Skill-A-Thon Description:
The Rabbit Skill-A-Thon is a competitive event designed to test the knowledge and skills that a 4-H member can gain through their involvement in the Rabbit project area. There are five stations in the contest that will include written and hands on activities. The stations will test the 4-H members’ subject matter knowledge and skills.

Date and Time: August 29th, 2020 – Shortly after the Rabbit Show

Station 1: Parts of a Rabbit
This station will test the 4-H members’ knowledge of external rabbit body parts.

Beginners will be asked to identify 5, juniors will identify 7, and seniors will identify 10. To study, review the “Parts of a Rabbit” below.
Station 2: Breed Identification

This station will test the 4-H members’ knowledge of rabbit breeds.

Beginners will be asked to identify 5 breeds, juniors will be asked to identify 7 breeds, and seniors will be asked to identify 10. Juniors and Seniors Will be asked to identify if the breed is a 4 class or six class breeds.

All breeds will come from the 2016-2020 American Rabbit Breeders Standard of Perfection. 4-H members will be given a picture and a short description of the breed to be identified.

The breeds selected to be identified will come from the following list.

- American
- Californian
- Champagne D'Argent
- Checkered Giant
- Dutch
- English Spot
- Flemish Giant
- Florida White
- Giant Chinchilla
- Himalayan
- Holland Lop
- Jersey Wooly
- Lionhead
- Mini Lop
- Netherland Dwarf
- Polish
- Rex
- Satin
- Silver Fox
- Tan
Station 3: Rabbit Conformation – Faults and Disqualifications

This station will test the 4-H members’ knowledge of rabbit conformation.

Rabbit conformation deals with how the shape or structure of a rabbit meets the standards that are set by the American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA)

Beginners will be asked to name 4 conformational faults or ideal conditions, juniors will be asked to identify 4 conformational faults or ideal conditions, and describe two of them, and seniors will be asked to identify 4 conformational faults and describe all four.

The conformational faults or ideal conditions to be identified will be selected by the Rabbit Skill-a-thon chair and all members will identify the same conformational faults or ideal conditions.

The conformational faults or ideal conditions selected to be identified will come from the following:
### Selection and Evaluation

#### Faults and Disqualifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disqualification</th>
<th>Fault</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unmatched Toenails</td>
<td>Stained Coat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Colored toenail on a white breed</td>
<td>- Urine and/or manure stains on fur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- White toenail on a dark-colored breed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wry Tail</td>
<td>Low in Shoulders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Abnormal tail - bent, carried, or twisted permanently to one side</td>
<td>- Shoulder depth is lacking and fails to balance with the hindquarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Corkscrew tail with one or more turns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ear Canker</td>
<td>Narrow in Shoulders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Inflamed, scabby condition deep inside the ear - caused by an infection of the ear canal by ear mites</td>
<td>- Shoulder width is &quot;pinched&quot; and fails to balance with the hindquarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malocclusion</td>
<td>Stray Hairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Teeth with lower incisors extending in front of the upper incisors or meeting with no overlap</td>
<td>- White hairs in colored fur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wry Neck</td>
<td>Cow-Hocked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Carriage of the head to one side at an angular plane, instead of a normal carriage in a vertical plane</td>
<td>- Hind legs that turn inward at the hocks, causing the toes to turn outward from the body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Color Patch</td>
<td>Molt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- White spot in colored area of the fur coat</td>
<td>- Act of shedding or changing fur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Colored spot in white area of the fur coat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**RABBIT LEARNING LABORATORY KIT**

**Exploratory Learning: Educational Program**

*Graphics property of Curriculum Materials Service*

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Station 4: Rabbit Diseases

This station will test the 4-H members’ knowledge of rabbit diseases. Beginners will be asked to identify 4 diseases, juniors will be asked to identify 4 diseases and the causes of two diseases, and seniors will be asked to identify 4 diseases, the causes of 4 diseases, and prevention for two diseases. The 4 diseases will be selected from the following list:

**Weep Eye** *(Staphylococcosis)*
**Cause:** Bacterial infection --- *Staphylococcus aureus* and/or *Pasteurella multocida* - spread by humans and contaminated food, feces, cages, and/or bedding

**Prevention:**
★ Apply rigid sanitation methods
★ Eliminate sharp or abrasive surfaces
★ Use clean feed and bedding
★ Reduce animal stress
★ Monitor animals

**Common treatment:**
*Tetracycline*
> Clean, drain, and excise lesion
> Detected early, treat with ophthalmic antibiotic ointment
> Advanced cases have been treated with antibiotics via injection or drinking water

