



“E Newsletter”



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

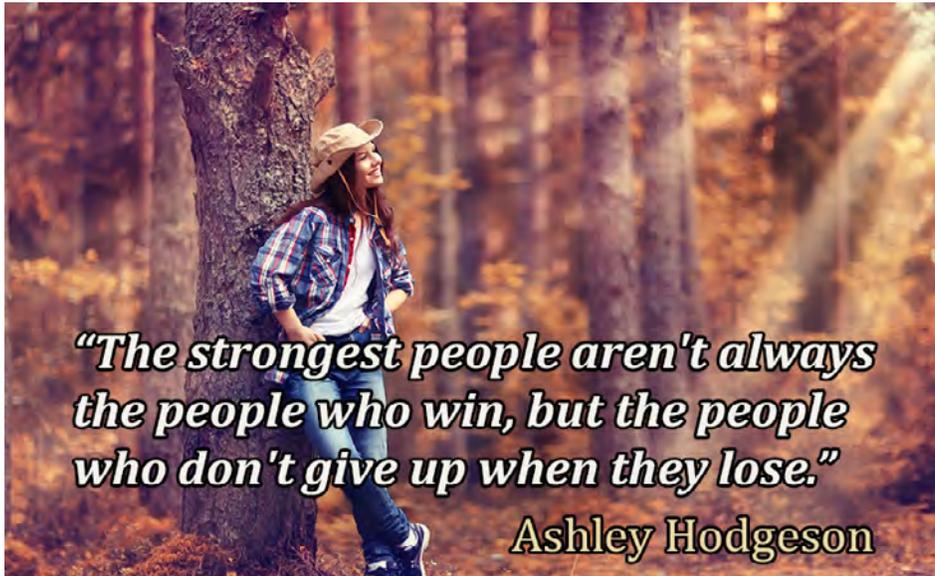
Volume 1 : Issue 9 Oct./Nov. 2019



winning **THE** edge
D8 Youth Contest Participants
ARBA National Convention - Reno

*“Winning doesn’t always mean being first.
Winning means you’re doing better than
you have ever done before.”*

Bonnie Blair



Director's Message.....

04

"Our D8 youth members again did very, very well. "

Editor's Message.....

05

"What a wonderful ARBA Convention out in Reno."

Youth in Action - D8 Participants

06

The Winning Edge" - The Great D8

Youth in Action - Indiana.....

07-08

"We can't wait to see what next year has in store"....

Youth in Action - Michigan.....

09-10

"I am so proud of all the Michigan youth".....

Youth Competition Results

11

"Congratulations to all competitors".....

Reno Revisited - D8 Judges.....

13-15

Four Fun Filled Days - 2019 ARBA Convention.....

State Rep Reports

16

Forest City Rabbit Breeders Club....

District Director

Terry Fender

937.364.2133

havanaman@earthlink.net

Web Team

Amanda Behee

Jane Burt

arbad8website@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Jane Burt

arbad8website@gmail.com

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

D8 Web Email
arbad8website@gmail.com



5 YOUTH IN ACTION
ARBA Convention Participant



7 INDIANA



9 MICHIGAN



13 RENO REVISITED



17 WEATHERING THE COLD

Weathering The Cold

17-20

"I am lucky in that I have a shed for my rabbits to winter in"...

D8 Workshops

21-23

Dutch to Silver Fox

Somewhere In Time

24

There are many pitfalls or many mistakes that rabbit breeders make....

Shows Listing

26-27

The Great D8 November & December

Director's Message

Howdy D8 Friends!

Another ARBA Convention has come and gone. And I think a lot of people agree that Reno was a good one!

It was a long trip, but I saw A LOT of our D8 folks out there. Once again, our members did out standing. My congrats to all!

Our D8 youth members again did very, very well. Sitting in the Youth Banquet that Tuesday night, it sure felt awesome hearing our states' names called out so often. I was also happy that at the last minute our hosts were able to take the banquet LIVE on Facebook for those back home to see.

Prior to youth competitions beginning, I was able to visit with the various state teams as they prepared. Also at the youth banquet, all of our D8 state and district teams got together for a district photo. Though we're from different states and provinces, we're all part of the same big D8 Family! On the dance floor afterwards, I was really happy to see youth from our various D8 states, dancing and talking together.

In addition to our youth members, I also want to congratulate all of our open members on their accomplishments. All of us in D8 our proud of ALL our members!

