



# South Carolina 4-H/FFA Rabbit Project Beginner



Level 1 age on January 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Level 2 age on January 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Level 3 age on January 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Book Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ Book End Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Upon successful completion of the South Carolina 4-H/FFA Rabbit Project: Beginner Stage youth should be able to:

1. Discuss how to care for, train, raise, and/or show rabbits.
2. Describe the rabbit industry and different reasons to raise rabbits.



*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

## General 4-H/FFA Rabbit Project Instructions

The South Carolina 4-H/FFA Rabbit Project is an advancement program that consists of a series of Levels which provide a framework for learning about rabbits.

### **About the Books and Levels**

There are three Books: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. Each Book has three Levels numbered sequentially 1-9. After deciding to participate in the Rabbit Project you should begin with the Beginner Book, Level 1 to ensure a progressive learning experience.

It is possible to begin with a higher Book or at a higher Level, but keep in mind each Level was intended to build on previous completed Levels and be completed in one project year. The project year begins September 1<sup>st</sup> and ends May 31<sup>st</sup>. Anything completed between June 1<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup> can be included in the upcoming year's Notebook. For example, an activity done in July 2014 would be entered into the Notebook for the project year 2014-2015.

### **Documenting Progress**

You will need to document what is done to complete the Activity Options selected in each Level. Documentation is anything which illustrates the completion of that activity and can include pictures, awards, reports, submitted work, articles, projects, etc. Documentation should be included after each Level sheet and be clearly marked with the Activity Option number and description.

Upon completing an Activity or Personal Development Option, fill out the Level sheet by writing in the date and having your project leader or helper sign next to the appropriate activity.

Each Book was designed to be worked on for at least three years. By that time your Final Notebook should be filled with many items for documentation. Feel free to use a 3-ring binder and page protectors.

Each year you will submit an Annual Report which includes your goals, health records, financial records, activities and events, and show records. This Annual Report should be submitted each year along with your Notebook for judging, if your county or club chooses to do a submission.

### **Submission & Advancement**

Each year you participate in the project you should at least review your activities and Notebook and Rabbit Annual Report with your project leader to ensure you are on the right track for advancement. You only submit your Final 3-Year Notebook for advancement to the next Book after at least three years.

You can complete Activity Options and Personal Development Options for higher Levels while you are working on a lower numbered Level, but you cannot qualify for the higher Level until you have qualified for all preceding Levels.

Activity Options can be signed off on up to three years prior to the submission date for advancement.

**You may only qualify for one (1) Level per year.**

Once you have completed all three Levels for one Book you will submit your Final Notebook for review at the state level. An interview and review of your Final Notebook will be scheduled and if the advancement interviewer is satisfied that you have completed the Book and are ready for advancement you will receive an Advancement Certificate and can begin working on the next Book.

## **Project Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the difference between Books and Levels?**

There are three Books: Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. Each Book contains a group of three years' worth of Levels. Each year you complete a Level. Levels are numbered 1-9 (1-3 is the Beginner Book; 4-6 is the Intermediate Book; 7-9 is the Advanced Book).

### **What is the Notebook and the Final Notebook?**

When you start in the Rabbit Project, let's say you start with the Beginner Book. You would put that in a 3-ring binder. You would begin filling out the Annual Report and put that in the same binder. Now, you would add all your documentation for the Activity Options you complete. That 3-ring binder is your Notebook. At the end of the three years you write a project story and submit everything for review. That is your Final Notebook, and the one you would submit for advancement to the Intermediate Book.

### **Why should I use the SC 4-H/FFA Rabbit Project Books?**

This curriculum provides an overall progressive learning experience which project members can tailor to any specific interest in any area of rabbits (breeding, showing, fiber, meat, or just pet rabbits). These Books will help you learn more about them while gaining valuable life skills, such as record keeping, animal husbandry, staying organized, and effective communication. The documentation in your Notebooks also shows how hard you worked, how much you learned, and all the things you did throughout the project.

