

Central Florida Rabbit Breeders

OCTOBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

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New Breeder Profile

Originally, I got into raising rabbits by my dad, we were going to join 4-H and raise goats or cows, but since we live in the city, he came up with the idea of raising rabbits instead. We researched it, and I liked it. Dad said that we would do it only if he got to choose the breed of rabbit. I said that it was fine, and he chose the Standard Chinchilla. We talked about and researched the Chinchilla frequently. He told me one day that he found a breeder named Chuck, and that he lived in Florida, which was good because it would have only been a day trip to pick them up & get them home. He said that Chuck would have a litter ready by May 24. That was four months! I stupidly believed him. On my birthday (Feb 27) he gave me a shoe box. When I opened it, there were two stuffed bunnies. One was pink, and the other was blue. There were a couple books about bunnies, and my ARBA card. He then confessed that we would be getting the rabbits the next day. We woke up at 4am, picked up my mom and drove the 3 hours to Palmetto, picked up the rabbits and drove all the way back home. When we got home, we put the rabbits (Thumper & Peach) in their cages, and our journey as rabbit breeders began! =D

Our 1st litter didn't go as expected, 3 of 6 buns had buck teeth and we ended up giving them to John Neff to put down. The same day driving home from a show Thumper went crazy in his cage & broke his neck. I lost 4 rabbits in one day, so I really didn't have a very happy beginning as a breeder.

A couple days later, my dad got a message in Yahoo from a breeder named Charlotte in Georgia. She wanted to know if we would like to buy some of her Chins. My dad looked at her Chinchillas, and replied that he would buy three (two females and male). Charlotte said that they would be ready by the 4th of July weekend. We were going to drive up to Georgia, but dad's back was bothering him. He went on a website and found a lady named Mary who was willing to pick the rabbits up and deliver them to our house. When Mary set the rabbits on the ground, I noticed that there were four rabbits. Mary admitted that it was a surprise from Charlotte. Now we have 7 rabbits!

I plan on having my 1st litter with the new arrivals around the end of October and selling them at the upcoming shows. I really want to see more Chins in competition and compete with other people.

My goal is to make the Standard Chinchilla breed more popular in the Southeast, and to get a BIS at least once so that my rabbits will be the first Standard Chinchilla to get that award.

One more thing, a thank you to everyone that has helped me, given me advice, and has shown interest in my start. You all have been wonderful! :)

Jessica Mathis

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From Our President's Pen

Wow, times flies by... Debi has been waiting for this article so she could get the next newsletter out to you all. Sorry for the delay, just so busy getting awards done for the Convention. Along with Jackie's Volleyball and my rabbits & birds there is not much time left in a day...

Speaking of Volleyball, let me start off with some VERY exciting news about Jackie's Volleyball Team that traveled to Dallas for the Junior Olympic Nationals. This Team of Young Ladies traveled all thru the Winter & Spring trying to earn a bid to these Nationals. After stops in San Juan, Denver, Minnesota and Atlanta they finally earned their bid here in Orlando. This National is held each year, and only the best Teams that earn these bids compete. Well, now the exciting part...They went to Dallas just hoping for a Great Time and an Experience of a Lifetime...These girls just kept getting stronger & stronger and when the dust finally settled, They Won **The National Championship**... This is the first team ever from Florida to do this... Needless to say we where just thrilled...

Other Youth News, Krystina Thompson has a story to also pass along about her recent trip with her Dairy Project and I believe she is also going to the Poultry National with a Judging Team. Hopefully Krystina will

have some info for a future newsletter. Way to go Krystina...

Now, some CFRBA news. I need to make a correction from my last report. We did not make money on the June Show as reported. Sorry about the confusion...All things considered, we had a great show. We must come up with ways to turn this show around & at least a break event. I have several ideas that I will be sharing with you and I truly believe the June Show will continue to be the BEST show here in Florida. We are going with just 4 Judges next year, and if any of you have other ideas for saving or making money please let me know... Remember, this is a team effort...

Election: I have asked Julie & Joan Giesy to serve as our Election Committee. If anyone out there would like to run for Office, please let these Ladies know.

Once the Convention is over, maybe we should think about a meeting or just try and combine it with a Christmas Party? Just a thought, any comments or suggestions are appreciated. I know some of you would like to see more regular meetings? This is just so tough with our membership being from such a large area. We are also going to need to have a work day with the show coops & trailer? I would like to get some indoor/outdoor carpet cut to the size of our new

pans. This would do away with having to use the paper towels and give the rabbits are more secure feeling in the coops. So, please keep this in mind also.

Debi is working very hard for CFRBA with both the newsletter & website. She does need your help and support. Get her pictures, articles, etc that she can use...

I'm not sure who all from CFRBA is going to Louisville? But, whoever does go, please get some pictures and articles for Debi to use in the next Newsletter. Who know's maybe one of our members will be a big winner.

Josh Humphries has asked me to serve as a ARBA State Rep for District 6. If any of you have news that you would like to share, please let me know. There is a District 6 Website, and this is something we all should be taking advantage of.

Well, I better bring this to a close. Debi has waited long enough. To all going to KY, good luck and please travel safe...

Thank-you,

Jahn E. Neff

June 2008 CFRBA Cavy Show

Good Morning,

I was asked to give an update on my retirement and some info about how I'm now going to spend time. Also, an update on my feeding trial.

