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On-line Cochran 4-H Newsletter can be found at Web-site: <http://cochran-tx.tamu.edu>

Nov– Dec 2018
Vol. 1

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Event & Program Information Dates

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Nov 13 Cochran 4-H meeting @ 4 p.m extension office

Nov 19 Gold Star banquet

Nov 30 Swine validation due

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Dec 14 Rabbit validation due

Cochran County

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Meeting Dates & Contacts:

Cochran 4-H Club

2nd Tuesday of month
Sept–May otherwise
rescheduled.

Cochran Gun Club

Sundays at 2 p.m.
Cochran Shoot Range

STILL AVAILABLE:

Top 10 Tips for Preparing for a Swine Show:

1. Make sure you have the proper tools and supplies and gather them in one place.
2. Practice driving your pig as often as possible guiding your swine from one place to the other.
3. Brush your pig daily for at least two months before the show.
4. Make sure to wash your pig one or two times before the show.
5. When working your pig, pay attention to how he walks.
6. When trimming hair, make sure to clip off all the long hair from under the ear a few days ahead of the show.
7. Gather your show clothes.
8. Make sure you have all the proper registration and health forms.
9. Have a plan for transporting your pig.
10. A good showman knows about their project animal. Sometimes the judge will ask questions to make a final decision on the top showman, so be prepared!

Cochran 4-H T-shirts for sale.
\$20.00 each. For

More info contact our
office 806-266-5215 or come by
200 –B W. Taylor to check them
out.



4H Adult Leader & Management Corner:

Equal Opportunity Notification for Educational Programs & Non-Discrimination Policies

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Cochran County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to Natalie Silhan, Office Manager, 806-266-5215. Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.



Need help fundraising.....but,

*"My County doesn't have a TSC store", **no problem.** "Stripes Convenient stores are not located in my County", **no problem.** "Arlington is a bit of a far drive for my county to attend a Texas Rangers Baseball game", **no problem.** Texas 4-H Friends and Alumni hosting 4-H membership drive. Can go to <http://texas4Hfriends.org/alliances> for more information.*

TEXAS 4-H CENTER WEBSITE

While you are surfing the web, don't forget to visit the Texas 4-H Center's website: <http://texas4h-ctr.tamu.edu>

COCHRAN COUNTY 4-H ON-LINE

Now has the 4-H newsletter as well as various other sources of information at: <http://cochran-tx.tamu.edu>

Other 4-H Web-sites

Glory Be Collectibles You might want to check out the neat 4-H items at www.glorybe.com

Clover Corner News Check out the Clover Corner News, 4-H's national online newsletter, at: www.4hblogs.org/ccn.

Check out this Website : <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>

D-2 Events

Nov 10 D-2 Food show

Nov 19 Gold Star banquet

Dec 8 D-2 Fall roundup

Dec 10 D-2 meat judging



Rabbit Basics for the Beginner

Extension Educators, Ohio State University Extension

Contributing Authors: Jeff Dick, David Mangione, Barbara Parker Phares, and Travis West

Rabbits are a popular project for younger 4-H members or those members who do not have the facilities or space for a larger animal species. Basic background information about raising and caring for rabbits will assist in making your endeavor into rabbit ownership a success.

To gain an understanding of the general information needed to raise a rabbit.

- Effective selection of a rabbit project animal
- Determine appropriate housing for a rabbit & Ensure proper animal care for your rabbit

Selecting a breed of rabbit can be a huge challenge for first-time rabbit owners. There are currently 49 breeds of rabbits recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA). As a 4-H member, you should familiarize and research several breeds to determine those meeting the criteria you have for your rabbit project. There are market fryers, breeding rabbits, or companion pet rabbits. The goals you have for your rabbit project have a large effect on the breed you choose to purchase.

If you are interested in exhibiting breeding rabbits or raising rabbits, it is important to have a copy of the *Standard of Perfection* for your breed. This publication describes the ideal rabbit for each recognized breed, and is the standard by which judges compare rabbits of the same breed against one another. If you are raising rabbits, you need to understand the process of culling. Culling is removing a rabbit from the herd because of inferior production, inferior quality when compared to the Standard, or possessing specific disqualifications. Your criteria for culling might be different depending on whether you are focusing on breeding, pet, or market projects.

Market rabbits should be of a commercial breed and fall into one of the following three categories:

- Fryers: 3½–5½ pounds (8–10 weeks of age)
- Roasters: 5½–9 pounds (not over 5 months)
- Stewers: over 8 pounds (over 5 months)

Make sure you understand the requirements of your fair for exhibition of your market rabbit project. Some projects will require you to have one to three rabbits as part of your project. If your project includes more than one market rabbit paired with another, then you want to find two or three rabbits that are identical in type. Rabbits in the fryer and roaster categories can be expected to gain approximately 7 ounces per day if provided adequate feed and water on a daily basis. Weighing your market rabbits is important to make sure you are on track to obtain the desired weight at the end of your project.