As most of us already know, the 2021 AND 2023 ARBA Conventions will be in Louisville, Kentucky. Our Indiana friends have the 2021 Convention, while 2023...the Big 100...will be a joint effort of Indiana and the MARCS group. Let's get behind them to see that this will be another great pair of Conventions. It's hard to deny the experience, dedication, and leadership that both of these groups possess. Congratulations!

Throughout Convention, I worked to see that

our members back home were kept up to date. Between Facebook posts, blogging, and many photos, I hope everyone was kept in the loop of Convention happenings. If you haven't seen my blogs yet, please check them out on the D8 Website at <https://www.arbadistricts.net/district/8/terrystblog.html>

I'm very pleased with the feedback I'm hearing on the D8 Youth Workshops that have been taking place across our District. I appreciate the young people and adults who attend these sessions, the judges who speak at them, the host clubs for allowing us to hold these events in conjunction with their shows, and the D8 Web Team and other volunteers who have such a big role. I'm happy to say that these workshops have been held in each D8 US state as well as Ontario! We have been attempting to record as many as possible so that they may be added to the D8 Youtube Channel called ARBA D8 Website. In addition, we've been taking several LIVE on Facebook when possible. Jane Burt of the Web Team has an awesome set up to help record these events. I have just used some funds to purchase a speaker and other related equipment to help increase the experience even more.

Two more D8 Youth Workshops are still to come this year. The next is this coming weekend, November 17, in Lancaster, Ohio when Judge Kevin Hooper speaks on The Dutch Rabbit. On December 14 Judge Gordon Williams will speak on Evaluating the Silver Fox at the Shipshewana, Indiana show. These workshops normally begin at 8:15 AM and run for around 20-30 minutes. No pre-registration



or fee is needed. Simply show up, learn, and enjoy! Adults are welcome, but I do ask they give priority space to the youth.

While 2019 is almost over, plans are already being made for the 2020 Spring series of D8 Youth Workshops. Things are still preliminary, but I do plan to announce some locations in the near future...with more to come!

It's that time of year again for ARBA Chartered Clubs to renew their charters. January 1 is the deadline with a 60 day grace period. However, I strongly urge our clubs to renew before the new year begins. Once we pass January 1, any renewals not received yet will place those club charters...and any sanctions they have...in a pended state, which means they will "disappear" from the ARBA website until renewed. I highly recommend that club secretaries confirm that all of their club officers/directors are current in their ARBA memberships. Each year a large number of renewals are pended due to lapsed memberships like these. In addition, charter renewals may be submitted with the current year's list of officers and then updated at no charge after January 1. I'd like to add that this year charters may be renewed online, so that gives our club secretaries another option.

Judges and registrars, your license and memberships are also due on January 1 with a 30 day grace period. Please don't wait until the last minute to renew. If something can go wrong, it seems like it's always when we wait until the last minute. We don't want to lose you!

D8 chartered clubs are again invited to submit their show flyers to be listed on the D8 Website. At the same time why not include a Club Spotlight Article to bring added positive attention to the club? Both of these may be emailed to arbad8website@gmail.com.

My friends, I ask that you continue

to approach me at the shows with any comments or questions you may have. If we don't meet at a show, never hesitate to call or email me. I may be reached by phone at 937-364-2133 or by email at havanaman@earthlink.net. I can't always promise you the answer you might want, but I will research it and give you an honest answer.

Best wishes!

Terry Fender
ARBA D8 Director

"E" Newsletter Web Team/Editor Message

Wow. What a wonderful ARBA Convention out in Reno. It was organized, clean and friendly. Bonus that the headquarters hotel was attached to the showroom via a sky walk that gave you a fantastic view of the mountains surrounding Reno. A hotel employee told me that the area was actually under water at one time after I commented to him that it appeared we were in hole surrounded by mountains. Those mountains made for interesting landings and take offs.

Elsewhere in this issue we have included some pictures of our D8 judges that were working the big show. Between Terry and I we were able to get quite a few pictures but unfortunately due to the size of the showroom and our commitments, we may have missed a few. For that we do apologize.

As you can see from the front cover, there was a large contingent of D8 youth participating in the ARBA Contests. We have included some pictures that were sent by the team coaches for a couple of states. If you have any photos of the youth competitors, please email them to: arbad8website@gmail.com.

continues on page 12

District 8 Youth In Action



Indiana Youth
Page 7



Michigan Youth
Page 9



Accomplishments
Page 11

TEAM INDIANA

Dakota and I could not be more proud to be the Team Indiana Contest Chairs! Each and every kid worked so hard to get there and did amazing! Congratulations to all the youth! We can't wait to see what next year has in store!!



