



“E Newsletter”



Serving: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Manitoba and Ontario

Volume 1: Issue 6 July 2019



“There is something that feels so All - American about a county fair”

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From Your Director

"So many of us have gotten our start in this great hobby through the fair experience, whether it was with 4-H, FFA, or both. While my parents already had rabbits, my "show" experience began through 4-H and later FFA. As I judge on the fair circuit, it brings back many memories. Over the years I've seen so many young people grow with junior fair...maturity, confidence, helping others, and responsibility. Yes, I do see the negative side of parents and grandparents sometimes reliving their youth through their kids. But for the large majority, it's a positive learning and growing experience. Thank you to all of the parents, grandparents, adult volunteers, and others who help guide our young people through this time of their lives."

Cavy Health Care
Mary Lou Eisel

"I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping your cavy healthy rather than treating an ill one. Cavies require at least one square foot each of living space. Ideal room temperature is 65-75F. Ideal humidity is 40-70%. Cavies are very sensitive to heat and should not be kept in direct sunlight. Cavies should be kept draft free. Cages need to be kept clean as well as water bottles and feed dishes. To avoid injury to legs, do not keep them on a wire floor esp babies with those tiny legs. Mice and rats can carry diseases that cavies can get so it is best not to keep them with your cavies. Some rabbit diseases also can be transmitted to cavies. "

Spotlight: The County Fair
An American /Family Tradition

"A lot of people go to the fairs for the carnival rides, the grandstands, and the food. What a lot of people don't see is the early mornings and late nights 4-H and FFA members have worked with their animals, from walking them, giving them medicines, or just spending time with their animals." Audrey Johnston

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Director's Message

Hello D8 Friends!

It's a hot summer so far...and fair season is underway! Good luck to our youth members as they exhibit their junior fair projects.

So many of us have gotten our start in this great hobby through the fair experience, whether it was with 4-H, FFA, or both. While my parents already had rabbits, my "show" experience began through 4-H and later FFA. As I judge on the fair circuit, it brings back many memories. Over the years I've seen so many young people grow with junior fair...maturity, confidence, helping others, and responsibility. Yes, I do see the negative side of parents and grandparents sometimes reliving their youth through their kids. But for the large majority, it's a positive learning and growing experience. Thank you to all of the parents, grandparents, adult volunteers, and others who help guide our young people through this time of their lives.

In May and June the youth of Indiana and Michigan held benefit shows to help them with ARBA Convention expenses. I've got to say how impressed I was with how actively involved they were in the running of their shows. It's a great cause, and the great job these young people did made it even more awesome.

If you haven't already, please take a moment to check out the D8 Youtube channel at ARBA D8 Website. The first Youtube youth workshop video featuring Judge Glen Carr is available there to view. As the fall show season begins I hope to have more of these youth workshops scheduled across D8. While I can't guarantee every one of them will be taped, we'll do our best to get as many as possible. When we do, these videos will also be featured on our Youtube channel. While mainly intended for our D8 youth, youth members from all across the ARBA are welcome to view and learn from them. And yes, adults are welcome, too!

So far this year, a judge exam has been administered in both the first and second quarters. We're now into the third quarter, and anyone wishing to take their judge exam during this time period is urged to contact me ASAP. Per ARBA guidelines, only one exam can be scheduled per quarter per district, and there must be at least two applicants in order for the exam to be scheduled.

Friends, for those not currently subscribed to the D8 Monthly E-Newsletter, I invite you to do so. Simply visit

the D8 Facebook page or the D8 Website and sign up there. The new website address is www.arbadistricts.net/district/8. Please check out everything we have to offer there.

I would like to give a reminder to folks when entering at shows. Please double check your entries for accuracy. Make sure your comment card information matches that on your entry form. And please completely fill out your entry form...all needed info for your animals, your complete name and mailing address along with phone # and email address. This helps reduce issues at the show table and for the show secretary when he/she is doing their work after the show. And if there is a problem, your contact information makes it easier for them to reach you.

To the ARBA chartered clubs across D8, please be sure to submit your upcoming show flyers to us to be listed on the website. While at it, why not also submit a club spotlight article to be included in a future issue of the e-newsletter? These articles are a great way to highlight your club to potential members and also bring free publicity to your shows! Thanks to the Forest City Club of Ontario for their June article. Judges and registrars, to be listed on the website, simply send us your permission. All of these submissions may be emailed to arbad8website@gmail.com.

Our members continue to take the time to speak with me at the shows, and I'm very grateful for this. Please keep it up! Should we not make connections at a show, I'm only a phone call or email away. I may be reached by phone at 937-364-2133 or by email at havanaman@earthlink.net. I can't always guarantee you the answer you may want, but I'll look into things and give you an honest answer.

Best wishes for an awesome summer!

Take care,

Terry Fender
ARBA D8 Director



D8 Facebook:
[The Official ARBA District 8](#)

Every accomplishment starts with
the decision to try.



“E” Newsletter Web Team Message

Greetings from the D8 Web Team,

I'm not going to mention *Show Flyers* in this message...Nope, not mentioning them. However if you do have that paper I'm not mentioning and would like to have it viewed by 1000's of breeders who are constantly checking out the shows on the D8 website, just email it to: arbad8website@gmail.com

Last issue we had a wonderful Club Spotlight article from Betty Fletcher about the Forest City Rabbit Breeders Club in Ontario. In this issue, Sherry Garrett has provided an article spotlighting the Osceola Rabbit & Cavy Breeders Association. We are blessed here in D8 to have many shows to attend virtually every weekend to show our rabbits and cavies and spend time with good friends. However many of our D8 clubs are struggling to host shows because they only have a few active members. Hosting a show involves the work of many hands not just two or three members. Submitting a spotlight article is a fantastic way to advertise about your club and potentially increase your membership. For those not currently involved

in a club, consider joining one near you. There are many different tasks that must be completed before, during and after a show and all involve varying skill and strength levels.

If you missed an issue of the E Newsletter, you can find all past issues in the Archive files on the D8 website: www.arbadistricts.net/district/8. Click on D8 Library - then Archives. Club Spotlight articles are also on the Archives page. We update this section monthly however the shows listing is updated weekly, generally each Monday morning. In a few months, we will start adding the 2020 shows to the listing for each state.

We also have a page on the website for “Web Links”. If your club has a website and would like it to be listed on the website, please send the URL information to the web team via the email address listed above. We will get your club website listed on the page. This applies to all breed clubs, state and regional specialty clubs.

Remember, you do not have to reside in D8 to get the E Newsletter, in fact we have subscribers from the east coast to the west coast. From Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. Feel free to let your friends know how to become a subscriber.

Until next time, may the competition be friendly and enjoyable and your nest boxes full of potential winners.

