



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

TEXAS 4-H PRESENTS

2023 RABBIT EXTRAVAGANZA

STATEWIDE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE & RABBIT SHOW

Rule Book

SHOW DATE:

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

REGISTRATION PERIOD:

AUGUST 16, 2023 – SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

LAST REVISED 07/13/2023



SCAN ME



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GENERAL INFORMATION

EVENT OVERVIEW:

The Extravaganza is a State-wide educational event and competition that is organized and hosted by the Texas 4-H Rabbit Advisory Board. The event is 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Website: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/rabbits/>
Email: texas4Hadvisory@gmail.com
Shelley.Franklin@ag.tamu.edu

SHOW COMMITTEE:

Rabbit Show Superintendent: Don Mersiovsky
254-721-5992 or lepus@hot.rr.com

Rabbit Show Secretary: Jeff Tondre
210-861-3797 or jstondre@yahoo.com

Special Events Coordinator: Mellanie Mickelson
512-522-9174 or MLMickelson@ag.tamu.edu

Rabbit Advisory Board Chair: Shelley Franklin
512-289-7295 or Shelley.Franklin@ag.tamu.edu

RABBIT JUDGES:

Emily Roberts
Judge 2 – pending confirmation

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 of the building so that you can easily locate the event.

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.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

LOCATION:

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

7:00 AM	Showroom Opens
7:00 AM – 8:15 AM	Rabbit Check-In (make substitutions now) <i>\$3 per head substitution fee</i> <i>(Check or Money Order only)</i> Check-in for Poster, Art, Photo at designated areas No late entries or substitutions of special events. Turn in donations for the Raffle
8:15 AM	Educational Workshop #1: Learn More About Today's Events
9:00 AM	Rabbit Show Begins Show order and table assignments will be posted in the judging area
9:30 AM	Special Contests Begins in Designated Locations Awards will be presented as judging is completed (Tentatively 3:00 PM) Poster, Art and Photo entries must remain on display until 3:00 p.m. or until judging is complete.
12:00 Noon	Educational Workshop #2: Meet the Breeds
12:30 PM	Educational Workshop #3: Showmanship & Meat Pens
1:30 PM	Raffle/Auction Closes
2:00 PM	Raffle/Auction Payout must be completed

PLEASE NOTE:

These events (Breed ID, Showmanship, & Hands-On Judging) 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.



RULES & GUIDELINES

GENERAL SHOW ROOM RULES:

1. **NO DOGS or OTHER ANIMALS** will be allowed in the showroom. Exception: official 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.

ENTRY RULES & GUIDELINES:

ENTRY PROCESS:

- All entries must be submitted through [4HOnline](#).
- [4HOnline](#) 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: 2022 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 members.

ENTRIES DUE:

- All registration must be done using [4HOnline](#).
- **EARLY ENTRY ONLY**
- **Registration open from August 16, 2023 – September 12, 2023**
- Instructions for using 4HOnline can be obtained at the website <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>



ENTRY FEES:

- \$10.00 per youth
- \$5.00 per Rabbit Entry
- \$5.00 per Special Event Entry
- Fees must be paid through 4-H Online at time of entry.

RABBIT ENTRIES:

- Rabbits may only be shown by one 4-H member. Entries submitted in the name of more than one (1) 4-H'er or entries will not be accepted.
- **RABBITS WITHOUT EAR TATTOOS LISTED WILL NOT BE PROCESSED OR ACCEPTED.**

RABBIT 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
 - Fees may be paid via check or money order only, CASH NOT ACCEPTED

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



EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS:

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

We are excited to offer educational opportunities at the event. Three (3) Educational Workshops are planned during the event. Topics will be:

1. Learning More About the Rabbit Extravaganza

- a. Time: 8:15 AM
- b. Presenter: Don Mersiovsky, Texas 4-H Rabbit Advisory Board member.
- c. 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. Meet the Breeds

- a. Time: 12:00 Noon
- b. Presenter: Texas 4-H Youth Rabbit Advisory Board Members
- c. Description:
 - i. Rabbit breeds overview
 - ii. Overview of the Breeds ID Contest
 - iii. Educational opportunities and resources

