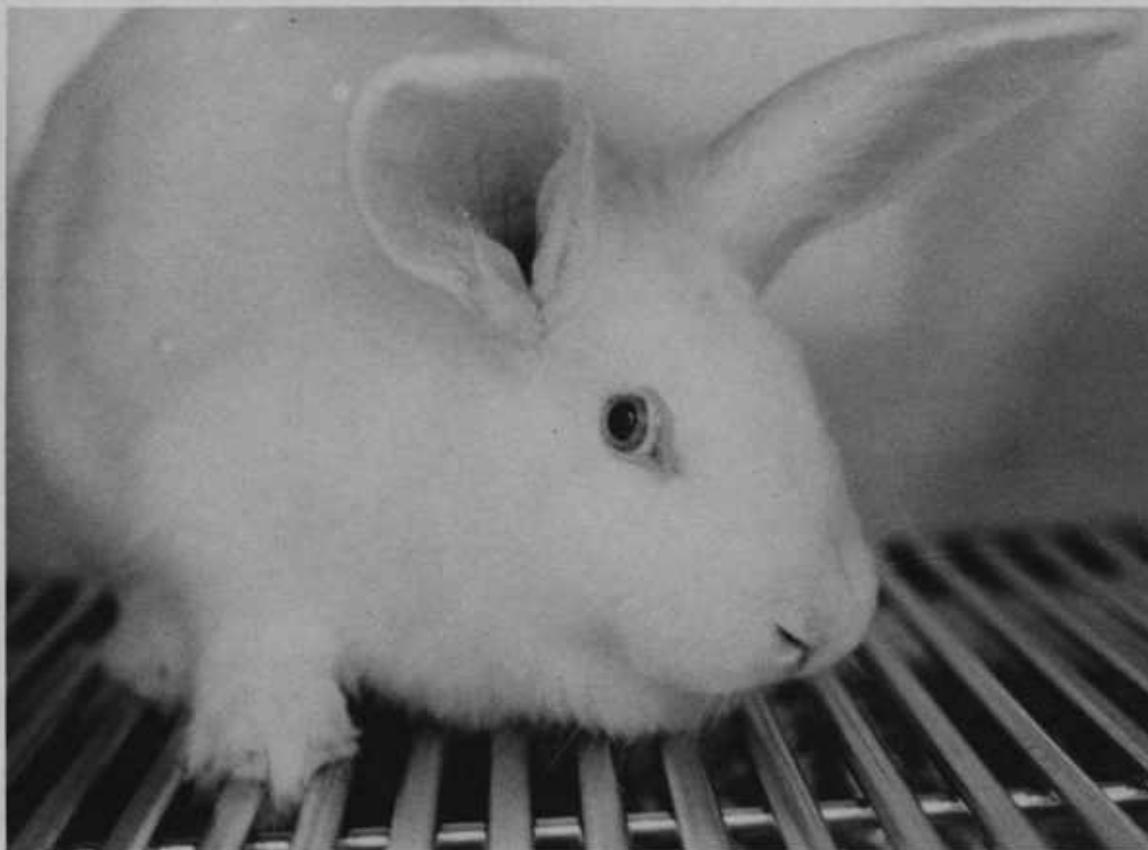


# 4 | Rabbit Project Leader Guide



**4-H 160L**

**Revised July 1986**



**OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE**

**T**HIS PUBLICATION is for leaders of 4-H Rabbit Clubs. The project, as carried in the 4-H program, serves two purposes: first, it helps boys and girls develop a better understanding and appreciation of animals and birds; second, it serves as a tool to develop the personal qualities of young people.

4-H is a program of youth development and education. Experiences provided should be based upon the needs and interests of the youth.

## Goals of 4-H

The goals of 4-H include helping boys and girls develop leadership, character, and effective citizenship.

Club activities such as business meetings conducted by the members, community service projects, committee work, social activities, and group recreation provide a real-life laboratory in leadership and citizenship development. 4-H opens the door to expanded horizons through county and state activities for members.

4-H is learning by doing. By caring for and training an animal, the member learns patience, responsibility, initiative, and dependability. Members will learn to set goals and develop standards for themselves.

The key to the success of a 4-H club is YOU, the 4-H leader. This guide is designed to stimulate ideas as well as to provide a general framework for your club's yearly program. In the final analysis, your judgment of the needs and interests of the club members will determine the specific topics to be included in each meeting and the yearly program.

