

# Santa Maria High School

## FFA

### 2023



# Market Rabbit

## SAE Project

### Outline

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## **Market Rabbit Project** **Overview**

The Market Rabbit SAE project is a privileged opportunity for students to develop the fundamental skills that promote personal growth and career success. By your son or daughter raising Market Rabbits they will be developing experiences in animal care, budgeting, accounting, along with fundamental life skills such as work ethic, time management, responsibility and dependability. Please note that Market Rabbit Projects are marketed and sold at the fair. Therefore, students will not be able to take their projects home after the fair. The following list is a general overview of the progression of the Market Rabbit project:

1. Student develops a business plan that details a budget, where the student will attain the capital for the project, where the student will house the project, and how they will meet their daily obligations.
2. Student attains the funds for the project and deposits it into the ASB account
3. Advisor will breed school stock or will selectively buy market rabbits for the chapter group around late May into June.
4. Student chooses the market rabbit project and takes ownership of the rabbits that are approximately 2-3 pounds and are 6-8 weeks of age (rabbits cannot be more than 70 days in age).
5. Student cares for the animal by feeding the animal daily, cleaning their pen, and exercising their animal (if needed) for approximately 45 days. During that time the animal will gain 2-3 pounds.
6. Student washes and fits their animal the weekend prior to fair in July.
7. Student will be required to show and care for their animal in addition to selling their animal at the auction during the fair.
8. Student will clean-out their cage at the conclusion of the fair.
9. Student receives their check for their project from the fair approximately 4-6 weeks after the fair.

There are many supports that are put in place to help your son or daughter to have this great opportunity which includes

Loans (large livestock only)  
On Campus Small Animal Unit / School Farm

The most important support that is available to your son or daughter is the Agriculture Teacher. It is my privilege and responsibility to guide your student through a successful experience by teaching and sharing my successful experience with raising market rabbits.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. What if I don't know anything about raising a rabbit?

**That is perfectly ok, students will not only be enrolled in the Feed, Fit and Show class to learn the necessary skills and knowledge to raise an animal, but they will also be advised by their agriculture teacher on a weekly basis.**

2. Where would I keep my rabbits?

**If you have the right amount of space and proper shelter you can keep it at home, but if you don't you have the opportunity to keep them on campus at the Small Livestock Unit for a small fee/required hours of work.**

3. Can I buy my rabbits off of craigslist?

**NO, the type of animal required to be shown at a county fair requires the animal to be purchased from a reputable breeder.**

4. I don't know any rabbit breeders, where would I buy rabbits from?

**Your agriculture advisor will either be breeding rabbit stock to select from, or will contact breeders across the state of California and will purchase rabbits for the chapter in which you will pick your rabbits from that group.**

5. How long would I have the rabbits?

**Approximately 45 days**

6. How many times a day do I need to feed my rabbits?

**Twice a day, once in the morning (this will be taken care of) and once at night**

7. Do I have to feed on the weekends?

**Yes you are responsible for the care and feeding of your animal until it is auctioned off at the fair.**

8. Can I buy any kind of feed?

**Feed must be of high quality to prevent illness and allow the animal to put on enough weight to be auction off at the fair. The chapter will be buying bulk feed which will cut the cost of your feed by being on the chapter's feed and will be required to feed if you are keeping your project at the school farm.**

