



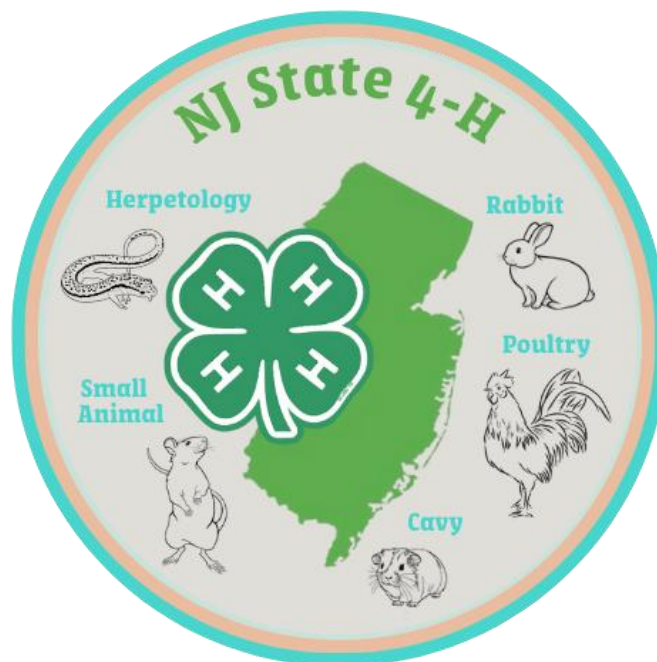
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station



2026 NJ State 4-H Rabbit, Cavy, Small Animal, Herpetology, and Poultry Show

Saturday, September 26, 2026

**Hunterdon County Fairgrounds
1207 NJ-179, Lambertville, NJ 08530**



Registration/Check-in

8:30 - 9:30 am

Judging Begins

10:00 am

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 29, 2026

Entries will not be accepted after 8/29

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Boards of County Commissioners. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer. Contact your local Extension Office for information regarding special needs or accommodations. Contact the State Extension Director's Office if you have concerns related to discrimination
848-932-3

Directions to the Hunterdon County Fairgrounds 1207 Route 179 Lambertville, NJ 08530

From Sussex, NJ:

Take County Rd 565 to NJ-15 S/Lafayette Rd in Frankford Township

13 min (8.8 mi)

Continue on NJ-15 S. Take I-80 E and US-206 S to NJ-179 S in Raritan Township

1 hr 5 min (56.7 mi)

Follow NJ-179 S toward Lambertville. The Hunterdon County Fairgrounds will be on the right, approximately 500 yards beyond the Route 202 overpass

12 min (7.2 mi)

From Cape May, NJ:

Take Pittsburgh Ave and NJ-109 N to Garden State Pkwy N in Lower Township

5 min (2.2 mi)

Continue on Garden State Pkwy N. Take I-195 W and I-295 N to NJ-31 N in Hopewell Township

1 hr 42 min (112 mi)

Follow NJ-31 N for approximately 12 miles. Take the Route 202 North ramp, make a U-turn at Wertsville Road, then proceed on Route 202 South to the Route 179 South exit toward Lambertville. The Fairgrounds will be on the right after the exit ramp

15 min (11.4 mi)

From Central NJ:

Take I-95 S/NJ Turnpike S and I-295 N to NJ-31 N in Hopewell Township

40 min (41.0 mi)

Continue on NJ-31 N for approximately 12 miles to Route 202. Follow signs for Route 179 South toward Lambertville. The Hunterdon County Fairgrounds will be on the right after the overpass

15 min (11.4 mi)

From North Jersey:

Take the Garden State Parkway or NJ Turnpike to I-78 W. Take Exit 17 for NJ-31 S toward Flemington. Continue through the Flemington Circle and follow Route 202/31 South for approximately 5 miles to the Route 179 South exit toward Lambertville. The Fairgrounds will be on the right after the exit ramp.



