

THE GUIDE TO MICHIGAN 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



RABBITS

Don't think 4-H animal projects are out of your league just because you live in the city. The 4-H rabbit project is ideal for young people in urban areas or on small farms where lack of space, facilities or money makes it hard to raise larger animals. Rabbits enable kids to gain experience in feeding and managing animals for fun, companionship and profit.

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KEEP THESE IN MIND

As you work with young people, please keep these valuable resources in mind.

“Michigan 4-H Today”

Michigan 4-H Today is a newsletter providing youth development news and event information for the Michigan 4-H community. Issues include an 8- to 12-page, tabloid-size publication (*Michigan 4-H Today*) published every fall and four topical newsletter supplements (*Michigan 4-H Today In Focus*) that are distributed online as inserts in county newsletters throughout the year. The newsletter, which is sent to volunteers across Michigan, features articles and photographs related to youth development issues, project news and activities, upcoming events and new 4-H resources. Visit *Michigan 4-H Today* on the Internet at <http://www.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/M4HTD/>.

The Developmental Stages of Kids

As you work with young people, it's important to keep in mind the many changes they're going through (including physical, thinking, social and emotional changes) and the kinds of issues these kids are facing in their everyday lives. Refer to these sections of the *Guide to Michigan 4-H Youth Development* to learn more about resources designed to help you provide learning environments that are safe, appropriate, healthy and fun:

- Five- to Eight-Year-Olds – the Kaleidoscope materials
- Early Adolescents (aged 9 to 14) – the Help Me – I'm Growing Up! Understanding Early Adolescents materials
- Older Youth (aged 15 to 19) – the Peer-Plus, Group Dynamite and Youth Experiencing Action materials

For insight into the needs and interests of young people, you can also visit *Ages and Stages of Child and Youth Development: A Guide for 4-H Leaders* on the Internet at <http://www.agcom.purdue.edu/AgCom/Pubs/NCR/NCR-292.html>. The guide discusses the physical, thinking, social and emotional characteristics that are common to children at each age level. “Ages and Stages” (NCR292) was written by Jeanne Karns, graduate assistant, and Judith A. Myers-Walls, Extension specialist, Human Development, Department of Child Development and Family Studies, Purdue University.

Improving the Communications Skills of Young People and Adults

People in a position to know – school officials, employers and employees – agree that good communications skills are essential for young people and adults. The *Communications Toolkit: Fun, Skill-Building Activities to Do With Kids* (4-H 1560) will help you help the young people with whom you work develop and improve their communications skills. The toolkit is designed for individuals who work with young people aged 12 and up and want fun, easy and meaningful communication activities to use with clubs and in classrooms, camps, after-school programs or other settings where kids come together. In the toolkit, you'll find background information for group leaders, hands-on activities, handouts and other resources that will help kids build on their skills in public speaking, writing, graphics, and video, media and technology. (172 pages, Michigan 4-H, 2000)

4-H Club & Group Development

Many 4-H experiences take place within the 4-H club or group setting. If you're interested in learning more about how clubs and groups can operate and the various officer and committee roles that young people can have within a club or group, refer to the Club and Group Development section of the *Guide to Michigan 4-H Youth Development*.

Volunteer Development

Volunteers can be positive role models for the young people they work with. If you'd like to learn more about fulfilling your potential as a volunteer, refer to the Volunteer Development section of the *Guide to Michigan 4-H Youth Development*.

■ PUBLICATIONS

4-H PUBLICATIONS

The following 4-H publications are available from your county MSU Extension office. They are listed in numerical order.

4-H 1177 4-H Market Livestock Record Book for Intermediate & Advanced Members

Members learn to document their work by using this record book to track the progress of their project animal. Information recorded in the book includes weight, feed, expenses, income and show history. (8 pages, Michigan 4-H, 1985)

4-H 1268 Rabbit Fitting & Showing Member's Guide

This bulletin contains objectives and guidelines for the 4-H participant in rabbit fitting and showing contests. Information covered includes feeding, care, grooming and conditioning. The bulletin provides step-by-step instructions with illustrations for completing the contest examination and includes a rabbit showmanship scorecard. (8 pages, Michigan 4-H, 1992)

4-H 1269 Rabbit Fitting & Showing Leader's Supplement

Topics covered in the leader's supplement include how to organize and conduct the contest, materials needed and details for the fair book. A detailed breakdown of the contest scorecard is presented along with the scorecard worksheet for a rabbit contest. (2 pages, Michigan 4-H, 1992)

4-H 1277 Feed Record Card (available online as PDF)

This record form helps members document the ingredients, cost and proportion of grain ration for the project animal. (2 pages, Michigan 4-H, 1983)

4-H 1345 Cavy Fitting & Showing Member's Guide

Project objectives, guidelines for cavy selection and information on caring for a cavy are presented. Proper examination and showmanship procedures and guidelines for attire, attitude and behavior are also given. (6 pages, Michigan 4-H, 1985)

