

THE AMERICAN RABBIT & CAVY BREEDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

A. Weygandt, Sec'y., 7408 Normal Ave., Chicago, Ill.

NATIONAL RABBIT WEEK: From letters received from our members and the number of posters and other literature sent to various local associations during the past few days, National Rabbit week this year (April 5 to 11) will out-class any previous year for publicity and calling the public's attention to the rabbit industry and the good qualities of domestic rabbit meat.

Last year we had calls from our various locals for about 700; this year I only ordered 1000 at first, but found it necessary to order 2000 more to fill our requirements. Our supply again became exhausted and some late orders could not be filled as the requests were received too late to have another supply printed and get them delivered in time. So, next year, please remember and get your orders in early. Letters were mailed to secretaries of all locals the latter part of January requesting them to advise the number they could use, and they were free for the asking.

WHY NOT A LARGE RABBITRY?: Some may wonder why I speak of small back-yard rabbitries and say nothing about large rabbitries. I refer to hundreds who have space for a small rabbitry and have a good position and are not situated so they could raise rabbits in a large number. It takes considerable capital to start in the business on a large scale and one should know something about the business before investing a large amount in hutches, stock, etc. Otherwise, he may lose every cent invested. On the other hand, if he starts in a small way and enlarges gradually as his experience grows, he has an equal chance in making a success of it as one would in any line of business. He could also keep all does produced for breeders and thus save considerable cash which he would be required to spend should he start on a large scale, buying all stock and equipment outright. Large rabbitries can be run successfully, but they require one who knows his rabbits along with a knowledge of other good business management to be on the job daily to make it a successful proposition.

VALUABLE REXES STOLEN: I received a letter from Wm. A. Erlach, 3309-A No. Pierce Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, announcing the theft of all of his valuable Ermine Rex, also one pair of Black Rex, from his rabbitry March 2. Mr. Erlach has been breeding Rexes for 12 years and is a member of The AR & CBA and is president of the Milwaukee Rex Rabbit Association. Should anyone come in contact with these animals please notify Mr. Erlach at once.

AMERICAN FED. OF HAVANA BREEDERS: At a meeting of the Havana breeders attending the Akron, O., show, March 5 to 8, action was taken to take over the Satin Havanas. President Fehr suggested that this be done as he was only interested in seeing the breed given a start and a fair chance to be recognized as one of our standard varieties of domestic rabbits, and to keep it distinct from both normal hair and Rexes when he and Mr. Huey organized the American Satin Breeders Ass'n. Now that the Satin Havana is here to stay and there is a great future for this mutation, President Fehr turned them over to the Havana Club and it accepted them and will sponsor them in the future.

FORT WAYNE BREEDERS: In a letter received from Ora Blessing, Secretary of the Fort Wayne Rabbit Breeders Ass'n., ordering a quantity of meat posters, we learn that the meat business is good around Fort Wayne. He states that Oscar Smith bought over 60 in one day and Mr. Yentes, Mr. Filler and others, are all getting a good supply for National Rabbit Week, April 5 to 11. The Fort Wayne Club arranged for all members to give a report at the end of the year as to the number of pounds of rabbit meat handled. Thus, they can tell just what the club is doing, and what prices

are received. This report will be interesting to other breeders through the country.

CHICAGO SHOW A SUCCESS: The show held in connection with The International Sportsman Show at the International Amphitheatre, Feb. 22 - Mar 1, was a success, and a nice lot of rabbits of the various breeds were on display. Flemish and Dutch seemed to be the largest classes and judge H. C. Gilbert took his time to explain and give elaborate remarks on every animal handled. He was busy for two days placing the awards. Tom Shufflebotham, Valparaiso, Ind., brought in a string of Dutch and Angoras and other Dutch breeders from various states sent in exhibits. The Dutch coming the longest distance were owned by that veteran breeder Chas. Lewis, Roslyn Heights, N. Y. "Gilie" seemed to be in fairly good health and enjoyed the show with the Chicago breeders. Dr. Hart, of Belgian Hare fame, had some of his famous Belgians on exhibit and was with us a couple of days. Jack Frost was show superintendent and Molly Smith was show secretary. The show was kept in a fine condition and the stock was given the best of care.

TWO DOLLARS AND WORTH IT: How many breeders have we throughout the country who never join any association, national, state or local, and "kid" themselves on the amount of money they are saving each year? The fact is they are not saving, but losing money on this account. I could give many examples proving this to be a fact, but space will allow for only one statement of proof. I hope I can convince some of these breeders of the great mistake they are making. While they may think they are saving a dollar or two by not keeping closely in touch with other breeders and the industry in general, they are losing many dollars while they are saving one or two.

Here is the story which is a fact: A new member from North Carolina writing in for information on domestic rabbits, among other questions, wanted to know what he should be getting for his white skins as he was butchering about 20 per week. I advised him that he should be getting from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per pound. Imagine my surprise when he wrote back stating he had only been getting 18c per lb. all summer and fall. He wanted to know how he could secure \$1.00 to \$1.25 per lb. I advised him of several skin buyers and inquired of the writer who the "skin buyer" was who only paid 18c per lb. He stated it was a local buyer in his own town. There is the story. For the past several months he had been selling, we will say, only four lbs. per week or 16 lbs. per month at 18c which brought this breeder \$2.88 per month. He should have been getting at least \$1.00 per lb. or \$16.00 per month which would amount to \$192.00 per year, but he saved \$2.00 by not joining the American. How much did he lose? Today he is a member and states he would not give up his membership card for many times the \$2.00 it cost him. So again I say, breeders often deceive themselves by thinking they are saving \$2.00 by not belonging to an association, yet the facts are that there are many ways they may be losing money by not keeping in touch with the industry in all its phases. Whether you are a strictly commercial breeder or a breeder of fancy stock, it not only pays you, but you are also helping to support a worthy cause in building up our industry.

REGISTRARS ATTENTION: I again call to the attention of registrars when registering New Zealands—watch registration weights and age of animals more closely. This will save time and expense when returning applications for under-weights. When the animals reach eight months of age, they should come

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FANCY MICE

Mark Your Mice

In order to conserve cage room there are many who mate their stock in batches of a dozen or more does. This enables them to place a number of youngsters of about the same age together until they reach maturity. This is an advantage, especially in the case of bucks which, if introduced at varying times and ages, would result in losses through fighting.

It is quite usual to keep from one to four from each litter of merit; consequently, a cage containing a dozen or more youngsters may be the choice from eight or ten litters. It is of great importance to know the pedigree of each mouse; therefore some means must be devised to enable one to identify each of those youngsters when grown up. In the case of the marked varieties, such as Dutch and Broken, it is quite easy to make a note of the markings, and although many may be bred which are similar, there are no two so alike that they cannot be distinguished. But what of other varieties? In the case of selfs and Tans it is of little use making notes that one is smaller than the rest or that tan is better. They alter so much as they get older that it is necessary to have a more definite marking.

We know how easy it is to pick out the one with the damaged tail, particularly if the tip has been lost. But the artistic mind of the fancier, who sees beauty in the form and outline of his stock, is hurt by any thing damaged or deformed, as well as the thought of the pain suffered. Hence, use some form of marking your mice. The practical fancier will use a method best suited to his needs.

MANATEE MOUSERY

FANCY MICE
ALL COLORS

Make fine pets.
Need little care and feed.

Howard Jones

324 Central Street
PALMETTO -- FLORIDA