## Working With Young People

Each 4-H member has needs, interests, desires, strengths, and weaknesses which affect his or her behavior. Regardless of how that behavior appears to you, it is reasonable to the member. While each member has a different personality, all youth share some common needs:

*They want to belong.* Belonging to an identifiable group provides the opportunity for young people to make friends. Belonging and being accepted in a group gives them a feeling of personal worth. As a leader, you might observe the relationships between and among members to avoid the isolation of some members or the forming of cliques within the club.

*They want to achieve.* Young people want to know their efforts are worthwhile and appreciated. The rate of achievement of members varies. Evaluate each member's efforts in all areas of 4-H, not just the project, so the member will be recognized for accomplishment in relation to his or her ability. Challenge the higher achiever but, at the same time, provide opportunities for less-advanced members to be recognized.

*They want adventure and new experiences.* Young people are active. They want to do new things. They are searching for someone to pattern their behavior after, someone who "really leads the way." As a leader, you can provide new and creative experiences. Variety in the club program will help meet this need, and activities in addition to project work should be emphasized.

*They want to be independent.* While this may seem troublesome, it is essential to growing up. You can help them learn to make decisions and be responsible to themselves and to the group. Although they may make errors, these mistakes will contribute to the development of judgment and are less costly than mistakes in later life.

*They want love and affection.* Affection or love is essential in personality development. All youth need to know they are wanted in spite of their shortcomings. Keep in mind both the group and the individual. By providing encouragement, showing interest in each member and the group, and listening to their problems as well as triumphs you will help meet this need for affection.

## Objectives of 4-H Rabbit Projects

The rabbit program is designed to help 4-H members to:

- Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship, and other valuable character traits.
- Experience the pride and responsibility of owning an animal; receive training in its care, feeding, management, and related costs.
- Gain an appreciation for the care, purpose, and role of animals in the everyday life of individuals.
- Increase skill, patience, and understanding in handling, raising, and training animals.
- Increase knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injury to themselves, others, and their pets.
- Promote a love for animals and a humane attitude toward them.
- Prepare for citizenship responsibilities by working together in groups and supporting community projects and activities.

Young people each year are becoming interested in rabbit projects. They are discovering the satisfaction and pleasure that activities with rabbits can bring them.

The rabbit project is interesting and well suited to 4-H. It provides an opportunity for members to learn by doing, to acquire habits of healthful living, to participate in group activities, and to obtain information and direction in the use of leisure time.

This project can also help members achieve the aims of their 4-H pledge.

### *I pledge:*

*My head to clearer thinking*—Working with animals provides mental relaxation from schoolroom studies and stimulates quick thinking and alertness.

*My heart to greater loyalty*—The close bond which develops between an animal and its master, and between young people planning and working together in a common interest, is conducive to a deepening sense of loyalty and consideration for others.

*My hands to larger service*—Skillful hands are a must for a good fancier. It is the touch of the hands on the animal which telegraphs the 4-H member's wish to the animal.

*My health to better living*—Outdoor and indoor activities affect every nerve, muscle, and organ of the body in a healthful way.

*For my club, my community, my country, and my world*—The associations and varied activities in 4-H provide many opportunities for young people to prepare themselves for active participation in the social and economic life of their community and world.

## **The Leader's Role**

The responsibility of the leader is both a challenge and an opportunity. It is the key position in the 4-H program. If you enjoy working with young people and like animals, you will find working with the 4-H rabbit program to be a most satisfying experience.

The leader's job has many sides. These may be defined into three general categories: organizer, advisor, and teacher. In addition to those outlined in *Planning a 4-H Club Program* and *Organizing a 4-H Club*, specific responsibilities include:

### *As an Organizer*

- Get the club formed.
- Enroll club members.
- Secure project material for members.
- Plan the yearly program.
- Keep members informed of educational events and activities and encourage their participation.
- Involve parents in the club's program.

### *As an Adviser*

- Assist members and parents in selecting projects.
- Help club officers plan and conduct meetings.
- Provide guidance to members of committees for club activities or special projects.
- Counsel with junior leaders.
- Help members see how they can become active in improving their community.

### *As a Teacher*

- Teach subject matter in the project book.
- Keep abreast of new developments in the project field so these may be taught to members.
- Help members plan and present demonstrations.
- Conduct tours or other club events to reinforce your teaching efforts.
- By the example you set you will indirectly teach such values and behaviors as punctuality, responsibility, respect for others, the dignity of work, and constructive use of leisure time.

## **The Leadership Team**

Leadership in a 4-H club is a shared experience. You, the members, and everyone concerned will benefit if you extend the leadership opportunities to a larger number of people. The members of the team include community coordinators, junior leaders, parents of 4-H members, resource leaders, teen leaders, and Extension agents.

