

2017 Herdsman Youth Winner

Jacelyn Royer ~ JC Critters Rabbitry

It is a honor to have won Herdsman of the Year for 2017, and to be a part of this wonderful hobby. Someone once told me "it takes one good rabbit to win Best of Breed but it takes a herd to win Best Display," and Herdsman is the same way. Some people may have that one rabbit that wins every time, but that's not always a good thing. One rabbit is not going to improve your whole herd.

I have been showing for over ten years, and to be successful in this hobby, you have to know how to breed and cull. You won't get anywhere in this hobby without the two. You could spend your money and buy a bunch of good rabbits, but if you don't know how to breed, it will do you no good. Culling is a huge part of a good herd. Not every rabbit is worth keeping and it's always a gamble. You have to be willing to cull in order to improve your herd and make it even stronger. You will have high points and low points, but as I was told, "You just have to go home and breed better rabbits". Also it helps a lot to understand your genetics and the lines you work with.

Some people will say to do well in the Herdsman contest, you have to stack the tables, but that is not always the case. Yes, that is one way to do it, but what does that prove. Most people know I usually show around eight to twelve rabbits a show, sometimes more when I am trying to figure out my show string for convention or nationals. Stacking the tables may improve your chances of getting picked, but in the end it only takes one rabbit to win Best of Breed. The same rabbit doesn't always win because each judge has their own opinion of what they are looking for in a good Holland. Also if you are like me, and pay for your own expenses, you know it adds up quickly to show twenty rabbits at one show, especially when you go to 15 to 20 shows a year.

It also helps to have a family who supports you and your hobby. A huge thank you goes out to my mom for being willing to get up at five in the morning, and drive across the country to take me to rabbit shows. None of it would have been possible without all your help, love, and support.

I am very thankful to be a part of this wonderful hobby. It has been one of the best things that has ever happened to me. I have met so many people from across the nation that I would have never been able to meet otherwise. You will meet some of the kindest people in this hobby and there are so many experiences it has to offer. For it has helped me become the person I am today, and I can't imagine my life without it.

I have also included two rabbits on this page that I did not breed, but which have had an impact on my herd. Thank you to everyone who sold me rabbits, that helped me get to this point.

Thanks,
Jacey



CR&DB Airborn



JC's Hestia



JC's Blow Pop



JC's National Velvet



JC's Gamora



JC's Problem Child



JC's Goldrush



JC's Spaz



JC's Hermes



CR&DB Rimfire

2017 Top Lop Youth Winners

1 ~ DTL's Dark Nose - TLC63

Bred and owned by Brody & Riley Maki, CA

It is an honor to have earned Top Lop for 2017 with DTL's Dark Nose. He is a very special buck that has won many Best of Breeds, Best in Shows and Reserve in Shows. He started winning as a junior with a Best of Breed at four months of age. We did not show him for about a year, because we felt he was not ready to compete as a senior.

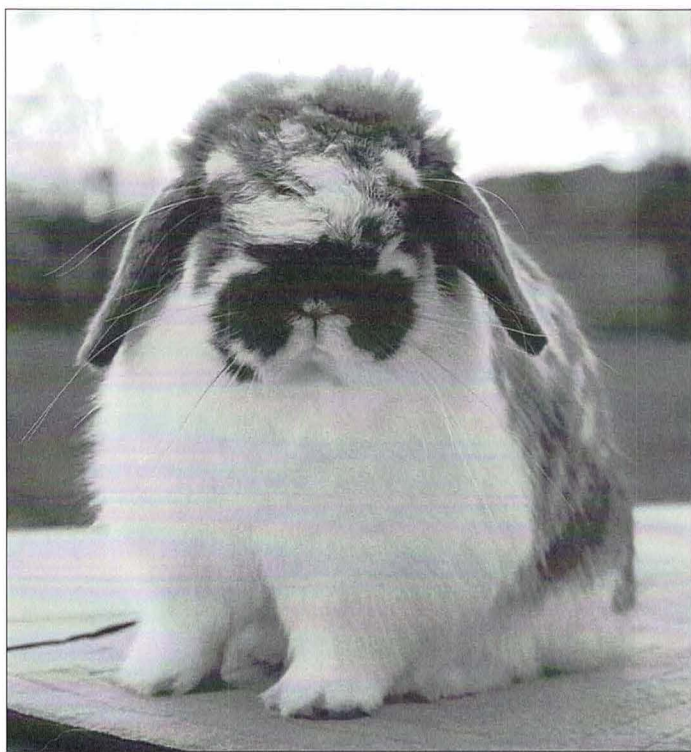
We are lucky that he produces color, as well as winning offspring, and that his juniors have done so well on the tables for us.