**Snuffles** *(Infectious Respiratory Disease)*
**Cause:** Bacterial infection --- *Pasteurella multocida* - transmitted by direct contact between cagemates, doe and litter, and/or breeding pair - untreated may result in pneumonia

**Prevention:**
★ Adher to strict sanitation and husbandry standards
★ Insure good ventilation
★ Follow strict culling procedures

**Common treatment:**
*Terramycin, Bunnimycin, -or- Baytril*
> Treat at first symptom of ailment
> Treat with antibiotics via drinking water or injection
Sore Hocks (Ulcerative Pododermatitis)

**Cause:** Damage initially to the pad of the foot, usually followed by a bacterial infection

**Prevention:**
- House rabbits in clean cages on soft, clean, dry bedding
- Eliminate environmentally stressful conditions
- Use resting boards
- Cull affected animals and do not use for breeding

**Common treatment:**
- Preparation H
  - Clean sores/lesions, trim toenails, and apply topical antiseptic or protective covering
  - Healing is often prolonged/complicated by secondary bacterial infections

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Malocclusion (Mandibular Prognathism)

**Cause:** Inherited abnormality --- Inherited condition in which the incisors fail to meet and thus, grow to extreme lengths; may also result from dietary, infectious (abscesses), or traumatic reasons

**Prevention:**
- Do not allow animals affected with this ailment/disorder to reproduce

**Treatment:**
- Treatment of tooth overgrowth involves repeated filing or sawing with a sharp clipper or dental burr
- Removal of affected teeth

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Ringworm (Dermatophytosis)

**Cause:** Fungal infection --- *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* and/or *Microsporum canis* - transmitted easily by direct contact with spores on hair coat, in bedding, and/or soil

**Prevention:**
- Maintain high standards of animal husbandry
- Examine animals routinely
- Cull carriers
- Sterilize contaminated facilities and equipment

**Common treatment:**
- Iodine
  - Individual outbreaks - apply medication to skin: ordinary iodine or an ointment containing hexetidine
  - Herd outbreaks - use griseofulvin as a feed additive or in water-soluble form
**Vent Disease**  
*Venereal Spirochetosis or Treponematosis*  
**Cause:** Bacterial infection --- *Treponema cuniculi* - transmitted by direct contact, especially during mating  
**Prevention:**  
★ Examine breeding bucks and does routinely for lesions  
★ Treat affected individuals at once  
★ Cull carriers  
★ Maintain a closed breeding herd  
★ Treat and quarantine new stock  
**Common treatment:**  
- *Penicillin G*  
- Treat with injectable antibiotic  
- Increased possibility of enterotoxemia from penicillin exposure must be considered

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**Ear Canker** *(Acariasis)*  
**Cause:** Ear mites --- *Psoroptes cuniculi* and/or *Chorioptes cuniculi* - transmitted from infected animals or environment to noninfected rabbits  
**Prevention:**  
★ Carefully examine the ears of all stock every 14 days  
★ Quarantine all new arrivals and treat twice before placing in clean herd/colony  
**Common treatment:**  
- *Mineral* -or- *Vegetable Oil*  
- Treat (smother) with oil-based insecticide preparation  
- Clean off exudate and massage 1 to 2 ml of liquid into each ear canal with a cotton swab  
- Repeat treatment in 7 days to eliminate newly hatched mites  
- -or- Treat with injectable Ivermectin

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**Wry Neck** *(Torticollis)*  
**Cause:** Bacterial infection --- An otitis interna caused by *Pasteurella multocida* - frequently no specific inner ear lesions are detected, with the cause remaining unknown  
**Prevention:**  
★ Cull affected individuals immediately  
★ Quarantine new arrivals prior to herd/colony entry  
★ Do not allow affected animals to reproduce  
**Common treatment:**  
- Treatment is NOT effective  
- There is NO satisfactory treatment for this condition

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Station 5: Rabbit Equipment Identification

This station will test the 4-H members’ knowledge of rabbit equipment.

Beginners will be asked to identify 5 pieces of equipment, juniors will be asked to identify 5 pieces of equipment and what 3 of them are used for, and seniors will be asked to identify 5 pieces of equipment and what all 5 are used for.

The pieces of equipment selected to be identified will come from the following list:

- Toe nail clippers
- Grooming brush
- Vaseline
- Scissors
- Lint roller
- Spray bottle of water
- Combs
- Styptic powder
- Hand sanitizer
- Baby wipes
- Pumice stone
- Slicker block
- Carpet square/ mat
- Nesting Box