



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
EXTENSION

# TEXAS 4-H RABBIT EXTRAVAGANZA 2019

STATE 4-H RABBIT SHOW &  
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Bell County Expo Center  
301 W Loop 121  
Belton, TX 76513

Saturday, September 14, 2019

[Register on 4-H Connect by September 10, 2019](#)

[More information at:](#)

[https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/rabbits/  
texas4HAdvisory@gmail.com](https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/rabbits/texas4HAdvisory@gmail.com)

We are proud to announce the **2019 Texas 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza**. The Extravaganza is a State-wide competition open to enrolled Texas 4-H members of official 4-H age. The Extravaganza will include: a single Youth Rabbit Show, Youth Skill Contests, Art & Crafts, and Educational Workshops on the 4-H Rabbit Project.

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## RABBIT EXTRAVAGANZA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Showroom Opens.....7:00 a.m.

**RABBIT Check-in (make substitutions now!)**.....7:00 - 8:15 a.m.  
\$3 per head substitution fee (Check or Money order only)

**Check-in for Poster, Art, Photo and T-Shirt Design (at designated areas)**...7:00 - 8:15 a.m.  
***NO LATE ENTRIES OR SUBSTITUTIONS OF SPECIAL EVENTS***

**Educational Workshop #1 – Learn More About Today’s Events** .....8:15 a.m.

**Rabbit Show Begins** .....9:00 a.m.  
**Show order and table assignments will be posted in the judging area.**

**Special Contests Begins in Designated Locations** ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Awards will be presented as judging is completed. (Approximately 3 p.m.)

**Poster, Art and Photo entries must remain on display until 3:00 p.m. (OR LATER IF JUDGING IS NOT COMPLETE)**

**Educational Workshops #2 & #3** .....at lunch break

**Educational Workshop #4**.....at the conclusion of the show

These events are run on a “come and go” basis. Participants should check in with the special event coordinator at the event location when they are ready to participate. Please do not wait until noon to check in for these special events or you may not get to participate! Event chairmen will work with those who have schedule conflicts.



## Texas 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza General Information

**ENTRY PROCESS:** *All entries must be submitted through 4HConnect.*

4HCONNECT is a 4-H Member and Family Registration on-line system. Each family should establish a family profile and enroll their 4-H members on this system. Once the membership record is approved by your county, you will be assigned a Membership ID and you will then be able to register for this event. Event name: 2019 Texas 4-H Rabbit Extravaganza.

**Clover Kids:** There will be a special non-competitive division for **Clover Kids** to participate in BEST DRESSED RABBIT and SHOWMANSHIP. Clover Kids will register the same way and all fees will be the same as regular 4-H'ers. Clover Kids

**EARLY ENTRY ONLY:** All registration must be done using 4-HConnect.

**Registration open from August 15 – September 10, 2019**

Instructions for using 4HConnect can be obtained at the website <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>

**ENTRY FEE:** \$10 per youth  
Rabbits \$5.00 per entry  
Special Events \$5.00 per entry  
Fees must be paid through 4-H Connect at time of entry.

Rabbits may only be shown by one 4-H'er. Entries submitted in the name of more than one 4-H'er or entries **WITHOUT EAR TATTOOS LISTED WILL NOT BE PROCESSED OR ACCEPTED.**

### **SUBSTITUTIONS:**

Entries may be changed the morning of the show **AS LONG AS THEY ARE THE SAME CLASS, SAME SEX AND THE SAME VARIETY; THEREFORE THE ONLY THING THAT CAN BE CHANGED IS THE RABBIT'S TATTOO NUMBER.**

All changes must be made before the show begins. \$3 per head substitution fee (Check or money order only, CASH NOT ACCEPTED).

NO ADDITIONAL OR NEW RABBIT OR SPECIAL EVENT ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

RABBIT SHOW SUPT.:	Don Mersiovsky	(254) 721-5992	lepus@hot.rr.com
SPECIAL EVENTS SUPT:	Shelly Ruland	(940) 206-0007	ShellRula@aol.com
RABBIT SHOW SEC.:	Jeff Tondre	(210) 861-3797	jstondre@yahoo.com
TEXAS 4-H Program Specialist-Rabbit:	Megan Logan	(830) 278-9151	mmlogan@ag.tamu.edu

**RABBIT JUDGES:** 1) Loyd Morgan, Jr. – Temple, TX  
2) Mary Jo Terry – Cameron, TX

**LOCATION:** Bell County Expo Center - 301 W Loop 121, Belton, TX 76513  
ASSEMBLY HALL (at front of Dome)- **Concrete** Floor & AIR CONDITIONED. There will be signs/banners outside the building so that you can easily locate the event.