### **Junior Leaders**

Junior leaders are older 4-H members who assume specific, predetermined responsibilities. These might include teaching project information, assisting the club officers in planning and conducting the meeting, working with committees of club members on special projects, counseling members on how to keep 4-H records, and conducting training.

The junior leader works under the supervision of the adult leader. Both adult and junior leaders should clearly define respective responsibilities so that misunderstandings do not arise.

### **Resource People**

Every community contains a wealth of people who might be called upon to help with a 4-H club.

- *Veterinarians*—These professional people might be called upon for one-time programs on animal health, first aid, disease prevention, nutrition, and general care.
- *Fanciers*—Breeders in the area could be invited to present programs on the history of their breeds of animals. If they also show, they could teach handling techniques.
- *Feed company representatives*—Representatives of pet food companies could be asked to give programs on animal nutrition. In many instances, they have access to films.
- *Other 4-H leaders and members*—Leaders and members of established clubs often are available to put on demonstrations.
- *Parents*—Don't overlook parents as a source of teaching help. Getting to know the parents helps identify possible areas where they have special knowledge or interest.

## Extension Agents

You can make effective use of county Extension agents without demanding an undue amount of their time if you:

- Learn to know the Extension agents and the nature of their work. You can then use their talents and services to better advantage.
- Occasionally discuss with them how they can best help you. Keep a list of items to discuss with them when you see them.
- Ask them to help with the planning of a program or a special event before the final plans are made.
- Keep the agents informed about the activities of your club. The agents are in a better position to help you when they know what you are doing.
- Keep in mind that the agent does not have to be a participant in a meeting or event to make a real contribution.
- Attend 4-H leader meetings for excellent help and guidance.
- Become involved in 4-H activities. You will learn and at the same time provide a real service to the county program.

## Other Leader Helps

Special training meetings are held to help leaders accomplish their job effectively. Most training programs will include new information to keep you up to date. An exchange of ideas among leaders allows new leaders to benefit from the experiences of others.

## Parent Cooperation

Parent cooperation provides the foundation to support the activities of your club. Other 4-H leaders report involvement of the parents early in the club year helps develop parent understanding of 4-H work. The following are ideas of ways to involve parents:

- Contact parents before the first club meeting to briefly explain the project. Invite parents to the first meeting so both member and parent learn what is expected of them.
- Contact parents by phone or home visit during the year so you can become better acquainted.
- Rotate meetings to members' homes. Space may prevent holding meetings at some homes.
- Ask parents to assist with some club activities. Each parent has some ability that is usable in the club.
- Encourage parents to assist members with their projects.
- Recognize parent assistance given the club.

## Organizing a 4-H Club

Before organizing a club, you may want to prepare yourself by reviewing the publication, *Organizing a 4-H Club*.

Boys and girls should have the full support and permission of their parents before they enroll in a rabbit project. People must like animals and understand that a project may be costly. Usually no profit may be expected. Furthermore, there is some danger of injury to youth from animals which are handled carelessly. In addition to those outlined in *Organizing a 4-H Club*, here are some tips to help you get started:

- Talk to the parents, boys and girls, and others in the community about 4-H and the rabbit program.
- Visit the homes of prospective members who either have animals or seem interested in buying them.
- Make arrangements for the meeting and notify all families in the community of the time and place.
- Arrange to have a 4-H community coordinator or an experienced 4-H leader present at the meeting to explain the 4-H program, membership and project requirements, and procedures for organizing the club or group.
- A good plan is to have an older boy or girl who has had leadership experience in 4-H serve as temporary chairman until the group has elected its permanent officers. As a leader, you will train the officers to conduct businesslike meetings. Check to see that the officers know their responsibilities.

## Project Supervision

Some of the boys and girls will own or have access to animals at the time they join the 4-H club. Others will not. The local leader should be prepared when called upon to talk with the parents and members about the type of project that would best meet the individual member's needs. Choosing the right project will add greatly to the satisfaction and pleasure of the boy or girl and reduce the chance for disappointment.

Young boys and girls should not select animals or projects that are too large for them to handle. Younger and smaller animals with good dispositions are safer for beginners.

Points which should be considered in selecting the kind of animal include: age, weight, degree of experience and skill of the boy or girl, facilities available for keeping the animal, price the purchaser can afford, individual preference regarding type and quality, plans for using the animal, and local laws and regulations.

It is not necessary to buy a registered animal to benefit from a 4-H rabbit project. A sound, healthy animal of good conformation is needed, regardless of breeding.

## Insurance

In order to protect your club, several insurance companies provide good insurance for leaders and members on a low cost basis. Insurance information can be obtained from your county Extension agent.

