

RABBITS, CAVIES, AND SMALL ANIMALS

OBJECTIVES

Members will learn care, handling and responsibility of owning rabbits, cavies and small animals.

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR EXHIBITION

1. Exhibitors must be **registered** members of a Somerset County 4-H Small Animal Project by January 1 of the current year.
2. Exhibitors who have completed grades 4-8 are considered Junior members. Exhibitors who have completed grades 9-13 are considered Senior members.
3. Exhibitors must have owned their entries by May 1 of the current year.
4. Exhibitors must have attended 70% of their regular club meetings to be eligible to show their entries at the fair.
5. **Exhibitors must attend one of the pre-fair mandatory meetings (held at the individual club discretion)** and sign the 4-H Youth and Parent contract for small animal project tent at the Somerset County Fair **(at the individual club discretion)**.
6. **Exhibitors are required to register for, and complete, mandatory club responsibilities.** The club responsibilities include Saturday or Sunday set-up (prior to the fair), daily herdsman duties, tent patrol duties, Friday clean-up and cage cleaning.
7. Exhibitors must register their entries (including Showmanship and Sale Animal entries) with their Club Small Animal Sale Chairman. **All entries must be postmarked no later than the due date on the entry form for the current year.** There are no exceptions to this rule! **There is a registration fee of \$3.00 per animal (for all animals.)**
8. Along with their project animal entries, **exhibitors must turn in a mandatory Record Book** to their club leader at Tuesday night check-in.
9. All members are responsible for keeping the tent clean and safe.
10. Tent set-up will be conducted at the Fair grounds (time TBD by each individual club) prior to the fair.
11. All animals must remain in their cages at all times during the fair. (The only exceptions are during judging, during showmanship practice and judging, for specific scheduled activities in the tent, or if a sale animal is being shown to a prospective buyer.)
12. All animals must remain in the tent from check-in on Tuesday evening through clean up on Friday night (Exception of long-haired animals and those deemed to be too stressed by 4-H Agent- Melissa Bright- No animal can leave the tent! (the only exception is when an animal is being used for the Round Robin). Refer to Sale Animal Rules for those animals.
13. All animals, record books, and projects will remain on display in the tent throughout the entire fair. (The only exception is if remaining at the fair compromises an animal's health. In such a case, the animal may only leave with the approval of 4-H Agent- Melissa Bright.)
14. **Exhibitors must be present for Friday night cleanup of the tent and must remain until tent cleanup is completed.** Leaders' approval is necessary before any member or project may be signed out.

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR CLOVERBUD MEMBER EXHIBITION

1. Clover Bud/Prep members are members of a Somerset County 4-H Small Animal Project who have completed grades kindergarten-3rd grade.
2. Clover Bud/ Prep members are permitted to participate non-competitively only, and will receive participation ribbons.
3. Clover Bud/Prep members are expected to follow the same rules as older 4-H members.

PROJECT ANIMAL CLASS

1. Qualified 4-H members may enter fifteen (15) animals per category (rabbit, cavy and small animal). This includes no more than three (3) doe and litter and three (3) sow and litter. No small animal litters are allowed.
2. A doe and litter is considered one entry (6-11 weeks of age). A sow and litter is considered one entry (3-4 weeks of age).
3. The entry fee is \$1.00 per animal class and fur class
4. All animals will be checked in between the hours of 5:00pm and 10:00pm on Tuesday evening before the fair.
5. A health examiner, who will be appointed by 4-H Agent Melissa Bright, must check all animals on Tuesday night before the animals are placed in their assigned cages, "vet check" is mandatory for all Rabbits Tuesday night behind the 4-H Center between 5-9pm. All animals showing signs of illness must be immediately removed from the fairgrounds by the exhibitor.
6. Substitutions for entries are permitted only in the same class and may be made on or prior to Tuesday night check-in, with their Club show Secretary's approval.
7. All rabbits and cavies must be earmarked before they are put into their assigned cages. Permanent tattoos are strongly recommended.
8. All transportation cages should be removed from the tent immediately after securing the animals in their assigned cages.
9. Small Animal Exhibitors must provide their own feed and cages and are responsible for watering and feeding their own animals, in the event of an emergency and the member cannot care for their animal at the fair, they must contact their leaders and the 4-H Agent, Melissa Bright. Cages must be suitable for the animals and must be approved by the health examiner. No aquariums, habitats and no cage furniture. These prohibit the animals from breathing well and cause overheating.
10. All members of the division are responsible for the watering and feeding of the rabbits and cavies. (the division provides cages and feed for the rabbits and cavies.) All exhibitors must provide frozen water bottles each day.
11. If the division is not providing "runners" to transport the animals to the judging tables, exhibitors are responsible for getting their own entries to the judging table at the required time.
12. All animals will be judged by 4-H regulations using the Danish System.
13. Animals should be preconditioned to tolerate heat.

SHOWMANSHIP CLASS

1. Showmanship is MANDATORY for all rabbit and small animal exhibitors time and date TBD. Youth with a schedule conflict must discuss this with their club leaders on how to meet this requirement. Showmanship animals should be registered and on display for the whole fair unless otherwise excused by their club leaders. The animal should be on display in the tent and will not have been used for any other showmanship. No animal may be used more than once for showmanship!
2. Showmanship entrants must attend one of the pre-fair mandatory meetings

3. Showmanship entrants must register with their club show Secretary no later than August 1 of the current year.
4. Those members who are entering only the Showmanship Class must register for, and complete, three division responsibilities. The division responsibilities include Sunday set-up (prior to the fair), herdsman duties (junior member only), tent patrol duties (quantity TBD by club leaders).
5. Members participating in the Round Robin only are exempt from the mandatory Friday night clean-up and cage cleaning.
6. Showmanship will be judged by 4-H regulations using the Danish System

RECORD BOOK AND PROJECT CLASS

1. Those members who are entering only the Record Book and Project Class are responsible for turning in their record Book and/or Project to their club leader on or before Tuesday night check-in. They are also responsible for arranging to pick up their entries after fair closure at 10:00pm on Friday evening.
2. Members participating in the Record Book and Project Class only are responsible for their club responsibilities. See Showmanship class above for duties.
3. Record Books and Projects will be judged by 4-H regulations using the Danish System.

FORFEITURE OF AWARDS

1. Forfeiture is the loss of any and all participation recognition.
2. Failure to follow the rules listed in this exhibitor guide can result in forfeiture of awards

SALE ANIMALS

1. All animals to be sold at the fair must be 4-H member project animals and must be officially entered in the show and must be officially registered with their Club Small Animal Sale Chairman or 4-H Agent, Melissa Bright.
2. **ALL SALE ANIMALS MUST BE TATTOOED TO VERIFY IDENTIFICATION.**
3. Only animals sold during the fair may leave before the end of the fair.
4. 10% of all proceeds will be donated to the Somerset County 4-H Association for every animal sold.

5. Only 4-H small animal project members may sell animals at the Fair.

PROJECT ANIMAL CLASSES AND AWARDS

- All Best In Show - Award
- All Best Reserve in Show - Award
- All Best of Breeds with 5 or more in the breed and 3 separate exhibitors - Award
- Best Wool and Fur - Rosette
- Best Wool and Fur Reserve - Rosette
- All Best Reserve - Rosette

SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES

- Best Junior Rabbit Showman
- Best Junior Cavy Showman

Best Senior Rabbit Showman Best Senior Cavy Showman
Best Junior Small Animal Showman Best Senior Small Animal
Showman

PROJECT AND RECORD BOOK CLASSES

Best Junior Record Book Best Junior Project
Best Senior Record Book Best Senior Project

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