

Banks County 4-H

Hip Hop Club

Novice Rabbit Record Book

Name: _____

Grade: _____ Birthdate: ___/___/___ Project Year: _____

My rabbit's name is: _____

My rabbit is a: Doe Buck

Breed/variety: _____ Purebred Crossbred

Rabbit's age: _____ Birthdate: ___/___/___

Breeder: _____

Tattoo Number: _____

I completed this record book to the best of my abilities on _____.

Banks County 4-H'er

Parent/Guardian of 4-H'er

Introduction

Why be a Hip-Hop Club member?

Rabbits are a great animal project in 4-H because rabbits have a relatively low cost compared to traditional livestock projects, and do not require a large amount of living space due to their small size. You will not only gain knowledge about rabbits, but you will also have an opportunity to gain necessary life skills that come with caring for an animal.

What is the Rabbit Recordbook?

A record book is a document that helps you track of all your expenses, observations, goals, and notes taken during Hip Hop Club meetings.

What is required of me as a member of Hip Hop Club?

As an active member in Hip Hop Club you will be responsible for raising one rabbit during the duration of the program. In the coming months you will attend 6 meetings and learn about rabbit production and rabbit showmanship. **Remember to bring your record book to every meeting** because that is how you will fill in the Notes portion. Your participation also includes the Banks County 4-H Rabbit Show and the Northeast 4-H/FFA Rabbit Show.

What is rabbit showmanship?

You will learn how to properly handle your rabbit on the show table and answer basic rabbit production questions a judge will ask. You must handle your rabbit daily in order for it to be used to other people touching it. You must also let the rabbit exercise and brush its fur so that it will be in top condition.

Schedule

February 23th: Rabbit 101

March 12th: Handling and Behavior

March 19th: Anatomy

April 9th: Health

April 23rd: Showmanship

April 30th: Breed Varieties

May 5th: Review

May 14th: Turn in Rabbit Recordbooks!

May 16th: Banks County 4-H Rabbit Show; Homer, GA

Goals

It is important to set goals for yourself so that you can benchmark your progress. Try to think of some goals that you would like to accomplish with your rabbit and what you would like to learn throughout the program. At the end of the Record Book you will have a chance to reflect and see if you have accomplished your goals.

My first goal is: _____

How I will accomplish this goal: _____

My second goal is: _____

How I will accomplish this goal: _____

My third goal is: _____

How I will accomplish this goal: _____

Who will help me accomplish these goals?

What do I need to do in order to be successful?

Are my goals short term goals or long term goals? _____

I promise to do my best in order to accomplish these goals

4-Her Signiture

Date

I promise to help my child to the best of my abilities in accomplishing they goals that they have set for themselves.

Parent Signiture

Date

I have verified the goals set by the 4-Her and will encourage them to meet their goals.

4-H Staff Signiture

Date

Records

In this section of your Record Book you will track your expenses, keep inventory of your supplies, and record of any medical needs for your rabbit. This will help keep you organized and give you a better understanding of what costs are associated with raising a rabbit.

Starting Costs

Which package did you select to begin with?

<u>Package</u> (What is included)	<u>Cost</u>

Total	\$.
-------	------

Equipment and Supply Inventory

Here you will record any purchases you make for your rabbit. You also need to include items you may already have and their value.

<u>Item</u> Give a brief description of the item.	<u>Condition</u> Is this item new or old?	<u>Justification</u> If the item is new why did I need it?	<u>Value</u> How much did this item cost?
			\$.
			\$.
			\$.
			\$.

Total	\$.
-------	------

Feed Records

Here you will record feed purchases for your rabbit. This is important because you will be able to see how much it costs for you to feed your rabbit a day. Make sure you keep a label from one of your feed bags to include in your Record Book and record the nutritional information off of it.

<u>Type of Feed</u> Is this a pelleted feed, forage, minerals, salt, or treats?	<u>Nutritional Value</u> Is this feed high in protein, fiber, or minerals?	<u>Weight</u> How much does the feed weigh?	<u>Feeding</u> What is the recommended feeding for this product?	<u>Cost</u>
				\$.
				\$.
				\$.
				\$.
				\$.
				\$.
				\$.