Jane
D8 Web Team

D8 Website:

<https://www.arbadistricts.net/district/8/>

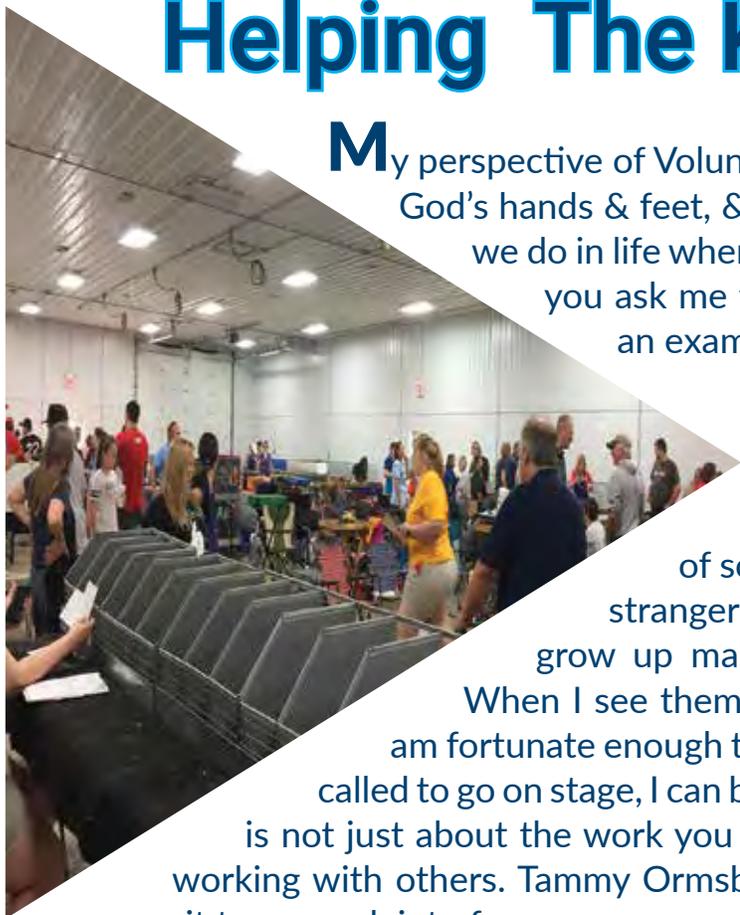


YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1IAAhCsell9e8U3eWW6LNA>

A Volunteer's Perspective - Helping The Kids

My perspective of Volunteering. 1st & for most. I truly believe in we are God's hands & feet, & Do Unto Others. With that said for each thing we do in life when pleasing to others, you are Pleasing God. Since you ask me to do this at a Michigan show I will use that as an example.

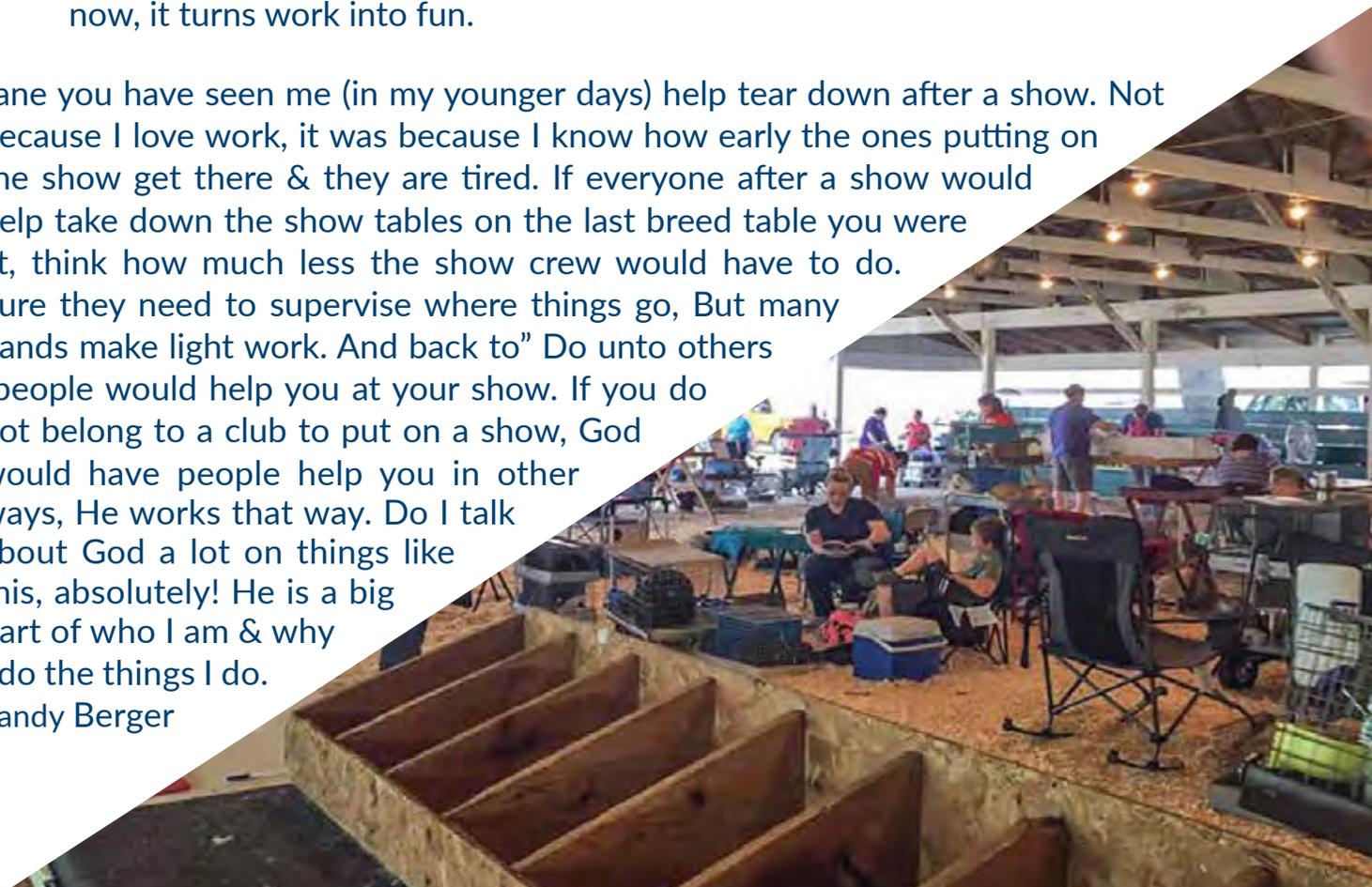


Yesterday was a fundraiser for the Youth at another state other than where I live. Does that matter No. Volunteering makes you a part of something bigger than borders. This Hobby turns strangers into Family. I got to help kids I have watched grow up make money to go to the National Convention.

When I see them there I get to know I helped get them there. I am fortunate enough to go to the Youth Banquet, When these kids get called to go on stage, I can be as proud as if they were my own. Volunteering is not just about the work you are doing it is about being apart of something, working with others. Tammy Ormsby & I have worked together on a few shows now, it turns work into fun.

Jane you have seen me (in my younger days) help tear down after a show. Not because I love work, it was because I know how early the ones putting on the show get there & they are tired. If everyone after a show would help take down the show tables on the last breed table you were at, think how much less the show crew would have to do. Sure they need to supervise where things go, But many hands make light work. And back to” Do unto others “people would help you at your show. If you do not belong to a club to put on a show, God would have people help you in other ways, He works that way. Do I talk about God a lot on things like this, absolutely! He is a big part of who I am & why I do the things I do.

