Allegany County Cooperative Extension

4-H Market Rabbit Project Book



INSERT A PHOTO OF YOU MARKET ANIMAL HERE

Livestock interviews will be Friday of fair at 9:30am -11:30am near the livestock area. Project Records are due into the 4H office first Friday in September. If showing at State Fair they will be due into the 4H office Second Friday of September.

Name: _____

Age (as of January 1st) _____

Years Enrolled in 4-H _____

Date Project Started_____

Date Project Closed _____

Why Records are Important

The objective of a Market Rabbit project is to give youth an opportunity to develop skills that will advance them in the future. This hands on opportunity will help youth develop skills like leadership, organization, critical thinking, goal setting, time management and communications. The task of keeping records can also help prevent a youth from falling short of their goals and maximize their opportunity to grow, learn and develop as an individual.

What you need to get started

- An interest in raising Market Rabbits
- A place to keep and raise market rabbits
- Money to purchase and raise market rabbits
- Equipment to handle , feed and water the rabbits
- Support from an adult

Knowledge about Rabbits

- different breeds and their characteristics
- rabbit terminology
- body parts of a rabbit
- what rabbits eat to grow efficiently

Instructions

1. Use this project record for Market Rabbit Projects.

2. Keep a separate record for each pen of three rabbits. Each rabbit can be documented separately.

3. Fill out a new project record book every year for Market Rabbits.

4. Write the things you do with and without your animal that relates to your rabbit project.

5. Keep all receipts as proof of money spent for your project. Photo copies of receipts are allowed.

6. Turn in your project records after the market sale by the date given by extension to receive your check. Non-market animals should be turned in by this date as well using true market estimations or actual sale price of animal.

Project Plans

Complete this section after you take ownership of your project.

Why did you choose these animals?

_____

_____

How do you plan to care for these animals?

_____

_____

What do you want to learn about your project this year?

_____

_____

How will you ensure your animal is on track for show and market?

_____

_____

Meat Rabbit Basics Choosing to take a livestock project in 4-H should involve sound decision-making. This fact sheet provides basic information to help you make a good decision.

SPACE NEEDED • .75 square feet per pound of body weight minimum

COMFORT ZONE • 68-70˚ for optimal performance, but may be raised in widely varying temperatures (please note that the heat is harsher on rabbits than the cold)

WATER REQUIREMENTS • Access to clean, fresh, cool water is critical

• ¼ - 2 ounces per pound FEED CONSIDERATIONS • Will eat approximately 4-8 ounces of pellets per day (depends on breed of rabbit)

• Will gain approximately 1 ounce per day while growing (Average Daily Gain or ADG)

• Needs approximately 4 pounds of feed per pound of gain (Feed Efficiency) MARKET CONSIDERATIONS

• Mature weight depends on the breed of rabbit (see ARBA Standards of Perfection)

• Market rabbits should weigh 3½ – 5 pounds per rabbit and should be finished at 69 days of age

BUDGETING • Approximate purchase cost is $100 for a breeding pair (best breeds for market-Californian & New Zealand)

• Projected market price is $150 for a meat pen trio

• Projected feed cost is around $15 and includes: Complete Feed Pellets (with vitamins, minerals & roughage) Hay (optional)

Information originally developed in 3/2015 by Bonnie Malone, Extension Educator 4-H, Huron County, Ohio and Vicki Schwartz, Associate State Leader, Ohio 4-H. "Should I Take Rabbit". Revised for Maryland 4-H 11/15 "University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation, or gender identity and expression."

