

# Important Information for the Fair

- READ YOUR RULES and know important dates and times. Contact a committee member if you have any questions.

## **Important dates:**

- April 27: Educational clinic Art Hall at fairgrounds 7:00pm
- May 25: Possession date. Must have your rabbit or cavy in your possession
- July 17: Pre-registration and Tattoo/tag clinic.  
9-11am in rabbit barn. Bring entry forms to complete.
- July 23: Fair entries due to Junior Fair office.  
No late entries will be accepted.
- August 21: Rabbit and Cavy Skillathon and Showmanship  
Skillathon is 9-12. Showmanship will last until all participants are judged. This will be held in the new arena at the fairgrounds.  
Turn in poster for poster contest.
- August 30: Check in from 10AM-8PM. Must check in with Jr. Fair show secretary for coop assignment.
- August 31: Meat pen show 4PM (maybe earlier)
- August 31: Open Rabbit show 9AM
- September 1: 4-H Rabbit show 9 AM
- September 1: 4-H Cavy show 12PM (approximately)
- September 1: Open cavy show 9 AM
- September 4: Meat Pen auction 11:30am Sheep and swine arena
- September 4: Champion of Champions Rabbit Showmanship, Champion of Champions Cavy Showmanship. Sign in by 10:45am. Class begins at 11AM
- September 6: Check out 6-8PM. Must check out with Jr. Fair show secretary
  
- **Pre-Registration and Tattoo/Tag Clinic:**  
This clinic is where the committee assists the exhibitors in filling out their entry forms. Be sure to BRING YOUR ENTRY FORM WITH YOU. Committee members will check the tattoo/tag number, variety, breed, sex, and age of your animal. If you do not go to the pre-registration clinic, and there is a problem with your entry, you will not be able to exhibit at the fair. There is an opportunity at the clinic for your animals to get tattooed or tagged for free. After this date a fee of \$5 will be assessed to tattoo/tag your animals.
  
- **Showmanship and Skillathon:**  
**Skillathon:** Consists of various stations that will test your knowledge on rabbits and/or cavies. Stations are timed and you will be judged on how well you know the information related to your project. Awards for First Year, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior age divisions for rabbits will be given. Awards for Junior, Intermediate, and Senior age divisions in cavies will be given. Overall Skillathon Champion award will be given for both rabbits and cavies.

Showmanship: Judged one on one on how well you handle your animal, on your knowledge, and overall presentation. The judge is not examining your rabbit but rather judging you. Your showmanship rabbit or cavy must be one that you are showing at the fair in 4-H. For rabbits, senior and intermediates start the showmanship competition, followed by first year and junior. For cavies, the seniors are judged first followed by the intermediates and then the juniors. Champion of Champions in each specie will be on Saturday at the fair. Awards are given at the conclusion of all age divisions. Showmanship is mandatory for first and second year participants and highly suggested for all other age divisions because it will enhance your knowledge about your animal and project. Showmanship may take all day so be prepared to stay as long as needed. Bring chairs and a lunch if you desire.

– **Poster Contest**

Theme is “Describe your breed of rabbit or cavy”. This contest is open to any rabbit or cavy participant. Turn in your poster at skillathon and showmanship judging. Use a standard size poster. Awards will be given in the following age divisions: 8-11 yrs, 12-14 yrs, 15 and up. Posters will be displayed in the rabbit and cavy barn during the fair. Put your name and age division on the back of your poster. Awards will be, \$10 first place and \$5 for second place in each age division.

– **Pen Assignment**

Pens in the rabbit and cavy barn are assigned. Be sure to check in with the junior fair show secretary to get your pen assignment. Pen assignments are sometimes available the weekend before the fair when the barn is open for decorating.

– **Decorations**

Decorations are allowed and encouraged in the rabbit and cavy barn for the Barn Stall Decoration Contest. Check with the Junior Fair Rabbit and Cavy Committee to see where you are permitted to decorate for your club.

– **Coop Set-up**

Straw is provided for your use in your animals’ pen. You may choose to bring your own bedding as well. You will need to bring cleaning utensils from home to clean your animals’ pen daily. A wheelbarrow is provided for your use. Food and water bowls are also available. You may wish to bring your own bowls and any other objects that will make your animal feel more at home.

– **Food and Water**

You must provide your own food for your animals. City water is provided at the fairgrounds (sometimes rabbits will get sick because they are not use to city water). For this reason, you may wish to bring your own water from home on a daily basis.

– **Care of Your Animal While at the Fair**

- It is your responsibility to take care of your animals’ daily while at the fair. If you are unable to take care of your animal on a particular day, you must arrange for someone else to do so.
- You must keep your animals’ clean while at the fair. You will need your own cleaning utensils. The waste from your animals’ pen may be thrown in a wheelbarrow (not in a trash can) and hauled to the manure pit across from the steer barn. Return the wheelbarrow to the rabbit and cavy barn when finished with it. Cleaning the animals’ pen is the job of the youth- not the parents.

