

you love to promote the Blanc de Hotot breed, I would encourage everyone to take them to the ARBA shows. I love to see the rabbits draw attention at the shows I attend! I often have many questions and comments and I have more request for breeding stock than my does can give birth to. I often see some of the judges are thrilled to judge the Blanc de Hotots. The breeders in our club are working hard to improve the breed's quality, so I can't wait to see the breed's progress over the next several years.

The Blanc de Hotot Breeders International members have not only been busy with their rabbits, they also have been working hard for the club. The HRBI President will be appointing a standards committee as well as a By-laws committee. For any members who want to get involved, be sure to let the secretary know! The website will soon undergo some new construction. The HRBI voted to increase sanction fees to \$5.00 per show and has elected a new Secretary/Treasurer, Matthew Hinderman. If anyone would like to join the club, please e-mail [matthewhinderman@yahoo.com](mailto:matthewhinderman@yahoo.com) for more information. The standards committee will begin to discuss changes to the SOP. We have a lot of time before the next round of changes need to occur, but when that time comes, we will be ready. We have several good topics to discuss already! I've heard a few judges have suggestions for the standards committee. One proposed change would be to change the market classes of Blanc de Hotots to have no black spots on the usable portion of their pelt. If you have raised Blanc de Hotots for a market pen you know a black spot on the ear currently disqualifies the whole pen. The standards committee will also work on material for upcoming judges conferences. If you have any topics for the standards committee, please e-mail the HRBI secretary and share your thoughts and ideas.

Last but not least, several members have become very excited over the possibility of having some French Blanc de Hotots imported to the United States! Becky Clark in Indiana has found a breeder in France who is willing to join our cause. The French breeder is currently in contact with other Blanc de Hotot breeders in France are looking for several unrelated pairs from several different breeders in France. If anyone knows a good shipping agent or has experience importing, we would love to hear your advice. I am crossing my fingers we are able to import some rabbits into the United States with good fur! The main goal in importing new blood into the United States would be to get quality rabbits since our breed is small we want to be sure we are adding not only fresh blood into the breed, but quality as well. The original Blanc de Hotot fur is something any Blanc de Hotot breeder would drool over! The possibility of working with a French breeder to import Blanc de Hotots is certainly exciting news! Many breeders have practiced out-crossing when fresh bloodlines have not been available. This poses a specific challenge because the rabbits used to create the Blanc de Hotot are not the same rabbits we have today! Many of these breeds have evolved, so working with the breed now poses many new challenges. Luckily, there are many breeders who are dedicated to the breed and are willing to meet the challenges they pose. The best aspect of working with the Blanc de Hotot is the breed is evolving, so you can see the results of all your hard work and dedication.

Greetings Lop Friends!  
Once again, summer is upon us. Time to keep a close watch on our rabbits and the hot temperatures.

### Lop Rabbit Club of America

by Debbie Ernst  
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Our Lop Nationals in Bloomington, Illinois is now history and it was a great show. A lot of very nice animals were shown both in the Open and Youth categories. Congratulations go out to all of the winners.

The Best of Breed Open English Lop was won by Trina and Dave Carlson and the Best Opposite Sex was won by Geoff Bonne. The Best of Breed Open French Lop was won by Jeff and Ana Lingle and the Best Opposite Sex was won by Darrin and Kim Notzke. The English Lop was Best In Show.

The Best of Breed Youth English Lop was won by Callie Reiling and the Best Opposite Sex was won by Tyler Peterson. The Best of Breed Youth French Lop was won by Cassidy VanWienan and the Best Opposite Sex was won by Steph Anderson. The French Lop was Best In Show.

Also, congratulations go out to Sandy Bennett, for being inducted into the Lop Club Hall of Fame. This was a complete surprise to Sandy. She has been in the Lop Club for many years and is a friend to all of us. Sandy, thanks for all your support and help through the years.