### **Where do I turn in my Notebook?**

At the end of each year you should submit or review your completed Notebook AND Rabbit Annual Report to your project leader, County Extension Agent, or FFA Advisor. At the end of each Book your Final Notebook will be sent for review to the state level and an interview with you will be scheduled.

### **What happens if my project animal(s) die before the end of my project?**

If your project rabbit(s) dies before the end of the project, continue completing as many Activity and Personal Development Options as you can. Work with your project leader to come up with alternative options you can complete that don't require ownership of a rabbit.

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

Listed below are some valuable resources about rabbits. 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 Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) website  
<http://www.arba.net>
- ❖ Ohio State University: 4-H Rabbit Resource Handbook and Curriculum Materials
- ❖ National 4-H Rabbit Project Curriculum

## Personal Development Options

In addition to your Activity Options, you are required to choose a certain number of Personal Development Options for each Level. Some options are listed below, as well as some blank spaces you can use for activities approved by your Project Leader/Extension Agent/Ag Teacher to serve as a Personal Development Options. You should choose different options for each level. Those listed at the bottom may be used multiple times in different levels.

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Personal Development Options that may be used only once:

- Lead the Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge/FFA Creed at 4-H/FFA Meeting.
- Lead a song or a game at a 4-H/FFA meeting.
- Preside at a meeting of your 4-H/FFA club.
- Serve as host for a 4-H/FFA meeting. See that everyone is welcomed and made comfortable.
- Attend 4-H/FFA camp.
- Serve as a camp counselor.
- Make arrangements for a tour by your club.
- Arrange for a film to be shown at your club meeting.
- Secure a speaker to talk at your club meeting.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

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Personal Development Options that may be used multiple times in different levels:

- Write a news story for a local paper.
- Participate in a radio or television program.
- Present a demonstration or illustrated talk to your club.
- Present a demonstration or illustrated talk to a group other than your 4-H/FFA club.
- Participate in a community service project.
- Serve as a 4-H Club or FFA Chapter officer.
- Serve as a junior leader.
- Serve as a teen leader.
- Participate in a 4-H/FFA Rabbit Showmanship, Judging, or Breed ID Contest.
- Serve as clerk, chairperson, or apprentice judge at a 4-H show.
- Develop and exhibit a science display which is related to rabbits.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

# Rabbit Level 1

You will need to complete nine Activity Options and three Personal Development Options in order to pass Rabbit Level 1.

<b>Activity Options</b>	<b>Date Passed</b>	<b>Approved By</b>
1. Choose 10 breeds of rabbits to learn about. Then choose 3 breeds to create a poster about, with pictures. Include most common use, mature weight, colors, and any other important information you find.	_____	_____
2. Identify thirty (30) parts of a rabbit.	_____	_____
3. Describe/design/showcase a suitable hutch/cage for your rabbit and how to equip it for use.	_____	_____
4. Explain which feeds/hay are important for rabbits. Know how much of what feeds/hay your rabbits needs daily.	_____	_____
5. Demonstrate you are willing to provide fresh water, feed, and daily care for your rabbit(s).	_____	_____
6. Describe what you might do for your rabbit's protection during extremely hot or cold weather.	_____	_____
7. Explain the difference between a rabbit and a hare.	_____	_____
8. Show and tell how to lift, carry, and hold a rabbit.	_____	_____
9. Participate in a 4-H/FFA Rabbit Showmanship and/or Breed ID Contest.	_____	_____
10. Demonstrate how to tell the sex of a young rabbit (approximately 8 weeks of age).	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____

**Personal Development Options**

1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">_____ <i>Club Member</i></td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">_____ <i>Age</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">has completed all the requirements for Level 1 of the South Carolina 4-H/FFA Beginner Rabbit Book.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">_____ <i>Interviewer</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____ <i>Date</i></td> </tr> </table>	_____ <i>Club Member</i>	_____ <i>Age</i>	has completed all the requirements for Level 1 of the South Carolina 4-H/FFA Beginner Rabbit Book.		_____ <i>Interviewer</i>	_____ <i>Date</i>
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has completed all the requirements for Level 1 of the South Carolina 4-H/FFA Beginner Rabbit Book.						
_____ <i>Interviewer</i>	_____ <i>Date</i>					

## Rabbit Level 2

You will need to complete ten Activity Options and three Personal Development Options in order to pass Rabbit Level 2.

