

# 38th Annual MASSACHUSETTS 4-H RABBIT WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 26, 2019

Registration – 9:00am-9:45am Ends at 3:30pm

Smith Vocational High School, 80 Locust Street, Northampton, MA



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 26th 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. Youth **do not** bring their rabbits with them.

## GUEST SPEAKER

**Allen Mesick, Tollhouse, CA** – We are pleased that Allen will be joining us this year to present some workshops and answer questions. Allen has been in the rabbit world since he was a youth. He grew up in Connecticut, getting his start at the Durham Fair under the mentorship of local rabbit breeders and 4-H. He moved to California in 2002 and earned a BS in Animal Science and French at California State University and language schools in France and Senegal.

Allen has won the Best of Breed at the ARBA Conventions with Netherland Dwarf, Britannia Petite, American Fuzzy Lop and Tan and twice as won the prestigious Best in Show. He organizes the educational symposium Rabbitcon at each convention, chairs the ARBA International Liaison Committee, and he has helped to charter clubs in five Asian countries. He wrote and donated the “Registrar Study Guide for Rabbits” to the ARBA in 2006 with the intention to help members gain the necessary and large information required to passing the exam. His favorite moments are when someone says that the Registrar Study Guide helped him or her become a Registrar. In 2018, he, with collaboration with David Moll, launched “The Rabbit Show”, an online broadcast to spread knowledge, understanding, and current event with rabbit and cavy breeders worldwide. Allen has judged ARBA shows in 6 Asian countries and across the US and Canada. He breeds and shows Angora Goats with Randy Shumaker and markets the mohair (wool) to artists around the world for luxury yarn and art. He enjoys traveling, foreign language, and getting others hooked on the rabbit and cavy hobby through top quality shows and opportunities to learn.



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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 Items** - T-shirts and water bottles will be for sale. **NEW** We will be sponsoring a contest for a new 4-H Rabbit and Cavy program t-shirt design for 2019. See MA 4-H website [www.mass4h.org](http://www.mass4h.org) for details. Open to MA 4-H youth only.

**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 and plaster craft.

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

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

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

<p><b>Adults and youth MUST turn off any electronic devices when attending a workshop. Our volunteer presenters thank you for your cooperation.</b></p>
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### **Directions to Smith Vocational High School**

**From the North:** Take I-91 South, take exit 20, then bear right at the lights onto Bridge Road, bear left onto Hatfield Road, bear left onto Rt. 9 Locust Street, Smith School is on the right, turn into drive and watch for signage.

**From the South:** Take I-91 North, take exit 19, at lights go straight onto Damon Road, stay straight though lights onto Bridge Road, bear left onto Hatfield Road, bear left onto Rt. 9 Locust Street, Smith School is on the right, turn into drive and watch for signage.

**From the East/West:** MA Pike I-90, Exit 4 Holyoke and take I-91 North and follow directions above.

## WORKSHOP SELECTIONS



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.

**Breeding Rabbits**- Tips from a leading rabbit breeder. **Allen Mesick** (I, T)

**Flemish Giants**- Learn about the Flemish Giant breed. (A)

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

**Purchasing A Show Rabbit** – Tips on purchasing a rabbit to show. (A)

**Conditioning for a Show/National Convention** – 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)

**Infectious Diseases and Rabbits** – Learn about the different types of microorganism that can cause diseases in rabbits. **Erika Hamilton Ph.D.** (I & T)

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

**Disqualifications** – Learn about what can DQ your rabbit from showing. **Allen Mesick** (A)

**Dwarf Papillion** – Learn about this new breed, their standards and the distinct features of the breed. **Randy Gebelien** (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 what therapy rabbits do, what characteristics make a good therapy animal and how you can get involved with your bunny in a therapy program. **Diane Mas** (I & T)

**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)

**Feeding and Nutrition** – Learn tips to maintain your rabbit in top shape through optimal nutrition. **Vincent Consiglio** (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. **Inese Benks** (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. **Diane Mas** (A)

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

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

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

**Workshops “D” 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Becoming a Registrar** – Tips to becoming a licensed Rabbit Registrar. **Allen Mesick** (I, T)

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

**Rabbit Anatomy and Physiology** – Explore the names of the different organs of a rabbit and how they work together to form a living rabbit. **Erika Hamilton, Ph.D.** (I & T) 1:00-1:50pm



# 2019 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

## WORKSHOPS “A”

Breeding Rabbits \_\_\_\_\_ Purchasing a Show Rabbit \_\_\_\_\_ Rabbit Care \_\_\_\_\_

Flemish Giants \_\_\_\_\_ Conditioning for a Show \_\_\_\_\_ Diseases \_\_\_\_\_

Mini Lops \_\_\_\_\_ Breed Standard Tell Me \_\_\_\_\_

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## WORKSHOPS “B”

Disqualifications \_\_\_\_\_ Therapy Bunnies \_\_\_\_\_ Nutrition \_\_\_\_\_

Dwarf Papillion \_\_\_\_\_ Cavy Care \_\_\_\_\_

Judging \_\_\_\_\_ Show My Bunny \_\_\_\_\_

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## WORKSHOPS “C”

Hopping \_\_\_\_\_ Showmanship I \_\_\_\_\_ Show Rugs \_\_\_\_\_

Buckets \_\_\_\_\_ Rabbit Toys \_\_\_\_\_ First Aid \_\_\_\_\_

Basic Handling \_\_\_\_\_ Fiber \_\_\_\_\_

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## WORKSHOPS “D”

Registrar \_\_\_\_\_ Buying a Show Rabbit \_\_\_\_\_ Anatomy & Physiology \_\_\_\_\_

Compact Breeds \_\_\_\_\_ General Care \_\_\_\_\_

Cavy Breeds \_\_\_\_\_ Hopping Contest \_\_\_\_\_

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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, 2019.**

Mail registration and fees to: **Randy & Sharon Gebelein, 8 Hastings Street, Mendon, MA 01756**  
Sharon’s email [sasartori@aol.com](mailto:sasartori@aol.com)