

Management Application- Limited Rabbitry

Questions

1. **When did you join the ARBA and how many consecutive years have you belonged?**

I just joined in August. This is my first year.

2. **Name the breed(s) you raise, how many animals you have in each breed and why you raise these breed(s). Also include breed(s) you have raised in the past and why you no longer raise them.**

Holland Lop- Becky was my first rabbit for showmanship. She is my only Holland Lop, but Becky is a little cranky and bites sometimes. She does not bite me, but she growls.

Florida White- 7 animals. This is the first breed I am working on breeding and I did have 12. After the show season 7 get to stay.

Himalayan- I just got 3 rabbits. They are nice and sweet. Sort of floppy and I am careful holding them.

3. **Describe where your animals are located: barn, outbuilding, yard, garage, basement, house, etc.?**

My rabbits are in a shade covered spot that gets a nice light wind in the afternoon. It is an open barn that has a roof in the rain or cold.

4. **How do you protect your animals from heat, cold or drafts?**

For Hot, I go out turn on fans and wet down the ground, give the rabbits fresh water and frozen water bottles. For Cold and Drafts, I give them hay to snuggle in and make sure we cover them up to stay dry. If they eat the hay too fast I put a nest box in the cage for them to cuddle in too.

5. **Describe your cages/coops, list the number, size, materials they are made of and how they are constructed.**

I have my cages in an outdoor rabbitry. On one side I have 6 stacked wire cages with pull trays that are 24 x 24. The other side has 8 hanging wire cages 36 x 24 that the manure falls into a worm bin. All of the cages have crocks and top filling water bottles. Feed is fed in J feeders or lock on feeders. The feed is kept in a watertight bin and I clean my waterers when they start to get green.

6. **Describe the equipment you use to feed and water your animals.**

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I have j feeders and lock on feeders for feeding pellets. For water I use crocks and top filling water bottles. Hay I add into the cage in front of the door.

7. What type(s) of feed(s) do you give your animals? Do you give your animals feed supplements? If so, why?

I give them Barbi Brown feed and it has a conditioner in the feed. Sometimes if they had a long trip I give them cheese mallow and willow to make them feel good. If they do not finish their pellets, they get some oat hay.

8. How do you dispose of the manure and waste your animals generate?

I dump the trays in a compost pile and the other cages drop into a worm bin.

9. Describe any other equipment used for the care of the animals in your project.

For hot weather, I have fans and wet down the ground, give the rabbits fresh water and frozen water bottles. For Cold and Drafts, I give them hay to snuggle in and make sure we cover them up to stay dry. If they eat the hay too fast I put a nest box in the cage for them to cuddle in too.

For shows, I have 4-3 hole carriers for travel. They have lock ons for feed and small top fill water bottles. I clean them after each time we use them. I also use a grooming stand to get my rabbits hair done and clip nails. We use a pull cart to carry all of it and I bring a chair to sit in.

10. Describe everything you consider and do when breeding your animals. Include ages, time of year, system for keeping track of bred animals and provisions for kindling.

I make sure they are the same breed, have good things that would be good in the babies like muscling and markings. I make sure they are both healthy and I will be able to take care of the mom and her kits when they are born.

11. Describe everything you do to care for the mother and young from birth until weaning.

I make sure the mom has fresh food and water. She gets a nesting box and hay to make her nest. I check them when she is due to make sure no babies are born where they will get hurt or cold. I check the babies and mom to make sure they do not get sick and that they are dry and not too hot or cold. When the babies are older, I make sure they can reach fresh food and get back into the nesting box.

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12. How many litters with how many total animals did you have born Since January 1, 2018? How many young did you wean?

2 litters- one with 5 born and 4 weaned and one with 6 and 4 weaned.

13. Do you track the quality of your offspring to the breeding animals? Explain.

I keep records of placings and then I can tell if a breeding gave me a lot of really good rabbits or really bad rabbits.

14. Describe your culling procedure. What do you do with your surplus animals?

Florida Whites we process and eat. We have not had any culls in the other breeds yet.

15. How many replacement animals have you added since January 1, 2018? What qualities do you look for in selecting replacements?

None. We are looking now for replacements. Looking for a good bunny that has good muscle.

16. Describe any diseases that have affected your production and explain what you did to control them.

Bloat. I have to make sure that the rabbits are eating and don't have an upset tummy. It helps to keep everything clean.

17. Explain your system for keeping records and what information is kept on each animal.

I keep track of pedigree information on the computer. Each rabbit has a pedigree, care sheet and record of being sick or needing care and a breeding log. I keep that in a binder.

18. Did your ARBA animal project show a profit or loss last year? Explain.

No profit. I had to buy all of my starting stuff.