

Cibolo Creek FFA Rabbit Feeder Handbook *2020-2021*

It is the policy of SCUCISD not to discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its CTE programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Es norma de SCUCISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, edad, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o actividades CTE, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda

Contact Information

Rabbit Advisor: Adam Lampman

Cell 210-373-0483

School 210-945-6576

Email: alampman@scuc.txed.net

Remind for rabbit feeders: To: 81010 Message: @ccffar

RABBITS ARE AN AT HOME PROJECT!!!

DEADLINE TO ORDER RABBITS AND FORMS TURNED IN IS SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

FORMS MUST BE TURNED INTO Mr. Lampman BY 4PM

You may purchase rabbits on your own but forms still need to be turned in on time stating that you do or do not want me to order rabbits on your behalf. If you are ordering rabbits through me, we order through Mondin Farms and they are Californian Rabbits. You will need to pay the breeder directly.

RABBIT BREEDER:

Mondin Farms, Seguin

830-556-9972 Bradley Mondin

MondinFarms@gmail.com

Rabbit pick up date: Usually the second week in December: You will be notified by Email and Remind of the exact date when it is available. Please bring a cage to take your rabbits home in. You will need to make sure you have your cages, water bottles, feeders, and feed ready to go.

We will meet at Mondin Farms to pick your rabbits up.

Mondin Farms: 1652 McKnight Rd., Seguin Tx 78155 (pick up location)

Validation:

At Marion Ag Building **usually during the third week in December**, be there by **5:00pm**. Bring all your rabbits to validation. Rabbits **MUST** be in a carrying cage! Bring an extra towel for your rabbits to sit on when they are validating.

- 75% of the meat pens shown will be eligible to sell and receive ribbons.
- The only guaranteed money is for the grand champion and reserve grand champion.
- Have buyers and support for your project

Guadalupe Co. Youth Show Tentative Schedule:

Pre- Sifting Rabbit for county show - you will bring all your rabbits to the grounds that night we will all meet in the Cattle Barns at 5:30pm) Bring all of your rabbits and a towel!

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 Starts at approximately 6:00 PM in Cattle Barn

Rabbit Show Arrival Time

Friday, January 22, 2021 Rabbits- 7:00am on Friday (bring all of your rabbits)

7:00 A.M. Rabbits Judged in Cattle Barn

Rabbits must weigh between 3.8 lbs to 5.8 lbs and not over 75 days old

Project Expense (Approximate):

- **Rabbit Cost:**
 - For a pen of 4 @ \$50 each = \$200
 - For a pen of 5 @ \$50 each= \$250
 - Extra Rabbits= \$50 each

- **FFA Dues:** \$25 (per student) Pay on my school bucks Due Sep. 25, 2020

- **SAE Fee:** None because this is an at home project None Due

- **Entry Fees:** Market Rabbits (2 pens Max) \$20 (per pen) Due on CCFFA Entry Night
Fryer Rabbit (1 rabbit Max) \$20 (per rabbit) Due on CCFFA Entry Night

Feed/Supplies: (these are approximate prices)

- Feed (Petrus) = \$20 per bag (Seguin CO-OP or he may have some on sight)

- Small Cage size 20x36= \$80.00

- Large Cage size, Double cages= \$150.00

- Carrying Cage 3= \$50.00

- Water bottles: \$14 each (need 2 in a pen)

- Feeders: \$10 each

- Water systems: \$12

PAYMENT FOR RABBITS: (CASH ONLY)

You will pay the breeder the day you pick up. If you decide to cancel before then you will still owe the breeder his money.

- Rabbits are an at home project so be sure that you have adequate space and equipment for them.
- The price of your project does not guarantee how you will do! How well you take care of it and the judge's opinion along with several other variables dictate what happens in the end.
- If you are raising a rabbits to make money, you are in it for the wrong reason. There are no financial guarantees. Many things can happen or go wrong with a rabbit projects and remember that you need to bring support to the county auction to help ensure you at least break even.
- You should be raising rabbits to learn about animal husbandry, to learn work ethic and responsibility and to have fun. If you make money along the way then think of it as a bonus!
- You can purchase your own rabbits if you like (they must be breed by Oct 10, must have prior approval from Mr. Lampman. All rabbit projects **WILL** have to be a home raised project.
- Rules for Rabbit Show are on the Guadalupe County Youth Show website <http://www.gcys.org/>

GCYS Rabbit Division Rules (Tentative)

Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Meat Pen and Fryer Class will receive an award.

