

FFA Meat Rabbit Project

The primary goal of the Michigan FFA Meat Rabbit Program is to enhance students' knowledge in genetics, animal husbandry, and record keeping. The program will allow students to have a real world experience by raising rabbits that follow ARBA, (American Rabbit Breeder Association) Standards and are market ready. Students will use safe and ethical industry recommendations throughout the project. Agriscience and natural resource education programs throughout Michigan will find this innovative and creative educational contest will add enormous value to their FFA chapter program of activities. The Michigan FFA Meat Rabbit Project will also allow students to develop skill sets in problem-solving, working in teams, and time management.

Key elements in the HOME GROWN projects are:

1. Students will select any meat-type rabbit breed. Rabbits must comply with ARBA Standards and have outstanding meat quality.
2. Students will maintain pedigrees to record blood lines with at least 2 generations (kits and parents).
3. Students will breed does and bucks to produce superior genetics in the kits.
4. Students will prepare breeding stock to ensure conception and live birth.
5. Students will properly feed rabbits to a weight over 3.5 pounds and under 5.5 pounds with exceptional meat quality.
6. Students will manage their rabbits to ensure a healthy herd. Students will follow the "Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for the Care of Farm Animals"
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdard/2015_CARE_OF_FARM_ANIMALS_GAAM_Ps_480521_7.pdf
7. Students will maintain detailed records of their project.

Key elements in the Purchased projects are:

1. Students will select any meat-type rabbit breed. Rabbits must comply with ARBA Standards and have outstanding meat quality.
2. Students will maintain pedigrees to record blood lines with at least 2 generations (kits and parents).
3. Students will properly feed rabbits to a weight over 3.5 pounds and under 5.5 pounds with exceptional meat quality.
4. Students will manage their rabbits to ensure a healthy herd. Students will follow the "Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for the Care of Farm Animals"
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdard/2015_CARE_OF_FARM_ANIMALS_GAAM_Ps_480521_7.pdf
5. Students will maintain detailed records of their project.

Rules to be followed for a HOME GROWN Project.

- a. Only one project per FFA member or a group of FFA members or a classroom of students.
- b. Breeding stock must follow ARBA standards.
- c. Each project must have a minimum of one breeding doe but may include multiple does.
- d. Breeding bucks may be shared between projects.
- e. Does are to be bred no earlier than 100 days before the weigh day, if 100th day lands on Saturday or Sunday, breeding can occur on Friday before.
- f. Three rabbits of same breed of any sex and litter per entry will be brought for judging on evaluation day.
- g. Rabbits will be a minimum of 3.5 pounds and a maximum 5.5 pounds. Rabbits outside of these ranges will be deducted points.
- h. Live evaluations based on Meat Type and Firmness of Flesh: Profile, Width, Hindquarter, Uniformity, and Weight. ARBA Standards. Live rabbits will be evaluated for defects including breed character and lacerations.
- i. Carcass evaluations based on muscling of shoulders, loin and hindquarters. As well as proper fat and uniformity. Carcasses will be evaluated for defects including bruises from improper handling.
- j. Each entry must have one or two representatives that can answer up to five oral questions posed by a judge after the rabbits are evaluated.
- k. Records including photographs of project and at least three (3) photographs of the kits at different ages, with a maximum 50 word captions for each are required.
- l. Final weights of kits will be recorded monday before the contest day.
- m. Records and photos will be kept using AET.

Rules to be followed for a Purchased Project.

- a. Only one project per FFA member or a group of FFA members or a classroom of students. A project consists of 3 or more rabbits.
- b. Kits must follow ARBA Standards.
- c. Kits must be purchased a minimum of 30 days before the weigh day and kits purchased need to be between 70 and 80 days old at weigh in.
- d. Kits must be of the same breed but may be purchased from different breeders.
- e. Three rabbits of same breed of any sex and litter per entry will be brought for judging on evaluation day.
- f. Rabbits will be a minimum of 3.5 pounds and a maximum 5.5 pounds. Rabbits outside of these ranges will be deducted points.
- g. Live evaluations based on weight, width, profile, hindquarter, uniformity and ARBA Standards. Live rabbits will be evaluated for defects including breed character and lacerations. Defects will result in loss of points.
- h. Carcass evaluations based on muscling of shoulder, loin and leg, condition, and uniformity. Carcasses will be evaluated for defects including bruises from improper handling. Defects will result in a loss of points.

