

# American Chinchilla Rabbit Breeders Association

## 2020 Summer Newsletter



## President's report

I hope this summer newsletter finds you well and corona virus-free.

Speaking of, shows have been canceled in much of the country for the last four months, including our American Chinchilla national, planned for Canton, Ohio in April. The board has voted to have our 2021 show at the same venue – the Hall of Fame Classic -- so watch for information in upcoming newsletters. With the 2020 ARBA convention canceled, our next chance at the big show comes in 2021 in Louisville, Kentucky. That means I'll have about a 30-minute drive to get there, haha.

This year is an election year for club president and directors in odd-numbered districts. As I indicated in last newsletter, I intend to run for one more term. Anyone interested in holding office in the club must send a letter of intent to the club secretary, Ramona Richardson, by August 15. An email will do, [richardsonsfeed@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richardsonsfeed@sbcglobal.net). This is your chance to get involved in the club; you do have to be a member in good standing to run for office.

In other news, one member suggested that since much of the 2019/2020 show year was canceled, our club might want to roll over this year's points to next year. The board of directors, however, voted to allow this year's points totals to stand. Most of the board felt that since most of the show year was available, rolling over points was not necessary. So congratulations to the 2019/2020 winners; you certainly had a memorable year to win. See Anita Trautwein's report below. As always, thanks to Anita for being our points chair. Anita also handles our club's report in Domestic Rabbits.

The club is also instituting a membership contest starting August 1. The member who gets the most new enrollees wins a three-year membership. If you sign someone up for the club, just make sure they note that you are the referring member.

Finally, we could use some help with our website. Anyone with skills to update our website, please contact me, [waltreichert@yahoo.com](mailto:waltreichert@yahoo.com), or Ramona Richardson, address above. We would like to get to the point that members can pay dues and sanctions electronically, and, more important, in my opinion, keep updated information on the site. I've seen many clubs' websites that are hopelessly out of date, and that's quite disappointing if you're trying to research a breed, find a breeder, etc.

It's hot here in Kentucky but the rabbits are doing fine so far. So, until next time... keep your chins up!

Walt

## American Chinchilla Rabbit Breeders Association

### Treasurer's Report

<b>Beginning balance as of March 31, 2020</b>	<b>\$8,092.40</b>
---	-------------------

#### INCOME

4/8/20 Membership dues	\$ 20.00
4/8/20 Sanction fees	\$ 48.00
5/26/20 Membership dues	<u>\$206.00</u>

<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 274.00</b>
---------------------	------------------

#### EXPENSES

5/10/20 – Anita Trautwein - reimbursement for postage stamps and sweepstakes	
Awards mailing costs	\$ 63.48
5/10/20 – Brian Atkinson, reimbursement for	
National Awards	\$443.70
5/28/20 – Postage stamps for secretary use	<u>\$ 55.00</u>

<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 562.18</b>
-----------------------	------------------

<b>Ending balance as of June 30, 2020</b>	<b>\$7,804.22</b>
---	-------------------

---

### YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

(Youth Scholarship funds are included in the above balance; it is not a separate account)

<b>Beginning balance as of March 31, 2020</b>	<b>\$1,540.50</b>
---	-------------------

No activity this quarter

<b>Balance in Youth Scholarship Fund as of June 30, 2020</b>	<b>\$1,540.50</b>
--	-------------------

---

## From Mountaintop Farms

By Deb Clemens

Over the years of raising rabbits, we have changed our methods a few times and come up with new barn layouts. We have always built our own cages mostly due to a lack of cage stores that sell quality goods. We probably have built well over 200 cages over the years, and we just keep learning new things!

We keep our does in a 30 X 36 cage that is 30 inches tall. This give momma a lot of room to stretch out, even when she has a litter; and she can always jump on top of the nesting box to get away from the greedy little buggers. Individual cages are great for when you need to move them around, but we have designed a system that has a couple of advantages:

These cages contain 3 holes with a 3" barrier between each. This give you the flexibility of building a wooden frame to hold the cage, without the danger of contaminating the wood with urine, etc. The area between the cages is good for filling with hay. The rabbits need to scratch it out, which is good for something to do! I don't recommend this for housing bucks, because they will spray the hay in between the cages! They usually do behave, but I have white shower curtains hanging behind their cages, just in case. Some of those are pretty decorated.



