



MANATEE COUNTY FAIR 2023
Rabbits

FAIR LIVESTOCK DIRECTOR: Jim Parks/Danielle Carothers
AREA SUPERINTENDENT: Sue McGonegal

Mandatory On-line registration will be from 9:00am, October 22 - 28, 2022, 12am midnight.

MANDATORY Meeting/Check in Saturday, October 22, 2022, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Cook/Powell Arena. FFA advisors & 4-H club leaders, with chapter animals, must attend the mandatory meeting. All rabbits, except for meat pen rabbits(s), Exhibitor, and a Parent or Legal Guardian must be present at the meeting & turn in or complete the following

- Health affidavit and breeder's information
- Inspection and class identification of animals
- **Sign up for Meat pens and sign sales contracts**
- Notarized MCF Liability/Photo release will be completed and turned in.

A complete registration includes the following for all Exhibitors

- (1) **Online registration at [Youth Ag Exhibits \(manateecountyfair.com\)](http://manateecountyfair.com) then click on ShoWorks On-Line Registration/Purchase Passes completed by **Oct 28, 2022****
- (2) **Mandatory Animal Check in: October 22, 2022, any time between 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**
Exhibitor, Parent, - or legal Guardian, & Rabbits must be present a Notarized MRFA Exhibitor Liability/Photo release form. and sales contract if applicable will be completed and Health affidavit and breeder's form turned in.

Failure to complete the on-line registration and check in, will result in disqualification.

SCHEDULE

Mandatory Meeting/Check-in	Saturday, October 22, 2022 (9am to 1pm) Cook/Powell Arena
On-line Registration	October 22 - 28, 2022 , 12am midnight Youth Ag Exhibits (manateecountyfair.com) then click ShoWorks On-Line Registration/Purchase passes.
FFA/4-H Clubs:	Animal Exhibitors need to be named/assigned by December 1, 2022 on the Exhibitor Appointment form and emailed to vquattlebaum@manateecountyfair.com
Exhibitor Passes	Purchase by Oct 28 th 12am midnight Youth Ag Exhibits (manateecountyfair.com) then click ShoWorks On-Line Registration/Purchase passes.
Fair Arrival Check-In:	Wednesday January 11, 2023, 2-6pm-- Cook/Powell Arena
Rabbit Show:	Thursday January 12, 2023, 6pm-----Cook/Powell Arena
Rabbit Showmanship:	Friday January 13, 2023, 6pm-----Cook/Powell Arena
Livestock Judging	Saturday January 14, 2023, Registration 7:30am Start 8:00am
Meat Pen Auction:	Saturday January 14, 2023, following the Steer Sale Mosaic Arena
Rabbit Check-out:	Saturday January 14, 2023, 8pm
Livestock Judging	Saturday January 21, 2023, Registration 7:30am Start at 8:00am
Awards Ceremony	Saturday January 21, 2023, 7:30 PM,-----Mosaic Arena

RABBIT RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All exhibitors must be a *bona fide* member of a Manatee County 4-H Club or FFA Chapter, which is related to your project. No one who has graduated from High School will be eligible to show.
2. All Exhibitors at the Manatee County Fair must have completed one class of ethics If the Exhibitor shows anywhere besides Manatee County Fair, they may need retake the class every 3 years. **Manatee County will offer an Ethics Training Class on Saturday, October 29, 2022. Exhibitors are not required to take the class in Manatee County, as the training is sponsored by the Florida State Fair. Classes are offered throughout the state.** Exhibitors will be required to sign up for the class at the following site when it is available. <https://floridastatefair.com/ag/exhibitor-ethics/> **All ethics numbers must be turned in no later than December 1st to be eligible to show. All ethic numbers need be submitted to vquattlebaum@manateecountyfair.com.**
3. No exhibition of a rabbit by anyone less than 8 years of age (as of September 1, 2022) will be allowed. Exhibitor age as of September 1, 2022, will determine the class of showmanship in which the exhibitor will show. (Juniors ages 8-10, Intermediates ages 11-13, Seniors ages 14 and up.)
4. At Final check-in, Exhibitor and animal must be together for animal to be checked in. **A parent or legal guardian must be present to complete all required documentation, sale pens will need**

sales contract. The Manatee River Fair Board encourages parents to be involved in their child's 4-H and FFA Projects.