Total	\$.
-------	------

What is in my rabbit feed?

Protein %: _____ Fiber %: _____ Vitamins: _____ Sodium %: _____

Who is the maker of my rabbit feed? _____

When was my rabbit feed milled? _____

Where do I buy my rabbit feed? _____

What is my rabbit's favorite food? _____

Here is where you tape your nutritional information from your bag of feed.

Health Records

Here is where you will record any medication you give to your rabbit.

<u>Medication</u>	<u>Reason</u> Why did you need to give medication?	<u>Dose</u> How much medicine did you give your rabbit?	<u>Lot Number</u> Record the lot number for the medication.	<u>Administered By</u> Who gave the medication to your rabbit?	<u>Date</u>	<u>Cost</u>
						\$.
						\$.
						\$.

Total	\$.
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The chance of your rabbit becoming sick is very unlikely. Rabbits are typically an animal that have very low health costs. Do not worry if you leave this part blank, it only means you did a great job raising your rabbit and they are very healthy!

Rabbit Care and Management

In the following section you will record how you take care of your rabbit. You will need to determine what your rabbit needs on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. You will also record your daily observations and keep record of what you do with your rabbit.

What I do daily for my rabbit:

What I do weekly for my rabbit:

What I do monthly for my rabbit:

Observations and Activity Log

<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Rabbit Observation</u> How is your rabbit acting today?	<u>Handling</u> What did you do with your rabbit?	<u>Duration</u> How long did you work with your rabbit?

Meeting 1 – You will learn how **properly handle** your rabbit and learn about their **behavior**.

Handling

- ❖ The two most important things to ensure when picking up a rabbit is _____ and _____.
- ❖ What body parts are not used when picking up your rabbit:
 -
 -
 -
- ❖ You put one hand under your rabbit's _____ and your other hand under your rabbit's _____.
- ❖ How firm should your grip be holding your rabbit?
- ❖ What kind of hold are we going to use when showing?
 - Explain how that rabbit is positioned in your arms:
 - Why is this hold preferred?
- ❖ How do you put your rabbit down when you are done holding it?
- ❖ When you pick your rabbit up out of a cage what should you be careful of?
- ❖ How will you have your rabbit positioned on the table for a judge?
- ❖ How do you turn your rabbit around when you are showing it on the table?
- ❖ You will have to flip your rabbit over to examine its belly for two reasons:
 -
 -
- ❖ Describe the steps to properly flip your rabbit over.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

❖ What positions will you need to have your rabbit do for showmanship?

1.

2.

3.

4.

❖ Draw a picture of how you want your rabbit to look at a show:

❖ What else has this shape?

❖ How do you need to work with your rabbit so they will get in this position?

❖ How often do you need to handle your rabbit?

Additional Notes on Handling:

Behavior

Just like with humans, rabbits have a way of communicating with each other and with you. Being able to understand their language is very important because you will then know what your rabbit needs; whether it might be excitement for a treat or a signal that something might be wrong. Different body parts and sounds mean messages and here you will learn how to better understand your rabbit.

Ears

Behavior	Ear Position	Illustration
Alert Something has caught your rabbit's attention and they are checking it out.		
Angry Stay Away!		
Interested The rabbit is only half paying attention to the activity.		
Relaxed Your rabbit feels safe.		

Have you seen your rabbit's ears in any of these positions?

Mouth

Behavior	Reason
Licking	
Biting	
Teeth Grinding	Good: Bad:

Body

Behavior	Description
Binkyng	
Chinning	
Circling	
Dancing	
Flopping	
Lunging	
Parascoping	
Thumping	

Noises

Sound	Reason
Buzzing/Honking	
Growling	
Screaming	

What noises has your rabbit made this week?

Why do you think they made that noise?

Has your rabbit had any unusual behavior this week?

Does your rabbit do anything that makes you laugh?