Project Animals Information

Animal's Name _____

Identification Number and/or Tattoo _____

County Identification Number _____

Breed(s) _____

Gender _____ Date of Birth _____

Date of Purchase _____ Total Purchase Amount $_____

Purchase Weight _____lbs

Days from Purchase till fair weigh in _____

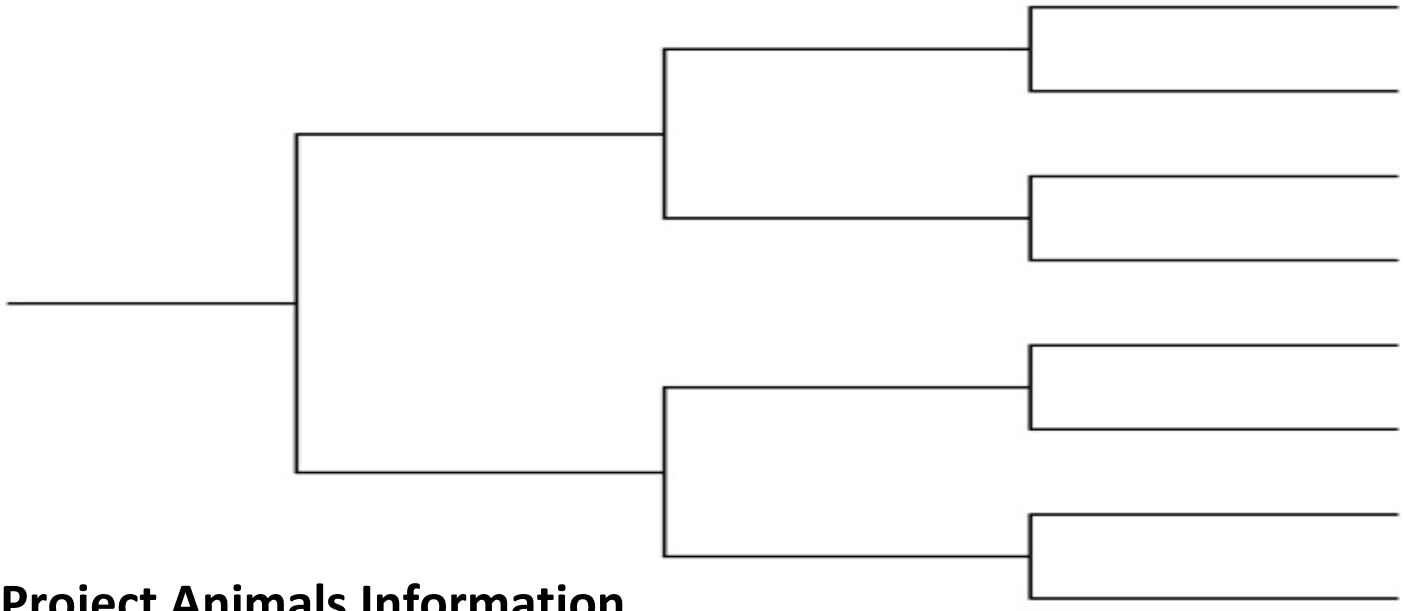
Estimated Finish Weight _____

Estimated Amount of pounds needed to gain to finish _____

Estimated pounds gained per day till fair weigh in _____

Project's Pedigree (Rabbit 1)

Fill in as much of your project's pedigree as you know even if it is just different breeds that make up your animal.



