

## TIPS FOR THE TOP

There is no secret formula for breeding winning Orange and Fawn rex. No one strain or Fancier holds the monopoly – you are all in with a chance.

1. Do not go for the big show winner. It could be spun out as far as the breeding hutch is concerned. Its mated dam or litter mate will be a better proposition and cost far less.
2. Do try to keep within a particular stain. Occasionally the different strains will blend successfully but generally speaking you are liable to upset the balance of a line by doing it.
3. Patience is a must for the Orange/Fawn Man. Retails stock that is at least equal or better still superior to its parents. Such consistent super selection must eventually put you on the summit of success.
4. BEWARE..... white hairs, muddy tops and rumps, blue undercolour, long coats, cream bellies and a profusion of guard hairs. WATCH ... those hocks and trim those nails.
5. Never be too self-critical of your own stock. This trap is very easy to fall into. At the major show, the one you left behind in its hutch could well be in the money on the day if you had **entered** it.
6. Never tolerate stock that has wet eyes, noses or feet. If you see such stock at a show, report it to safeguard others.
7. Novices are often disappointed when they see their youngsters leave the nest. They seem so far away for that plush, highly coloured adult. Youngsters improve every day. Experienced breeder judges know this.

8. Remember the best youngster does not often finish as the best adult. The wise breeder will run two distinct lines in his stud. Those eye catching show youngsters; and the somewhat ungainly one which moults and fills out into a smashing adult. This illustrates the importance of getting to know your rabbits. Experience is gained over the years, not overnight.
9. Never breed two soft coated rabbits together. A mating between a harsher coated but dense buck with a ½inch coat to a softer coated doe gives better results.
10. Keep litters to a reasonable size. Four is ideal. Litters of one or two are invariably of superior quality. Wide variance in the desired features may be apparent in large litters. If in doubt destroy the smallest.
11. Watch out for youngsters with a lot of bright rich coloured orange on the head and ears and with similar front feet and chest. These are the ones to hold on to. Beware stock that has exaggerated eye circles – almost spectacles – badly barred front feet or overlong bare ears. You want the biggest bold headed stock you can get. Beware the snipey ones.
12. Feeding is a matter of personal convenience. A mixed diet of oats, pellets, hay, greens or root give the best results. Some fanciers give water, others not. Feed regularly whether it be once, twice or three times daily. Do not overfeed. If the stock is bounding up and down the cage waiting for its feed you are on the right lines. In an emergency it is possible to feed once every other day with plenty of dry food and extra hay to carry the stock through.