

DEPARTMENT – L 40 – Rabbits and Cavies

Rabbit Show – Monday, August 3, 2026

CO- SUPERINTENDENTS – Peggy Luers (410-848-9584) & Karen Garnett (301-606-6766)
Assistants – Scherry Wagner (443-996-1104), Linda Thompson (410-207-5388), Robby Wagner, Melanie Martin, Larry Thompson, Jen Wade, Mike Luers, Bob Wagner
Youth Superintendents Faith Mohr, Wyatt Zulka

RULES AND REGULATIONS – GENERAL NOTICE

- Entries must be completed online at www.carrollcountyfair.com . Entry fees need to be paid by credit card only. No late entries will be accepted. All rabbits and cavies must be **pre-entered ONLINE by June 10th.**
- Due to proposed Maryland budgetary constraints that are beyond the control of the Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair Board, Inc., the Board reserves the right to withhold a portion of premium monies, up to and including all of an exhibitor's earned premium payment, for the 2026 4-H/FFA Fair.
- A 4-H or FFA member must be enrolled in a rabbit or veterinary science project to enter this department at the fair.
- A properly completed MD Show Ring Code of Ethics must accompany entry form.
- All Rabbits and Cavies must have a Self-Certification of Health before entering the Rabbit Barn. The form must be submitted on Saturday August 1, 2026, during check in.
- **ALL rabbit and cavy exhibits entered in the department must be owned by the exhibitor by May 1, 2026.**
- **CHECK IN DAY AND TIME: SATURDAY August 1 FROM 10 AM TO 1 PM ONLY. SEE BELOW FOR CHECK IN PROTOCOLS**
- All exhibitors will pay an entry fee of \$1.00 per animal (rabbit and cavy) with the exception of Clover-age exhibitors.

Due to the highly contagious and lethal Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Type -2 (RHDV-2): ALL rabbit and cavy exhibits must be owned by the exhibitor by May 1, 2026. For more information on the RHDV-2 virus please visit www.arba.net.

1. The Rabbit Department Schedule for 2026:

- Saturday, July 25, 2026, Show Entries must be received by 10:00pm, the attached entry form should be emailed as an attachment to sbwagner2000@comcast.net
 - Saturday, August 1, 2026, 10AM to 1PM: Check In; ALL Exhibitors (clovers DO NOT need to attend)
 - Sunday, August 2, 2026, 10AM: Rabbit and Cavy Showmanship (must sign up for a time slot for judging)
 - Monday, August 3, 2026, 8:00AM: Rabbit Bred by Exhibitor (must sign up for a time slot for judging)
 - Monday, August 3, 2026, 9:30AM: Clover Show & Clover Showmanship
 - Monday, August 3, 2026, 9:30 AM: Rabbit & Cavy Show
 - Friday, August 7, 2026: 9:00PM Rabbits Released after barn is closed and sale rabbits released.
2. **EXHIBITORS WILL NEED TO CHECK IN on Saturday August 1, 2026 from 10AM to 1PM.**
Exhibitors who wish to leave their rabbits for the week of fair will check in their rabbits at this time. Exhibitors who wish to do "carrier only" showing will still need to attend check-in (without their rabbits). An entry form for all exhibitors must be submitted by Saturday July 25, 2026 to Scherry Wagner. The remaining paperwork must be submitted during check in (please see below). Exhibitors will sign up for Showmanship and Bred By Exhibitor judging times at this time. Mandatory Paperwork Includes the following:

