



**LARIMER COUNTY**  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

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January 23, 2024

## 2024 Rabbit Project Letter

### Attention all Rabbit Project Members and Leaders:

From: Bailey Schilling, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development

*This letter contains the highlights of the 2024 Rabbit Project guidelines. Once the Fair Book & schedule are posted online, each member and leader is responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by all rules and regulations. [4-H and Open Class / The Ranch, Larimer County Fairgrounds & Events Complex \(treventscomplex.com\)](#).*

Key Leader: LaRae Bishop

### 4-H Project Completion Requirements

To complete the Rabbit project, members must meet these minimum requirements. Please be aware that some clubs may have additional requirements.

- Participate in a 4-H related (subject matter or audience) demonstration or other speech presentation.
- Participate in a 4-H sponsored community service activity.
- Complete county level requirements such as a record book, Club meeting attendance, etc.

### Meat Quality Assurance Program

**Meat Quality Assurance Program (MQA)** - All 4-H Rabbit (including Pet Rabbit) members must have completed the Meat Quality Assurance Program requirements to exhibit at the 2024 County Fair and participate in the Jr. Livestock Sale.

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## Premises ID

**Same as 2023: All animals are REQUIRED to have a valid Premises ID prior to the fair entry date of July 8th, in order to show at the 2024 Larimer County Fair. This does apply to breeding animals. In the instance that a family needs to move an animal from the premise ID that is on file to an alternative premise, the Extension Office must be notified immediately, and the new premise ID needs to be recorded. Members who house there animals at the same location will share a premise ID. If you have a lease animal please check with the land owner, stable, dairy, etc. to see if a Premise ID or Federal Identification has been established.**

Did you show an animal at the 2023 Larimer County Fair? This means that you already have a Premises ID number and do not need to reapply for one unless you are housing your animal at a different location. If you don't remember your number, you can call the number below and they can provide it to you or you can contact the Extension Office for your number. If you did not show an animal last year, you will need to obtain a Premises ID. Your fair entries will not be approved until your Premise ID is uploaded to 4-Honline. You may need to call the Extension Office for assistance if you have already completed your enrollment. It's easy (and free) to obtain a Premises ID. You can register by calling 303-869-9130 or go to:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/aganimals/colorado-location-identification-lid-registration-premises> or call 303-869-9130.

## Animal Care and Housing Form

This form is intended for any members participating in the Livestock or Horse Projects that keep an animal at a location other than the address documented on 4-Honline. This includes any location where the animal may reside for an extended period of time. This form needs to be uploaded under "other documents" to 4-Honline and a hardcopy must be turned into the Extension Office. [Microsoft Word - AnimalCareForm.doc \(colostate.edu\)](#).

## 2024 County Fair Information

### Ownership and Check-In

All rabbit exhibits must have been raised or purchased by the exhibitor on or before May 31, 2024. Exceptions: Meat rabbits shown in the meat pen class may have been born after May 31, 2024. If this is the case, the exhibitor must have owned the dam prior to May 31.

Note: At Fair check-in, all breeding rabbits (except pet class & market rabbits) must present a pedigree.

### Record Books

**For all Livestock projects, record book checks will take place during species designated "set up" time.** A member can come to any of the set up times to get their record book checked. Exhibitors must have completed a record book check **before** they check in their project animal. If you wish to enter your project record book in the Record Book Contest, books must be turned in to the Extension Office by September 23, 2024. Individual Clubs may have an earlier deadline.

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All rabbits are subject to health inspection upon check-in at the County Fair. Sick/diseased and parasite-infested rabbits will be disqualified at the discretion of the Superintendent(s) and/or Veterinarian(s) and will not be allowed to show.

### **Rabbit Schedule (Tentative)**

**Thursday, August 1, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

Rabbit Barn Set-up and **Record Book Check**

**Friday, August 2, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Check-in of All Rabbits,

**Saturday, August 3, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Judging All Rabbits & Showmanship

**Sunday, August 4, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.**

Dress-a-bunny

**Monday, August 5, 5:00 to 6:00p.m.**

Rabbit Awards Night

**Rabbit Check-Out - Tuesday**

**Refer to the Fair Book for specifics.**

Ages of rabbits are figured as of **August 3, 2024**. No rabbits under 12 weeks of age may be exhibited, excluding meat pen rabbits. No nursing does with kits will be allowed. With the exception of pet class entries, all rabbits (including meat pens) must have a permanent, legible ear tattoo in the left ear prior to County Fair.