Back Row, Left to Right: Allison Horvath, Evyenia Lawley, Daniel Averitt, Josiah Claar, Dylan Whitmer, Seth Lawrenz, Hadassah Claar and Alan Carpenter

Middle Row, Left to Right: Willow Phillips, Mandy Girdle, Zoey Osborn, Randi Carpenter, Samantha Overbay, Wyliegh Thomas, Team Leader: Sabine Whitmer

Front Row: Piper Phillips, Benjamin Lowe, Elziabeth Overbay, Micah Lowe, Rosalyn Mann.



ARBA King: Dillan Whitmer (1st Runner Up) , Daniel Averitt (4th Runner Up)



Sr. Individual Judging:
Dylan Whitmer (3rd Runner Up) ,
Mandy Girdler (4th Runner Up)



Sr. Champion Team Breed Id:
Wyleigh Thomas (Not Pictured)
Piper Phillips, Zoey Osborn (A) ,
Seth Lawrenz (A), Dillan Whitmer, Mandy Girdler



Sr. Champion Breed Id Team &
Seth Lawrenz - T-Shirt Contest Winner
Piper Phillips (2nd)
Not Pictured: Allison Howvath (3rd)



Individual Breed ID:
Dillan Whitmer, 3rd Runner Up
Piper Phillips , 4th Runner Up

TEAM Michigan

"I am so proud of all the Michigan youth who competed in this years convention! Great Job!!!" Kristine Konesko



Jr. Team Breed Id Winner: (L-R)
Kaitlyn Keen, Natalie Keen, Brooklyn Bracy,
Jadelyn Novakoski

ARBA Princess:
Jadelyn Novakoski - Winner, Kaitlyn Keen - 1st
Runner Up, Brooklyn Bracy - 2nd Runner Up

Jr. Team:
Jadelyn Novakoski, Natalie Keen, Moria
Novakoski, Kaitlyn Keen, Brooklyn Bracy



Senior Team: (L-R)
Jacey Royer, CeCe Tresenriter, Isabella Valentine,
Lena Schlientz, Tristyn Klockziem





MI Teams - Waiting to Compete
Lena Schlientz, Kaitlyn Keen, Jadelyn Novakoski,
Jacey Royer



Jr. Team - Competition Preparation
With Coach: Kristine Konesko



Individual Jr. Breed ID Winner:
Brooklyn Bracy



ARBA Duke:
Xander Novakoski - 4th Runner Up



Intermediate Judging:
Xander Novakoski



Team and Individual Results

INDIANA

YOUTH T-SHIRT'S

3rd runner up Allison Horvath
2nd runner up Piper Phillips
Winner Seth Lawrenz

CAVY MANAGEMENT

D8 winner - Piper Phillips

UNLIMITED MANAGEMENT

District 8 winner- Hadassah Claar

INTERMEDIATE ACHIEVEMENT

D8 winner- Willow Phillips
National Winner - Willow Phillips

SENIOR ACHIEVEMENT

D8 winner -Piper Phillips
4th runner up(National) - Piper Phillips

CREATIVE WRITING

1st place Evyenia Lawley

POSTER/GAME

1st place - Seth Lawrenz

WOODWORK

1st place - Seth Lawrenz

INDIVIDUAL SENIOR BREED ID

3rd runner up - Piper Phillips
2nd runner up - Dylan Whitmer

TEAM INTERMEDIATE BREED ID

Winner Team Indiana

TEAM SENIOR BREED ID

Winner Team Indiana

INDIVIDUAL SENIOR JUDGING

4th runner up - Mandy Girdler
3rd Runner up - Dylan Whitmer

Team Intermediate Judging

Winner Indiana

ARBA KING

3rd runner up Daniel Averitt
1st runner up Dylan Whitmer

MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN SR TEAM:

Lena Schlientz, Cece Tresenriter, Isabella Valentine,
Tristyn Klockziem, and Jacey Royer

INTERMEDIATE INDIVIDUAL:

Xander Novakoski
Shirley Briggs

JUNIOR MICHIGAN TEAM:

Kaitlyn Keen, Jadelyn Novakoski, Brooklyn Bracy,
Natalie Keen, and Moria Novakoski

JR INDIVIDUAL BREED ID:

Winner: Brooklyn Bracy

JR BREED ID TEAM:

Winner: Michigan.... Brooklyn Bracy, Kaitlyn Keen,
Natalie Keen, Jadelyn Novakoski

ARBA DUKE:

4th Runner-up: Xander Novakoski

ARBA PRINCESS:

Winner: Jadelyn Novakoski

1st Runner-up: Kaitlyn Keen

2nd Runner-up: Brooklyn

OHIO

MANAGEMENT CONTEST UNLIMITED

District 8 Winner : Zane Ortman

MANAGEMENT CONTEST LIMITED

National First Runner-up: Zane Ortman

National Third Runner-up: Emma Early

MANAGEMENT CONTEST AVERAGE

District 8 Winner: Haydn Tinsley

MANAGEMENT CONTEST JUNIOR

District 8 Winner: Haydn Tinsley

Individual Contests Intermediate

National Second Runner-up: Sam Soncrant

ROYALTY CONTEST KING

Second Runner-up: William Flaherty

Fourth Runner-up: Joseph Soncrant

Royalty Contest Queen

Third Runner-up: Emma Early

CONTEST SENIOR TEAM JUDGING

National Winner: Ohio Senior Judging
Emma Early, William Flaherty, Dee Dee Soncrant,
Joseph Soncrant



Ohio Senior Judging Team - National Winner
L-R, William Flaherty, Dee Dee Soncrant,
Emma Early, Joseph Soncrant

Webmaster/Editor report continued:

We understand that there were quite a few D8 breeders who for numerous reasons were unable to attend the ARBA's Grand Event, we hope that the pictures we have included will give you a sense of the event.

Later this week, we will be adding pages to the website to include the 2020 shows that are currently listed on the ARBA website. Even though we may know that a club has a show scheduled, or we may have gotten a show flyer, we cannot list that show on the D8 site until it has the ARBA Show Sanction.

I want to thank the breeders who graciously offered comments for our "Winterize" article in this newsletter.

Until the next issue, I hope you have a wonderful relaxing Thanksgiving. That the competition is friendly and enjoyable as you participate at the remaining shows in 2019.

Jane
D8 Web Team/Editor

*" Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap,
but by the seeds you plant"*

Robert Lewis Stevenson

Reno Revisited - 2019 Convention
D8 Judges In Action



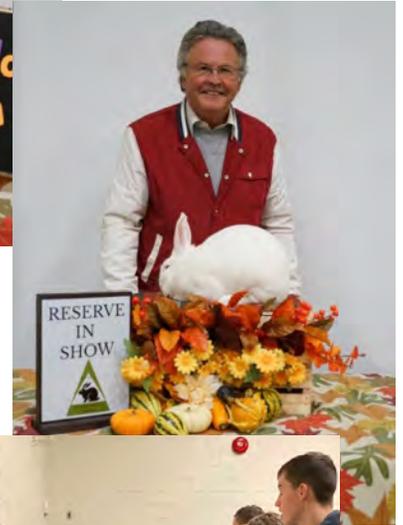




Betty Fletcher - Ontario - Forest City Rabbit Breeders Club

Congrats to Paige Fletcher, youth rep for District 8 Ontario, on her introduction of Penny Jackson (re: youth workshop) and judging her first (fun youth classes) best pet and best dressed rabbit. When she was not judging -showing in open -clerking -she was helping clean up. BIS and RIS winners and random pictures from the show. Next years show: October 3, 2020. BIS Shows A & B: Fr. Angora, Sue Needle. BIS Show C & RIS Show B: Flemish Giant, John Curk. RIS Shows A & C: New Zealand, Bill Gardhouse.

D8 Reps Report



Weathering the Cold

Now that cold weather is approaching, what steps do you take to winterize your rabbitry?

Briony Smith: "I really don't do a lot. My barn has flaps that cover the bottom 2' and we close those when it's very cold or the wind is blowing heavily. I sometimes rotate crocks when they freeze or shelve litters. I do make an effort to breed does over the lunch hour since I have always noticed that they often kindle about the same time of day that they were bred.

Kansas does not get so cold that we have heat, and after losing most of my original herd to a wildfire, this is my biggest fear, so we don't use any additional heat. The radiant heat barrier insulation in the barn does seem to help keep the temperature about 10 degrees above the outside temperature due to retaining some body heat that the rabbits produce. Mostly, though, I kind of just tough it out!"

Briony, I have never heard the term "shelve litters". Can you explain?