### **GENERAL SHOW ROOM RULES**

1. **NO DOGS or OTHER ANIMALS** will be allowed in the showroom. Exception: Certified Service Animals will be allowed.
2. Bring lawn chairs for the family as chairs /bleachers are not available.
3. **NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED IN BUILDING.** Concessions by Bell County Expo Center.
4. The Texas 4-H Rabbit Advisory Board, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas 4-H & Youth Development Program, Bell County and its employees will assume no responsibility in case of theft, accident, or other destruction of your property. However, every precaution will be taken to eliminate any danger in the showroom. **PARENTS WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THEIR CHILDREN'S ACTIONS.**
5. **SICK RABBITS WILL BE QUARANTINED IN SICK BAY for the duration of the show.**

### **RAFFLE:**

A raffle will be held and hosted by Mid-Tex Rabbit Breeders Association. Exhibitors, clubs, counties, vendors and others are asked to support this effort by bringing and donating quality items - i.e. rabbit craft projects, equipment or other items that will interest those attending the show. Donations may be turned in at show check-in! Auction will close at 1:30 and payout must be completed by 2:00 p.m.



## EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS:

Three Educational Workshops are planned during the lunch break. Topics will be:

*We will be updating the catalog frequently to provide the descriptions of the workshops and the presenters names. Please check back for more information.*

1. Learning More About the Rabbit Extravaganza @ 7:45 am
  - a. Presenter: Don Mersiovsky, Texas 4-H Rabbit Advisory Board member.
  - b. Description:
    - i. Understand how rabbit shows are conducted.
    - ii. Understand the rules.
    - iii. Learn what I as an exhibitor need to be aware of at the show.
    - iv. Proper conduct during the show.
  
2. General Rabbit Selection and Care @ 12:00 pm
  - a. Presenter: Don Mersiovsky & The Fur and Feathers Club of Bell County
  - b. Description:
    - i. Learn the key factors in selecting your breed.
    - ii. Learn what questions to ask when you visit a breeder.
    - iii. Learn how to select herd replacements.
    - iv. Learn general care to prepare your animals for showing.
  
3. Showmanship @ 12:30 pm
  - a. Presenter: Kelli Tondre, Texas 4-H Rabbit Advisory Board Member & Senior 4-H member.
  - b. Description:
    - i. Learn the key factors in selecting your breed.
    - ii. Learn what questions to ask when you visit a breeder.
    - iii. Learn how to select herd replacements.
    - iv. Learn general care to prepare your animals for showing.
  
4. Meat Pen Care and Selection
  - a. Presenter: Jason Platt
  - b. Description:
    - i. Steps to prepare for your meat pen
    - ii. Breeding or Ordering Pens
    - iii. Feeding and Conditioning
    - iv. Selection of the pen of three



## RABBIT SHOW:

### Breeding Rabbits:

Breeding Rabbits are judged and placed based on a universally accepted *Standard of Perfection*. This will be a single All Breed Youth Show. This will not be an A.R.B.A. nor a T.R.B.A. sanctioned show, but all ARBA rules will pertain to judging rabbits (please note, this is subject to change, check back soon). Rabbit will be entered into Classes by: Breed, Variety (Color), Age and Sex as defined in the Standard of Perfection. **Rabbits are to be entered by the rabbit's age and weight not the exhibitor's age (junior, intermediate or senior). Most breeds allow for Junior and Intermediate Age rabbits which are over the weight limit for the age division to be bump to the older class.** We encourage each young person to accept the responsibility of his/her rabbit project by placing their rabbits on and off the judging table. No adult will be allowed to place rabbits on the table for youth. With the many activities of the day youth are reminded that it is important to remember that showing your rabbit when it is called to the table is your main priority. Please try to participate in as many activities as you wish, but always be ready when your rabbits are called to the table.

Rabbits are shown in specific classes designated in the ARBA Standards of Perfection by: Breed; Variety; Age; and Sex. Pedigrees and Registration is not required.

**Breed:** There are 49 recognized breeds with unique characteristics. Rabbits need not be pure bred to be shown, but they must meet the characteristics of the breed entered. (For the Rabbit Extravaganza, we offer a pet class that allows un-recognized breeds and colors to be shown.)