5. ** Exhibitors are not allowed to change animals after the initial check-in.**
6. There will be a **\$5.00 entry** fee for Rabbits and **\$10.00 for rabbit sale pen** entries at the time of your **online registration**. These funds will be used to cover a portion of the cost.
7. Exhibitors must be in good standing with their respective clubs to exhibit at the Manatee County Fair. All exhibitors will show in the 4-H Club or FFA Chapter in which they registered their animal at their respective check-in event.
8. Chapter animals (4-H and FFA Clubs) must designate the exhibitor by December 1, 2022 using the Club/Chapter Declaration form and emailed to vquattlebaum@manateecountyfair.com
9. Liability: Each exhibitor must assume all liability in case of death or injury to his or her animal until removed from the Fairgrounds property, In the case of sale pens it becomes the liability of the buyer once it leaves the Fairground property.
10. Food and Drink are not allowed in the animal areas.
11. Exhibitors must be in their official Dress. FFA members must show in Official Dress and 4-H members are required to wear white long sleeve button down dress shirts, black pants (No Denim Blue Jeans!) during the shows and sale. On Rabbit Show day exhibitor may wear club or fair t-shirt in place of long sleeve white shirt. No hats allowed during the show and sale.
12. No Substitute exhibitors are allowed unless there are extreme reasons and granted permission by the Manatee County Fair Livestock Committee.
13. All Exhibitors participating in their respective showmanship areas must utilize only the animal that was registered under their name.
14. All record books must be up to date and checked in to the designated committee at time of final check-in at the Fair. An up-to-date record book is required, if you have a sale pen it **needs to include a copy of three (3) of the letters that were written to prospective buyers with their names and addresses**, to be eligible to show in the Manatee County Fair. A committee appointed by the Livestock Committee will check record books at final check-in. EACH exhibitor showing a club or chapter animal must submit a care and feed guide, even if the animal is shared by several exhibitors.
15. All livestock must follow Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) State Health Guidelines and must be transported to the Manatee County Fair in accordance with those guidelines.
16. On-site inspections of any livestock may be made by authorized agents of the Manatee River Fair Association at any time, after first check-in or before Fair.

17. Use of drugs not in compliance with manufacturer's label as to dosage, time limitations and show regulations is prohibited. The use of any calming agent on animals during the Fair or the possession of same by an Exhibitor (4-H or FFA member) or anyone assisting said member with his or her animal is prohibited. Violation of this provision shall disqualify the animal from competition and any awards or premiums, including sale price of animal, shall be forfeited. If medical treatment is deemed necessary, the exhibitor or parent must notify the Rabbit Livestock Director and/or Barn Superintendent, prior to administering treatment to the animal in any way. See rule #19
18. All animals are subject to being examined and urine or blood tested for any drug usage at any time. Refusal by the Exhibitor (4-H or FFA member) to submit their animal to such examination or test will result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of all premiums, awards and including sale proceeds. See rule #19
19. Upon disqualification, pursuant to Paragraphs No. 17 and 18 the affected animal shall immediately be removed from the Fairgrounds. **Disqualification may result in forfeiture of premiums, awards, add-on's and including sale proceeds.**
20. **Any graphics or** wording in the barn or displayed on the panels deemed inappropriate by the Livestock Committee will be removed.
21. No rabbits under 3 months of age at time of application, except for Rabbit Meat Pen entries.
22. All entries must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor or have been in foster care of the exhibitor for at least 90 days prior to day of showing, proven by certificate showing Proof of Ownership, or Proof of Foster Care by Exhibitor affidavit, with appropriate signatures releasing the care of the animal and continuing supervision for the duration of project by both owner of animal and 4-H/FFA Club leader.
23. Each exhibitor will be limited to a **maximum of Five (5)** rabbit entries per person. 4-H Club or FFA Chapter. **Only youth can bring rabbit to the Judge's table.** One entry is one buck, one doe, or one meat pen entry (3 rabbits of same breed and variety) of any breed. However, if after registration, it is determined there is not enough space, the maximum number of rabbits that each exhibitor can show may be reduced.
24. **CARE OF ANIMALS:** Animals are to be fed and watered by exhibitor upon arrival. Each exhibitor will be responsible for feeding his or her own rabbits and cleaning cages daily. **Failure to feed & water your rabbits daily will result in the loss of premium monies and awards.**
25. **HANDLING OF EXHIBITS:** Only those persons authorized by show officials or the owner may handle rabbits without written permission from the owner unless the owner is present.
26. **RELEASE OF AMIMALS:** All rabbits will be released on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 8pm.
27. **MANDATORY CLEAN-UP:** Clean up and change over starts at 8:00 PM, January 14, 2023. Any exhibitor failing to help with the clean-up will forfeit all prize and premium monies.

