

Brevard County 4-H Fair **2026 Rabbit & Cavy Rule Book**

April 13-18, 2026

UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County Office
3695 Lake Drive
Cocoa, FL 32926

General Rules & Regulations

1. Entries

- Registration is done through the official Brevard County 4-H Fair & Market Poultry Auction registration website: https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6lHJUa1Z63Nrn1k
- All entries must be made using the official entry form, with all information complete and accurate. All Brevard County 4-H Fair entry fees must be received by UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County Office by the established deadline.

2. Health Requirements

- A certified State Inspector will be on the grounds to check all animals and accompanying papers. Animals are not to be placed in the show cages without approval from the State Inspector on duty and the 4-H Agent.
- Any violation of these rules will be grounds for disqualification of entry.

3. Premiums and Awards

- Premiums will be paid based on the judge's reports, not from ribbons.
- The Brevard County 4-H Office will mail premium checks within ten weeks of the close of the Fair. Emails will be sent to the email address on file when the checks are mailed. It is up to the individuals to let the 4-H office know if checks have not been received within a week of the email.
- Premium checks not cashed by November 20, 2026, will be forfeited. No replacement checks will be issued for any reason.

4. Judges and Judging

- The decision of the judge will be final, and no appeal will be considered except in cases of written protest (see Protests).
- Any exhibitor who interferes with the judging will be promptly excluded from the competition; if interference occurs with the premium awards after judging, the premiums awarded will be withheld.
- All animals must be in their respective cages and be evaluated by the judge to receive a premium.

5. Liability for Loss or Theft

- The owner or custodian of property of any kind brought to the site either for exhibit or for other purposes assumes, as a condition of its admission to the grounds, all risks and/or responsibility for its loss, damage, or theft.
- UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County, its officers, and employees cannot and will not accept responsibility and liability for any damage or injury resulting from theft, fire, the elements, accidents, or other conditions or causes, whether to exhibits, property of the exhibitor, vehicles on the grounds and articles left therein, and any other property of any nature whatsoever.

6. General

- By application for entry to the Brevard County 4-H Fair, each exhibitor certifies that all exhibits are in accordance with the Rules & Regulations of the Brevard County 4-H Fair and that the exhibitor agrees to be governed by these rules.
- Entries are limited to Brevard County 4-H members who are in good standing (registered in 4HOnline, residing in Brevard County, applicable membership fees paid) and who have attended at least five (5) club meetings. Exhibitors must be between the ages of 5 and 18 as of September 1, 2025, to compete.
- Animals are restricted to a designated site area and must not be taken from this area. Violators are liable for any damage incurred by the owner or animal.
- Names and telephone numbers of qualified local veterinarians will be available at the Extension office. Each exhibitor is responsible for any bills incurred.
- Only animals being shown at the Brevard County 4-H Fair are permitted on the site.
- No dogs shall be allowed in the Animal Show area, as this causes undue stress on the animals.
- Smoking is not permitted on site.
- The use of tobacco products, drugs, and alcoholic beverages by exhibitors and/or their families on site is strictly prohibited.
- Failure to maintain animals and exhibit areas to acceptable standards and/or failure to cooperate with Fair Officials may result in premium forfeiture.
- Any person who violates any of the General Rules or special rules as published in the 2026 Brevard County 4-H Fair Rabbit and Cavy Rule Book will forfeit all privileges and premiums won.

7. Protests

- All protests must be made in writing, must plainly state the complaint, be accompanied by a cash deposit of \$50.00 (which will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained), and must be delivered to the 4-H Agent within 24 hours after the cause of the protest.

8. Attire

- All exhibitors are required to wear the following for shows and sales:
 - 4-H Exhibitors: dark pants or khakis, white collared shirt, 4-H insignia
 - 4-H jacket is optional
- NO BLUE JEANS!!!
- No headgear (hats, caps, etc.) shall be worn for the show, showmanship, or sale.
- Closed-toe shoes or boots are required.

International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE)

National Code of Show Ring Ethics

Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to junior as well as open-class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show. In addition to the "IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics," fairs and livestock shows may have rules and regulations, which they impose on the local, county, state, provincial, and national levels.