Fryer Class will not go through auction.

Rule 1: A meat pen shall consist of three commercial type rabbits only.

Weight limits per animal, 3lbs-8oz minimum to 5lbs-8oz maximum and not over 75 days at weigh in. Rabbits for meat pen must be selected prior to weigh in at the day of the show.

Rule 2: Each exhibitor shall be limited to two meat pens.

Rule 3: Market rabbits will be shown in 4 weight divisions. Entries in each division will be set as even as possible and will be done following weigh in.

Each division will have a champion and a reserve, the grand champion of the show will be chosen from these four divisions, the reserve champion will be chosen from the remaining champions and the reserve champion from the divisions which the grand champion was chosen.

Rule 4: All meat pen rabbits will be tattooed by the rabbit committee on a set date prior to the show such as to be within 30 days of show time. The tattoo will be for validation only. Meat pen rabbits will have a tattoo in the right ear with a number per exhibitor or a family may obtain the same number. Validation will be held TBD at the Navarro Ag. Building in Geronimo from 5:30 to

8:00 p.m. and TBD at the Marion Ag. Building in Marion from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Rabbits must be owned by the time of validation. All exhibitors must be present at the time of validation.

Rule 5: All rabbits must be purebred.

Rule 6: All rabbits must be free of any signs of disease or physical defects, if not they will be disqualified and not be able to show.

Rule 7: Exhibitors must have a carrier to keep rabbits free from urine and feces.

Rule 8: Any rabbits which are wet from urine, water and feces at physical check before weigh in will not be excepted until they are CLEAN AND DRY.

Rule 9: An exhibitor may show one entry in the single fryer class.

Rule 10: A single Fryer Class will consist of 1 rabbit, commercial type only, weight limit of 3lbs-8oz to 5lbs-8oz maximum and not over 75 days old at weigh in.

Rule 11: If an exhibitor has entered a meat pen and does not have the number of rabbits needed, the entry may be moved to a single Fryer, if one Fryer is available.

Rule 12: In the Fryer Class the single Fryer cannot be part of a meat pen class.

Rule 13: Awards will be presented to the Fryer Class to the top 25%.

Rule 14: Rules #4, #5, #6, #7 and #8 will apply to the Fryer Class.

Rabbit Project Reference Manual

(Agrilife Communications & Marketing produced the following information)

Raising rabbits is fun. At the same time, a Rabbit Project can provide an important life skill learning experience. Rabbits require no fancy or expensive equipment: They can be confined to hutches, and can be raised in urban as well as rural areas. They also can help you learn animal husbandry, or the proper care and management of animals. Those who work with rabbits find that something different is always happening. You will find that handling rabbits, and their response and dependence on you, are rewarding. Caring for and managing your rabbits provides new experiences each day. Possibly the greatest thrill is when you share your experiences with friends and neighbors.

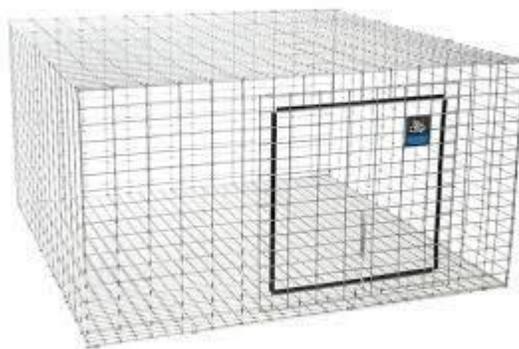
Before you launch into a rabbit project, take some time to decide if it is right for you. Calculate whether you have time and money to care for your project, and decide if dogs, cats, and other animals in the area would be harmful to your rabbits. Ask your neighbors if they object to your raising rabbits as a project. If you live in an incorporated area, check city ordinances also, to see if it is legal to raise rabbits in your area.

Equipment needed

Proper housing and good equipment are important for successful rabbit raising. In making plans, consider first the rabbits' comfort and your ease of handling. You do not need a lot of equipment, but feeding and watering equipment must be adequate and sanitary.

