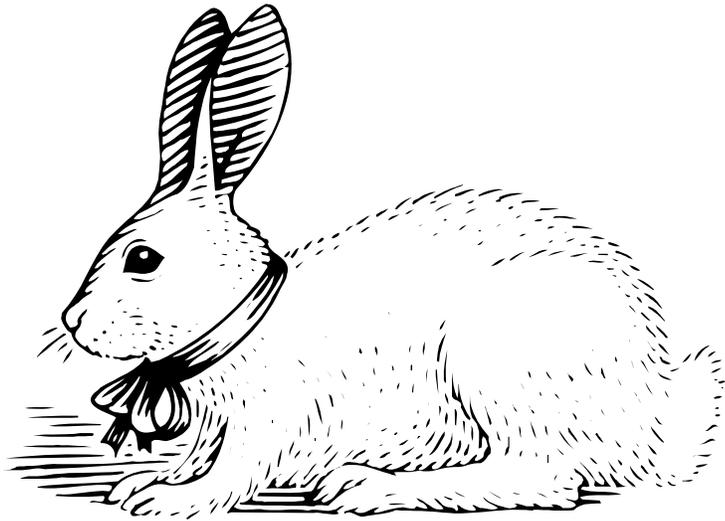


**2008**

**RABBIT  
DECATHLON**



## Rabbit Science Decathlon - Revised 5/08

There are 10 stations in the NYS 4-H Rabbit Science Decathlon: Participants are given approximately 4 minutes at each station to answer verbal questions.

1. **Anatomy & Physiology** (involves questions about mammalian digestive systems, body parts, bones etc.) 3 divisions
2. **Nutrition** (involves questions about feed content, water and feed requirements, nutritional needs for different stages of development) 3 divisions
3. **Housing & Equipment** (involves questions about hutches, cages, floor space, nest boxes, feeders, ventilation, environment in general) 3 divisions
4. **Health & Diseases** (includes questions about any health problem, identification of symptoms, treatments) 3 divisions
5. **Terminology** (may include questions about breed standards) 3 divisions
6. **Reproduction & Genetics** (involves questions about sexing, responsible breeding practices, general inheritance patterns) 3 divisions
7. **Breed Identification** (all participants will identify 5 breeds of live rabbits. Novice will identify the breed only, Juniors will identify the breed and variety, Seniors will identify the breed, variety and class of the 5 live rabbits) 3 divisions
8. **Records & Project Evaluation/Management** (participants must bring a NYS 4-H Rabbit or Cavy Project Record to the station.) They are evaluated on what they know and have recorded. Records are downloadable from <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/rabbits/index.html> and <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/cavies/index.html> 3 divisions
9. **Handling & Evaluation** (participant handles, examines, poses and judges a rabbit in front of a proctor). Bring a rabbit that you can handle and one for which you know the breed standard requirements. This station resembles showmanship in other states. **Show coats are not required. Expected attire at this station will include either a long sleeve show coat of any color OR a long sleeve collared white button shirt.**

### **New in 2008, Station 10 replaces Live Judging and Culling**

10. **Body Type Evaluation.** Novice participants identify body type only. Juniors identify body type and name one other breed with same body type. Seniors will identify both body type and fur type of the live rabbit sample and then name 2 other breeds with the same body type. Participants will be expected to know the difference between full arched, semi-arched, commercial, compact, and cylindrical body types. 5 animals will be provided.
11. **Extra Individual Judging Station** for Seniors Only to do before Team Scenarios – In this judging exercise, participants will compare 2 live rabbits and based on the Standards of Perfection (provided at the table), assess which rabbit would be judged higher on certain standard characteristics. These characteristics might include head, ears, general type, fur quality, color, markings, condition or disqualifications. In addition to choosing the correct rabbit, the participant must also state why the particular rabbit was selected. In this section, 5 sets of rabbits will be evaluated.

To encourage 4-H'ers to work as a team before the day of the event, the NYS 4-H Rabbit & Cavy advisory committee has agreed to repeat a component in the decathlon contest for teams only. After each individual contestant has competed by county in the decathlon, team-mates will meet with a proctor to solve a problem scenario. Each team will receive points for their effort. These points will be added to the individual scores of the top 3 team members of each team in order to ascertain the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th place teams in each division.

Although other sources may be used, most questions will be taken from information obtained from the following sources:

1. Standard of Perfection 2006 - 2010, available from the American Rabbit Breeder's Association (ARBA)
2. Your Rabbit/Your Cavy - A Kid's Guide to Raising and Showing by Nancy Searle
3. Kansas State University 4-H Rabbit Curriculum
4. Rabbit Production by Cheeke, Patton, Lukefahr and McNitt (8th Edition)
5. Official Guidebook: Raising Better Rabbits & Cavies (2000), available from ARBA
6. 4-H Skills for Life Animal Science Rabbit Series, available from National 4-H Curriculum Supply Service <http://www.4-hmall.org>
7. Ohio State University Rabbit Resource Handbook for Breeding, Market and Pet Rabbit Projects Publication 4-H 228R, available from National 4-H Curriculum Supply Service <http://www.4-hmall.org>
8. Ohio State University Rabbit Learning Lab Kit, available from Ohio Curriculum Materials service. County 4-H programs may also borrow a kit from Cornell University Department of Animal Science.