- i. Each entry must have one or two representatives that can answer up to five oral questions posed by a judge after the rabbits are evaluated.
- j. Records including photographs of project and at least three (3) photographs of the kits at different ages, with a maximum 50 word captions for each are required.
- k. Final weights of kits will be recorded monday before the contest day
- l. Records and photos will be kept using AET.

Expert will be responsible for:

- a. Source of information at any time, (management, nutrition, disease, etc.).
- b. Personnel for judging.
- c. Reference materials to keep records.
- d. Visits during growing period as requested.

Each teacher of a participating school will be responsible for:

- a. Accuracy of records and entries from his/her school.
- b. Supervising program and selection of rabbits to bring to evaluation day.
- c. Setting up any supplementary studies to augment teaching during the growing period.

Meat Rabbit Scoring

1) Live Evaluation

Meat Type & Firmness of Flesh	
• <i>Profile (structure)</i>	60
• <i>Width (structure, muscling, and firmness)</i>	90
• <i>Hindquarter (structure, muscling, and firmness)</i>	90
Uniformity	60
Weight (to be weighted at the contest)	90
Oral Questions	10
	SUBTOTAL 400

2) Carcass Evaluation

Shoulders	75
Loin	75
Hindquarter	75
Defects (free from bruises and fat)	75
Uniformity	100
	SUBTOTAL 400

3) Reporting Score - 5 pts each

Feed

- 1-Where did feed come from?
- 2-What brand of feed used? (Attach Feed Label)
- 3-What is the percent of protein, fat and fiber for each feed used?
- 4-Describe any changes in your feed program from start to finish.
- 5-Did you use any supplements? Explain each.
- 6-How was feed availability and frequency of feeding managed?

Disease-Mortality Reasons

- 1-Did your rabbits have any disease and how did you treat your rabbit?
- 2-How many kits died and why did they die?

House & Equipment Description

- 1-Describe the rabbit building and how pens were set-up in it.
- 2-What size were your rabbit pens?
- 3-What heat source did you have?
- 4-What type and size of feeders and waterers were used?
- 5-What was the beginning temperature in the pen and did you make any adjustments because of the temperature?

General Management Description

- 1-How did you obtain breeding stock or kits?
- 2-What steps were taken to clean and prepare the cages before kits arrived?
- 3-What steps were taken to prevent disease?

Marketing Plan

- 1-How will rabbits be dealt with after the contest?
- 2-How much did it cost per kit to raise them?

SUBTOTAL 90

4) Pedigree for Home Grown & Purchased Projects (See sample below) 30pts

5) AET Reporting Score (See rubric and sample below)

- Name/Type/Pathway and SAE Subcategory.....5pts
- Annual Scope5pts
- Plan-Description5pts
- Plan- Time.....5pts
- Plan- Financial Investment5pts
- Plan- Capital (Non current)5pts
- Plan- Learning Outcome.....5pts
- Budget5pts
- Pictures15pts
- Journals10pts
- Finances and Annual Income Statement.....15 pts

SUBTOTAL 80

Total Possible Score

1,000 pts

Live Rabbit Weight Point Scale

Average Live Weight	Points
> 6 lbs	0 pts
5.9 - 5.6 lbs	60 pts
5.5 - 3.5 lbs	90 pts
3.4 - 3.2 lbs	60 pts
3.1 - 3.0 lbs	40 pts
2.9 - 2.5 lbs	20 pts
< 2.4lbs	0 pts

References

Rabbit Tutor, www.rabbit-tutor.com

Rabbit Production 2013 by James McNitt and Steven Lukefahr

Key points to consider

- Does will need supplemental light to be more receptive to breeding in January.
- Does will need to be in a facility above freezing during kindling to prevent loss of kits.
- Immediately after the doe kindles, it is recommended to check the new litter.
- Kits must be handled properly to prevent bruising. Kits should never be lifted by grabbing the fur behind the ears. (scruffing).

