2026 Guidelines to the 4-H Rabbit Projects

The 4-H Rabbit Projects are as follows:

#228PE Pet Rabbit Project
#228MA Market Rabbit Project
#228BR Breeding Rabbit Project

Here is a brief description of the purpose of each project...

Pet Rabbit Project #228PE.....

The pet rabbit project is designed for youth who own one or more pet quality rabbits, which they plan to keep as a family pet, and do not have interest in raising breeding stock or commercial market rabbits. This project emphasizes learning about proper care, feeding, disease management, etc. of a rabbit. Youth will purchase and use the Pet Rabbit 4-H Project Book as their project guide. Numerous possible learning activities are given for youth in the project book. If youth enroll in this project multiple years, they should choose new learning activities annually.

Youth enrolled in this project are ***not*** *eligible to show in the rabbit show at the fair.* An interview judging opportunity will be offered for youth enrolled in this project. Youth will bring their pet rabbit to the 4-H Special Interest Project interview judging, complete the judging process, and return their rabbit home the same day. (This is the same process used for other small animal projects.)

Spayed/Neutered Rabbits: Rabbits that have been spayed / neutered are only eligible to be used within a Pet Rabbit project. They may not be shown in breeding and market classes at the Hartford Fair.

Market Rabbit Project # 228MA .....

This project is designed for youth who wish to raise and market meat rabbits. It is recommended that youth own a buck and doe, which they will breed to raise their meat rabbits. However, this is not required. Meat rabbits can be purchased for this project. It is recommended youth purchase the Market Rabbit Project Book # 226 the first time they take this project, the book can be retained for additional years of use.

To be eligible to participate in the Junior Fair Livestock Sale, meat rabbits must meet the established weight range at the time of fair weigh-in. See the Hartford Fair Livestock Project Summary Guide for rules which may apply to this project.

Breeding Rabbit Project #228BR.....

This project is designed for youth who wish to raise rabbits for use as purebred breeding stock or high quality commercial stock for meat purposes. This project focuses on learning about genetics, types of breeding programs, and care and management of breeding rabbits, including identifying all rabbits, utilizing hutch cards and other types of records, it is recommended youth purchase the Breeding Rabbit Project Book # 225 the first time they take this project, the book can be retained for additional years of use.

To be eligible for fair exhibition, breeding and meat rabbits must be tattooed and/or registered on the date, location and time designated by the Hartford Fair Board.

2026 Hartford Fair Tattoo/Registration Days

May 16th — **Senior Rabbits (6 mos. and over)**
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. / Hondros Beef Barn, Fairgrounds / $1 per animal

July 11th — **Junior Rabbits (under 6 mos.) / Market Rabbits**
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. / Hondros Beef Barn, Fairgrounds / $1 per animal

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