**Division Definitions:**

Novice competitors must be at least 8 and in 3rd grade by January 1 of the current year and less than 19 years of age on January 1 of the current year. This must also be their first time competing in the contest at state fair. **New Rule Change made in 2007:** Senior Division includes all youths who are 15 and less than 19 as of January 1 of current year. Junior Division includes all eligible youths 14 and under as of January 1 of current year.

**2008 RABBIT DECATHLON**

**NOVICE DIVISION**

**Anatomy and Physiology**

1. On a doe, what do the mammary glands produce?

**(Answer: milk)**

2. The loose skin that hangs from the throat and is most common in does is called what?

**(Answer: dewlap)**

3. What does the mouth do in digestion?

**(Answer: mechanically breaks down the food; begins digestion)**

4. Where would you find a rabbit's mandible?

a. on its head      b. on its backbone      c. on its tail      d. on its belly

**(Answer: a = on its head (specifically, the mandible is the rabbit's jaw bone).**

5. Throughout a rabbit's lifetime, its teeth continue to do what?

a. break off      b. get stronger      c. grow      d. get soft

**(Answer: c – Grow)**

**2008 RABBIT DECATHLON  
NOVICE DIVISION**

**Nutrition**

1. Rabbits need twice as much water as \_\_\_\_\_?
- a. Sunlight
  - b. Food
  - c. Hay
  - d. Attention

**(Answer: b-food)**

2. What happens if you give your rabbit all the food it wants?

**(Answer: It gets fat)**

3. True or False. A rabbit will eat pellets even if it does not have water to drink.

**(Answer: False)**

4. What is a plant-eating animal called?

**(Answer: Herbivore)**

5. Which of the following is not necessary in a balanced rabbit pellet?
- a. fiber
  - b. protein
  - c. vitamins
  - d. seasonings

**(Answer: d-seasonings)**

**2008 RABBIT DECATHLON  
NOVICE DIVISION**

**Housing and Equipment**

1. How often should water and feed dishes be cleaned?
  - a. Once a year
  - b. Once a month
  - c. Once a week
  - d. Once every few years

**(Answer: c)**

2. Why are water bottles better to use than crocks?

**(Answer: The water stays cleaner; rabbits can't dump the water – Your Rabbit pg. 52)**

3. Give 2 reasons why a rabbit should not be kept on the ground.

**(Answer: May ingest too much grass/greens; it can be attached by other animals; it will be harder to clean; it can pick up fleas for other parasites from the ground.)**

4. Where does a breeder place a rabbit's identification tattoo?
  - a. Left ear
  - b. Right ear
  - c. Tail web
  - d. Upper lip

**(Answer: a)**

5. What should you put in the cage with a doe when she is going to have kits?

**(Answer: Nestbox – Your Rabbit)**

**2008 RABBIT DECATHLON  
NOVICE DIVISION**

**Health and Diseases**

1. The normal lifespan of a domestic rabbit is \_\_\_\_\_?:
- a. 1-2 years
  - b. 3-4 years
  - c. 5-10 years
  - d. 12 – 15 years

**(Answer: c-5-10 years)**

2. What is one of the first signs that a rabbit is sick?

**(Answer: It stops eating and drinking)**

3. Rabbits defend themselves most often by:
- a. Running away
  - b. Biting
  - c. Scratching
  - d. Attacking

**(Answer: a – “Your Rabbit: A Kid’s Guide to Raising and Showing,” pg. 21)**

4. Why should you keep rodents and birds out of the rabbitry?

**(Answer: b – Because they carry diseases into the rabbitry)**

5. How do rabbits remove heat from their bodies?

**(Answer: Breathe; air movement, ears)**

**2008 RABBIT DECATHLON  
NOVICE DIVISION**

**Reproduction and Genetics**

1. The time between breeding and birth or kindling is called?
- a. Muzzling
  - b. Gestation
  - c. Lactation
  - d. Weaning

**(Answer: b)**

2. The process of separating the kits from their mother is called?
- a. Kindling
  - b. Gestation
  - c. Lactation
  - d. Weaning

**(Answer: d)**

3. When a doe has more than one bunny, the group of bunnies she kindles is called what??

**(Answer: Litter)**

4. What is a male rabbit called?

**(Answer: Buck)**

5. When a doe gives birth to young, it is called what?

- a. Kindling
- b. Gestation
- c. Suckling
- d. Weaning

**(Answer: a-Kindling)**

**2007 RABBIT DECATHLON  
NOVICE DIVISION**

**Terminology**

1. A subdivision of a breed based on color is called what?

**(Answer: Variety)**

2. What is a permanent identification mark inside a rabbit's ear using special tools and dye called?

**(Answer: Tattoo)**

3. If your rabbit is mealy, how would you describe its coat?

**(Answer: Off-colored stray hairs in a colored pattern, giving the appearance of being powdered or sprinkled with meal)**

4. What is a broken rabbit?

- a. A solid-colored rabbit
- b. A senior rabbit
- c. A white-and-colored rabbit
- d. It has a broken bone

**(Answer: c-a white-and-colored rabbit)**

5. When a hair shaft has 3 or more bands of color, the color of the rabbit is called what?

- a. Broken
- b. Steel
- c. Agouti
- d. Self

**(Answer: c- Agouti - SOP)**

## 2008 RABBIT DECATHLON NOVICE DIVISION

### Body Type Evaluation and Team Scenario

**Novice participants identify body type only.**

**Juniors identify body type and name one other breed with same body type.**

**Seniors will identify both body type and fur type of the live rabbit sample and then name 2 other breeds with the same body type.**

Participants will be expected to know the difference between full arched, semi-arched, commercial, compact, and cylindrical body types. 5 animals will be provided.

