

# Species Chair Application



Species Chair position for which you are applying \*

- Dairy Feeder
- Rabbit/Cavy
- Goat
- Dog

Name \*

Jennifer Wasson

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Phone Number \*

9894646984

Email Address \*

wassonmanisteefair@gmail.com

Complete Mailing Address \*

16251 Yates Rd. Copemish, MI 49625

County in which you are a registered 4-H volunteer \*

Grand Traverse

Leelanau

Benzie

Kalkaska

Antrim

Describe your experience with 4-H in general and with the 4-H Livestock Council in particular. What other experience do you have with this particular species?

I was a 4H member from ages 5-18, a leader in Alpena County for 10 years, a leader in Benzie County for 3 years and a leader in Grand Traverse County for the last 6 years. I've served as Deputy Treasurer for our Northwest Michigan 4H livestock Council for the last year.

I previously bred, raised and showed rabbits for over 20 years, backing off on showing the last few years as I had changed focus to draft horses and meat goats but still have a handful of pedigreed Mini Lop and Britannia Petite rabbits. I have taken my daughter Lillian with my Niece Tristyn to a few rabbit shows in the last couple years but due to Covid it was limited but we did attend the State 4H rabbit show and hoping to attend the Fall Michigan State rabbit Breeders show this November.

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Describe how you will actively develop and promote your project area, both during the fair and the rest of the year.

Rabbits are a small, inexpensive project area that is easily a gateway into 4H! Promoting shows available around the state, helping select the correct breed and quality for what the 4Her's goals are for their project. Educating the wide range of possibilities rabbits can provide! (meat, pet, show, and fur/wool)

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What specifically do you plan to do to keep up-to-date on your species?

1. Attend a few shows yearly, keeping up to date on current show details, skills, education, and changes in requirements.
  2. Follow information provided from MDARD on disease transmissions and travel requirements.
  3. Renew American Rabbit Breeders Association and Michigan State Rabbit Breeders Association memberships.
  4. Continue to raise a some rabbits for our own personal use.
  5. Work with current MSU Extension staff on education available on Rabbits or changes in 4H requirements.
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What do you see as the two most important issues currently facing your species or the 4-H Livestock Council?

1. Participation. I'd like to see more youth in the rabbit and Cavy program and more animals in the barn during the fair. I'd also love to see more area youth already in the program participate in shows around the state when possible.
  2. Education. I don't see a lot of education clinics available in the area for our area 4Her's
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What specific ideas do you have for your species' program that you would like to implement during your term in office?

1. I'd like to communicate with the youth in the rabbit and cavy program and find out what specific educational needs or wants they may have. After gathering that information then hopefully helping them find the correct sources, host the education clinics needed, or even changing locations or times to better meet the needs of the youth in the program.
  2. I'd like to help the youth that are marketing rabbits at our 4H auction or raising meat rabbits educate the public on the benefits of eating rabbit meat. Using education to remind the public that rabbits are primarily livestock and not pets. (although some can be great pets.)
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What additional information would you like to provide?

I am currently employed by the Manistee Intermediate School District as a Special Education Transition Coordinator. I won the adult state championship for the Michigan 4H skillathon in 2021. I love reading and continuing education! I also learned a TON as Deputy Treasurer, and would be willing to help our new board that is coming on with Showworks entry still. I have good relationships with other specie chairs and fair-board members.

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In addition to this application, please be prepared to give a 2-3 minute speech at the October meeting of the 4-H Livestock Council. This should include comments regarding your willingness and ability to serve as a 4-H Livestock Council Species Chair, what you feel you can contribute to your particular species' program, and what you feel you can contribute to the 4-H Livestock Council in general.

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