Sandy Berger



Cavy Health Care : Mary Lou Eisel



I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping your cavy healthy rather than treating an ill one. Cavies require at least one square foot each of living space. Ideal room temperature is 65-75F. Ideal humidity is 40-70%. Cavies are very sensitive to heat and should not be kept in direct sunlight. Cavies should be kept draft free. Cages need to be kept clean as well as water bottles and feed dishes. To avoid injury to legs, do not keep them on a wire floor esp babies with those tiny legs. Mice and rats can carry diseases that cavies can get so it is best not to keep them with your cavies. Some rabbit diseases also can be transmitted to cavies.

Cavy feed should have a protein level of 16-18 and a fiber level of 35%. Cavies do require vitamin C in their diet. Symptoms of vitamin C deficiency include hemorrhages (especially gums), malocclusion, joint swellings, and respiratory infections. Cavies with serious deficiency will hop in the hind end. Ensure you are feeding fresh cavy food with vitamin C added. You can supplement with vitamin C in the water and/or supply fresh veggies and fruits. In acute cases you can use human pediatric vitamin drops.

Lice and mites. Lice are easily visible with the eye. Best treatment is a cat flea powder. Mange mites burrow in the skin and cannot be seen with the eye. Best treatment is ivermectin or revolution. Fur mites adhere to the hair shafts and not readily killed with ivermectin or revolution. I find that the cat flea powder will kill them and a good bath a few days later will wash them off the hair shaft. It is wise to treat the entire herd 3 or 4 times a year as a preventative. If you attend a show where there are cavies that show signs of parasites it is recommended that the cavies who attended the show be dusted with flea powder before going back in the caviary.

Fungus eg ringworm. Not seen as often as lice and mites. The lesions are very typically round. Ointment

for the treatment of human ringworm can be used. It has to be continued two weeks after all symptoms are gone.

Diarrhea – again prevention is the best approach. No sudden changes in feed, introduce fresh greens gradually, etc. One of the best treatments is good grass hay. Kaopectate can be used as well – about 1 cc for an adult and less for babies – twice daily.

Impaction is found in boars. It is easy to clean out as a rule, tough cases may require warm water compress and/or Vaseline to help soften.

Prolapsed penis – seldom seen. Needs to be washed with mild saline solution and returned to position. Some need some lubricant and/or topical antibiotic ointment.

Respiratory issues – mild cold can be treated with children's cold syrup (½ - 1cc twice daily). Pneumonia requires antibiotic treatment but never penicillin.

Kidney and bladder stones – a diet high in alfalfa is often associated with stones. Surgery is often the only way to remove.

Eyes – it is common in some breeds for the babies to develop irritation in the eyes from the hairs rubbing on the surface. The eyes need to be kept open and free from crustiness. A warm compress helps open the eyes. Severe cases can be treated with an ophthalmic ointment. A white milky discharge in the eyes is a natural occurrence and is completely normal.

Overgrown teeth – the front teeth can be trimmed easily but seldom is this seen. More

requires trimming under sedation by a vet. It is hereditary and they will grow back in a matter of weeks.

Bumble foot is caused by bacteria. Prognosis is not always the best and the foot is often left deformed. The affected foot needs to be kept clean. Soaking in a mild saline solution is beneficial. Treat with topical antibiotic ointment.

Corns – horny growths on the feet. Not an issue to worry about.

Polydactyly – it is best to snip off those extra toes at birth as they can bleed badly if they tear as an adult. Since it is hereditary, I would not suggest putting those animals in the gene pool.

Nail care – neglected nails can be torn, they can twist around and grown into the skin.

Stress lumps are also caused by bacteria. Once open the abscess needs to be flushed with mild saline solution and treated with topical antibiotic ointment.

Wry neck – generally a symptom of inner ear infection or upper respiratory infection.

Urine scald – diaper rash ointment works wonderfully.

Pregnancy issues – most important is to wait to breed your sow when she is old enough and big enough. Sows must be a minimum of 4 months old and 1 ½ pounds. Also make sure that older sows are not too overweight before breeding – this is a major cause of pregnancy toxemia. Make sure that the sow's diet is not too high in sweet feed or calf manna in the last 3 weeks as this can lead to toxemia as well. A sow who is quivering is suffering from hypocalcemia. You can obtain liquid calcium (give 1cc orally) at the pharmacy or use Tums crushed on the food. Keep an eye on the udder of the sow. Swelling or redness can develop into mastitis. If caught early, warm compresses may help. Pregnancy alopecia can occur and resolves itself by the time the

litter is of weaning age. Vaginal prolapses occur rarely – the tissues should be cleaned with a warm saline solution and restored. Full uterine prolapse is a very rare occurrence and very difficult to treat. I do not recommend rebreeding a sow after a vaginal prolapse.



Emilee Vis - Best In Show
Clare Co. Small Animal Assoc.
June 22, 2019

Please Remember

- ◇ These are kids
- ◇ This is a county fair
- ◇ Advisors are volunteers
- ◇ Judges are human
- ◇ Your child is NOT showing in the Olympics

Club Spotlight

Osceola Rabbit & Cavy BA

The Osceola Rabbit & Cavy Breeders Association has a long and storied history. In 1991 the Osceola 4-H Small Animal Association shows were to promote rabbits and cavies within the local 4-H rabbit and cavy communities in West Central Michigan. Our first shows were developed within Osceola County 4-H and were held in the LeRoy Fire Department fire barn. Our first judges were John Soper, John Weltervredin, Willis Bouwkamp, and Betty Storey.

The outstanding turnouts continued the next three years and as our size grew we held the 4-H shows in the former Reed City Middle School gym. The growth of the shows gained the attention of the Marion Fair and the Marion Fair barn superintendent, Bill Corner, wanted to bring our shows to the Marion Fair during their fair week in 1993. We decided to maintain the Osceola 4-H Small Animal Association but to also develop a new association to hold the first ARBA sanctioned show. It was held on a Friday night of fair, the same night as the Modified Tractors and Desert Storm was held next door on the track. That was really interesting and I was pretty nervous about the noise over the high fence and the rabbits safety. People really enjoyed the show as they could enjoy the fair at the same time as the sanctioned show. Ed Carpenter Sr. won Best in Show with a beautiful white New Zealand in the single sanctioned show.

The next year in 1994, we held the first double ARBA sanctioned show in Michigan at the Marion Fair on the Saturday before fair. Of course, we had to double our show equipment and hired eight rabbit judges to account for possible entry. We were large enough to hold it in the large double pavilions next to the track, between it and the river. We had a great turnout for this show and it was won by a beautiful blue, Dutch doe owned by Mike Smith. The next two years went well for the Marion Fair but we were approached by the current 4-H agent in our county and he made the suggestion to bring the show back to benefit the small animals in 4-H. In 1996, the Osceola 4-H Small Animal Association held our first ARBA sanctioned show to benefit 4-H at the Osceola County Fairgrounds in Evert within our former Exhibit Building.

Over the years a new president was elected to the Small Animal Association and some new board members, who were not within the rabbit industry and not ARBA members took office. The club paid for their memberships to ARBA and MSRBA so to continue doing our sanctioned shows. After a couple of years, our core group of rabbit and cavy breeders decided

to develop a new club and still make donations by our club to support 4-H activities for rabbits and cavies within our county. This is when the Osceola Rabbit & Cavy Breeders Association fully came into being. We continue to hold our annual double shows in April of every year through the current date.