All youth leaders working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, and responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit premiums, awards, and auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibitions in accordance with the rules adopted by the respective fairs and livestock shows. Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from competition at all livestock shows in the United States and Canada.

The following is a list of guidelines for all exhibitors and all livestock in competitive events:

1. All exhibitors must present, upon request of fair and livestock show officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership, and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited.
2. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by fair or livestock show officials.
3. Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at fairs and livestock shows.
4. Animals shall be presented to show events where they will enter the food chain free of volatile drug residues. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitters, trainer, and/or absolutely responsible person for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. Animals not entered in an event that culminates with the animal entering the food chain shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state, and provincial statutes, regulations, and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with the federal, state, and provincial statutes, regulations, and rules affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event.

If the laboratory report on the analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample taken from livestock indicates the presence of forbidden drugs or medication, this shall be prima

facie evidence that such substance has been administered to the animal either internally or externally. It is presumed that the sample of urine, saliva, blood, or other substance tested by the laboratory to which it is sent is the one taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with the burden on the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to prove otherwise.

At any time after an animal arrives on the fair or livestock show premises, a licensed veterinarian shall administer all treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal.

5. Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counterirritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, confirmation, or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only, and except for surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.

6. The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited.

7. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair or livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.

8. No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this code of ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons, either by affirmative action or inaction, to violate this code of ethics. Violations of this rule shall subject such individuals to disciplinary action.

9. The application of this code of ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or participant, whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this code of ethics.

10. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to have disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show for violation of the Code of Show Ring Ethics and any other rule of competition of the fair or livestock show without recourse against the fair or livestock show. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent that any proceedings or disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show may be published with the name of the violator or violators in any publication of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, including *Fairs and Expositions*, and any special notices to members.

11. The act of entering an animal in a fair or livestock show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or she has read the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences of and penalties provided for actions prohibited by the code. It is further consent that any action that contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state, or provincial statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.

2026 Brevard County 4-H Fair

YOUTH RABBIT AND CAVY SHOW

Registration Due Friday, March 20, 2026, by 11:59 PM
Record Books Due Friday, March 27, 2026, by 5:00 PM
Registration Payment Due..... Friday, March 27, 2026, by 5:00 PM

Educational posters, photography, etc. are all due Monday, April 13th, 2026, by 6 PM to the UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County Office at 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa, FL 32926.

Animal Check In.....Thursday, April 16, 2026, from 4 – 7 PM
Rabbit Skill A Thon.....Thursday, April 16, 2026, from 3:30 – 7 PM
Rabbit/Cavy Judging.....Friday, April 17, 2026, at approx. 9 AM
Rabbit/Cavy Showmanship.....Friday, April 17, 2026, from 1:00 – 5 PM
4-H Breakfast Social.....Saturday, April 18, 2026, at 9:00 AM

Gayle Whitworth-New
Brevard County 4-H Agent
gowhit@ufl.edu

O:321-633-1702 x52324
C: 321-200-5865

All entries in this category shall be subject to the Brevard County 4-H Fair General Rules and Regulations, the Florida Department of Agriculture Animal Health Requirements, and the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics as found in the front of this Premium Book.

PURPOSE

The intent of the Rabbit/Cavy show is to promote youth development through a meaningful experience that will help young people grow into mature adults, as well as to provide a fun and educational experience for the general public attending the events.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

EXHIBITOR ELIGIBILITY:

1. Only bona fide 4-H members in good standing (**active in 4HOnline, residing in Brevard County, applicable membership fees paid**) and having attended at least five (5) club meetings are eligible to participate. Exhibitors must be between the ages of 5 and 18 as of September 1, 2025. Clubs must be valid clubs in good standing with their local and state organizations.
2. Participants must be at least 5 years of age by September 1, 2025, to compete.
3. Cloverbuds (ages 5 - 7 as of September 1, 2025) are eligible to participate in all activities at this event except goats. All Cloverbud participants will receive participation ribbons for each event they enter. **Cloverbuds will be limited to three animal entries (Markey Poultry Trio counts as one).**
4. Participants must be under the direct supervision of an adult, teacher, or leader at all times.
5. **Youth Livestock Ethics and Animal Care Workshop will NOT BE MANDATORY to show at the Brevard County 4-H Fair Rabbit and Cavy Show. It is recommended that all exhibitors take this class, but it will not be required. Workshops can be found at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4FADA62EA7F4C34-49540921-20242025#/>**

