



AMERICAN RABBIT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Devoted to the Interest of Rabbit Raising for Fancy and Commercial
Parent Body of All Chartered Local and Specialty Clubs / One National Judging and Registration System
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YOUTH COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

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ARBA 2026 NATIONAL YOUTH RABBIT MANAGEMENT CONTEST

PURPOSE

To acknowledge excellence of management style by ARBA youth members in the areas of housing & equipment, feeding & animal care, disease control, record keeping, breeding & genetics for the care and production of rabbits.

RULES

1. Any ARBA youth member between the ages of 5-18 years old is eligible to compete. Membership must be valid on August 1st, 2026. Attendance at the ARBA National Convention is not necessary.
2. Management application is to be composed and completed by the contestant.
3. The two most popular (and readable) fonts are Times New Roman and Arial, using 10 or 12 point type.
4. Up to seven (7) pages printed on one side only, may be submitted by the applicant.
5. DO NOT put your name, ARBA number or any headings on your application. Do not use cover sheets.
6. If entering online, you may upload your application. If entering by mail, you must include your Contest Entry Form and ONE copy of your answers!

CATEGORIES

Applications will be judged by ARBA District and on the number of cages/adult rabbits (division) that a youth member has for housing their rabbits. Divisions are: Limited Rabbitry (1-20 Holes), Average Rabbitry (21-50 Holes), Unlimited Rabbitry (51+ Holes). **Contestants may enter 1 Rabbit and 1 Cavy Division.** National winners will be selected in each division. Winners will be announced at the Youth Banquet at the ARBA National Convention. Contestants need not be present to win.

SCORING CRITERIA

Applications will be judged on the following criteria: Herd, Housing & Equipment (50 points); Breeding & Production (50 points); Care, Health & Herd Management (50 points); Record Keeping (30 points); Neatness, Clarity & Thoroughness of Answers (20 points). Applications that do not follow the rules listed above will be assessed a penalty of 10 points per infraction, with the exception of late applications which will be assessed a penalty of 20 points for up to one week late and disqualification for later than one week.

ENTRY PROCEDURES

Entry must be made **online** or on the form provided by the ARBA Youth Department. This form is available from your ARBA District Director, the ARBA office, the ARBA Youth Website, and the ARBA Youth Committee. **NO EMAIL ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

All online entries, including the uploading of completed forms must be completed by 11:59:59 p.m. EST on September 1, 2026. Mailed entries if not using the online portal must be postmarked by August 15, 2026 and should be mailed to the ARBA Youth Chairperson.

- **FOR INFORMATION ON COMPLETING THE ARBA CONTEST APPLICATIONS, PLEASE SEE THE SUPPLEMENT "APPLICATION TIPS", AVAILABLE ON THE ARBA WEBSITE AND THE ARBA ENTRY FORMS PACKET.**

ARBA NATIONAL YOUTH RABBIT MANAGEMENT CONTEST APPLICATION

PLEASE WRITE/TYPE QUESTIONS PRECEDING YOUR ANSWERS

1. When did you join the ARBA and how many consecutive years have you belonged? Explain any lapses in membership.
2. List the breed(s) you now raise and how many animals you have in each breed. Why did you choose this (these) breed(s)? Tell what other breed(s) you have raised in the past and why you no longer raise them.
3. Describe where your rabbits are located: barn, outbuilding, yard, garage, basement, house, etc? How does this location protect your rabbits from heat, cold, drafts or pests?
4. List or make a table of the number of cages/coops you have and their sizes. Describe what materials they are made of and how constructed.
5. Other than feed and water equipment, describe or list ALL other equipment you use in the care/management of your rabbits.
6. Describe the equipment you use to feed and water your rabbits and how your feed is stored.
7. What type(s) of feed do you give your rabbits? Do you give other supplements or anything in addition to their daily feed? If so, why?
8. How do you dispose of the manure and waste your rabbits generate?
9. What do you do daily, weekly, monthly in the care of your rabbits? Be specific.
10. What measures do you take for biosecurity in your rabbitry?
11. Describe any diseases that have affected you production and what you did to control them.
12. Describe everything you consider and do when breeding your rabbits. Include ages, time of year, breeding pair choices etc.
13. Describe everything you do the prepare for kindling, care of the mother and young from breeding until weaning? Include your weaning process, age, and any other considerations.
14. List or make a table of how many total litters born, total young born and number of young weaned since January 1, 2025. If you had a difference between total young born and totally weaned, can you explain why?
15. Explain what you consider when bringing in new stock or bloodlines into your breeding program. What specific characteristics are you looking for?
16. Describe your culling procedure? What do you do with your surplus animals?
17. What types of records do you keep for your breeding program? Why are these particular records important for the success of your breeding program and achieving the goals that you have set?
18. Make a table or a list of your expenses and income since January 1, 2025. Explain any big expenditures or profit.

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