Michigan FFA Meat Rabbit Contest AET Records Rubric

Grading Area	Maximum Points	Mid Points	Low Points	Points
SAE Name/Type/ Pathway and SAE Subcategory (5%)	SAE name clearly communicates the project and base of production (5 pts)	SAE name somewhat describes the project, but lacks communication of the base of production (acres, head, dollars, etc.) (4-3 pts)	SAE name and information does not describe the project and needs to be changed (2-0 pts)	
SAE Annual Scope (5%)	Annual scope is appropriately listed for each year of records and illustrates annual responsibility and describes the project. (5 pts)	Annual scope is listed, but lacks some details and needs slight revisions. (4-3 pts)	Annual scope is incomplete or missing (2-0 pts)	
SAE Plan – Description (5%)	Describes interest in this area, estimates dates of involvement, related courses, and generally describes the project. (5 pts)	Includes general ideas, but lacks planned dates and how it relates to previous experiences. (4-3 pts)	Missing or lacks information and needs major revisions. (2-0 pts)	
SAE Plan – Time (5%)	Describes commitment of time including planning and working in the project. Also, how time is planned to be balanced to other commitments. (5 pts)	Includes general ideas of time, but lacks clarity and needs minor revisions. (4-3 pts)	Missing or lacks information and needs major revisions. (2-0 pts)	
SAE Plan – Financial Investment (5%)	Describes estimated cost to purchase the project and related expenses, sources of funds, estimated income and any "non- cash" expenses related to the project. (5 pts)	Includes general ideas, but lacks details about financial needs or sources of funding for the project and needs minor revisions. (4-3 pts)	Missing or lacks information and needs major revisions. (2-0 pts)	
SAE Plan – Capital (Non- current) (5%)	Describes capital items (non- current) planned to be used in the project. Also includes how the items are provided such as beginning, purchased or labor exchanged. (5 pts)	Includes general ideas, but lacks details or how items are obtained and needs minor revisions. (4-3 pts)	Missing or lacks information and needs major revisions. (2-0 pts)	
SAE Plan – Learning Outcomes (5%)	Describes what the student plans to learn from the project. (5 pts)	Includes general ideas but lacks measurable details. (4-3 pts)	Missing or lacks information and needs major revisions. (2-0 pts)	
SAE Budget (5%)	Describes an appropriate financial estimate for the project. (5 pts)	Has information, but lacks details and needs revisions. (4-3 pts)	Missing or lacks information and needs major revisions. (2-0 pts)	
SAE Pictures (15%)	SAE pictures illustrate responsibility and illustrate working in their project. Also, the captions describe the photo and are well written. (15 pts)	SAE pictures are provided, but lack quality and/or captions need editing. Minor revisions are needed. (14-9 pts)	Photos are missing, poor quality or errors exist in captions. Major revisions are needed (8-0 pts).	
SAE Journals (10%)	SAE Journals represent the complete timeframe of the project, illustrate consistent engagement and are well written. (10-7 pts)	SAE Journals represent the complete timeframe of the project, but are not consistent and need editing. (6-2 pts)	Missing or lacks information and needs major revisions. (2-0 pts)	
SAE Finances & Annual Income Statement (15%)	SAE finance details represent the complete timeframe of the project, illustrate appropriate finances for the scope/size of the project and the annual income statement is appropriate for the project. (15-11 pts)	SAE finance details lack consistency for the time frame of the project or financial results (detail or annual income statement) are not complete. (10-6 pts)	Financials are missing information and need major editing. (5-0 pts)	

Note: The remaining 20% is for the pedigree.