## Achievement Recognition

The 4-H leader will find that the wise use of recognition will inspire boys and girls. It will help them receive a satisfying experience in 4-H work. Some spirit of competition is natural for young people. It is a stimulus which can be used effectively in development of character and skills, but it can also defeat its purpose if permitted to get out of hand.

The wise leader will help members focus their attention on the project work, club activities, sharing experiences, and helping other members instead of looking on recognition awards as their chief goal. Help them realize that the greatest rewards come from service to others and personal achievement rather than “outdoing” someone else.

The following principles are basic in forming an awards and recognition program:

- Activities should emphasize the development of desirable character traits.
- Standards should be within reach of the members and yet high enough to challenge them to do their best.
- Rules of procedure should be fair and clearly stated.
- Judging must be fair and impartial.
- It is better to distribute the awards among a number of worthy contestants than to concentrate on one or two top winners.

## Planning a Club Program

Each club should have a yearly program. The program provides a logical sequence of educational, social and recreational experiences for members. Use 4-H 0240L, *Planning A 4-H Club Program* for ideas and help in planning the club program. Your own experiences and imagination will be helpful in developing a meaningful program.

The program guide that follows is essentially a suggested list of ideas. How much time you devote to each phase will depend upon your judgment and the size and progress of the group. For a meaningful and enjoyable program, members should have experiences in a number of areas. The meetings should be varied in content and in activity.

Your program guide is designed to give specific suggestions for most topics that might be included in a 4-H rabbit club meeting. It is simple to use. As you plan your meeting, select a general topic you wish to teach; suggestions are shown in the column on the left-hand side. The suggested skills or new ideas for that topic are listed in column two. After you choose the skill or ideas you wish to teach, go to column three and decide the method that would be most effective for you in teaching that idea. In column four you will find a list of possible resources to be used in teaching that particular subject. The titles of books are in italics. Refer to the reference section on the back cover for further details about these books.

*A word of caution:* There are several ideas and skills shown in each major topic. Don't try to cover all the ideas in one meeting. It is best to cover just one idea well. Keep in mind the variety of teaching methods and topics to be covered, as well as whether the meeting will be indoors or out-of-doors.

The ideas shown are only suggestions—there are many other ideas you will be able to add to this list yourself.

## PROGRAM GUIDE

4-H member objective	Member activity	Teaching technique	Resources
<p>To have experiences that are fun and to explore new opportunities.</p>	<p>Each member should have the chance to give demonstrations in front of the club and other groups.</p> <p>Give presentations for various community groups (Kiwanis, P.T.A., etc.) on the current projects or past experiences. With the other club members, participate in community projects of various kinds like litter campaigns.</p> <p>Do independent projects in areas of special interest with rabbits, such as studies on various types of feeds.</p> <p>Prepare science displays covering some phase of the program.</p> <p>Participate in fairs, showmanship, displays, committees.</p>	<p>Stress the importance of giving demonstrations, showing individual initiative, and speaking in public for personal development.</p> <p>Explain the value of doing kind things for others and working together for the improvement of the community.</p> <p>Recognize the accomplishments of the more introverted members as well as those who are more at ease in front of groups and can speak well.</p> <p>Talk to community groups and get their awareness and support for the club activities.</p> <p>Provide opportunity for research and more advanced study.</p>	<p><b>Member Materials</b></p> <p>4-H 0225 <i>Show and Tell</i></p> <p>4-H 0226 <i>You Present: Demonstrations, Illustrated Talks and Speeches</i></p> <p>4-H 651 <i>Oregon Junior Leadership</i></p> <p>4-H 653 <i>Teen Leadership</i></p> <p><b>Leader Materials</b></p> <p>4-H 0214L <i>Community Pride Activity</i></p> <p>4-H 0255L <i>Judging Teaches Decision Making</i></p> <p>4-H 0226L <i>4-H Presentations</i></p>
<p>Develop a knowledge of rabbit breeds and their characteristics.</p>	<p>Learn about the breeds of rabbits and the features that make each important.</p>	<p>Have members prepare and deliver a report to the club about a chosen or assigned breed of rabbit. The members may work alone or in groups.</p> <p>Take a field trip to local breeders' rabbitries.</p> <p>If club meetings are held at the homes, have the entire club view the animals there.</p> <p>Arrange for a slide show or speaker with visual aids.</p> <p>Use fun contests with identification cards or pictures.</p>	<p>Publications from breed associations.</p> <p>4-H 160 <i>4-H Rabbit Project</i></p> <p>ARBA—<i>Standard of Perfection</i></p>
<p>To develop knowledge of financing, profit and loss calculations, and using and borrowing money.</p>	<p>Learn about the economics of a rabbit project and become familiar with the following terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investment</li> <li>Depreciation</li> <li>Profit</li> <li>Loss</li> <li>Interest</li> <li>Overhead</li> <li>Loan</li> <li>Assets</li> <li>Liabilities</li> </ul>	<p>Discuss this topic with the members so they are aware of the financial tasks that are part of the learning experience.</p> <p>Take a tour of local bank and so members can become acquainted with a banker and the mechanisms of a bank. Arrange this tour beforehand on your own or with the help of the Extension office.</p> <p>Devise sample problems for the club members and have them calculate the return, rate of gain, profit or loss, etc.</p> <p>Help them with their calculations in their project records and encourage extra effort.</p>	<p>Check with a local bank and ask about their agriculture representative who will be happy to explain financing.</p> <p>Help the younger members by showing them how to keep simple monetary statistics in their project records. The older members should go beyond this and make good records like determining rate of gain, yield per animal, etc.</p>