## 2023 Important Dates

*Meetings will be in room 332 at 12:30 (Lunch)*

<p><u>3/14/23</u> Introductory Meeting at Lunch 2023 Market Rabbit Application 2023 Market Rabbit SAE Contract</p> <p><u>3/24/23</u> 2023 Market Rabbit Application due</p> <p><u>3/26/23</u> 2023 Market Rabbit SAE list posted</p> <p><u>3/31/23</u> 2023 Market Rabbit SAE Contract due 2023 Market Rabbit SAE Payment due to ASB Business Office</p> <p>_____ Rabbit Meeting at Lunch Record Book Business Agreement, Journal, Calendar and Budget</p> <p>_____ Rabbit Meeting at Lunch Breeds of Rabbits</p> <p>_____ Rabbit Meeting at Lunch Parts of a Rabbit, Rabbit Confirmation, Selection &amp; Evaluation</p> <p>_____ Rabbit Meeting</p>	<p>Buyer Letters &amp; Thank You Cards _____ Set Showmanship Practice Timeline _____ Showmanship Practice _____ Showmanship Practice _____ Showmanship Practice _____ Wash &amp; Tattoo Rabbits</p> <p><u>7/8/23</u> Fair Begins!</p> <p><b><u>Fair Dates All Exhibitors Must be at the Fair Every Day from July 8<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup></u></b> <u>7/8/23 - 7/16/23</u> Feed, water and clean pen every day Mornings 7:00AM-8:30 AM Afternoons 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM</p> <p><u>7/8/23</u> Haul Rabbits into Fairgrounds (7am) Rabbit Show (7am-4pm) _____ Exhibitor Test (9am-10am) ???</p> <p><u>7/15/23</u> Auction Day (11am-4pm) <u>7/17/23</u> Clean up Barns (6am-9 am)</p>
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## Market Rabbit Budget

The following figures are estimates only based on previous years and do not factor in current increases in feed or any other items detailed in this list. In addition students are not guaranteed to make a profit on the project. Student assumes all profits and losses from their projects.

The budget listed below is an estimate, student's profit or loss may vary

<u>Estimated Expenses</u>		<u>Estimated Income</u>	
3 Rabbits	\$30.00	SBCF Sale of Rabbits	\$200-\$300
Feed (3 bags)	\$60.00		
Shavings for Fair	\$7.00		
SBCF Entry Fees	\$15.00		
		<u>Estimated Profit</u>	
YQCA Certification <small>(not paid to SMHS Business Office)</small>	\$3.00 or \$13.00	Estimated Income	\$200 - \$300
FFA Jacket <small>(not paid to SMHS Business Office)</small>	\$70	Estimated Expense	\$115 - \$195
<b>Total – Paid to Business Office</b>	<b>\$115</b>	<b>Total Profit</b>	<b>\$5.00 - \$105</b>
<b>Total – including Jacket &amp; YQCA</b>	<b>\$195</b>		

# Market Rabbits 2023 - SAE Plan

## **Description:**

All labor and management for my Market Rabbit SAE Project will be completed by me, *(type your full name)*. I will be keeping my rabbits in the Rabbit Barn located in the Santa Maria FFA Small Animal Unit. Santa Maria FFA will provide me with a cage, feeder, water bottle, and access to running water and shavings if needed. I will attend all meetings and showmanship practices as assigned by my FFA Advisor. I will be responsible for all labor, showing, marketing, and auctioning of my rabbits at the Santa Barbara County Fair. I will be required to write and mail at least one Buyer Letter at least one month prior to the Santa Barbara County Fair. At the conclusion of the fair, I will provide a thank you letter to the buyer of my project following its sale. My FFA Advisor will also provide me with any needed advisement and assistance throughout my project.

## **Time Investment:**

I, *(type your full name)*, will be responsible for all labor in regard to my Market Rabbit SAE Project. My daily responsibilities will include feeding and watering my rabbits, as well as cleaning out their cage and disposing of manure and shavings properly. I will attend all meetings and showmanship practices as assigned by my FFA Advisor, and I work with my each of my rabbits on my own time in preparation for the Santa Barbara County Fair. In addition, I will work a minimum of ten non-project hours (Santa Barbara County Fair Poultry Inspection and Barn-Duty) in order to repay my use of the Santa Maria FFA Small Animal Unit.

## **Financial:**

I, *(type your full name)*, will provide all finances to cover the cost of my Market Rabbit SAE Project. This includes the cost of the rabbits, feed, veterinary/medical expenses, fair entry fees, shavings, the YQCA Training, an Official FFA Jacket (if needed), and any other necessary supplies needed for my project. I am to receive all profits from the sale of my rabbits.

## **Learning Objectives (Skills):**

AS.02.01 Demonstrate management techniques that ensure animal welfare. ?

