



# South Carolina 4-H/FFA Cavy Project Cloverbud Record Book



This was my \_\_\_\_\_ year in the Cavy Project!

Age on January 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Club/County/Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Leader/Ag Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Years in 4-H \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in School \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Project Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ Project End Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Goals of the South Carolina 4-H/FFA Cloverbud Cavy Project are to provide youth a guided opportunity to:**

1. Explore the world of cavies.
2. Discover what is involved in caring for, training, showing, and raising cavies.
3. Experience setting personal goals and developing a plan to achieve those goals.

*By signing below we certify that: I (the Participant) personally kept records on and completed this record book for this project; I (the Agent or Ag Teacher) confirm that the Participant is a current member, in good standing, of 4-H or FFA; and I (the parent or guardian) helped my child only as needed to complete this record book and the tasks associated with this project.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
4-H or FFA Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Agent Signature (4-H only)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher Signature (FFA only)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Record Book Instructions

### Guidelines

- ❖ Read through this book as soon as you get home. Early on you want to become familiar with the information you will be recording and the activities in which you will be participating.
- ❖ Complete essential information when you first start your project, such as the cover page, the project goals page, and the animal identification page.
- ❖ Discuss this record book with a parent, 4-H leader, or agriculture teacher. Make sure to ask lots of questions so you fully understand what you are expected to do in each section of this book.
- ❖ Keep your records current! It is recommended that you record information as it occurs in a separate notebook and then transfer it to this record book at the end of the project.
- ❖ Write clearly and legibly. Use only one color ink. Neatness counts!
- ❖ Photographs demonstrating what you did and learned during this project will be expected. Don't forget to take lots of pictures!
- ❖ Make sure ALL photos have a caption explaining what you are doing and/or learning AND why.
- ❖ Make sure all photos are securely attached.
- ❖ Understand what each section is asking for before you begin to record information. Read ALL instructions and ASK if you do not understand something!
- ❖ If you are having problems you may consult other members of the club, your club leader, your parents, or your mentor, but **all work must be completed by you**, not someone else. This book is to help you to learn about cavies.
- ❖ This is a record of your experiences, so it should reflect your personality. Have fun and be creative!
- ❖ Complete all sections as much as possible with essential information.
- ❖ Do your own work, but ask your 4-H leader, Extension Agent, parents, or mentor for help when you do not understand something.
- ❖ Don't wait until the end of your project to fill out your book. Work on it continuously throughout the project. Feel free to use a separate notebook to keep records in and then at the end of the project transfer all the information into your record book so it stays neat and orderly.



## Record Book Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is a project record book?**

A project record book is a tool to help you learn about your project animal, as well as other valuable skills such as setting goals, collecting information, evaluating information, tracking costs and expenses, organization, and reflecting on your experiences.

### **Who needs to complete a record book?**

Everyone participating in the SC 4-H/FFA Cavy Project is highly encouraged to complete a record book.

### **Why should I complete a record book?**

A record book is not meant to be a chore. Instead, it is designed to be a tool to help you learn valuable life skills, such as record keeping, staying organized, and effective communication. Your record book can also show how hard you have worked, how much you have learned, and what you have done throughout the project.

### **When do I complete my record book?**

You will receive a record book when you sign up for the SC 4-H/FFA Cavy Project. You should begin filling out your record book and keeping records as soon as you receive it and frequently update it throughout the project. You should submit your completed and signed record book to your project leader at the end of the project year.

### **What happens if one or both of my project animals dies before the end of my project?**

If one or both of your project cavies dies before the end of the project, you will still submit your Project Record Book. However, you will finish your Cavy Project by creating a 4-H/FFA poster on a topic you learned about this year and submitting a picture of it on the Project Pictures page of your Record Project Book.

### **Where do I turn in my record book?**

You should submit your completed and signed record book to your project leader at the end of the project year.

### **Will I receive feedback about my record book?**

After you submit your record book, it will be judged based on the criteria listed on the last page of this book and returned to you with comments and feedback about your record book, activities, and overall project.

### **Where can I find more information?**

Listed below are some valuable resources about cavies. Clemson University Cooperative Extension does not validate or certify the information on the following websites. This list is compiled simply for your own reference. You can also contact your local Extension Agent or FFA Advisor for information.

