39th ANNUAL MASSACHUSETTS 4-H RABBIT WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 25, 2020

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

Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School, 65 Pleasant Stree, Upton, 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 11th. Walk-in registration fee on January 11th 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.

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 can be used for raffle.**

4-H Items: Newly designed T-shirts will be for sale.

4-H Tshirt Design Contest: We will be sponsoring a contest for a 4-H Rabbit and Cavy program t-shirt design for 2020. See MA 4-H website 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.

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.)

4-H Youth Development UMASS EXTENSION

UMass Extension is a unit of the Center for Agriculture, Food & the Environment in the College of Natural Sciences. UMass Extension is an equal opportunity provider & employer, United States Department of Agriculture cooperating. Contact your local UMass Extension office for information on disability accommodations or the UMass Director if you have concerns related to discrimination, 413-545-4800 or refer to www.extension.umass.edu/civilrights.

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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.

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 for Session A, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

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

Youth Contests at the ARBA National Convention: Learn about the many youth activities offered at the ARBA Convention from a national judge. Convention to be held in Harrisburg, PA in 2020. **Allen Mesick** (A)

Rex: Explore the rex breed and learn about the care and needs of the rex rabbit. **Kristen Wentworth** (A)

Angoras: Explore the angora breeds and learn about the care and needs of angoras. **Elizabeth Barrett** (A)

Rabbit Diseases: Learn about common rabbit diseases, how to spot them, how to treat them, and when to call a vet. **Margaret Delano, DVM**. (A)

Showmanship: Members with basic handling skills will learn and practice how to be competitive in showmanship classes. Rabbits will be provided and the ARBA showmanship scorecard will be provided. **Wendy & Matthew Somerset** (A)

Anatomy & Physiology: Explore the names of the different organs and bones of a rabbit and how they work together to form a living rabbit. **Erika Hamilton, Ph.D.** (I & T)

Feeding and Nutrition Session I: Learn tips to maintain your rabbit in top shape through optimal nutrition. This is the first part of two sessions. Participants should take Part I before participating in Part II. **Vincent Consiglio** (A)

Coat Color Genetics Session I: You will learn about alleles, dominant vs recessive genes, agouti pattern vs. solid, tort, chin, etc. We'll delve into the science of coat color genetics, so not for the very young. Two sessions taken back to back will get you on your way to understanding what will happen if you breed that blue to a tort, and how to decide it that's what you want to do. (2 Sessions, Parts I and II) **Leslie Ardison** (I & T)

Workshops for Session B, 11:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

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 Cindi Muller (A)**

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

Commercial Breeds: Learn about the often overlooked commercial breeds, including their care and how they are shown. **Michelle Lee** (A)

Feeding and Nutrition Session II: Learn tips to maintain your rabbit in top shape through optimal nutrition. This is a continuation of material covered in Session I. **Vincent Consiglio** (A)

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, Ph.D.** (I & T)

Animal Health Regulations: Learn about what you need for health paperwork to exhibit your rabbits. **MA Division of Animal Health** (I &T)

Coat Color Genetics Session II: See description for session I. This is a continuation. Both sessions should be taken together. We will be picking up where we left off in session I. (2 Sessions, Parts I and II) **Leslie Ardison** (I & T)

Creating Engaging Displays at Your Fair to Encourage Youth: Agricultural fairs still remain one of the best means of promoting 4-H rabbit projects to new faces and energizing current youth participants. Allen will discuss simple, fun, and educational events you can add to your fair, including ways to utilize social media and video to broaden your reach. **Allen Mesick** (I & T)

Workshops for Session 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 and may assist the youth participants; however, **materials will be for youth participants**.

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

Meet the Rabbit and Cavy Breeds: Meet multiple rabbit and cavy breeds. **Paul Jurgelonis & Jen Barbaro** (A)

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

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

Rabbit Toys: Keep your rabbit busy and happy by providing a variety of toys that you will make. **B'town Bunnies 4-H Youth Rabbit Club Senior Members** (A)

First Aid: Learn some basic first-aid for your rabbit, a few common ailments, and when to call the vet. Everyone will get a handout, first 18 youth registered will get a starter first aid kit. **Leslie Ardison** (A)

Tools of the Trade: You will learn about tattooing, housing, cages, feeders, and watering systems. All the tools and tips you will need for your rabbit. **Kristen Wentworth** (A)

Picture Perfect: Learn how to take professional photos of your rabbits. **Michelle Lee** (A)

Workshops for Session D, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Outreach Activities with Your 4-H Club: Show your rabbit, community or fundraising with your rabbit, visual presentation topics on rabbits, 4H rabbit project record book. Come learn what other activities you could do with your rabbit. **Legacy 4H Club** (A)

You Can't Beat the Dutch and Polish: The Little Aristocrats: Explore the Polish and Dutch Breeds. **Paul Jurgelonis & Cindi Muller** (A)

Purchasing A Show Rabbit: What to look for when you are looking to buy a show bunny. What breeds might be more attractive for smaller kids, and how to care for the show bunny. **Sue Blauss** (A)

The Full-Arch Breeds: Learn about the full-arch breeds. **Vincent Consiglio** (A)

ARBA Showmanship: This workshop will cover ARBA showmanship: what ARBA is looking for, how it may differ from a local fair's showmanship, and what to expect if a child does showmanship at the ARBA National Convention. **Allen Mesick** (A)

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

Biosecurity: Learn about some practices you can implement to reduce the spread of infectious diseases and protect your rabbit's health. **Erika Hamilton, Ph.D**. (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. **Elizabeth Barrett** (I & T)

2020 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 in Session A

Basic Handling_____ Angoras_____ Anatomy & Physiology_____

Youth Contests_____ Diseases_____ Feeding & Nutrition Session #1_____

Rex_____ Showmanship_____ Coat Color Genetics Session #1_____

WORKSHOPS in Session B

General Care_____ Commercial Breeds_____ Animal Health Regs_____

Cavy Care_____ Feeding & Nutrition Session II_____ Cost Color Genetics Session II_____

Show My Bunny_____ Therapy Bunnies_____ Engaging Displays_____

WORKSHOPS in Session C

Handling Skills_____ Bucket Seats_____ Tools of the Trade_____

Meet Rabbit & Cavy Breeds_____ Rabbit Toys_____ Picture Perfect_____

Intro Rabbit Hopping_____ First Aid_____

WORKSHOPS in Session D

Outreach_____ Full-Arch Breeds_____ Biosecurity_____

Dutch & Polish_____ ARBA Showmanship_____ Standard Tell Me?_____

Buying Show Rabbit_____ Rabbit Hopping Contest_____

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 11, 2020.**

Mail registration and fees to:

Western MA 4-H Office
Attn: Carrie Sears
101 University Drive, Suite A-4
Amherst, MA 01002