## PROGRAM GUIDE

4-H member objective	Member activity	Teaching technique	Resources
Develop a knowledge of the basic nutrients important to a balanced diet and how to plan the proper feeding program.	<p>Learn about the following nutrients: why they are important in the diet and the best sources of these nutrients to use in feeding livestock:</p> <p>Water—purity, temperature, gestation, lactation, quantity</p> <p>Carbohydrates or energy compounds</p> <p>Protein—animal, plant</p> <p>Urea (nitrogen)</p> <p>Salt</p> <p>Calcium</p> <p>Phosphorus</p> <p>Vitamins</p> <p>Mineral supplements</p> <p>Roughages—legume, non-legume, hay</p> <p>TDN</p> <p>Feed additives</p>	<p>Stress the importance of nutrition.</p> <p>Give ample information on nutrients to members and have them prepare a report on their choice of feeds and the quantities of nutrients they contain.</p> <p>The members may need help, but knowledge in this area is very important. The theories apply not only to small animals but to humans and all other forms of life as well.</p> <p>There should be much discussion in the club meetings about nutrition.</p> <p>Field trips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feed mills</li> <li>Grain stations</li> <li>Hay fields</li> <li>Chemical plants (mineral salts)</li> <li>Stock yards and processing plants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processing of animals</li> <li>Analysis of carcasses</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Arrange for guest speakers from fields relating to nutrition.</p> <p>Associate nutrition with human diets—protein, meat, and milk.</p> <p>Use a workshop to plan and develop feed rations and balanced diets.</p>	4-H 160 <i>4-H Rabbit Project</i>
To develop ability in showmanship.	<p>Learn to be a good showman and take pride in yourself and the animal.</p> <p>Go to a show and watch experts.</p> <p>Help open class exhibitors show their animals.</p>	<p>Have an experienced member or guest demonstrate the proper techniques in showmanship.</p> <p>Do not stress competition for awards in a showmanship contest.</p> <p>Members should take pride in showing all their animals, not just one special animal.</p> <p>Stress pride and doing one's best—not winning trophies.</p>	<p>Material from American Rabbit Breeder's Association</p> <p>4-H 160 <i>4-H Rabbit Project</i></p>
Develop an ability to properly groom rabbits.	Learn how to prepare an animal to be displayed to its best advantage.	<p>Hold work sessions and give demonstrations in grooming.</p> <p>Encourage the members to ask questions from experts they meet at various fairs and shows.</p> <p>Have the older and more experienced members help teach the others.</p>	4-H 160 <i>4-H Rabbit Project</i>