4-H 1346 Cavy Fitting & Showing Leader's Supplement

Topics covered in this leader's supplement include how to organize and conduct a cavy fitting and showing contest, materials and people needed for such a contest and details for the fair book. A detailed breakdown of the contest scorecard is presented, along with the scorecard worksheet for a cavy contest. (2 pages, Michigan 4-H, 1986)

Rabbit Tracks Single Concept Sheets

Each fact sheet in this series describes one aspect of the 4-H rabbit project. (Michigan 4-H, 1988, 1989 and 1992)

4-H 1436 Rabbit Tracks: Starting a 4-H Rabbit Project (2 pages)

4-H 1437 Rabbit Tracks: Handling (4 pages)

4-H 1438 Rabbit Tracks: Showroom Tips (2 pages)

4-H 1439 Rabbit Tracks: Winter Rabbit Care (2 pages)

4-H 1440 Rabbit Tracks: Summer Rabbit Care (4 pages)

4-H 1463 Rabbit Tracks: Selecting Stock (2 pages)

4-H 1508 Rabbit Tracks: Meat Quality & Carcass Evaluation (2 pages)

4-H 1509 Rabbit Tracks: Water (2 pages)

4-H 1457 4-H Animal Project Record for Beginning Members

This 4-page project record has space for beginning members to record "My Project Plans," "About My Animal or Animals," "My 4-H Project Pictures," "My 4-H Project Experiences," "Project Review and Comments" and "My 4-H Diary or Story." (4 pages, Michigan 4-H, 1990)

4-H 1466 Rabbits, Rabbits, Rabbits

This manual helps beginning 4-H members learn the basics of rabbit production and care. It includes the principles of nutrition, care, grooming, breeding, marketing and showing rabbits, and a glossary of terms. (49 pages, Purdue University, 1988)

● RESOURCES

OTHER MSU RESOURCES

The following materials are available through the MSU department listed.

Animal Science Department

Michigan State University
1290 Anthony Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824-1225
Phone: 517-355-8414 or 517-355-8415

- **Fundamentals of Rabbit Raising**
- **Rabbit Directory**

OTHER RESOURCES

The organizations listed below may provide more information in this project area.

American Rabbit Breeders Association

P.O. Box 426
Bloomington, IL 61701

Chicago Board of Trade

LaSalle at Jackson
Chicago, IL 60604

Federal-State Agriculture Reporting Service

315 W. Allegan
Lansing, MI 48933

Michigan Department of Agriculture

Ottawa Office Bldg.
Lansing, MI 48909

Michigan Farm Bureau

7373 E. Saginaw
Lansing, MI 48917
• Statistics, prices, marketing information, speakers

Michigan Rabbit Breeders Association

980 W. Five Pt. Hwy.
Charlotte, MI 48813
• State organization for the raising and breeding of rabbits

National 4-H Supply Store

c/o Sun Trust Bank
Baltimore, MD 21279-0126
Phone: 301-961-2934
Fax: 301-961-2937
Web: <http://www.4hmall.org>
Animal Science “Skills for Life”—Rabbits 4-HCCS PC-6083
(set of 4)

▲ THE INTERNET

When you're looking for resources related to your kids' interests, remember to check the Internet. Each section of the *Guide to Michigan 4-H Youth Development* contains suggested search words and terms you can use at an Internet search engine site to begin locating resources. One great starting point for your visit to the Internet is the Michigan 4-H Youth Development site:

<http://www.msue.msu.edu/msue/cyf/youth/index.html>

Some sections of the Guide list specific World Wide Web sites for you to visit. The URL (Universal Resource Locator) or address of each site is given in brackets < > after the site name. The listings that contain URLs or addresses for Web sites were accurate at the time of this writing, but URLs, like most things on the Web, change constantly. If a URL doesn't work, use a search engine to find the site's current location. Remember, this information is for education and fun only! Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by Michigan State University Extension or bias against those not mentioned.

If you don't have ready access to a computer and modem, check with your local library, school or community college, computer user groups, computer stores or your county MSU

Extension office. They may be able to help you find a way to connect your 4-H group to the online world. Ask the kids you work with, too! Chances are they're already in touch with "cyberspace."

HELP KIDS BE SAFE ON THE WEB

You click on something, and then on something else, and before you know it, you're somewhere altogether different...

The World Wide Web and other parts of the Internet can be fun, fascinating and informative. But there are parts of the Internet that aren't appropriate for kids. You can help protect the kids you work with as they venture online by monitoring their computer use, visiting the Web sites they visit and staying in touch with what they're doing.

Staying Street Smart on the Web

URL: <<http://www.yahooligans.com/docs/safety/index.html>>

This page of the popular "Yahooligans" site contains Web safety advice for kids and parents, and a pledge for Web-surfing kids. It links to several sites that allow you to download software to filter out objectionable material on the 'Net.

KEYWORDS & SEARCH TERMS

The following terms could help you start a search of the Internet related to working with young people in this project area:

- Animal ethics
- Animal science
- Cavy (guinea pig)
- Cavy judging
- Cavy production
- Guinea pig (cavy)
- Livestock
- Livestock judging
- Meat science
- Rabbit
- Rabbit judging
- Rabbit production