MI - CAREERLINE TECH CENTER

Joe Sample

Michigan FFA Rabbit Contest

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SAE Information - Michigan FFA Rabbit Contest

Name:	Michigan FFA Rabbit Contest
SAE Type:	Entrepreneurship/Ownership
AFNR Pathway:	Animal Systems
SAE Subcategory:	Small Animal
Date Range:	11/3/2015 - 12/9/2015

Scope - Michigan FFA Rabbit Contest

Year	Quantity	Unit	Description
2015	2	head / Other Small Animals	2 Adult rabbits

SAE Plan - Michigan FFA Rabbit Contest

Description

Description and Overview of Your SAE - In this section, provide a general description of your project. Include the name of the project, your interest in this area of agriculture, the planned beginning and ending dates of the experience, classes you have taken in this area, and the learning and financial outcomes you plan to achieve.

Time Investment

Estimated Investment of Time and Supervision - Every SAE requires an investment of time: your time and the time others will spend helping you and supervising your experience. In this section, describe your commitment of time for this project from start to finish. You might include the time to plan, manage and care for the project. Include time you plan to show or present the project in competitions. Describe how you plan to balance the time for this project with your other commitments.

Finally, describe how other people (your teacher, parents, peers, community leaders, etc.) are planning to supervise and assist you with your project.

Financial Investment

Estimated Financial Investment - You will develop a detailed budget under the "Budget" section of the Experience Manager for each SAE. In this section, provide a brief summary of that estimated budget. Include the estimated cost to purchase the project, the estimated expenses you will incur in managing and caring for the project, the source of these funds, and the estimated income you plan to receive.

Then, clearly describe any "non-cash" benefits you will receive. These include direct expenses (feed, supplies, etc) that you will not pay to use. Be specific when you describe these non-cash arrangements. Carefully describe what is being provided, and how you determined its value. Describe who will provide each non-cash benefit, and what you will do in return, if anything.

Capital Investment

Estimated Capital Item Investment - Most entrepreneurial projects require an investment in capital items (land, facilities, equipment, breeding animals, etc.). In this section, describe any capital items that YOU OWN that will be used in this project.

In many cases, you will be using capital items that someone else owns (parents, school, neighbor, etc.). If that's true, then describe the rental arrangement between you and the owner(s) of these items. Be specific when you describe these cash or non-cash arrangements. Carefully describe what is being provided, and how you determined its value for your project. Describe who will provide each capital item you need to use, and what you will provide in return, if anything.

Learning Objectives

Learning and Financial Objectives – Describe the learning objectives and financial outcomes you plan to achieve through this project. Describe how this project's learning objectives relate to your classes, your FFA Activities, your career choices or plans, and any future projects you may be considering.

After this Experience is finished, you may update this section to describe and summarize the financial or production outcomes you achieved in your project. You could include "efficiencies" or desired results you achieved (procedures improved, time saved, weight gain per day, gain per pound of feed, etc).

Budget - Michigan FFA Rabbit Contest

Income/Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Expense - Entry Fees / Commissions	\$25.00	
Expense - Feed	\$25.00	
Expense - Other	\$15.00	
Expense - Supplies	\$15.00	
Income - Award/Scholarship/Premium	\$25.00	
Income - Cash/Market Sale	\$25.00	
Income - Non-cash Income - Labor Exchange	\$10.00	
Income - Non-Cash Income - Used at Home	\$5.00	

Pictures - Michigan FFA Rabbit Contest



Caption here no more than 50 words

Journal - Experience-related Activity - Michigan FFA Rabbit Contest		
Date	Activity / Description	Hours
12/9/2015	Managing animal health Students explain what they did with the rabbits. Examples: Bred Rabbits, Selected Rabbits, Weaned Rabbits, etc)	1.00
12/8/2015	Birth Great Litter	1.00
12/6/2015	Proper handling of animals Students would explain different activities they learned with the rabbits in this selection	2.00
11/23/2015	Weight Weighted all rabbits	2.00
11/18/2015	Evaluation Evaluated each rabbits	1.00
	Total Entries: 5	7.00

Operating Expense - Michigan FFA Rabbit Contest				
Date	Vendor	Memo	Type	Amount
11/3/2015	Michigan FFA	Entry Fee	Entry Fees / Commissions	\$25.00
12/9/2015	Tractor Supply Co	1 50lb bag of feed	Feed	\$17.99

