

Species Chair Application



Species Chair position for which you are applying *

- Dairy Feeder
- Rabbit/Cavy
- Goat
- Dog

Name *

Lisa Ralph

Phone Number *

2316334492

Email Address *

r4rabbitry@yahoo.com

Complete Mailing Address *

7049 Sparling Rd, Kingsley, MI 49649

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 have been active in 4-H for the last 23 years, when my kids started in the 4-H program. For the past 3 I have been specie chair for the Northwest Michigan Livestock Council for rabbits and cavy. My other experience outside of 4-H for the species is attending ARBA shows across the state and judging county fairs

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

Over the last 3 years I have worked hard on developing a new market area for rabbits. In the future I would like to go and get more children involved in this project area. By getting them involved it would be with the process of getting them to go to arba shows and to learn what is involved in raising both rabbits and cavy. My next project area for this program is to introduce a couple of new classes and project areas

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

The ARBA updates their standards every 5 years. I try to keep up to date on all the changes that they have, as well as the 4-H side of things when they change their showmanship guides

What do you see as the two most important issues currently facing your species or the 4-H Livestock Council?

One of the things facing this species is that kids are looking for bigger returns. They don't want to show smaller animals because they don't make big money. A current issue facing the livestock council would be communication. There is a breakdown between membership and the council and the executive board that needs to be fixed

What specific ideas do you have for your species' program that you would like to implement during your term in office?

- an expansion of the market program. Such things as adding a single fryer class, and breeding trio class.
- Implement a breeder referral list of local breeders mainly 4-H kids who have started breeding
- to introduce two new classes. Open adult and child showmanship class

Rabbit agility and a costume class

What additional information would you like to provide?

I am passionate about seeing children succeed with their animals. Not all kids can have anything larger on their property than a chicken or a rabbit. I think every child should have the opportunity to do 4-H and if it means a smaller animal then they will have a great experience just like everyone else. With the help of clinics and other resources they too can achieve big things

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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