereas the biggest con for the outside mounted open air feeder is that rain can spoil the feed.

Next, you want to make sure you have a way to provide water to your animals. The three best options for water are a crock, an automatic watering system or water bottles. As with feed crocks, it can also be easy for a water crock to become contaminated.

If you are raising breeding rabbits, having a nest box is essential. A nest box allows for the babies to stay warm, has ventilation, provides for moisture to drain out of the box, and keeps the babies in the box until they can crawl out on their own. Each nest box should be 16" x 10" x 8" to accommodate the doe and her offspring.

Last, but certainly not least, you need to make sure you have feed on hand. It is important to know what your rabbits are currently being fed so that you can either decide to stay with that feed or slowly change them to another. A sudden change in feed can cause rabbits to become very ill or worse.



**DO:**

Activity: provide each child with a piece of sketch paper, a pencil and a ruler. Ask them to draw the area where they plan to keep their rabbits and how they would arrange everything to make it easy for them to care for their animals. Have them show and explain their layout to another participant.

**REFLECT:**

- What size should each rabbit's hutch be?
- What should the hutch provide the rabbits with?
- Should you change a rabbit's feed as soon as you bring them home? Why or why not?

**APPLY:**

- What is the first thing you are going to do to prepare to bring your rabbits home?
- Why is it important for the hutches, feeders, and waterers to remain clean?
- What else can you do to ensure a good environment for your rabbits?
- Do you think the basic needs of rabbits would apply to other animals? Why or why not?

**REFERENCES:**

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (2000). Rabbit Project Reference Manual. Retrieved on May 12, 2016 from: [http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/publications\\_projects\\_rabbit\\_project\\_reference\\_manual.pdf](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/publications_projects_rabbit_project_reference_manual.pdf)





# Caring for Your Rabbits



## TIME:

30 to 45 minutes

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Print out of "Identify What is Wrong in this Hutch" page and pencils

## OBJECTIVES:

The 4-H member will:

- Learn the best way to care for rabbits.
- Identify cleanliness and sanitation standards for the good health of rabbits

## EXPLORE THE CONTENT:

What do I need to do to make sure my animals are healthy and comfortable?

If you already have rabbits at home and are bringing in new rabbits, you first want to consider the health of your rabbits. Bringing new animals into your already established colony can be harmful to the health of all rabbits. When picking up your new rabbits, you will want to ask the breeder if any of his animals have diseases.

Once you get them home, the recommended practice is to quarantine new rabbits for at least two weeks. Quarantining means keeping the new rabbits at least 50 feet away from your already established rabbits to prevent the spread of any disease they might have.

Another way to prevent any possible diseases from hitting your colony is to limit the number of human visitors allowed contact with your rabbits. Other animals, as well as people, can bring in diseases that could be extremely harmful to the health of your animals so it's important to limit contact with your rabbits.

Housing for your animals can play a key role in the continued health of your animals. Make sure that the area in which your animals are housed is well ventilated and easy to clean. Hutches should be cleaned each day and you should pay special attention to the following items:

- Open feeders are cleaned out with fresh food and returned to the hutch.
- Open waters are cleaned out with fresh water and returned to the hutch. Rabbits should have constant access to fresh clean water. Waterers should be thoroughly cleaned and washed out once a week. *Note: If using closed feeders or waterers, they should also be cleaned weekly.*
- Bedding is inspected, if it is wet or contaminated; be sure it is changed out.
- If breeding rabbits, the nest should be cleaned and sanitized prior to kindling (giving birth to young), and cleaned and sanitized again once the nest is removed from the hutch. Dispose of all used nesting materials.
- Inspect the hutch and if hair has accumulated on the bottom, it should be removed and cleaned.

The best way to disinfect your hutches is to clean out all manure and dirt and then to scrub everything with soap and hot water using a heavy duty brush.





By keeping your facility clean, you will be a step ahead of preventing the spread of diseases within your colony. In addition to keeping your hutches clean, you should check your rabbits daily to make sure that no health issues have risen.

**DO:**

Provide each 4-H member with the "Identify what is wrong in this hutch" handout. Ask each member to go through and circle each item that is "wrong" or should be corrected/cleaned.

