

MARKET (MEAT PEN) RABBITS

ENTRY DEADLINE: AUGUST 18, 2025

MARKET RABBITS ENTRY FEE: \$30.00

**HOME GROWN MARKET RABBITS VALIDATION FEE:
\$15.00/FAMILY**

**PURCHASED MARKET RABBITS VALIDATION FEE:
\$15/PEN**

SHOWMANSHIP ENTRY FEE: \$10

DIRECTOR IN CHARGE & COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Lynette Lee acfrabbitproject@gmail.com

COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR:

Karen Coopersmith kecoopersmith@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE: Jada and Robert Conrad, Karin York, Mike Korenek, Kelli Stark, Maggie and Kendall Thuesen, Madison & Nate Compton, James Lee & Lari Samford

2025 RULES AND REGULATIONS

PLEASE SEE RULES FOR BOTH DIVISIONS

(HOME BRED AND OWNED DIVISION –

AND – PURCHASED DIVISION)

HOME BRED AND OWNED MEAT PEN DIVISION:

1. This is not an A.R.B.A or T.R.B.A sanctioned show. However, it will be governed by the American Rabbit Breeders Association guidelines as outlined by the A.R.B.A Standard of Perfection. All entries are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair. Market Rabbits are also governed by the Youth Auction Sale rules.
2. Any entry showing symptoms of disease such as malocclusion, sore bleeding hocks, signs of a cold or sniffles, ear canker, mite or mange, vent disease, sore and runny eyes, mix breeds or other disqualifying features, may be excluded from exhibition at the discretion of the Rabbit Show Director in Charge. No stock, except in the above instances, will be removed from the exhibition until the close of the Rabbit Show.
3. All Rabbits must be the property of the person entering them. The exhibitor must own the buck and does before June 2, 2025. Exhibitors must breed their own does to their own bucks & kindle their own kits. Each exhibitor should have at least 2-3 does and a buck.
4. Breeding stock is limited to the following meat pen breeds:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| A. Californian | D. Palomino |
| B. New Zealand | E. Champagne D' Argent |
| C. Satin | F. Rex |

5. All entries must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor. Breeding should be done 100 days prior to the show. **No crossbreeds may be bred or shown.**

6. **MANDATORY:** All exhibitors of Market Rabbits will be required to fill out a Market Validation Form (not entry card). This form will include a statement as to the physical location of the breeding stock (number of bucks and does with their permanent left ear tattoo) with a release stating that this is for committee use of random checks. Random checks may begin the first of June.

This rule is an enforcement of rule #6 of the General Livestock Rules. The validation form may be acquired at Rabbit Project Meetings, the Fair Office, or the County Extension Office. **The validation form must be completed and turned in at Fair Office no later than June 2, 2025, at 5pm or emailed to acfrabbitproject@gmail.com by 5pm on June 2, 2025.**

7. **AFTER VALIDATION FORMS ARE TURNED IN, ALL VALIDATED EXHIBITORS MUST ATTEND AT LEAST ONE RABBIT PROJECT MEETING TO BE ELIGIBLE TO SHOW AT THE 2025 FAIR.** Project meetings will be posted on the fair website.

8. Those exhibitors breeding their own stock may also purchase a meat pen in the event their breeding stock does not breed, kindle enough kits, or dies prior to the fair. However, they may only enter in one meat pen division at the fair. The purchased pen will be tattooed separately from any home raised kits.

9. **All meat pens shown must have the special tattoo in the right ear which will be placed there by an Austin County Rabbit Validation Committee member Monday, September 1, 2025 without exception.** Family tattooing will be allowed for the Home Bred & Owned division only for the 2025 fair. Meat pens without this validation tattoo will be disqualified from showing at the Austin County Fair.

****Each meat pen kit must have a permanent tattoo in their left ear prior to tag-in.** This permanent tattoo **will not be placed** by Austin County Rabbit Committee during tag-in validation. This tattoo will be noted at tag-in and must match when weighing in at the sift portion of check-in prior to the start of the rabbit show at the fair.

10. Tag-in fee must be paid at time of tag-in.

11. Exhibitors may have only one (1) entry (pen of 3) in this division but are eligible to exhibit one other entry in another livestock division.