I carry the hay around the barn in my "old lady shopping cart" lined with a trash bag to minimize waste and mess on the floor. Fresh water is delivered via the rolling cart you can see by the sink in front of the window. The outside walls are all double hung windows that can be opened for ventilation or closed against any storm.

Each cage has those handy cage tags made with Evans Software, giving, name, DOB, sire and dam, ear number, etc. for the doe, and a breeding tag I made on my computer reminding me the date of breeding, buck used, when to put in the nest box, date kindled, number weaned, etc. When the litter is weaned, I take this take back to the house and enter it into my computer, so pedigrees are simple.



In the last few years, we have converted to totally LED lighting in the barn. This gives us good visibility and a lower electric bill. We leave the lights on from about 8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. all year around so breeding is more regular than not.

Our barn is 3 stories tall, with rabbits on all floors. These photos are on the second floor. Being in the mountains of North Carolina, there is no flat place to build a barn! Manure is handled by dumping pans into a specially built reservoir, and then pushing it down a waste pipe to the slurry on the ground. There it quickly becomes liquid gold and is used all over the farm for fertilizer.

We do a deep clean once a year. I try to treat for cocci the week before the big cleanup, and then each cage is carried outside, burned, power washed, sprayed with ammonia, wire brushed, power washed again and then brought back inside. I clean pans twice a week with a rigid dustpan and keep sawdust in the pans to hold down flies. Country Vet Mosquito and Fly spray pretty much eliminates the flies that do find their way to the barn.

Every rabbit breeder has their own way of doing things. Whether to feed hay, what kind of pellets, how often you breed, etc. all make for a diverse and interesting hobby/job. If we share what we do, we can all pick up a tip here or there, to improve our operation!

### Open Sweepstakes Points 2019-2020

<b>Name</b>	<b>No. Shows</b>	<b>Points total</b>	<b>Place</b>
Bennie and Trevada Wade	18	2,252	1
Robert van den Hoef	15	1,913	2
Brian Atkinson	11	1186	3
Jada Rosenberger	13	864	4
Anita Trautwein	15	620	5
David Mixdorf	6	582	6
Valerie Gladstone	10	557	7
Bauer, Bauer, Burkhalter, Ross	1	390	8
Sam Cheshier	14	348	9
Lori Little	1	328	10
Hannah Poe	3	313	11
Cassie Arledge	3	276	12
Jackie Gomes	9	228	13
Glenn Untied	6	215	14
Debbie Untied	6	210	15
Karlie Malone	5	192	16
Katherine Campbell n/m	7	188	17
Deb Clemens	5	182	18
Laura Larsen	1	155	19
Walt Reichert	3	141	20
Valerie Leonard	7	141	21
Michael Leonard	7	119	22
Pam Summerlot	2	110	23
Jeanette Rutkowski-Trautwein	6	102	24
Susan Robie	4	93	25
Theresa Elkins	3	81	26
(placings 27 – 40 are non-members)			
Gomes, Robbie, Jackie, Susan	4	34	41
Moran, Dee	1	30	42

**OPEN FUR SWEEPSTAKES TOTALS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>No. Shows</b>	<b>Total Points</b>	<b>Place</b>
Bennie and Trevada Wade	8	792	1
Robert van den Hoef	10	626	2
Anita Trautwein	10	335	3
Michael Leonard	5	213	4
Valerie Leonard	8	172	5
Lori Little	1	48	6

**Youth Sweepstakes Standings 2019-2020**

<b>Name</b>	<b>No. Shows</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Place</b>
Karlie Malone	10	580	1
Owen Kearns	2	155	2
Nicholas Bryan	1	152	3
Madison Shrader	2	86	4
Sydnee Brunst n/m	3	69	5
Devin Hilbert-Belcher	4	58	6
Hannah Poe	2	44	7

**Youth Fur Standings 2019-2020**

<b>Name</b>	<b>No. Shows</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Place</b>
Devin Hilbert-Belcher	1	24	1