**REFLECT:**

- What should be a priority in making sure your animals remain healthy?
- Should you bring new animals into your facility and put them with your established animals? Why or why not?
- Should animals be kept in a room without ventilation?
- If visitors come to your house and want to see your rabbits, how would you explain to them that it is not best for the animals?
- How can rabbit manure be disposed of?

**APPLY:**

- How can you develop a plan to make sure each of your hutches are cleaned and inspected daily?
- How would the guidelines for caring for your rabbits apply to other animal projects?
- What future careers could be associated with animal science projects?

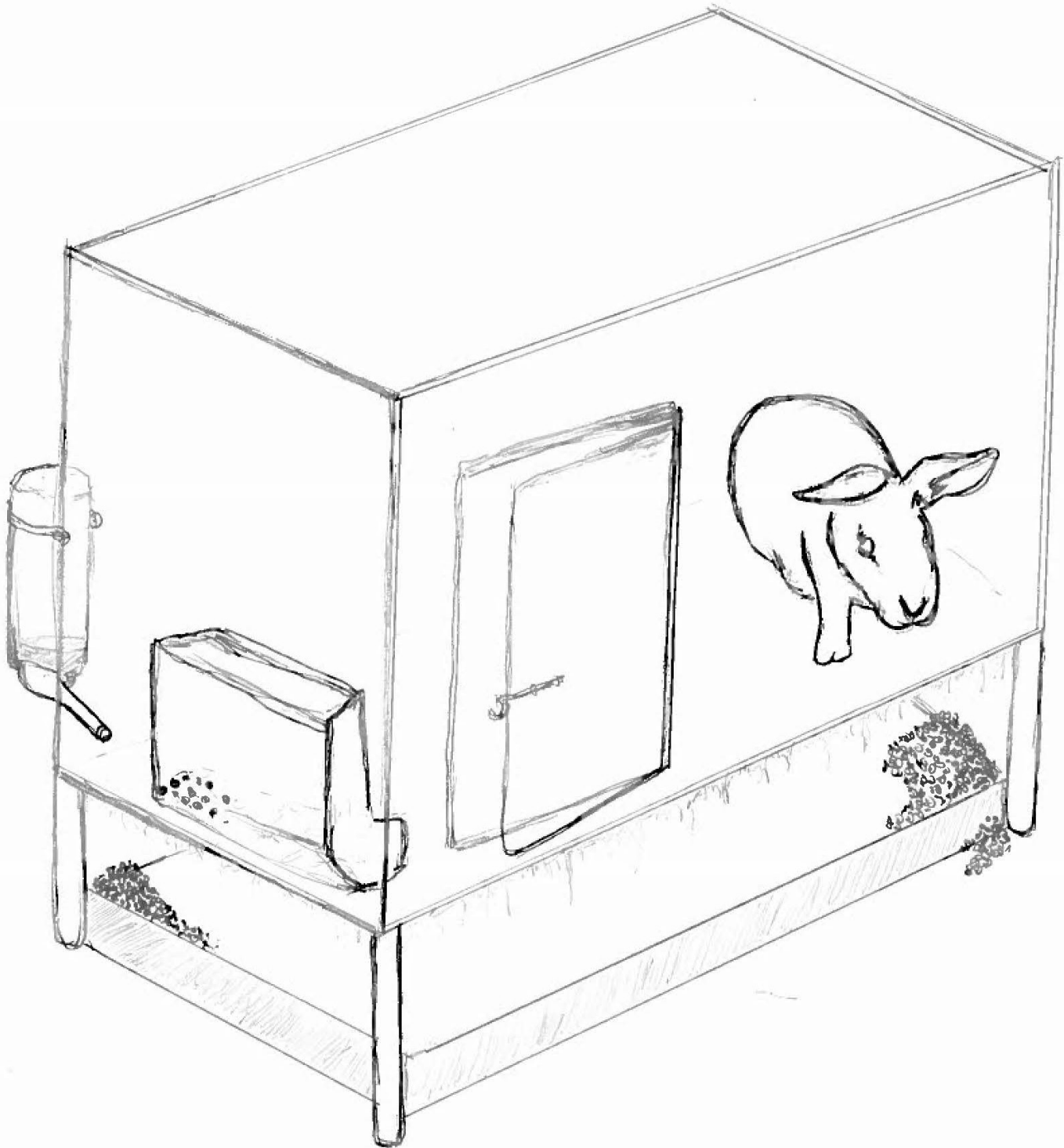
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## Exercise: Oh No! What's Wrong with My Rabbit Hutch?