The Hutch

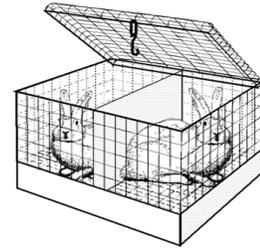
Rabbit pens, called hutches, should be convenient and sanitary, allowing plenty of fresh air and some sunlight. Each hutch should protect the rabbits from bad weather, dogs and other animals, and provide enough room for a metal feeder is most efficient on an all-wire pen. The most important point in building a hutch is sanitation. An open-air, self-cleaning hutch is recommended. Modern rabbit hutch construction uses welded wire. The floor is made with 1/2-inch by 1-inch welded wire. Sides



and tops are built with 1-by-2-inch welded wire. All-wire hutches are more sanitary and durable than wood and wire hutches. They can be hung in an existing building with adequate ventilation, or build a new roof for the wire pens. Pelleted rations have eliminated the need for hay mangers in rabbit hutches. The size of the hutch depends on the size of the breed. Hutches may be purchased pre-built. Remember, it's easier to care for rabbits in well-built hutches than in poorly built, temporary ones. Open-air, self-cleaning hutches help rabbits keep cool. These hutches can be kept cleaner and diseases can be controlled more easily. To keep your rabbits from overheating, do not place the hutches in direct sunlight. Put them in partial or complete shade with good circulation.

Transport Cage

You will need a carrying cage to transport your rabbits in. The recommended one with a welded wire cage with a bottom on it to catch feces.



Feeders

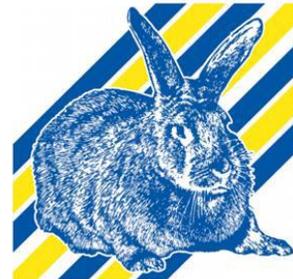
Use a feed crock, trough or hopper to prevent feed waste and to keep the feed clean. Because rabbits are fed daily or more often, crocks should hold at least a day's feed supply. Larger crocks or troughs may be wasteful, because rabbits contaminate the feed. Feed and livestock equipment stores sell crocks especially designed for rabbit feeding. These do not tip easily and have a lipped edge that prevents the animals from wasting feed. The main objection to crock feeders is that young rabbits get into them, soiling the feed. The outside-mounted, all-metal self-feeder is most efficient when it is put onto all-wire pens.



Feeds and Feeding

Proper feeds and feeding methods are important to success with rabbits. The beginning rabbit grower should use the kind of feed to which the rabbits are accustomed. Feed should be changed gradually. Sudden change makes rabbits sick and may kill them. The best way to change feed is to give a small amount of new feed half an hour after their regular ration. Gradually increase the amount, watching for ill effects (soft droppings, bloat, etc.). If no trouble appears within 2 or 3 weeks, use the new feed for the entire ration. Green feeds and fresh leaf feeds are not recommended, because the supply may deplete, making ration changes necessary. Feed quality may be poor at times in these rations, and it may be difficult to supply the variety needed for good nutrition. Animals fed exclusively on green feed never have the good condition or development needed for show animals. Therefore, commercial rabbit feed is generally the best and most practical feed.

PETRUS FEED



Feeding schedules

Feeding regularity is more important than the number of times fed daily. Because rabbits eat mostly at night, feeding them in late afternoon or evening is preferred. Morning feeding is less satisfactory. Offer feed at the same hour every day. If you use commercial feed, follow the manufacturer's directions for feeding. Amounts may vary depending on the animal's condition. Those too fat need less feed; thin ones need more.

Water

Providing enough clean, fresh water is vital for the rabbit producer. The amount of water needed depends on the rabbit's size; type of food; watering frequency; environmental temperature; water quality, availability and temperature; and individual variations. You can use an automatic water system such as dewdrops or water bottles.



Sanitation

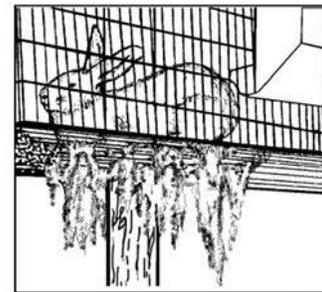
The rabbits' environment must be kept clean and sanitary. This means removing wastes and keeping housing, feed, water and air relatively free of disease germs and parasites. Sanitation and disease prevention are the keys to healthy rabbits.

