

36th Annual
MASSACHUSETTS 4-H RABBIT WORKSHOP
Saturday, January 28, 2017
Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School - Upton, MA

The Massachusetts 4-H Rabbit Advisory Committee, the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation and Massachusetts Extension are pleased to invite you to attend the 36th annual 4-H Rabbit Workshop. A variety of sessions will be offered for beginners through advanced rabbit raisers.

The 4-H Rabbit Workshop is open to all. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children.

I hope you will take advantage of this special opportunity to learn from some of the top names in the rabbit industry.

Nancy J. Searle, 4-H Extension Educator

Registration

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Workshops have a limit to the number who may participate. Preference will be given based on the arrival of your paid registration. The 4-H registration fee is seven dollars (\$7.00) per person (this fee also applies to 4-H family members). Your fee must be sent with your registration. Registrations must be postmarked by January 18th. Walk-in registration fee on January 28th is \$10.00 per person. Parents who are attending workshops also must preregister and pay the registration fee. Parents may choose to stay for the day and not attend workshops as there is adequate seating in the cafeteria. Registration fee for non 4-H participants (youth and adult) is \$10.00 per person. Late fee or walk-in registration fee for non 4-H'ers is \$12.00. Please make checks payable to "Mass 4-H Rabbit Advisory Committee". No telephone entries.

Directions to Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational High School

The school is located at 65 Pleasant Street in Upton. From Route 495, take Exit 21B (West Main Street-Upton). Go right at the end of the exit ramp. Stay on this road for about 5 miles. Go straight through the set of lights where the road crosses Route 140 (the road will change its name to Maple Street). Go to the end of Maple Street and at the light turn left onto Pleasant Street. Go past Nipmuc High School (on your right) and Blackstone Valley High School will be a short distance on your left.



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Food Services

A light breakfast, lunch and snacks will be for sale. Participants may choose to bring a bag lunch.

Raffle

There will be a raffle to help defray the costs of conducting this program. Each family is asked to bring a donation for the raffle (rabbit related or other). **No live animals, please.**

4-H Tee Shirts

4-H rabbit and cavy program tee shirts will be available. These shirts will feature the design submitted by a 4-H rabbit project member.

Rabbitry Supplies

PANS, etc., a rabbitry supply service, will have project related supplies for sale. Pre-orders may be made by calling Avis at 508-588-5723.

Community Service

Heifer International provides education and livestock to enable impoverished families to improve their quality of life. Help us sponsor a trio of rabbits by donating a quarter or quarters to fill the quarter tube. A full tube equals \$60. and will pay for a trio of rabbits.

Lunch Break Activities

A variety of free craft activities will be available during the lunch break. Activities will include a coloring contest.

NO SALE OF ANIMALS IS ALLOWED IN THE SCHOOL. ONLY RABBITS BEING USED IN A WORKSHOP ARE ALLOWED IN THE BUILDING.

(A special area will be available for participants to post information about animals they have for sale.)

Sale rabbits and cavies may be viewed and/or purchased from owner in the parking lot area.

SCHEDULE

9:00 - 9:45 a.m.	Arrival and Check-in
9:45 - 10:00	Opening Assembly
10:00 - 11:00	Workshops "A"
11:10 - 12:10 p.m.	Workshops "B"
12:10 - 1:00	Workshops "C" or lunch
1:00 - 1:50	Workshops "C" or lunch
2:00 - 3:00	Workshops "D"
3:10 - 3:30	Evaluations and Raffle

Adults and youth MUST turn off any electronic devices when attending a workshop. Our volunteer presenters thank you for your cooperation.

WORKSHOPS

Following each workshop description there will be an abbreviation that indicates the level the workshop is suitable for. B = beginners, I = intermediates, T = teens and adults, A = suitable for all levels.

Workshops “A” 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Angoras – Learn about the special needs of the Angora breeds including grooming techniques. (A)

Rabbitry Management – Day to day management tips for an efficient and healthy rabbitry. Workshop will include breeding, kindling and raising healthy litters in all weather conditions. (I & T)

Infectious Diseases – Learn how to recognize the diseases that can be spread from one animal to another, treatments for these diseases and practices to eliminate them from your rabbitry. (I & T)

Gem of the Fancy – The Netherland Dwarf is a long popular breed. Learn about the many colors recognized, its distinct type and special breeding concerns. (A)

Rabbits as Pets – Rabbits are growing in popularity as pets. Become more knowledgeable about choosing a breed, providing a safe environment, litter box training and more! (B)

Developing a New Breed or Variety – The ARBA has many requirements. Learn the many steps that are necessary to get a new breed or variety accepted. (I & T)

Genetics I – This two-part workshop will introduce older members and adults to genetics. (I & T)

Using the Standard of Perfection – The ARBA Standard can be challenging to understand. Learn how to best utilize the information and how to apply it to your breed. (I & T)

Workshops “B” 11:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

Satins and Mini Satins – Learn about these popular breeds, their many colors and the distinct features of their fur. (A)

Judging – Learn what a judge is looking for when evaluating a class of rabbits. Selection tips will help you make better decisions in judging contests, culling litters or purchasing new stock. (I & T)

Genetics II – This is the continuation of Genetics I from Workshop A. (I & T)

Convention Youth Contests – With the national convention coming to Massachusetts in 2018, there will be many ways youth can participate beyond showing their animals. Learn how to prepare and enter the royalty, judging, ID and other educational contests. (A)

Cavy Care – This workshop will include all things cavy including breeds, selection, general care, handling and health. Bring your cavy questions. (A)

Show My Bunny – Here’s all you need to know – how to find shows, what types of shows are out there, show rules, how to enter, what to bring and what happens when you get there. (A)

Rabbits and Their Digestive System – Rabbits have a unique digestive system. Learn how to keep it working properly and keep your rabbits healthy. (I & T)

Rabbit Games – Games are a fun way to learn. Participate in a variety of games such as bingo, quiz bowl and breed ID. Learn about making educational games. (A)

Workshops “C” 12:10 – 1:00 p.m. or 1:00 – 1:50 p.m.

