

Defiance County Junior Fair

Department 300

Rabbit Department Guidelines - 2025

Show Date: Saturday, August 16, 2025 @ 10:00 am

New Rules:

- There will be a half hour break between market and breeding classes.

Rabbit Possession Dates

1. **Single Roaster Rabbits** June 1 [Must bring to Livestock Central Tagging on June 14, 2025]
2. **Single Breeding** June 1 [Must bring to Livestock Central Tagging on June 14, 2025]
3. **Single Fryer Rabbits** July 15 [Must bring to July Rabbit Tattooing on July 31, 2025]

New Location: At Fairgrounds – Strausbaugh Arena

4. **Alternates:** Exhibitors may tag one alternate rabbit per breed, one buck and one doe, as single breeding rabbits. Alternate must be of same breed as rabbit tagged. Exhibitors may tag one alternate market rabbit per exhibitor (ex. One extra roaster and or one extra fryer). Example: This means that an exhibitor can take a total of 2 roasters but they can only tag one alternate. Alternates must be of the same breed as pen entered.
5. **Tattoos:** Exhibitors may use a current tattoo or may tattoo own rabbit. Rabbits not previously tattooed will receive a pre-assigned tattoo number. The above animals whether having a tattoo or not, must come to the Livestock Central Tagging date.

Defiance County Junior Fair Information

A. Project Completion Requirements

1. All livestock exhibitors must complete at Skillathon and livestock Quality Assurance Training for project completion. A 4-H/FFA member is not required to show in the Junior Fair livestock Show.

B. Livestock Move-In

1. Livestock check-in is the Friday before start of Fair.
2. Move-In Times: 9:00 am – 11:00 am **OR** 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Check in with Barn Supervisor.
3. All animals must have a valid DUNF form completed via the Online DUNF link **PRIOR** to move-in.. The On-Line link will open the Wednesday before livestock check-in. It is recommended to wait as close to move-in day as possible to ensure information is correct.
4. Animals must be free of all drug residues on ***move-in date***.
5. Wellness Check: Exhibitor must be able to present (lift and contain) rabbit on the table for wellness check. Sick rabbits will not be permitted in the rabbit barn.
6. Health papers are not required.

C. Market Weights

1. Roasters 5 ½ lbs - 9 lbs Meat type rabbit under six months of age on show day
2. Single fryers 3 ½ lbs - 5 ½ lbs Must be less than 70 days old on show day.
3. Rabbits not meeting minimum or maximum weights will be allowed to show in over/under class for participation premium. These animals are NOT eligible for livestock sale and/or direct packer and must go home after fair. Exhibitor may participate in showmanship.

D. Livestock Release

1. All animals are released on Friday from 4:00 – 7:00 pm.
2. Each exhibitor must clean his or her stall/pen prior to leaving the fairgrounds. Premiums forfeited for pens not cleaned by noon on Saturday.

E. Pen Assignments

1. Any changes in pen assignments without prior approval of the Barn Superintendent will result in forfeiture of premium and the exhibitor not being permitted to show in the current year with that project.

F. Junior Fair Eligibility

1. All Defiance County Junior Fair exhibitors must successfully meet all requirements of their youth organization before being eligible to exhibit for competition. Exhibitor and General Guidelines.
2. 4-H and FFA Dual Membership Policy: Ohio 4-H members are often also FFA members, sometimes within the same county and sometimes in an adjacent county. These members need to keep in mind the 4-H policy about 4-H projects being separate from school projects. To keep work in both organizations clearly separate, **4-H members are advised to take different species in the two organizations** or, at the very least, to take market animals in one and breeding animals in the other. FFA members must exhibit FFA projects in the county of their school chapter.

Livestock Sale

A. Market Rabbits

1. Market Livestock exhibitors shall be limited to **one entry** in the Junior Fair Livestock Sale. An entry shall consist of an individual animal or a pen. Animals eligible to sell in the livestock sale will be: Single Roasters or Single Fryers.
2. Individual sale order number: The sale order of exhibitors is randomly assigned by the Livestock Sale software. Exhibitors missing their sale spot will be placed at the end of that species.
3. Grand and Reserve Champion animals will sell first in their species.
4. Exhibitors must show animal in a market class to be eligible for livestock sale.
5. **Attendance at Livestock Sale Required**: For the privilege of selling a market animal in the Livestock Sale, the exhibitor must present his/her own project for sale. Exceptions must be presented to the Sale committee at least two (2) days prior to sale. Sporting events/practice will not be considered as warranting an exception. Exception: Seniors who are already at college do not have to be present at the livestock sale and may receive add-ons only.