Notes:

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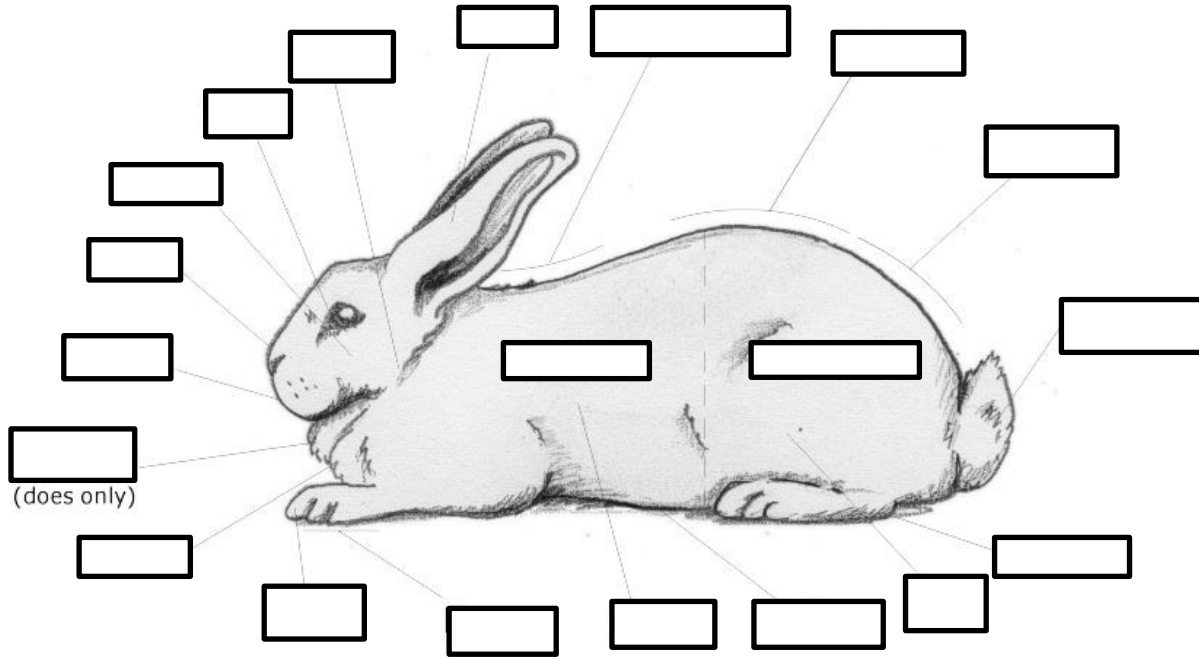
Date Completed: _____

4-Her's Signature:

4-H Leader Signature:

Meeting 2- You will learn about the **anatomy** of a rabbit and why rabbits are bred for different purposes.

Label the parts of the rabbit.



YOU WILL BE ASKED TO IDENTIFY SOME OF THESE PARTS IN SHOWMANSHIP!

Rabbits can be used for three purposes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What characteristics does a rabbit have that is intended for meat?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Is your rabbit a meat rabbit? _____ Yes _____ No

How is fiber used from a rabbit?

- 1.
- 2.

Is your rabbit a fiber rabbit? _____ Yes _____ No

Rabbits are also categorized by their body shape. In this chart you will draw a picture of the different body shapes and decide what purpose that rabbit might be for.

Type	Illustration	Description
Commercial		
Compact		
Cylindrical		
Fully Arched		
Semi Arched		

Notes:

Rabbits have fur, but there are different six different types of fur categories.

1. _____

This is used for:

It feels like:

2. _____

This is used for:

It feels like:

3. _____

Characteristics:

4. _____

Characteristics:

5. _____

Characteristics:

6. _____ only the _____ has this type.

Characteristics:

What kind of fur does your rabbit have?

Do you brush your rabbit?

Why would it be important to brush your rabbit's fur?

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4-Her's Signature:

4-H Leader Signature:

Meeting 3 – This meeting will be about **rabbit health**. We will discuss different parts of the rabbit’s body and what health concerns might occur.

For the most part rabbits are a very healthy animal with low concerns, but sometimes rabbits can become sick. The earlier you can detect signs that your rabbit is not feeling well the better.