Project Animals Information

Animal's Name _____

Identification Number and/or Tattoo _____

County Identification Number _____

Breed(s) _____

Gender _____ Date of Birth _____

Date of Purchase _____ Total Purchase Amount $_____

Purchase Weight _____lbs

Days from Purchase till fair weigh in _____

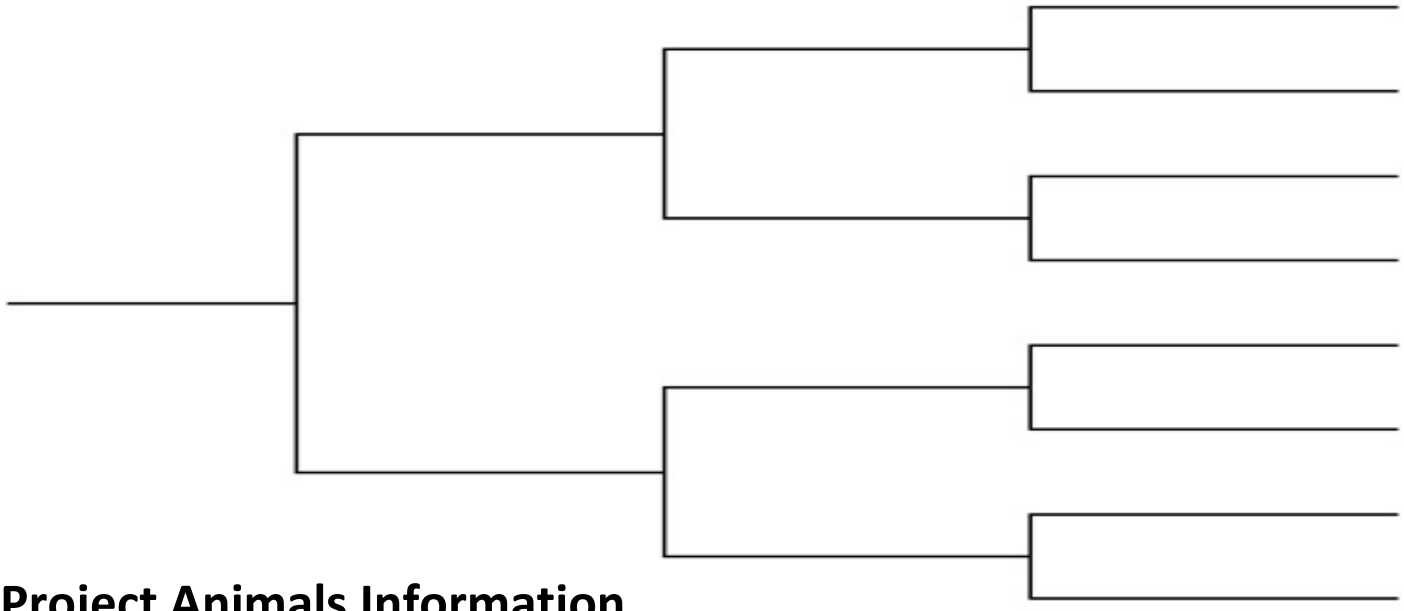
Estimated Finish Weight _____

Estimated Amount of pounds needed to gain to finish _____

Estimated pounds gained per day till fair weigh in _____

Project's Pedigree (Rabbit 2)

Fill in as much of your project's pedigree as you know even if it is just different breeds that make up your animal.