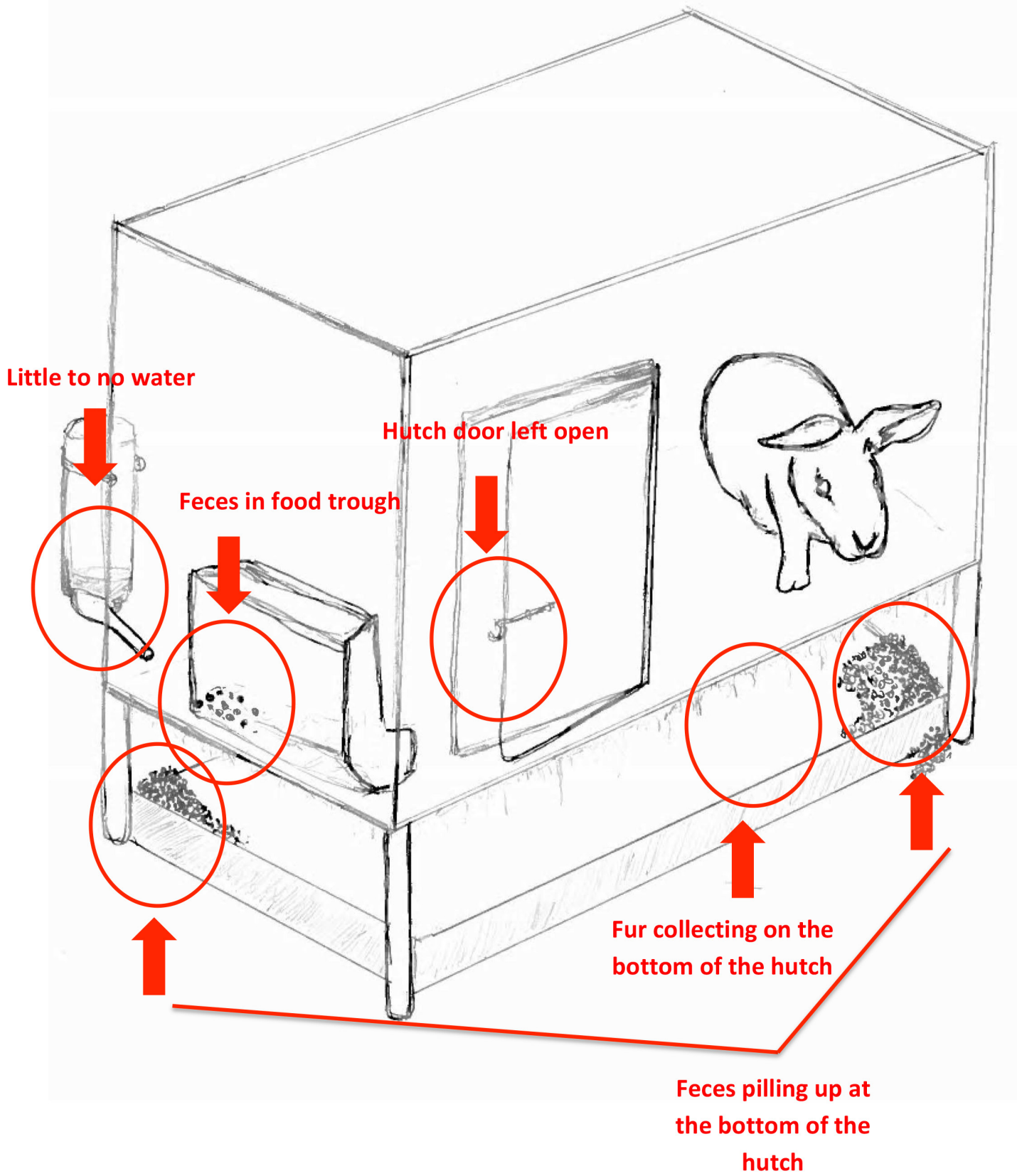
Identify all items that are "wrong" in/around the rabbit hutch below.