Our goals through the years has been to provide funding for our youth through educational activities. We have funded the Osceola Rabbit & Cavy Quiz Bowl Teams since 1996 through our annual shows profits. We are very blessed to have very good communities that support our shows and our area youth, insuring that these show opportunities are available for youth throughout Michigan. Our awards are always funded by local businesses and breeders from Reed City, Big Rapids, Evert, Marion, Cadillac, McBain and Falmouth. Without their support the ability to fund a scholarship, show awards, our showmanship contest held at our annual ARBA show each spring, our Quiz Bowl teams, and awards at the Osceola County Fair would not be a reality.

We have a small group of dedicated breeders, parents, and youth who work very hard to make this association successful. As part of our county requirements, for youth to participate in the small animal market classes at the Osceola County Fair they must attend three (3) educational meetings, or in our case, assist in setting up, tearing down, or working the annual ARBA sanctioned show. They are given the opportunity to learn what composes a sanctioned show, other than the common fair shows. It has afforded them to learn about breeds of rabbits and cavies, to learn how to write for judges, assisting the superintendent and the secretary side of sorting cards and filing entries for a show. Our youth participate in setting up the show boxes and learn how to fill the folders with the appropriate number of control sheets for each breed. It is an excellent educational experience that local youth may not have the opportunity to participate within.

The Osceola Rabbit & Cavy Breeders has a long and storied history throughout its developmental years. Our core group has encouraged the development of recognized breeds in rabbits and cavies in our county fairs, Evert & Marion. When one thinks back to the beginning when the fair books has Mature Buck, Mature Doe and Young Buck, Young Doe, we have come a long way to encourage the development of our youth and the area rabbit and cavy programs. We have developed within the past two years where every recognized breed, rabbit and cavy receive Best of Breed and Best Opposite Awards and every youth entering showmanship receives an award at our annual sanctioned shows. Kids deserve recognition for their hard work and efforts in their projects.

It is with the support of our communities, the breeders/exhibitors who travel to our fairgrounds to show in our beautiful show facility with a licensed kitchen, that we are still here for our youth. Our fair

board needs credit for donating our facility for our use because we support the kids. We are so fortunate that kids come first in our communities. We hope to be here for many years to come to benefit Michigan's youth.

Sherry Garrett, club secretary

State News

Michigan



L-R Front Row: Lowell Trausch, Dean Daglow
Back Row: Mike Michael, Diane Daglow

At the July 13th Cal-Bra-Hill RC show, Dean Daglow was presented a special recognition award by club Vice President, Willis Plank.



In 1952 Dean Daglow along with Harold Johnson, Paul Adams, Chuck Wooden, Don Gaunt and C. F. Dickenson started organizing a Rabbit Club named at that time Branch County and Community, unfortunately there was a Club that all ready had that name so it was changed to Cal-Bra-Hill Rabbit Club as it is known today. The club was actually Chartered in 1953. Dean has served as Secretary/Treasurer of the club since its beginning until his resignation in 2019 due to health issues.

Not only his work with Cal-Bra-Hill Rabbit Club excelled the club forward, his work with Michigan State Rabbit Breeders Association has never gone unnoticed. The MSRBA started an Award called The Dean Daglow Good Guy Award, which is still given out at the MSRBA Banquet and Award program every year. This award is given to a member who emulates Dean's outstanding character and willingness to assist other members - just a plain old Good Guy!

Dean was an intricate committee member of two ARBA National Conventions in Michigan, Detroit 1973 and Saginaw 1978. In 2007 The ARBA National Convention in Grand Rapids, MI was dedicated to Dean. He spent the entire Convention motoring on his scooter through the showroom and booth area visiting with old friends and meeting new friends.

Dean has received many awards over the years. They consist of Youth Awards- which he is a mentor to many of our former youth - The Dean Daglow Good Guy Award, MSRBA Master Breeder Award, MSRBA Distinguished Service Award, ARBA Distinguished Service Award. Dean is a life member of the Cal-Bra-Hill Club, the ARBA, MSRBA and several National Breed clubs.



Kayla Vis - Best In Show

Clare Co. Small Animal Association - June 22, 2019



How Do You Keep Your Rabbits Cool On Hot Days? Below are comments from a cross section of breeders.

Linda Vis: Cool water on the ears. Run water on the roof of the barn/shed.

Dori Schlientz: I have put ice cubes in water cups and some of them would lick them. Freeze tiles for them to lay on.

Joe Kim: I don't use AC. I believe in air exchange even in 100+ degree weather. My barn is 18x18x8 (2592 cu ft) building. I have air intake vents in front and one 1871 CFM exhaust fan in the back. The barn is enclosed everywhere My intent was to pull the air from front to back. I get 43 air exchanges per minute using the CFM to cubic feet ratio. I don't smoke, but I light a cigarette and walk around the barn for dead spots for air flow. I used one other night wall mounted fan to eliminate a dead spot in one corner. IMO air exchange and sanitation are THE most important aspects of conditioning and good health. AC reduces air exchange and reduces the elimination of ammonia. I don't believe in it. Good luck everyone. I hope my opinion can help.

Karen Horn: Same on the air exchange. Have never had a problem and we're on our second week in the 90's with 100's due this weekend.

Lee Nevills: During the summer, my rabbits are all in fairly open outdoor hutches in a shady spot next to a creek. I bother them as little as possible, giving fresh water and feed early in the morning before the heat of the day. I check water levels a couple times a day, and on occasion will give large frozen gallon jugs or two liters to does and litters or anyone who looks to be particularly stressing. I've been lucky over the years to not lose anyone to the heat. Indiana summers are typically mid80s to high 90s. However, we are facing extreme temps over 100 in the next few days, so it's going to be a bit warmer and more humid than normal. I think with proper ventilation and shade and fresh water, you've done the best you can do. The rest is up to

the health of the rabbits. Temperature extremes usually affect the very young, very old, or those that already have health conditions.

Misty Polisak: For those with stacking cages move them further apart from each other to increase air flow between and around stacks, and take off the bottom tray (or lay it on the ground) to increase airflow underneath. This was a new step we did this year and it has helped.

Also using hardware metal cloth for growout center dividers instead of solid metal flashing allows more air to travel through each side, keeping young stock cooler (the small wire prevents chewing but not spraying)!