## Open and Youth Best of Breed and Best Opposite 2019-2020

Erie Canal Rabbit/Cavy Breeders 8-03-19 Show A BOB Robert van den Hoef BOS Anita Trautwein, Best Fur – Anita Trautwein

Erie Canal Rabbit/Cavy Breeders Show Show B BOB Valerie Leonard, BOS Anita Trautwein, Best Fur – Anita Trautwein

River Valley Rabbit Club 9-14-19 Youth A BOB Greta Minthorn, BOS Hannah Poe

River Valley Rabbit Club Show B BOB Greta Minthorn, BOS Hannah Poe

Cumberland County RBA 9-22-19 Show A BOB Jackie Gomes, BOS Cassie Arledge

Cumberland County RBA Show B BOB Jackie Gomes, BOS Jackie Gomes

Southwest Virginia Rabbit Association 9-28-19 Show A BOB Deb Clemens, BOS Sarah Campbell

Southwest Virginia Rabbit Association 9-28-19 Show B BOB Deb Clemens, BOS Katherine Campbell

Southwest Virginia Rabbit Association Show C BOB Katherine Campbell, BOS Deb Clemens

Southwest Virginia Rabbit Association Show D BOB Sarah Campbell, BOS Deb Clemens

Southwest Virginia Rabbit Association Show E BOB Deb Clemens, BOS Sarah Campbell

Kentucky State RBA 9-28-19 Show A BOB Walt Reichert, BOS Walt Reichert

Kentucky State RBA 9-28-19 Show B BOB Walt Reichert, BOS Walt Reichert

NYRCBA 10-6-19 Show A BOB Jada Rosenberger, BOS Valerie Gladstone

NYRCBA Show B BOB Valerie Gladstone, BOS Jada Rosenberger

NYRCBA Show C BOB Valerie Gladstone, BOS Sam Cheshier

Rolling Hills RBA 10-6-19 Show A BOB Bennie Wade, BOS Bennie Wade, Best Fur Bennie Wade

Rolling Hills RBA Show B BOB Bennie Wade, BOS Bennie Wade, Best Fur Bennie Wade

96<sup>th</sup> ARBA Convention 10-20-19 BOB Bauer/Bauer/Wade/Ross BOS Bauer/Bauer/Wade/Ross, Best Fur Lori Little

Feather and Fur RBA 10-26-19 Show A and B BOB Bennie Wade, BOS Bennie Wade

Central PA RBA 10-27-19 Show A BOB Sandra Cheshier, BOS Sandra Cheshier

Central PA RBA Show B BOB Jada Rosenberger, BOS Sandra Cheshier



Lancaster Tri County RCF 11-17-19 Show A BOB Brian Atkinson, BOS Debbie Untied

Lancaster Tri County RCF Show B BOB Brian Atkinson, BOS Brian Atkinson

Rabbit Renegades RBA 11-23-19 Show A BOB Bennie Wade, BOS Bennie Wade

Rabbit Renegades Show B BOB Bennie Wade, BOS Bennie Wade

MI-OH State Line RBA Youth Show A BOB Greta Minthom, BOS Greta Minthom

MI-OH State Line RBA Show B BOB Greta Minthom, BOS Greta Minthom

MI-OH State Line RBA Show C BOB Owen Kearns, BOS Greta Minthom

MI-OH State Line RBA Show D BOB Greta Minthom, BOS Greta Minthom

North Central Iowa Rabbit Fanciers 11-30-19 Show A BOB David Mixdorf BOS David Mixdorf

North Central Iowa Rabbit Fancier Show B BOB David Mixdorf, BOS David Mixdorf

Pike Gibson RBA 11-30-19 Show A, BOB Bennie Wade, BOS Robert Summerlot

Pike Gibson RBA Show B, BOB Bennie Wade, BOS Bennie Wade

Richmond RBA 12-7-19 Show A BOB Sam Cheshier, BOS Rachel Davis

Richmond RBA Show B BOB Sandra Cheshier, BOS Sandra Cheshier

MARCS 12-14-19 Show A BOB Sam Cheshier

MARCS Show B BOB Sam Cheshier, BOS Christine Lafon

Clinton County Fur and Feather 12-28-19 Show A BOB Brian Atkinson, BOS Brian Atkinson