### Sample Novice Team Problem Scenario from 2007 – New question will be used in 2008

1. What is the proper way to keep your rabbitry sanitary? List the ways and what you use in your rabbitry and tell how and why you do it?

#### Novice Team Sample Scenario Rubric from 2007

|   | Poor<br>1  | Fair<br>2   | Good<br>3   | Excellent<br>4  | Score |
|---|--|---|---|---|-------|
| Gave PROPER ways for sanitation             | The information is not correct or logical            | Gives two ways  | Gives Three ways  | Gives Four or more PROPER ways for keeping a rabbitry sanitary                          |       |
| Gave Reasons Why?                           | Never mentions any reasons                           | Gives very little reasons why   | Gives some reasons why  | Gives a great deal of well thought out reasons  |       |
| What ways do you sanitize your rabbitry     | Does not give any                                    | Only points out one or two ways they use sanitation in their rabbitry     | Points out three ways they use                                  | Shows four well thought out ways they use sanitation in their rabbitry                  |       |
| How would you provide this in your rabbitry | Does not tell how it is done                         | Few ways how you can provide sanitation                                   | Has some ways but does not give logical details on how to do it | Many details on how you would provide sanitation and uses some details to completing it |       |
| Clear and Understandable                    | Very difficult to follow                             | Mostly difficult to follow and understand                                 | Mostly easy to understand                                       | Easy to read and follow the opinions given  |       |
| Worked together as a group                  | Only one person participates little to no leadership | One or two participate however there is little discussion about the topic | Many participate and some discussion about topic                | All participate and there is a lot of discussion about the topic                        |       |
|   |  |   |   | Total   |       |

**2008 RABBIT DECATHLON  
JUNIOR DIVISION**

**Anatomy and Physiology**

1. Which of the following is not part of a rabbit's digestive system?

- a. cecum
- b. esophagus
- c. large intestine (colon)
- d. heart

**(Answer: d – heart)**

2. What is the act of eating feces called?

**(Answer: Coprophagy)**

3. True or False – You can tell a rabbit's age by its teeth.

**(Answer: False)**

4. The condition where the rabbit cannot hold the front or hind legs under the body is called what?

- a. Slobbers
- b. Racy
- c. Splayed
- d. Pigeon breasted

**(Answer: Splayed)**

5. Is the average body temperature of a rabbit higher, lower or about the same as yours?

**(Answer: Higher – avg. normal body temp of a rabbit can be between 101 – 103 degrees F. Human avg. = 98.6)**

**2008 RABBIT DECATHLON  
JUNIOR DIVISION**

**Nutrition**

1. What serves as energy for body functions?

**(Answer: Fat)**

2. Which type of nutrient is a source of bulk in the diet?

- a. Vitamins
- b. Minerals
- c. Protein
- d. Fiber

**(Answer: d-Fiber)**

3. What is the most common nutritional problem of both show rabbits and humans in the US?

**(Answer: Too much fat or sugar, which causes weight problems)**

4. A substance containing nitrogen found as a vital element in all living organisms is what?

**(Answer: Protein)**

5. Which of the following is not a mineral?

- a. Calcium
- b. Sodium
- c. Potassium
- d. Niacin

**(Answer: d-Niacin is a vitamin. All the rest are minerals.)**

**2008 RABBIT DECATHLON  
JUNIOR DIVISION**

**Housing and Equipment**

1. What are two things you can do for winter protection for an outdoor rabbit hutch?

**(Answer: Move the hutch closer to a building; cover the sides with heavy plastic; attach a flap of plastic to the front of the cage that can be brought down in very severe weather; give the rabbit lots of straw; put a box in the hutch and move into a sunny area – “Your Rabbit: A Kid’s Guide to Raising and Showing,” pg. 28)**

2. What is the recommended depth of a drop pan and why?

**(Answer: -- 2 inches, in order to allow the droppings to pass through “Your Rabbit: A Kid’s Guide to Raising and Showing,” pg. 45)**

3. If you used 2 different-sized dishes to feed and water your rabbit, which would you use for water – the larger or the smaller one?

**(Answer: The larger one)**

4. Which is the better type of self feeder to use for your rabbit – one with a solid bottom or one with a screened bottom – and why?