Project Animals Information

Animal's Name _____

Identification Number and/or Tattoo _____

County Identification Number _____

Breed(s) _____

Gender _____ Date of Birth _____

Date of Purchase _____ Total Purchase Amount $_____

Purchase Weight _____lbs

Days from Purchase till fair weigh in _____

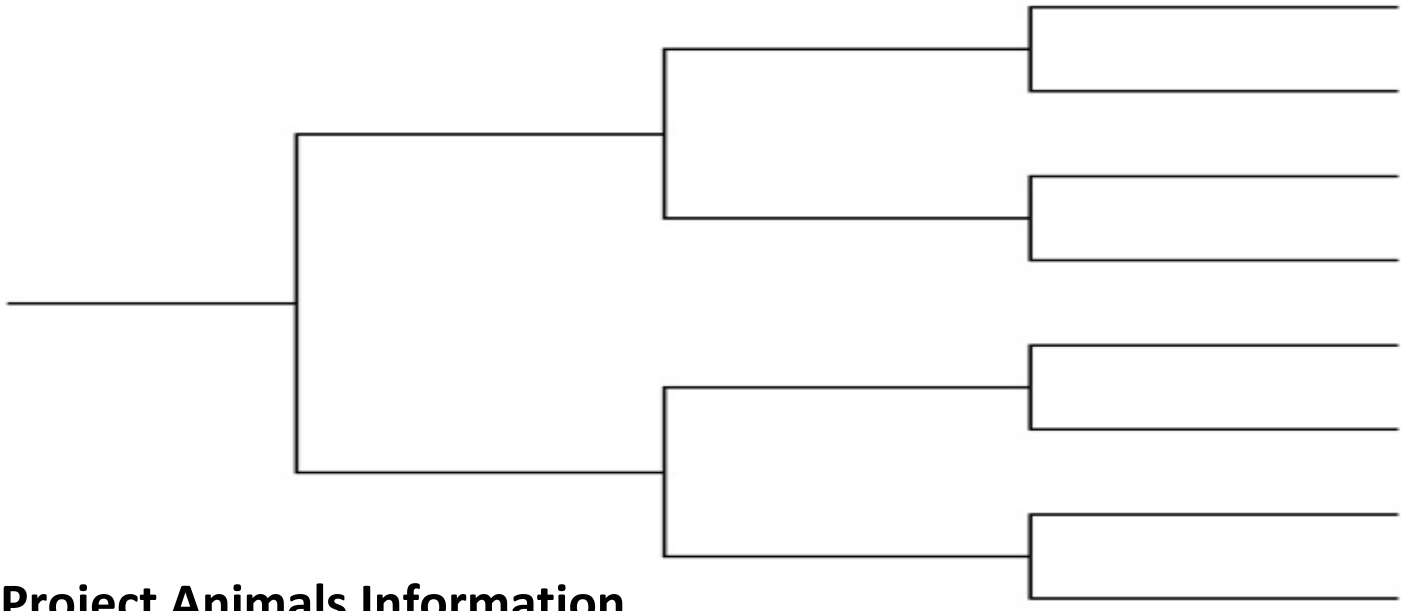
Estimated Finish Weight _____

Estimated Amount of pounds needed to gain to finish _____

Estimated pounds gained per day till fair weigh in _____

Project's Pedigree (Rabbit 3)

Fill in as much of your project's pedigree as you know even if it is just different breeds that make up your animal.



Project Animals Information

Animal's Name _____

Identification Number and/or Tattoo _____

County Identification Number _____

Breed(s) _____

Gender _____ Date of Birth _____

Date of Purchase _____ Total Purchase Amount $_____

Purchase Weight _____lbs

Days from Purchase till fair weigh in _____

Estimated Finish Weight _____

Estimated Amount of pounds needed to gain to finish _____

Estimated pounds gained per day till fair weigh in _____

What did you do with and without your Project Animal

Use the following charts to document what you do relating to your project. This can consist of things like deworming, purchase of supplies or feed, participating in skill-a-thon, visiting another farm and many others. Sometimes you may need to estimate cost or values of something. An experience may not always have a value but can be documented here. Also if you earn money back say by winning skill-a-thon document it here in the appropriate column (amount received). Each animal should be documented individually.

Date	What happened?	Who did it?	Cost or value ($)*	Amount received ($)
April 1	Bought two market lambs	Dad & me	$150.00	
May 5	Bought 200 pounds of lamb feed	Mom	$19.00	
June 1	Dewormed lambs & trimmed hooves	Dad & me	$5.00	
July 15	Veterinarian examined flock	Dr. Jones	$40.00	
August 9	Pair of lambs placed first at 4-H fair	Me		$10.00

Date	What happened?	Who did it?	Cost or value ($)*	Amount received ($)
		Totals	($)	($)

* The value of home-grown feeds is what you could have sold them for if your animals had not eaten them.

Project Summary

Use this section to determine how well you grew your project. Use the relative information you recorded in the previous charts to answer the questions and summarize your profitability. These numbers should include your entire pen of three.

Purchase Cost $_____ Purchase Weight _____lbs

Total cost of feed/hay $_____ Total cost of general supplies $_____

Total cost of health care $_____ Other total cost $_____

Target finish weight _____lbs Final weight _____lbs

Final sale price $_____ Total of other income $_____

Final Sale Price and other income $_____

Total of all cost including purchase price $_____

Loss or Profit earned (+/-) $_____

Final weight _____ - Purchase weight _____ = _____

Days grown (number of days from start of project till final weigh in date) _____

Pounds gained per day (pounds gained divided by days grown) _____

Final weight _____ - Target weight _____ = _____

How did you do and what can you do differently next year to increase profitability of your project?

_____

_____

_____

What you experienced

Where did you keep your animal? _____

_____

What did you do to take care of your animal? _____

_____

How much and what did you feed your animal? _____

_____

What did you do to keep your animal healthy? _____

_____

What did you do to keep your animal and equipment clean? _____

_____

What did you do to groom and train your animal? _____

_____

How did you market your animal? _____

_____

What was one skill you learned or improved this year? _____

_____

What was one goal you met this year? _____

_____

What would you like to learn or do next year? _____

_____

_____