AS.02.02 Analyze procedures to ensure that animal products are safe for consumption (e.g., use in food system, etc.). ?

AS.03.01 Analyze the nutritional needs of animals. ?

AS.03.03 Utilize industry tools to make animal nutrition decisions. ?

AS.07.01 Design programs to prevent animal diseases, parasites and other disorders and ensure animal welfare. ?

I will...

I will...

I will...

I will...

## **Sample Buyer Letter**

Dear Donald Duck,

Hello, my name is Mickey Mouse. I am 16 years old and am involved in the Santa Maria FFA organization. This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> year in FFA and my 2<sup>nd</sup> year in the market rabbit project. Besides rabbits, I am also involved with the dairy products judging team and enjoy performing community service projects. I have spent a lot of time on my project and will be exhibiting it at the upcoming Santa Barbara County Fair.

Throughout my market rabbit project I have learned many skills including how to show rabbits, trim their nails, tattoo their ears, and how to weigh my rabbits and manage their feed so that they are between 3-5 pounds at the first day of the Santa Barbara County Fair. I am also responsible for feeding and caring for my rabbits on a daily basis.

Currently, I am attending Santa Maria High School where I am in Mr. Ayon's Agriculture class. I really enjoy being part of the FFA and it has given me great opportunities. Outside of FFA I have played youth football and was part of the volleyball team. I am glad to have been so involved with many things this year.

I would now like to take this opportunity to invite you to the Santa Barbara County Fair and their Junior Livestock Auction. The fair opens on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> and ends Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. The Junior Small Livestock auction, where I will be selling my market rabbits, begins at 12 pm on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be served for auction buyers. The Santa Maria FFA will also be providing complimentary parking in their lot off of Thornburg to buyers.

I would like to thank you for all of your support of the 4-H and FFA. Without people like you, these programs would not be possible. Thank you for your time and I hope to see you at fair!

Sincerely,

Mickey Mouse

## How to Write a Thank You Note

- Address the note to the buyer using his/her proper name or the name of the business listed.  
Example: Dear Mr./Ms. Buyer
- Make sure the letter is readable and that spelling is correct.
- State what you are thanking him/her for.  
Example: Thank you for purchasing my market rabbits at the Santa Barbara County Fair this year.
- Make a statement showing your appreciation.  
Example: I really appreciate your support of my project.
- Sign your name and print your club/chapter name.
- Address the envelope in the center, put your name and return address in the left-hand corner and a first-class mail letter stamp in the right-hand corner.

## Sample Thank You Card

*Dear Mr. Buyer*

*Thank you for buying my market Rabbits at the Santa Barbara County Fair this year. Your support of the youth in our community is appreciated by all of us. I will use this money for next year's project animal. Again, thank you for your support*

*Sincerely,*

*Micky Mouse*

*Santa Maria FFA*

### **Sample Envelope**

Seller Name Seller Address City and State with Zip Code	Stamp
Buyer Name Buyer Address City and State with Zip Code	

# Rabbit SAE Project Helpful Resources

## Santa Maria FFA Website – Market Rabbit Project:

[www.saintsffa.org/market-rabbit-project](http://www.saintsffa.org/market-rabbit-project)

## Quizlet – Santa Maria FFA Rabbit Show Team:

<https://quizlet.com/join/rVdfuSTzd?i=3d4v4&x=1bqt>

## Remind 101 – FFA Rabbit SAE:



### Sign up for important updates from Mrs. Rodriguez.

Get information for Santa Maria High School right on your phone—not on handouts.

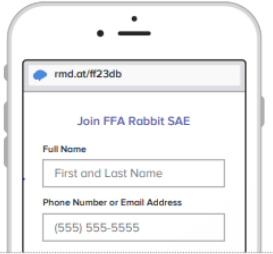
Pick a way to receive messages for FFA Rabbit SAE:

**A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

[rmd.at/ff23db](http://rmd.at/ff23db)

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.




**B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @ff23db to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @ff23db to (805) 357-9742.

\* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to [rmd.at/ff23db](http://rmd.at/ff23db) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.