2026 NJ STATE 4-H RABBIT, CAVY, SMALL ANIMAL, HERPETOLOGY & POULTRY SHOW

SHOW RULES: APPLIES TO ALL EXHIBITORS

Thank you to our Judges!

Jim Brown
Melissa Ordway
Linda Keller
JoAnna Perez

Questions? Contact Show Superintendent Kathy Veith: bkjrv22@gmail.com or 4-H Agent Amelia Valente: Amelia.Valente@rutgers.edu

Member Eligibility:

This event is open to New Jersey 4-H members enrolled in the Rabbit, Cavy, Small Animal, Herpetology, & Poultry 4-H Projects for the 2025-2026 year. Members must have been enrolled in grades K-13 (includes first year out of high school) as of September 2025 and registered as a 4-H member by January 1, 2026.

Participants must be a 4-H member "in good standing", as specified in the state 4-H standards, which may be reviewed on the [NJ 4-H Website](#). To participate in this state show, it is not required for a 4-H member to have participated in a 4-H county or invitational show.

Entering the Show:

1. All required entry forms must be submitted by **August 29** <https://go.rutgers.edu/e02tj3w2>
2. All Required Health Forms must be emailed by **September 19** to bkjrv22@gmail.com
3. All Payments (Cash/Checks/Money Orders) must be provided by **Day of Show**
 - Make checks or money orders payable to "Monmouth County 4-H Association" with the memo '2026 State Show'
4. There will be a \$25 fee for all returned checks.
5. There will be no refunds for:
 - Animals scratched from the show.
 - Animals that fail the health inspection or are excused by the judge.
 - Invalid entries - those that do not include all required documents.
 - Late arrivals. *Plan to arrive early and allow time for check-in.*

General Show Rules:

1. Cloverbuds members in grades K-3 are not judged. They receive positive feedback only.
2. Exhibitors must be present at judging. Only another 4-H member may present the animals for judging, if the exhibitor is being judged in another area.
3. This is a carrying cage show. All cages must have solid bottoms. Animals must be adequately housed. Poultry entries will be provided coops.
4. Exhibitors are responsible for their own exhibits, including grooming, equipment, and carrying to and from the tables. Exhibitors are also responsible for cleaning up their area before leaving. Assistance may be provided by other 4-H members, with show administration approval.
5. There will be NO doe & litter, sow & litter, or hen & chick classes.

6. All species will be judged according to current standards.
7. The Judge's decisions are final. The show committee reserves the right to add and/or substitute judges.

Animal Eligibility:

1. All animals must have appropriate health forms completed. Any exhibitor with an animal that requires a permit **MUST** submit a copy with their entries. To verify the need for a permit, visit <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/exotic-and-nongame-wildlife-permit-applications/>
2. Any animal identified by the event committee with a disease or health condition will be dismissed.
3. Animal Identification:
 - **Rabbits** will be identified by either a permanent ear tattoo in the left ear or a coop number written in the right ear.
 - **Cavy** will be identified by either a permanent ear tag in the left ear or a coop number will be taped in the right ear.
 - **Small Animals/Herpetology** will be identified with a coop number placed on the outside of the carrier. If there is more than one animal in the carrier, the exhibitor must be present at judging in order to provide identification.
 - **Poultry** will be identified by an assigned coop number after entry. This number will be written on the coop tag at check-in.
4. Please review the State Veterinarian's health recommendations for the exhibition of animals. The link is: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/news/fairsshow.shtml>

Your help is needed!

Please help support the show by gathering:

- Sponsors
- Vendors
- Ad's
- and/or Gift Baskets!

See the Program Support Packet found on the NJ 4-H Website for more information: tinyurl.com/NJ4HStateShow2026



RABBIT, CAVY, & SMALL ANIMAL

\$5 fee per animal entry

Please first review the General Rules on Pages 3-4 that apply to all exhibitors.

