

Van Wert Bunny Hoppers
4-H Club & Van Wert Youth Rabbit
Club Newsletter



Junior Fair Edition 2026

September 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

July / August 2026

www.vanwertrabbit.org

YOU NEED TO ENTER YOUR RABBIT INTO THE FAIR.

All Junior Fair entries must be completed online by noon Wednesday Aug. 12, 2026..... This includes cloverbuds. Make a copy of your entry and bring it with you when you check in at the fair.

Enter thru the 4H app, or 4H facebook, or 4h web browser. Same as you did when signing up for 4H last February (same user name and password)

The online Jr Fair Entries OPENED July 1, 2026

For rabbits you can enter a maximum of:

- 6 Breeding Rabbits (show rabbits)
 - 1 Meat Pen Rabbits
 - 2 Roaster
 - 2 Single Fryer
 - 1 Doe and litter
- Cloverbud (you are allowed 1 entry)

Remember: you must enter and show a rabbit in the show category to enter a meat pen, roaster or single fryer rabbit.

Rabbit Judging /Interview Tuesday August 11, 2026

This includes all your animal projects (rabbits, chicken, beef, hogs, etc) **DO NOT BRING YOUR ANIMALS TO THIS JUDGING/INTERVIEW.** (they will be judging you not the animals at this time). You need your completed project books, there will be an interview, and a Skillathon of parts of a rabbit.

Jr Fair BuildingNo time slots, just show up between 1 pm and 6 pm

REMINDER FOR MARKET RABBITS

#1 Rabbit Meat Pen and/or Single Fryer each rabbit must weight 4 to 6 pounds. Roasters are 6.1 to 9 pounds. If they are under weight or over weight they will not be eligible for the auction on Tuesday.

#2 To take a market rabbit you must also do a separate breeding (show) rabbit project and display and show in the Monday Junior Fair Show. If you do not show in the Monday show you will not be permitted to sell rabbits at the livestock sale.

The Left Ear

Your rabbit's left ear identification tattoo should be in place before the August 15th market tattoo morning. If you need help contact your club advisor, the extension office (238-1214), or one of the rabbit club advisors.

Meat Pen/Single Fryer/Roaster Tattooing

Saturday August 15, 2026 any time between 7:30 am to 10:30 am at the Rabbit Barn.

All meat pen, roaster and single fryers must get a special tattoo at this time (up to 10 rabbits).

Note: Rabbits should have the regular left ear tattoo before the special tattoo

When you arrive fill out the form and wait in the open area, for your turn.

Barn Set Up Meeting

Saturday August 22, 2026 9:00 am

All exhibitors and parents are to come to this meeting ready to help set up. If you can, bring plyers, gloves, rakes, shovels, wheel barrels, etc. There is a job for everyone, and we can get things finished in less than 2 hours if we all work together. After the cleanup we will have a short meeting about the fair.

When to bring your rabbits to the fair

The Rabbit Barn will be open for check in on Monday August 31, 2025 between 6pm and midnight. And Tuesday September 1, 2026 until noon



All rabbits must be in place before noon on Tuesday September 1st.

Rabbit Cloverbuds

All cloverbuds must sign up to enter your one rabbit at the county fair just like everyone else.

What to Bring to the Fair



#1 You need to bring your rabbits #2 You need to bring your own feed, in a good container.

#3 Water at the fairgrounds is city water. A few people bring water from home as to not change things for your rabbits. Most people just use the water at the fairgrounds.

#4 You need to bring a water crock and a food crock for each of your rabbits. #5 You need to bring your grooming/preparation supplies and equipment.

Show Coats

The standard is white lab coat. A long sleeve shirt works just as well as a show coat.

Your Exhibit at the Fair

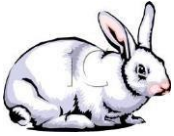
After you have your rabbits in the pens, **YOU MUST CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE** verifying that your rabbits are here and your entry is correct.

It is your job to at least **daily** (twice a day if it is hot and/or dry) feed, water, and clean up your exhibit area.

This includes cleaning the boards under your cages, and raking under and in front of your cages.

Supplies are to be stored above your pens or in an empty pen next to your pen... The aisle in front of your cages are to be kept clear and clean. Wash and clean water bowls daily, Trash picked up.

Rabbit Showmanship



at the Fair

By Advisor Heizman

I hope that everyone is practicing with a rabbit or two for showmanship. Showmanship is always an exciting time at the fair. Remember that the rabbit used must be accustomed to being handled for showmanship, and you and the rabbit have good "Table Manners". So do not wait until the last minute to prepare for your showmanship ability on Sunday of the fair. There is big prize money for the winners.

