

Santa Maria High School

FFA

2022



Rabbit SAE Project

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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 their 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
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.

Show Rabbit Project Overview

The Show 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 Show 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 Show Rabbit Projects are only shown, and not sold, at the fair. Therefore, students are required to keep this type of project year-round. The following list is a general overview of the progression of the Show 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 their 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 Show Rabbit project and takes ownership of the rabbit. Rabbit age and weight will be dependent on breed.
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 may gain weight and will need to be monitored in order to meet ARBA requirements dependent on the breed for the fair.
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 during the fair.
8. Student will clean-out their cage and take home their Show Rabbit at the conclusion of the fair.

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

On Campus Small Animal Unit / School Farm ← Rabbit(s) must go home after fair

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.

2022 Important Dates

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

<u>2/8/22</u>	Introductory Meeting at Lunch	_____	Rabbit Meeting
	Student Survey	_____	Buyer Letters & Thank You Cards
<u>2/11/22</u>	Small Animal Unit Workday	_____	Set Showmanship Practice Timeline
<u>3/15/22</u>	Rabbit Show List Posted	_____	Showmanship Practice
<u>3/17/22</u>	Rabbit Meeting at Lunch	_____	Showmanship Practice
	Go over Contract, Pay Dates, YQCA etc. (YQCA Due by 5/1/22)	_____	Showmanship Practice
		_____	Wash & Tattoo Rabbits
<u>3/25/22</u>	Livestock Exhibitor Contract Due	_____	Wash & Tattoo Rabbits
<u>3/31/22</u>	Payment is due Business Office!	_____	Fair Begins!
_____	Rabbit Meeting at Lunch		
	Record Book Business Agreement, Journal, Calendar and Budget		
_____	Rabbit Meeting at Lunch		
	Breeds of Rabbits		
_____	Rabbit Meeting at Lunch		
	Parts of a Rabbit, Rabbit Confirmation, Selection & Evaluation		

Fair Dates All Exhibitors Must be at the Fair

Every Day from July 9th - 18th

_____	Haul Rabbits into Fairgrounds (7am)
_____	Rabbit Show (7am-4pm)
_____	Exhibitor Test (9am-10am) ???
_____	Auction Day (11am-4pm)
_____	Clean up Barns (6am-9 am)

Market Rabbit Budget

The following figures are estimates only based on previous years and to 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.

Estimated Expenses:

• Cost of Rabbits	\$45.00
• Feed	\$30.00
• Veterinary/Medical	\$3.00
• Shavings/Bedding	\$5.00
• Fair Entry Fees	\$10.00
• Quality Assurance Class	\$12.00
• FFA Jacket & Scarf/Tie (if needed)	\$75.00

Total Estimated Expenses with FFA Jacket	\$195.00
Total Estimated Expenses without FFA Jacket	\$120.00

Purchasing a Chapter Meat Pen requires you to pay to the business office by Friday, March 25th, 2022

Estimated Income	\$250.00
Estimated Profit	\$130.00

Sample Business Agreements

SAMPLE #1:

MARKET RABBIT OWNERSHIP

Ramon Ayala and Santa Maria FFA

January 1 to December 31

Ramon will use funds from his savings account to buy his market rabbits. Ramon will use the advice given by his agriculture teacher to locate quality rabbits to be purchased by May 15th. Ramon will keep his rabbits at the small animal livestock for the duration of the project. Ramon will use a cage that is already built and in return report any problems with it to the farm manager. After the project rabbits are sold at the county fair, Ramon will have one week to completely clean-out his project cage or be charged a \$20 clean-up fee. Ramon will feed and water his project rabbits as directed by the agriculture teacher. If he fails to do so, there will be a meeting between Ramon , his parents, and the agriculture teacher to determine where the market rabbits will be housed. All expenses incurred will be paid by Ramon , including, but not limited to: wormer, antibiotics, grooming supplies, feed, and fair entry. The agriculture teacher will assist in weighing the rabbits on a regular basis. At the end of the project, the agriculture teacher will be given a written thank-you note addressed to his buyers and completed record books. In return, Ramon will receive 100% of the profit after all fees have been paid and the cage cleaned.

SAMPLE #2:

MARKET RABBIT OWNERSHIP

Samantha Williams and Santa Maria FFA

January 1 to December 31

I, Samantha Williams, agree to provide the cost of the animal, feed, and all supplies needed for my Market Rabbit Project. I will also be responsible for all the necessary labor for my project, including feeding and watering of my rabbits on a daily basis, and manure disposal. In addition, I will attend all meetings as assigned by my FFA Advisor, will work a minimum of ten non-project hours, as well as work with my rabbits in preparation for the Santa Barbara County Fair. I will be responsible for all labor, showing, marketing, and auctioning of my rabbits at 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. I am to receive all profits from the sale of my rabbits. Santa Maria FFA will provide any needed housing for my project prior to the fair, as well as running water. My FFA Advisor will also provide me with any needed advisement and assistance throughout my project.

Sample Buyers Letter

June 1st, 2022

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 3rd year in FFA and my 2nd 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 15th and ends Sunday, July 19th. The Junior Small Livestock auction, where I will be selling my market rabbits, begins at 12 pm on Friday the 17th. 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 you 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

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.

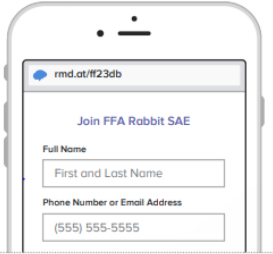
Pick a way to receive messages for FFA Rabbit SAE:

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

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 on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.