These workshops will be in small groups to ensure hands-on experience for all youth participants. Enrollment is limited by the workshop presenter. Registered adults are welcome to attend these sessions; however, **materials will be for youth participants.** (If needed, adults will be asked to assist youth and if extra materials are available, they may be shared with adults.)

Introduction to Rabbit Hopping – Learn how you and your rabbit can prepare to participate in this new competition – no previous experience required. (A)

Intermediate Rabbit Hopping – Tips for taking your rabbit to a higher level. Participants must have prior experience with rabbit hopping. (A)

Nest Boxes – Youth participants will build a wooden nest box to take home. (A)

Carriers – Learn how to build a wire carrier. Youth participants will assemble a one-hole rabbit or cavy carrier to take home. (A)

First Aid – Learn about some common ailments that can be treated at home. Assemble a first aid kit to help you be prepared. (A)

Show Rugs – Create a one-of-a-kind rug to use when posing and grooming your rabbit. (A)

Bucket Seats – Recycle a plastic bucket into a handy seat and carry-all to use at rabbit shows. (I & T)

Basic Handling Skills – Proper handling is important for both you and your rabbit. New project members will practice safe handling. Rabbits will be provided. (B)

Beginner Showmanship – Members with basic handling skills will learn and practice how to be competitive in showmanship classes. Rabbits will be provided. (B)

Showmanship II – Experienced showmen will learn and practice advanced tips and tricks. Rabbits will be provided. (I & T)

Rabbit Toys – Keep your rabbit busy and happy by providing a variety of toys that you will make. (A)

Vital Signs – A veterinarian will teach you how to check the health of your rabbits. Learn to check pulse, respiration and temperature plus other areas that are included in an examination. (A)

How to Palpate – Learn and practice this skill that will enable you to maintain a more efficient breeding program. (I & T)

Posing Your Rabbit – Learn proper posing techniques so your rabbit will show at its best. (A)

Workshops “D” 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Meet the Breeds – There is a lot to know about the many rabbit breeds. Meet lots of them at this workshop. (A)

Writing at Shows – Rabbit shows need helpers and you can learn a lot when you write for a judge. Learn how to be a knowledgeable show writer. (I & T)

Cavy Breeds – The thirteen cavy breeds have lots of colors and variations. Explore these animals and their unique differences. (A)

Veterinary Presentation – Update on current veterinary issues relating to rabbits. Will include infections of E. cuniculi parasite that is considered to be widespread among rabbits. (I & T)

The Scoop on Poop – The rabbit has a unique digestive system that produces a unique poop. Learn to identify normal and abnormal – how this will help you identify health problems and how rabbit manure can be used. (A)

General Care – New owners will learn the basics including cages, proper feeding, handling skills and how to keep your rabbit healthy. (A)

How to Become a Registrar & Judge – Take the next step and explore the ARBA process of obtaining your registrars’ and judge’s license. (I & T)

What You Can Do to Help at Convention – In 2018, Massachusetts will host the national rabbit breeders show and convention! This event will need an army of volunteers. Find out how you can join the convention team and be involved in one or more of the volunteer opportunities. (I & T)



2017 4-H RABBIT WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ __ Youth __ Adult

Street _____ Town _____

State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Number of years in the 4-H rabbit/cavy project _____

Name of 4-H Club (if a 4-H member) _____

Workshops – please use the numbers 1, 2 & 3 to indicate three choices for each time slot.

WORKSHOPS “A”

Angoras Rabbitry Management Infectious Disease
 Gem of the Fancy Rabbit as Pets Developing a New Breed or Variety
 Genetics I Using the Standard of Perfection

WORKSHOPS “B”

Satins and Mini Satins Judging Genetics II Convention Youth Contests
 Cavy Care Show My Bunny Rabbits and Their Digestive System Rabbit Games

WORKSHOPS “C”

Introduction to Rabbit Hopping Intermediate Rabbit Hopping Nest Boxes Carriers
 First Aid Show Rugs Bucket Seats Basic Handling Skills
 Beginner Showmanship Showmanship II Rabbit Toys Vital Signs
 How to Palpate Posing Your Rabbit

WORKSHOPS “D”

Meet the Breeds Writing at Shows Cavy Breeds Veterinary Presentation
 The Scoop on Poop General Care How to Become a Registrar or Judge
 What You Can Do to Help at Convention

Registration Fee (\$7 Per participant) must accompany this form. Please make checks payable to “Mass. 4-H Rabbit Advisory Committee”

Late and walk-in registration fee is \$10 per participant.

Fees for non 4-H participants is \$10 per person and \$12 for late or walk-in registrations.

Registrations must be postmarked by **January 18, 2017.**

Mail registration and fees to: **Randy & Sharon Gebelein, 8 Hastings Street, Mendon, MA 01756**