3. Showmanship & Meat Pens

- a. Time: 12:30 PM
- b. Presenter: Don Mersiovsky
- c. Description:
 - i. Care and keeping of rabbits
 - ii. Steps to prepare for your meat pen
 - iii. Breeding or Ordering Pens
 - iv. Feeding and Conditioning
 - v. Selection of the pen of three
 - vi. Showmanship Clinic

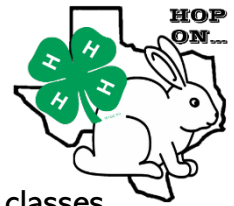
Texas 4-H Rabbit Advisory Board Youth Members will be available throughout the day at an informational booth to answer any questions.



RABBIT SHOW RULES & INFORMATION:

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 American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) nor a Texas Rabbit Breeders Association (TRBA) 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 fifty-one (51) 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 (1) color such as the Californian - these one-color rabbits generally show in a class called Standard. The Lop Breeds come in over forty (40) varieties but are shown in two (2) – Solids (being one solid color) and Broken Pattern (a mixture of



white and another color). The New Zealands show in five (5) color classes – Black, Blue, Broken, Red & White. Mini Rex will shown in one of twenty (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.

- **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 nine (9) pounds or more. These rabbits are broken into Junior, Intermediate, and Senior ages along with sex (buck & doe) to create size (6) Show classes per variety. The smaller rabbits fall into only Junior and Senior classes along with sex (buck & doe) to create four (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.
- **Weight:** 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 Standards 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](#)



AWARDS:

First (1st) through tenth (10th) 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, Reserve in Show, and 2nd Reserve in 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 (3) times only. If, after the 3rd 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.
 - a. For sanitation purposes, all rabbits must be presented for the show in a wire bottom cage or carrier with a suspended floor.
 - b. **ALL CARRIERS MUST HAVE WATERPROOF 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. Disqualifications 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 cannot compete for Best In Show.**



SPECIAL EVENTS RULES & INFORMATION

EXHIBITOR AGE DIVISIONS:

Clover Kids:	5 years old to 2nd Grade of August 31, 2023 (Best Dressed & Showmanship, Only)
Junior:	3rd to 5th grades of August 31, 2023
Intermediate	6th to 8th grades of August 31, 2023
Senior	9th to 12th grades (not over 19 years old) of August 31, 2023

CONTESTS:

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

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: [Showmanship – ARBA](#)

BEST DRESSED RABBIT

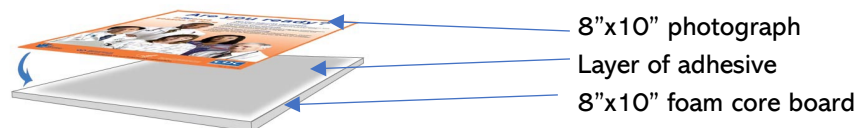
- Contestant will present one (1) entry of a themed costume with a live rabbit.
- Costume shall be appropriate for the rabbit and not jeopardize health.
- Although only the rabbit is required to be in costume, the contestant may dress up as well.
- Matching costumes are popular, and participants tend 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 (1) category (example: 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.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** 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 (please see image example below for reference). No framed photos.
- **NEW: PLEASE pre-label exhibits on the BACK with Name, Age Division, & County.**



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:
 - Graphic - to include drawings, colorings, etchings, and paintings
 - Handicrafts - to include sewing, baskets, embroidery, etc.
- **NEW: PLEASE pre-label exhibits on the BACK with Name, Age Division, & County.**
- The first (1st) 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.
- **NEW: PLEASE pre-label exhibits on the BACK with Name, Age Division, & County.**
- Posters will be judged from a distance of five (5) feet
- Judging will be based on the following: 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.
- Resources: Use the ARBA Standards of Perfection to study and ARBA Web Site:
 - [Breed ID Guide \(arbadistricts.net\)](http://arbadistricts.net)
 - [Recognized Breeds – ARBA](#)
- 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 Coordinator.

SPECIAL EVENT VOLUNTEERS:

- 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 shelley.franklin@ag.tamu.edu to let us know how you can help!
- Volunteers can also check with us at the event if you want to help!