# Exercise: Oh No! What's Wrong with My Rabbit Hutch? - ANSWER KEY

Identify all items that are "wrong" in/around the rabbit hutch below.





# Show Time!



## TIME:

30 to 45 minutes

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Various show rules
- blank paper
- pencils

## OBJECTIVES:

The 4-H member will:

- Identify tools and other items to bring to the show.
- Learn proper show etiquette.

## EXPLORE THE CONTENT:

It's almost time for the show! You might be asking yourself - How do I prepare?

The first thing you need to do is know what show or shows you are participating in and get a copy of their rules. You will find that every show has their own set of rules and it is the exhibitor's job to know and follow them.

Once you know the rules and guidelines, it's time to select your animals for show.

It's recommended that you have more animals than you actually need for the show so that you can select the best rabbits for that show.

At least 6 weeks prior to your show, begin working with your rabbits regularly. This includes brushing your rabbits, rubbing their hair coat to remove excess fur and training the rabbit to sit still on the show table.

During this time, it is also important to make sure your rabbit is tattooed for proper identification. Certain shows require specific items for validation of animals and it is important to be prepared to meet their requirements.

As you prepare to leave home for the show it is important to make sure you have a way to transport your animals and pack the supplies needed for show. Items needed for the show include the following:

- Carrying Cage(s)
- Wagon/cart for moving cages
- Table (to groom rabbits)
- Feeder
- Waterer
- Feed
- Brush
- Bedding materials

Once you arrive at the show make sure you do the following:

- Check-In
- Place rabbits in assigned area (some shows have committee members who handle the animals once they are checked in)
- Be courteous to other people's space and animals
- Be respectful of the judge(s) and those who are working the show
- While your rabbits are being judged, be present at the judging





table

- This gives you the opportunity to hear the judges' comments and learn from them to improve for the next show.
- When leaving the show, make sure your area is clean

### **DO:**

Have rules printed for the shows in which youth in your county generally participate.

Have the youth work in groups of 3-4, with at least one adult working with each group. Assign each group a show. Have each group read through the rules and create a list of things needed to be done prior to the show. Include the order and a description of when and how they should be completed.

Once each group is done, have them present to the entire group so that everyone knows what to do to prepare for each show.

### **REFLECT:**

- Why is it important to know the rules for each show?
- When should you start preparing your animals for show?
- What if any items do you still need to get before show season starts?

### **APPLY:**

- How can you better prepare for the different shows?
- How will this information help you prepare for show season?
- How can you help others prepare for the shows?
- Would this information be applicable to shows involving other animals? Why or why not?

### **REFERENCES:**

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (2000). Rabbit Project Reference Manual. Retrieved on May 12, 2016 from: [http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/publications\\_projects\\_rabbit\\_project\\_reference\\_manual.pdf](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/publications_projects_rabbit_project_reference_manual.pdf)





# Show Follow-Up



## TIME:

30 to 45 minutes

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Paper
- Pencils

## OBJECTIVES:

The 4-H member will:

- Create a plan for animals after the shows are completed.
- Identify steps to prepare for a new set of animals.

## EXPLORE THE CONTENT:

You might be asking yourself the following questions: I've finished showing for the year, now what happens to my rabbits? How do I prepare for my next set of animals?

### Market Rabbits.

In most situations, when you show market rabbits which place in the contest, they go to auction where the buyer keeps them or they are returned to the owner. If you are fortunate enough to place and have the animals returned to you, or did not place and still have animals that are not able to be shown elsewhere, you need to have a plan for what to do with them. Some options are to:

- Sell rabbits to a commercial rabbit processing facility.
- Harvest rabbits yourself for consumption by friends and family.
- Sell the rabbits to others who are considering breeding their own rabbits.
- Sell them to other 4-H members to use as a rabbit pet project.