"Indeed!! Shelving is just a quick term for taking the nestboxes to a warm(er) place for most of the day and then out to the does to nurse. I've actually been doing this lately, even with temps in the 50s during the day. I have a few smaller litters, so they stay out from about noon to 5 and then back in they go!

Allison Horvath: "My rabbits are in the garage. We just try to keep the door closed. We don't really do anything for the winter.

Allison, Is your garage insulated?

Yes, my garage is insulated."

Gordon Williams: "I'm in the minority when it comes to my rabbitry. I temperature control my barn to keep it from freezing. I recirculate water from a water heater into an A coil of a furnace and turn the blower



Getting cold out there...

on. It keeps my 39 x 54 rabbitry from dropping below freezing. As I have a gravity fed water system keeping temperatures above freezing is a must."

Gordon that is an interesting set up. Sort of like the outdoor wood stoves that heat by circulating hot water?

"Similar"

Doug Harrah: "Mine is pretty easy Jane. Turn on the heater in the winter and turn on the a.c. in the summer. It never gets below 40 or above 80."

Karen Horn: "I don't think you want my input. LOL My rabbitry is heated. So, all I do is turn on the heat. I really don't do anything special."

Joe Kim: "It rarely freezes here in Oregon. As long as they are out of the draft, I like cold, dry weather for rabbits."

Lee Nevills: "I am lucky in that I have a shed for my rabbits to winter in. They stay in outdoor hutches from about May to November, but are brought in when we start having consistently 40-50 degree days.

I do not heat my shed, but I do use a metal halide overhead light that puts off some warmth that makes the ambient temperature anywhere from 10 to 20° warmer than the outside. Keeping a light on most

of the time seems to help the rabbits with continued willingness to breed as well.

One thing to remember if you are putting your animals in an enclosed space for the winter, they will need adequate ventilation, although they cannot take drafts directly on them. A strong odor of ammonia can result in respiratory distress. To control ammonia odor, I hang Ammosorb pouches in the rafters. This is a type of volcanic rock that absorbs ammonia odor. It can be purchased from www.noodor.com. I also keep trays cleaned at a minimum of once a week. Another thing that can help with urine odor is to add one tablespoon per gallon of apple cider vinegar to their drinking water. This can also help with encouraging does to breed in the winter months.

The biggest thing to be aware of when thinking about winter care is the fact that Rabbits drink a whole lot more water in the winter than they do in the summer. Without adequate water, they cannot digest their food properly. Therefore, they need to have access to unfrozen water as much as possible. I keep a few extra sets of crocks and change them out a few times a day when the temps are below freezing.

Winter weather does not mean that you have to stop breeding your rabbits, either. I use small animal heating pads underneath nest boxes, and that keeps the smaller breed litters nice and toasty. My meat breeds don't need any extra help, just a nest box full of straw and good mothering skills. I'm lucky that with these methods, a high percentage of litters have survived temperatures dipping below zero.

If the weather gets particularly frigid—for example, temps below zero for several days, I will stuff everybody's cage with straw. It's a giant mess, but it adds to their creature comfort during brutal cold.

Luckily, winter does not last forever, and spring eventually arrives. I usually count the days."

Lee, you mention a metal halide overhead light. Can you explain?

"It is like a large stadium light. I removed the shield and it is suspended about a foot above the cages. My

barn is not large and only when it gets down around 10-15 degrees overnight does my water freeze. Costs maybe \$20.00 a month.

And the small animal heating pads?

"The Lionheads get little heat pads under their boxes. I have used up to eight of these at one time continuously for 4-5 weeks and not seen much of a difference in my power bill. Those heat pads are completely chew proof."

How do you keep the power cord from being chewed?

"The first eight or 9 inches of the cord are encased in metal. The pad has holes in the corners so you can zip tie it to the floor and just run the cord out the cage. Nest box fits perfectly on top. They are like 9x12. Keeps it the perfect temperature in the nest, no matter how cold out. About 105 degrees."



Valerie Worsella: "My barn is well insulated...I'm grateful for that! It stays about 20 degrees warmer than it is outside without any additional heating.

One thing I do is clean out the urine and continue to keep it a minimal levels throughout winter to help keep the air quality good. I do leave a window open part way to allow stale air to exit."

Valerie, Do you have hanging cages or stacked?

"Stacked. I scrub the walls down too."

I don't have any health issues but my barn is not air tight. No drafts but plenty of air flow.