## PROGRAM GUIDE

4-H member objective	Member activity	Teaching technique	Resources
Develop knowledge of common health problems; learn how to take preventive measures; recognize symptoms of problems to facilitate early diagnosis; learn how to administer proper treatment.	<p>Study normal animal anatomy and physiology.</p> <p>Learn how disease-producing agents interfere with normal function.</p>	<p>Study the normal animal's temperature, respiration, pulse, etc. Observe movement and general attitude.</p> <p>Study in depth the common disease problems that may occur in your project. Review other common disease problems and identify their causes and visible signs. Suggest control measures for all disease situations.</p> <p>Invite a local veterinarian to attend a club meeting and discuss the diseases commonly observed in the area.</p> <p>Emphasize internal and external parasitic control.</p> <p>Study the basic principles of immunization and determine what types of vaccinations are recommended for this project.</p>	<p><i>The Merck Veterinary Manual</i>            4-H 160 <i>4-H Rabbit Project</i>            4-H 1921 <i>Normal Animal</i>            4-H 1921L <i>Normal Animal Leader Guide</i>            4-H 1922 <i>Animal Diseases</i>            4-H 1922L <i>Animal Diseases Leader Guide</i>            4-H 1923 <i>Animal Health Leader and Member Guide</i></p>
A knowledge of modern management techniques and equipment for making rabbit operations more efficient and profitable.	<p>Learn how to use the following equipment and techniques:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weighing scales</li> <li>Waterers</li> <li>Tattoo box</li> <li>Tattooing</li> <li>Buildings and shelters</li> <li>Parasite control—external, internal</li> <li>Ear tags and tagging</li> <li>Promotion and sales of the products</li> </ul>	<p>Demonstration by the leader or older members on the use of various equipment is important.</p> <p>Discussion about good techniques of management during the club meetings is essential.</p> <p>Provide material and plans for each member and location of equipment.</p>	<p>4-H 160 <i>4-H Rabbit Project</i></p>
To learn proper record keeping and economics.	<p>Keep 4-H records—learn what records to keep, why to keep them, and how to evaluate them.</p> <p>Records members should keep:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Permanent Record</i></li> <li><i>My 4-H Notes</i></li> <li><i>Animal Science Record, Junior Members</i></li> <li><i>Animal Science Record, Intermediate and Senior members</i></li> <li><i>Advancement program</i></li> <li><i>Production records</i></li> <li>Any others that are applicable</li> </ul>	<p>Explain procedures using enlarged records drawn on wrapping paper or blackboard.</p> <p>Show record of an average member.</p> <p>Regularly schedule record meetings where members fill in their own records.</p> <p>Periodically review records.</p>	<p><b>Member Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>My 4-H Records folder</i></li> <li>4-H 033R <i>Permanent Record</i></li> <li>4-H 039R <i>My 4-H Notes</i></li> <li>4-H 1001R <i>4-H Animal Science Record/Junior Member</i></li> <li>4-H 1002R <i>4-H Animal Science Record/Intermediate and Senior Members</i></li> <li>4-H 160R <i>Rabbit Production Record</i></li> <li>4-H 160I <i>Rabbit Advancement Program</i></li> <li>4-H 161R <i>Buck Performance Record</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Leader Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4-H 0211L <i>4-H Record Keeping</i></li> <li>4-H 027L <i>Tours—A Teaching Tool</i></li> <li>4-H 029L <i>4-H Advancement Program</i></li> </ul>

## PROGRAM GUIDE

4-H member objective	Member activity	Teaching technique	Resources																						
To learn about career opportunities in the pet industry.	<p>Take the opportunity to talk with people in fields dealing with rabbits.</p> <p>If possible, try for summer jobs where you will be able to observe this type of career first-hand.</p>	<p>Visit or have speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rabbit raiser</li> <li>Veterinarian</li> <li>Business representative               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial</li> <li>Wholesale</li> <li>Retail</li> <li>Sales</li> <li>Buyer</li> </ul> </li> <li>Extension staff</li> <li>Professional rabbit breeders</li> <li>Transportation industry representatives</li> <li>Feed processors</li> <li>Pet equipment suppliers</li> </ul>																							
Establish a good library of resource materials.	<p>Collect the pamphlets needed and keep them in orderly fashion so they can be used properly.</p> <p>Send away for more advanced books.</p> <p>Set up a library by subject index or other form of organization.</p> <p>Subscribe to a periodical.</p>	<p>Show the members how to keep their materials organized so they are neat and readily accessible.</p> <p>Start a club library with numerous resource pieces available to all members. Include pamphlets from Extension, advanced books, and addresses of new materials.</p> <p>Subscribe to at least one periodical for the club and leader to use.</p>	<p>Various breed associations have many useful pamphlets. Keep periodicals bound in an orderly fashion and make a simple subject sheet index for later referral.</p>																						
Develop knowledge of rabbit anatomy.	<p>Develop a working knowledge of the important parts of rabbits including:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Back</td> <td>Forequarter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Belly</td> <td>Leg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dewlap</td> <td>Nose</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flank</td> <td>Pastern</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Face</td> <td>Ribs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foot</td> <td>Rump</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hip</td> <td>Shoulder</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ears</td> <td>Stifle joint</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eye</td> <td>Tail</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hock</td> <td>Throat</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Loin</td> <td>Hindquarter</td> </tr> </table>	Back	Forequarter	Belly	Leg	Dewlap	Nose	Flank	Pastern	Face	Ribs	Foot	Rump	Hip	Shoulder	Ears	Stifle joint	Eye	Tail	Hock	Throat	Loin	Hindquarter	<p>A demonstration given by the leader, resource person, or older 4-H member to show the location of each part of the anatomy. Using a live animal is good because it enables all the members to feel and visualize for themselves.</p> <p>Make sure each member has an anatomy chart or drawing in the project book.</p>	<p>4-H 160 <i>4-H Rabbit Project</i>            4-H 1602L <i>Rabbit Parts Wall Chart</i> (one per club)</p>
Back	Forequarter																								
Belly	Leg																								
Dewlap	Nose																								
Flank	Pastern																								
Face	Ribs																								
Foot	Rump																								
Hip	Shoulder																								
Ears	Stifle joint																								
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Hock	Throat																								
Loin	Hindquarter																								