General Guidelines

A. Class Entries

1. **Class Limits**: Exhibitors are allowed EIGHT entries with a max of two entries/class. Exhibitors may have two entries per class (Single breeding: max of 2 bucks and 2 does per breed).
2. An exhibitor whose animal exhibit dies after its designated possession date may complete the project by completing Skillathon. Exhibitor may also display a poster in club booth for a premium.
3. Single Breeding Rabbits
 - Rabbits entered in the single breeding classes must be purebred of a recognized ARBA breed. A rabbit may not be entered in more than one class (excluding showmanship)

- Each breed of rabbit will constitute two classes 1) bucks and 2) does.
 - Rabbits will be judged based on the American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) Standards of Perfection. Best of Breed (BOB) and Best Opposite Sex of Breed (BOS) will be awarded for each breed, if applicable.
4. Market Rabbits: Rabbits entered in market classes are not required to be purebred or a recognized ARBA breed.
 5. The Pet Rabbit Project is judged as a small animal project at still project judging. This project does not exhibit at the Fair.
 6. Exhibitors must show their own rabbit in showmanship.
 7. **Unable to Show Animal:** If an exhibitor is unable to show his/her animal due to health concern, another current Jr. Fair exhibitor may be permitted to show the animal based upon PRIOR approval with the Barn Supervisor.

B. Showmanship

1. Show attire may NOT include a farm name and/or advertisement. It is at the discretion of the Barn Supervisor to ask an exhibitor to change attire for a class.
2. Exhibitor may show in ONE type/breed of showmanship class.
3. Any exhibitor showing misconduct or poor showmanship in the show area, or barns will have full forfeiture of premiums by decision of the Junior Fair Supervisors.
4. Exhibitor must show own animal for showmanship according to Junior Fair records
5. The following Showmanship Classes apply to all Departments.
 - Senior Division:** 16 - 19 years old as of January 1 of current year
 - Intermediate Division:** 13 - 15 years old as of January 1 of current year
 - Junior Division:** 12 years old and younger as of January 1 of current year
 - Beginner Division:** Any age but limited to those exhibitors who are taking that species at the Defiance County Fair for the first time.

C. Grooming and Livestock Care Guidelines

1. **Responsibilities of and Assistance to Defiance County Junior Fair Exhibitors**
 - a. The Defiance County Junior Fair Livestock Committee's goal of opening up of the current grooming guidelines is to encourage others to work with and share knowledge of grooming practices and animal care with our Junior Fair exhibitors.
 - b. These new guidelines apply to all livestock departments except Horses and Dogs.
2. **Guidelines:**
 - a. A junior fair livestock show exhibitor shall be responsible for the continuous care, grooming, and preparation of livestock entered the junior fair livestock shows. In the event an exhibitor is unable to care for/feed animal(s), he/she must notify the Jr. Fairboard Office of who will be responsible in his/her absence.
 - b. An exhibitor may receive assistance (from anyone) in the care, grooming, and preparation of the livestock entered in the junior fair livestock show.
 - c. Violations by the exhibitor, family members or any other parties involved in the unethical fitting and showing of an animal may result in any or all of the following.
 - Withholding of the exhibitor's premium
 - Recall awards received by the exhibitor
 - Declare an exhibitor ineligible for awards
 - Revoke Ohio State Fair showing rights.
 - Revoke exhibitor's right to participate in the livestock sale
 - Ban exhibitor from showing in future Defiance County Fairs

