

Interviewer: Allison Schaeding

Interviewee: Billy Bounds

Date of Interview: March 30, 2021

### **Breeder Interview**

1. What does being in the Hall of Fame mean to you?

Being in the hall of fame is such a great honor.

2. Do you currently have any AOV Dutch?

Billy sometimes gets Blue Steel, doesn't keep them.

3. What other breeders have impacted your showing and had an influence on you?

Jack Pugh (long-time breeder and judge) was an influence on Billy because they were very close friends. Billy and Jack went to shows together. Stanley Goeglein (2006 7th Place Gray Variety Sweepstakes) is another breeder who really had an influence after Jack passed.

4. What do you do with your cull animals?

Billy sends his culls to an Auction in Delaware with a girl who heads to the auction every couple of weeks. Most times they end up with the Amish.

5. Do you like NDS or ARBA Convention better?

NDS

6. How many years have you been raising dutch?

About 35 years. Billy started with new Zealands as a pet project. His daughter had mini lops but soon grew out of 4h. Billy's wife began to show the mini lops. Billy said it felt "Foolish to stand around at a show". He walked around the showroom for a while and a Dutch caught his eye. He bought a trio of Chocolates.

7. On average how many does do you keep bred at all times?

Billy has 8 48x24 cages that are for brood does. Billy rotates does constantly. 4 or 5 does are bred at all times year-round.

8. In your opinion, what was your best dutch purchase?

Billy never really purchases rabbits, he does however swap. Barb and Denny Kline (2006 Open Sweepstakes 1st Place) were a couple that Billy frequently swapped with at Nationals and ARBA Convention. Their lines matched genetically so it was an easy cross.

9. How many shows do you attend every year?

Billy is 74 yrs old, he used to go to 13-15 shows a year, but now he just goes to NDS, PARBA, and ARBA.

10. Is there a memorable moment at a rabbit show that you will never forget?

Billy says he'll never forget the 2013 ARBA convention held in Harrisburg, PA. He won Best of Breed and Best Opposite Breed Dutch with his Grays. He's always had Grays, but it was rare for them to win so it was really cool for him.

#### Advice To kids from Billy Bounds:

- Breeders will all tell you different tricks they've learned while breeding. It all depends on what works for you, try what the breeders suggest but if it doesn't work move on.
- Try and get your own line going. Having limited holes doesn't mean you have to keep buying. Try to breed for better and by when you absolutely need to. Don't keep rabbits that don't work for your breeding program.
- If you can find a breeder willing, swapping works well to find lines that cross yours well.
- If you get something better than your best animal, get rid of your worst animal. If your rabbit is only placing 4th or 5th, it might be a 4th or 5th place rabbit. Breed for better or get better.
- Watch the Judges! Ask open breeders which judges are their favorites and watch those judges when they judge rabbits. You can learn more about breeding and showing while watching and listening to a judge than from the standard. (Dr. Chris Hayhow is a great judge to watch)
- Enjoy everybody
- At the end of the day, rabbit showing is just a hobby. Make it fun! Have fun and enjoy.

**Thank You for Participating in the MDRC Breeder Interviews!**