Clinton County Fur and Feather Show B BOB Brian Atkinson

Calstate R&CBA 2-22-20 Show A BOB Jana Kirks, BOS Kendal Bledsoe

Calstate R&CBA Show B BOB Jana Kirks, BOS Kendal Bledsoe

Calstate R&CBA Show C BOB Kendal Bledsoe

Calstate R&CBA Show D BOB Kendal Bledsoe

Harris County RBA of Texas 2-22-20 Show A BOB Kayleigh Yates, BOS Theresa Elkins

Harris County RBA of Texas Show B BOB Brandon Leervig, BOS Keith Maloy

Indiana State RBA 2-22-20 Show A Youth BOB Greta Minhorm, BOS Greta Minhorm

Indiana State RBA Show B Youth BOB Greta Minhorm, BOS Greta Minhorm

Stark County Rabbit and Cavy Breeders 2-22-20 Show A BOB Owen Kearns, BOS Daniel Hagland

Stark County Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Show B BOB Owen Kearns, BOS Owen Kearns

Packerland Rabbit Club 2-29-20 Show A BOB GSR Zimdars, BOS GSR Zimdars

Packerland Rabbit Club 2-29-20 Show B BOB GSR Zimdars, BOS GSR Zimdars

Cayuga Lake Area Rabbit and Cavy 3-1-20 Show A BOB Karlie Malone, BOS Robert van den Hoef,  
Best Fur Robert van den Hoef

Cayuga Lake Area Rabbit and Cavy Show B BOB Robert van den Hoef, BOS Robert van den Hoef,  
Best Fur Michael Leonard

Cayuga Lake Area Rabbit and Cavy Show C BOB Robert van den Hoef, BOS Jada Rosenberger,  
Best Fur Robert van den Hoef

Cayuga Lake Area Rabbit and Cavy Show D BOB Robert van den Hoef, BOS Robert van den Hoef,  
Best fur, Michael Leonard, BIS Robert van den Hoef

Lawrence County Rabbit Club 3-7-20 Show A BOB Bennie Wade, BOS Brian Atkinson, Best Fur  
Bennie Wade

Lawrence County Rabbit Club Show B BOB Brian Atkinson, BOS Bennie Wade, Best Fur Bennie  
Wade

Lawrence County RBA Specialty show, BOB Bennie Wade, BOS Brian Atkinson, Best Fur Bennie  
Wade

Lawrence County Rabbit Club Youth A BOB Madison Shrader, BOS Madison Shrader

Lawrence County Rabbit Club Youth B BOB Madison Shrader, BOS Madison Shrader

Rabbit Renegades RBA 6-20-20 Show A BOB Bennie Wade, BOS Shantelle Young, Best Fur  
Bennie Wade

Rabbit Renegades RBA Show B BOB Bennie Wade, BOS Bennie Wade, Best Fur, Bennie Wade

Rabbit Renegades RBA Show C BOB Bennie Wade, BOS Bennie Wade, Best Fur, Bennie Wade

**American Chinchilla Rabbit Breeders Association adult members will be receiving the 2020 ACRBA Election Ballot in the mail soon, providing your membership dues are current. I will be mailing them out on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of September.**

**Please note the postmark date to get your ballots returned is September 30, 2020.**

Ramona Richardson, Sec/Treas

### **District 4 report**

By Theresa Elkins

Greetings everyone!

While there still isn't much to report showwise due to summer heat, COVID 19, and RHDV2, I do have some exciting news to share. In June, an American Chinchilla owned and presented by Madison Maloy took the Newton County Fair's Grand Champion breeding buck! Included is a photo of Madison and her winning buck. I was sent this info by her grandfather, who also said judge Frank Farrow was impressed and explained to the spectators a little about the history of it, and how lucky they were to have the chance to see one.

It's exciting to see some breed recognition here in the South and hopefully (despite the craziness of this year) it will continue to grow. It seems quite a slow process but we're getting there!