Housing can be evaluated with a few factors: ventilation, size, material, temperature, and protection. Ventilation is the process of moving air above and below the cage to decrease temperature and ammonia odor, which can be damaging to a rabbit's respiratory system. This can be accomplished naturally or mechanically, but you must ensure that direct drafts are not imposed on the rabbits. The ideal temperature for an adult rabbit's environment is 45–70 degrees Fahrenheit.

Housing for rabbits can be maintained either inside or outside a physical structure. Outside facilities require that the rabbits be protected from the weather and predators. Inside housing provides more control of the environment, including better biosecurity, but comes with more expense and more ventilation challenges. It is necessary for you to determine the housing plan that fits the current situation you have at home.

Cage size is detailed in the Animal Welfare section in this fact sheet and gives the specific recommendations for the size of rabbit and its use. There are numerous materials that can be utilized to build rabbit cages; however, remember that rabbits are gnawers, meaning they will eat building materials. The material used will depend on whether you have an inside wire cage or an outside cage. The outside cage typically includes (three) plywood or pressed board (sidewalls) and roof to provide necessary protection for the rabbits. Inside cages will usually be constructed from galvanized welded wire.

Consideration for appropriate nutrition depends upon the stage of production, added supplements, environmental temperature, quality of pellets, and access to water. Crude protein (CP) is the major nutrient we assess because the fiber is fairly consistent in most commercially produced rabbit pellets. Crude protein feed recommendations are 16–18% for growing market rabbits; 14–16% for maintaining body weight on mature rabbits (non-breeding stock); and 16–18% for stock in active breeding.

The most important nutrient you can provide your rabbit is water. Access to fresh, clean water is necessary for rabbits to maintain proper growth rate and body condition. Fresh, clean water is a must during the summer months, because rabbits do not tolerate heat well and depend on water to cool their bodies. Many people insist on feeding supplements to their rabbits. Commercially produced rabbit pellets provide a complete diet for rabbits. When you add supplements on a daily basis, you are altering the balanced diet provided by the pellets. Supplements should be used carefully or used as an occasional treat for your rabbits in order to minimize their effect on the balanced diet.

Rabbits are unique in the fact that they are susceptible to digestive disturbances. To lower this susceptibility, they use a process called cecotrophy to maintain balance in their digestive system. Cecotrophy is the process of ingesting feces, typically done at night. The ingestion of the soft feces, or cecotropes, increases protein digestibility and energy digestion for the rabbit.

Resources/Links

American Rabbit Breeders Association: www.arba.net

Citations

- Cheeke, Dr. Peter. (2009). Nutritional Management of Rabbits and Principles of Rabbit Nutrition. *Rabbitcon 2009, San Diego, California, October 31–November 1, 2009*.
- Hayhow, Dr. Chris DVM. (2003). *Care of the Domestic Rabbit*. Leawood: Leathers Publishing. pp. 15–30, 38–40, 49–52, and 77–114.

QUALITY COUNTS:

Effective by end of August 2018, all those planning to show majors in 2019 will have to retake the quality counts in order to be eligible to show any majors in 2019.

There have been updates made and all youth will have to retake QC regardless of prior certifications received.

If you have any questions, please contact the office at 806-266-5215



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Cochran County



Calendar 2018:

There's Always Something To Do! Important 4-H Dates

Event & Program Information Dates

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Dec 14 Rabbit validation due

Persons planning on attending can request the need for special accommodations relating to hearing impaired or any other special need.

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Cochran County Extension Office

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Production: Natalie Silhan

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Kendra Bilbrey, CEA-Ag



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Reminders and/or Suggestions:

Sept 1st Re-enrollment is required for each new program year. Enrollment or re-enrollment can be completed by going to 4H Connect website located on 4honline.com. Please also remember that all 4-H Volunteer working directly with youth must have also submitted a volunteer screening form. These , also, may be completed online on 4H Connect. **There will be a membership fee of \$20 each for enrollment, or re-enrollment, between Sept 1st—Oct 31st. \$25 each for the same after October 31st. There will be an adult enrollment fee of \$5. Contact office re: any questions you may have. website: <http://tx4-h.tamu.edu/4hconnect/index.html>**

Link for enrollment is: <http://tx4-h.tamu.edu/4hconnect/index.html>

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Extension Service is implied. We will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any of our meetings. We request that you contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Cochran County - (806) 266-5215, as soon as possible to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require.

Texas 4-H homepage, go to: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/> for all upcoming event and state 4H info.