



## RABBIT AND CAVY CONTEST

**Contact Person:** Julia Krout, Bucks County, (215) 997-9655

**Purpose:**

1. To give 4-H'ers the opportunity to apply their skills, experience, and knowledge in a competitive atmosphere.
2. To give 4-H'ers an opportunity to become acquainted with 4-H'ers from across the Commonwealth.
3. To recognize 4-H'ers demonstrated abilities in rabbits and cavy programs.
4. To better acquaint 4-H members with the faculty, services, and facilities of Pennsylvania State University.

**Objective:**

1. To stimulate 4-H'ers to learn more about the entire rabbit and cavy industry.
2. To allow for volunteer leader involvement in the contest management.
3. To translate members' knowledge into a variety of competitive categories.

**Eligibility:**

1. Participants must have passed their 13th birthday and must not have passed their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current year.
2. Members must be enrolled in a rabbit project, cavy project, veterinary science project, and/or pet care project in which their animal is either a rabbit and/or a cavy.
3. All participants should have at least five hours of training prior to the contest.
4. Each county may enter one to ten contestants, including one team composed of three or four members. All contestants may compete for individual awards in the skill-a-thon, but only team members will be eligible to compete in the bowl phase of the contest. Team members must be designated at the time of registration for the event. Each team must designate a captain prior to the start of competition.
5. Members of former first place teams are eligible to compete.

**Contest Organization and Content:**

The contest will consist of a quiz bowl and a skill-a-thon. Information about rabbits and cavies will be covered during both.

Skill-A-Thon:

All contestants will compete in the skill-a-thon. The skill-a-thon will consist of a written quiz and approximately eight stations with activities to do, problems to solve, or questions to answer. The stations may include, but are not limited to:

Color/Breed/Type Identification	Showmanship (guidelines attached)
Breed Disqualifications	Fur
Breeding and Reproduction	Disease or management problems
Nest box information	Meat production and science
Anatomy/Parts of the rabbit and cavy	Feed identification
Nutrition and feeding practices	Equipment identification
Hay selection	Judging
Genetics	Marketing
	Housing and facilities

### Quiz Bowl:

1. Team members, only, will compete in the quiz bowl. A double or single elimination format may be used, depending upon the number of teams entered. The teams will be assigned at random to the first round of competition before the contest. Some teams may be awarded a "bye" as part of the assignment process.

2. Competition between teams in each round will be conducted in two (2) phases:

#### Phase A - Individual Questions:

- a. Eight questions will be asked per team.
- b. Each team member in rotation will be asked a question and allowed five (5) seconds to respond.
- c. Correct answers are worth five (5) points with no deduction for incorrect answers.
- d. No teammate assistance may be offered or received.

#### Phase B - Toss-up Questions:

- a. A total of ten (10) questions will be asked.
  - b. Questions answered correctly in Phase B will be worth ten (10) points each.
  - c. The first team member to signal will start to answer the question within five (5) seconds after being acknowledged by the judge or lose five (5) points. Any member answering without being acknowledged will lose five (5) points. If an incorrect answer is given, the team will lose five (5) points and the other team has the opportunity to answer the question. The second team may confer to come up with an answer which must be given by the captain of that team who must start to answer within 15 seconds. If the second team answers the question correctly, it will receive five (5) points. The second team will not lose points for an incorrect answer.
  - d. When a signal is pushed before the question is completely read, the moderator shall stop reading the question and the person must answer the question. If correct, the team receives credit. If the answer is incorrect or incomplete, the team will lose five (5) points. The judge may not ask the contestant to explain his/her answer. The question shall then be completely reread. The second team can confer and the team captain will start to answer with 15 seconds. A correct response will be worth five (5) points with no points taken off if incorrect.
  - e. Members should try to use correct rabbit/cavy terms, nomenclature, and grammar so the judges can understand the answer.
3. The team winning the round will be determined by the highest total score from Phases A and B. In the event of a tie, the team earning the most points in Phase B will be the winner. If a tie still exists, three (3) additional Phase B questions will be asked.

### **Scoring:**

1. Individual scores will be calculated by totalling scores from the stations of the skill-a-thon. Individual rankings will be based on skill-a-thon scores only.
2. Team rankings will be based upon rankings in the bowl portion of the contest only.

### **Awards:**

1. Plaques will be awarded to the highest-scoring individual in the skill-a-thon and members of the first place bowl team.
2. Team ribbons will be awarded to the ten (10) highest-ranking teams.
3. Merit ribbons will be awarded to all individuals competing in the skill-a-thon (33 percent blue, 33 percent red, and 33 percent white).

**Resource Materials:**

1. American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) Guidebook. MOST CURRENT EDITION
2. ARBA *Standard of Perfection* - covers breed descriptions, disqualifications, colors, weights, etc. MOST CURRENT EDITION
3. *4-H Cavy Project Guide* - Washington State University (EM 4664). If you cannot secure a copy from Washington, you may contact Julia Krout for a photocopy.
4. *Rabbit Production*. MOST CURRENT EDITION
5. *Your Guinea Pig* by Wanda L. Curian. MOST CURRENT EDITION
6. *Raising Rabbits the Modern Way* by Bob Bennett. MOST CURRENT EDITION
7. *Your Rabbit* by Nancy Searle. MOST CURRENT EDITION
8. Bucks County, PA, 4-H Cavy Curriculum-Contact Julia Krout or Bucks County Extension Office for a Photocopy.

