

4-H Market Rabbit “Meat Pen” Project

Cost for the market rabbit project varies depending on whether you already own your doe and buck. They are 11 different breeds that can be used for the market project. Most members breed Californians, Satins, or New Zealands.

- According to EDC Fair rule book, you must own the doe before the litter is kindled. You must be the first owner of the meat pen. You do not need to own the buck.
- Average prices for breeding rabbits are \$40.00 for the doe and \$40.00 for the buck.
- You may be able to find a breeder who will sell you a bred doe for approximately \$70+
- Cage requirements 30x30x18 \$75.00. You can also build your own cage. You will need to make sure the cage has “baby wire” at the bottom to ensure the kits do not fall out. Do not use chicken wire.
- Nest box for kindling \$20-25. You can also make them from plywood.
- Water bottle or large crock \$7-\$10
- Food Bowl or large feeder \$7-\$10
- 50lb bag of quality feed \$13.00
- Shavings \$7.00
- Alfalfa or Timothy Hay
- Clean water is essential for the rabbits to stay on feed and keep gaining weight. A doe and her litter can drink a gallon of water a day.

Your entry at fair time will consist of a “pen of three” rabbits that are:

- A minimum of 3.0 lbs but no larger than 5.0 lbs each rabbit in the pen.
- 70 days or 10 weeks old.
- Closely matched in size, weight and conformation
- All rabbits must be tattooed before the day of the show.
- The fair will require a photo of you, your doe and your litter to accompany your fair entry.

You may enter 2 “pens” and 1 single fryer at fair. The pens will be weighed and judged first before the rabbit show begins. There is one (1) Grand Champion awarded and one (1) Reserve Grand Champion awarded. Currently these are the only two winners that will go on to the Junior Livestock auction. A member cannot win both categories. See page 2 for standards and guidelines.

A website that has great information- <http://heatonrabbitry.tripod.com/index.html>
American Rabbit Breeders Association – www.arba.net

Consult your leader or country resource leader if you have additional questions.

STANDARD & GUIDE FOR JUDGING MEAT CLASSES
Page 27 of the ARBA Standard of Perfection 2006-2010

MEAT PEN

The four factors, in the order of their importance, for judging meat pens are as follows:
(1) Meat type (2) Condition (3) Uniformity (4) Fur

Meat pens shall consist of three rabbits, all of the same breed and variety. Broken meat pens must also be of the same variety. A meat pen does not necessarily have to come from the same litter. Age limit 10 weeks. Minimum weight 3 pounds each. Maximum weight 5 pounds each. All rabbits must be weighed in the presence of the judge.

POINT SCHEDULE FOR JUDGING MEAT PENS

Meat Type	40 points
Condition of Flesh	30 points
Uniformity of body and weight	20 points
Fur	10 points
TOTAL	100 POINTS

Disqualifications from Competition – All ARBA disqualifications from Competition and breed disqualifications from Competition apply to each meat pen, with the following exceptions: Body smut on Californians Non descended testicles on bucks

If any one rabbit in the pen is overweight or underweight, the entire pen is disqualified from competition. If any one rabbit in the pen is disqualified from competition, the entire pen becomes disqualified. All ARBA General Faults apply to each meat pen.

SINGLE FRYER

Not over 10 weeks of age. Minimum weight of 3 pounds. Maximum weight of 5 pounds.

POINT SCHEDULE FOR JUDGING SINGLE FRYERS

Meat Type	45 points
Condition of Flesh	35 points
Fur	10 points
TOTAL	100 POINTS

Page 29 of ARBA Standards (Miscellaneous Interpretations)

Meat pens and Single Fryers may be shown in additional classes for Pre-Juniors or Juniors, (but not both). Jan/Feb 1997 DR, page 64