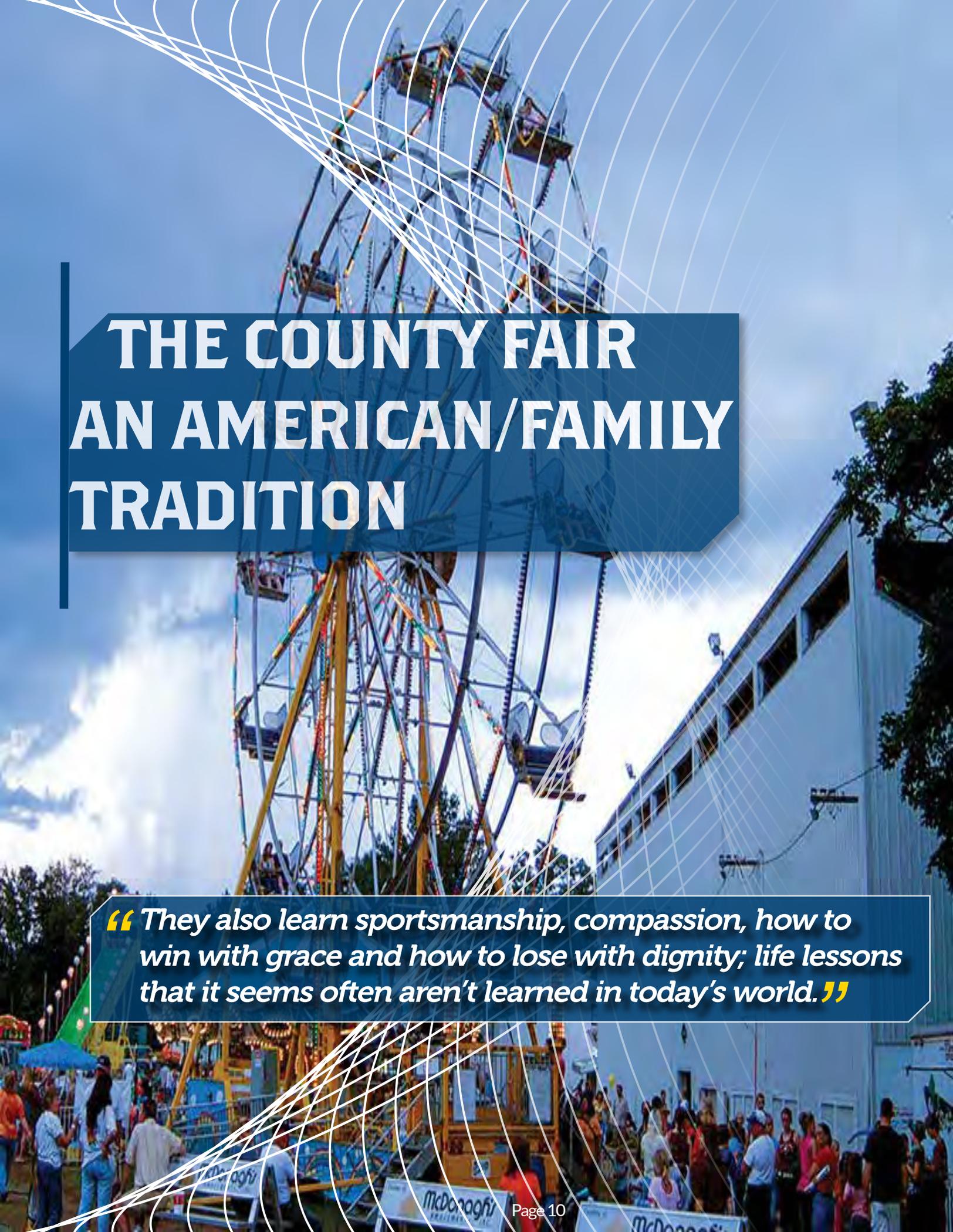
Definitely use water crocks with bottles. I have a few that dip paws or ears in the water bowls.

For really hot days misting the floors helped (if you have dry heat). Mistors over the roof or side building made a difference too in the cooled air pulled in from the sides.

Deb Morrison: I have a homemade evaporative cooler system that is made up of 2 cattle panels with evaporative cooler pad sandwiched between them. Across the top is a 1/2" PVC pipe with holes drilled every 2". Along the bottom is an industrial sized rain gutter. I have a 49 gallon collection tank that is filled with water and has a tank float to keep the water level full. I use a landscaping pond pump to circulate the water to the top of the evaporative panel, water drains down the evaporative cooler pad, it then collects in the rain gutter, which has an outlet to drain water back into the collection tank. Barn is completely enclosed except for the exhaust fans at the opposite end of the barn which pull the water cooled air through the evaporative cooler pad at the other end of the barn.

Becky Block: Our building has a cement floor and insulated walls so it stays pretty cool, but we use big fans to push the air through. We give them lots and lots of fresh cold water. We probably go out three times during the day on hot days to water.

Ruth Ann Bell: Our barn is highly dependent on air exchange. We have a venting fan that exchanges the air between 12 and 15 times an hour. We have installed an air space between the rabbits and the roof as added insulation from the heat. During extra hot days added fans moves air as well. Of course, fresh, cool water is a must. Cool tiles and frozen water bottles are added, if needed, but this is usually reserved for animals that are away at fairs.



THE COUNTY FAIR AN AMERICAN/FAMILY TRADITION

“ They also learn sportsmanship, compassion, how to win with grace and how to lose with dignity; life lessons that it seems often aren’t learned in today’s world.”

The county fair for many rabbit breeders (young and old) is a very special part of their summer vacation time. Below are the reflections on being involved with a county fair from four individuals who have varying levels of involvement.

Audrey Johnston 4-H Member and Fair Exhibitor

Hi everyone my name is Audrey Johnston and I have been in 4-H for 9 years. For the first 5 years of my 4-H career I showed at the Genesee County Fair in Mount Morris, Michigan. At the fair I showed rabbits, goats, and guinea pigs. The other 4 years of my 4-H career I have shown at the Eastern Michigan State Fair in Imlay City Michigan. At the Eastern Michigan State Fair I show rabbits, goats, and pigs. A lot of people go to the fairs for the carnival rides, the grandstands, and the food. What a lot of people don't see is the early mornings and late nights 4-H and FFA members have worked with their animals, from walking them, giving them medicines, or just spending time with their animals. They don't see the countless hours 4-H and FFA members are with their animals trying to improve their animals. The county fairs are when 4-H and FFA members get to show off all of their hard work. A lot of people think that 4-H and FFA is just about animals, but 4-H and FFA include public speaking, horticulture, animal science and so many more things. Since I have been in 4-H I have gone outside of my comfort zone and have grown into the person I am today.



***“County fairs come and go.
Trophies collect dust.
Ribbons get tossed to the side,
but memories are never forgotten and
the friendships are never replaced.”***

Gayle Newton Former 4-H Member, Leader Exhibitor Mom/ Exhibitor Grandmother, Judge

Summer time means different things to different people, but for our family, summer means the county fair is just around the corner. I've been blessed to experience fairs from so many perspectives; as a 4-H youth growing up in Berrien County, Michigan I was busy all summer getting my various projects ready to exhibit, as a mother watching my girls prepare their animals and other projects for fair; as a youth leader who worked all year long hoping to have every one of “my kids” ready for that very special week, as an ARBA registrar who gets the wonderful opportunity to judge youth classes at fairs around the state of Michigan and more recently, as a grandmother watching the next generation do what we have done over the past 50 some years.

For the outside observer, folks see the end product and take them at face value: a clean animal, a blue ribbon, an imaginative craft project, a plate of cookies. But I look at these same things and know there is always more to the story; the frustrations of an animal who goes off feed, the stubborn lamb that won't walk readily, the craft project that doesn't turn out the way it was envisioned, the “do-overs” try to get a recipe just right. The county fair end products might seem to be the completed project...and while that is true, I know that much more valuable results are the patience, the expanded knowledge and the confidence that completing those projects gives an exhibitor.