**(Answer: The feeder with the screened bottom is better because it allows more fines to fall out of the feed)**

5. At what temperature would rabbits most comfortable?

**(Answer: 60-65 degrees F, without sudden changes or overcrowding)**

**2008 RABBIT DECATHLON  
JUNIOR DIVISION**

**Health and Diseases**

1. Snuffles (Pasteurellosis) is one of the most common diseases that strikes domestic rabbits. Which of the following describe the disease?
- a. the disease is very contagious
  - b. the disease can affect the respiratory system, the eyes, ears and other organs
  - c. if left untreated, it can be fatal
  - d. all of these

**(Answer: d – all of these are true statements)**

2. Which medicine would you use to treat conjunctivitis or weepy eye?

**(Answer: Ophthalmic antibiotic ointment – “Rabbit Production,” pg. 208)**

3. What is a parasite?

**(Answer: An organism that lives on, or within a host animal. An example might be a worm.)**

4. The inflammation of the inner membrane of the eyelid is called what?

- a. Coprophagy
- b. Malocclusion
- c. Abscess
- d. Conjunctivitis

**(Answer: d- Conjunctivitis)**

5. What are the signs of a healthy rabbit?

**(Answer: The rabbit will be alert and active with bright eyes and a shiny fur coat. It will also be eating and drinking regularly.)**

**2008 RABBIT DECATHLON  
JUNIOR DIVISION**

**Reproduction and Genetics**

1. True or False. Buphthalmia (also called Blue Eye, Moon Eye or Infantile Glaucoma) is a heritable disease for which there is no treatment. Animals with this condition should not be bred.

**(Answer: True)**

2. True or False. Color and fur type are both traits that are genetically inherited.

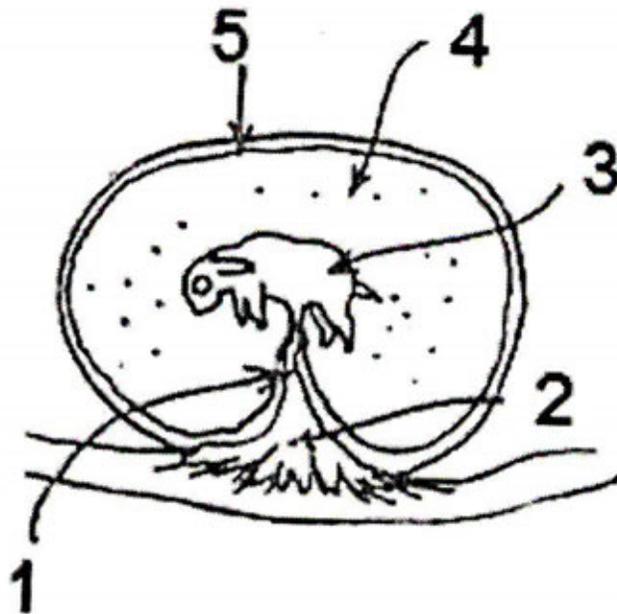
**(Answer: True)**

3. When an overweight doe dies suddenly, just prior to or just after kindling, what disease should you suspect?

**(Answer: Ketosis or pregnancy toxemia; usually seen around kindling time in does that are excessively fat – “Rabbit Production,” pg. 226)**

4. Match the parts of the picture to the term that best describes them.

- |                                |
|--------------------------------|
| a. Embryo                      |
| b. Amnion                      |
| c. Umbilical cord              |
| d. Wall of the<br>uterine horn |
| e. Placenta                    |



**(Answer: 1 = Umbilical cord; 2 = Placenta; 3 = Embryo; 4 = Amnion; 5 = Wall of the uterine horn)**

5. Is the gestation period for a rabbit longer or shorter than a human?

**(Answer: Shorter)**

**2008 RABBIT DECATHLON  
JUNIOR DIVISION**

**Terminology**

1. In a female rabbit, what is the barren period?

**(Answer: The period during which a rabbit does not reproduce)**

2. A trio consists of what?

**(Answer: A buck and 2 does of the same breed)**

3. Name 2 places you might find follicles.

**(Answer: 1) Small enlargements on the surface of the ovary that contain egg cells; 2) also, the roots of the hair in the skin (RP))**

4. A rabbit between 6 and 8 months of age is also called what?

**(Answer: An Intermediate)**

5. What is fur called when it moves gently back into position when stroked up?

**(Answer: Rollback)**

## 2008 RABBIT DECATHLON JUNIOR DIVISION

### Body Type Evaluation and Team Scenario

**Novice participants identify body type only.**

**Juniors identify body type and name one other breed with same body type.**

**Seniors will identify both body type and fur type of the live rabbit sample and then name 2 other breeds with the same body type.**

Participants will be expected to know the difference between full arched, semi-arched, commercial, compact, and cylindrical body types. 5 animals will be provided.

### Sample Junior Team Problem Scenario from 2007 – New question will be used in 2008

1. Are you in favor or against establishing an age limit for Junior and Senior Divisions for the Decathlon? Why? Give reasons for or against.