Brevard County 4-H Fair Site

SITE RULES:

1. Each exhibitor is required to maintain clean and attractive quarters for his or her rabbits/cavies, cages, and personal equipment at all times. Personal items, including cages and carriers, will not be allowed to be stored in or directly outside the barn area.
2. Brevard County 4-H will furnish cages.
3. **Each exhibitor must provide their own feed, feeders, and water containers for each rabbit/cavy.** Exhibitors are responsible for the feeding and watering of their animals upon arrival.
4. Brevard County 4-H will provide water.
5. No dogs will be allowed in the Rabbit/Cavy show area due to the undue stress placed on the animals.
6. The Brevard County 4-H Fair, UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County Office, nor the 4-H agent will be responsible for any loss that may occur but will exercise every reasonable care of exhibits.

ELIGIBILITY OF ANIMALS FOR SHOW:

1. Eligible Purebred Breeds are those recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA). Classes will be provided for rabbits and cavies. Additional information on classes and standards can be found at www.arba.net

2. All animals must meet health requirements as specified in the Rules for Exhibition as required by the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.
3. No sick or diseased animal will be allowed in the show area. The 4-H Agent and/or Livestock Agent has the authority to refuse animals. Every animal must be checked for disease at the check-in table prior to being caged. Any entry rejected on entry day for sickness or disease is not eligible for competition or awards and must be removed from the premises immediately.
4. Each exhibitor may enter up to 5 animals of each type (rabbit & cavy).
5. Each exhibitor may enter no more than 3 animals in a breed & variety.
6. Animals will be a minimum of 6 months old.
7. Tampering or faking with any animal entered is prohibited.
8. Youth exhibitors must show their own animals.
9. All rabbits entered in the Youth Show must be permanently tattooed in the left ear, legibly in blue or black ink, before being brought to the show tent. Identification numbers in the left ear will consist of a letter, a number, or a letter and a number. **These numbers must appear on the Brevard County 4-H Fair registration form.**

ENTRY AND ARRIVAL OF RABBITS/CAVIES:

1. Completed Registration Form must be received by **Friday, March 20, 2026, at 11:59 PM.** Entry forms must be completed online.
 - a. Entry forms must be complete to be accepted. (It is advisable to submit early so that any questions may be cleared up prior to the closing date.)
 - b. All rabbits/cavies must be entered by breed, variety, class, and sex. All animals will be judged as described on the entry form. No changes or corrections will be made after March 27, 2026.
 - c. No substitutions are allowed after March 27, 2026.
 - d. **Entry fee is \$5.00 per rabbit/cavy. Entry fees should be made payable to Brevard County 4-H Association. Checks can be mailed to or dropped off at the Brevard County Extension Office (3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa, FL 32926). Complete and accurate payments should be received no later than Friday, March 27, 2026. Refunds will not be given for animals that were entered but not actually exhibited at the show. Cloverbuds will pay a flat \$5 for ALL entries into the fair (including market poultry, purebred poultry, exhibits, and goat/sheep).**
2. Ownership date for rabbits/cavies is no later than September 30, 2025.
3. Entry forms must be signed by the exhibitor and parent/guardian.
4. **Rabbits/cavies will be received between 4 PM and 7 PM on Thursday, April 16, 2026. Participants must have their rabbit/cavy on site no later than 6:45 PM to allow for check-in by 7:00 PM.**
5. Animals will be cooped by breed, variety, class (age), and sex.
6. All exhibitors are required to water and feed their own animals upon arrival.
7. Exhibitors must be present at check-in unless special permission has been requested and approved by the 4-H Agent prior to the night of check-in.
8. Management reserves the right to reject any entry or entries from any exhibitor.