"Neither do I, mine is not air tight either. I have a box fan in that open window blowing the air outside. I clean out trays twice a week. They get rinsed with water to get rid of the urine.

Another important thing if you run a fan is to make sure to keep it clean! They get build up on even in winter. Many new people (and veteran breeders) don't

think of that.

Before winter, I make sure to put out poison to get rid of any pests that are trying to come into the warm. Get rid of them before they have a chance to make a home. These are probably many of the things you've already thought of."

Yes and no. You are never too old to learn something. We know that we have subscribers to the D8 newsletter that are new to this hobby so all information is helpful.

"The only other one I can think of that may have not been mentioned is to make sure you have enough supplies (feed, first-aid) in case of a snowstorm or power outage. Enough to get you through something like that. I usually have more feed on hand in winter."

Betty Fletcher: "Gold Creek Rabbitry located in rural Ontario Canada breeding mini rex -our maximum capacity is 60 holes but usually have no more then 40 filled at a time. I feel the location of the rabbitry is key -its in a sheltered area of the yard with a tall cedar hedge along the north side to break the wind leaving the large door to the west - also sheltered by 2 other buildings to the east and south.

With cold weather and snowy windy weather already upon us, the first prep for winter was to have our cull guy this week. We are lucky that he come right to the farm for pick up - all culls are donated and go to a wide life rescue - this lightens our chore load. The rabbitry is a single car garage that we moved unto the property , it has been re insulated at that time with insulation batts in the ceiling and styrofoam in the walls - this works great for winter and summer. Keeping quite cool in the hot weather but most of all keeping the rabbitry warmer in the winter -We use water bottles and crocks at all times- usually the water bottles are not in use later in the winter months but very seldum in 6 years have I had the crocks freeze -we plan to refresh-water 3 times a day .

A fan was installed to draw air out and is used only when the rabbitry is closed up. On nice sunny winter days the rabbitry 3 windows are open and sometimes

the end large door. We breed all year round and the kindling does are moved to wooden hutches with attached nests. This way allows us to operate small heaters on the floor once or twice a day just to warm up the area. We have never had to (shelf) litters.

We use ceramic tile for resting area in the summer and they are replaced with wooden ones with styrofoam under lay glued on bottom for more warmth for winter (Can be purchased at Lowes??) as subfloor material and cut to size.

As for feeding we add some crimped oats to the pellets and keep hay in front of them at all times .

The worst thing about winter and the rabbitry is the breeder dreading going out to do the chores, but happy when gets there to see the rabbitry all comfortable."



Doc. Reed said we keep rabbits in barns for our convenience. Betty, you mention using a small heater. What is it like?

"It is a small ceramic heater. "

For your crocks to not freeze, you must have good thick insulation?

"We have 1 1/2 in. styrofoam insulation on the walls. We lowered the ceiling with plywood and installed 6 in. batts. We also covered the styrofoam with plywood."



Charlene Hecht: WINTER IS COMING

"November 10, 2019. The temperature in Michigan's Thumb is going to plunge into the teens this mid-week. It is time to prepare.

My rabbits are housed in all wire cages inside a woodshed. I have a three and a half by eight foot tall sliding door on the south east corner plus a smaller door that leads into the garage. These two doors are the only source of ventilation other than the ceiling fan in the rabbitry proper. A couple years ago we laid insulation on the ceiling rafters. That kept the building cooler in the summer as well as warmer in the winter. Warmer is a relative term. I also have a huge piece of two-inch thick insulation that fits against the sliding door. This keeps the snow and wind outside. It's easy to put in and take out. One of my projects for today is bringing that sheet of insulation from the cattle barn to the garage. I'll have to put it in on Tuesday. (I hope the weather person is wrong).

It will still freeze the water if there is an extended deep cold spell (remembering last year). I like to use the black hard plastic cups that attach to the cage wire. They are easy to put in and take out. I also use the round hard plastic water bowls that attach to the bottom wire of the cage. I just take those out and give them a good crack on something hard and the ice falls

out. Water, winter, and rabbits make for many trips to the rabbitry during the course of the day. I'm retired, I have time. Fresh air is good.

I hesitate to breed for winter litters. If the girls do settle, the odds are they will kindle during the worst of the cold weather. Does that kindle during the day have a much better chance of keeping their kits from freezing only because I am out there frequently. I do bring the nest boxes inside to keep the kits warm and take them back to mamma once or twice a day. It's a pain but I do it.

I give more pellets in the winter. The rabbits are more comfortable and are in better condition.