County fairs give kids the opportunity to see how their skills stack up when compared to their peers and to demonstrate what they have learned. They also learn sportsmanship, compassion, how to win with grace and how to lose with dignity; life lessons that it seems often aren't learned in today's world. In the real world, everyone isn't always “first” and we often shield our kids from that reality, only to make it harder for them when

Continues on Page 13

Jayme Bracy

Former 4-H Member, Exhibitor Mom

As we are wrapping up the 2019 Barry County Fair I can sit back and reflect on this annual experience. My daughter, Brooklyn, is in her 3rd year of being a 4-H aged participant. She has participated in the rabbit project, horse project, and photography. Each year has brought her more independence, confidence, friends, and knowledge. There just is no experience like it!

As a 4-Her myself I knew that fair week was the most fun week of the year, but as a parent I see so many opportunities that foster personal growth for my child. There are not many times that I can let my 11 year old run around with kids I barely know and only see her a few times a day, and still know that she is safe. Our county fair allows me to give her that chance for independence. She is able to form bonds with kids and animals that can only happen in that type of environment. At any given moment she could



be playing cards in the cow barn, playing in the pig pens, grazing with horses, or teaching a large livestock exhibitor how to handle a small rabbit. As a parent, I love seeing her learn to have that freedom and the confidence that comes with it.

She checks in with me throughout the day and it goes something like this, "Hi mom! I'm playing cards in the cow barn with Kambree, Hailey, and Natalie." "Great! Who is Natalie?" "She shows cows." Because in the county fair world that's all the explanation that is needed. The fair is filled with kids who all have a connection through the love of animals and are able to become instant friends. Most of these friends she will not see again until next year's fair, when they will pick right back up as buddies and run to show off their new fair projects.

The fair is the culmination of all the hard work these kids put in throughout the year, but we can't forget all the lessons that 4-H teaches these kids leading up to the fair. They have leadership positions within their clubs, they perform community service and learn the importance of helping their communities, they learn record keeping within their projects, go through

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Brenda Reau

Former 4-H Extension Agent, Leader
Exhibitor Mom

County Fair Fun

The county fair is something that both young and old look forward to every year. It is an opportunity to make new friends and renew old acquaintances that you may only see once a year. It is an emotion-filled environment with highs and lows.

Showing rabbits at the county fair is a different experience than showing at ARBA shows. Many exhibitors only show their rabbits once a year at the county fair and may not be as knowledgeable as exhibitors who are actively pursuing the rabbit hobby and showing regularly at ARBA shows. The county fair is an opportunity to teach others and share your knowledge of rabbits.

Help other members learn about their breed by making a copy of the pages for their breed from the Standard of Perfection. Teach them about health issues. Rabbits with snuffles can show up at the fair with an inexperienced 4-H member thinking it is just an allergy or cold and not realize the danger to other rabbits. Try not to be judgmental if they bring a rabbit in full-blown molt



to the fair. Many county fair exhibitors only have a handful of pet rabbits that they can choose from to bring to the fair. Help them with grooming tips to make their rabbit look its best. Sharing your skills with others is a great way to make new friendships.

Those who are out actively participating in ARBA shows will often know the judge that is judging their rabbits at the county fair. Some county fairs use licensed ARBA judges. Others tap breeders to judge. It is very likely one way or another, if you are active in the rabbit hobby, you will "know" the judge. Exhibitors who do not travel in the ARBA circle may misinterpret this and think you are getting some special treatment. Ethical judges treat everyone fairly. It is best not to engage in a lot of conversation either before or after the show. Be courteous, but brief in your interactions. Remember others are constantly observing you, especially if you are perceived as a top exhibitor.

There is not an environment where a rumor or

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Gayle Newton:

they experience it later on. As a judge, I always keep in mind how important "Fair Day" is to a youth. It is totally possible to teach and offer constructive criticism in a positive way. I find that county fair exhibitors are usually grateful for explanations and tips to help them improve when they realize that those comments come from someone who empathizes with them.

Finally, over the years, the best take away from being involved with county fairs are the friendships. My FaceBook friends list has many names of those who I competed against in years gone by; the ex-4-Hers who will forever be "my kids", youth exhibitors at fairs I have judged who have become friends and others that I would never have met had it not for county fairs.

So the next time you visit your local county fair, take some time to chat with the exhibitors. You'll be surprised at what you learn not only about their projects, but about the dedication and effort behind those projects.

Brenda Reau:

misinformation can spread more quickly than at the county fair! Try not to repeat stories that you have no first-hand knowledge of. Leave the decision making to superintendents and the professional staff. It is their responsibility to interpret the rules and policies. Many times, there is a "gray" area, they have to make a judgment call, and that decision needs to be respected. Show appreciation for volunteer superintendents. Thanking them for all their efforts goes a long way. Many work long hours to ensure 4-H members and their rabbits have a good experience at the fair.

Have fun and make the most of the experience for yourself and others. Memories made at the county fair will last a lifetime!

Jayme Bracy:

interview processes with their fair projects, and they spend countless hours of hard work to prepare for the fair. Teaching our kids to be better and more prepared adults will reap benefits their entire lives. There really is no experience like being a 4-H kid!





Food For Thought: Parents, Your Kids Are Listening And Watching!

A Parents! As we approach fair season there were some things on my heart that I wanted to share about common things I have seen over the years that impact our kids negatively during what is supposed to be a positive experience.

1) Your kids are listening and watching. Every time you talk disparagingly about a judge or judges decision, you have taught your kids to not respect that person or the opinion they are paid to give that day. Subsequently, they will have less respect for others in that role as they progress through their show career.

2) Your kids are listening and watching. Every time you complain about a particular exhibition requirement, for example record books or a shift in the food stand, an opportunity for growth and skill building is compromised. The requirements are well thought out and have proven to be valuable experiences for youth for years to come, although at the moment it seems like one more “pointless” thing to do. Do it anyways and teach your kids that not everything is fun. Sometimes in life we have to do the not so fun stuff so that we can do the fun stuff.

3) Your kids are listening and watching. Making comments about other kids and their successes or failures shows your kids that it's okay to not practice good sportsmanship all the time. That's not okay. Every kid in the barn has a different story to tell, different experiences, different resources, etc. Pay attention to your kids experience. Period. Your kids can learn a lot of valuable life lessons when you focus on them and their experience.

4) Your kids are listening and watching. If you have a good attitude, practice a lot of grace, and focus on the reason you do this with your kids, it will be contagious! No matter what, be a good example for your kids; they're listening and watching.

Katie Ockert: MSUE Youth Animal Science Educator,
4-H Volunteer, 4-H Mom



COMPACT BODY TYPE

TERRY FENDER - ARBA JUDGE

In today's rabbit world, the smaller and medium sized breeds are becoming more and more popular. Most of these breeds belong to the compact body type. Let's take a few moments to discuss various aspects of this classification.

Animals of compact type are lighter in weight and shorter in length than those with commercial body type. These compact bodies are not only normally smaller, but remember, they're also shorter, thus the "compact" term. Differences among these breeds may exist in relation to depth and width, so please refer to each breed's standard for clarification on



a specific question regarding that. When it comes to posing, please remember that it is highly discouraged to excessively tuck (aka over posing) or allow the animal to run the table.