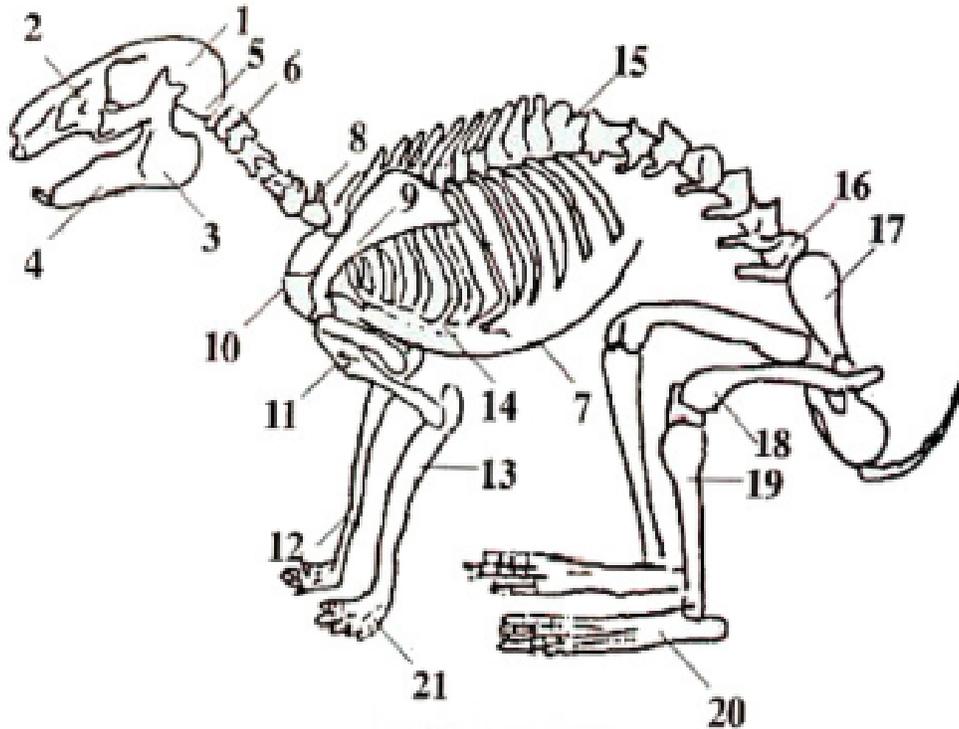
#### Junior Team Sample Scenario Rubric from 2007

|  | Poor<br>1   | Fair<br>2   | Good<br>3  | Excellent<br>4  | Score |
|--|---|---|--|---|-------|
| Focused Topic                                  | The information rambles and does not pinpoint one particular aspect | Briefly mentions the topic for both but gives 2 details                   | Describes the topic for comparing both and gives 3 examples for each | Writing clearly defines topic for comparison and goes on to give 4 or more specific details         |       |
| Gave Reasons<br>Why?                           | Never mentions any reasons  | Gives very little reasons why   | Gives some reasons why   | Gives a great deal of well thought out reasons  |       |
| Gives supporting information for above reasons | Does not give any supporting information                            | Only points out one or two supporting informational opinions              | Points out several informational opinions                            | Shows many well thought out opinions for their reasons why they are for or against                  |       |
| Well organized                                 | Lacks topic sentences and has no logical sequence                   | writing only gives one topic sentence and its sequence is confusing       | writing includes some topic sentences and is somewhat sequential     | both sections begin with a clearly stated topic sentence and the sections follow a logical sequence |       |
| Clear and Understandable                       | Very difficult to follow  | Mostly difficult to follow and understand                                 | Mostly easy to understand  | Easy to read and follow the opinions given  |       |
| Worked together as a group                     | Only one person participates little to no leadership                | One or two participate however there is little discussion about the topic | Many participate and some discussion about topic                     | All participate and there is a lot of discussion about the topic                                    |       |
|  |   |   |  | Total   |       |

