



Raising Rabbits for Meat and Pelts

Learn about the reasons rabbits are raised- for meat and for fur.

Time

30 minutes total

Materials

- Paper to make brochures- folded into fourths lengthwise.
- Markers
- Pictures of different meat, wool, show, and pelt breeds to glue onto brochures
- Glue
- Lesson 6- Brochure Template (included on the following page)

Space Required

Meeting space with multiple tables.



Before the Meeting

Gather materials for youth members to create brochures for the four reasons rabbits are raised- meat, pelt, show and angora wool. Fold paper into fourths lengthwise. Print out pictures of different meat, wool, show, and pelt breeds to glue onto each of the brochures.



Background

There are four main reasons rabbits are raised: meat, pelt, show/ companionship, and angora wool. Rabbit is lower in fat than chicken, turkey, beef, and pork. Rabbit is also ranked highest in protein of all the meats. They have a 65% dressing percentage. Some rabbit meat breeds include New Zelandis (also pelts can be sold at a premium price and are also used in research), Californians, and Mini Lops. Californian pelts are worth less due to the color markings. Mini Lops have good mothering abilities.

Pelt breeds are used in clothing like scarves and gloves. Pelt is prized for it's softness. Breeds raised for pelts can include Rex (they have a velvety texture caused by lack of guard hairs and come in many colors), Mini Rex, and Satin (named for the unique shine on their coat, and can also be used for meat).

Wool Breeds have extremely fine fiber. They are harvested two to three times per year, and have two to three ounces of premium wool per harvest. Combing is required daily to prevent matting, and professionals use large blow dryers to prevent the wool from matting. Wool Breeds can include: English Angora (known for tufts of hair on their ears) and French Angora.

Most other rabbit breeds are raised as either companion rabbits or show rabbits. Companion rabbits are most common pet animals.



Activity Instructions

1. Go over the background information with youth.
2. Have youth create a brochure or poster, using the brochure template, that includes each of the categories that rabbits are bred for with facts about each of the categories: meat, pelt, show/companionship, or wool.



Reflect and Apply Questions

1. What are the four main reasons rabbits are raised for?
2. Why is rabbit meat good for you?
3. What is a breed that is raised for meat production?
4. What is a breed that is raised for pelt production?



Other Related Resources:

Small Animal PowerPoint- From NAAE Communities of Practice website



References:

<http://communities.naae.org/message/29248#29248>

Category 1

Facts:

Examples of Breeds of
Rabbits that contribute:

Category 2

Facts:

Examples of Breeds of
Rabbits that contribute:

Category 3

Facts:

Examples of Breeds of
Rabbits that contribute:

Category 4

Facts:

Examples of Breeds of
Rabbits that contribute:



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Reflect and Apply Questions

1. What are the four main reasons rabbits are raised for?

The four main reasons rabbits are raised is for meat, pelt, show/ companionship, and angora wool.

2. Why is rabbit meat good for you?

Rabbit meat is good for you because it is lower in fat than chicken, turkey, beef, and pork. It also ranks the highest in protein.

3. What is a breed that is raised for meat production?

New Zeland, Californians, and Mini Lops, among others are raised for meat production.

4. What is a breed that is raised for pelt production?

Rex, Mini Rex, and Satin, among others are raised for pelt production.



REFLECT AND APPLY
ANSWER SHEET



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