ARBA Contact Information for Materials:

[www.arba.net](http://www.arba.net)

[ARBAPOST@aol.com](mailto:ARBAPOST@aol.com)

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**PaSRBA Rabbit Showmanship Score Sheet**  
(PA Farm Show, PaSRBA Royalty Contests, State 4-H Achievement Days)

Category	Possible Points	Points Awarded	Judge's Comments
<b>Exhibitor's Appearance:</b> posture, eye contact, attitude, neat dress, no gum, no hat, no nail polish, no excessive jewelry, hair pulled back, long-sleeves	10		
<b>Carry Rabbit:</b> tuck head under one arm and support rabbit's weight by placing other hand under rump	6		
<b>Pose Rabbit:</b> explain body type for breed and demonstrate proper pose, front feet even with eyes, rear feet firmly on table, drop hands to sides and step back	6		
<b>Check Ears:</b> proper tattoo, ear mites, ear length and carriage, proper thickness and fur covering, torn or missing portions	5		
<b>(Turn Rabbit On It's Back) Check Eyes:</b> proper color, blindness, white spots, wall eye or marbling, conjunctivitis and weepy eye	5		
<b>Check Teeth:</b> broken or missing teeth or any form of malocclusion	5		
<b>Check Nose:</b> snuffles and foreign colored spots	5		
<b>Check Front Legs &amp; Toenails:</b> bone density, 4 toenails & 1 dewclaw, broken toes, missing nails, mismatched nails or white toenails, straightness of legs	6		
<b>Check Chest &amp; Abdomen:</b> abscesses, tumors, abnormalities, blemishes, pigeon breast, mastitis (does)	5		
<b>Check Rear Legs, Hocks &amp; Toenails:</b> 4 toenails, broken toes, missing /mismatched nails or white toenails, sore hocks, straightness of legs	6		
<b>Check Sex:</b> sex rabbit, vent disease, hutch burn, split penis, 2 descended testicles in senior bucks and none or both descended in junior bucks	5		
<b>Check Tail:</b> proper color, straightness, wry, bobbed, dead or broken	5		
<b>(Turn Rabbit to Posed Position) Check Fur:</b> describe fur type (rollback, flyback, rex, standing, wool), proper color/undercolor/ring color,length, density, texture, hutch stain, molt, fur mites, foreign colored spots, stray white hairs or smut	5		
<b>Final Pose:</b> describe type, balance and condition of this animal at this time, finish presentation	6		
<b>Exhibitor's Actions:</b> confident, gentle and smooth flowing presentation	10		
<b>Exhibitor's Knowledge:</b> quick, confident, and correct response to questions asked during the presentation	10		

**Judge:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total**      **100**      \_\_\_\_\_

## PaSRBA Cavy Showmanship Score Sheet

(PA Farm Show, PaSRBA Royalty Contests, State 4-H Achievement Days)

Category	Possible Points	Points Awarded	Judge's Comments
<b>Exhibitor's Appearance:</b> posture, eye contact, attitude, neat dress, no gum, no hat, no nail polish, no excessive jewelry, hair pulled back, long-sleeves	<b>10</b>		
<b>Carry Cavy:</b> demonstrate knowledge of proper handling of cavy for type (long-haired cavies should be on a show board)	<b>6</b>		
<b>Pose Cavy:</b> explain body type for breed and demonstrate proper pose, drop hands to sides and step back	<b>6</b>		
<b>Check Ears:</b> proper tag, ear carriage, proper color, torn or missing portions, mites or lice	<b>6</b>		
<b>Check Eyes:</b> proper color, blindness, spots, pea eye, conjunctivitis	<b>5</b>		
<b>(Stand cavy on hind legs) Check Teeth:</b> broken or missing teeth or any form of malocclusion	<b>6</b>		
<b>Check Nose:</b> discharge, foreign colored spots	<b>5</b>		
<b>Check Front Legs &amp; Toenails:</b> 4 toenails, broken toes, missing nails, mismatched nails or white toenails, straightness of legs	<b>6</b>		
<b>Check Chest &amp; Abdomen:</b> abscesses, tumors, abnormalities, blemishes	<b>6</b>		
<b>Check Rear Legs &amp; Toenails:</b> 3 toenails, broken toes, missing /mismatched nails or white toenails, straightness of legs	<b>6</b>		
<b>Check Sex:</b> sex cavy, impaction	<b>6</b>		
<b>(Return cavy to pose position) Check Fur:</b> describe fur type (short/long/rosettes) , proper color, undercolor, length, density, texture, stains, molt, fur mites, foreign colored spots, stray white hairs or smut	<b>6</b>		
<b>Final Pose:</b> describe type, balance and condition of this animal at this time, finish presentation	<b>6</b>		
<b>Exhibitor's Actions:</b> confident, gentle and smooth flowing presentation	<b>10</b>		
<b>Exhibitor's Knowledge:</b> quick, confident, and correct response to questions asked during the presentation	<b>10</b>		

**Judge:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total**      **100**      \_\_\_\_\_