It's time to start planning your travels to San Diego for the 2009 ARBA Convention. If you are planning on flying rabbits, please contact your respective airline for reservations for your animals and get their latest rules. Remember, airlines are downsizing their aircraft, so please keep this in mind. Also, if you have not made your hotel reservation, you need to think about doing that now. Hotels will be filling up as the time approaches. The Lop headquarters hotel is The Best Western Stratford Inn in Del Mar. Phone number is 858-755-1501. Mention that you are with the ARBA group to receive a rate of \$99 a night. This hotel is only 3 blocks away from the Del Mar Fairgrounds where the convention will be held. Also, if you have not ordered your convention catalog, now would be the time to do that. The convention website is: <http://theendlesssummer.org>. Here, you will find all the information you need as the time approaches.

Remember that the Lop Club now has their own website which is as follows: <http://www.lrca.us>. There, you will find club and contact information. Please remember to send any information about your BIG wins for Open or Youth shows to me at my email address, which is as follows: [DandDErnst@msn.com](mailto:DandDErnst@msn.com)

Hope your rabbitry is full of winners for this fall show season. Have a great summer and keep those rabbits cool.

### National Angora Rabbit Breeders Club

by Dustin Maschino  
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Happy Spring everyone! I hope that everyone is having a wonderful spring show season and nest boxes full of babies for fall show prospects! I have quite a few BIS to report this time thank you to everyone who sent them in. Cindy and Sarah Stelloh BIS at the Upper Midwest Angora Show with a French Angora. Deb Snyder BIS at the MSRBA show with a French Angora. Lauren Walters BIS at the Midsouth Angora Specialty show with a French Angora. Donna McGraw took BIS in both shows at the Richmond RBA shows with an English Angora. Dru Shepard BIS at Lehigh Valley PA Show A, and Mid Jersey show in NJ both with English Angoras. Betty Chu won four BIS in two days at the Pac Coast RCBA shows at Myrtle Point Oregon. Linda Cassella BIS at the Central NY show in Fulton NY with an English Angora. Now a few of my favorite BIS to report the youth! Let's give Alex Stepnoski a big congrats for winning two BIS at Hamburg PA and BIS at PaSRBA youth shows with an English Angora. Another big congrats would go to Paige Kramer for winning BIS youth at the Upper Midwest Angora Show with a French Angora. Marcus Rhoden took BIS at the Lapeer Area RBA show in MI with an English Angora. It looks like Angoras are taking over Michigan! It's always great to see our youth members winning big, make sure to give our youth members a big congrats if you see them out and about!

The NARBC Specialty show will be May 9, 2009 hosted by



BOB with a senior buck and BOS with a junior doe. The Cattaraugus show is held in a shopping mall so you can show and shop. Many shoppers walked through the rabbit show and purchased rabbits and then got their cages from an equipment vendor. What a great location for a show. At Long Island show held in the Old Bethpage Historic Village, Leigh Whitehouse's senior doe won BOB and her senior buck took BOS. Many visitors to the park, took the time to watch the rabbit show and many bunnies were sold.

Here are the sweepstakes standings as of February 1, 2009:

#### OPEN

1. Butch Coats 1,531
2. Anita Trautwein 655
- 3.. Bev Allen 592

#### YOUTH

1. Jeannette Trautwein 128
2. Hayden. Gittus 104
3. Dedra Brown 52

Best of luck with your bunnies! Remember that the Giant Chinchilla is a rare breed and let's keep promoting our million dollar rabbits. Keep your nest boxes full and your Chins up!

Ms Mary Louise Cowan passed away in March, what a special lady! To share a few minutes with Ms. Cowan was the warmth of a summer day. She had a quality about her that just made you feel good within. Ms. Cowan loved her hollands and the gentleman she chose to care for them. Barry, we feel your pain. Ms. Mary Louise will live on in our hearts and through our memories. She will be missed by

all that came in contact with her.

### Holland Lop Rabbit Specialty Club

by Margie Brewer  
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This will be one of my last columns for the Holland article in the Domestic Rabbit.

I have not been getting any feedback and I am unable to attend as many shows as I would like to. Therefore, I do not have anything to report. I am sure you get tired of my gift of gab. So if you are interested in serving in this capacity, contact your President (Dwayne Scott) and offer your services.