**Showroom Variety:** (Also known as color) Each Breed has a standard that breaks classes down by colors. Some breeds only have one color such as the Californian - these one-color rabbits generally show in a class called Standard. The Lop Breeds come in over 40 varieties but are shown in two – Solids (being one solid color) and Broken Pattern (a mixture of white and another color). The New Zealands show in 5 color classes – Black, Blue, Broken, Red & White. Mini Rex will shown in one of 20 classes - Black, Blue, Blue Eyed White, Broken Group, Castor, Chinchilla, Chocolate, Himalayan, Lilac, Lynx, Opal, Otter, Red, Sable, Sable Point, Seal, Silver Marten, Smoke Pearl, Tortoise, & White. The Standards of Perfection is the official guide, but ARBA publishes this guide for studying for youth contests to help cover the Showroom Varieties <https://arba.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/BreedID2019.pdf>

**Age:** When considering age, both the actual age and the weight of the rabbit must be taken into consideration. ARBA sets to standards. For smaller rabbit varieties, rabbits are classified as 4-class and larger breeds as 6-Class. The link above can be used as a reference. 6-Class Rabbits are rabbits is a minimum ideal senior weight of 9 pounds or more. These rabbits are broken into Junior, Intermediate, and Senior ages along with sex (buck & doe) to create 6 Show classes per variety. The smaller rabbits fall into only Junior and Senior classes along with sex (buck & doe) to create 4 Show classes per variety. A rabbit younger than 180 days (6 months) may be shown as a Junior. At 181 days, 4 Class Breeds are Seniors and 6-class Breeds are Intermediates. 6-Class Breeds are Seniors at 240 days of age.

It is also important to know the weight of your rabbits, as it will factor into age classes. The Standards of Perfection set minimum and maximum weight ranges for each age class. Most breeds allow you to bump rabbits to older classes if they weight too much for their age category. Weight ranges for some breeds vary for bucks and does. For example, it is not uncommon for a 5-month-old Californian to weigh over both the Junior and Intermediates weight maximum, and have to be shown as a Senior even though it is a Junior by age. Consult the Standards of Perfection for weight ranges by Breed from the Standars of Perfection.

**Sex:** Rabbits are shown as either Bucks (males) or Does (females). Neutered or spayed are not allowed to be shown (except for special pet classes).

**Tattoo:** All rabbits must have a permanently and legibly tattoo in the rabbit's left ear. The tattoo is to only contain numerals 0-9 and/or letters A-Z. The tattoo is to contain no language of a profane nature. An exhibitor may not enter more than one animal in the same class with the same tattoo. Non-permanent "tattoos" such as sharpie is not allowed.

ARBA Show rules can be found at: [Official ARBA Show Rules - ARBA](#)

First through fifth place winners in each category will receive ribbons. Best of Breed and Best Opposite Sex will receive awards. In addition, awards will be given for Best-In-Show, 1<sup>st</sup> runner up of show.

1. All stock must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor
2. **All Stock must be permanently and clearly legible tattooed in the rabbits left ear.**
3. Please pick up ribbons at the end of the show before you leave. **They will not be mailed.**
4. Rabbits will be called to the table three times only. If, after the 3<sup>rd</sup> call, your rabbit is still not on the table, it will be listed as a "no show".
5. No exhibitor or spectator will be allowed in the judging area.
6. Any animal showing signs of disease or sickness will be removed from the showroom area and will not be accepted for judging.
7. The superintendent/show committee reserves the right to make any necessary changes.
8. There will be no changes after judging begins.
9. No carriers will be allowed under judging tables at any time.
10. All judges' decisions will be final.
11. This is a one day carrier show - **ALL CARRIERS MUST HAVE WATER PROOF BOTTOMS.**
12. **IF YOU ARE LEAVING THE SHOW EARLY AND YOU HAVE A BEST OF BREED WINNER, PLEASE INFORM THE SHOW SECRETARY OF SCRATCH.**



## PET RABBIT CLASS:

We will have a pet rabbit class for companion rabbits.

1. Animals will be judged based on suitability to be a companion animal including: PERSONALITY, UNIQUENESS, CLEANLINESS/GROOMING, and GENERAL HEALTH.
2. Rabbits will need to have an identifying name or number in the left ear before judging. (Sharpie is acceptable for pet class only)
3. Disqualification are based on any communicable/Infectious disease (snuffles/snot, ear mites, conjunctivitis, sore hocks, fur mites, etc.) or structural default (severely over or under weight, abscess, deformity, wolf teeth).
4. Mixed breeds and rabbits with minor disqualifications are allowed.
5. ALL PET RABBITS will be judged in a single class regardless of Breed age and sex.
6. **Pet Class can not compete for Best In Show.**



## SPECIAL EVENTS RULES & INFORMATION

### EXHIBITOR AGE DIVISIONS:

Clover Kids	5 years old to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade of August 31, 2019 (Best Dressed & Showmanship, Only)
Junior	3 <sup>rd</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> grades of August 31, 2019
Intermediate	6 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> grades of August 31, 2019
Senior	9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> grades (not over 19 years old) of August 31, 2019