He is out of DTL's Frosted Cake, a frosty buck, and Critter Co*Op C675, a broken tort doe. We had no idea when we did the breeding, what the results would be; but it really worked out for us. We want to thank Chris Zemny for selling us the doe that helped to produce Dark Nose.

Thank you to all of the judges that have recognized DTL's Dark Nose for his wins, and thank you to the local Holland Lop exhibitors for your support. Congratulations to all of the other Top Lop winners



DTL's Dark Nose - TLC63



JC's Blow Pop - JC169

2 ~ JC'S Blow Pop - JC169

Bred and owned by Jacelyn Royer, MI

From the beginning Blow Pop was special and was one of my favorite convention hopefuls. Blow Pop was the only one out of her litter that survived. Even when she was little she had a cute, fat face. She has always been spoiled with lots of treats, and lived in a top hole in my rabbitry, ever since she was weaned. It's hard to believe that this little doe accomplished one of my biggest goals as a junior, and at a young age.

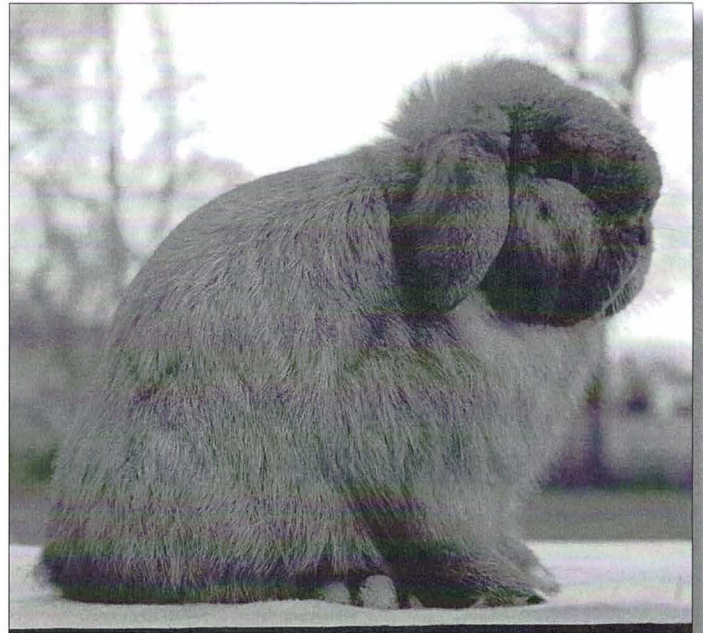
Blow Pop did not start showing until September, so for her to get so far in such short amount of time just amazed me. I can't wait to see what she produces for me in the future. As of right now, Blow Pop is still spoiled and living like a queen in my room. She gets to enjoy the nice air conditioning during all this warm summer weather.

3 ~ JC'S Hermes - JC171

Bred and owned by Jacelyn Royer, MI

I always loved Hermes from the beginning because of his head. He always had a great head, but he went through a stage when I did not care for him very much. I guess we all go through that at some point. I was excited to show him at convention, but was unsure how he would do being a younger junior buck. He did better than I expected for his age at convention. Since he started showing in September, he has won multiple Best In Shows and Reserve In Shows, along with winning Best of the Best at the first U.S. Day of the Dwarf show.

I have had several litters from him so far and can't wait to see what he produces for me. At the moment he is one of my favorite bucks in the barn, and is very spoiled.



JC'S Hermes - JC171



Breezy Pine's R2D2 - B145

4 ~ Breezy Pine's R2D2 - B145

Bred by Taylor & Tracie Deling and

Sherry LaGessee, WI

Owned by Tori Eckard, IA

Hi all! I'm Tori Eckard and I proudly own the 4th place youth Holland Lop of the Year - Breezy pines R2D2! He has been an excellent addition to my Holland lop herd. When I first got him, I was a little "iffy" as he wasn't as developed as he is now. Shabby Acres acquired him when he was one and a half years old. He is now four with almost 30 legs. This little stud muffin has two Best in Show wins, including the Minnesota State Rabbit Breeders Association show. He always pouts when he doesn't win, and madly eats his food.

