

37th Annual  
**MASSACHUSETTS 4-H RABBIT WORKSHOP**  
Saturday, January 27, 2018  
Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School - Upton, MA

The Massachusetts 4-H Rabbit Advisory Committee, the Massachusetts 4-H Foundation and Massachusetts Extension are pleased to invite you to attend the 37th annual 4-H Rabbit Workshop. A variety of sessions will be offered for beginners through advanced rabbit raisers.

The 4-H Rabbit Workshop is open to all. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children.

I hope you will take advantage of this special opportunity to learn from some of the top names in the rabbit industry.

Carrie Chickering-Sears, 4-H Extension Educator

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**Registration**

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Workshops have a limit to the number who may participate. Preference will be given based on the arrival of your paid registration. The 4-H registration fee is seven dollars (\$7.00) per person (this fee also applies to 4-H family members). Your fee must be sent with your registration. Registrations must be postmarked by January 19th. Walk-in registration fee on January 27th is \$10.00 per person. Parents who are attending workshops also must preregister and pay the registration fee. Parents may choose to stay for the day and not attend workshops as there is adequate seating in the cafeteria. Registration fee for non 4-H participants (youth and adult) is \$10.00 per person. Late fee or walk-in registration fee for non 4-H'ers is \$12.00. Please make checks payable to "Mass 4-H Rabbit Advisory Committee". No telephone entries.

**Directions to Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational High School**

The school is located at 65 Pleasant Street in Upton. From Route 495, take Exit 21B (West Main Street-Upton). Go right at the end of the exit ramp. Stay on this road for about 5 miles. Go straight through the set of lights where the road crosses Route 140 (the road will change its name to Maple Street). Go to the end of Maple Street and at the light turn left onto Pleasant Street. Go past Nipmuc High School (on your right) and Blackstone Valley High School will be a short distance on your left.



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**Food Services**

A light breakfast, lunch and snacks will be for sale. Participants may choose to bring a bag lunch.

**Raffle**

There will be a raffle to help defray the costs of conducting this program. Each family is asked to bring a donation for the raffle (rabbit related or other). **No live animals, please.**

**4-H Tee Shirts**

4-H rabbit and cavy program tee shirts will be available. These shirts will feature the design submitted by a 4-H rabbit project member.

**Rabbitry Supplies**

PANS, etc., a rabbitry supply service, will have project related supplies for sale. Pre-orders may be made by calling Avis at 508-588-5723.

**Community Service**

Heifer International provides education and livestock to enable impoverished families to improve their quality of life. Help us sponsor a trio of rabbits by donating a quarter or quarters to fill the quarter tube. A full tube equals \$60. and will pay for a trio of rabbits.

**Lunch Break Activities**

A variety of free craft activities will be available during the lunch break. Activities will include a coloring contest.

**NO SALE OF ANIMALS IS ALLOWED IN THE SCHOOL. ONLY RABBITS BEING USED IN A WORKSHOP ARE ALLOWED IN THE BUILDING.**

(A special area will be available for participants to post information about animals they have for sale.)

**Sale rabbits and cavies may be viewed and/or purchased from owner in the parking lot area.**

**SCHEDULE**

9:00 - 9:45 a.m. ....	Arrival and Check-in
9:45 - 10:00 .....	Opening Assembly
10:00 - 11:00 .....	Workshops "A"
11:10 - 12:10 p.m. ....	Workshops "B"
12:10 - 1:00 .....	Workshops "C" or lunch
1:00 - 1:50 .....	Workshops "C" or lunch
2:00 - 3:00 .....	Workshops "D"
3:10 - 3:30 .....	Evaluations and Raffle

**Adults and youth MUST turn off any electronic devices when attending a workshop. Our volunteer presenters thank you for your cooperation.**

## WORKSHOPS

Following each workshop description there will be an abbreviation that indicates the level the workshop is suitable for. B = beginners, I = intermediates, T = teens and adults, A = suitable for all levels.

### Workshops “A” 10:00 a.m.– 11:00 a.m.

**Angoras** - Learn about the special needs of the Angora breeds including grooming techniques. (A)

**Mini Lops**– Learn about the Mini Lop breed including grooming techniques. (A)

**Harlequins** – Explore this colorful breed that originated in France. (A)

**Rabbits as Pets** – Rabbits are growing in popularity as pets. Become more knowledgeable about choosing a breed, providing a safe environment, litter box training and more! (A)

**Conditioning for a Show/National Convention** – This year the National ARBA Show will be held in West Springfield, MA at the Big E Fairgrounds. Learn about the show and how to prepare your rabbits for competition plus the many opportunities at the show. (I & T)

**What Does my Standard Tell Me?** – The ARBA Standard can be challenging to understand. Learn how to best utilize the information and how to apply it to your breed. (I & T)

**Rabbit General Care** – Rabbits have specific needs in order to live a long, happy and healthy life. Here is a basic overview on how to care for your rabbit (A)

**Meet the Full Arch and Semi-Arch Breeds** – Learn about these two body types. (A)

### Workshops “B” 11:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

**Dutch, the Rabbit in a Tuxedo** – Learn about this popular breed, their standards and the distinct features of the breed. (A)

**Judging** – Learn what a judge is looking for when evaluating a class of rabbits. Selection tips will help you make better decisions in judging contests, culling litters or purchasing new stock. (I & T)

**Therapy Bunnies** – Learn how you can get involved with your bunny in this program.. (I & T)

**Convention Opportunities** – With the national convention coming to Massachusetts this year, there will be many ways that adults can volunteer. This event will need an army of volunteers! (A)

**Cavy Care** – This workshop will include all things cavy including breeds, selection, general care, handling and health. Bring your cavy questions. (A)

**Show My Bunny** – Here’s all you need to know – how to find shows, what types of shows are out there, show rules, how to enter, what to bring and what happens when you get there. (I & T)

**Writing at Shows** – Rabbit shows need helpers and you can learn a lot when you write for a judge. Learn how to be a knowledgeable show writer. (A)

**Rabbits and Social Media** – Explore ways rabbit appear in social media (A)

## Workshops “C” 12:10 p.m.– 1:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m.– 1:50 p.m.

These workshops will be in small groups to ensure hands-on experience for all youth participants. Enrollment is limited by the workshop presenter. Registered adults are welcome to attend these sessions; however, **materials will be for youth participants.** (If needed, adults will be asked to assist youth and if extra materials are available, they may be shared with adults.)