Enter by clicking this link <https://go.rutgers.edu/e02tj3w2>

Rabbit:

- Sex indicators: Male = Buck Female = Doe
- Age requirements (Class):
 - Junior = 3-6 months
 - Intermediate = 6-8 months*
 - Senior = 8 months and over
- Breeds: The ARBA breeds list will be used.
This show will also include Mix Breeds and Mismarked Dutch

<https://arba.net/recognized-breeds/>

**Note: 4-Class Breeds do not have an intermediate level; this is only for 6-Class Breeds. If you are uncertain on what your rabbit breed is, you may reach out to the show superintendent or speak with your club leader.*

Cavy:

- Sex Indicators: Male = Boar Female = Sow
- Age requirements:
 - Junior = up to 4 months, 12 – 22 ounces
 - Intermediate = up to 6 months, 22 – 32 ounces
 - Senior = over 6 months or 32 ounces
- Breeds: The ACBA breeds list will be used, including Mix Breeds
<https://www.acbaonline.com>

Small Animal:

- Sex Indicators: Male = Male Female = Female
- The Following Classes will be offered:
 - Chinchilla
 - Gerbil
 - Hedgehog
 - Mouse
 - Rat
 - Ferret *proof of rabies vaccination is required*
 - Hamster (Dwarf: Campbells, Chinese, Roborovski, Winter Whites,)
 - Hamster (Syrian: short/long hair)
 - Any Other Small Mammal (degu, sugar glider, etc.)

***Note: Some small animals require state permits. Please review NJ Fish & Wildlife to see if your animal is one of them, and provide a copy of the permit in your registration*

<https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/exotic-and-nongame-wildlife-permit-applications/>

HERPETOLOGY

\$5 fee per animal entry

Please first review the General Rules on Pages 3-4 that apply to all exhibitors.

Enter by clicking this link <https://go.rutgers.edu/e02tj3w2>

Classes:

- Amphibian
- Lizard
- Snake
- Turtle/Tortoise
- Any Other – includes Arachnid, Arthropod, and Insecta.

1. Some animals require state permits. Please review NJ Fish & Wildlife to see if your animal is one of them, and provide a copy of the permit in your registration <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/exotic-and-nongame-wildlife-permit-applications/>
2. **FAILURE TO ENCLOSE PERMITS WILL RESULT IN AN INVALID ENTRY. INVALID ENTRIES CANNOT BE JUDGED, AND WILL NOT RECEIVE A REFUND OF FEES PAID.**
3. Animals should be transported in an adequately sized portable container that is clean, escape-proof, and includes substrate.
4. A display card should be attached to the container, including the following:
 - Color photograph of the animal habitat at the exhibitor's home.
 - Species-specific information describing:
 - natural habitat
 - Latin name
 - Gender
 - Age
5. Judging includes a dialogue between the judge and the 4-H exhibitor.
6. Exhibitors are responsible for their own heat source and cords, if the animal requires. Electric outlets are available.

POULTRY

\$5 fee per animal entry

*Please first review the General Rules on Pages 3-4 that apply to all exhibitors.
Enter by clicking this link <https://go.rutgers.edu/e02tj3w2>*

Division List:

Purebred Large Fowl (Standard) Division

Class 1 – Cockerel

Class 2 – Rooster

Class 3 – Pullet

Class 4 – Hen

Purebred Bantam Division

Class 5 – Cockerel
Turkeys)