Visual signs of a rabbit becoming ill may be:

- 1.) _____
- 2.) _____
- 3.) _____
- 4.) _____

When handling your rabbit, it is very easy to just do a physical check of your rabbit to make sure that everything looks normal. Next we will go through different parts of the body and discuss different health issues that might affect that body part.

The Ears

Symptoms	Term	Problem	Solution	Prevention
	<i>Ear Mange (Ear Canker)</i>			

The Eyes

Symptoms	Term	Problem	Solution	Prevention
	<i>Conjunctivitis</i> <i>("Pink Eye")</i>			
	<i>Runny Eye</i>			

Mouth

Symptoms	Term	Problem	Solution	Prevention
	<i>Malocclusion</i>			

Legs

Symptoms	Term	Problem	Solution	Prevention
	<i>Sore Hock</i>			

Body

Symptoms	Term	Problem	Solution	Prevention
	<i>Abscess</i>			

Stomach

Symptoms	Term	Problem	Solution	Prevention
	<i>Bloat</i>			

	<i>Hairball "Wool Block"</i>			
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Additional Notes:

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Date Completed: _____

4-Her's Signature:

4-H Leader Signature:

Meeting 4 – For this meeting we will be discussing **showmanship**. You will learn how to present your rabbit in front of a judge and how a rabbit show works.

In a traditional rabbit show, the rabbits are judged on how well they meet the standard of their breed. For our rabbit show we will be focusing on showmanship – which is how well **YOU** present the rabbit to the judge.

Rabbit showmanship is judged on how well you conduct a health evaluation of the rabbit. You will need to go over different parts of the rabbit and discuss how healthy your rabbit is. We will be learning those steps today!

Before you begin your showmanship class, remember to:

1. HAVE FUN!
2. Wear appropriate clothing. Suggested attire is a button down shirt and jeans and close toed shoes.
3. Know that your rabbit might act differently at the show, so do not worry if your rabbit is having a bad day. Just remain calm and keep smiling.

Now we will go over the steps in rabbit showmanship. Be sure to **practice at home** so you will become an expert!

Step 1 – Walking to the _____

- The rabbit needs to be in the _____ Hold and be supported with the same arm.

Step 2 – Beginning the _____

- Pose the rabbit so the _____ is facing the judge.
- This is where you tell the judge:
 - Your Name:
 - Rabbit Breed:
 - Rabbit's Age:
 - Is your rabbit a buck or doe:
 - What variety is your rabbit:
- You may also talk about the history of your rabbit's breed.

Step 3 – The _____ Side

- After your introduction, position the rabbit so the _____ side is facing the judge.
- Here you will discuss:
 - The _____ ear – check for mites or a _____ number (**Only the _____ ear will have a tattoo**)
 - The _____ eye – check for scratches or cloudiness
 - The _____ side – point out any good or bad points

Step 4 – The _____ of the Rabbit

- The rabbit needs to be positioned so the _____ is facing you and the _____ is facing the judge.
- You need to talk about:
 - Your rabbit's _____ and how well the rabbit meets that standard.
 - Your rabbit's type is _____
 - Make sure that everything is straight and nothing feels abnormal.

Step 5 – The _____ Side

- Now the rabbit's _____ side should be facing the judge.
- You will go over:
 - The _____ ear – check for mites
 - The _____ eye – check for scratches or cloudiness
 - The _____ side – point out any good or bad points

Step 6 – _____ the rabbit over

1. Place _____ hand on the _____ of the animal.
 2. Place _____ hand so thumb is under the rabbits jaw and the ears slide through the first or second fingers
 3. GENTLY and SLOWLY roll the rabbit over
- Make sure that you keep that rabbits head immobilized-this will keep that rabbit still.

Note: Steps 7 through 12 are completed while the rabbit is flipped over!

Step 7 – Checking the _____, _____ and, _____.

- _____ – check to see if the color is right, or if the eyes are different colors.
- _____ – check to make sure there is no nasal discharge.
- _____ – look for malocclusion by using your free hand to push up the rabbit's lips.