**Introduction to Rabbit Hopping** – Learn how you and your rabbit can prepare to participate in this new competition – no previous experience required. (A)

**Bucket Seats** – Recycle a plastic bucket into a handy seat and carry-all to use at rabbit shows. (A)

**Basic Handling Skills** – Proper handling is important for both you and your rabbit. New project members will practice safe handling. Rabbits will be provided. (B)

**Showmanship I** – Members with basic handling skills will learn and practice how to be competitive in showmanship classes. Rabbits will be provided. (I)

**Rabbit Toys** – Keep your rabbit busy and happy by providing a variety of toys that you will make. (A)

**Fiber** – Learn about the difference in fiber animals. You will explore the quality of wool of rabbits, sheep, and alpacas. (A)

**Plaster Craft** – Be creative and paint a model bunny. (A)

**Show Rugs** – Decorate a show rug for your rabbit. (A)

**“This is Just me Being Me!”** This workshop will focus on rabbit and cavy behaviors as a way to know your animals well and recognize individual and normal behavioral characteristics as well as behaviors that may indicate compromised health or welfare. Participants will have the opportunity to share observations about their own animals. (A)

**First Aid** – What you need to have in your first aid kit. (A)

## Workshops “D” 2:00 p.m.– 3:00 p.m.

**Meet the Compact and Commercial Breeds** – There is a lot to know about the many rabbit breeds. This is an opportunity to learn about the compact and commercial breeds. (A)

**Cavy Breeds** – The thirteen cavy breeds have lots of colors and variations. Explore these animals and their unique differences. (A)

**Buying a Show Rabbit** – Update on current veterinary issues relating to rabbits. Will include infections of E. cuniculi parasite that is considered to be widespread among rabbits. (A)

**General Care** – New owners will learn the basics including cages, proper feeding, handling skills and how to keep your rabbit healthy. (B)

**How you can participate in the youth judging contest at the National ARBA Show**– Take the next step and learn how to judge a rabbit in prep for the national judging contest. (I & T)

**Youth contests at the National ARBA Convention** – In 2018, Massachusetts will host the national rabbit breeders show and convention! Learn about the various contests that you can enter. (A)

**How to Hold a Rabbit Hopping Contest** – Learn how to organize a rabbit hopping event. (I & T)

**“Welcome (to our) Home!”** This workshop will focus on several considerations when planning to obtain a new animal and/or add an animal to your group at home; overall planning and decision-making, information gathering, networking with others, and assessing health /health history and well-being will be discussed. Participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences purchasing, fostering or adopting rabbits and/or cavies.



## 2018 4-H RABBIT WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_ Youth \_\_ Adult

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years in the 4-H rabbit/cavy project \_\_\_\_\_

Name of 4-H Club (if a 4-H member) \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshops – please use the numbers 1, 2 & 3 to indicate three choices for each time slot.**

### WORKSHOPS “A”

\_\_\_ Angoras                      \_\_\_ Rabbits as Pets                      \_\_\_ Rabbit General Care  
\_\_\_ Mini Lops                      \_\_\_ Conditioning for a Show/Natl.                      \_\_\_ Arch/Semi-Arch Breeds  
\_\_\_ Harlequins                      \_\_\_ What Does my Standard Tell Me?

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### WORKSHOPS “B”

\_\_\_ Dutch, the Rabbit in a Tuxedo    \_\_\_ Therapy Bunnies                      \_\_\_ Cavy Care                      \_\_\_ Writing at Shows  
\_\_\_ Judging                      \_\_\_ Convention Opportunities    \_\_\_ Show my Bunny                      \_\_\_ Rabbits/Social Media

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### WORKSHOPS “C”

\_\_\_ Introduction to Rabbit Hopping    \_\_\_ Showmanship I                      \_\_\_ Plaster Craft                      \_\_\_ First Aid  
\_\_\_ Bucket Seats                      \_\_\_ Rabbit Toys                      \_\_\_ Show Rugs  
\_\_\_ Basic Handling Skills                      \_\_\_ Fiber                      \_\_\_ Behavior

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### WORKSHOPS “D”

\_\_\_ Meet the Compact/Commercial Breeds    \_\_\_ General Care                      \_\_\_ Rabbit Hopping Contest  
\_\_\_ Cavy Breeds                      \_\_\_ Participation ARBA Shows                      \_\_\_ Welcome Home  
\_\_\_ Buying a Show Rabbit                      \_\_\_ Youth Contests

Registration Fee (\$7 Per participant) must accompany this form. Please make checks payable to “**Mass. 4-H Rabbit Advisory Committee**” Late and walk-in registration fee is \$10 per participant. Fees for non 4-H participants is \$10 per person and \$12 for late or walk-in registrations.

Registrations must be postmarked by **January 19, 2018.**

Mail registration and fees to: **Randy & Sharon Gebelein, 8 Hastings Street, Mendon, MA 01756**