

American Drift 2010-Rabbit Event for Genetic Biodiversity

Saving one very rare Heritage Breed of Rabbit.

This is a story and an event to take place in last 2 weeks of May 2010. It is a second annual event in saving the most rare breed of domestic rabbit in the U.S.A.- The American Blue and White Rabbit.

It's called the "American Drift 2010". The idea is to save a critical endangered domestic rabbit by transporting rabbits across the U.S.A. To improve genetic bio-diversity of the most rare breed of domestic rabbit; breeders will share their lineages. There is only a very small and dedicated group who has these rabbits. The 2009 fall census taken on the American Rabbits Yahoo Group counted 385 American rabbits. 124 of them are white.



This is the most critical breed of Domestic rabbit in the U.S.A.; according to the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy who added domestic rabbits to their list in the year 2005. ALBC lists livestock breeds that is classified as an endangered human food source in the U.S.A. To read more about this breed and ALBC mission look up:

<http://www.albc-usa.org/cpl/american.html>

The idea of the American Drift; was created by Jeremy S. Cowan to send the West Coast rabbit breed genetics to the East Coast and to bring East Coast genetics to the West. To insure the genetic biodiversity of this very rare breed.

Jeremy himself drove 60 rabbits 6700 miles to do this first time ever event last year. He named it the American Drift 2009. It was very a successful event. Once again another American Drift is in the plans. This year the transport of 100 rabbits is planned.

Since the 2009 American Drift a new rabbit club had to be created and sanctioned by The American Rabbit Breeder's Association. Now known as the "Breeders Of The American Rabbit " (BAR).

<http://www.americanrabbits.org/>



Jeremy S. Cowan is the president of the club. This year Jeremy does not plan to drive. He will help in planning and creating this event. Other dedicated breeders will drive 2 main loops across the U.S. There are now 2 main drivers who plan to do the main loops.

Also there might be some others who will meet and greet and take part in the transport of these wonderful rabbits. Many people are very excited

and plan to participate in this event.

Some will receive rabbits and others will have rabbits to offer. All is still in planning stages at this time. People are offering and requesting American rabbits at this time on the BAR website. The 2010 American Drift planned travel route will then be determined by rabbits offered and requested. Some study goes into looking at the pedigree of each rabbit to make sure genetics are very diverse. Which is the goal of this event.

I raise American rabbits and it was my finding the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy on line about this wonderful and almost extinct American Heritage breed. Which is what made it a reality for me to wish to raise this wonderful rabbit breed. I also have to thank The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy in providing the information about 2010 The International Year of Biodiversity.

I hope to be part of this year's American Drift with some kits to offer from my white doe. All is in the planning stages for now. I felt this story was more important than just my own story to share. So I asked Jeremy S. Cowan if I could write about something greater in saving the American rabbit? He was happy to learn I wanted to share this story with the world.



Petra Schian