

## Color Projects

Color projects are fun and interesting. They do add some difficulty though, as not only must one breed for type but also keep in mind the genetics of the colors being worked with. Not every color can be bred with torts or blacks without causing color problems so it takes persistence and hard work to have colors. However, nothing is more fun than having a color you've worked on long and hard finally win at a show!

However things are not always easy with any breeding program, and working with colors has its own unique issues. Colors can be more expensive to purchase, as the economics of supply and demand rule the rabbit market as much as gas prices ;) Some judges I have run across will throw off colors first, just because they are not torts. Luckily though, this is occurring less frequently than it did at one time as more breeders start to have color projects. Slowly but surely, colors are gaining acceptance as the type continues to improve to the point where they are winning at high levels of competition.

The more space the better. If there is limited space, it is a good idea to stick with one color project or have colors that are compatible. This way, one buck theoretically could be bred with every doe in the barn without worrying about colors meshing well. It is certainly easier to pick a project where torts or blacks can be used. Otters, for example, bred well with any self.

I strongly recommend for beginners of color projects to work within the "rules" for which colors cross with what. This will prevent a lot of heartache down the road. However, there are always times to stray from the "rules" but one should do so with full understanding of the possible issues that may arise. I highly recommend that people learn genetics so they can understand these pitfalls and the best ways to work around them.

Always remember: you are breeding for type as well. Yes, not every color can you find on the same par as torts and blacks and need lots of work. However, work on improving the type; don't just produce more of the same. If you are a new breeder, go to a few shows and get an understanding for Holland type before you go shopping. I see way too many "newbies" who buy that \$100 pretty Holland that is not even worth breeding. There are a lot of ethical and responsible color breeders out there, but there are also those who still breed only for color and not for type. Know what you want, and keep your eyes on the goal.