

Rabbit Raisers-Katy HS 2018-2019

Contact information
Mrs. Ashlee Laird
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Office Phone # 281-237-1797

Supplies:

- Feeder
- Waterer (bottle that attaches to cage)
- Cage (*please separate bunnies into their own space*)
- Heat lamp (if housing outside only)
- Scale (to weigh rabbits on) **MUST HAVE**
- Rabbit Feed

*** Each cage should have a feeder and waterer.***



Housing:

When deciding on the cage to build or purchase, I would first consider how much money you would like to invest. You can easily purchase 2 cages like the one below and be ok or you can build a wooden one. I will attach the plans for the wooden cage. It is solely up to you and your family. Either method works, if you think you will raise rabbits more than one year, I recommend the wooden cage.

- They need to be housed in a cage with a wire bottom (preferably coated to cover the metal so it won't rust), so the poop and urine cannot stand in the pen, this prevents color patches on their fur.
- They need to look pretty so stains are bad. Don't let them be in contact with rust, grass, etc.
- Cage needs to be well ventilated.
- There needs to be fresh water and feed everyday, **so anything leftover needs to be dumped.**
- Cages need to be off the ground and away from predators such as dogs.
- EACH RABBIT NEEDS IT OWNS CAGE. This improves your chances of being successful. You can better control feed, water, and health.



Rabbit Selection

- Selection starts on January 8, 2019 at 3:00 pm at LD Robinson Pavilion
- Bring something to carry your rabbits home in.
 - Small dog carrier, laundry basket, box

Rabbit Show

- Show starts on February 13th (Wednesday) at 4:00 pm.
You will only show 3 rabbits. I will have a selection day the Tuesday before (February 12th) the livestock show at Katy High School to help you select your top three rabbits, beginning at 3:00pm.
- Bring something to carry your rabbits home in again.
 - Small dog carrier, laundry basket, box
 - You will use this to bring your rabbits into the arena

Feeding:

- Let your rabbits eat as much as they want, if the feed bowl is empty when you get home from school, you aren't feeding enough. This is called "free feed." The first three weeks let them eat as much as they want.
- Once your rabbit reaches 4.5 lbs we will need to start adding in fillers. Rabbits cannot weigh less than 3lbs or more than 6 lbs to show.
- Good records are necessary. If you see that one is not gaining as much as the others or that one is gaining too much, you need to alert Mrs. Laird. Record the weights of your rabbits weekly your own sheet.
- Weight at least 1x a week for the first three weeks. During the 4th and 5th weeks, weigh at least two times a week. The scale needs to read pounds as well as ounces. A normal bathroom scale will not work. You should also weigh them at the SAME time of day every time you weigh them.
- **2 weeks before show, start adding barley and oats (like oatmeal from the grocery store) to their feed. This will help with hair quality and proper fat coverage.**
- The best feed you can buy is Purina or Blue Bonnet (but please check the expiration dates, DO NOT FEED OLD FOOD).
- Use a feed with a high protein content.
- **Make sure to get the Show Rabbit Food. Not pet rabbit food.**
- **Tri County Feed-**
- **Steinhauser's-** Off I-10 in Brookshire or in Sealy



Rabbit Checks:

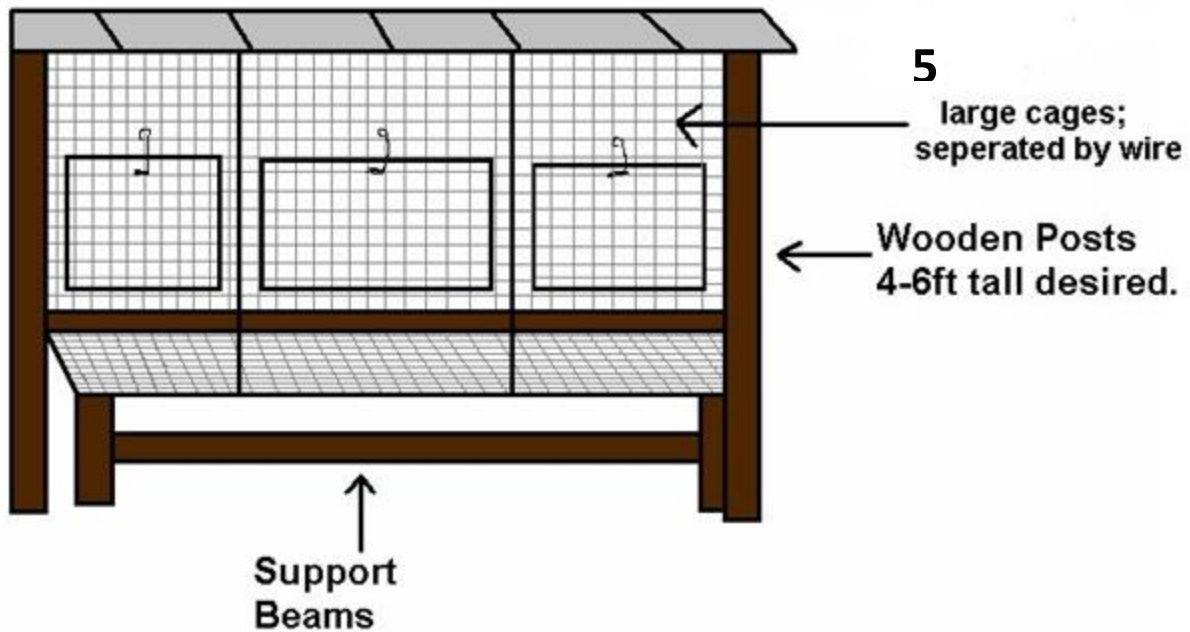
- I will have a signup sheet for a designated day that you bring your pen of rabbits to the school to be weighed and checked.
- This is essential to see what needs to be improved on before the show.
- At the January FFA meeting, there will be more info about this.
- I will help select your rabbits the Tuesday before livestock show. You will bring your rabbits up to the school and we will weight and evaluate them.
- Please don't hesitate to email or ask if you have any questions.

Common Problems:

- **Diarrhea:** try feeding oatmeal and timothy hay. If this does not work, please **contact me immediately**. A rabbit can die from dehydration as a result of diarrhea.
- **Goopy Eyes:** get clear eyes for horses at Tractor Supply. Use a cotton swab to clean around the eyes. This can also work for yellow spots on the fur



DO NOT ever pick them up by the scruff of their neck.



Cage sizes

*for small breeds-----30x24x18

*for medium breeds-----30x30x18

First of all, a hutch is a small unit of solid construction used for housing a few animals on a backyard scale. A hutch can be made of wood and chicken wire, but I prefer one inch by two inch wire for the walls, and then 1 inch by half inch wire for the floor. It is best to have the floor as high up off the ground as possible, this keeps the animal from walking in their own waste and keeps any predators away from them. The most important thing to remember, rabbits are very adaptable and can be raised in many types of hutches as long as they have ventilation and are easy to clean and keep them warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and dry when it rains. So you see, a hutch can be made of really anything.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO BUILD A HUTCH, PURCHASE THE CAGES BELOW, or something similar from Wal-Mart or Petsmart.



<http://www.martinscages.com/products/cages/rabbit/>