### Contests shall Include:

#### SHOWMANSHIP:

Purpose: Provide youth an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to professionally examine a rabbit as a judge would do in competition. Judges may ask several “standard” questions that will be age appropriate. Judges will be fair and consistent with all judging and will have experience in this field. Some youths will be asked to do showmanship more than one time to determine winners in case of ties. The ARBA Rabbit Showmanship Guidelines and score form will be used as the standard for judging. Guidelines can be located on-line at:

<https://www.arba.net/PDFs/Showmanship.pdf>

#### BEST DRESSED RABBIT

Contestant will present one entry of a themed costume with a live rabbit. Costume shall be appropriate for the rabbit and not jeopardize health. Although only the rabbit is required to be in costume, the contestant may dress up as well. Matching costumes are popular, and participants tend to keep their ideas relevant to current trends and pop-culture.

#### RABBIT PHOTO CONTEST:

Purpose: To display your creative skills using a camera. All pictures must be taken by the exhibitor since the last Extravaganza. All photos must include one or more “real” rabbits. Each photo may be entered in only ONE category (the same picture cannot be color and b&w). Categories will include: Color Humor, Color Rabbit (single rabbit breed photos), Color Rabbits and People, Color Open (all others), Black & White (all) and may be taken with any camera. First place winners in each category will be considered for AGE division grand champion award.

All photos must be 8 x 10 inches in dimension. All prints must be permanently mounted on solid photographic mount board or a board of like thickness no larger than 8 x 10 inches suitable for hanging, without an additional frame. No framed photos.

Do not pre-label exhibits. Identification tags will be furnished upon check-in at the Extravaganza.

### **RABBIT ART CONTEST:**

Purpose: To display your creative skills using various methods of artistic creativity. All work must be original and done by the exhibitor since the last Extravaganza and MUST contain a rabbit or its likeness. Entries will be classified as 1) Graphic - to include drawings, colorings, etchings, and paintings 2) Handicrafts - to include sewing, baskets, embroidery, etc. - Identification tags will be provided at show check-in. The first place entry from graphic and handicraft in each age division will be given an award.

### **EDUCATIONAL / PROMOTIONAL RABBIT POSTERS & DISPLAYS:**

Purpose: To promote the rabbit project and show rabbit knowledge and/or rabbit project possibilities. Please use standard size poster board or free-standing tri-fold display (science) boards. **Do not pre-label exhibits.** Identification tags will be furnished upon check-in. Posters will be judged from a distance of 5 feet on: eye appeal, originality, subject matter and readability. All entries must have been made by the exhibitor member since the last Extravaganza.

### **BREED IDENTIFICATION:**

Purpose: To demonstrate the participants knowledge of the different breeds of rabbits using breed, showroom classification, type and class. Use the ARBA Standards of Perfection to study and ARBA Web Site:

[https://www.arba.net/PDFs/breed\\_id\\_rules.pdf](https://www.arba.net/PDFs/breed_id_rules.pdf)

[https://www.arba.net/PDFs/Breed\\_ID\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.arba.net/PDFs/Breed_ID_Guide.pdf)

Youth will view a variety of rabbits, then will write answers on an official answer sheet.

EXAMPLE:

BREED	SHOWROOM CLASSIFICATION	CLASS (4 OR 6)	Registration Variety
<i>Mini Rex</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Black</i>
<i>French Lop</i>	<i>Broken</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Broken Black Chinchilla</i>
<i>Netherland Dwarf</i>	<i>Self</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Chocolate</i>
<i>Holland Lop</i>	<i>Solid</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Siamese Sable</i>

Changes will be made to entry classification if deemed necessary by Special Events Supt.

Adult and teen volunteers are asked to assist in any way possible to help make these contests run smoothly. If you would like to volunteer in any way, email us at [texas4Hadvisory@gmail.com](mailto:texas4Hadvisory@gmail.com) to let us know how you can help! Volunteers can also check with us at the event if you want to help!

**Youth assistants may NOT enter an event for which they are providing rabbits or other types of leadership or assistance for the show.**

[http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/youth/rabbit%20extravaganza/index\\_rabbit.php](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/youth/rabbit%20extravaganza/index_rabbit.php)



## **Lodging Facilities:**

La Quinta Inn & Suites Belton - Temple South  
229 W Loop 121  
Belton, TX 76513  
(254) 939-2772

La Quinta Inn Temple  
1604 W Barton Ave  
Temple, TX 76504  
(254) 771-2980

Super 8 by Wyndham Temple  
5505 S General Bruce Dr  
Temple, TX 76502  
(254) 217-8300