12. A meat pen entry will consist of only – three (3) rabbits, either sex, not over 70 days old and not exceeding 5 ½ pounds each in weight. Rabbits exceeding 5 ½ pounds at the show day sift will be disqualified from showing.

13. Entries in the Rabbit Show will move in on **Monday, October 6, 2025.** Exhibitors **MUST** enter the fairgrounds from FM 529 (Gate 2A), unload Rabbits under the Luhn Barn, and then

exit vehicle out to the parking lot (See map in Junior Livestock Show Rule Book). If necessary, you will be allowed to bring a vehicle back in after the Rabbit show to pick up Rabbits not staying and/or carrying cages. All exhibitors, parents, and guests must park in the main parking lot.

14. Sifting and judging will be conducted under the Luhn Barn. Meat pens will be sifted starting promptly at 7:00 a.m. and will be judged immediately following. **No exhibitors will be allowed to unload prior to 6:00 a.m.**
15. Youth Auction Sale General Rule #11 still applies if not physically or academically able to show. Forms should be turned in before judging starts.
16. The showmanship contest may begin, with a specific showmanship judge, during the meat pen show and continue throughout the rabbit show. There will be 3 classes/divisions. The classes will be divided according to the exhibitor's school grade as of September 1, 2025. Classes will be Juniors: 3rd – 5th grade, Intermediate: 6th – 8th grade, and Senior: 9th – 12th grade. The contest may include a hands-on portion, oral questions and/or written test. This is up to the discretion of the judge. There is an entry fee for showmanship. To be eligible to enter showmanship, the exhibitor must have a meat pen or single fryer entered into the fair. If checking in or showing another animal, the Director in Charge of the show should be notified so you can show out of order. Exhibitor still must show by the end of the showmanship judging to be eligible for prizes.
17. The exhibitor is responsible for feeding their rabbits before 9am every morning and needs to supply their own feed and water bowls or bottle (can be secured with a zip tie) for all rabbits staying on the grounds overnight. All three (3) meat pen rabbits will be caged together in one pen.
A zip tie should be used to secure the cage doors from being opened. There will be no containers of feed, etc. allowed on top, in or under the cages.
18. Exhibitors will move out at 8:00 a.m. on **Sunday, October 12, 2025**. No rabbits are to leave the fairgrounds before this stated date and time without prior consent from the Rabbit Director in Charge!
19. Self-addressed & stamped thank you cards for all buckles, trophies, prizes and cash awards won on Monday at the Rabbit Show **MUST** be turned into the Rabbit Director in Charge before moving out on **Sunday, October 12, 2025**, by 8:00 a.m.
20. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to have their Market Rabbits processed (if applicable) and delivered, dressed or alive to their buyer within two (2) weeks after the close of the Austin County Fair, but not until the drug testing results have returned.
21. Drug Testing will be performed on Grand and Reserve Champion and one (1) random pen chosen before the show starts. There will be no interfering with testing area and testing official. The drug tested animals are not allowed to be processed for their prospective buyers until results are back and the exhibitor has been notified.

22. When Youth Auction Sale checks are ready, exhibitors will be contacted. In order to receive their check, exhibitors must bring **STAMPED and ADDRESSED HANDWRITTEN** thank you notes to their buyers and add on donors to the Fair Office. Once the Fair Office has checked the thank you notes, exhibitors will seal them and then receive their check.
23. Quality Counts: In keeping with the Austin County Fair drug residue avoidance policy, ALL exhibitors are required to pass the Quality Counts Verification test for entry into the 2025 Show. Junior market and breeding show entries will not be accepted without a verification code for each exhibitor. Verification codes are not required for Agricultural Mechanics exhibitors and Judging Contest contestants. The Quality Counts training and test can be found at:
<https://www.texaslivestockvalidation.com/qc/qcregister.aspx>
24. **It is absolutely unethical for anyone to ask the buyer of an exhibit to donate or sell back a sale lot to the exhibitor. The Fair Board will not tolerate exhibitors asking for animals to be donated or sold back. The violation of this rule could result in the forfeiture of any monies and/or prizes earned and be subject to other penalties assessed by the Austin County Fair.**
25. **No request to change the destination of the purchased animal(s) may be made by the exhibitor or parent. The buyers' written request is final. Once the buyer submits the written form to the sales clerk, the buyer is the only individual allowed to make changes to delivery or destination.**