- ❖ South Carolina Cooperative Extension Youth Rabbit Opportunities website  
[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/kids\\_families/projects/agriculture\\_and\\_animals/rabbits.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/kids_families/projects/agriculture_and_animals/rabbits.html)
- ❖ American Cavy Breeders Association (ACBA) website  
<http://www.acbaonline.com>
- ❖ American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) website  
<http://www.arba.net>
- ❖ Ohio State University: 4-H Cavy Resource Handbook and Curriculum Materials
- ❖ National 4-H Pet Project Curriculum

## My Goals

### **What would you like to learn about cavies or what new activities would you like to try with your cavy this year?**

*(Examples: I would like to learn all the body parts of the cavy. I would like to learn how to trim my cavy's nails. I want to learn how to handle my cavy, so he does not struggle when I do Showmanship.)*

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During the project you should write your goal down somewhere that you can keep with you at all times as a reminder of what you are working towards. Then at the end of the year, think about how hard you worked to reach that goal or what made it hard for you to reach that goal.

### **Did you reach your goal? What helped or made it harder for you to reach your goal?**

*(Examples: Yes, my parents helped me make flash cards for all the body parts and we used them 3 nights every week! I sort of reached my goal. I tried to trim my cavy's nails but I got scared when he scratched me. Next year I will work with my cavy more and have my parent help me.)*

## Animal Identification

When you see your best friend at school how do you recognize him/her? Is it his/her hair color? How about his/her height? Could it be his/her facial expression? Well, it's probably all of these features plus many more. These identifying features, also called characteristics, are what we use to recognize people and things. You should take note, at the beginning of your project, of any unique characteristics your cavy has so you can identify him/her. This is the first part of effective animal project record keeping. Being able to identify individual animals allows you to track that specific animal's production and performance.

Fill out the following information about your cavy at the beginning of the project. **NOTE: Cloverbuds are limited to two (2) project animals (i.e., one of each sex, both sexes, the same breed, or different breeds).**

Animal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ear Tag #: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Variety/Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Breeder: \_\_\_\_\_

Breeder Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe any unique characteristics about your project animal: (Example: Heart-shaped white spot on forehead).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Animal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ear Tag #: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Variety/Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Breeder: \_\_\_\_\_

Breeder Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe any unique characteristics about your project animal: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Animal Identification Pictures (LEFT Profile)

Taking good profile pictures is a great way to see how much your cavy grew and how well you did feeding and taking care of them. You will want to take a profile picture of them within the first few days of getting them home for your beginning shot and then another one before you have to turn in your Project Book. A good profile picture is a full view of your cavy's side. Like the example in the boxes below.

Example of a left profile picture:



Attach a picture of animal's **LEFT** profile at the **START** of the project.

Attach a picture of animal's **LEFT** profile at the **END** of the project.

Take your time and set your cavy up for these shots.  
Make sure he/she is clean and looks his/her best!

## Animal Identification Pictures (RIGHT Profile)

Example of a right profile picture:

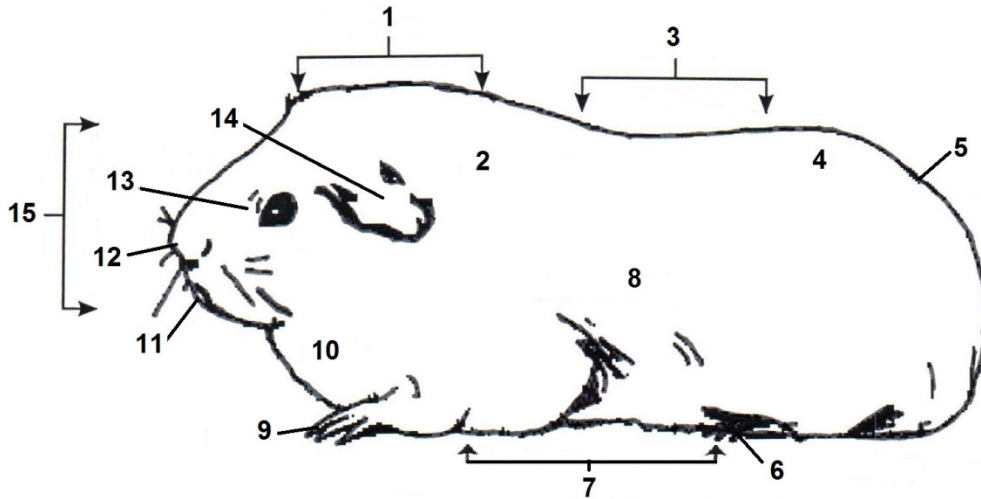


Attach a picture of animal's **RIGHT** profile at the **START** of the project.