Quarantines

The best rule in disease prevention is to start with healthy animals from a reliable breeder. The history of disease in a colony of rabbits is as important as the health of individual animals when they are bought. To avoid buying disease "carriers" that transmit diseases without showing symptoms, ask the breeder whether his or her rabbits have had specific diseases. If a rabbit gets sick, it is important to quarantine the one rabbit at least 50 feet from all others that are healthy.

Clean Housing

Houses should be well ventilated and easy to clean. Thoroughly clean all hutches of manure and debris daily. Clean open feeders and waterers daily and closed feeders weekly. Clean all manure and dirt from equipment. Scrub it with hot water and detergent. A stiff bristled brush, scraper and elbow grease are the secrets of proper cleaning.



Do not allow hair to accumulate in the rabbitry.

Visitors

Keep your animals as isolated as possible from people and strange animals. They bring diseases and disturb the rabbits unnecessarily.

Diseases, Parasites and Illnesses

How to detect illness

Through frequent and careful inspection, you can recognize when an animal is sick. This may not be easy for the beginner, but comes with experience. Examine your animals daily. Note how much food and water are consumed, and the nature and quantity of wastes. Color, fur condition, breathing, nasal discharges and ear carriage (the way the ears are held) are indications of health. Isolate sick animals until they recover. Do not handle sick animals until after you have cared for the healthy ones. Dispose of all dead animals. Thoroughly clean and disinfect all contaminated hutches and equipment as soon as possible. When diseases occur, consult your veterinarian, and ask first

It is the policy of SCUCISD not to discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its CTE programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Es norma de SCUCISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, edad, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o actividades CTE, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Emiendas en la Educación, de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda

whether the treatment will be practical or economical. Be sure the veterinarian knows the true economic value of the animals involved, so that he or she can recommend treatments.

Living organisms such as bacteria, protozoa, fungi and viruses cause diseases. Some organisms may be present in healthy animals, but do not cause illness unless the animal's resistance is lowered. Other organisms make the animal sick immediately. An animal's resistance can be lowered by drafts, heat, cold, fright, crowding, overfeeding, over handling, poor nutrition and sudden change of environment or feeding practices. These are sometimes called "predisposing causes" or "stress factors." Different diseases may cause similar symptoms or conditions. Because the unskilled eye cannot determine seriousness, losses could be severe before proper treatment is administered. Contact your veterinarian when you have doubts about an illness, when deaths occur suddenly or when illness persists. Also, consult with a veterinarian before your animals are sick, for advice on added disease control practices important in your area.

Colds or sniffles (rhinitis)

Cause: Bacteria, viruses or allergies.

Predisposing causes: Drafts, exposure to heat or cold, poor ventilation, dietary deficiencies or other stress factors.

Symptoms: Sneezing and a runny nose are the main symptoms. Nasal discharge may be watery to thick. The animal wipes its nose with the front paws, causing wetting or matting of the fur on the paws. The eyes may run, and often temperature is below normal. Animals suffering from sniffles often develop pneumonia.

Control and treatment: Remove infected animals from the rabbitry and isolate them.

Commercial nose drops, used for other animals or human beings and containing either sulfathiazol, tetracycline or oxytetracycline, are beneficial. Apply 2 or 3 drops in each nostril morning and night.

Pneumonia

Pneumonia is an inflammation of the lungs and accompanies many diseases. Sometimes it occurs as a primary disease.

Cause: Bacteria, virus and foreign substances.

Predisposing causes: Chilling, parasites, poisons, other infections, inhalation of gases and liquids, etc.

Symptoms: The animal doesn't eat and has difficulty breathing; its body temperature generally is elevated; and its head may be extended to relieve breathing. Death may occur soon after the illness begins.

Treatment: Accurate diagnosis is necessary before treating pneumonia. Several drugs, such as sulfa drugs and antibiotics, help speed recovery.

It is the policy of SCUCISD not to discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its CTE programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Es norma de SCUCISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, edad, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o actividades CTE, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Emiendas en la Educación, de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda

Enteritis and Scours

Cause: Scours, or diarrhea, generally is a symptom of some intestinal infection (enteritis) caused by parasites, bacteria, viruses, poisons, incorrect feeding or poor digestion.

Symptoms: Droppings range in consistency from semisolid to liquid; blood may or may not be present. There is a foul odor, and the hair around the tail and back legs is soiled or matted. If diarrhea is not stopped soon, the animal will lose its body fluids and salts and become emaciated (thin). The fur appears ruffled and dull.