RELEASE:

1. During the period of the exhibition, no specimen may be removed, except by consent of the 4-H Agent.

2. Rabbits/cavies will be released upon the conclusion of the market poultry auction on Saturday, April 18, 2026. The exhibitor will be responsible for feeding and watering their animal(s).
3. Rabbits/cavies removed prior to this time without prior permission will forfeit all premium monies won.
4. All other items, such as posters and photos, will be released at the conclusion of the market poultry auction on Saturday, April 18, 2026. Exhibits will also be available for pick up during business hours at the UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension Office for the two weeks directly following the 4-H Fair.

SALES:

1. No rabbits will be sold unless they are entered in the show. No animal will be sold prior to the end of the fair. No 'For Sale' signs will be allowed on cages.

JUDGING:

1. Rabbits/cavies will be judged on **Friday, April 17, 2026**, utilizing the modified Danish System of judging. Each entry will receive a Blue, Red, or White award. Only entries receiving a Blue quality award will be considered for Best of Variety and higher awards. Cloverbuds will receive a participation ribbon.
2. **No Exhibitors will be allowed in the Rabbit/Cavy area during judging.**
3. During the selection of champions, exhibitors and parents shall refrain from speaking with the judge.
4. The decision of the judge shall be final.

ADDITIONAL RABBIT/CAVY CONTESTS:

Age Divisions (as of September 1, 2025)

- Cloverbud Division.....ages 5 - 7 years old
- Junior Division.....ages 8 - 10 years old
- Intermediate Division.....ages 11 - 13 years old
- Senior Division.....ages 14 - 18 years old

RECORD BOOKS:

Due Friday, March 27, 2026, by 5:00 PM

1. **RECORD BOOKS ARE REQUIRED.** Record books must be turned in by Friday, March 27, 2026, by 5 PM. Cloverbuds may complete a Brevard County 4-H Fair Cloverbud Rabbit/Cavy Record Book.
2. The completed Record Book must be approved and signed by the 4-H Club Leader.
3. Record Books are available on the UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension website (<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/brevard/4-h-and-youth/4-h-youth/#recordbooks>) or upon request from the UF/IFAS Extension Brevard County Office.
4. Record Books will be entered and judged by age divisions as stated.
5. Judging will be on a modified Danish System. All Junior, Intermediate, and Senior exhibitors will receive a Blue, Red, or White award. Ribbons will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each Jr., Int., and Sr. age division. Cloverbuds will receive a participation ribbon.
6. Junior, Intermediate, and Senior exhibitors will earn points toward Champion Exhibitor based on actual Record Book scores.

AWARDS: Record Books.....1st Place Ribbon in each age division
2nd Place Ribbon in each age division
3rd Place Ribbon in each age division

SHOWMANSHIP:

Friday, April 17, 2026, from approximately 1 PM – 5 PM

1. Exhibitors must sign up for Showmanship on the online registration form.
2. A schedule will be available prior to the fair for individuals to choose their time slots.
3. Exhibitors will demonstrate showmanship skills on an individual basis to a judge.
4. Judging will be on a modified Danish System. All Junior, Intermediate, and Senior exhibitors will receive a Blue, Red, or White Award. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons will be awarded to the top three Blue Ribbon winners in each of those three age divisions.
5. Cloverbuds will all receive a participation ribbon for their exhibition in the Showmanship contest.
6. Junior, Intermediate, and Senior exhibitors will earn points toward Champion Exhibitor based on actual Showmanship scores.

AWARDS: Rabbit/Cavy Showmanship (Jr., Int., Sr.).....1st Place Ribbon in each age division
2nd Place Ribbon in each age division
3rd Place Ribbon in each age division

SKILL-A-THON:

Thursday, April 16, 2026, from 3:30 PM– 7 PM

1. The Skill-a-Thon is open to any registered Rabbit/Cavy exhibitor, and all are encouraged to attend.
2. Exhibitors must sign up for Skill-a-Thon on the online entry form.
3. Any participant needing assistance with reading the questions must notify the Extension office in writing at least one week prior to the event.
4. The contest will be based on the 2026 Florida State Fair Youth Rabbit/Cavy Skill-a-thon information.
5. Age divisions will apply as stated.
6. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons will be awarded to the top three Blue Ribbon winners in each of those three age divisions. Cloverbuds will receive a participation ribbon.
7. Junior, Intermediate, and Senior exhibitors will earn points toward Champion Exhibitor as follows: based on actual Skill-a-Thon scores.