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Livestock Auction

On Tuesday September 8th the auction for market animals will start at 9:00 am.

Remember at the Fair (for all 4-Her's and Parents)

By President Lamb

#1 A reminder that you are responsible for your rabbits at the fair. Make sure you feed, water, care, clean the pens, and check your rabbits daily. If you have any questions about the health of one of your rabbits ask your advisor, or the barn superintendent.

#2 Keep the area around your pens clean, neat, and tidy. Pick up papers and keep all of your storage containers stacked neatly. It is your display, keep it looking first class.

**Do not forget to get your photo
i.d. pass for admission to the fair.
You can get it a judging or the
extension office.**

There is a message board in the office area of the rabbit barn. Make sure you check it daily for schedules and what is going on.

If you are not sure of something check the fair book, ask your advisor, or one of the people working in the barn.

It is your job and responsibility to know!!!

Trophies & Awards

Trophies and awards will be presented at the end of each breed. If you would like to sponsor a trophy for 2027 please see Sara or Phil during the fair.

What to Sell

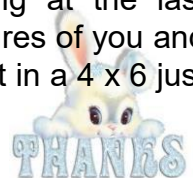
(Meat Pen, Roaster or Single Fryer)

You can choose to sell your meat pen, one roaster, or one single fryer in the livestock sale on Tuesday. You will need to declare which to sell **on Tuesday at weigh in**. The Meat Pen Show, Roaster and the Single Fryer Show is a terminal sale. Those rabbits declared to sell will go the packer. All other market rabbits are your responsibility.

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## Thank You Notes

Just a thought: get your thank you notes ready before the fair, so if you win a trophy or special award, you are not scrambling at the last minute. Also get a couple pictures of you and one of your animals printed out in a 4 x 6 just in case.



**Reminders: for during the Rabbit Show`**

#1 for social distancing there is a big area around the rabbit barn for social distancing. Outside the barn you can put up your own tent for your own family area. *(like those 10 x 10 foot ones)*

#2 during the shows only the exhibitor, are to be at the show table. This is a Junior Fair Show. Parents can help at the pens but not at the show table..

**Rabbit Van Wert County Junior Fair Schedule 2026**

|           |               |                                                                                                        |                               |
|-----------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tuesday   | August 11     | Interview/judging and project Book Evaluation (Junior Fair Building)                                   | 1 to 6 pm<br>NO appointment   |
| Wednesday | August 12     | Black Inc. Judging (Junior Fair Building)                                                              | 1 to 5 pm<br>(by appointment) |
| Wednesday | August 12     | Complete rabbit entry form online<br><i>(the web site will open July 1<sup>st</sup> )</i>              | By noon                       |
| Saturday  | August 15     | Market Rabbit Right Ear Tattooing at the Farm Focus Arena<br><i>(take a number when you are ready)</i> | 7:30 am to 10:30 am           |
| Saturday  | August 22     | Set up Barn for the fair<br><i>(rabbit families)</i>                                                   | 9:00 am                       |
| Tuesday   | September 1st | All livestock in place on the fairgrounds                                                              | Before noon                   |
| Tuesday   | September 1st | Market Rabbit Open Scales                                                                              | 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm            |
| Tuesday   | September 1st | Market Rabbit Official Weigh in<br><i>(take a number when you are ready)</i>                           | 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm            |
| Friday    | September 4th | Meat Pen/Single Fryer/Roaster Doe & Litter follows market judging                                      | Starting at 4:00 pm           |
|           | Sept 4 to 7   | Rabbit Virtual Judging Contest                                                                         |                               |
| Saturday  | September 5th | Jr. Fair Showmanship (senior division only)                                                            | Starting at 9:30 am           |
| Saturday  | September 5th | Senior Fair Open Rabbit Show                                                                           | Starting at 10:00 am          |
| Monday    | September 7th | Rabbit Showmanship (Junior and Intermediate only)                                                      | 9:00 am                       |
| Monday    | September 7th | Jr Fair Rabbit Show                                                                                    | 11:00 am                      |
| Monday    | September 7th | All non-sale livestock and displays released                                                           | 8:00 pm                       |
| Tuesday   | September 8th | Livestock Sale (rabbits are 6th of the 11 species)                                                     | Starts at 9:00 am             |
| Sunday    | September 13  | Barn Clean Up<br><i>( all rabbit families)</i>                                                         | 2:00 pm                       |