Attach a picture of animal's **RIGHT** profile at the **END** of the project.

Learning how to take quality pictures of animals is a valuable skill for marketing.

## Know Your Cavy



**The American cavy**

When you are talking about your cavy you want to be able to use the correct names for all the body parts so others will know what you are talking about. Knowing these is also helpful when you are doing showmanship! Name the parts of a cavy below by inserting the number of the correct body part in the blanks. The first one is done for you as an example.

- |                       |                        |                            |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>  2  </u> Shoulder | <u>      </u> Ear      | <u>      </u> Hindquarter  |
| <u>      </u> Back    | <u>      </u> Eye      | <u>      </u> Hip          |
| <u>      </u> Belly   | <u>      </u> Face     | <u>      </u> Mouth        |
| <u>      </u> Chest   | <u>      </u> Forefoot | <u>      </u> Nose         |
| <u>      </u> Crown   | <u>      </u> Hind leg | <u>      </u> Side of body |



## Caring for My Cavy

Once you get your cavy home he counts on you to take very good care of him. He will depend on you for everything! Complete the sentences below by inserting the number of the correct picture in the blanks. The first one is done for you as an example.

I will learn all I can about my cavy to make my 4 project a success!

I feed my \_\_\_\_\_ every day. He has to eat a lot so he'll grow and be healthy.

I make sure my cavy has clean, fresh \_\_\_\_\_ every day.

My cavy lives in a \_\_\_\_\_ that I keep clean. A clean environment helps keep my cavy healthy and free of parasites.

When I groom my cavy I use a \_\_\_\_\_ to help keep his hair clean.

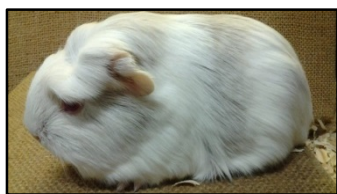
I get my parents to help me trim my cavy's \_\_\_\_\_. This keeps him comfortable and healthy so he can move and pose correctly.

My parents also help me give \_\_\_\_\_ to my cavy if he gets sick.

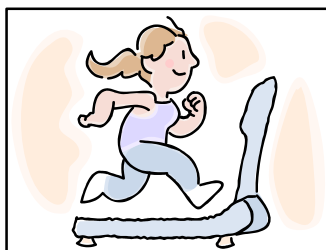
I really like to spend time with my cavy.

It's my job to make sure my cavy gets plenty of \_\_\_\_\_. The more I work with him the calmer and better behaved he is!

1. Cavy



2. Exercise



3. Brush



4. 4-H



5. Water



6. Cage/Pen



7. Medicine



8. Toenails



## Keeping Your Cavy Healthy



When you get sick, what do you do? Sleep a lot? Stay in bed? Walk funny because you hurt all over? Well, like you, your cavy will act differently when he is sick. Yet, unlike you, he cannot say "I don't feel good." By learning about different diseases and illnesses and their symptoms you will know what cavies do when they are sick. Select an illness from the list then, with a helper, find answers to the questions on this page.

Bumble Foot  
Cloudy Eye  
Diarrhea  
Heatstroke  
Lice or Mites  
Pea Eye  
Scurvy

What illness did you pick?

What do cavies act like when they have that illness? \_\_\_\_\_

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How do cavies get that illness? \_\_\_\_\_

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What do you do if your cavy gets that illness? \_\_\_\_\_

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Will your cavy get better if he gets that illness? \_\_\_\_\_

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How can you prevent your cavy from getting that illness? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Showing Your Cavy

One of the best things about raising a 4-H project cavy is the shows! When you take your cavy to a show the judge might ask you some questions so it's best to be prepared and know the answers before you get to a show. Answer each question below so you'll be ready to show!

What is your cavy's name?

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What breed is your cavy and what color/variety is he/she?

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What does your cavy eat and how much does it eat?

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In the spaces below write down questions a judge has asked you that you didn't know, so you can use them to study for the next show! Don't forget to find out the answers!