Another challenge are those little gifts the rabbits offer so freely. Just like the water, it takes successive teen temperatures to freeze the manure. Again, I watch the weather report.

In the words of Ned Stark (Game of Thrones): Winter Is Coming."

Charlene are the side walls insulated?

"The north and west walls are not insulated but the outside has white siding (no wind or rain or snow gets inside). The south wall has no siding. I have plans to insulate sometime. The wall between the rabbitry and garage has some type of foam stuff that's so old and just about worthless."

Did You Know?

D8 has a website with show information that is provided by the clubs:

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

D8 has a Facebook page to quickly share updates:

[The Official ARBA D8](#)

D8 has a monthly "E" Newsletter sent to subscribers:

www.arbadistricts.net/district/8/E-Newsletter.html



District 8 Director: Terry Fender

Email: havanaman@earthlink.net Phone: 937-364-2133

Upton, KY Workshop Bruce Ormsby





D8 YOUTH WORKSHOP



Kevin Hooper
The Dutch Rabbit



8:15 AM - November 17, 2019
Lancaster Tri-County Rabbit & Cavy
Lancaster, OH



THE GREAT D8

Representing Indiana, Kentucky,
Manitoba, Michigan, Ohio & Ontario

D8 Youth Workshop 12-14-2019

Gordon Williams:
ARBA Judge



8:15 AM

**Northern Indiana
Rabbit & Cavy Club**

Shipshewana, IN

**“EVALUATING
THE
SILVER FOX”**



**Additional Information available on the D8 Website
& Facebook page**

Somewhere in Time

PITFALLS IN RABBIT BREEDING

There are many pitfalls or many mistakes that rabbit breeders make every day in carrying out the business of raising rabbits and cavies for fun or profit. The larger the operation, the more costly are the pitfalls. I will not attempt to list them according to importance. I believe all of them, or any of them, could be a disruptive influence and would certainly mean failure at the extreme or a very costly mistake in any event.

1. Buying an inferior strain of rabbits for foundation stock. Example:
 - a. Rabbits with no production record or with a poor record of production.
 - b. Rabbits with diseases or unhealthy condition.
 - c. Buying show winners not knowing anything of its blood line or its reproducing qualities.
 - d. Buying breed stock because of its cheap price.
 - e. Purchasing a rabbitry, lock-stock-and-barrel. There is a possibility, after thorough investigation this plan may be practical. However, in most instances in purchasing a complete rabbitry you are only paying for a failure.
2. Buying inferior feed because of cheap price.
3. Going into raising rabbits on a large scale without any experience.
4. By not being selective on breeding stock kept for

your own use.

5. By not keeping accurate production records.
6. By not keeping proper costs and income records.
7. By not having proper cooping and facilities to protect rabbits from heat and drafts.
8. By having outdated hutches that are time consuming and loss of baby rabbits through the same.
9. By not having a sanitary rabbitry.
10. By not having a holding pen outside of your rabbitry for fryers to be picked up by processors. Many diseases can be carried by pick up men from one rabbitry to another.
11. By having no experience and no knowledge of rabbit husbandry. This could be obtained through the ARBA and local clubs, through articles and books, as well as trade magazines. The rest will come from experience.
12. By not giving enough time and effort on a planned breeding program.
13. By being victimized into purchasing so-called high grade stock from hucksters and advertising artists that prey upon the unsuspecting. Magazine after magazine list their come-on. They promise the best of stock. They promise repurchase of stock raised when transportation rates are prohibitive. LET'S HELP STAMP OUT THESE LEECHES UPON OUR INDUSTRY & FANCY.

DO'S

1. Keep hutches, regardless of type of hutch, extremely clean.
2. Clean and disinfect all feed and water crocks weekly.
3. Always place the nest box in the hutch at least two days before the doe is due to litter (have babies).
4. Cull litters to 7 or 8 babies 36-48 hours after littering.
5. Keep plenty of fresh water by the animals at all times.
6. Develop a feeding schedule and follow it every day.
7. Keep at least one buck for every 10 does.
8. Watch your animals. Feeding is most important. Increase if too thin, decrease if too fat.
9. Watch for ear canker, caused by ear mites.
10. Check your rabbits regularly for sore hocks. This causes loss of weight .
11. Learn to handle rabbits properly. They should be picked up by placing one hand underneath them, in the breast area (never the belly), and lifting them up with the other hand supporting the rump.
12. Keep your rabbits dry and warm and free from drafts.
13. Have a hutch for each individual you intend to keep for show or breeding.