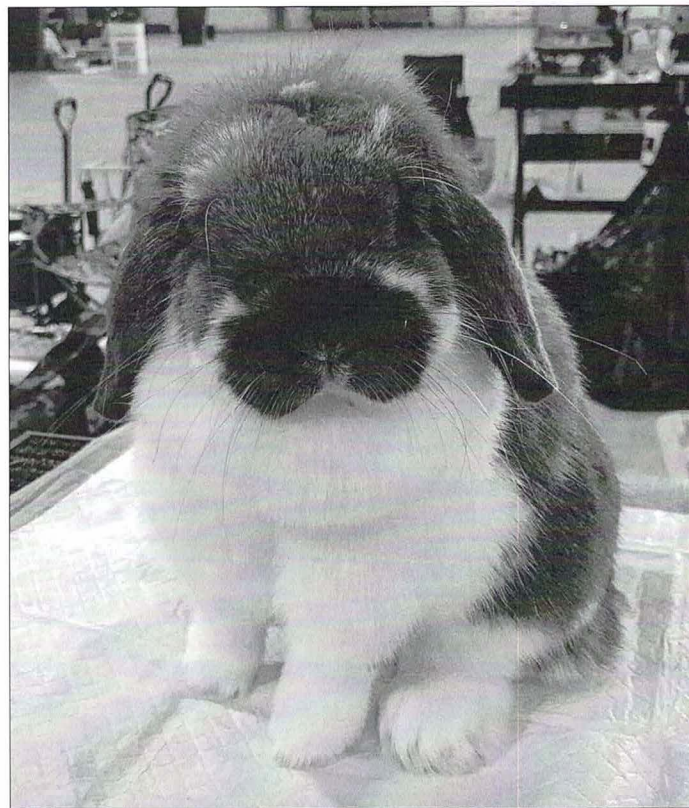
I absolutely love R2! We have worked very hard together. He is not just a show rabbit, but he is a big part of our family!

5 ~ Rolling Hill's Manon - RH35

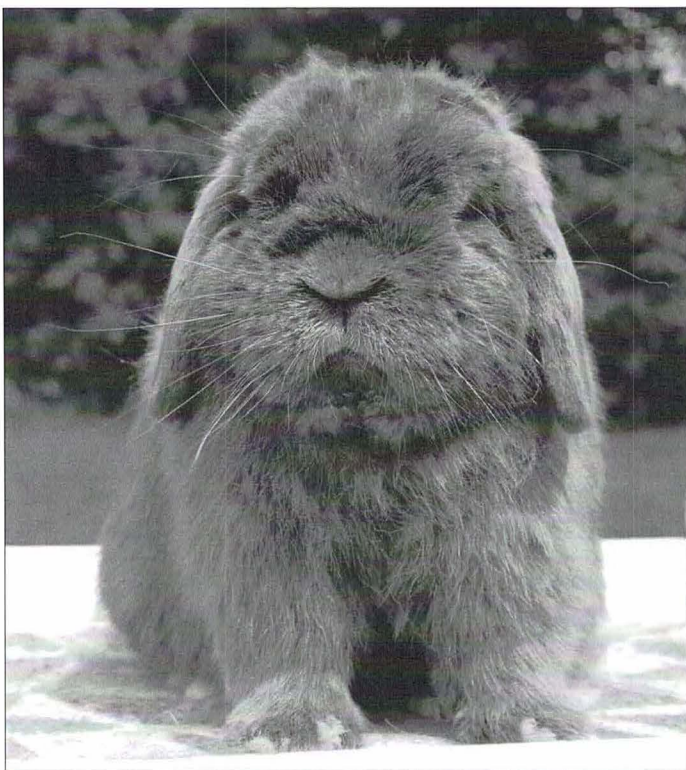
Bred and owned by Kaylee Garrett, TX

Breeding is huge when it comes to getting better stock. Rolling Hills Rabbitry has really grown and produced some memorable litters. I remember when Manon was born, in a litter of three, in which all were kept. All three being some of the best rabbits I have ever owned. When she was little, I could tell that she was promising the moment I put my hands on her. Yet, I would have never guessed that she'd make it into Top Lop contest, nor would I have guessed that she'd win a double Best in Show, in Seguin.

I'm so proud to call this rabbit mine, and even more proud to say that I was the one that bred her. Yet, I couldn't have done it without the help of Bryan and Cindi Hinton from Quietcreek Farms. Without their encouragement and help, I wouldn't have made it as far as I have - second in the nation for sweepstakes, and first in my Zone and in Texas. Without some of their stock, Manon wouldn't have been born.



Rolling Hill's Manon - RH35



CR&DB Airborn - 479

6 ~ CR&DB Airborn - 479

Breed by Diane Walter and Diane Drier, MI
Owned By Jacelyn Royer, MI

I first got Airborn when he was really young, and at that point in time, he was very deserving of his name. I got Airborn because he was a blue, and I wanted to use him in my blue gold-tip steel program. He had nice parts, but wasn't anything special. He stayed in his hole for a while and I kind of forgot about him. He changed a lot because when I finally pulled him out of the cage he had this big old head and beautiful body.