<b>Activity Options</b>	<b>Date Passed</b>	<b>Approved By</b>
1. Build a suitable carrying cage, tattooing box or wrap, feeder, or some other rabbit equipment, other than a nest box.	_____	_____
2. Explain sportsmanship and how it applies to your rabbit project.	_____	_____
3. Describe the following faults in a rabbit: buck teeth, hernia, crooked or splay legs, and wry tail.	_____	_____
4. Describe the following diseases and their prevention and remedies: ear canker, sore hocks, snuffles, and diarrhea.	_____	_____
5. Rabbits are raised for five reasons: meat, breeding, show, fur, and/or as a pet. Discuss or present the pros and cons of raising rabbits for each of these reasons.	_____	_____
6. Describe the following undesirable characteristics of rabbits: buck teeth, bowed legs, excessive fat, narrow body.	_____	_____
7. Start a library on rabbit literature: magazines, books, pamphlets, and 4-H/FFA material.	_____	_____
8. Take part in a 4-H/FFA Rabbit Judging Contest.	_____	_____
9. Explain breeding, conception, pregnancy, and gestation periods in rabbits.	_____	_____
10. Learn how to properly restrain your rabbit for clipping its toenails. Demonstrate you can clip your rabbit's toenails.	_____	_____
11. Explain why a doe should be taken to a buck's cage to be bred. Give at least two (2) reasons.	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____

### **Personal Development Options**

1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

_____ <i>Club Member</i>	_____ <i>Age</i>
has completed all the requirements for Level 2 of the South Carolina 4-H/FFA Beginner Rabbit Book.	
_____ <i>Interviewer</i>	_____ <i>Date</i>

## Rabbit Level 3

You will need to complete ten Activity Options and three Personal Development Options in order to pass Rabbit Level 3.

<b>Activity Options</b>	<b>Date Passed</b>	<b>Approved By</b>
1. Demonstrate how to palpate a doe.		
2. Illustrate and explain the digestive system of a rabbit. Compare and contrast to other species.		
3. Describe how to control and prevent parasites such as maggots, lice, ticks, pin worms, and coccidiosis.		
4. Describe the desirable characteristics of a rabbit's hip, lion, saddle, shoulder, legs.		
5. Explain how good selection can improve a herd. Explain what inbreeding, line breeding, and crossbreeding are and the advantages and disadvantages of each.		
6. Visit a rabbitry to see how rabbits are housed, fed, watered, bred, and marketed.		
7. Explain why it is a good idea to identify a rabbit by tattooing and what different methods are available for tattooing. Which method do you prefer? Tattoo a rabbit.		
8. Participate in a rabbit hopping demonstration or competition.		
9. Learn how to spin or felt rabbit wool.		
10. Illustrate a litter of baby rabbit's growth and development for 6 weeks using pictures and documenting milestones in their development (ex. when their eyes open, climb out of the box for the first time, etc.)		
11. Build or prepare a nest box for a doe and explain the proper time to provide her with it and why.		
12. _____		

### **Personal Development Options**

1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		

<i>Club Member</i>	<i>Age</i>
has completed all the requirements for Level 3 of the South Carolina 4-H/FFA Beginner Rabbit Book.	
<i>Interviewer</i>	<i>Date</i>

## Additional Activity Option Ideas

Listed below are additional ideas you can use to fulfill one of your Activity Options in each Level. You can only use each idea once per Book and you must get approval from your Project Leader before you begin working on the Activity Option. Once complete you will write it in the blank on the Level Sheet and have your Project Leader sign in the appropriate space.