28. All rabbits will be accepted at the Fair on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 2:00-6:00 PM. No does with litters, or pregnant does of more than (2) weeks will be accepted. Does showing signs of pregnancy will be palpated.
29. **Any individual rabbit or meat pen that is obviously a crossbreed which does not conform to a breed standard will not be accepted**
30. AT CHECK-IN, AND DURING FAIR, ANY ANIMAL FOUND TO BE ILL, DISEASED OR INSECT INFESTED WILL BE REMOVED AND SENT HOME IMMEDIATELY
31. Judging will be by the Danish System. Rabbits will be shown by each breed, then by varieties within each breed, in the following order: Senior Bucks, Senior Does, (when applicable) Intermediate Bucks, (when applicable) Intermediate Does, Junior Bucks, Junior Does. Meat Pen entries will be judged at judge's preference. **It is the exhibitor's responsibility to move their rabbit to the judging table and back to its cage after judging. If you are not there, you must have a designated replacement arranged beforehand to move your rabbit(s).**
- Trophies for Rabbit judging will be presented for each of the following: Best in Show, 1st Reserve, and 2nd Reserve.
32. The following classes will apply to the Rabbit Show:
- CLASS 4 – Senior Buck (age of rabbit DAY OF SHOW – 6 months or older)
 - CLASS 4 – Senior Doe (age of rabbit DAY OF SHOW – 6 months or older)
 - CLASS 4 – Junior Buck (age of rabbit DAY OF SHOW – 6 months or younger)
 - CLASS 4 – Junior Doe (age of rabbit DAY OF SHOW – 6 months or younger)

 - CLASS 6 – Senior Buck (age of rabbit DAY OF SHOW – 8 months or older)
 - CLASS 6 – Senior Doe (age of rabbit DAY OF SHOW – 8 months or older)
 - CLASS 6 – Junior Buck (age of rabbit DAY OF SHOW – 6 months or younger)
 - CLASS 6 – Junior Doe (age of rabbit DAY OF SHOW – 6 months or younger)
33. Rabbit Showmanship: Rabbit Showmanship is not mandatory. At Rabbit Check-In, a sign-up sheet will be available to reserve your approximate time to make your Showmanship presentation. Rabbits shown in the following classes: (Age of Exhibitor on September 1, 2022, Senior 14-18 yrs., Intermediate 11-13 yrs., and Junior 8-10 yrs.) Trophies will be presented for 1st Place in Showmanship for each age division of the Exhibitor. Rosettes will be presented to 2nd and 3rd place winners for Showmanship for each age division. (Senior, Intermediate and Juniors). A trophy will be presented for the Best Meat Pen. This is judged on Thursday during rabbit judging and not Friday during showmanship.
34. **Rabbits will enter the fairgrounds at Gate 1 on the corner of 17th St. and 14th Ave or walk in through gate 9.** Vehicles blocking Gate 1 or 9 will be towed at the owner's expense. There will be no parking along the west end of the arena at any time! Violators will have their vehicles towed at the owner's expense.

35. The Livestock Committee and Area Superintendent reserves the right to refuse entry for health or appearance reasons if the entry does not comply with the rules and regulations of the Rabbit Show. **All rabbits will be judged on soundness, evidence of care, freedom from dirt, disease and parasites.**
36. The Manatee County Fair will not be responsible for loss by accidents, fire, theft, escape or providential destruction. All possible care will be taken in receiving, cooping, feeding, caring for and returning animals.
37. Failure to follow the above rules or the general rules of the Manatee River Fair Association Youth Livestock Show will result in disciplinary action up to expulsion from the barn, disqualification from the show, removal from the sale and possible loss of premiums or awards.
38. premium money must be picked up within 90 days of the end of the fair or it will be forfeited.
39. ***Final Interpretation of these rules will be vested in the Manatee River Fair Board Livestock Committee.***

Meat Pen Rabbit Rules and Sale

- At Final check-in, Exhibitor and rabbit sale pen must be together in order for animals to be checked in.
- If any exhibitor wishes to sell a steer or swine, they may also sell ONE meat pen of EITHER rabbits, poultry, or laying hen. If any exhibitor does not have a steer or swine to raise and sell, they may sell a maximum of Two (2) pens but not the same group one (1) Poultry meat pen, one (1) Poultry laying pen or one (1) Rabbit meat pen. Each exhibitor must write a minimum of three (3) letters to prospective buyers for each pen intended for sale. Copies of these must be turned with your record book at the final check-in.
- **It is up to each individual exhibitor to locate or breed their own meat pen rabbits.** The Manatee County Fair does not provide rabbits for exhibitors or give refunds if you were unable to locate rabbits.
- Some of the more common meat pen rabbits include: New Zealand, Florida White, American chinchilla, Flemish giants, Silver Fox, Champagne d'Argente Californian.....
- Any meat pen project must have exhibitor in possession of brood animal at least 100 days prior to day of showing. The maximum age of a meat rabbit allowed is 70 days.