Congratulations to all you breeders that placed in the top 20 at the HLRSC National Show. If you managed to place one of your animals in the top 10 or 20, you did well and now know what to work on to go further up in the realm of showing.

For you new breeders of Hollands, you have chosen the right breed. I hope you began with good stock. Bone is very important in Hollands, you want those front legs to be short little tree trunks. You must begin with good type or you will never be happy. KNOW WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR in your hollands. Holland type is short, compact, well balanced in length, width and depth.

You do not want extra length in the shoulders; in fact, the Holland appears not to have shoulders when you look at it from the side. The rear should be well rounded without pin bones when you feel it. You do not want to see a flat area over the hips. The head is round with a slight flattening between the eyes and muzzle. The head should be carried high and close to the shoulders. The ears should be short and hang close to the cheeks with the opening turned toward the head. You do not want thin or folded ears (this is where the ear control comes in) the crown should be just behind the top of the eye on top of the head. I have just described what we all want in our herd. When you buy stock you need to breed

to get that perfect Holland. Remember do not breed fault to fault. It is so important to look at the buck and doe and be sure they do not have the same fault such as weak crown or long shoulders, etc. Good Luck and if I can help along the way, you have my e mail.

The days are warmer now, be sure to protect your animals from the heat as much as possible and have good clean water in front of them at all times.

Margie

### Hotot Rabbit Breeders International

by Matthew Hinderman  
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I hope this issue finds all the Blanc de Hotot breeders doing well with nest boxes full of babies. On April 6th here in Michigan, I woke up and found 4 inches of snow on the ground, oddly enough the water bottles didn't freeze! I can't wait for spring! I have had a few litters, here and there but a majority of my does were 1st time mothers. I think I will have much better results with their next litters. We

have had a harsh winter in Michigan, so my Blanc de Hotots really aren't prepared to start breeding yet. For those who have raised Blanc de Hotots, you know what I mean. Generally, they breed when all the conditions are perfect and don't do well with winter breeding. It seems as though no matter how much time I spend with them, they seem to show me they are going to do things their way no matter what plans I have. I am crossing my fingers for a good May and I will be breeding heavily for June so the 4-H kids can have projects for their fair. I've already been contacted for a market pen, so I will be letting my other rabbits take a break and my Blanc de Hotots will be my main focus!

If you've ever heard of a conversation about Blanc de Hotots, you may have noticed that many people do not know how to pronounce the name correctly. The name phonetically should be pronounced, "Oh-Toe." I have to admit I too was someone who slaughtered the pronunciation of the Blanc de Hotot name when I first inquired about raising the breed. I had to be in the world of the Blanc de Hotot breeders for a few years before I was able to pronounce their name correctly! Hearing the announcers call them over the loud speakers at shows can truly be an entertaining experience! I know I am also guilty of calling them by their "slang" name Standard Hotots which is also incorrect. Many may have read the column in the last DR where I referred to them as the Standard Hotot and that is a pet peeve to many Blanc de Hotot breeders. I personally started calling them by their abbreviated name after picking up the bad habit at a rabbit show. The name is Blanc de Hotot and this is a completely different breed than the Dwarf Hotot so the two breeds really are very different.

I believe this misinterpretation may have stemmed from some rabbit shows. I have been to shows where my name was called over the loud speaker to get my Dwarf Hotots on the table. Other shows, my comment cards were discarded when I did not arrive to the show table after the last call for Dwarf Hotots. I know filling out new comment cards is frustrating, but I don't think many ARBA members expect to see many Blanc de Hotots in their shows. For those who are planning on showing the Blanc de Hotots, please remember to be polite should any confusion arise around your entries. Coordinating a rabbit show can be stressful so that last thing we need to do is add more stress to the show staff. When I go to the shows and see people under stress and pressure, I usually try to pitch in and help any way I can. Sorting comment cards is always a good way to pitch in and meet those who work at the shows. It's also gives a rabbit person a true appreciation how much work is involved with actually putting on the rabbit show. I know I certainly have learned to look over my entry forms at least three times before handing them in. Then again, I always find a little stress and confusion leads to more attention on the show table. If