Now Airborn is so spoiled and a big baby and I'm so in love with his personality. I love the babies I have been getting out of him! I am so glad I was able to purchase him. Thank you so much to Diane Drier and Diane Walters. I absolutely love him.

7 ~ Trevor's Hidden Valley - TS271

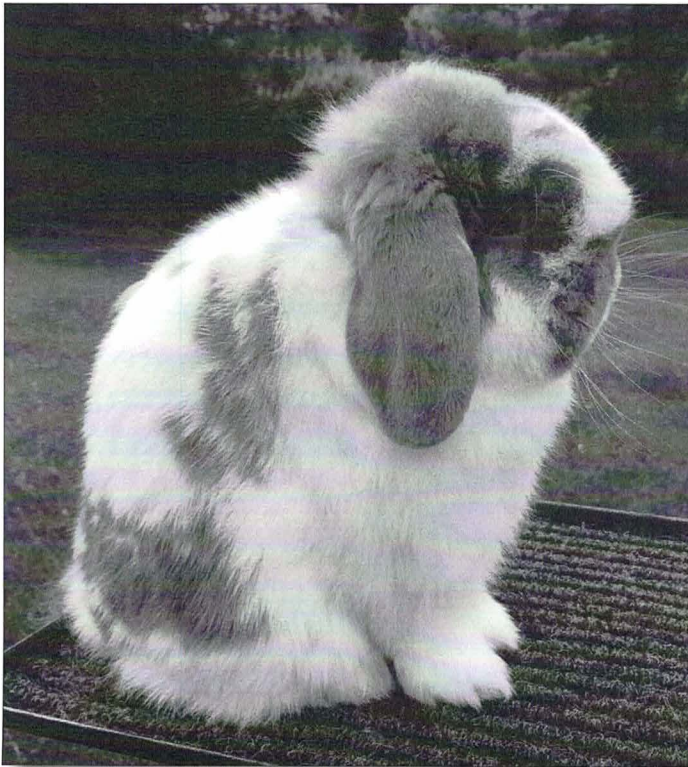
Bred and owned by Trevor Sierzputowski, IN

Valley is one special doe in my barn. While she did not see the table a whole lot, she has been very influential in rebuilding my Holland program. In August of 2017 I had a barn fire and lost over 100 rabbits, most of those being my main show string animals and my planned convention entries. Unfortunately I lost Valley's mother, grandmother, and several half sisters in the fire, but Valley lived. This doe has so much to offer my herd and she has been busy with litters trying to salvage what is left of that line.

Valley was one of those rabbits that didn't look too pretty as a junior, but after her first litter, popped, and really filled out. I started showing her after she had that first litter and she did quite well. She also represents a Holland with correct fur. She always seems to be in coat and has a very good length of fur. I'm glad that this doe is so influential to my herd, both on and off of the tables. I look forward to the legacy she'll leave in my barn and how she played a huge role in my decision to keep breeding rabbits after such a tragic event. I'm beyond excited to have placed an animal in the top ten in my last year of showing as a youth exhibitor. Thank you to the entire Holland Club for being such great supporters and friends throughout my Holland journey!



Trevor's Hidden Valley - TS271



Lap Lop's Paxton - PAXTON

8 ~ Lap Lop's Paxton - PAXTON

Bred by Gabrielle Hibbert, CO

Owned by Grace Feder, MN

I am so thankful to have received Paxton from Gabrielle and Linda Hibbert. He is the sweetest buck in the barn, and loves getting his head petted. But aside from being a sweetheart, he has been and still is my main herd buck. He has helped me to expand and grow my herd. I have had a lot of fun showing him and hope to have more success with his offspring.

9 ~ K & A's Jetsam - K494

Bred by Jeff & Melissa Gordon, TX

Owned by Brittani Piper, TX

Hi everyone, I am Brittani Piper & this guy is Jetsam! I am so excited that I won 9th place Top Lop! I got Jetsam from K&A Rabbitry (Jeff & Melissa Gordon). Thank you for selling him to me. I also want to give a huge thank you to Brian & Cindi Hinton for helping me with this lovely breed and always being positive towards me & my rabbits!

Jetsam won multiple Best of Breeds and Best Opposites, but only one Best in Show. However, that one Best in Show was absolutely special to me! I have since retired Jetsam, to our breeding programs. He produces wonderful babies & is still my "fur baby", no matter what! Thank you to all the judges who have chosen Jetsam. I appreciate everyone's opinions & thoughts greatly!



K & A's Jetsam - K494



Floppy Trail's Butch- FTB7

10 ~ Floppy Trail's Butch- FTB7

Bred by Teri Roch, OH

Owned by Cole Youtz, PA

Floppy Trail's Butch won Best in Show at the Central PA RBA in October 2017.