## 4-H Teaching Methods and Aids

As a 4-H leader, you are a teacher of boys and girls. The good teacher strives to hold the interest and cooperation of the learners. One effective means of accomplishing this is to vary the method of presenting the subjects as often as practical. A wide range of variation in presentation is possible in teaching animal husbandry. Lectures, blackboard talks, movies, slides, demonstrations, judging contests, practice sessions, quiz contests, and tours can all contribute to the learning process. Older 4-H members and rabbit producers can help with the teaching.

A good teacher has in mind or, more appropriately, has written down teaching activities. By planning ahead, you will be able to have the necessary resources so both you and your members have a meaningful, enjoyable experience.

### Demonstrations and Presentations

A demonstration is showing and telling how to do something. The demonstration method of teaching is particularly applicable in animal science training. Much of the subject matter in this program can be taught only by demonstrations followed by supervised practice. As 4-H members master each phase of their training, wise leaders provide them the opportunity to conduct presentations themselves. By so doing, members develop poise, initiative, and the ability to share the knowledge with others. They can then assist the leader in training less experienced members.

Whenever the subject matter to be taught permits the introduction of action into a meeting, a demonstration by the leader or member adds life and interest to the meeting. Demonstrations in a public presentation will encourage better understanding by the audience. The topic to be demonstrated or the information to be discussed will be somewhat regulated by the age and the experience of the 4-H members. Here are some suggestions for demonstrations:

- How to build a nest box
- How to measure feed
- How to groom a rabbit
- How to give medication
- How to show a rabbit
- How to butcher rabbits
- Identifying diseases of rabbits

Although a part of the instruction time may be with animals, you may want to include subject matter as part of the program at regular 4-H meetings. In addition to the ideas given in the Program Guide in this publication, the following subjects can be taught during indoor sessions:

- Parts of a rabbit
- Breeds and uses of rabbits
- Types of equipment
- Parts of equipment
- Care of equipment
- Safety precautions
- First aid
- Animal health
- Record keeping
- Principles of judging

### Discussions

Discussions are a means of crystalizing thoughts on a subject. Several types of discussion can be used. One that is popular is the agree-disagree type of question related directly to an animal and its training, use, or owner's responsibilities. In just a few minutes you can make up a set of questions from any phase of a member's manual. After you have developed your list of questions, have the members write down whether they think the question is true or false and then exchange and check each other's paper.

Another method is to read a statement and have the members who agree raise their hands and have the members who disagree raise their hands. Compare the count. Have a few members then discuss why they agree or disagree before giving the correct answer.

A third variation of this method would be to divide the members of the club into two groups. Give one group a few minutes to make up questions from a particular project manual. Have the other team attempt to answer the questions. This is an excellent way of teaching because it involves the young people and makes learning fun.

### Slides and Movies

Slides and movies are available from commercial feed companies, Oregon State University, public libraries, and other locations. In addition, there are many visual aids available through the State 4-H Audio-Visual Aid Library. A catalog and order forms are available at the county Extension office. It is important that you preview these ahead of time to become familiar with the content and to decide if they are up to date.

### Tours and Field Trips

Trips to small animal enterprises, shows, field days, feed dealers, grocery stores, packing plants, and other aspects of the livestock industry are valuable in opening the eyes of members to the impact of the livestock enterprise on community activities.

Such tours provide variety in the training techniques, and members usually enjoy them. Prior arrangements for tours and field trips are important.

Carrying through what you hope to accomplish on a tour or field trip should be done in an educational manner.

## Workshop

You may want to schedule some work sessions for your meetings where members will receive training and then begin to work on such things as budgeting for their 4-H project, balancing rations, or summarizing and analyzing records. These could be production records, 4-H records, or others which you feel would be appropriate.

## Resource People

Talks by special resource persons such as trained nutritionists for feed firms, veterinarians, livestock producers, and meat processing personnel make excellent club features.

## Judging Contests

Have judging contests in which the members compare two or more animals, equipment, produce, and feeds. Compare the breed characteristics as described in various manuals and teaching aids.

It is well to use a variety of methods in the course of the year or even at a single meeting. This makes it more interesting to members; therefore, you can accomplish more with them. It would be a mistake to have all movies, outside speakers, or lectures.