Each exhibitor is allowed a maximum of 5 rabbits (a meat pen counts as 1 rabbit) to be displayed for the duration of the show. Only rabbits pre-registered as participating (or substitutes for pre-registered rabbits) will be allowed to check-in. All rabbits must meet the minimum junior weight requirement of the breed standard to show at the Larimer County Fair.

Regarding rabbit meat pens: Must consist of 3 rabbits of the same breed and variety. All breeds may compete. All market rabbits must meet the standard of perfection. Age limit is 10 weeks (70 days). Minimum weight per rabbit - 3 ½ pounds; Maximum weight per rabbit - 5 ½ pounds. Meat pen does not necessarily have to come from the same litter, but meat pens must be bred and raised from the exhibitor's own breeding doe(s), which must have been owned by the exhibitor at breeding time.

**Single Fryers** – Not over 10 weeks of age. Minimum weight of 3 ½ pounds. Maximum weight of 5 ½ pounds. Fryers are to possess the same qualities as described in the meat pen section, rule, #7 (in Fair Book), but, judged as a single rabbit on its own merit.

**For all other details regarding the rabbit project, you are responsible for referring to the County Fair premium book, which is the Ranch Website.**

The rest of this letter relates to Market Projects Only. (Meat Pens/Meat Rabbits)

### **Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) Affidavit**

This affidavit, mandated by the United States Department of Agriculture, will be required for all market rabbit youth this year (market refers to meat pens and meat rabbits). This form will be available when you check your rabbits in at the Fair. Each youth will be required to read, complete and have appropriate youth and parent signatures on these forms, and they must be turned in at the County Fair.

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## What is COOL?

The USDA mandated Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) on September 30, 2008. Therefore, all cuts of beef, pork, lamb, goat, poultry, and rabbits must have documentation as to the origin of the animals to be marketed in the U.S. and international meat industry. So, what this means to us...Every 4-H youth showing market animals (beef, sheep, swine, goat, poultry and rabbit) must complete the "Country of Origin Label Declaration" form. 4-H youth can use one form for all species. The form documents the seller's basic contact information (in this case, the 4-H youth), the animal ID (tag #) for each individual animal in the transaction, and validation of what country(s) the animals were BORN and RAISED in. It also requires a youth and parent signature. According to USDA, this document must be kept on file for one year (in this case, by the Sale Committee). It is also very important that the 4-H youth keep adequate records and similar documentation in your own personal files regarding the purchase of your animals and all buying/selling transactions.

## Jr. Livestock Sale Information

1) **Wholesome Meat Animal Assurance Program** - Market rabbits consigned to the Junior Livestock Sale may be screened for illegal use of drugs or chemicals. Anyone found guilty of illegal drug or chemical use will be barred from future Larimer County Fairs. All 4-H members with meat animals are required, along with a parent/guardian, to sign a "Certificate and Statement of Disclosure" assuring the animals have not received illegal drugs or chemicals. The statements must be turned in at the County Fair. (purple sheet)

We encourage you to keep your animals as free as possible of any and all drugs. If you use any drugs or feed containing antibiotics, be sure to follow the correct withdrawal times. If your animal becomes sick prior to the Fair and you must use antibiotics, please notify the Sale Committee or the Extension Office. Be sure to put this information on the "Certificate and Statement of Disclosure" form. Also, be sure to list all vaccines, antibiotics, insecticides, and feed additives given to your project animal and date administered.

2) All members wanting to sell an animal in the Larimer County Junior Livestock Sale must have an official photograph taken with their animal. Members who do not have pictures taken will not be allowed to sell an animal. Pictures will be taken following the market beef classes. For members who have more than one livestock species, the last picture taken will be the species that is sold. Also, the Champion and Reserve Champion market animals are required to sell in the Junior Livestock Sale. Check with your Superintendents with questions about pictures.

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