2008 RABBIT DECATHLON  
SENIOR DIVISION

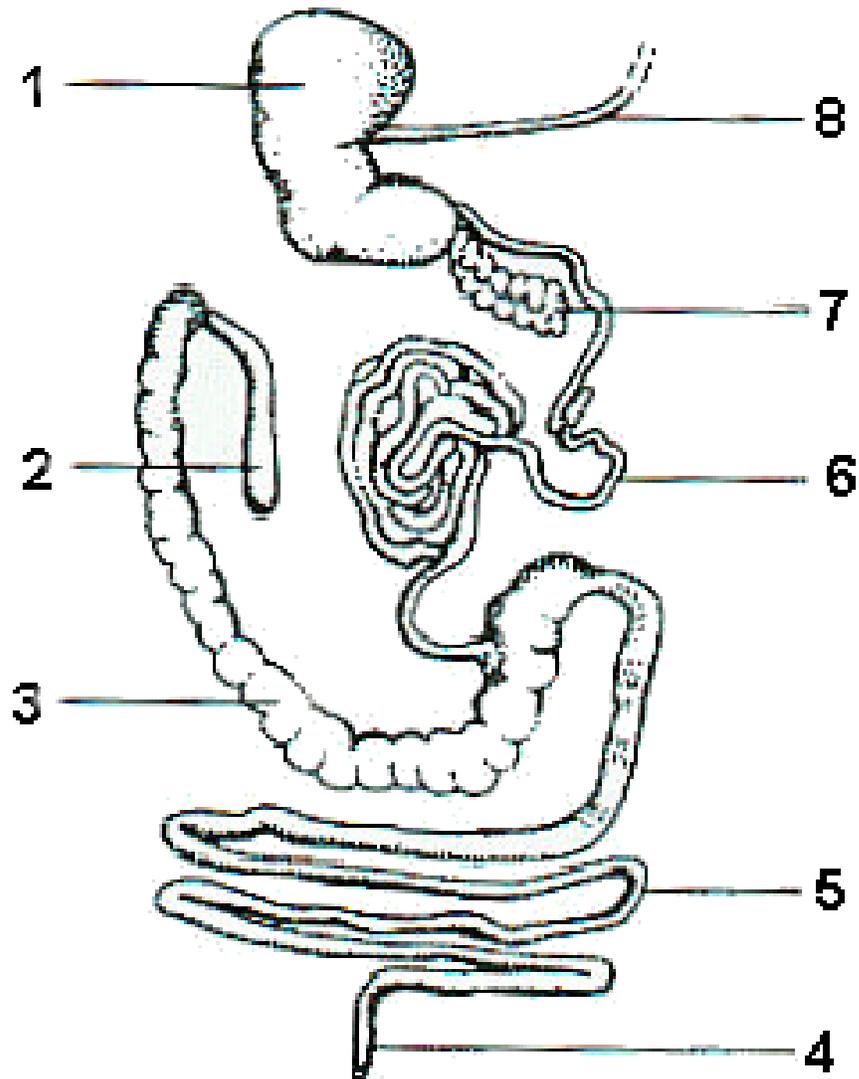
Anatomy and Physiology

1. Using the skeleton diagram, point to the Pelvis.



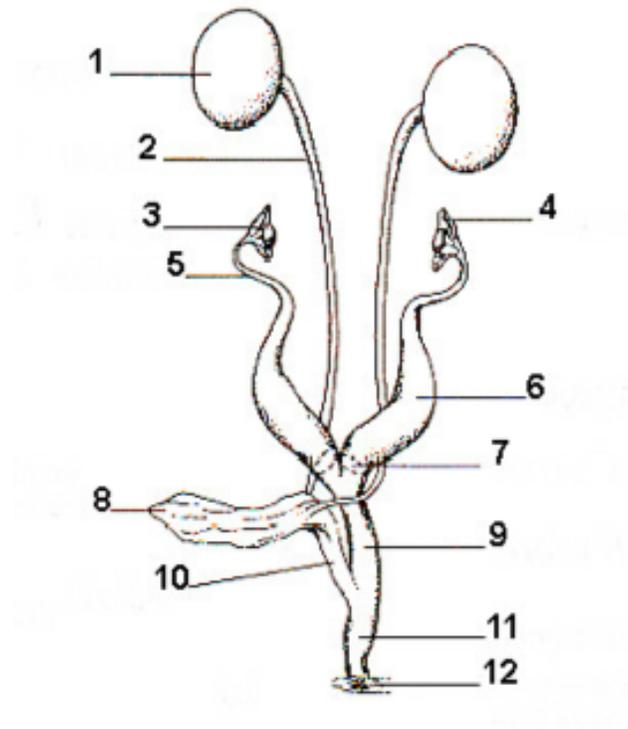
(Answer: #17 --“Kansas 4-H Rabbit Curriculum,” Rabbits, Level III, Recognizing The Rabbit’s Bony Parts, Handout I, pgs. 1 and 3)

2. Locate the part on the diagram where most of the digestion takes place.



(Answer: 6 small intestine -- "Rabbit Production," pg. 141)

3. From the numbered diagram, point to the organ that is responsible for producing eggs (or ova) and hormones. What is it called?



(Answer: #3, Ovary -- show Figure 11-3 (a) of the reproductive tract of the female rabbit in "Rabbit Production," pg. 249

4. Yes or No. Do rabbits have molar teeth?

(Answer: Yes)

5. Which of the following is not part of the rabbit urinary tract?
- kidney
  - bladder
  - aorta
  - urethra

(Answer: c – aorta)

**2008 RABBIT DECATHLON  
SENIOR DIVISION**

**Nutrition**

1. Name 5 water soluble vitamins.

**(Answer: B<sub>1</sub> Thiamine; B<sub>2</sub> Riboflavin; Niacin; Pyridoxine B<sub>6</sub>; Pantothenic Acid; Biotin; Choline; Folic Acid; B<sub>12</sub>; Vitamin C)**

2. True or False. Angora or long haired rabbits need more protein in their diets than short haired rabbits.

**(Answer: True. They require more protein than short haired rabbits because all that extra hair is protein and it takes lots of energy and protein to make it.)**

3. There are 10 essential amino acids needed in a rabbit's feed. Amino acids are the building blocks for what nutrient?

**(Answer: Protein "Rabbit Production," pg. 171)**

4. Which of the following is not a mineral

- a. Selenium
- b. Calcium
- c. Phosphorus
- d. Folic Acid

**(Answer: d – Folic Acid – is a vitamin)**

5. What is the protein supplement of choice in rabbit rations, is highly palatable and digestible, and has a good amino acid balance?