PURCHASED DIVISION:

****{Rules # 6 - #25 above ALSO apply to this division}****

26. This is not an A.R.B.A or T.R.B.A sanctioned show. However, it will be governed by the American Rabbit Breeders Association guidelines as outlined by the A.R.B.A Standard of Perfection. All entries are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair. Market Rabbits are also governed by the Youth Auction Sale rules.
27. Any entry showing symptoms of disease such as malocclusion, sore bleeding hocks, signs of a cold or sniffles, ear canker, mite or mange, vent disease, sore and runny eyes, mix breeds or other disqualifying features, may be excluded from exhibition at the discretion of the Rabbit Show Superintendent. No stock, except in the above instances, will be removed from the exhibition until the close of the Rabbit Show.
28. The following meat pen breeds will be allowed:
- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| D. Californian | D. Palomino |
| E. New Zealand | E. Champagne D'Argent |
| F. Satin | F. Rex |

29. Meat Pens are to be 70 days and no older with a breed date of 100 days prior to our show (July 1st). **A purchased pen will consist of no more than 10 kits. No crossbreeds may be shown.**
30. **MANDATORY:** All exhibitors of Market Rabbits will be required to fill out a Market Validation Form (not entry card). This form will include a statement as to the physical location that the project will be raised with a release stating that this is for committee use of random checks. Random checks will be at the discretion of the committee. This rule is an enforcement of rule #6 of the General Livestock Rules. The validation form may be acquired at 4-H Rabbit Project Meetings, the Fair Office or the County Extension Office. **The validation form must be completed and turned in at Fair Office by June 2, 2025, no later than 5pm.**
31. **AFTER VALIDATION FORMS ARE TURNED IN, ALL VALIDATED EXHIBITORS MUST ATTEND AT LEAST ONE RABBIT PROJECT MEETING TO BE ELIGIBLE TO SHOW AT THE 2025 FAIR.** Project meetings will be posted on the fair website. **These eligibility meetings are the JULY, AUGUST, and/or SEPTEMBER meetings.**
32. All meat pens shown must have the special tattoo in the right ear which will be placed there by an Austin County Rabbit Validation Committee. Meat pens must be validated/tagged-in at the Austin County Fairgrounds on Monday, September 2, 2025, **without exception.** Meat pens without this validation tattoo will be disqualified from showing at the Austin County Fair.
- **Each meat pen kit must have a permanent tattoo in their left ear prior to tag-in. This permanent tattoo will not be placed by Austin County Rabbit Committee during tag-in validation. This tattoo will be noted at tag-in and must match when weighing in at the sift portion of check-in prior to the start of the rabbit show at the fair.**
33. Tag-in fee must be paid at time of tag in.
34. Tag-in is per exhibitor, **NO** family tag-in is allowed for purchased pens.
35. **Limit of (1) tagged pen of 10 or less kits per exhibitor.**
36. Purchased Kits only will be weighed at time of tag-in and a maximum weight of 2 pounds 8 ounces will be allowed. **Any kits weighing more at tag-in will not be allowed to be tagged.**
37. A meat pen entry will consist of only – three(3) rabbits, either sex, not over 70 days old and not exceeding 5 ½ pounds each in weight. Rabbits exceeding 5 ½ pounds at the show day sift will be disqualified from showing
38. Exhibitors may have only one (1) entry in this division but are eligible to exhibit one other entry in another livestock division.

39. The judge will determine the overall Market Rabbit Champion and Reserve Champion from the two divisions. The sale order will then be allocated giving 65% of the eligible sale slots to the Bred & Owned division and 35% to the purchased division. If all sale lots allotted to a division are not used by that division, any remaining slots will be added to the other division.
40. Sifting and judging will be conducted under the Luhn Barn. The Purchased meat pens will be judged immediately following the Home Grown Division Show. The time of the Purchased Meat Pen sift will be published on the fair website once tag in numbers are evaluated in September. **No exhibitors will be allowed to unload prior to 6:00 a.m.**

“A dream written down becomes a goal

A goal broken down into steps becomes a plan

A plan backed by action becomes a reality.”