Operating Income - Michigan FFA Rabbit Contest				
Date	Vendor	Memo	Type	Amount
11/3/2015		death	Cash/Market Sale	\$0.00
11/3/2015	Class Rabbit	1 head 2 lbs	Cash/Market Sale	\$10.00
11/3/2015	Class	1 head 2 lbs	Cash/Market Sale	\$10.00
11/3/2015	Xfer->Capital: Litter One -M7	1 head 2 lbs	Non-Cash Income - Bartered or Transferred	\$10.00

Profit/Loss Report - Michigan FFA Rabbit Contest		
Type	2015	Total
1. Current/Operating Income		
Beginning Inventory		
Market Inventory Adjustments	\$0	
Ending Inventory	\$13	
Change in Inventory	\$13	\$13
Market/Cash Sales	\$20	\$20
Total Cash Income	\$20	\$20
Value Bartered/Transferred	\$10	\$10
Total Non-Cash Income	\$10	\$10
Total Current/Operating Income	\$43	\$43
2. Current/Operating Expense		
Feed	\$18	\$18
Entry Fees	\$25	\$25
Contract/Custom		
Total Cash Expense	\$43	\$43
Non-Cash Contract/Custom		
Total Non-Cash Expense		
Total Current/Operating Expense	\$43	\$43
3. Net Current/Operating Income	\$0	\$0
Journalled time (hours)	7.0	7.0
Net Current/Operating Income per Hour	\$0	

Sample Pedigree



_____ Rabbit Pedigree

SOLD TO

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

BREED: _____

NAME: _____
Ear #: _____
DOB: _____ Sex: _____
Color: _____
Wt.: _____ Reg. #: _____
G.C. #: _____ Legs: _____

Winnings: _____

Sire: _____
Ear #: _____
Color: _____
Wt.: _____ Reg. #: _____
G.C. #: _____ Legs: _____

Winnings: _____

Dam: _____
Ear #: _____
Color: _____
Wt.: _____ Reg. #: _____
G.C. #: _____ Legs: _____

Winnings: _____

I hereby certify that this pedigree is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

School Address: _____

G. Sire: _____
Ear #: _____
Color: _____
Wt.: _____ Reg. #: _____
G.C. #: _____ Legs: _____

Winnings: _____

G. Dam: _____
Ear #: _____
Color: _____
Wt.: _____ Reg. #: _____
G.C. #: _____ Legs: _____

Winnings: _____

G. Sire: _____
Ear #: _____
Color: _____
Wt.: _____ Reg. #: _____
G.C. #: _____ Legs: _____

Winnings: _____

G. Dam: _____
Ear #: _____
Color: _____
Wt.: _____ Reg. #: _____
G.C. #: _____ Legs: _____

Winnings: _____

G.G. Sire: _____
Ear #: _____
Color: _____
Wt.: _____ Reg. #: _____
G.C. #: _____ Legs: _____

G.G. Dam: _____
Ear #: _____
Color: _____
Wt.: _____ Reg. #: _____
G.C. #: _____ Legs: _____

G.G. Sire: _____
Ear #: _____
Color: _____
Wt.: _____ Reg. #: _____
G.C. #: _____ Legs: _____

G.G. Dam: _____
Ear #: _____
Color: _____
Wt.: _____ Reg. #: _____
G.C. #: _____ Legs: _____

G.G. Sire: _____
Ear #: _____
Color: _____
Wt.: _____ Reg. #: _____
G.C. #: _____ Legs: _____

G.G. Dam: _____
Ear #: _____
Color: _____
Wt.: _____ Reg. #: _____
G.C. #: _____ Legs: _____

G.G. Sire: _____
Ear #: _____
Color: _____
Wt.: _____ Reg. #: _____
G.C. #: _____ Legs: _____

G.G. Dam: _____
Ear #: _____
Color: _____
Wt.: _____ Reg. #: _____
G.C. #: _____ Legs: _____