With meat shortage a recent concern for many, you may have an unusually high number of inquiries regarding rabbit stock. This is prime opportunity to teach others the history of our breed and encourage them to help popularize them. While they may not be intending to show their rabbits, it is still extremely important to start people off with good quality stock. Our breed would suffer in reputation if they didn't live up to the standard, which would be detrimental to the breed as a whole. The worst thing we can do is encourage others to breed rabbits of poor quality. Additionally, if they are new to raising rabbits, offer to mentor them on the general care and needs, along with tips on evaluation for good commercial type. Rabbits, as most of us are aware, are not so simple.

Meanwhile, summer is here and the heat wave is incredible. Some basic inexpensive/zero cost things one can do to help their rabbits are:

- 1 Keep them in the deepest shade possible and out of the sun
- 2 Ensure they have plenty of ventilation and roomy cages
- 3 Always have plenty of water available
- 4 Minimize handling during the hot part of the day

Not free but useful are:

- 5 Fans (Wet towels placed in the fan's air flow also create a cooling effect)
- 6 Frozen water bottles/tiles
- 7 Mister systems
- 8 Evaporative coolers

I've noticed during the heat, rabbits seem to drink more if offered a bowl; I suspect because it's less "work" to drink, but for well dewlapped does and some bucks sporting "dewlaps" it is important they don't soak their chins or dewlaps in their water bowl, as it can lead to fungal issues. If your bowls clip on, raising them higher may prevent this. Check your rabbits often; it is easily remedied if caught early.

Just before this heat wave, I modified the roof on my metal roofed barn, adding a ridge vent. It made a very noticeable difference and was neither expensive, nor difficult. The hard part was covering all the cages with cardboard and empty feed bags so no bunny freaked out.

My only regret is wishing I'd done it sooner,, so if you have a barn and are battling heat it's certainly worth looking into. There is a fiber material available to sandwich between the cap and roof to prevent insects, birds, etc. which can also serve as part of biosecurity against RHDV2.

Breeding and showing is a solid NO for most of us here in the South due to the heat. Shows are already being listed on the ARBA site for fall though, so start planning and selecting the next season's show string, along with your fall "brood crew." You might consider bringing your prime buck inside a month or so before your planned first breed date, to help speed up recovery from any heat sterility issue.

Hopefully things will return to normal soon, or at least more normal than the last several months. I'm sure we all miss seeing our rabbit show comrades, so let's stick together via phone, Messenger, text, email, social media or whatever means works and keep each other encouraged. Together we will get through this.

As always, please let me know if you have any district 4 news to share! I can be reached via Facebook messenger (just search my name) or email, [spot86t@gmail.com](mailto:spot86t@gmail.com)

### **District 9 report**

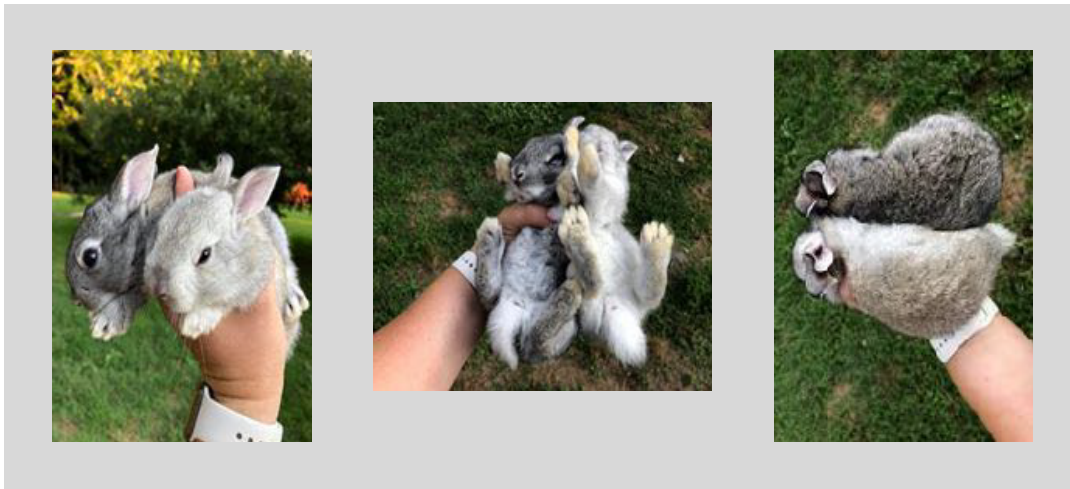
There are few shows at this time, and many folks are hesitant to attend a show even if offered. Convention being cancelled was the right decision, but sad nonetheless.