- Name three ways in which rabbits mark their territory.
- Rabbit proof a room or area in your home to provide a place for your rabbit to exercise.
- Describe why good temperament is important in a pet rabbit.
- Write to a rabbit breed association to obtain information on that particular breed.
- Create a game or teaching tool which helps others learn to identify the 30 different parts of a rabbit and use it during a club or chapter meeting.
- Describe the three classes of rabbits sold for meat and include their weights and ages.
- Become a member of a national rabbit or breed association. Discuss the benefits and possibilities for junior members with your club, chapter, or group.
- Visit a local feed store and compare the feed analysis of three different brands of rabbit feed. Discuss their similarities and differences, and decide which one would be best to feed your rabbit(s) and include the reasons why you chose that feed.
- Develop a glossary of genetics terms and their definitions. Include at least 15 terms.
- Explain the nutritional value of rabbit meat as compared to other types of meat.
- Develop a visual aid showing the five body types of rabbits: full arch, semi-arch, compact, commercial, and cylindrical. Give a presentation using the visual to your club or chapter.
- Conduct a feeding experiment. For example, select three different feed programs for three groups of rabbits for a specific period of time. Keep records of all your observations and rabbit's health during this experiment. At the end of the experiment explain your results and recommendations based on the results.
- Develop a glossary of reproductive terms and their definitions. Include at least 15 terms.
- Develop a glossary of market rabbit terms and their definitions. Include at least 15 terms.
- Trace the history of the domestic rabbit. Develop a taxonomy chart or other visual depicting the history and present it to your club or chapter.
- Using rabbit manure, begin the business of vermiculture, and sell earthworms to bait shops or local fishermen.
- Learn about a rabbit's digestive system, design a visual of the steps in the digestion of feed and present it to your club or chapter.
- Identify the desirable and undesirable characteristics of the bucks and does in your rabbitry. Develop a breeding program to eliminate undesirable characteristics to improve the quality of your herd.
- Do a report on the breeding and potential outcome of rabbits with lethal genetic factors.
- Keep a doe production record through at least three litters.
- Develop a hypothesis then conduct an experiment and report on the results of that experiment. (Possible hypothesis: Which feed makes a rabbit grow faster?, Is \_\_\_\_ breed smarter than \_\_\_\_ breed?, What treat works best for training a rabbit? Etc.)



## Project Story

Clemson University, Cooperative Extension, the SC Youth Livestock Program, 4-H, and FFA are proud of our project members and what they learn and do! Sometimes we like to use excerpts (parts) from member Project Stories to show the public how our programs impact our youth members. We will not attach real names to any project story used for publicity purposes. If you do *not* want your story shared with the general public we want to honor that. Please let us know your preference by checking one of the boxes below:

You may use my story for publicity.      OR       Do not use my story for any publicity.

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Your project story is a summary and personal reflection of everything you did and learned during the project. Think about everything you did with and for your rabbit(s) since you began working on this Rabbit Project Level. Below is an outline to help you in the development of your story. Your final story should not contain section headings and questions but you can use the outline as a guide. Remember to use complete sentences and proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Your story should be typed and inserted after this page in your Final Rabbit Project Notebook.

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### Project Story Outline

#### Section 1: Introduce Yourself

Write about your family members, other animals, and any hobbies or interests you have.

When and why did you join 4-H?

Why did you choose to participate in the South Carolina Rabbit Project?

#### Section 2: Goals

What were your goals throughout this level and why did you choose them?

What did you do or could you have done to help reach your goals?

#### Section 3: Participation and Activities

What did you have the most fun doing or participating in?

Which activities did you like doing the least?

Discuss at least one way you helped or taught others.

#### Section 4: Knowledge and Skills Gained

How did participating in this project help you learn about rabbits?

Discuss the most notable skills and knowledge you gained or improved on during this level.

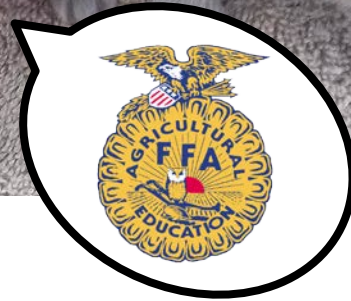
#### Section 5: Summary

What was the greatest challenge you faced during this project and how did you overcome it?

What are the three most important things you learned during the project?

Would you choose to participate in this project again? Why or why not?

**INSERT YOUR STORY AFTER THIS PAGE!**



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## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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