

Should I take RABBITS as a 4-H project?

Choosing to take a livestock project in 4-H should involve sound decision-making. This fact sheet provides basic information to help you make a good decision.

SPACE NEEDED

- .75 square feet per pound of body weight minimum

COMFORT ZONE

- 68-70° for optimal performance, but may be raised in widely varying temperatures

WATER REQUIREMENTS

- Access to clean, fresh, cool water is critical
- ¼ - 2 ounces per pound

FEED CONSIDERATIONS

- Will eat approximately 4-8 ounces of pellets per day (depends on breed of rabbit)
- Will gain approximately 1 ounce per day while growing (Average Daily Gain or ADG)
- Needs approximately 4 pounds of feed per pound of gain (Feed Efficiency)

MARKET CONSIDERATIONS

- Mature weight depends on the breed of rabbit (see ARBA Standards of Perfection)
- Market rabbits should weigh 3½ – 5 pounds per rabbit and should be finished at 70 days of age

BUDGETING

- Approximate purchase cost is \$20-30 for 4 week old bunnies
- Projected market price is \$1.00-\$1.35 per pound
- Projected feed cost is around \$15 and includes:
 - Pellets
 - Hay (optional)

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