

MEAT BREEDING RABBIT DEPARTMENT

Replacement Female Class

The Replacement Female Breeding Rabbit contest is held to judge which doelings are likely to be good mothers of meat rabbits. Major points to be considered are structural correctness, muscling, conformation, condition and quality. Animals will be placed in the blue, red or white ribbon group, and a Champion and Reserve Champion will be the first and second individuals. Replacement female meat rabbits must be between the ages of 7 and 10 months old, unbred, and should exhibit evidence of meat rabbit breeding. No feral rabbits are allowed.

MEAT BREEDING RABBIT PROJECT

1. Animal

- a. Single Doe(s) – The project can include a minimum of one purebred doe or a trio of two does and one buck. 4-H Members may exhibit and show at fair one (1) purebred doe. Members must own the rabbits. Must have animals in their possession 100 days prior to show.
- b. 4-H Members are limited to raising only one Meat Breeding Rabbit project.
- c. All breeding rabbits must be tattooed in the left ear.
- d. It is recommended that 4-H members' projects be purebred. Consult the 2016-2020 American Rabbit Breeders Association – Standard of Perfection, page 40 for a commercial listing of the acceptable breeds.
- e. The rabbits must conform to meat breed type and conformation for that breed. Any inferior rabbit shall be eliminated. The animal may be screen out for any major defects..
- f. Meat Breeding Rabbits will be placed first through fifth by classes according to ARBA standards.
- g. Meat Breeding Project rabbits are not required to be auctioned.
- h. Breed class may be combine if less than 3 animals in the class.

Efficiency and Management Class

The Efficiency and Management contest is based on the project book. It is held to decide which 4-H member has shown efficiency in raising their meat rabbit and has followed best management practices. Efficiency is judged on the basis of average daily gain, feed efficiency and management over the entire duration of the project. General management will be evaluated on the basis of good husbandry practices and record-keeping. Good husbandry practices include feeding of well-balanced rations which include as many local feeds as possible, control of parasites and disease through proper vaccination and/or treatment, and frequent handling and grooming of the animal. The project book will be evaluated with respect to neatness, accuracy and completeness.

Showmanship Class

The Showmanship Contest is available for meat rabbit exhibitors. All contestants are required to follow 4-H dress code. It will be divided into a junior and senior division. Exhibitors will be judged based on the Danish System. The top two exhibitors will be

selected by the judge and recognized. Each contestant will be judged for appearance, the appearance of the animal (condition, grooming, clipping, cleanliness), knowledge of animal project and the contestant's showing ability of the animal (posing, showing animal to best advantage, poise, alertness, attitude). Whenever there are fewer than two junior or two senior 4-H members showing a given species, junior and senior divisions will be combined with joint competition and reduced awards.

Record Book

Hawaii 4-H Rabbit Project Book (Form 320, 1/12) and Senior (Rev. 8/2015) or Junior (Rev. 8/2015) Record Books will be evaluated and awards will be given for the best project and record books.

Champion Rabbit Exhibitor

A Champion Exhibitor is selected for each species. The participant who earns the highest number of accumulative points in live animal placing and showmanship will be deemed the Champion Exhibitor. Scoring will be five points for a first or blue award, three points for a second or red award, and two points for a third or white award.

CLASSES:

- Class 1. Replacement Female Meat Breeding Rabbit
- Class 2. Junior Rabbit Showmanship
- Class 3. Senior Rabbit Showmanship
- Class 4. Efficiency and Management
- Class 5. Project & Record Books
- Class 6. Champion Rabbit Exhibitor

Cloverbud Rabbit Demonstration Projects

Cloverbuds may bring rabbit demonstration projects if space permits. Cloverbuds with demonstration projects will each receive a green ribbon.

AWARDS:

The Hawai'i State 4-H Livestock Council will award blue, red, or white ribbons to exhibits in the Replacement Meat Breeding Rabbit class and to rabbit showmanship participants. The first and second place individuals in the junior and senior showmanship divisions will each be awarded trophies.

The Hawai'i State 4-H Livestock Council will present rosettes to the Champion and Reserve Champion Meat Breeding Rabbit exhibitors.

The Hawai'i State 4-H Livestock Council will award a trophy to the overall Meat Breeding Rabbit exhibitor.

The Hawai'i State 4-H Livestock Council will award a trophy to the outstanding Efficiency and Management Meat Breeding Rabbit exhibitor.

Other awards and premiums may be awarded at the discretion of the Hawai'i State 4-H Livestock Council.

MEAT BREEDING RABBIT CONTEST RULES

1. All Meat Breeding Rabbit projects must be between the ages of 7 and 10 months old at the time of official weigh-in. The rabbits must be screened at the county level prior to attending the state show. Any rabbit that does not meet this requirement will be required to leave the show grounds.
2. All Meat Breeding Rabbits must be unbred. Bred rabbits will be required to leave the show grounds.
3. Rabbits should exhibit evidence of meat rabbit breeding. No feral rabbits are allowed.
4. The rabbits must be tattooed.
5. The 4-H Member must be physically capable of handling his/her animal.
6. The Meat Breeding Rabbit must have been in the possession of the 4-H Member for at least 90 days prior to the official weigh-in at the state show.
7. The Meat Breeding Rabbit must be weighed and ear-tattooed at the start of the project.
8. At the time when state entry forms are submitted all exhibitors must declare if the Meat Breeding Rabbit will be sold at auction. This decision is final. Meat Breeding Rabbits will not be auctioned by pound. Prior to the auction an announcement will be made that all Meat Breeding Rabbits sold through the sale are sold as is with no slaughtering process.

NOTE: See General Rules for All Species for further details and requirements.