Step 8 – The _____ and Abdomen

- Run your hand over the entire bottom of the rabbit and check for lumps, abscesses or any other abnormalities.

Step 9 – The _____ Legs

- The hind legs need to be straight and the _____ should all be the same color.
 - With your free hand extend first the left then the right hind leg checking for anything abnormal.

Step 10 – The _____ Legs

- Look for the same things that you did with the hind legs.

Step 11 – Check to see if the rabbit is a _____ or a _____.

Step 12 – Checking the _____.

- Note if the tail is straight or crooked.
- After this step you can gently roll the rabbit back over.

Flip the rabbit back over

Step 13 – _____ and _____

- Have the rabbit posed with **either** the left or right side facing the judge.
- Discuss your rabbit's conformation and how it matches the type.
- Identify _____ type:
 - Do this by slowly stroking the fur in the opposite direction.

Step 14 – _____

- Keep your rabbit posed and ask the judge if they have any questions.
 - Here is where they will ask you questions we have discussed in this record book!!!

Step 15 – Finishing the Presentation

- After you are done with the questions section
 - Pick the rabbit up in the "_____"
 - _____ the judge's hand and _____ them for judging you.

THEN YOU ARE DONE!!!!

Notes:

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4-Her's Signature:

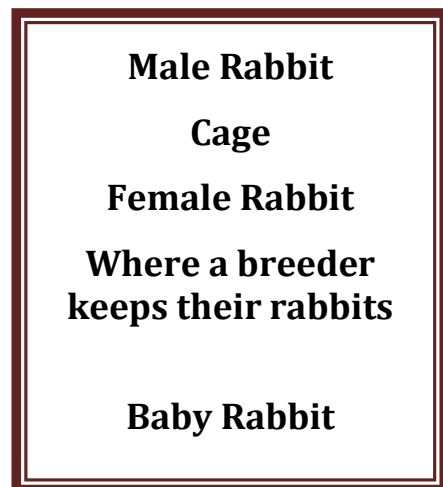
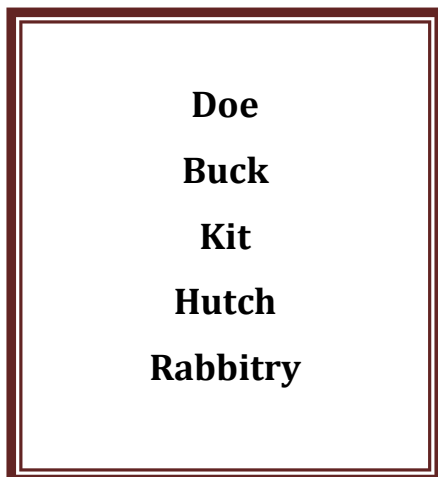
4-H Leader Signature:

Meeting 5-You will learn about different **breeds** of rabbits and better understand the **reproduction** of rabbits.

- Rabbits were originally wild animals, but now they are considered a _____ animal.
- It is said that rabbits were first domesticated by monks in the ____ century.
- The monks used the rabbits for _____, but soon realized that by _____ they could breed for certain traits like _____ and _____.
- Rabbits continued to be valued for their meat and fur, but in the _____ era in the 19th century many new “fancy” breeds were developed for _____.
- Many breeds became popular and breeders formed _____ in order to protect the breed standards.
- Today rabbits are kept for _____, _____, and _____. Now YOU are part of rabbit history!