Quite often when we think of compact breeds, it's the Mini Rex, Florida Whites, Havanas, and Mini Lops that come to mind. However, Netherland Dwarfs, Polish, and English Angoras also fall in this category. Yes, there's a body under that wool! For a complete list of compact type breeds, please refer to page 40 of the current ARBA Standard of Perfection.

Being a Havana breeder, I will use this breed to describe some of the common body faults that I encounter. For Havanas, one of the major faults



found is the flat spot, or dip, over the shoulder. This may also indicate a longer than desired body type. It is also not uncommon to find a narrow midsection and a pinched hindquarters. For

whatever reason, a "snippy" or narrow muzzle may also be found in conjunction with a lighter than desired bone.

With the popularity of these type breeds, it's not

surprising that in many areas compact breeds make up a majority of the animals shown by 4-H members. These smaller breeds are often ideal for our younger members. However, in 4-H, I find many that are larger and heavier than the Standard requires. Most 4-H shows I judge do not permit the judge to disqualify, so it is vitally important for the judge to stress in a positive manner what compact body type truly is. This is part of the learning portion of the 4-H experience. I attempt to stress that even though the animal may not actually be DQ'ed, a larger animal does not demonstrate true compact type.



For instance, as I gain weight, I may still be short, but I'm definitely not compact!

Referring back to the posing aspect of compact breeds, a few are posed a little more uniquely like the Netherland Dwarfs and Holland Lops where they stand up a bit more on their front feet. Care must be taken that these are not stood up too high like a Britannia Petite nor "pushed down" like most of the compact breeds. The majority of the compact breeds are posed basically the same. With these, today it seems all too common to "over pose" and push the hind feet underneath the body where they almost touch the front legs. While this may artificially enhance the depth of body, the hindquarters will also appear chopped and pinched. Whether we agree or disagree with how the Standard of Perfection states that our breed needs to be posed, we must acknowledge that the SOP is the governing word on the subject.



In closing, compact body type breeds are arguably among the most popular in our fancy. Whether you want a "larger" breed in this classification which can double as a meat producer, or you prefer to stay with the smaller Netherland Dwarf or Polish, I'm sure you'll find something to suit your needs when searching the list of compact breeds.

Somewhere in Time

Team Work

There is an old saying -that a chain is only as strong as the weakest link. This saying would carry through in team work. Any group of individuals who work to gain a certain objective by throwing their resources together and working as one team in full accord with one another and realizing each one must do his part in order to reach the goal. We all want a greater rabbit and cavy industry and fancy. However, the only way this can be achieved is by working together or team work. When there are certain individuals who do not do their part or carry out their obligations to the ARBA, then the other members of the team cannot fulfill their duties. This in general is an appeal to get all parties working together as a team so they can bring out the best of their work.

Since I have been your Secretary and before this happened, we always had difficulty in getting our literature out. Not because of finances but because we didn't get the team work of the work who contribute greatly to the valuable literature which the ARBA gets out. I can cite various instances where parties were assigned to write some particular article on a certain subject, yet they would fall down on it. There were some good members who would come through with very constructive and helpful articles, however, they could not tie in with the general line of information because one or two members on the team failed to carry out their end of the plan.

Where the President of the ARBA appoints committees, he does this to the best of his ability, figuring he has selected those who will work as a team and carry out their assignment to make their project a success. He has no way of assuring himself all will act accordingly, but select from the general membership men who will attempt to carry out the plans he has laid down for any particular project. There is usually a Chairman assigned to these committees and he in turn usually corresponds with the other members to see who is the best fitted to do certain work. He does to the best of his ability select the men for the proper positions to serve on this committee. He expects them to work for that particular end. Team work is not so difficult if every person will get in and play their position. There is not that much work to it. Where there is one who continually errs or does nothing, it is costly to the team. This all breaks up team work in the ARBA. I do hope this will be instrumental in getting more team work in the ARBA so the new members will not complain that literature is late getting out or some service is not performed properly. We all must do our bit and if every

person will cooperate as a team, it will be easier on the many workers we have in the organization who are left holding the bag because some individual is not doing his part on the team. Many times we have pleaded with our members to place their full name and address on a letter when writing this office. There are still many who neglect to do this. Every minute is precious and when the girl must get up from the typewriter, walk across the room and get the address from the files, this takes time. If we had team work and all members would place their names and addresses plainly on the letters, a great deal would be accomplished in the way of time and service from the Secretary's office.

Team work does not only apply to the committees which the President appoints but to you members who are interested in the welfare of rabbits and cavies in general. We hope in the future we can play this as a team and one help the other to do other things for the Association. This can only be done by team work and team work alone. Let us hope the members in general along with the committees will try more team work so we can be a greater asset to the ARBA.

The ARBA is a band of rabbit breeders, who realize that by organization more can be obtained in their objective, better methods, better marketing of rabbits and cavies. The ARBA is your organization and you play a big part on the team. If you are appointed on a committee, don't strike out and even if you are not appointed on a committee, you can do your job by working with the officers and committees to see they get the material that is required to carry on the various projects of the ARBA. This is no one man job. When it requires a number of men or people, it requires team work. Let us try that objective and I am sure more will be accomplished, better literature will be published and more of our members will be happy.

"Editor's note: This article was written by ARBA Secretary James Blyth and originally printed in the 1968 ARBA Official Guide Book. Reprinted with permission from the ARBA. Presented for historical purposes however some information is still relevant today."

IT'S SHOWTIME!

July - August -September ARBA Shows

*** Click on a highlighted club name to view their show flyer on the D8 website or their club website.

INDIANA

DATE	LOCATION	CLUB	BREED	SECRETARY
7/20	Goshen	Elkhart County Fair	Youth All Breed Fair Show	Mindy Valtierra mindyliechty@gmail.com
7/24	Greencastle	Putman County Fair & 4-H Club Assoc. Inc.	Youth All Breed Fair Show	Dawn Overbay overbayo@tds.net
8/2	Indianapolis	Indiana State Fair	Youth All Breed Fair Show	Jean Thomas toaster@ccrtc.com
8/17	Indianapolis	Indiana State Fair	Open All Breed Fair Show	Jean Thomas toaster@ccrtc.com
8/17	Indianapolis	Johnson County RB	Open All Breed Show	Heather Dunaway johnsoncountyrabbitbreeders@gmail.com
8/24	Hamlet	Calumet RBA	Open & Youth All Breed Show	Lee Nevills bulletsink@msn.com
8/24	Hamlet	Calumet RBA	New Zealand Only Open & Youth	Lee Nevills bulletsink@msn.com
8/24	Hamlet	Calumet RBA	Californian Only Open & Youth	Lee Nevills bulletsink@msn.com
9/7	Marengo	Crawford Co. Wild Hares	Double Open and Youth	Monica Stephenson stephenson.monica@aol.com
9/7	Rockville	Parke County Rabbit Fanciers	Double Open and Youth	Sara Grayless saragrayless@yahoo.com
9/7	Rockville	Heartland English Spot Rabbit Club	Eng. Spot Specialty Open Only	John Scheiwe jscheiwe@bluemarble.net
9/14	South Bend	The River Valley Rabbit Club	Double Open and Youth	Pat Glenn p Glenn151@comcast.net

