

Lois Trump

(This article is a reprint from the 1996 edition of Kansas History Makers)

Raising Rabbits: 29 Years

Breeds of Rabbits Raised: By the family including grandchildren are: New Zealand Whites, Satins all except Chocolate, Californians, Dutch, Netherland Dwarfs, American Fuzzy Lops, Mini Lops, Holland Lops, Rex, Florida Whites, Harlequins and Silver Martens.

Memberships: American Fuzzy Lop Club, American Dutch Club, American Rabbit Breeders Association, Salt City

Rabbit Club, Kansas State Rabbit Breeders Association. Lois has served as secretary for the Kansas State Rabbit Breeders Association.

How did you get started raising rabbits?

A neighbor gave the children a New Zealand white buck because he was moving. The next year we moved from Michigan to Kansas and brought him with us. The children joined 4-H and took the rabbit project and it grew from there.

What were your best winnings?

It's always exciting to win. Sometimes it is just as exciting to be able to give the winner a good "run for the money".

What were your most notable accomplishments?

You are extra proud when your winning rabbits are ones you have produced and not ones you've purchased. It doesn't bother me that much to have a rabbit I've sold beat mine or to do well. That's a happy customer.

What changes have taken place in the rabbit industry since you started?

There are more fancy and less commercial rabbits in this area.

What advice would you give the new breeder?

Go slow and build your herd. It is simpler to stick to one breed. But we've always liked to try different breeds. Some we liked and some we didn't. You get to know more breeders this way.

How was your family involved in the rabbit program?

The family has always been involved in rabbits. The children are not raising rabbits except for one daughter. Now it is the grandchildren who are raising rabbits.

When you started what feed did you use?

We sold fryers for less than 50 cents per pound so we made less than \$2.00 for a 4 pound rabbit. At one time we had a commercial rabbitry. But I think it is very difficult to make much money that way. If you sell breeding rabbits for \$25-\$35, you can make more and also need less equipment and work. But then you have to have a market for them.

A Special Lady

(This note was printed in the May/June 2003 edition of the Kansas State News)

It is with great sadness this report is written to note that a wonderful Fuzzy Lop breeder and rabbit friend has passed away. Lois Trump has been a great influence on many youth and adults alike. She always had kind words to say and went out of her way to encourage new breeders. It came as quite a shock to us all. She had been diagnosed with cancer and chose to keep it a secret, not receiving any treatments. She never let it show. Two weeks before her death, she was at a rabbit show doing what she loved doing....showing the Fuzzies! We will all miss her deeply.

To her credit, both her daughter, Chris Trump Hederstedt, and her granddaughter, Beth Hederstedt Ade continue to show rabbits. Both were KSRBA Queens. Chris won in 1971 and Beth won in 1998. Beth is an ARBA Registrar.