Match the following terms



Rabbit





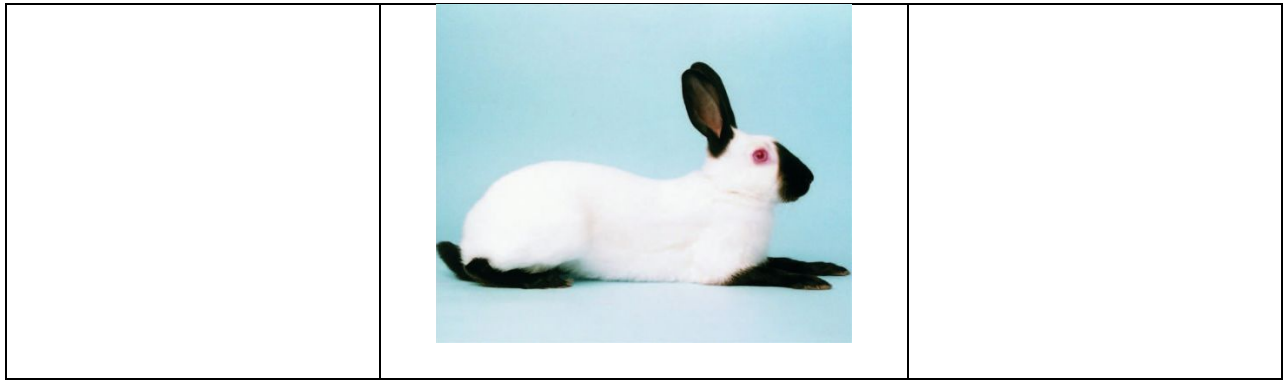
- It takes _____ days for a baby rabbit to be born.
- Rabbits are born together are called a _____.
- Typically, a rabbit can have between _____ and _____ kits.

Different Breeds of Rabbit

Breed	Picture	Purpose/History
		
		
		



Notes:

REMEMBER TO HAVE THIS SECTION SIGNED BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Date Completed: _____

4-Her's Signature:

4-H Leader Signature

Meeting 6 – This week we will **review** the material from our previous meetings. **These are potential showmanship questions!**

Behavior

What kind of hold do you have when walking to the show table with your rabbit?

What are the different views the judge will have of your rabbit?

Draw a picture of how your rabbit should look in a side pose:

How do rabbits hold their ears when:

- Alert -
- Relaxed -
- Angry –

Rabbits will sometimes grind their teeth for good or bad reasons.
What is a good reason?

What is a bad reason?

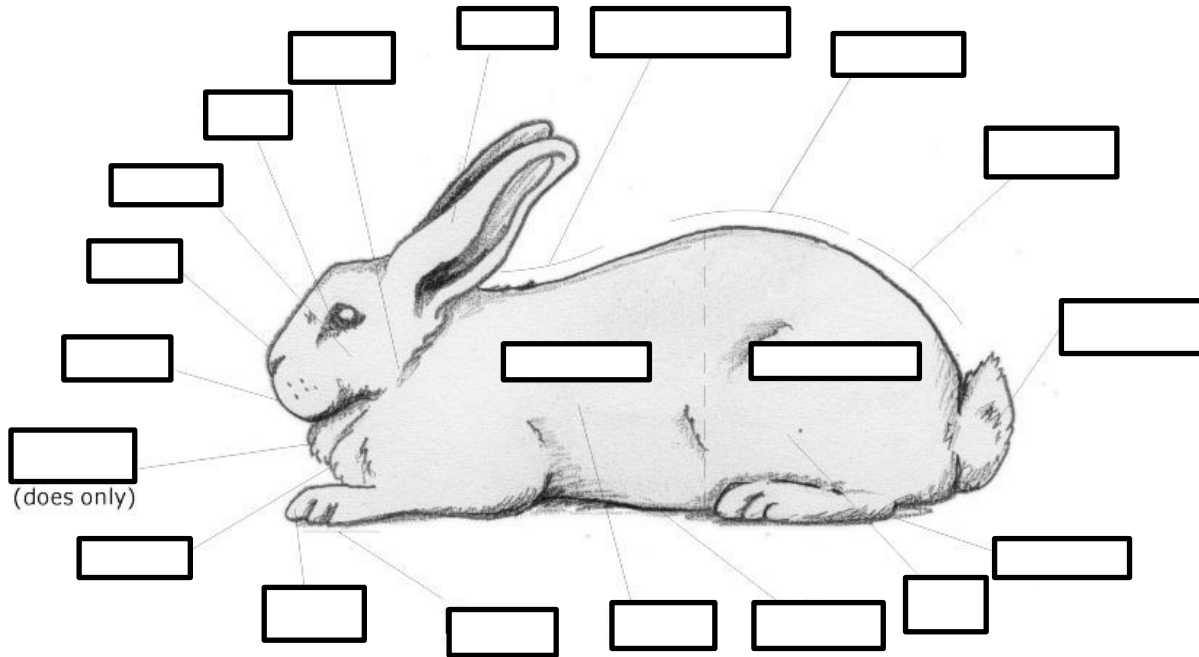
What is “binkying”?