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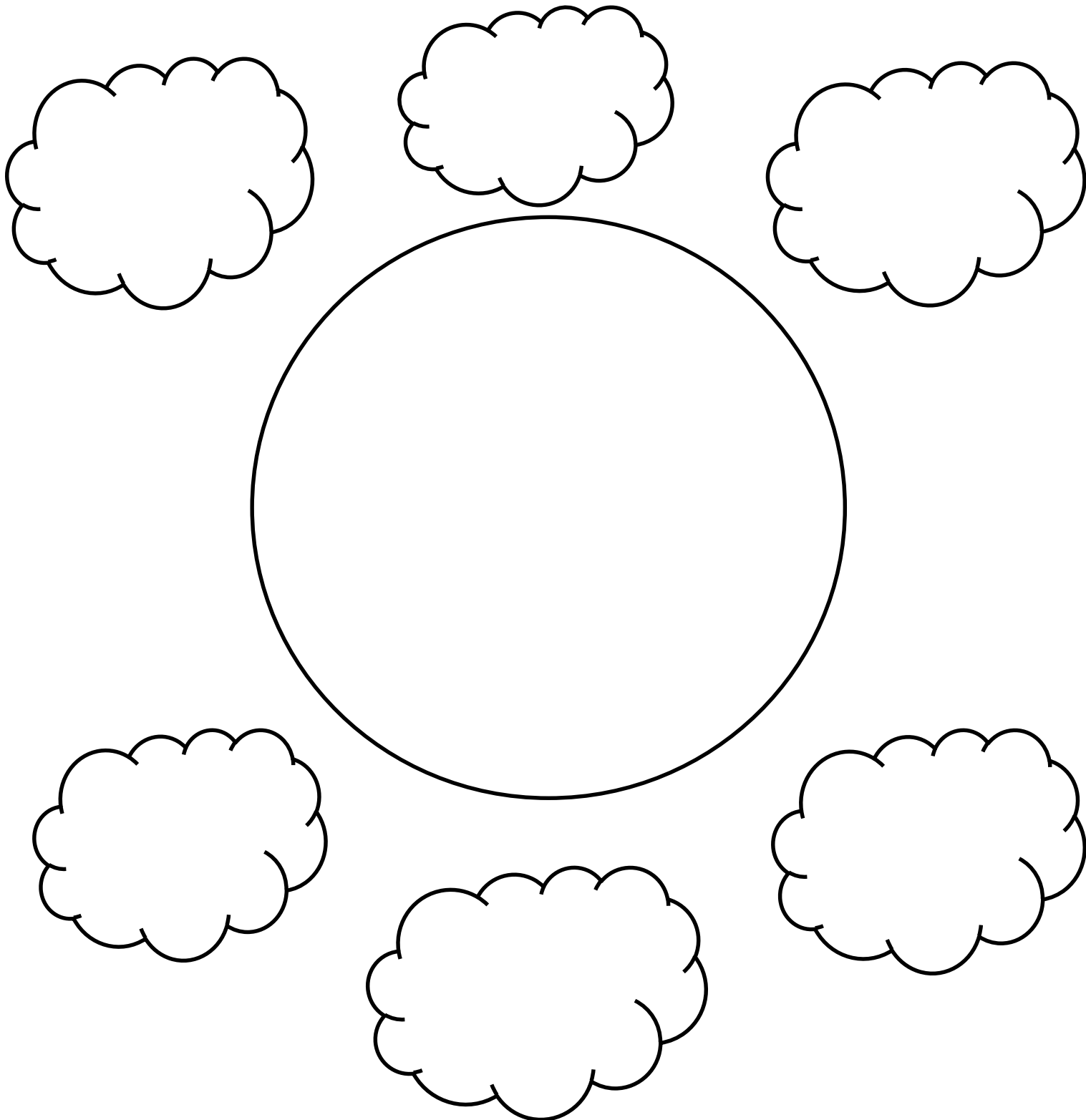
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## Make Your Cavy Proud

When you go to a cavy show, your parents might tell you to “be a good sport” and practice good “sportsmanship” behaviors. Yet, what does that mean? Think about what it means to be a “good sport” and write in the bubbles some qualities of someone who has “good sportsmanship.” Draw a picture of you being a good sport inside the circle.