- a. Self-Certification of Health Form
 - b. Completed Project Record Sheet
 - i. A 4-H Rabbit/Cavy Record Sheet completed from January 1 through date of entry must accompany animals to the Fair and be given to the Superintendent or committee member at the time of entry. Animals without this form will not be accepted. Incomplete record sheets will be returned, and exhibitors will have 24 hours to complete the record. If the completed record is not returned, the rabbits entered will not be judged. Record sheets will be returned to the exhibitor on Friday, August 7, 2026, in exhibitor packets.
 - c. Poster and Displays
 - d. **Clovers:** do not need to attend and may arrive on Monday to complete all contests.
3. Exhibitors have the option to leave their rabbits for the week of fair (August 1-7) or to do a “carrier only show” and bring their animals to the Fair on the day of showing/contest. If exhibitors choose to keep their rabbits at the fair rules numbered 7 & 8 need to be adhered to. Clover exhibits must be taken home following judging.
 4. The breed show including the market pen show will occur on Monday, August 3, 2026 and will be an ARBA sanctioned show. **No day of show changes will be allowed.** Please make sure at check in all entries are correct.
 - a. This will be an ARBA-sanctioned show for Carroll County 4-H & FFA youth and will conform to all its rules and regulations. The maximum age for ARBA youth is 18 years of age as of January 1 of the current year. Only ARBA recognized breeds and varieties can be shown as purebred. All animals being considered for ARBA recognition must present a working standard to the judge prior to the show.
 - b. All rabbits, including the market pens, must be tattooed in the left ear. The rabbit owner may do this or contact the superintendent for more information. ANY RABBIT NOT TATTOOED WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE SHOW.
 - c. “Carrier only show” exhibitors: rabbits are to arrive in a carrier and remain in the carrier until they are to be judged and return home at the conclusion of judging.
 - d. Market Pen Exhibitors Please see specific contest rules and regulations.
 5. All Exhibitors who participate in Showmanship and/or Breed By Exhibitor on Sunday August 2 2026 will need to sign up for a judging time on Saturday August 1, 2026 at check in. Please arrive 15 minutes before your judging time. Please see specific contest rules and regulations.
 6. **CLOVERS:** All Clover judging will occur on Monday August 3, 2026. All Clover exhibitors must submit a Self-Certification of Health Form before judging can occur.
 - a. Clover rabbits/Cavies are to arrive in a carrier and remain in the carrier until they are to be judged
 - b. Clover rabbits/Cavies need to leave after judging is complete, NO Clover rabbit/cavy may stay in the barn after judging is complete.
 - c. Clover poster and displays must be submitted by 9:30AM on Monday, August 3, 2026.
 - d. Clovers may collect their award at the Rabbit Department Award Ceremony.
 7. For rabbits remaining at fair:
 - a. The Rabbit Barn will be open to the public.
 - b. Rabbit check-in and health check for rabbits remaining at fair will be on Saturday August 1, 2026, from 10AM-1PM.
 - c. A member of the show committee or someone approved by the show committee will check all rabbits being brought to the fair. All animals found to be diseased or in very poor conditions will be sent home. THE SHOW COMMITTEE’S DECISION WILL BE FINAL.
 - d. The **EXHIBITOR** must feed all rabbits once a day, check for water at least twice daily, and have their pens kept clean. Exhibitors will be required to initial Care Sheets twice daily to be sure exhibits are cared for. Parents are not to feed and tend to rabbits.

Exhibitors will not feed other exhibitors' animals, without committee approval. If your animal is on a restricted diet, the exhibitor will supply a hayrack with hay/straw, so the public will not think the rabbit/ is not being fed.

