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| **Washington State 4-H Fair**  WSU Puyallup ❖ 2606 W. Pioneer ❖ Puyallup, WA 98371  Off Season (Oct 1 – Aug 15): 253-445-4630; Fax 253-445-4587  Fair Time (Aug 16-Sept 30): 253-770-5410; Fax: 253-770-5412  Website: <http://extension.wsu.edu/4h/fairs/state-4-h-fair/> | WASH4H |

1.19m(6/17)

**TO:** **4-H RABBIT AND CAVY SHOW PARTICIPANTS**

**FROM:** Washington State 4-H Fair

**SUBJECT:** State 4-H Fair Participation Information - 2017

*Congratulations! Your achievements have made it possible for you to represent your county 4-H program at the Washington State 4-H Fair. I hope that your experiences at State 4-H Fair this year will be good ones. State 4-H Fair organizers have prepared the following information for you, to help make your visit a satisfying one.*

**ANIMALS WILL BE RECEIVED BETWEEN 6 A.M. AND 9 A.M. ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 IN BARN A. No accommodations are available for animals brought to the fair before 6 a.m. Friday.**

**ANIMALS WILL BE RELEASED BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18. All animals must be removed from the barn before 8 p.m. Monday.**

**RABBIT/CAVY SHOW SCHEDULE (these times have been updated since the premium book was posted online – these are the correct times):**

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| Friday  * Animals received, vet-checked.......................6 - 9 a.m. * Exhibitor and Parent Meeting......................10 - 11 a.m. * Clerk Training……............................11 a.m. – 12 p.m. * Rabbit Type Judging………………….begins at 1 p.m. * Cavy Type Judging................................begins at 1p.m.  Saturday  * Exhibitor and Parent Meeting...................... 8 - 9 a.m. * Cavy Judging Contest……............... 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. * Rabbit Judging Contest…................. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. |  | Sunday  * Cavy Fitting and Showmanship………9 a.m. – 1 p.m. * Rabbit Fitting and Showmanship….….9 a.m. – 1 p.m. * Exhibitor Awards Program…………………….6 p.m.   **Monday**   * Animals released........................................... 6 - 8 p.m. |

1. Please read this memo carefully. Questions may be directed to your county Extension 4-H office or the State 4-H Fair office. Check current maps for new or unfamiliar locations. Important information about security, parking, dorms, passes, and camper space rentals is available in WS4HF/1.10m and is not repeated in this letter. Be sure to ask for that information.

There are new gate opening and ticket sales times that you should be aware of, for anyone entering the fairgrounds before 9 a.m. For more information see WS4HF/1.10m or go online to www.thefair.com.

1. If you can’t participate, please call the State 4-H Fair Office at (253) 770-5410.
2. **Each exhibitor must complete WS4HF/1.01m. The form is available from your County Extension Office. Please mail it to the State 4-H Fair in time to be received before participation date.**

Those anticipating residency in the dormitories should be sure they read WS4HF/1.10m. Dormitories cannot house all who request space during the time of the 4-H Rabbit/Cavy show. Some will be denied access. Check the information mentioned above to find out if you will be admitted or denied – BEFORE YOU MAKE FINAL PLANS TO ATTEND.

We cannot house rabbits or cavies on the fair grounds prior to the Friday morning vet check-in. Any exhibitor expecting to stay in the dorm Thursday evening will need to make alternative arrangements for the care of their animals.

1. The State 4-H Fair Exhibitor Guide is online at<http://extension.wsu.edu/4h/fairs/state-4-h-fair/>**.** Please read all information relating to your participation prior to coming to State 4-H Fair.
2. As a State 4-H Fair participant, *you* are on exhibit to other 4-H’ers and the public. Behavior and appearance that shows pride and respect for yourself and the 4-H
3. ***Page 2, Rabbit-Cavy Exhibitor Letter***

organization is expected of all 4-H exhibitors. Courteous, appropriate language and clean, appropriate clothing is part of your State 4-H Fair exhibiting responsibility.