### Breeding Rabbits

Breeders do not normally go to an auction but return home with the exhibitor. 4-H members who show breeding rabbits normally have their own production set up and these show animals will be used for the breeding of the future colony. Knowing the judges critique of the rabbits will help you determine which animals to return to your breeding stock and which ones to include in the options listed above under market rabbits.

If your facilities are empty after the shows are over, this is the time to clean from top to bottom. Take out all the bedding, wash and sterilize all feeders and waterers, sterilize all nesting boxes, scrub clean all hutches and make sure everything is thoroughly dried out. Once you know you will have animals returning, be sure to wash and dry everything one more time prior to the move-in.

If you keep your rabbits year round, you still want to make sure you have a plan for your animals and maintain a clean environment for them to live in. When hutches are empty make sure they receive a good cleaning prior to moving a new rabbit in.

## DO:

It is best to have a plan, as well as a backup, in case something falls through. Have 4-H members work together in small groups of 2-3 to write a plan for their rabbits following the close of the





showing season. Have them consider market and breeding rabbits and determine what to do with them.

Once the groups are done, have them share their plans and discuss anything they might have missed, or what they brought up that no one else had.

**REFLECT:**

- What things do you need to consider prior to the completion of your show season?
- Do you have any local commercial rabbit processing facilities that would be interested?
- Who can you sell rabbits to?

**APPLY:**

- What research do you need to do before the end of your show season?
- What else can you do to prepare for new rabbits entering your facility?
- How can you better prepare for the future of your rabbits?
- How might what you learned about rabbits apply to other animal science projects?

**REFERENCES:**

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (2000). Rabbit Project Reference Manual. Retrieved on May 12, 2016 from: [http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/publications\\_projects\\_rabbit\\_project\\_reference\\_manual.pdf](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/publications_projects_rabbit_project_reference_manual.pdf)



MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

CORRECT: ● INCORRECT: ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔

4-H Explore  
Project Book Evaluation - Rabbits

1. Please read the statement in the left column of the table below. For each item listed below, mark the number in the left column for your level of understandg BEFORE the program; then mark the number in the right column for your level of understanding AFTER the program.

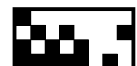
LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING: 1 = Poor, 2 = Average, 3 = Good, 4 = Excellent	BEFORE				AFTER			
As a result of participating in the Rabbit Project lessons and activities...	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
I understand the skills needed for the rabbit project.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand the difference between showing breeding and market rabbits.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand the proper space that is needed for rabbits.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand proper show etiquette.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand the steps needed when preparing for a new set of rabbits.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. For each statement below, fill in the bubble that best describes you.

INTENTIONS TO ADOPT:	Yes	No	Unsure
As a result of participating in the Rabbit Project lessons and activities...			
I can decide if the rabbit projects is right for me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I will use what I have learned to decide to raise market or breeding rabbits.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I plan to provide the proper space needed for my rabbits.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I plan to have all of my supplies ready for a show.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I can make a plan for the next show season.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. For each statement below, fill in the bubble that best describes your level of agreement with the following statements.

BEHAVIOR CHANGES:	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
As a result of participating in the Rabbit Project lessons and activities...				
I am more comfortable working in a team.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am more willing to listen to others.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am more comfortable speaking with others.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am more confident in my abilities as a leader.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am more comfortable in preparing for a rabbit show.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am more confident in my abilities to properly care for a rabbit.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>





**MARKING INSTRUCTIONS**

CORRECT: ● INCORRECT: ✖ ✗ 🗑️ 🔄

3. What is the most significant thing you learned in the Rabbit project?

Please tell us about yourself.

**Gender:**       Female     Male

**I consider myself to be:**     African American                       White  
    Asian American                               Other  
    Native American

**I consider myself to be:**     Hispanic     Non-Hispanic

**Grade:**     3rd     5th     7th     9th     11th  
                  4th     6th     8th     10th     12th

**Most of the time, you live . . .**

<input type="radio"/> Farm or ranch	<input type="radio"/> Suburb of city between 50,000
<input type="radio"/> Town less than 10,000	<input type="radio"/> Central city/urban center with more than 50,000
<input type="radio"/> City between 10,000 - 50,000	

Please provide any additional comments below.