Don't:

1. Tolerate any type of small animals or rodents in the rabbitry.
2. Use rabbits showing signs of poor health in breeding.
3. Breed your animals too young; be sure they are sexually mature.
4. Allow your rabbits to remain in direct sunlight too long at a time.
6. Use a buck under six months of age; except small breeds.
6. Overfeed your rabbits or use any musty feed.
7. Let condition ruin your breeding herd; overfat or poor rabbits usually won't breed, and if they do, have trouble littering.
8. Save any rabbits for breeders with a history of disease or serious defects and faults. You are only asking for trouble.
9. Tolerate drafts in your rabbitry. It leads to colds.

The two preceding articles are from the 41st Edition (1989) of *A Practical Beginning to Successful Rabbit Raising* from the American Rabbit Breeders Association. Reprinted with permission. Authors unknown.

IT'S SHOWTIME!

November - December 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
11/29	Fort Wayne	MI -OH State Line RBA	Double Show Open & Youth	Greg Moll gregorysmoll@gmail.com
11/29	Fort Wayne	Jokers & Jesters RBA	Harlequin Only Open & Youth	Rachel Zarse cowlover16@gmail.com
11/29	Fort Wayne	Great Lakes Havana RBA	Havana Only Single Show	Tanya Zimmerman tanyazimmerman1978@gmail.com
11/29	Fort Wayne	Indiana State Mini Rex Club	Mini Rex Only Single Show	Jason Ross jasonross85@gmail.com
11/29	Fort Wayne	United Angora Rabbit Club	Angora Only Single Show	Emily Ashton ashtonhomestead@gmail.com
11/30	Ft. Wayne	MI -OH State Line RBA	Double Show Open & Youth	Greg Moll gregorysmoll@gmail.com
11/30	Ft. Wayne	Jokers & Jesters RBA	Harlequin Only Open & Youth	Rachel Zarse cowlover16@gmail.com
11/30	Fort Wayne	Great Lakes Havana RBA	Havana Only Single Show	Tanya Zimmerman tanyazimmerman1978@gmail.com
11/30	Fort Wayne	Indiana State Mini Rex Club	Mini Rex Only Single Show	Jason Ross jasonross85@gmail.com
11/30	Fort Wayne	United Angora Rabbit Club	Angora Only Single Show	Emily Ashton ashtonhomestead@gmail.com
11/30	Fort Wayne	Indiana Diamond Dutch	Dutch Only Single Show	Kelli Slack kellislack@gmail.com
11/30	Haubstadt	Pike-Gibson Rba	Double Show Open & Youth	Flora M. Werne wanch@psi.net
11/30	Haubstadt	Pike-Gibson Rba	Californian Only Single Show	Flora M. Werne wanch@psi.net
12/14	Shipshewana	Northern Indiana R & C Club	Double Show Open & Youth	Tammy Stark starkrabbtry@gmail.com
12/31	Lafayette	Golden Prairie RBA	Single Show Open & Youth	Carl Broady cbroady56@gmail.com
12/31	Lafayette	Jokers & Jesters RBA	Harlequin Only Open & Youth	Rachel Zarse cowlover16@gmail.com
12/31	Lafayette	Heartland Eng. Spot RC	Eng. Spot Only Open Only	John Scheiwe jscheiwe@bluemarble.net
12/31	Lafayette	Indiana Mini Lop	Mini Lop Only Open & Youth	Elizabeth Blinn eblinn0321@gmail.com

MICHIGAN

DATE	LOCATION	CLUB	BREED	SECRETARY
11/23	Lansing	Michigan State RBA	Triple Open & Youth	Andrea Perez perez.andrea@att.net

OHIO

DATE	LOCATION	CLUB	BREED	SECRETARY
11/16	Circleville	Ohio State Dutch RC	Douth Only - Double Open & Youth	Lisa Kirk lablover1996@yahoo.com
11/16	Piketon	Ohio State New Zealand RBA	New Zealand Only Double Open & Youth	Janellen Swartz janellenswartz6@gmail.com
11/17	Lancaster	<u>Lancaster Tri-County R & C Fanciers</u>	Double Open & Youth	Travis West cremedargent@hotmail.com
11/17	Lancaster	Ohio Rex RBA	Rex Only Open & Youth	Mike Hill lucascountyrabbits@gmail.com



To subscribe, please send your email to: arbad8website@gmail.com

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