- e. Exhibitors must bring their own feed and water crocks. The dish/crock must be the appropriate size for the breed of rabbit. No tin cans, plastic margarine or similar dishes or glass water bottles are allowed.
 - f. Rabbits not entered in the Rabbit Dept. at the Carroll County 4-H & FFA fair WILL NOT be allowed in the Rabbit Building.
 - g. Each animal will be caged individually except for the market classes.
 - h. When rabbits are released on Friday, every exhibitor and exhibitor family member must follow the directions of the department superintendents. Any exhibitor found not following the directions of the department superintendents will forfeit all premium winnings.
8. A Breeder's Sale Book will be available.
- a. Rabbits listed in the sale book must remain in the barn at the conclusion of judging on Monday, August 3, 2026.
 - b. It will be AVAILABLE AFTER THE ARBA SHOW
 - c. ONLY RABBITS THAT HAVE BEEN ENTERED IN THE ARBA SHOW AND HAVE NOT RECEIVED A DISQUALIFICATION MAY BE ENTERED IN THE SALE BOOK, ALONG WITH A COMPLETED PEDIGREE.
 - d. Sale rabbits will be released to their new owner at the conclusion of fair.
9. All necessary accommodations will be made for persons with a disability. If assistance for participation in the program is required, the extension office must be contacted at least two weeks prior to the show.
10. Exhibitors will be limited to a total of twelve (12) entries in the purebred class and two (2) market pens. (Example: 6 Cavy & 6 Rabbits = 12 entries).
- a. Clovers may have one entry in the Clover Rabbit/Cavy show. Entry will come in on the Monday show by 9:00 a.m. Clovers will take their entry home after the show.
11. Show ages of rabbits and cavies:
- a. 4-class:
 - i. Junior Doe – under 6 months
 - ii. Junior Buck – under 6 months
 - iii. Senior Doe – over 6 months
 - iv. Senior Buck – over 6 months
 - b. 6-class:
 - i. Junior Doe or Sow – under 6 months
 - ii. Junior Buck or Boar – under 6 months
 - iii. Intermediate Doe or Sow – 6-8 months
 - iv. Intermediate Buck or Boar – 6-8 months
 - v. Senior Doe or Sow – over 8 months
 - vi. Senior Buck or Boar – over 8 months
 - c. No rabbit under three months of age may be shown except for market pen. No cavy weighing under 12 ounces may be shown.
12. Premiums:
- a. Showmanship - \$5
 - b. Breed Divisions – 1st - \$4, 2nd - \$3, 3rd - \$2.50, all below – \$2
 - c. Bred By Exhibitor – Blue Award - \$4, Red Award - \$3, White Award - \$2.50, all below - \$2
 - d. Market Pens – Blue Award - \$4, Red Award - \$3, White Award - \$2.50, all below - \$2
13. No water balloons, water pistols or sprayers will be allowed in or around the Rabbit Building. Loud and obnoxious behavior will not be tolerated in or around the Rabbit exhibit area.

14. EXHIBITORS, PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERAL FAIR RULES AND REGULATIONS.
15. These amended rules may change prior to the start of Fair, please check regularly for updates.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS – SHOWMANSHIP
SUNDAY, August 2, 2026**

1. The rabbit used for showmanship must be the sole property of the exhibitor and must be one of the exhibitor's twelve entries in the ARBA show.
2. All preparation of the rabbit is to be done by the Exhibitor.
3. Rabbit showmanship will follow the guidelines according to ARBA. A score sheet can be found on their website: <https://www.arba.net/PDFs/Showmanship.pdf> .
4. Exhibitors must be pre-entered **ONLINE** by June 10th.
5. All rabbit exhibitors are encouraged to participate in the showmanship classes and benefit from the experience and knowledge gained.
6. Exhibits used for Showmanship will need to be brought in the day of competition and following the contest, the exhibitor may take his/her showmanship rabbit entry home, or leave their exhibits at fair for the week.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS – Showmanship/CLOVERS
MONDAY, August 3, 2026**

1. Eligible exhibitors are ages 5 thru 7 as of Jan. 1 of the current year.
2. Follow rules 2 – 5 for Showmanship.
3. Clovers will take their entry home after the show.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS – Bred by Exhibitor
Monday, August 3, 2026**

1. The brood doe must be sole property of the exhibitor by March 1, 2026.
2. Exhibitor must be pre-entered **ONLINE** by June 10th.
3. **Exhibitors who entered a meat pen will be required to participate in the bred by exhibitor for Market contest.**
4. The offspring will not exceed one year of age and must be no younger than 3 months of age as of the day of show, except when using a market pen exhibit for the offspring.
5. The offspring used must be entered in the ARBA show.
6. Both the doe and buck and the offspring are to be brought to the show table at the same time. If you do not own the buck, you must provide a photograph and pedigree and bring these along with the doe and the offspring. The brood doe must be present.
7. Exhibitor will supply pedigrees of both parents (buck and doe). Computer generated pedigrees are acceptable for the parents.

