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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