

MARKET RABBIT DIVISION

JUDGE – George Krejci (-)

ENTRY DEADLINE – January 15, 2024

ENTRY FEE - \$20 per exhibitor

DELIVERY/WEIGHING/SIFTING/CLASSIFYING – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Monday, March 11, 2024

REGISTER FOR RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Monday, March 11, 2024

JUDGING – 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 12, 2024, followed by Showmanship.

SPECIAL RULES FOR MARKET RABBITS

1. Each exhibitor must be a bona fide member of a Texas 4-H Club or FFA Chapter, enrolled in elementary, secondary, or home school and reside in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, or Willacy counties.
2. 4-H and FFA exhibitors must be in third grade or 9 years old but under 20 as of January 1, 2024.
3. Livestock projects must be raised at the physical address of the RGVLS validation record. Prior approval must be granted by the RGVLS Validation Committee in the event the animal will be outside the direct care of the exhibitor, immediate family/guardian, and/or the supervising County Extension Agent or Agriculture Science Teacher. Failure to gain approval from the supervising Agriculture Science Teacher/County Extension Agent and the RGVLS Validation Committee will result in the disqualification of all state validated rabbits.
4. Validation of market rabbits will take place Saturday, February 24, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the RGVLS Showgrounds in Mercedes for \$5 per breed. The exhibitor may validate as many market rabbits as they like. This will be a drive through validation. Please turn off vehicles upon entering the validation area and following instructions given by the Market Rabbit Validation Committee. Review section #4 for market rabbits that can be validated. The pen of market rabbits to be validated must have the same coloration, same breed of rabbit and from the same litter. No mix matching of different breeds will be allowed to be validated or shown at RGVLS.
5. An exhibitor can enter only one pen. A pen consists of three rabbits, all must be the same breed or the pen will be sifted. Choose the 3 rabbits you want to enter before you get to the showgrounds. Rabbits should be brought in a single wire carrying cage with suspended wire floor. Do not use laundry baskets, pet carriers, cardboard boxes, or milk crates.
6. All exhibitors participating in showmanship must enter through the online Showworks system by January 15, 2024.
7. Rabbits must be clean, dry, and must be presentable to the judge and rabbit committee at the time of sift or the pen will be sifted.
8. There will be no tattoos, markings, written markers, or symbols allowed in any market pen rabbit's right or left ear. One tattoo will be used for all validated market rabbits and will be done by the Market Rabbit Committee on validation day. If a different tattoo, marking, written marker or symbol other than the RGVLS tattoo, in either ear, appears on the market rabbit pen during the 2024 show, the entire pen will be disqualified.
9. All sifted rabbits must be removed from the showgrounds immediately after sifting. All others must be consigned by the exhibitor and/or buyer to the processing plant, individual, etc. assigned by the show management. Violation of this rule will result in exhibitors being barred from future shows.
10. Rabbits will be weighed on an official show scale at time of sift.
11. Rabbits will be sifted in accordance with the current American Rabbit Breeders Association's (ARBA) Standard of Perfection. Defects include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Must weigh at least 3 ½ pounds, but no more than 5 ½ pounds at the sifting weigh in. If any one rabbit in the pen weighs less than 3 ½ pounds or more than 5 ½ pounds, the entire pen will be sifted.

- b. Must be marketable meat and pelt (fur) quality.
 - c. Must not be over 70 days old at time of sifting.
 - d. Must be free of the following defects.
 - i. Cysts, ruptures, or tumors
 - ii. Cold or snuffles
 - iii. Abscesses (hocks or elsewhere)
 - iv. Blindness in either or both eyes
 - v. Mange
 - vi. Mites (ear or body)
 - vii. Fleas
 - viii. Malocclusion
 - ix. Vent Diseases
 - x. Missing toes or missing complete toenail
 - xi. Bob tail or broken tail
 - e. If any one rabbit in the pen is disqualified, the entire pen will be sifted.
12. Identification card during sift with pen number will be color coded as per breed, color and must follow exhibitor to the end of the sift table where the judge will place.
13. The judge will have final say if the animal is show worthy or will be sifted.
14. A pen of rabbits, which in the opinion of the sifter, does not meet ARBA Breed Standards of the breed in which it is entered, will be moved to the proper breed by the sifter.
15. After rabbits have been accepted by the Show, no exchange of animals may be made. To do so will disqualify the exhibitor.
16. Weighing/Sifting/Classifying of Market Rabbits – Only one parent or AST/Club Manager will be allowed in the rabbit area during the sift for a 15 minute time frame to help the exhibitor with unloading rabbits. The exhibitor can hang their flip top metal rabbit feeders, 32 oz. water bottles and give rabbits water during this time. Feeding can be done after the sift is over. Signage, show supplies and show boxes can be delivered after sifting is completed.
17. Each exhibitor must identify the breed of their rabbits at the time of check-in/sift.
18. Only flip top metal rabbit feeders (through the cage type and big enough to hold enough feed for 3 rabbits each day) and one or two 32 oz. or larger bottle type waterer. No crocks or bowls allowed.
19. Each exhibitor will be responsible for feeding and watering their rabbits each day until the rabbits are loaded out at the end of the Show. Failure to do so may disqualify the exhibitor, at the Board's discretion, from showing the following year, and forfeit placing and premiums.
20. The rabbit area will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. each day. Rabbits must have water at all times. They must be fed by 7:00 p.m. each day. This rule will be strictly enforced.
21. The livestock show will not be responsible for any rabbits that get sick or expire while on exhibit or in case of fire.
22. No oils, polishes, powders, wipes, or other products may be used which would cosmetically alter the rabbit's naturally groomed appearance at sifting or at the show table.
23. Rabbits will be judged in accordance with the American Rabbit Breeders Association's (ARBA) Standard and Guide for Judging Meat Classes. Judges will additionally refer to the appropriate Breed Standards, as they deem necessary.