**(Answer: Soybean meal – Rabbit Production pg 171)**

**2008 RABBIT DECATHLON  
SENIOR DIVISION**

**Housing and Equipment**

1. What supplies should you have available when you have a quarantine area?

**(Answer: Separate clothing and foot covers, disinfectants and hand washing facilities)**

2. Name 2 reasons why an outdoor hutch should have an enclosed area.

**(Answer: Protection from the elements: rain, wind, drafts, direct sunlight)**

3. The size of a hutch should be determined by what? In other words, how do you know how big your hutch should be if you have a 3 pound rabbit?

**(Answer: A hutch should be at least 1 cubic foot per 3 pounds of rabbit)**

4. Why should you put drainage holes in the bottom of a nestbox?

**(Answer: Damp nestboxes can contribute to diseases in young rabbits – Your Rabbit pg. 82)**

5. What would be an advantage of installing an automatic waterer?

**(Answer: If you have more than 6 does, it cuts down on labor and spread of diseases – Rabbit production pg 69)**

**2008 RABBIT DECATHLON  
SENIOR DIVISION**

**Health and Diseases**

1. What is Hutch Burn and what is an appropriate treatment for Hutch Burn?

**(Answer: Hutch Burn is a condition caused by exposure to urine in a wet, unclean hutch. Symptoms may include: irritated vent and genitals will be red, chapped looking, and may have brownish crusts over the area. Keeping hutch floors clean and dry and applying an antibiotic ointment to any lesions hastens recovery. )**

2. Coccidiosis is a common and worldwide disease of rabbits. It is a \_\_\_\_\_?
- a. Protozoal disease
  - b. Bacterial disease
  - c. Viral disease
  - d. Fungal disease

**(Answer: a – protozoal disease)**

3. What is young doe syndrome?

**(Answer: After a healthy litter is 4-10 days of age, the doe dies. Sometimes diarrhea is observed. It usually is more common in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> litter does, but can occur in does of any parity.)**

4. This disease is a bacterial disease of rodents and lagomorphs transmitted by bites of fleas, flies, ticks and lice. It is contracted primarily by people handling infected wild rabbits. What is it?
- a. Tularemia
  - b. Rabies
  - c. Pasteurellosis
  - d. Dermatitis

**(Answer: a- Tularemia)**

5. Which of the following is not a cause of respiratory problems in rabbits?
- a. Poor ventilation
  - b. High humidity
  - c. Too cold
  - d. Poor sanitation

**(Answer: c- Too cold. Rabbits are cold tolerant.)**

**2008 RABBIT DECATHLON  
SENIOR DIVISION**

**Reproduction and Genetics**

1. Which is bigger, a gene or a chromosome?

**(Answer: A chromosome is bigger.)**

2. If a rabbit carries both Dwarf genes, will it be able to reproduce?

**(Answer: No. This is a lethal combination, and the rabbit dies shortly after birth -- "Rabbit Production pgs. 305)**

3. The largest unit of inheritance that is found in the nucleus of the cell is what?

- a. Gene
- b. DNA
- c. Chromosome
- d. Allele

**(Answer: DNA)**

4. If Humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes, for a total of 46 chromosomes, how many chromosomes do rabbits have?

**(Answer: 22 pairs, for a total of 44 chromosomes)**

5. If a rabbit is spayed, can it reproduce?

**(Answer: no – Female rabbits are spayed (ovariohysterectomized) to prevent unwanted pregnancy and uterine cancer. Uterine tumors are the most common type in female rabbits and often are associated with serious blood loss. Spaying female rabbits may also help to prevent or reduce territorial aggression among females.)**

**2008 RABBIT DECATHLON  
SENIOR DIVISION**

**Terminology**

1. What is a hybrid rabbit? (Hint: It's not a new kind of German automobile).

**(Answer: A hybrid is the offspring of parents of different breeds, varieties, species or genera. RP)**

2. What is a pheromone?

**(Answer – A volatile hormone or chemical produced by one individual that is perceived by and stimulatory to another individual of the same species)**

3. What is a slipped crown?

**(Answer: Placement of the crown too far forward, or too far back, on the head of some lop breeds, causing the ear carriage to be misplaced. (SOP))**

4. What is a nick?

**(Answer: A nick is a mating that produces offspring superior to either parent (RP))**

5. Define prolific?

**(Answer: Fertile, reproducing freely, producing large litters - RP)**

## 2008 RABBIT DECATHLON SENIOR DIVISION

### Body Type Evaluation and Team Scenario

**Novice participants identify body type only.**

**Juniors identify body type and name one other breed with same body type.**

**Seniors will identify both body type and fur type of the live rabbit sample and then name 2 other breeds with the same body type.**

Participants will be expected to know the difference between full arched, semi-arched, commercial, compact, and cylindrical body types. 5 animals will be provided.

### Sample Junior Team Problem Scenario from 2007 – New question will be used in 2008 Senior Team Problem Scenario

Are you in favor or against establishing an age limit for Junior and Senior Divisions for the Decathlon? Why? Give reasons for or against. If you were the contest official, give possible solutions.