KENTUCKY

DATE	LOCATION	CLUB	BREED	SECRETARY
8/15	Louisville	Kentucky RBA	Open and Youth Fair Show	Patti Byerley hutchnbunch@aol.com
9/28	Frankfort	Scott Co. 4-H Rabbit Club	Single Open and Youth	Michael C Wiley Sr msgmcwiley.ret@gmail.com
9/28	Frankfort	Kentucky State RBA	Single Open and Youth	Michael C Wiley Sr msgmcwiley.ret@gmail.com

MICHIGAN

DATE	LOCATION	CLUB	BREED	SECRETARY
8/24	Ionia	Great Lakes R&CS	Double Open and Youth Show	Bryan Shirk shirk_123@hotmail.com
9/1	Novi	Michigan State Fair	Youth All Breed Fair Show	Willis Plank willis@lucky-buck.com
9/7	Mt. Pleasant	Western MI RBA	Double Open and Youth Show	Deborah Sloan
9/14	Ann Arbor	Michigan Satin & Mini Satin Breeders Assoc.	Triple Open & Youth Satin - Mini Satin Only	Holly Mercer hollyfrogs@gmail.com
9/21	Coldwater	Just For Fun Rabbit & Cavy Breeders	Double Open and Youth Show	Caitlin Plank willis@lucky-buck.com
9/21	Coldwater	Michigan's Holland Lop Express	Open & Youth Specialty Holland Lop Only	Bonnie Norton bnorton7618@yahoo.com
9/28	Kalamazoo	The Central MI RBA	Double Open Show	Hayli Lane haylicat@aol.com
9/28	Kalamazoo	The Central MI RBA	Double Youth Show	Melissa Carpenter melissamcarpenter@yahoo.com

OHIO

DATE	LOCATION	CLUB	BREED	SECRETARY
7/20	Logan	Buckeye Polish RF	Polish Only Triple Open & Youth	Carl High bprfsec@yahoo.com
7/21	Springfield	Clark County Fair	Open All Breed Fair Show	Dody Haughey dody061662@yahoo.com
7/22	Tallmadge	Summit County Fair	Open All Breed Fair Show	Maya Jordon mayajordon@gmail.com
7/23	Tiffin	Sandusky Valley RBA	Open All Breed Show	Bonnie Kirker-Bogart bonniekirker-bogart@gmail.com
7/24	Owenville	Clermont County Fair	Open All Breed Fair Show	Bonnie Kirker-Bogart bonniekirker-bogart@gmail.com
7/31	Eaton	Preble County Fair	Open All Breed Fair Show	Kami Schooley schooleyrabbits@gmail.com
7/31	Eaton	Preble County Fair	Youth All Breed Fair Show	Tonya Brooks-Clark tbrooks21@woh.rr.com
8/3	Urbana	Champagne County Fair	Open All Breed Fair Show	Hazel Everts hazel64@msn.com
8/4	Chillcothe	Ross County RBA	Single Open and Youth All Breed Show	Jack Cooper III jackcooper17@hotmail.com
8/4	Columbus	Ohio State Fair	Open All Breeds Fair Show	Sara Lape pscdlapesdutch@aol.com
8/7	Lucasville	Scioto County Fair	Open All Breed Fair Show	Martha Warner
8/7	Attica	Sandusky Valley RBA	Open All Breed Show	Carolyn Gittinger

DATE	LOCATION	CLUB	BREED	SECRETARY
8/10	Berea	Cuyahoga County Fair	Open All Breed Fair Show	Beth Durda rabbitman83@aol.com
8/11	Troy	Miami Co. Rabbit Advisers	Double Youth All Breed Show	Michelle Pax michelepax4@yahoo.com
8/13	Norwalk	Huron County RBA	Open All Breed Fair Show	Marie Waite cinnhillrabbits@aol.com
8/18	Lima	Allen County Fair	Open and Youth All Breed Fair Show	Gloria Schroeder
8/20	Wellington	Lorain County R & CBA	Open All Breed Show	Marie Waite cinnhillrabbits@aol.com
8/21	Greenville	Darke County Fair	Open All Breed Fair Show	Kenneth Mertz
8/25	Troy	Ohio Mini Rex RC	Triple Open & Youth Mini Rex Specialty Show	Karen Hackett khackett0@gmail.com
8/27	Canton	Starke County R & CBA	Open All Breed Single Show	Debbie Knight proudnewgranny03@yahoo.com
8/29	Findlay	Hancock Co. Ag. Society	Open All Breed Fair Show	Beverly Welty bcwelty@msn.com
8/31	Burton	Great Geauga County Fair	Open All Breed Fair Show	Susan Pohto spohto@live.com
8/31	Van Wert	Van Wert County Fair	Open and Youth All Breed Fair Show	Sara Lape pscdlapesdutch@aol.com
9/7	Montpelier	Williams County RBA	Youth All Breed Show	Amie Dick amiedick2@gmail.com
9/7	Montpelier	Williams County RBA	Open All Breed Show	Lana Johns tcedar@bright.net
9/8	Middleburg Heights	Ohio Cavy Club	Double Open and Youth - Cavy Only	Sue Davies daviesgrin@att.net
9/10	Upper Sandusky	Wyandotte County Ag. Society	Open All Breed Fair Show	Sara Lape pscdlapesdutch@aol.com
9/14	Medina	Medina County Rba	Double Open & Youth	Dawn Densmore ohtexag@gmail.com
9/15	Washington Court House	South Central Ohio RBA	Holland Lop Only Double Open & Youth	Jane Allen jane.allen68@yahoo.com
9/15	Washington Court House	South Central Ohio RBA	Double Open & Youth	Jane Allen jane.allen68@yahoo.com
9/15	Washington Court House	South Central Ohio RBA	Mini Rex Only Double Open & Youth	Jane Allen jane.allen68@yahoo.com
9/15	Washington Court House	United Angora Rabbit Club	Angora Only Open Only	Jane Allen jane.allen68@yahoo.com
9/21	Wapakoneta	Lima RBA	Jersey Wooly Only Double Open & Youth	Amanda Behee info@limarba.com
9/22	Wapakoneta	Lima RBA	Double Open & Youth	Amanda Behee info@limarba.com
9/22	Wapakoneta	Ohio Jersey Wooly Club	Jersey Wooly Only Double Open & Youth	Lisa Bell bertta10@yahoo.com

DATE	LOCATION	CLUB	BREED	SECRETARY
9/28	Georgetown	Brown City Fair	Open All Breed Show	Cindy M James james8727@roadrunner.com
9/28	Georgetown	Brown City Fair	Open Specialty Fair Show - Mini Rex Only	Cindy M James james8727@roadrunner.com
9/29	Springfield	Springfield R & CBA	Double Open & Youth	Dody Haughey dody061662@yahoo.com
9/29	Springfield	Heartland Area Rhinelander Enthusiast	Rhinelander Only Open & Youth	Luke Vickery outlaw.goats@gmail.com

ONTARIO

DATE	LOCATION	CLUB	BREED	SECRETARY
9/28	Spencerville	Ontario Council of Rabbit Clubs	Open Triple Show	Jessica Thompson jessicathompson1986@hotmail.com



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