- Each rabbit must weigh a minimum of 3.5 pounds and a maximum of 5 pounds by the final fair check in on January 11, 2023
- Pens: At final fair check in One pen that consists of 3 rabbits on January 11, 2023, 2-6pm Powell Bldg.
- Each Meat Rabbit must be tattooed so it may be identified. We will not be having a tattoo date. It is the meat pen exhibitor's responsibility to have the pen tattooed by check in date of Jan. 11, 2023.

SALE FOR MEAT PENS

- a. **The Auction for Meat pens will be held on January 14, 2023, after the steer sale.**
- b. All Exhibitors of sale animals **must be present at the rabbit barn to move your animal to Mosaic Arena for the auction and to be present during the sale.** A sale order will be determined prior to the sale. Anyone who is late for their entry's sale will be moved to the end of sale. Failure to show up will result in a no sale and the participant will be required to take the rabbits back. A signed sales agreement provided by the Manatee River Fair Association, Inc. will be required, or the entry will not be presented for auction. Pictures of buyers and sellers will be taken at the auction.
- c. All Exhibitors are responsible for recruiting their own buyers. Exhibitors must complete a Record Book and copies of three (3) buyer's letters in the Record Book.
- d. **Exhibitors must ensure meat is delivered to their buyer.**
- e. Exhibitors with saleable animals must have the buyer or buyers representative sign the Buyer's verification card, present buyer with a thank you card and plaque if applicable. It is strongly suggested as a thank you that you give a gift or a gift basket when you get your Buyer's verification card signed by the Buyer or their representative. The signed verification card must be turned into the Fair office to pick up your sales check prior to July 1st, to be eligible to exhibit a project at the next Manatee County Fair. Sales proceeds will not be distributed until payment is received from Buyer(s).
- f. The Manatee River Fair Association will only handle add-ons totaling \$25.00 or more. **Add-On form can be printed from Manatee County Fair's website** [\(\[manateecountyfair.com\]\(http://manateecountyfair.com\)\)](http://manateecountyfair.com) under Livestock Records.

Add-ons must be received by February 15, 2023. Add-On checks will be mailed after April 1, 2023, after each exhibitor's add-on monies are received by the fair office.

- g. Saleable animals including Steers, Swine, Beef Breeding, Rabbit and Poultry Layer or Meat Pens will have six percent (6%) of each exhibitor's sale price and any add-ons deducted by the Fair Association to help defray expenses.

Exhibitor and Parent Security Passes

Exhibitors will be required to make a one-time purchase of a \$25 Security Entrance Pass that will give unlimited access to the fair for the entire run of the Fair. Families will be allowed to purchase (4) additional Security Entrance Passes at \$25 each which also gives unlimited access to the fair.

Passes need to be purchased when you register your animal online at [Youth Ag Exhibits \(manateecountyfair.com\)](https://www.manateecountyfair.com) then click on ShoWorks On-Line Registration/Purchase Passes.

Last day to purchase passes is October 28, 2022.

If not purchased by October 28, 2022, the cost will be \$30 each with same limits as above.

****THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS ON PASSES****

Animal Pick-up/Drop-off & Parking

Any Vehicle without proper parking pass or in an unauthorized area will be towed at owners' expense

1. **Vehicles blocking Gate 1 or 9** will be towed at the owner's expense.
2. Exhibitors may use Gate 9 in the morning before 9AM when coming to feed and water animals.
3. **There will be no parking along the south end of the arena or around Cook Arena at any time!**
4. Essentials may be dropped off and then vehicles will proceed to the livestock parking area. Violators will have their vehicles towed at the owner's expense.

Areas around the arena are for drop-off and pick-up only.

Manatee County Fair Website

Rule books and record books are posted and may be printed from [\(manateecountyfair.com\)](https://www.manateecountyfair.com)

Please check the web page periodically to see if there are any updates that pertain to your livestock area. Registration paperwork for all animal areas is located on the Fair website

QUESTIONS

If you have a question about your entry into the Manatee County Fair, please follow the chain-of-command as listed below:

1st – Contact your **CLUB LEADER**; if they are unable to answer your question, then

2nd – Contact AREA **SUPERINTENDENT –Rabbits, Sue McGonegal** (941) 812-5425
and if she is unable to answer your question,

3rd – Contact the **FAIR LIVESTOCK DIRECTOR – Rabbits, Jim Parks** (941) 713-2858
Danielle Carothers (941) 592-5525