AWARDS: Skill-a-thon Contest..... 1st Place Ribbon in each age division
2nd Place Ribbon in each age division
3rd Place Ribbon in each age division

POSTER CONTEST:

Drop off Monday, April 13, 2026, by 6 PM

1. Open to any registered rabbit/cavy exhibitor.
2. Posters must be turned in by the above due date and time. Late posters will not be accepted.
3. Posters will be available for release upon the conclusion of the market poultry auction on Saturday, April 18, 2026.
4. Posters must have been made by the exhibitor.

5. Posters may relate to any educational subject relating to the rabbit/cavy industry.
6. Posters will be entered and judged by age divisions as stated.
7. Poster must follow guidelines as stated in the **Exhibits Rulebook** under **Exhibits: Animal Projects: Educational Posters**.
8. Failure to comply with any of the above rules will result in disqualification from the poster contest.
9. Judging will be on a modified Danish System. All Jr., Int., and Sr. exhibitors will receive a Blue, Red, or White award. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons will be awarded to the top three Blue Ribbon winners in each of those three age divisions. Cloverbuds will receive a participation ribbon.
10. Junior, Intermediate, and Senior exhibitors will earn points toward Champion Exhibitor based on actual Poster scores.

AWARDS: Rabbit/Cavy Poster.....1st Place Ribbon in each age division
 2nd Place Ribbon in each age division
 3rd Place Ribbon in each age division

RABBIT/CAVY PHOTO CONTEST:

Monday, April 13th, 2026, by 6 PM

1. Photo entries must be received during check-in on Monday, April 13, 2026, by 6 PM. No entries will be accepted after 6 PM on the date of check-in.
2. The entry must be the original work of the exhibitor. No entries are accepted in this contest from any club.
3. The photo must have been taken by the exhibitor.
4. Photos must follow guidelines as stated in the **Exhibits Rule Book** under **Exhibits: Animal Projects: Photography** for more information.
5. The photo entries must be Rabbit/Cavy related.
6. The 4-H Agent reserves the right to reject any entry not considered suitable, being too large, heavy, or small to be displayed properly, or being in non-compliance with these rules and regulations.
7. Photos will be entered and judged by age divisions as stated.
8. Judging will be on a modified Danish System. All Jr., Int., and Sr. exhibitors will receive a Blue, Red, or White award. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons will be awarded to the top three Blue Ribbon winners in each of those three age divisions. Cloverbuds will receive a participation ribbon.
9. Junior, Intermediate, and Senior exhibitors will be awarded points toward Champion Exhibitor based on actual Photo scores.

AWARDS: Rabbit/Cavy Photo Contest.....1st Place Ribbon in each age division
 2nd Place Ribbon in each age division
 3rd Place Ribbon in each age division

CHAMPION EXHIBITOR:

The Champion Exhibitor award is based on a premium point system, with the highest total score being the Champion. Point values for each category are stated below. Exhibitors are required to receive a minimum of 300 total points to be eligible for Champion Exhibitor. All points will be totaled.

Category	Max Points Awarded
Record Book	100 points
Showmanship	100 points
Skill-a-Thon	100 points
Rabbit/Cavy Poster	100 points
Photo Contest	<u>100 points</u>
	500 points total

PREMIUMS AND AWARDS: Champion ExhibitorRosette and \$75.00

Rabbit/Cavy Show Premiums and Awards

Blue Award	\$8.00
Red Award	\$6.00
White Award	\$4.00
<i>Best of Show</i>	<i>\$50.00 & Rosette</i>
<i>Reserve Best of Show</i>	<i>\$35.00 & Rosette</i>
<i>Champion Rabbit</i>	<i>\$20.00 & Rosette</i>
<i>Reserve Champion Rabbit</i>	<i>\$15.00 & Rosette</i>
<i>Champion Cavy</i>	<i>\$20.00 & Rosette</i>
<i>Reserve Cavy</i>	<i>\$15.00 & Rosette</i>
<i>Best of Breed</i>	<i>\$8.00 & Ribbon</i>
<i>Best Opposite</i>	<i>\$6.00 & Ribbon</i>