

## **Why I don't offer pedigrees**

By Carla Carter

Most of my rabbits COULD be pedigreed but I do not offer pedigrees with my rabbits for a variety of reasons. First of all, I hate the paperwork. Second of all, Pedigrees often do not mean a lot. They are not registered with any national entity like other livestock or even dogs. They are simply an owner supplied list of three generations. They may or may not be truthful or valid. In theory I object to the concept that they mean anything when I have seen so many falsified pedigrees to make people believe they are getting something that they are not.

Most important, I raise meat stock, not show stock. I don't want people getting confused about my stock and wanting to take it to the show ring because it is "pedigreed." I have had some problems in the past with this and then they come back and say you sold me pedigreed stock that was disqualified on the show table. It wasn't showable. Pedigreed doesn't mean showable and people don't understand that. So to avoid future confusion I no longer sell with pedigrees.

Meat rabbits don't need pedigrees. When I sell my rabbits, I give you a paper with their date of births and their sire and dams. I also keep records of the rabbits that you purchased so that when you come back and want more I can sell you from different lines. I maintain a large number of bucks to avoid inbreeding within my stock and yours.

I have very high quality pure breed stock. Pedigrees do not present in any way the quality of the stock that you are purchasing. I am happy to provide literally a hundred references of people who have my stock and are very pleased with the meat production value they have received.

I hope this helps you to understand the difference and why I don't sell with pedigrees. If your desire it to actually show your stock and you WANT pedigrees, I would be happy to refer you to some local breeders that I know who have very high quality show stock.