8. A completed **handwritten** pedigree, written by the exhibitor, will also be required for the **offspring**.
9. Exhibitor should be able to explain the strengths and weaknesses of both parents. In addition, explain the attributes that the offspring gained from this mating. Would you repeat the breeding and why? The new score sheet and guideline will be available at check in.
4. Exhibits used for Bred By Exhibitor will need to be brought in the day of competition if carrier only and if not an exhibit staying for the week of fair, the exhibitor will take his/her exhibit home.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS – Market Pen of Rabbits
Monday, August 3, 2026**

1. Pen of three purebred rabbits of the same breed and variety.
2. **Exhibitors who entered a meat pen will be required to participate in the Bred By Exhibitor Market contest. Market pen exhibitors who do not participate in the Bred By Exhibitor contest will forfeit the right to sell in the livestock sale as well as their premium winnings if applicable.**
3. Rabbits must be tattooed in the left ear.
4. Exhibitors must be pre-entered **ONLINE** by June 10th. Each exhibitor may exhibit NO MORE THAN TWO (2) market pens. This is in addition to the twelve purebred class entries.
5. Brood does producing the market pen animals must be owned by March 1, 2026.
6. Each individual rabbit cannot be over 10 weeks (70 days) of age and must weigh between 3 ½ and 5 ½ pounds per ARBA rules.
7. The rabbits do not need to be all the same sex.
8. The rabbits should be uniform in size and weight and free of any eliminations or disqualifications. The judge's decision will be final.
9. Consult Livestock Sale Rules for guidelines for participation in the Livestock Sale.
10. Exhibits used for Market Pen of Rabbits will need to be brought in the day of competition and, following the show, the exhibitor may elect to take the Market Pen of Rabbits exhibit home or may house the Market Pen of Rabbits in the Rabbit Building for the remainder of the fair. If selling in the livestock sale, rabbits that were taken home following the judging will need to be brought back to the fairgrounds. Please follow instructions given at the end of judging.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS – Clover Rabbit/Cavy Show
MONDAY, August 3, 2026**

1. The Clover Division is open only to members ages 5 – 7 as of January 1 of the current year.
2. Clover members may exhibit only one animal.
5. The Show will provide an opportunity for Clovers to share their rabbit or cavy with other members and prepare for future shows.
6. Each exhibitor may have help from a family member.
7. Following the show, the exhibitor will take his/her rabbit department exhibit home.
8. No entry fee is required of exhibitors in the Clover division, but the animal must be pre-entered **ONLINE** by June 10th.

9. Premiums – Clover participants – \$2 each exhibit.

RULES AND REGULATIONS – Educational Posters and Displays

1. Each exhibitor may enter one (1) poster and/or one (1) display. Total of two possible entries. Entries are due at the Secretary's table by **9:30 AM on Monday August 3, 2026.**

2. The purpose of this division is to educate the public about your 4-H rabbit or cavy project. Use reliable sources such as the ARBA website or ARBA standard of perfection. No live animals may be used as part of the display. Posters or displays that have questionable or misinformation will still be judged but will not be displayed.