3. **TAMPERING “UNETHICAL FITTING”** – Means to alter or change the natural appearance, weight, musculature or conformation of an animal in an unnatural or artificial manner, including but not limited to, the removal of animal tissue or body part, to cut or tear the hide, to cover, dye or color the hair or hide, to add artificial tailheads, switches, polls, hair or heels, or to administer, feed, give or inject any substance or drug to an animal exhibited, except when medically necessary or when the drug used has been approved for such use by the Food and Drug Administration or United States Department of Agriculture.
 - a. Any product which changes, enhances, or alters the natural color of an animal will not be permitted. (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO PAINTS, DYE, POWDER, NON-CLEAR ADHESIVE AND FORM OR SHOE POLISH).
 - b. Tampering and/or misrepresentation as to breeding, age, ownership, custody and any other irregularity in showing will be considered fraud and deception.
 - c. The use of any unapproved drugs is prohibited.
 - d. Should violation be discovered after the Defiance County Junior Fair Livestock Sale, all sale money shall be returned to the buyer and the animal, carcass or carcass value shall be returned to the exhibitor. All placings in show will stand. No animals will be moved up.
 - e. Any carcass suspected of being tampered with or suspected of containing drugs will be detained until the investigation is complete.

D. Show Attire

1. Dark pants or jeans and a dress shirt.
2. White coats are recommended (especially for showmanship) but not required.
3. No logos visible. ARBA patches permitted.
4. Closed toed shoes or boots are required to be worn when showing.
5. No hats or caps. No clothing items with logos visible.
6. Show attire may not include a farm name and or advertisement for a farm, breeder, etc.
7. Any exhibitor found to be wearing inappropriate clothing or footwear will be asked to change their clothing or footwear before entering the ring.

E. Barn Guidelines

1. Sleeping in barns is not permitted.
2. Couches/Furniture are NOT permitted in any barn. (Picnic tables are allowed.)
3. All livestock barns will be closed to the public at 11:00 pm. Barns are also closed to the general public during livestock shows.
4. All animal washing and grooming must be done in designated areas.
5. Junior Fair members and or family members should not feed other member’s animals without permission.
6. All stall decorations, stall cards, signs, etc are to be removed by noon on Saturday in addition to stalls/pens being cleaned or forfeit all premiums.
7. **Dogs on the Fairgrounds:** Dogs are not allowed on the midway, in or around the livestock barns and/or show arenas. Exception to service dogs.
8. Curfew is 12:30 am every night of the fair.

F. Clean Pen Guidelines

1. All livestock pens must be kept clean and presentable at all times. Livestock pens must be cleaned at a minimum of once daily and may be cleaned by the exhibitor or family member.
2. Each exhibitor must clean his or her stall/pen prior to leaving the fairgrounds. Exhibitor must wait until animal has been loaded from stall to start cleaning pens. Exhibitor must check out with a Barn representative. Pens must be cleaned by 12:00 noon on Saturday. Failure to do so will result in forfeiting current year premiums and eligibility for exhibition with that species for the following year. Evaluation of the stalls/pens will be done by the Barn Supervisor.
3. Pens, aisles and animals must be kept clean during fair week. Failure to do so will result in forfeiting current year premiums and eligibility for exhibition with that species for the following year. Evaluation of the stalls/pens will be done by the Barn Supervisor.
4. Pens will be inspected daily. Pens determined not to be presentable will receive a verbal warning from Barn Superintendent. Pen must be cleaned within two hours of receiving the verbal warning.

G. Code of Conduct

1. Exhibitors are representing their youth organization at Junior Fair events, shows and activities. The 4-H membership agreement extends to all organized Junior Fair activities. The Livestock Committee, in communication with the Extension Educator, will handle behavior and disciplinary action at the Fair as necessitated by a member's inappropriate and/or unlawful behavior.

H. Awards and Premiums

1. Refer to the Premium List for class premiums.
2. Ribbons: 1st – 5th place ribbons will be awarded for each Junior Fair class.
3. Thank you cards will be required by the end of the week to the Jr. Fair office in order to receive premiums. It is up to the Barn Superintendent as to how to distribute the trophies/thank you cards.

Ohio Health Exhibition Guidelines

1. No health papers required.
2. Rabbits exhibited must show no symptoms of evidence of an infectious or contagious disease.
3. Any medications that need to be administered to animals during the fair must be coordinated with the **COUNTY FAIR VET** prior to administering the medication. A DUNF form must be completed.

Jr. Fair Classes

Market Classes: Single Roaster and Single Fryer

Single Breeding Classes: ARBA recognized breeds shown by buck or doe

Showmanship Classes: