



# South Carolina 4-H/FFA Cavy Project Beginner



Level 1 age on January 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Level 2 age on January 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Level 3 age on January 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Club/County/Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Leader/Ag Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Book Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ Book End Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Upon successful completion of the South Carolina 4-H/FFA Cavy Project: Beginner Stage youth should be able to:**

1. Discuss how to care for, train, raise, and/or show cavies.
2. Describe the cavy industry and different reasons to raise cavies.



*By signing below we certify that: I (the Participant) personally kept records on and completed this record book for this project; I (the Agent or Ag Teacher) confirm that the Participant is a current member, in good standing, of 4-H or FFA; and I (the parent or guardian) helped my child only as needed to complete this record book and the tasks associated with this project.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
4-H or FFA Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Agent Signature (4-H only)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher Signature (FFA only)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## General 4-H/FFA Cavy Project Instructions

The South Carolina 4-H/FFA Cavy Project is an advancement program that consists of a series of Levels which provide a framework for learning about cavies.

### **About the Books and Levels**

There are three Books: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. Each Book has three Levels numbered sequentially 1-9. After deciding to participate in the Cavy Project you should begin with the Beginner Book, Level 1 to ensure a progressive learning experience.

It is possible to begin with a higher Book or at a higher Level, but keep in mind each Level was intended to build on previous completed Levels and be completed in one project year. The project year begins September 1<sup>st</sup> and ends May 31<sup>st</sup>. Anything completed between June 1<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup> can be included in the upcoming year's Notebook. For example, an activity done in July 2014 would be entered into the Notebook for the project year 2014-2015.

### **Documenting Progress**

You will need to document what is done to complete the Activity Options selected in each Level. Documentation is anything which illustrates the completion of that activity and can include pictures, awards, reports, submitted work, articles, projects, etc. Documentation should be included after each Level sheet and be clearly marked with the Activity Option number and description.

Upon completing an Activity Option, fill out the Level sheet by writing in the date and having your project leader or helper sign next to the appropriate activity.

Each Book was designed to be worked on for at least three years. By that time your Final Notebook should be filled with many items for documentation. Feel free to use a 3-ring binder and page protectors.

Each year you will submit an Annual Report which includes your goals, health records, financial records, activities and events, and show records. This Annual Report should be submitted each year along with your Notebook for judging, if your county or club chooses to do a submission.

### **Submission & Advancement**

Each year you participate in the project you should at least review your Activity Options, Notebook, and Cavy Annual Report with your project leader to ensure you are on the right track for advancement. You only submit your Final 3-Year Notebook for advancement to the next Book after at least three years.

You can complete Activity Options and Personal Development Options for higher Levels while you are working on a lower numbered Level, but you cannot qualify for the higher Level until you have qualified for all preceding Levels.

Activity Options can be signed off on up to three years prior to the submission date for advancement.

**You may only qualify for one (1) Level per year.**

Once you have completed all three Levels for one Book you will submit your Final Notebook for review at the state level. An interview and review of your Final Notebook will be scheduled. If the advancement interviewer is satisfied that you have completed the Book and are ready for advancement you will receive an Advancement Certificate and can begin working on the next Book.

## **Project Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the difference between Books and Levels?**

There are three Books: Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. Each Book contains a group of three years' worth of Levels. Each year you complete a Level. Levels are numbered 1-9 (1-3 is the Beginner Book; 4-6 is the Intermediate Book; 7-9 is the Advanced Book).

### **What is the Notebook and the Final Notebook?**

When you start in the Cavy Project, let's say you start with the Beginner Book. You would put that in a 3-ring binder. You would begin filling out the Annual Report and put that in the same binder. Now, you would add all your documentation for the Activity Options you complete. That 3-ring binder is your Notebook. At the end of the three years you write a project story and submit everything for review. That is your Final Notebook, and the one you would submit for advancement to the Intermediate Book.

### **Why should I use the SC 4-H/FFA Cavy Project Books?**

This curriculum provides an overall progressive learning experience which project members can tailor to any specific interest in any area of cavies (breeding, showing, meat, or just pet cavies). These Books will help you learn more about them while gaining valuable life skills, such as record keeping, animal husbandry, staying organized, and effective communication. The documentation in your Notebooks also shows how hard you worked, how much you learned, and all the things you did throughout the project.

### **Where do I turn in my Notebook?**

At the end of each year you should submit or review your completed Notebook AND Cavy Annual Report to your project leader, County Extension Agent, or FFA Advisor. At the end of each Book your Final Notebook will be sent for review to the state level and an interview with you will be scheduled.

### **What happens if my project animal(s) die before the end of my project?**

If your project cavy dies before the end of the project, continue completing as many Activity and Personal Development Options as you can. Work with your project leader to come up with alternative options you can complete that don't require ownership of a cavy.

### **Where can I find more information about cavies?**

Listed below are some valuable resources about cavies. Clemson University Cooperative Extension does not validate or certify the information on the following websites. This list is compiled simply for your own reference. You can also contact your local Extension Agent or FFA Advisor for information.

- ❖ South Carolina Cooperative Extension Youth Rabbit Opportunities website  
[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/kids\\_families/projects/agriculture\\_and\\_animals/rabbits.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/kids_families/projects/agriculture_and_animals/rabbits.html)
- ❖ American Cavy Breeders Association (ACBA) website  
<http://www.acbaonline.com>
- ❖ American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) website  
<http://www.arba.net>
- ❖ Ohio State University: 4-H Cavy Resource Handbook and Curriculum Materials
- ❖ National 4-H Pet Project Curriculum

## Personal Development Options

In addition to your Activity Options, you are required to choose a certain number of Personal Development Options for each Level. Some options are listed below, as well as some blank spaces you can use for activities approved by your Project Leader/Extension Agent/Ag Teacher to serve as a Personal Development Options. You should choose different options for each level. Those listed at the bottom may be used multiple times in different levels.

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Personal Development Options that may be used only once:

- Lead the Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge/FFA Creed at 4-H/FFA Meeting.
- Lead a song or a game at a 4-H/FFA meeting.
- Preside at a meeting of your 4-H/FFA club.
- Serve as host for a 4-H/FFA meeting. See that everyone is welcomed and made comfortable.
- Attend 4-H/FFA camp.
- Serve as a camp counselor.
- Make arrangements for a tour by your club.
- Arrange for a film to be shown at your club meeting.
- Secure a speaker to talk at your club meeting.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

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Personal Development Options that may be used multiple times in different levels:

- Write a news story for a local paper.
- Participate in a radio or television program.
- Present a demonstration or illustrated talk to your club.
- Present a demonstration or illustrated talk to a group other than your 4-H/FFA club.
- Participate in a community service project.
- Serve as a 4-H Club or FFA Chapter officer.
- Serve as a junior leader.
- Serve as a teen leader.
- Participate in a 4-H/FFA Cavy Showmanship, Judging, or Breed ID Contest.
- Serve as clerk, chairperson, or apprentice judge at a 4-H show.
- Develop and exhibit a science display which is related to cavies.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

# Cavy Level 1

You will need to complete nine Activity Options and three Personal Development Options in order to pass Cavy Level 1.

<b>Activity Options</b>	<b>Date Passed</b>	<b>Approved By</b>
1. Create a poster, with pictures, of at least 6 breeds of cavies. Include most common use, mature weight, colors, and any other important information.	_____	_____
2. Identify thirty (30) parts of a cavy.	_____	_____
3. Describe/design/showcase a suitable cage for your cavy and how to equip it for use.	_____	_____
4. Explain which feeds/hay are important for cavies. What fresh vegetables should you not give to cavies and why?	_____	_____
5. Demonstrate you are willing to provide fresh water, feed, vitamin C, and daily care for your cavies.	_____	_____
6. Describe what you might do for your cavy's protection during extremely hot or cold weather.	_____	_____
7. Describe the following: pedigreed, registered, purebred, crossbred, parasite, insect, virus, bred, wean.	_____	_____
8. Show and tell how to lift, carry, and hold a cavy.	_____	_____
9. Participate in a 4-H/FFA Cavy Showmanship Contest.	_____	_____
10. Explain breeding, heat period, conception, gestation, and kindling or partition in cavies.	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____

### **Personal Development Options**

1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

<i>Club Member</i> _____	<i>Age</i> _____
has completed all the requirements for Level 1 of the South Carolina 4-H/FFA Beginner Cavy Book.	
<i>Interviewer</i> _____	<i>Date</i> _____

## Cavy Level 2

You will need to complete ten Activity Options and three Personal Development Options in order to pass Cavy Level 2.

<b>Activity Options</b>	<b>Date Passed</b>	<b>Approved By</b>
1. Build a suitable carrying cage, show board, feeder, or some other cavy equipment.	_____	_____
2. Demonstrate how to tell the sex of a young cavy (approximately 3 weeks of age).	_____	_____
3. Create a poster, with pictures, of the remaining 7 breeds of cavies.	_____	_____
4. Explain the difference between a cavy and a hamster.	_____	_____
5. Describe the following diseases/ailments and their prevention and remedies: lice, mites, colds, bumble foot, "strep," diarrhea, salmonella, and broken teeth.	_____	_____
6. Describe the following undesirable characteristics of cavies: pointy head, excessive flab, pear-shaped body, flat crown, and buck teeth.	_____	_____
7. Start a library on cavy literature: magazines, books, pamphlets, and 4-H/FFA material.	_____	_____
8. Take part in a 4-H/FFA Cavy Judging Contest.	_____	_____
9. Take part in a 4-H/FFA Cavy Breed ID Contest.	_____	_____
10. Do a report on the history of the cavy.	_____	_____
11. Explain how to breed a boar and sow. Include length of time together and whether to remove the boar during kindling, etc.	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____

### **Personal Development Options**

1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

<i>Club Member</i> _____	<i>Age</i> _____
has completed all the requirements for Level 2 of the South Carolina 4-H/FFA Beginner Cavy Book.	
<i>Interviewer</i> _____	<i>Date</i> _____

## Cavy Level 3

You will need to complete ten Activity Options and three Personal Development Options in order to pass Cavy Level 3.

<b>Activity Options</b>	<b>Date Passed</b>	<b>Approved By</b>
1. Keep a sow production record through at least three litters.	_____	_____
2. Illustrate and explain the digestive system of a cavy. Compare and contrast to other species.	_____	_____
3. Cavies are raised for four reasons: breeding, show, meat, and/or as a pet. Discuss or present the pros and cons of raising cavies for each of these reasons.	_____	_____
4. Describe the desirable characteristics of a cavy's ears, type, crown, head, and ears.	_____	_____
5. Explain how good selection can improve your stock. Explain what inbreeding, line breeding, and crossbreeding are and the advantages and disadvantages of each.	_____	_____
6. Visit a caviary to see how cavies are housed, fed, watered, bred, and marketed.	_____	_____
7. Ear tag a cavy for identification.	_____	_____
8. Participate in a cavy agility demonstration or competition.	_____	_____
9. Learn how to wrap a long haired cavy's hair to keep it clean.	_____	_____
10. Illustrate what a baby cavy looks and acts like when it is first born. Describe a baby's first actions and how the sow takes care of her babies.	_____	_____
11. Cavies belong to the rodent family. Draw a picture of and write a report on the cavy's relationship to its rodent relatives.	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____

### **Personal Development Options**

1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

<i>Club Member</i>	<i>Age</i>
has completed all the requirements for Level 3 of the South Carolina 4-H/FFA Beginner Cavy Book.	
<i>Interviewer</i>	<i>Date</i>

## Project Story

Clemson University, Cooperative Extension, the SC Youth Livestock Program, 4-H, and FFA are proud of our project members and what they learn and do! Sometimes we like to use excerpts (parts) from member Project Stories to show the public how our programs impact our youth members. We will not attach real names to any project story used for publicity purposes. If you do *not* want your story shared with the general public we want to honor that. Please let us know your preference by checking one of the boxes below:

You may use my story for publicity.      OR       Do not use my story for any publicity.

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Your project story is a summary and personal reflection of everything you did and learned during the project. Think about everything you did with and for your cavies since you began working on this Cavy Project Level. Below is an outline to help you in the development of your story. Your final story should not contain section headings and questions but you can use the outline as a guide. Remember to use complete sentences and proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Your story should be typed and inserted after this page in your Final Cavy Project Notebook.

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### Project Story Outline

#### Section 1: Introduce Yourself

Write about your family members, other animals, and any hobbies or interests you have.

When and why did you join 4-H?

Why did you choose to participate in the South Carolina Cavy Project?

#### Section 2: Goals

What were your goals throughout this level and why did you choose them?

What did you do or could you have done to help reach your goals?

#### Section 3: Participation and Activities

What did you have the most fun doing or participating in?

Which activities did you like doing the least?

Discuss at least one way you helped or taught others.

#### Section 4: Knowledge and Skills Gained

How did participating in this project help you learn about cavies?

Discuss the most notable skills and knowledge you gained or improved on during this level.

#### Section 5: Summary

What was the greatest challenge you faced during this project and how did you overcome it?

What are the three most important things you learned during the project?

Would you choose to participate in this project again? Why or why not?

**INSERT YOUR STORY AFTER THIS PAGE!**



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## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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