

## **RABBITS AT FRYEBURG FAIR 2024**

The rabbit barn had a good display again this year. We were so happy with how great the barn looked after maintenance, replaced our ceiling and painted all the walls.

We are grateful to them for all their effort. We were able to put up new displays. We had over twenty breeds represented including rabbits that our exhibitors are working on, and a few rare breeds. We had two does with litters. Fairgoers always love seeing the baby rabbits jump in and out of the nestbox. We had several Flemish Giants this year. People seem to be interested in bigger rabbits lately.

All this could only happen with the help of all our wonderful volunteers. Our morning crew show up every day at 7 a.m. to clean all the trays, feed and water the rabbits and make sure the whole barn is clean and presentable by 9 a.m. for the fairgoers to see. During each day of the fair, we had our exhibitors available to answer questions that the fairgoers have. Fortunately, our people are a diverse group, some raising for show, for pets, for angora to spin, for meat, and many for all the above. So whatever questions the fairgoer might have there was someone there to answer.

We had demos throughout the week including two of our youth breeders. Cassidy Strange, 16, showed how to shear an angora rabbit. You'd be surprised at how many people don't realize angora yarn for sweaters comes from rabbits! You must remove the wool every 3 months, so it won't mat up and cause the rabbit distress. Timmy Strange, 12, gave talks on various rabbits. He had quit a crowd and was willing to answer people's questions. People always seem to enjoy listening to the youth breeders.

A few of our exhibitors showed people how to clip the rabbit's toenails and discussed rabbit care.

There were pamphlets on rabbit care available for anyone who wanted them.

As I have said many times, this display could not have happened without all our wonderful volunteers. I would especially like to thank my assistant, Sara, who did the bulk of the work, not only working 13 hours daily during the fair, but several hours a day the week before, and once a month since April, also my second assistant, Natasha, for all the effort she put in. I could not have done it without them. And all the exhibitors who not only brought wonderful rabbits, but also put in several hours every day to come talk to the public about our favorite subject, RABBITS.

Marie Bishop, Rabbit Barn Superintendent