## Cavy Breeds

At a cavy show you will see many different breeds of cavies. Some of the easiest ways to learn about different cavy breeds is to learn about the different ways they can be grouped together. This can be by breed, coat type and length, and color. Draw a line from the name of the breed and information to the picture of that breed. **Hint: The satin breeds are on the right.**



### American

Coat type: Short smooth coat  
Color: Tortoise Shell and White (TSW)



### American

Coat type: Short smooth coat  
Color: Silver Solid



### American

Coat type: Short smooth coat  
Color: Any Other Marked (Dilute Agouti/Cream/White)



### American Satin

Coat type: Short smooth coat, satin sheen  
Color: Tortoise Shell and White (TSW)



### American Satin

Coat type: Short smooth coat, satin sheen  
Color: Silver Solid



### American Satin

Coat type: Short smooth coat, satin sheen  
Color: Any Other Marked (red-eyed-orange (REO)/lilac/white)



### Abyssinian

Coat type: Short coat, evenly spaced rosettes that stand well open  
Color: Solid - Black Roan



### Abyssinian

Coat type: Short coat, evenly spaced rosettes that stand well open  
Color: Solid - Brindle



### Abyssinian

Coat type: Short coat, evenly spaced rosettes that stand well open  
Color: Tortoise Shell (TS) Roan



### Abyssinian Satin

Coat type: Short coat, evenly spaced rosettes that stand well open, satin sheen  
Color: Solid - Black Roan



### Abyssinian Satin

Coat type: Short coat, evenly spaced rosettes that stand well open, satin sheen  
Color: Solid - Brindle



### Abyssinian Satin

Coat type: Short coat, evenly spaced rosettes that stand well open, satin sheen  
Color: Self - Red





## Show Record



You are going to spend a lot of time working with and grooming your cavy. One great way to show off all that hard work and maybe earn some income is to compete in cavy shows. These shows sometimes award money based on how you place in each class. This money is called Show Premiums. In contrast, some shows may charge a fee for you to compete. These Entry Fees would be considered an expense for your project. Document any shows you participate in with your cavy in the table below. Be sure to list any Entry Fees you have to pay or Show Premiums you win in the appropriate columns. If you show multiple animals, only record information for your project cavies. This is not always possible, just do the best you can.

Show or Fair	Date	Entry Fees	Placing	Show Premiums
<b>Total Show Entry Fees:</b>			<b>Total Premiums:</b>	









## Project Photos

Photos are a great way to show how hard you have worked and all you have learned during this project. Attach a **minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) photos** on the following pages. Each picture should include a short caption that tells what you are doing and why you are doing the things shown in the picture. What skills are you demonstrating and why? What are you learning in the photo? Your caption should help explain to the judge why you chose to include that photo. For an example, a picture of you showing your cavy is great, but do not just say "Me showing Cinnamon." Your caption should say something like "Me showing Cinnamon. You have to know a lot about your cavy because the judge might ask you questions."

Attach photo 1 here

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Caption:

Attach photo 2 here

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Caption:

Attach photo 3 here

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Caption:

Attach photo 4 here

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Caption:

Attach photo 5 here

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Caption:

## Record Book Judging Criteria

This is the sheet that the judge will use to score your record book at the end of the project. Read through this sheet and make sure to keep these criteria in mind while you are filling out your record book.

E = Excellent      G = Good      F = Fair      P = Poor

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Judging Criteria	Points Awarded
Project Work	Clearly stated goals that are challenging but not unattainable, evidence of working toward goals, book completed by participant and not an adult, and is appropriate for age and experience level.	E   G   F   P
Project Story	Well thought out, descriptive, creative, highlights what was learned in the project, includes both good and bad experiences, explains level of activity and participation, and summarizes the overall experience in the project.	E   G   F   P
Overall Neatness	Easy to follow, easy to read, correct spelling and grammar, professional look, shows effort and creativity, items attached neatly and securely.	E   G   F   P
Overall Completeness	All signatures, all essential information is included (some lines may be left blank if they do not apply), shows overall effort and creativity.	E   G   F   P
Participation	Participation in events and activities to build skill and character,	E   G   F   P
Photos	Photos are relevant and illustrate skills acquired or learning experiences and have captions describing what is happening and why or what is being learned in the photo.	E   G   F   P
Overall Evaluation		E   G   F   P

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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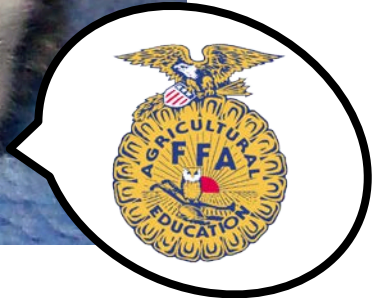
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