#### Senior Team Sample Scenario Rubric from 2007

|  | Poor<br>1   | Fair<br>2   | Good<br>3  | Excellent<br>4  | Score |
|--|---|---|--|---|-------|
| Focused Topic                                  | The information rambles and does not pinpoint one particular aspect | Briefly mentions the topic for both gives 2 details                       | Describes the topic for comparing both and gives 3 examples for each | Writing clearly defines topic for comparison and goes on to give 4 specific details |       |
| Gave Reasons Why?                              | Never mentions any reasons  | Gives very little reasons why   | Gives some reasons why   | Gives a great deal of well thought out reasons                                      |       |
| Gives supporting information for above reasons | Does not give any supporting information                            | Only points out one or two supporting informational opinions              | Points out several informational opinions                            | Shows many well thought out opinions for their reasons why they are for or against  |       |
| Possible Solutions                             | None given  | One solution given but doesn't follow any logic                           | Gave several solutions but not well defined or organized thoughts    | Several solutions given that were well thought out and organized                    |       |
| Clear and Understandable                       | Very difficult to follow  | Mostly difficult to follow and understand                                 | Mostly easy to understand  | Easy to read and follow the opinions given  |       |
| Worked together as a group                     | Only one person participates little to no leadership                | One or two participate however there is little discussion about the topic | Many participate and some discussion about topic                     | All participate and there is a lot of discussion about the topic                    |       |
|  |   |   |  | Total   |       |

**QUESTIONS FOR  
RECORDS AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT  
RABBIT DECATHLON Used 2005-2008**

(NOTE TO EXAMINER - If participant does not have a record book with them, they receive no points. In addition to the points for the questions, award 1 point for neatness, 1 point for effort and 1 point for completion. A perfect score would equal 10 points.)

**NOVICE**

1. How much do you feed to each of your rabbits every day? (1/2 pt)  
What brand of pellets do you feed to your rabbits? (1/2 pt)
2. Looking at your year end page, what was the total value of your rabbits at the beginning of the project year? (1/2 pt)
3. Looking at your inventory page, how many rabbits did you buy? (1/2 pt)
4. Looking at your expenses page, how much does a bag of pellets cost? (1/2 pt) How did you arrive at the figure you have for the amount that you paid for your rabbit pellets? (1/2 pt)
5. What market do you have for your culls? (1 pt)
6. What safety practices do you use in your rabbitry? (1 pt)
7. What skills have you learned from taking care of rabbits? (1 pt)
8. What improvements could you make in your rabbitry? (1 pt)

**JUNIOR**

1. How much do you feed to each of your rabbits every day? (1/2 pt)  
What brand of pellets do you feed to your rabbits? (1/2 pt)  
How did you arrive at the figure you have for the amount that you paid for your rabbit pellets? (1/2 pt)
2. What did you learn from completing this booklet? (1/2)
3. How many times were your does bred? (1/2 pt)
4. How many times did the does kindle during this project year? (1/2 pt)
5. What market do you have for your culls? (1 pt)
6. What safety practices do you use in your rabbitry? (1 pt)
7. What skills have you learned from taking care of rabbits? (1 pt)
8. What improvements could you make in your rabbitry? (1 pt)

**SENIOR**

1. How much do you feed to each of the breeds of rabbits that you raise? (1 pt)  
What brand of pellets and what protein do you feed to your rabbits? (1 pt)  
How did you arrive at the figure that you have for the amount you spent on your rabbit pellets? (1/2 pt)
2. What did you learn from completing this booklet? (1/2 pt)
3. How many shows did you attend? (1/2 pt)  
What was the total cost for attending the shows? (1/2 pt)
4. What market do you have for your culls? (1/2 pt)
5. What safety practices do you use in your rabbitry? (1/2 pt)
6. What skills did you learn from taking care of rabbits? (1 pt)
7. What improvements could you make in your rabbitry? (1 pt)

**NOTE:** There will be no set answers for any of these questions. The participants will be able to refer to their booklet if necessary. Our aim is to find out if they did the actual recording of the facts and figures and if they are aware of the cost of their business or hobby.

**Examiner:** Please keep the above information in mind when deciding on whether to award a point or not.

**NYS 4-H Rabbit Decathlon  
Handling and Evaluation**

**Circle Division:    Novice       Junior       Senior**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **County** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Name your breed (1/2 pt) \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Name (1, 2, or 3) varieties (1/2 pt)  
(1 – Novice, 2 – Junior, 3 – Senior) \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Name the body type of your breed (1 pt) \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Name the fur type of your breed (1 pt) \_\_\_\_\_
  5. According to the ARBA Standard of Perfection, which part of your breed of rabbit is worth the most points? (1 pt) \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Evaluate (judge) the following: (5 pts total)
    - Head and ears (1 pt) \_\_\_\_\_
    - Body type (1 pt) \_\_\_\_\_
    - Shoulders (1 pt) \_\_\_\_\_
    - Loin and hips (1 pt) \_\_\_\_\_
    - Fur condition (1 pt) \_\_\_\_\_
  7. Appropriateness of dress (1 pt) \_\_\_\_\_
- TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Participant handles, examines, poses and judges a rabbit in front of a proctor. Bring a rabbit that you can handle and one for which you know the breed standard requirements. This station resembles showmanship in other states. **Show coats are not required. Expected attire at this station will include either a long sleeve show coat of any color OR a long sleeve collared white button shirt.**