Class 6 – Rooster

Class 7 – Pullet

Class 8 – Hen

Mixed Breed Division

Class 9 – Cockerel

Class 10 – Rooster

Class 11 – Pullet

Class 12 – Hen

Waterfowl Division

Class 13 - Ducks

Class 14 - Geese

All Other Fowl Division

Class 15 – All other Fowl (Pigeons, Quail, Peacocks,

- 1) All poultry must be at least 4 months of age and all entries must be accompanied by a legible copy of a negative individual pullorum-typhoid certificate (form VS 9-3, dated on/after **June 29, 2026**) or originate from a NPIP Pullorum-free flock (form VS 9-2). Only waterfowl (ducks and geese) and pigeons/doves are exempt from the testing requirement. Turkeys must test negative by NJ Department of Agriculture-authorized personnel.
- 2) FAILURE TO ENCLOSE PULLORUM-TYPHOID CLEAN CERTIFICATES WILL RESULT IN AN INVALID ENTRY. INVALID ENTRIES CAN NOT BE JUDGED, AND WILL NOT RECEIVE A REFUND OF FEES PAID
- 3) Animals cannot be shown in pairs or trios.
- 4) Entries will be evaluated based on the standards set forth by the American Poultry Association, the American Bantam Association, and the National 4-H Poultry Judging Manual.

EGG JUDGING

\$5 fee per animal entry

*Please first review the General Rules on Pages 3-4 that apply to all exhibitors.
Enter by clicking this link <https://go.rutgers.edu/e02tj3w2>*

- 1) Entries are judged based on both exterior and interior factors such as size, uniformity, freshness, and market value, as per the National 4-H Poultry Judging Manual
- 2) Each entry shall consist of a half-dozen eggs of the same size and species.
- 3) You may enter up to 4 clutches

***Free* COSTUME CONTEST**

Guidelines:

- This contest will take place during lunch.
- Award Categories Include:
 - Funniest
 - Most Original/Creative
 - Best Owner & Pet Look Alike

***Free* BREED ID CONTEST**

Guidelines:

- Contestants will identify visual displays of different breeds.
- Points will accumulate according to the number of correct answers.
- An award will be given to the high point participant per age class, per project area.
- Cloverbuds grades K-3 are not judged and receive positive feedback only.
- There is no entry fee for this contest.

POSTER CONTEST

\$1 fee per poster

Guidelines:

- You may enter one poster per category.
- For each category you enter, choose a theme or topic your poster will focus on - something you're interested in or passionate about!
- Your poster should be no larger than 22" x 28".
- On the back of your poster, write your full name and your 4-H County.

Classes:

- Animal Health & Breeding
 - Animal Ethology (animal behavior)
 - Animal Careers
 - Animal Care & Grooming
 - Animal Training
 - Animal Nutrition
 - Animal Equipment and Safety
-

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

\$1 fee per photo

Guidelines:

- Participants may enter up to two (2) photos per class
- Cloverbuds grades K-3 are not judged and receive positive feedback only.
- Photos must be original, taken/adapted by the 4-H member.

Classes:

- 1) Black & White
- 2) Color
- 3) Collage (either B&W/Color)
- 4) Computer Engineered/AI

SHOW CHECKLIST

STEP 1: Submit your entries

- All entry forms must be submitted by **August 29**
- **Enter by clicking this link** <https://go.rutgers.edu/e02tj3w2>

STEP 2: Calculate your payment

- All Payments (Cash/Checks/Money Orders) must be provided **Day of Show**
 - Make checks or money orders payable to "Monmouth County 4-H Association" with the memo '2026 State Show'

STEP 3: Complete Animal Health requirements

- All Required Health Forms must be emailed by **September 19** to bkjrv22@gmail.com
- If applicable, provide a copy of the Pullorum-Typhoid certificate (Poultry), Permit (Sm. Animal/Herpetology), and/or Proof of Rabies (Ferret).
- **Find the Health Forms by visiting** tinyurl.com/NJ4HStateShow2026

STEP 4: Review the Show Support Packet

Please help support the show by gathering sponsors, vendors, and/or Ad's. See the Program Support Packet found tinyurl.com/NJ4HStateShow2026

Questions? Contact Show Superintendent Kathy Veith: bkjrv22@gmail.com
OR 4-H Agent Amelia Valente: Amelia.Valente@rutgers.edu