Treatment: The correct treatment for enteritis depends on its cause. If the cause is parasites, eliminate them with proper drugs. A laxative such as castor oil may be used in case the enteritis has resulted from moldy or musty feeds. Drugs such as bismuth sub-nitrate, kaolin, antibiotics and pectin, used for diarrhea in puppies and children, may be used for rabbits, although treatment seldom is successful.

Nose and face scabs (facial dermatitis)

Cause: Bacteria and fungi. Bacteria and fungi infect inflamed and irritated areas around the nose and face. The inflammation and irritation may be caused by secretions from a runny nose, bites, external parasites, rubbing the nose with the feet, gases from dirty pens, etc.

Treatment: Antibiotic injections help relieve this condition. Medication put around the mouth usually is licked off or rubbed off with the paws. Eliminate the cause of irritation.

Abscesses and Sore Hocks

Cause: Abscesses may be caused by bacteria or an infection entering the blood stream and causing abscess anywhere in or on the body. Abscesses may form after cuts, bites or any type of abrasion where an infection may enter the skin and the tissue underneath. Sore hocks are often caused by constant exposure to wire floors or hard floors with no bedding.

Treatment: Open the abscess and drain it; clean it thoroughly with clean water; then apply an antiseptic such as tincture of iodine.

Internal and External Parasites

Like other animals, rabbits can become infested with both internal and external parasites. The main parasites found outside the body are ear and mange mites. Both are microscopic. When hutches are kept clean, internal parasites generally pose no problem. If they do occur, seek advice from your veterinarian on what type worm is present and what treatment is proper. Preventive measures consist of keeping hutches dry and clean, and controlling flies and mosquitoes in the area. Keep dogs and cats and other pets away from the rabbits

Ear Canker

Cause: Ear mites.

Symptoms: The animal shakes its head, holds it to one side and scratches at its ears. Later, the ear becomes infected. If not treated, this builds into a moist exudate with crusts or scabs inside the ear, sometimes extending to the outside.

Treatment: Swab and remove as much debris as possible. Remove the scabs from the sores and pus from the bottom of the ear. Apply a solution of mineral oil and camphor medicine with an eye dropper, or a commercially available product, saturating thoroughly the inside of the ear and all sores or scabs. Mineral oil alone may be used if the other two products are not available. Ear mites may also be controlled by using tick and flea powders that are used for dogs and cats. Sprinkle powder into the ear after the ear has been thoroughly cleaned.

Ringworms

Cause: Ringworm, caused by a fungus, is seen as circles of hairless spots or grayish scaly areas.

Treatment: Treat the affected area with tincture of iodine. Clean the hutches thoroughly every day when external parasites are present.

Coccidiosis

Cause: A parasitic disease, coccidiosis damages the liver and intestinal tract. It is caused by protozoa, which can be seen only under a microscope.

Treatment: A veterinarian's advice is needed for treating this condition.

For More Information

Magazines

- Domestic Rabbits. American Rabbit Breeders Association, 1925 S. Main St., Bloomington, Illinois 61701.
- Rabbits U.S.A. P. O. Box 190, Colton, Oregon 97017.
- Rabbits Only. P. O. Box 207, Holbrook, New York 11741.

Bulletins and Books

- American Rabbit Breeders Association Official Guidebook. 1925 S. Main St., Bloomington, Illinois 61701.
- Standard of Perfection. American Rabbit Breeders Association, 1925 S. Main St., Bloomington, Illinois 61701.
- Rabbit Production Handbook. Instructional Materials Service, 2588 The Texas A&M University System, College Station, Texas 77843-2588.
- Domestic Rabbit Production. By George S. Templeton. The Interstate Printer and Publishers, Danville, Illinois.
- Your Rabbit - A Kid's Guide to Raising and Showing. Storey Communications, 105 School House Road, Pownal, Vermont 05261-9988.
- Rabbits, Rabbits, Rabbits. By Clint Rusk, Norman D. Long and Lynn Blanchard. Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service.

Rabbit Associations

- American Rabbit Breeders Association., P.O. Box 426, Bloomington, IL 61702. Phone: (309) 664-7500. www.arba.net
- Texas Rabbit Breeders.

Helpful Websites:

- www.rabway.com Texlan Rabbits
- www.gcys.org Guadalupe County Livestock Show
- www.mondinfarms.com Mondin Farms Website