

circle of
EXCELLENCE



Youth **BEST OF BREED**

My name is Sumrah Rehman and I won Best of Breed with my Holland Lop senior buck, Pete, at the 2024 ARBA Convention. I never expected it, and it will forever be one of my greatest accomplishments.

Pete began showing in December of 2023 as a junior and finished the year as the #14 youth Top Lop. Pete's dam is my previously owned homebred doe, Beatrice, while his sire is Star Hollow's Paddington, owned by Debra and Faith Wright. I'm truly grateful for their support and friendship!

I unfortunately missed seeing Pete win. Being sick at Convention seems to be my destiny, so I was instead passed out on a chair. I was notified about Pete's victory thanks to Sue Eyler, so I was able to stumble over with my asleep legs and get a photo.

Pete has had several promising offspring, including Rio, who placed second in the junior buck class at Convention. Rio is now a senior and has been a great breeding buck. Once he cleans up his coat, I hope to continue competing with him.

Since then, I've continued to show Pete and pulled a Best in Show with him at the Christmas Show in Frankenmuth, MI, and another at the New Year's Eve show in Lafayette, IN.



Youth

BEST OPPOSITE OF BREED

I've always believed that Fallen Angel was a special rabbit, and she truly proved her worth during her first time on the show table. As a young doe, she wasn't always my top pick, mainly due to her lack of cleanliness in the cage. Initially, I had planned to name her "Angel" because of the graceful and majestic way she carried herself, but her behavior led me to change the name to something more fitting. As of December, she will be turning 1 year old and is currently bred to one of my herd bucks, Bobofett--the 2024 1st Place Broken Senior Buck.

As Holland Lop breeders, we are often taught to wait for our juniors to "grow out of their fuglies." This has certainly been true for many of the Hollands I've raised, and I've seen that my line tends to truly "pop" at around five and a half months of age, with the more refined senior qualities becoming evident at one year old. In order to thrive in any breed, it's essential to recognize both your weaknesses and strengths. For my herd, I identified the areas where I was weakest and focused on improving those aspects. I owe a great deal of my success to the guidance of my mentor, Mekenzie Beracy, who generously shared her knowledge and provided me with some beautiful animals to add to my herd. Along with Jenny Poproski blessing me with her beautiful rabbits, my mom and fellow breeders, their support has been invaluable in my journey.

Attending the 101st ARBA Convention was an incredible honor, and winning Best Opposite Sex of Breed (BOSB) was a milestone I will always cherish. I know I still have much to learn, and I'm incredibly excited for next year, as it will be my last convention as a youth exhibitor. A huge thank you to Chris Zemny and Becky Stock for selecting such quality animals for the show table and giving me the honor of receiving BOSB. 2024 has been an amazing year, and I can't wait to see what the future holds!



Youth **BEST DISPLAY**

Winning the Holland Lop Best Display at the 101st ARBA Convention in Louisville, KY in 2024 still feels surreal. As is often the case with major shows that feature such fierce competition, success is as much a game of chance as it is skill. I entered the event with no expectations beyond having fun and hoping my rabbits performed well. In the week leading up to the convention, we experienced unusually unpredictable weather conditions. To my surprise, my Broken Junior Doe started molting, and nearly all my animals were days away from shedding their coats before the show. Despite these challenges, I am humbled and grateful to have won four out of the eight classes I entered.

I brought eleven Hollands to the convention, with eight placing in the top ten. One rabbit was scratched for sale, and two others did not place. I was incredibly proud of all my animals, as they showcased the hard work and dedication I have put into the breed. My journey began at the age of eight, when I first started with a Mini Rex from my mom's friend, Kristi Adeleke. After much persistence and many requests, I received my first Holland Lop at the age of nine from Mekenzie Beracy. His name was Crown Royale, and he quickly became a beloved companion. While I had an initial interest in Mini Rex, I found myself drawn more to Hollands.

It has been a long road of hard work, apprenticeships, and seeking advice from judges to refine my knowledge of the breed. Reaching the convention was a major accomplishment in itself, but winning both Best Opposite Sex of Breed and Best Display felt like a dream come true. These achievements fulfilled the dreams I had as an eight-year-old boy. I am truly thankful for the support of the youth and open breeders who have mentored and encouraged me throughout the years.

This experience is not the end, but rather a stepping stone in my ongoing journey. There is always more to learn and new goals to strive for. Our stories are never fully written, and I look forward to the next chapter. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Holland Lop Rabbit Specialty Club (HLRSC) for their continued support, and I am excited to see you all next year!