- There are Herdsman awards which award prizes to those individuals who clean and care for their animals daily. Once you clean your animal's pen you may ask a committee member to check the pen and then they will give you a ticket. The tickets will be drawn from on the last day of the fair and prizes will be rewarded.

#### **- Rabbit and Cavy Barn Care**

- Please keep the aisles in the barn clean. There are brooms located throughout the barn so be sure to sweep the barn when it is not too busy.
- There are designated areas where you will be able to store your rabbit and cavy materials. Check at the 4-H desk for a location.
- Remember, if it is not yours, do not touch it.
- There is NO running or screaming in the barn under any circumstances.

#### **- Day of 4-H Show**

- All are encouraged to attend and show your own animals and assist in carrying other animals to the show table for the exhibitors who cannot make it. If you cannot come and show your animals, don't worry, your animal will still be put on the table.
- School excuse forms are available at the Junior Fair Office. These forms allow the exhibitor to have an excused absence from school so they can show their animals. Check with your school to see if they accept these forms ( most schools do).

#### **- Meat Pens**

- Meat pen babies need to be checked by a committee member within two weeks of the kindling date. Call a committee member as soon as possible after the babies are born to schedule a date and time for the babies to be checked. Committee members' phone numbers are located in the rules packet.
- If you take a meat pen project, you need to have your picture taken with your pen during the fair. Picture time will be posted on the committees' bulletin board or you can ask a committee member.
- You must write thank you notes to your meat pen buyers. Thank you notes must be addressed, stamped, and turned into the 4-H desk in the rabbit and cavy barn by noon Saturday.
- Contact as many meat pen buyers as possible. The more people you have bidding on your meat pen, the more profit you will make. It is also suggested to have a gift for your buyer.

#### **- Awards**

- Ribbons and remark cards may be picked up at the 4-H desk starting on Friday.
- Ribbons and remark cards should not be displayed on your rabbit or cavy pen. Sometimes the animals like to chew on them or people passing through the barn will take them. It is best if you take your awards home to enjoy.
- If you win a trophy your picture will be taken sometime during the fair. This picture will be sent to the person/business that sponsored your trophy. See a committee member to have your picture taken.
- You must write a thank you note to your trophy sponsor. Thank you notes must be addressed, stamped, and turned into the 4-H desk before you are allowed to pick up your trophy.

#### **- Exhibitor Pass**

4-H exhibitor passes will be given to you by your 4-H club advisor. You need this pass to enter the fair each day.

### **Open Class**

- You may show your animals twice while at the fair. You may do this by entering open class. The open class animals are housed on the other side of the barn. You may enter your 4-H rabbits in open class in addition to other rabbits that you are not showing in 4-H. The rabbits housed in the open side may be shown and sold. The Stark County Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association is in charge of the open side and takes out a 10% commission if you sell your animals.
- Open class is a separate entry. In order to compete in open class you need to have an exhibitor pass which cost \$20.00 (these may be purchased from the fair office). The entry fee is \$1.50 per rabbit/cavy.
- Deadline to enter in open class is traditionally in the beginning of August (check fair catalog for exact date).
- Entries are to be turned into the Sr. Fairboard Office or to the Stark County Rabbit and Cavy Club (address in fair book).

### **- Premium Vouchers**

-- Premium vouchers are a gift from the Sr. Fairboard to the exhibitor for bringing their animal to the fair. Voucher money must be picked up by noon on Monday in the SC Fair Treasurers office.

### **- Selling Your Animals**

You may sell your 4-H animals after the 4-H show if you wish. You must register to sell your animal at the 4-H desk in the sales book. The Jr. Fair Rabbit and Cavy Committee will take out a 10% commission.

### **- Check Out**

- Monday at 6PM. You must check out with the Jr. Fair Rabbit and Cavy Committee. If you fail to do this, you will not be able to exhibit next year.
- Absolutely NO EARLY DEPARTURES. If there is an emergency and you need to check out your animals early, you must seek permission from the Sr. Fairboard.
- The Jr. Fair Rabbit and Cavy Committee will not be responsible for any animal left in the barn after 8PM Monday.
- Remember to thank those who have helped you with your animal projects. Without these people, your project may not have been as successful!
- Feel free to ask any questions you may have. Remember, the only dumb question is the question not asked! We are willing and devoted to helping in any way possible.

***Trophy Sponsors are still needed. Your name and/or business will be advertised if you sponsor a trophy. \$45 Grand Champion Trophy's----- \$25 All other sizes***

☺ GOOD LUCK AT THE FAIR AND REMEMBER TO HAVE FUN ☺

☺ AND MAKE MEMORIES ☺