1. If you have qualified for and want to make a public presentation at the State 4-H Fair, please let the Rabbit/ Cavy Superintendent know early on Friday morning, even though you may wish to do your presentation on a different day. For your own convenience, you are encouraged to make your public presentation during the time you are at the fair with your animal.
2. Animal educational displays may either be sent to the fair with other still life exhibits (Aug 28-29) or brought when animals are brought in. If delivered at the earlier time, the educational displays will have already been processed, and you may pick them up at the 4-H Exhibit Building to put into your barn display immediately. If you bring your educational display with you on animal check-in day, you will be given further directions in the barn. Educational posters will not be judged. Instead, all education posters will be awarded a special ribbon and a flat rate of premium points.
3. Vehicles bringing rabbits and cavies enter through the south Service Gate located toward the southwest corner of the fair grounds. Vehicles must be off the fairgrounds by 8:45 a.m. If you are carrying animals in, you should enter through the service gate off 5th Street SW, immediately south of the Poultry/Rabbit Barn “A”. Animals must be transported in solid-bottomed containers.
4. Rabbit/Cavy exhibitors or their representatives will be able to pick up passes in the Rabbit/Poultry Barn from 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Friday. Beginning at 7 a.m., dormitory residents may check in to the dormitories at the State 4-H Fair Office. After 10:00 a.m., passes will be available in the 4-H Pass Office only.
5. Food and beverages should not be consumed in public in any animal barns, either by exhibitors, parents, chaperones or other barn visitors due to WWF concerns about biological safety for exhibitors and barn visitors. Wash your hands frequently while handling animals, and especially before touching any food. This reflects the serious nature of food contamination from animal contact – for barn visitors as well as exhibitors. Please cooperate in setting a good example for the more vulnerable urban public.
6. Exhibitors are required to participate in at least one herdsmanship shift. Individuals will be assigned herdsmanship duties of one to two hours. Herdsmanship will be assigned from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Individuals will sign up for herdsmanship duty, and the sign-up sheet will be used to determine participation. Read about herdsmanship in the State 4-H Fair Exhibitor Guide.

Most of the benching tables have a solid surface under the cages. Due to the difficulty in opening some of the cages, all exhibitors are responsible for feeding and cleaning the cages of their own animals each morning of the fair. Morning herdsmanship begins at 6 a.m. each morning.

1. The animal used in Fitting & Showmanship must be an animal also exhibited in Type by the same exhibitor. No milking does or doe/litter entries will be accepted, in consideration of the health and safety of the animals. Exhibitors may enter one crossbred rabbit or crossbred cavy, provided it is the only rabbit or cavy being entered in the State 4-H Fair.
2. Because of increased awareness of good animal welfare on the part of the general public, you are expected to handle and exhibit your animal safely and humanely. Violations will be dealt with appropriately and promptly.

14. Exhibiting an animal at the State 4-H Fair implies your acceptance of the Animal Project Exhibitor Commitment to Quality Animal Care agreement. A copy of the agreement follows. Please read it carefully. Participation indicates your intent to comply with these statements.

IN LIGHT OF RECENT CONCERNS OVER ANIMAL HEALTH ISSUES, WE ARE SHARING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM THE STATE VETERINARIAN’S OFFICE:

**BIOSECURITY CHECKLIST FOR ALL LIVESTOCK EXHBIITORS**

Before and During the Fair:

* Prohibit visitors to your animals and farm especially if they have traveled outside of the country within the past week.
* Make sure all veterinary health inspections and certificates of veterinary inspection are current for all the animals you will take to the fair.
* Follow the fair vaccination guidelines and give recommended vaccination at least 10 days before the event.
* Disinfect all equipment, such as buckets, shovels, wheelbarrows, manure baskets, lead ropes, blankets, snares, clippers, brushes, showbox, and so forth before entering the fairgrounds.
* Don’t share equipment with other exhibitors unless it has been cleaned and disinfected before and after use.
* Avoid entering the pens/stalls and coming in contact with animals from other farms.
* Contact the fair veterinarian or superintendent when animals are in need of attention. If you must come in contact with animals other than your own, properly wash your hands and thoroughly clean and disinfect your boots and clothing before returning to your animals.
* Eliminate traffic between exhibitors of different species. If it is not possible to eliminate this traffit, change clothing and disinfect hands before handling a different species.
* As much as possible, minimize feed and water changes from home to fair.
* Keep unused equipment and feed bagged or covered to reduce the risk of contamination.
* Vehicles and trailers used to transport animals to and from the fair should be well cleaned and disinfected, inside and out, between uses.
* Do not mix species in the same trailer (especially sheep/goats and cattle). Avoid commercial haulers with multiple animals from multiple farms.
* Clean and disinfect all items at the end of the fair before taking them home.
* Properly dispose of unused bedding, hay, and feed after the fair. Do not bring it home.
* Minimize stress by keep animals cool, well bedded, and comfortable.
* Carefully consider whether exhibition animals should return home after the fair, and what risk that presents to other animals at home.
* If an animal becomes ill at the exhibit, consult the fair veterinarian and isolate the animal.

