

Herdsman of the Year - Youth

Jamie Dively



Saynora's Zavier and THF Saynora's Patrik with Jamie

Hi, my name is Jamie Dively. I am honored and excited about winning youth Herdsman of the Year for 2009. I live in south central Pennsylvania and have been raising rabbits since 2003. I currently have over one hundred rabbits in my barn. While I have three breeds: Holland lops, Netherland Dwarfs and Polish. My Hollands are my main breed and are a large portion of my herd.

My rabbit habit started when I joined Wills Mountain Community 4-H club and purchased my first rabbit, a black polish named "Boomer". The local fair supervisor told me about ARBA and rabbit shows. I went to a State College, Pennsylvania show in 2005 to look and learn about rabbits. While there, I got a rabbit, a broken Holland Lop buck, from Bill Gerling. I showed "Lucky" at my local fair and won "Best in Show." I can honestly say that "Lucky" got me hooked on raising, breeding and showing rabbits.

To learn more about rabbits and the Holland Lop breed, I started going to more shows and listening to what the other breeders told me, as well as, reading any information I could find in books and on the internet. As I began to learn

more about Hollands, I knew this was the breed for me. One day while I was surfing the internet, I came across a website "THF SAYNORA" and saw "Holland Lops for Sale".

I immediately contacted the owner of the site to see if I could purchase some rabbits. This is when I met Tracy Lukeman and purchased three of my foundation rabbits - Saynora's Zavier, THF Saynora's Patrik, and THF Saynora's Zweetums. With Tracy's and Jenna Buchenauer's willingness to answer my many questions, I learned about crowns, the "bulldog" look, body mass, bloodlines, strengths and weaknesses, culling and so much more.

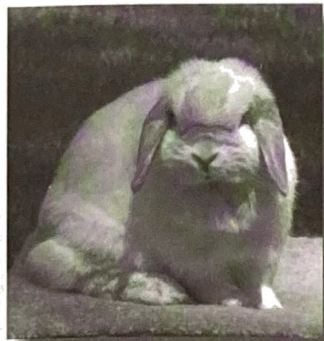
If I could give any advice to other youth breeders, it would be listen and respect the breeders who have been doing it for years. Take the time for your Hollands to develop. Remember, unfortunately, they do go through their "uglies." But if you have the patience to wait for your Holland to mature, you may find you have a "Best in Show".

As I continue to learn about this magnificent breed, I know to improve my herd, I have to repeat successful breedings, cull hard, and continuously review my rabbits' strengths and weaknesses. I have been fortunate to have some success with multiple colors - tort, black, frosty, smoke pearl and hopefully, soon blue.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank a few of the many people who have helped me. I would like to thank my parents for taking me to the shows and helping me to make the tough decisions when culling. A thank you goes to Bill Gerling from New York for allowing me to own "Lucky" and ignite my love for this breed. I would like to give a very special recognition and thanks to Tracy Lukeman and Jenna Buchenauer for providing my foundation stock, giving me their expert advice, and also, willingness to help me, as well as others with developing the Holland Lop breed. Finally, I would like to thank the judges for selecting my rabbits and the other youth exhibitors who I met and became friends with. These people have helped to make this year very special (especially, Hunter Firing, whose intense look at the tables kept me entertained).



Saynora's Zavier



SS's Isabella



THF Saynora's Zweetums



SS's Caiden