LODGING FACILITIES:

Save up to 15% off of the Best Available Rate* at the following Wyndham Hotels using the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation Corporate Code— 1000028575

La Quinta Inn & Suites Belton - Temple South

229 W Loop 121

Belton, TX 76513

(254) 939-2772

Allows pets

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

**Please note that this is subject to availability at participating hotels. Blackout dates and certain restrictions may apply.*



RABBIT SHOW PACKING LIST:

Please see the list below for basic packing guidelines and reminders.

THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE SHOW:

- Read Show Rules, make notes, mark dates & deadlines in calendar, ask questions
- Select which rabbits will go to show – mark their cages and make notes
- Register for the show
- Make hotel reservations
- Tattoo rabbits in LEFT ear
- Check and clip nails of each rabbit

PEOPLE ITEMS:

- Chairs
- Zip ties
- Standard of Perfection booklet
- Office Supplies – clipboard, pens, pencils, markers, tape, & scissors
- Activities for Downtime or younger siblings – books, coloring activities, electronic gaming devices, etc.
- Phone chargers
- Camera
- Apron or Show-Coat
- Wrist Guards
- Change of clothes
- Blanket, sweatshirt, or jacket
- Cash/Card – please support the concession stand for snacks & drinks!
- Small First-Aid Kit – pain reliever, antihistamines, band aids, eye drops, etc.
- Raffle Item

RABBIT ITEMS:

- Water – rabbits may not drink water in new areas, bring some from home
- Rabbit Feed – plan for the length of the event plus 1-2 days extra
- Hay
- Feed/Water Containers
- Bedding/Shavings – may want to bring extra for overnight or 2-day shows
- Grooming Table
- Carpet Sample
- Grooming Supplies – comb, spray bottle with water, wet wipes, towels, nail clippers, rinse less shampoo, etc.
- Wheel-cart or Wagon to move supplies and rabbits
- Your Rabbits – double check show entries to ensure you bring correct ones
- Carriers – needs to be a wire bottom cage or carrier with a suspended floor for sanitation purposes (no boxes, crates, pet taxis, or carriers with solid floors)



CONTEST CHECKLIST & REMINDERS:

RABBIT PHOTO CONTEST:

- Read Show Rules, make notes, mark dates & deadlines in calendar, ask questions
- Register for the show/contest
- Make hotel reservations
- Ensure that photos were taken by exhibitor since the last Extravaganza Event
- Make sure that photos include one or more “real” rabbits
- Make sure that item fits into one of the following categories:
 - Color Humor
 - Color Rabbit (single rabbit breed photos)
 - Color Rabbits and People
 - Color Open (all others)
 - Black & White (all)
- Photo is printed as an 8 x10 and permanently mounted on solid photographic mount board
- Exhibit it pre-labeled on the back with Name, Age Division (JR, INT, SR), & County
- Exhibit is ready to be turned in on the morning of check-in

RABBIT ART CONTEST:

- Read Show Rules, make notes, mark dates & deadlines in calendar, ask questions
- Register for the show/contest
- Make hotel reservations
- Ensure that item was made by exhibitor since the last Extravaganza Event
- Make sure that item contains a rabbit or its likeness
- Make sure that item fits into one of the following categories:
 - Graphic - to include drawings, colorings, etchings, and paintings
 - Handicrafts - to include sewing, baskets, embroidery, etc.
- Exhibit it pre-labeled on the back with Name, Age Division (JR, INT, SR), & County
- Exhibit is ready to be turned in on the morning of check-in

EDUCATIONAL / PROMOTIONAL RABBIT POSTERS & DISPLAY CONTEST:

- Read Show Rules, make notes, mark dates & deadlines in calendar, ask questions
- Register for the show/contest
- Make hotel reservations
- Ensure that item was made by exhibitor since the last Extravaganza Event
- Make sure that item displays information that promotes the rabbit project and shows rabbit knowledge and/or rabbit project possibilities.
- Make sure item was made using a standard size poster board or free-standing tri-fold display (science) boards.
- Have other people double check the display for eye appeal, originality, subject matter, and readability.
- Exhibit it pre-labeled on the back with Name, Age Division (JR, INT, SR), & County
- Exhibit is ready to be turned in on the morning of check-in