After the fair:

* The safest way to transport your animals is in your own vehicle. Do not haul animals from other farms.
* Keep fair animals isolated from other animals and pets for at least 20 days.
* Check these isolated animals every day for any signs of illness.
* Care for isolated animals separately, then shower, change your clothes, and clean and disinfect your boots before going to other areas of the farm.

The person caring for animals at the fair should not perform animal-related chores at home during the fair. If the same person must do both, chores at home should be done first. Do not wear the same clothes, hats, and shoes to care for the animals at home at the fair animals. Garments should be cleaned and disinfected between each trip to the fairgrounds and barn/pasture. It is also a good idea to shower between trips.

* Horse taken to the fair should be isolated from livestock and pets for at least 30 days after returning to the fair. Although horses don’t get many of the livestock diseases, they could carry disease back to the farm.
* Contact a veterinarian as soon as you see any unusual symptoms in any animal. Many diseases can look similar to a foreign animal disease, only a veterinarian can tell for sure.

These biosecurity practices are a good idea no matter what disease might be of concern. The goals are to keep every animal healthy and to safeguard the Washington livestock industry.

**TOP FIVE DISEASE PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS**

* Segregation – prevent contact of your livestock with other animals.
* Restrict use of feed, equipment, and trailers to our animals and disinfect after use.;
* What happens at the fair stays at the fair. This includes equipment (unless cleaned and disinfected), feed and bedding.
* Notify a veterinarian immediately if an animal becomes sick.
* Isolate animals returning home for 30 days.

#### ANIMAL PROJECT EXHIBITOR COMMITMENT TO QUALITY ANIMAL CARE

This is an agreement, formal or implied, between 4-H participants and the management of the State 4-H Fair. Its purpose is:

* **To encourage ethical decisions and activities by 4-H youth**
* **To ensure the overall well-being of all 4-H animals exhibited**
* **To ensure the use of commonly accepted practices in preparing and exhibiting animals for show**
* **To maintain a safe and wholesome food supply**
* **To maintain the intent and integrity of animal competitions and displays for future generations**

1. The purpose of my participation in the Washington 4-H Animal Sciences Program is to strengthen my own knowledge, ability, and skill as a feeder, manager, trainer, caregiver, and exhibitor of animals and to develop my sense of responsibility and good character. If my project includes food production animals, my goal is to produce safe and wholesome food.
2. I will do my own project work to the best of my ability.
3. I will not use or allow abusive, fraudulent, or illegal practices or products to be used in the feeding, care, fitting, training, and showing of my animals.
4. I will not misrepresent my animals or myself in any way.
5. I will read, understand, and follow the rules, without exception, of animal shows in which I am a participant and ask that my parents and my 4-H leader do the same.
6. My animal project is an example of how to accept what life has to offer, both good and bad, and how to live with the outcome. I will treat other people’s animals with the same respect and care I give my own animals.
7. I realize that I am responsible for the proper care and safe, humane treatment of my animals. I realize that I am also responsible for demonstrating strong moral fiber and good character as an example to others.
8. I will voice any objections to events related to my participation by using the protest policy described in the premium book. I will not directly interfere with the judge, show management, or other exhibitors before, during, or after the event.
9. I accept that failure to uphold this commitment could result in forfeiture of my right to participate in the 4-H Animal Sciences Program.