We can also share our thoughts via social media and kudos to Sarah Campbell, a district 9 breeder, for starting the discussion of the wideband gene on Facebook. Her effort in posting her observations brought comments from Steve Roush, and this led to discoveries of old articles and it was just a great thing to have happen for the American Chin club and guidebook someday! Sarah's posting is shown below for those who are not on Facebook:

#### **A Wide band Chin with a regular chin kit**

Wanted to share for those who have not seen this before. It pops up sometimes in some lines. I didn't have the wideband gene for a few years and judges were faulting my rabbits for having muddy ring color. I bought a buck who turned out to be a wideband carrier which I only discovered when I started line breeding on him. Anyway, I now get a wideband ever so often but my normal chins are no longer faulted for ring color the gene seems to brighten and clean up those rings.

Widebands would not do well in shows but can be used for breeding if they have the type to earn a spot in the herd. I have not kept any widebands but always give them a fair evaluation on sorting day. I will say I think they are the cutest little kits.



Way to go Sarah! Let's all share and learn from each other!

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Clemens, District 9

### **On the wideband gene in American Chinchilla Rabbits**

By Dr. Steve Roush

Let me start with an observation most judges (well- the better ones) know but that often breeders may not. Is it “wideband” as made by the “ww” or just a “wider band?” Simply blow in the belly fur. Does it have undercolor? If no, then the chin is genetically a wideband. If it has blue undercolor, then it is not wideband. Note that the standard allows for “either white or blue belly undercolor.” Thus you can show either!

Breeding wideband to wideband yields 100 percent wideband. As for the non-extension gene, it should never be in an American Chin program. It eventually creates what the Europeans call Sallander, If self. It’s like a gorgeous Tort but no brown coloration.

Some of you who may have the ww and ee genes in other breeds will get Ermines, a very light, almost white, looking rabbit with black tipping at the ends of the hair shaft. Does it clarify ring definition or crisp up the light pearl bands? IMO that varies with your strain characteristics, some gene modifiers and your preference. Won’t we all agree that “light pearl band” is really interpreted by us and the judges as “whiter is better”?

Clearly density is a huge factor in ring definition. Obviously those rabbits starting or in a molt have poor ring definition due to the many different stages of hair growth that muddies the appearance when we blow into the coat. If you haven’t done it, go look at Rex or Minirex Ching coats. Their density varies significantly and correlated with that is the ring definition.

In showing your chins, be sure to listen to judges’ comments. If they don’t mention ring color, ring definition, ring undercolor, density and length, you are getting shortchanges. Also to truly see ring definition, I condense the fur and then blow into it. Helps to reaffirm the definition, collects all of the guard hairs to the surface and thus shows a solid black surface. It’s a good practice when evaluating your stock.

The way, if the convention goes of this year, I have been hired for the AC’s and also for 2022 in Louisville. That may be my last convention to judge. Even though I am an ARBA life member, I will be 76 in 2022 and will be very choosy where I judge. Planning on moving to St. Augustine FL next summer and will likely not teach at any universities by then. In any case, thanks for flagging me on this topic. Hope the information is useful.

NOTE: Dr. Roush originally shared this information on a Facebook post and offered it to us to use in our newsletter. Also note that the convention has been canceled for this year, but Dr. Roush will have to keep judging a little longer than planned – the 100th ARBA anniversary convention in Louisville, at which he is judging is in 2023! Looking forward to it!

--Walt





Bennie & Trevada Wade

**RESERVE IN SHOW**

September 5th

at Southern Illinois Rabbit Breeders Association show

## **Attention ACRBA Members**

The American Chinchilla Rabbit Breeders Association is holding a membership contest. The contest will run from August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021. When recruiting a new member please ask them to put your name at the bottom of their application. The winner of the contest will receive a free three-year membership with the American Chinchilla Rabbit Breeders Association.