I am retiring from the University of Florida Extension Service after 21 years of service. I will be classifying Brown Swiss, Guernsey and Milking Shorthorn dairy cows nationally and internationally starting in October. This is expected to take half or a bit more of my time and provide opportunities to stay involved in the dairy industry and travel. I also planned to spend a little time consulting for some dairy farms. Since my retirement has been announced, however, several offers have come to me. I am a bit uncertain at this time, how much I will be slowing up (a goal of most retirees).

I conducted an informal feeding trial in our rabbitry. There were too few rabbits to allow me to be sure of the statistical results, but I will share the numbers. Six litters (thirty individual) young Florida White rabbits were weaned, tattooed and individually penned. Half were fed PenPal feed, the other half Dumors Feed. Details on the feeds are available if anyone is interested, but they were deemed reasonably similar in nutrient content. The trial lasted 47 days, animals were individually inspected and weighed pre and post trail. Resulting data showed animals fed PenPal grew an average 2.15 ounces per day compared to 1.81 ounces per day for the animals on Dumors. PenPal fed animals gained slightly over one pound in body weight while on the trial compared to .85 pounds for the Dumors fed animals. No difference was detected in fur quality, health or other issues. There were no losses during the trial, all thirty animals started and completed the trial in good health. Again, there were too few animals to provide statistical significance.

As usual, there are several major factors that determine how breeders select feed. Performance is an important one, but price, ability to get fresh feed conveniently and our relationship with feed firms, both producers and retailers, may be important considerations.

Russ Giesy

From the Editor

With ARBA Convention right around the corner, I'm sure those who are attending are busy with last minute preparations. If you've made entries, I offer best wishes in your classes. Please drop me a note after your return and I'll get together another newsletter. Although it's been a few years since Manda and I made it to a Convention, the memories of fun and friends make it seem like only yesterday. We're making plans for next year and looking forward to it.

John mentioned a Holiday get-together and I'd be glad to have it here at my house. Just let me know when. Remember to send things for the newsletter and web site — they're YOURS (I just help maintain them).

Debi Goldben



Turn Back The Clock

I've got some space left so figured I'd remind folks to set their clocks back. Daylight Savings ends on Sunday, November 2 this year. I know I'm never up at the "official" time of change which is 2 AM. Most of our clocks get set back when I go to bed Saturday night and the remaining one or two after I get up on Sunday morning. Fortunately my cell phone resets automatically so I don't need to brush up on my technical abilities to keep my phone current.

Why do clocks change at 2:00 a.m. in the U.S.?

In the spring, clocks spring forward from 1:59 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.; in the fall, clocks fall back from 1:59 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. The time was originally chosen because it minimized disruption. Most people were home at the fewest trains were running at 2:00 a.m. It is late enough to minimally affect bars and restaurants, and it prevents the day from switching to yesterday, which would be confusing. It is early enough that the entire continental U.S. switches by daybreak, and the changeover occurs before most early shift workers and early churchgoers are affected.

FSRBA Youth News

Bridget is attending CFCC seeking a degree in Equine Management/Business and is currently training in Three Day Eventing with her horse (Yanga). Bridget is still raising and showing rabbits and will be attending National Convention in Kentucky as an adult.

The following is the list of FSRBA Youth that have entered into Youth Contest at the National Convention

Thomas Ansell - Achievement Contest

Brittney Thompson - Royalty Contest, Management Contest,
Achievement Contest

Roy Thompson - Royalty Contest

Krystina Thompson - Royalty Contest, Achievement Contest

Molly Miller - Royalty Contest, Management Contest



Encouraging
Future
Generations

Linda Graham

It's the Feed ... Or Is It?

One of the rabbit email lists is having a lengthy discussion about potential feed-related deaths. I've noticed over the past few years on these lists that feed is the quite often the first element blamed when rabbits die with little or no explanation. The feed companies can get a bad "rap" when it is often feed storage — by the feed dealer or purchaser that leads to moldy or spoiled feed. It could also be something missing or potentially toxic within the forage product. I know a few years ago there were tons of mares aborting/absorbing unborn foals and a panic set in here in Ocala and in Kentucky — nothing was moved for fear of transference. It turned out some weed was VERY prolific that particular year and was causing the problems. One of the rabbit breeders experiencing problems also raised dairy cattle and saw similar problems — it was a lack of a specific mineral in the previous year's forage products. Once the mineral balance was re-established, the problems ceased. While I have known folks with serious feed-related problems, most often it is something other than the feed. It's important to regularly treat for worms and coccidiosis as well as paying attention to birds, bugs, mice, snakes, etc. and whether they could be causing the problem.

CENTRAL FLORIDA RABBIT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
 Affiliated with A.R.B.A. and F.S.R.B.A.
 Orlando, Florida

I (we) hereby apply for Membership in C.F.R.B.A., and tender payment for dues for one year (or more) for the class of Membership marked below and agree to abide by the Charter, By-Laws and rules of this Association, to accept some assignment in the Conduct of the Association and to help in its behalf.

DUES FOR ONE YEAR

Member of the A.R.B.A. — Single Adult \$8.00: Husband /Wife \$10.00
 Youth \$2.00; Foreign \$10.00
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NAME(S) _____
 PHONE _____ BIRTHDAY(S) _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _++_____ ZIP _____
 EMAIL _____
 BREEDS RAISED _____

Do you want your information listed on our club web site?
 Yes _____ No _____

If you want to be listed but do not want all contact information listed, please indicate the information our webmaster should NOT include.

If you have a web site for your rabbitry/caviary and would like it listed on the club web site, please provide that link.

Join Us!

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION TO

Joan Giesy
 10540 Emerald Avenue
 Leesburg, FL 34788