24. The four judging factors are as follow:
 - a. MEAT TYPE – 40% - Look for fryers that are compact, short, and well filled out with rounded solid flesh. Protruding hips, pin bones, back bones (spines), etc. are faults. Look for wide, deep loins, thickness of the hindquarters and well-developed shoulders. Hindquarters are most important. Loin is next and shoulders are third in importance.
 - b. CONDITION – 30% - All three rabbits in the pen should be in prime condition.
 - c. UNIFORMITY – 20% - The pen must reflect uniformity of weight, size, appearance, condition, meat type and fur.
 - d. FUR – 10%
25. The general public and spectators will not be allowed to handle any exhibitor's rabbit at any time during the week of the Show. Only the exhibitor, AST, CEA, 4-H club manager, or parent/legal guardian will be allowed to handle their own individual, club, or chapter's rabbit projects at any time during the week of the Show.
26. Only exhibitors and show officials will be allowed in the holding areas, judging arena, or on the arena director's stand during sifting and judging.
27. Exhibitors will be required to display their rabbits at the show tables as directed by the judge. Any exhibitor who places in their class must remain in the rabbit barn until advised to leave. Failure to remain in the area will result in forfeiture of any further placing.
28. No locks will be permitted on cages after judging takes place. Cages may be locked until judging. Any locks found on cages after judging will be cut off. Nothing shall be displayed or attached to or below the rabbit cages other than pen assignment signage attached by rabbit committee. Nothing should be placed in empty cages.
29. Delivery of rabbits to the buyer or his agents will be made on Sunday, March 17. Feeders and water bottles may be removed after load-out. Exhibitors are not allowed in the barn during the load out process.
1. Scholarships will be awarded as follows:
 - Scholarships will not be awarded when there are less than 5 head shown in competition in any weight division of the Market Rabbit Division.
 - If there are 5 to 14 entries shown, 50% of the full scholarship will be awarded to the Division Champion of each weight division.
 - 15 head and more will result in full scholarship amounts.

General Rules, Regulations and Procedures on page 23 also apply.

BREEDS

- New Zealand
- Californian
- Crossbreeds and Other Purebreds

Each breed will have classes as follows:

- 1 to 20 pens – 1 class
- 21 to 40 pens – 2 classes
- 41 to 60 pens – 3 classes
- 61 to 80 pens – 4 classes

First and second place of each class will compete for Breed and Reserve Breed Champion. First place pen of rabbits in each class will compete for Breed Champion. The second place winner in the class that produced the Breed Champion will compete with the remaining first place class winners for Reserve Breed Champion. Ribbons and premiums will be awarded in each class as indicated under Schedule of Premiums.

The New Zealand classes will now include New Zealand White, New Zealand Black, New Zealand Broken and New Zealand Red. Each individual New Zealand breed will have its own class and once the first and second place from each

class is selected, then an overall New Zealand Breed Champion and Reserve Breed Champion will be selected to compete with the remaining breeds, Californian and OPB/Crossbreeds. All Breed and Reserve Breed Champions will compete for the Grand and Reserve Grand Champion. The judge of the show has the final decision in classification of Market Pen Rabbits.

AWARDS

Grand Champion – Buckle & Banner

Reserve Grand Champion – Buckle & Banner

Breed Champion – \$500 Scholarship, Banner & Rosette

Reserve Breed Champion – Banner & Rosette

Champion winners in each division will compete for Grand Champion Award. Reserve Champion winner in division that produced the Grand Champion will compete with the remaining Champions for the Reserve Grand Champion Award.

The Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, Division Champions and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placing projects will be eligible to participate in the Sale of Champions on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. This is a premium auction only; the actual projects will not be sold to the buyers.

SCHEDULE OF PREMIUMS

- 4th place - \$26
- 5th place - \$25
- 6th place - \$24

MARKET RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP

MONDAY, MARCH 11

- Only rabbit exhibitors who are exhibiting their own rabbits will be allowed to enter the Rabbit Showmanship Competition. Exhibitors must enter for showmanship through the online ShoWorks system.
- Exhibitors must report, in person, to the Rabbit Area at which time a multiple choice exam will be given at a determined location. Test questions will be drawn from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service rabbit literature that is available through www.shop4-H.org, through county agents and from the 2021-2025 editions of the American Rabbit Breeders Association Standard of Perfection.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

- Takes place after completion of all rabbit judging.
- The top five contestants from each of the groups scoring highest on the multiple choice exam will compete in the showmanship finals. Each finalist will be called individually to take one of their previously shown RGVLS market rabbits to the show table for the final competition. Physical “showing” of their rabbit as well as their knowledge of rabbit husbandry will constitute 100% of the score. The decision of the judge is final.

SHOWMANSHIP DIVISIONS

- Junior – Grades 3rd -5th
- Intermediate – Grades 6th – 8th
- Seniors – Grades 9th – 12th

SHOWMANSHIP AWARDS

- 1st place - \$100 and Buckle
- 2nd place - \$75 and Ribbon
- 3rd place - \$50 and Ribbon