## Other Teaching Devices

**Crossword puzzles.** Crossword puzzles are effective teaching aids. Develop your own puzzles directed towards parts of the animal or equipment.

**Word scrambling.** Select words for scrambling from any project under discussion. Present them to the members on paper or a blackboard.

*Examples:*

<i>Puzzle</i>	<i>Solution</i>
oinl	loin
sudheolr	shoulder
sbear	breast
sddlea	saddle

## 4-H Materials—Tools for the Leader

4-H materials are a valuable aid for the leader in planning and providing a club experience to 4-H members. The following list includes the materials available and how you might use them. Remember, these are suggestions. Your own experiences and those of the county Extension agents and other leaders in your county will help you determine their use.

### Leaders' Handbook

The publication *Organizing a 4-H Club* will give you valuable information and hints on 4-H, the leadership function, 4-H policies, how clubs function, and working with boys and girls. It is important that you review it carefully before planning your club program.

## Members' Manuals

The *4-H Rabbit Project* provides you with an outline of the subject matter emphasis. Use the manual for teaching subject matter, as a teaching guide in animal care and fitting and showing, and as a reference for other areas of interest. *Project manuals should be given to the members at the second or third meeting. Members should receive only one copy of the project manual during their 4-H years.* At the same time, encourage members to obtain a notebook for this manual and other materials to be given them later and to bring the 4-H materials to all meetings.

## Advancement Programs

The *Rabbit Advancement Program* should be a regular part of the teaching in your 4-H club. It will provide helpful suggestions for club programs and set realistic goals for members to achieve in 4-H. Be sure that all of the members have copies of the advancement program and that they understand how it fits into the total 4-H rabbit project. The advancement program should be given to the members at the same time as the project manual.

The advancement program provides the leader with excellent guidelines for developing the club program. It is designed so that young people can move at their own speed. The program serves as a tool to motivate self-learning.

It is recommended that members work on one section at a time. If there is considerable difference in the level of advancement within the club, members may work at different levels of the program. This provides the opportunity for junior leaders or older 4-H members to work with the members at the various levels.

When members have completed a level of advancement, you may obtain advancement certificates from the county Extension office. These should be presented at one of the club meetings. To help you use the advancement program, refer to the *4-H Advancement Program, Leaders' Guide*.

## Teaching Aids

There are a number of excellent teaching aids available to leaders. These can help make meetings more interesting and challenging. The teaching aids are under continuous revision and development.

Check with your Extension office to see what teaching aids are available and your agent can advise you on their use. Be sure to request the aids shortly before you plan to use them. They are excellent to use with a discussion or demonstration, or after slides or movies.

## Members Records—Junior; Intermediate and Senior; Production

It is suggested that records be given to members at the third or fourth meeting. You will want to invite the parents to this meeting so they can learn about

records, purposes of records, and how parents can help. It is recommended that you share the yearly program with the parents at the meeting.

Keeping accurate and complete records is important in the overall development of the 4-H member. Keeping records stimulates members to analyze results and strives for self-improvement; it provides training that can be helpful in later life.

Record keeping is easier for some than others. Do not expect a 4th grader to keep the same type and quality of records as a 10th grader. Guidance and encouragement from the leader and the parents will help boys and girls in keeping records that are a true reflection of their 4-H accomplishments and activities. To assist you in effectively using records in your clubs, refer to 4-H 0211L, *Record Keeping/Teaching Tool for the Leader*.

## References

- The Book of Domestic Rabbit*, Carl Naether, David McKay Co., Inc., 750 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017.
- Domestic Rabbit Production*, George Templeton, Interstate Printers and Publishers, Danville, IL 61832.
- Enjoy Your Rabbit*, The Pet Library Ltd., Hartz Mt. Pet Supplies, 1125 Talbot Street, St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada.
- Official Guide to Raising Better Rabbits*, The American Rabbit Breeder Association, Inc., 1925 S. Main, Bloomington, IL 61701.
- A Practical Beginning to Successful Rabbit Raising*, The American Rabbit Breeders Association, 1925 S. Main, Bloomington, IL 61701.
- The Purina Rabbit Book*, Ralston Purina Co., Checkerboard Square, St. Louis, MO 61388.
- Selection and Care of Common Household Pets*, USDA Bulletin AB 332, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402.
- The Standard of Perfection*, American Rabbit Breeders Association, 1925 S. Main, Bloomington, IL 61701.
- The Domestic Rabbit*, J.C. Sandford, 3rd Edition, John Wiley & Sons, New York, N.Y.
- Check with your county Extension agent for appropriate audiovisual information.

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