What is “parascoping”?

What is “thumping”?

Why might a rabbit “honk” or “buzz”?

Anatomy



Three purposes rabbits can be used for:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Your rabbit type is _____.

Draw a picture of your rabbit's body shape:

What type of fur does your rabbit have?

How can you tell?

Terminology & Breeds

Rabbits can either be _____ or _____

What is a doe?

What is a buck?

A baby rabbit is called a _____.

A breeder of rabbits keeps their rabbits in a _____.

How many days does it take for a baby rabbit to be born?

Name two meat type rabbits:

Name two rare rabbit breeds:

Name two breeds of rabbit you like:

What breed of rabbit is used for fiber?

Health

What is ear mange?

How do you treat it?

How can you prevent ear mange?

What is malocclusion?

How do you treat it?

How can you prevent malocclusion?

What happens when your rabbit has “wool block”?

What is an abscess?

How do you treat it?

How can you prevent abscesses?

What is “sore hock”?

What can you do to prevent “sore hock”?

How do you treat it?

NOW WE PRACTICE THE SHOWMANSHIP PRESENTATION!!!

Notes:

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Date Completed: _____

4-Her's Signature:

4-H Leader Signature:

Summary

This is the final section of your rabbit record book! Here you will reflect over the past few months and record a summary of your rabbit project.

Expense Report- One goal of the Hip-Hop Club is to teach you budgeting and money management skills. The following chart will help you evaluate the financial status of your project.

Income	
Miscellaneous Income	\$.
Total Income	\$.
Expenses	
Starting Expenses (Pg. 4)	\$.
Equipment Expenses (Pg. 4)	\$.
Feed Expenses (Pg. 5)	\$.
Health Expenses (Pg. 6)	\$.
Total Expenses	\$.
Financial Summary (Total Income – Total Expenses)	Profit / Loss (Circle One)

Was the cost of raising your rabbit what you expected?

Were there any expenses that were more than you thought they would be?

Goals – At the beginning of the program you set three goals; here you will reflect on those goals and see if you accomplished them.

Goal 1

- What was your goal?

- Do you think you accomplished your goal?

- Did you have any help accomplishing your goal?

Goal 2

- What was your goal?

- Do you think you accomplished your goal?

- Did you have any help accomplishing your goal?

Goal 3

- What was your goal?

- Do you think you accomplished your goal?

- Did you have any help accomplishing your goal?

Reflection

Why did you join the Hip-Hop Club?

Do you think you were successful in the Hip-Hop Club?

What do you think is the most interesting thing you learned about rabbits?

How do you think raising a rabbit might help you in school?

What did you learn from your rabbit?

Did your rabbit do anything that you thought was weird?

Are you ready for the Banks County 4-H Rabbit Show?

If you want to include pictures of you and your rabbit please use the front and back of this page.

Evaluation – Please fill out this evaluation and turn it in separately from your record book. We hope that you have enjoyed being in the Hip-Hop Club and have learned a lot about rabbits!

1. Your overall experience with Hip-Hop Club.

Awesome Good Neutral Bad Horrible

2. Do you think the classes helped increase your knowledge about rabbits?

Yes No Not Sure

3. Which class did you like the most?

4. Which class did you like the least?

5. Did completing the Rabbit Record Book help you better understand how to raise a rabbit?

Yes No Not Sure

6. Do you think you better understand record keeping after the Hip-Hop Club?

Yes No Not Sure

7. Would you raise another rabbit with the Hip-Hop Club in the fall?

Yes No Not Sure

8. Was there anything you would change about the Hip-Hop Club?

9. Do you want to become more involved with Banks County 4-H and participate in more programs?

Yes No Not Sure

Additional Comments: _____