SINGLE FRYER RABBIT

ENTRY DEADLINE: AUGUST 18, 2025

ENTRY FEE: \$15.00

1. This is not a A.R.B.A or T.R.B.A sanctioned show. However, will be governed by the American Rabbit Breeders Association guidelines as outlined by the A.R.B.A Standard of Perfection. All entries are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair.
2. Any entry showing symptoms of disease such as malocclusion, sore bleeding hocks, signs of a cold or sniffles, ear canker, mite or mange, vent disease, sore and runny eyes, mix breeds or other disqualifying features, may be excluded from exhibition at the discretion of the Rabbit Show Director in Charge. No stock, except in the above instances, will be removed from the exhibition until the close of the Rabbit Show.
3. Home Bred and Grown single fryer will show with Purchased single fryers in this show only.
4. Single Fryer breeds are limited to the following commercial breeds:

G. Californian	D. Palomino
H. New Zealand	E. Champagne D'Argent
I. Satin	F. Rex
5. All exhibitors of Single Fryer Rabbits will be required to fill out a Market Validation Form (not entry card). This form will include a statement as to the physical location of the breeding stock (number of bucks and does with their permanent tattoo) with a release stating that this is for committee use of random checks. Random checks will be at the discretion of the committee.

This rule is an enforcement of rule #6 of the General Livestock Rules. The validation form may be acquired at 4-H Rabbit Project Meetings, the Fair Office or the County Extension Office. **The validation form must be completed and turned in at Fair Office by June 2, 2025, no later than 5pm, or emailed to acfrabbitproject@gmail.com by 5pm on June 2, 2025.**
6. All single fryer rabbits shown **must** have the special tattoo in the right ear which will be placed there by an Austin County Rabbit Validation Committee member during mandatory tag-in at the Austin County Fairgrounds Monday, September 1, 2025.
7. Entries shall consist of one (1) single meat fryer only – not over 70 days old, either sex, be a minimum of 3 ½ pounds and not exceeding 5 ½ pounds in weight. Rabbits exceeding 5 ½ pounds will be re-weighed once and then dis-qualified. Fryers are to possess the same qualities as meat pen rabbits but are judged as a single rabbit on its own merit. **No crossbreeds may be shown.**

8. Exhibitors may have only one (1) entry in this division, and it may not be taken from the meat pen that was shown. This is a prize only division and will not be a market animal in the Youth Auction Sale.

Entries in the Rabbit Show will move in on **Monday, October 6, 2025**, no earlier than 9:00 a.m. Exhibitors MUST enter the fairgrounds from FM 529 (Gate 2A), unload rabbits under the Luhn Barn, and then exit vehicle out to the parking lot (See map in Junior Livestock Show Rule Book). If necessary, you will be allowed to bring a vehicle back in after the Rabbit show to pick up rabbits not staying and/or carrying cages. All guests must park in the main parking lot.

9. Sifting and judging will be conducted under the Luhn Barn. Single Fryer rabbits will be weighed, sifted and judged immediately following the completion of the meat pen show, however no earlier than 8:00 a.m.

10. Youth Auction Sale General Rule #11 still applies if not physically or academically able to show. Forms should be turned in before judging starts.

11. The Grand and Reserve Single Fryer will stay at the fair on exhibition. The remaining single fryers may be released after the show to go home. These exhibitors are responsible for feeding/watering their rabbits before 9:00 a.m. every morning and need to supply their own feed and water bowls or bottle (can be secured with a cable tie). A zip tie to secure the cage doors from being opened is required. There will be no containers of feed, etc. allowed on top, in or under the cages.

12. Exhibitors **MUST** move out at 8:00 a.m. on **Sunday, October 12, 2025**. No rabbits are to leave the fairgrounds before this stated date and time without prior consent from the Rabbit Chairmen or Director in Charge!

13. Self-addressed & stamped thank you cards for all buckles, trophies, prizes and cash awards won on Monday at the Rabbit Show **MUST** be turned into the Committee Chairman before moving out on **Sunday, October 12, 2025**, at 8:00 a.m.