3. MANDATORY – THE BACK OF THE POSTER/DISPLAY MUST HAVE:

- a. EXHIBITOR NAME
- b. EXHIBITOR AGE CLASS (JUNIOR, INTERMEDIATE, OR SENIOR)
- c. STATE WHETHER A DISPLAY OR A POSTER
- d. SOURCE OF INFORMATION

4. ABSOLUTELY NO PICTURES OF THE EXHIBITOR ARE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DISPLAY OR POSTER.

5. Premiums – Blue Award - \$5, Red Award - \$4, White Award - \$3, all others - \$2

RULES AND REGULATIONS – Clover Poster/Display

1. Eligible exhibitors are ages 5 – 7 as of Jan. 1 of the current year.

2. Follows rules 1 – 4 for Educational Posters and Displays listed above

3. Premium – Participation - \$2

L-40 Department Classes

Section/Division 401 – Purebred Rabbits

- Class 1: Rabbit, ARBA Recognized Breed
- Class 2: Best of Breed
- Class 3: Best Opposite Sex of Breed
- Class 4: Best In Show
- Class 5: 1st Reserve In Show
- Class 6: 2nd Reserve In Show

Section/Division 402 – Purebred Cavies

- Class 1: Cavy, ARBA Recognized Breed
- Class 2: Best of Breed
- Class 3: Best in Show
- Class 4: 1st Reserve in Show
- Class 5: 2nd Reserve in Show

Section/Division 403 – Clover Exhibits

- Class 1: Clover Showmanship, Rabbit
- Class 2: Clover Showmanship, Cavy
- Class 3: Clover Rabbit/Cavy
- Class 4: Clover Poster
- Class 5: Clover Display

Section/Division 404 – Rabbit Showmanship

- Class 1: Senior Showmanship, Rabbit
- Class 2: Senior Champion Showmanship, Rabbit
- Class 3: Reserve Senior Champion Showmanship, Rabbit
- Class 4: Intermediate Showmanship, Rabbit
- Class 5: Intermediate Champion Showmanship, Rabbit
- Class 6: Intermediate Reserve Champion Showmanship, Rabbit
- Class 7: Junior Showmanship, Rabbit
- Class 8: Junior Champion Showmanship, Rabbit
- Class 9: Junior Reserve Champion Showmanship, Rabbit
- Class 10: Novice Showmanship, Rabbit
- Class 11: Novice Champion Showmanship, Rabbit
- Class 12: Novice Reserve Champion Showmanship, Rabbit
- Class 13: Grand Champion Showmanship, Rabbit
- Class 14: Reserve Grand Champion Showmanship, Rabbit

Section/Division 405 – Cavy Showmanship

- Class 1: Senior Showmanship, Cavy
- Class 2: Senior Champion Showmanship, Cavy
- Class 3: Senior Reserve Champion Showmanship, Cavy
- Class 4: Intermediate Showmanship, Cavy
- Class 5: Intermediate Champion Showmanship, Cavy
- Class 6: Intermediate Reserve Champion Showmanship, Cavy
- Class 7: Junior Showmanship, Cavy
- Class 8: Junior Champion Showmanship, Cavy
- Class 9: Junior Reserve Champion Showmanship, Cavy
- Class 10: Novice Showmanship, Cavy
- Class 11: Novice Champion Showmanship, Cavy
- Class 12: Novice Reserve Champion Showmanship, Cavy
- Class 13: Grand Champion Showmanship, Cavy
- Class 14: Reserve Grand Champion Showmanship, Cavy

Section/Division 406 – Bred by Exhibitor

- Class 1: Bred by Exhibitor Sr
- Class 2: Bred by Exhibitor Int
- Class 3: Bred by Exhibitor Jr
- Class 4: Bred by Exhibitor Novice
- Class 5: Bred by Exhibitor Market

Section/Division 407 – Market Pens

- Class 1: Market Pen of Three #1
- Class 2: Market Pen of Three #2
- Class 3: Champion Market Pen
- Class 4: Reserve Champion Market Pen

Section/Division 408 – Educational Posters

- Class 1: Educational poster, Jr
- Class 2: Educational poster, Int
- Class 3: Educational poster, Sr

Section/Division 409 – Educational Display

- Class 1: Educational Display, Jr
- Class 2: Educational Display, Int
- Class 3: Educational Display, Sr