



RED SATINS

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The Red Satin is a great choice for the newcomer. The Red has become a very popular variety at the National All-Satin and the ARBA Convention Shows; yet, the level of competition is not as high as that for Whites, Blacks, and Broken. Unfortunately you do not see Reds taking home many Best of Breed trophies. My only BOB with a Red came at a relatively small (37 Satins) local show.

In recent years there has been considerable improvement in the quality of the Reds being exhibited at the National All-Satin and AREA Convention Shows. I have been breeding Reds since the late 1970s. The Reds I took to my first National All-Satin Show in 1983, even though a couple were Grand Champions, would not make it through my first culling today. Improvement has been slow because there is not another compatible variety to cross into without causing as many problems as you cure. If you feel you must out-cross, then only cross to an outstanding member of that variety.

If you want to consistently raise good Reds you will need at least five to eight good producing does and almost as many good bucks. Too many breeders keep only a couple of bucks. All too often something happens to one of those bucks. I keep almost as many bucks as does.

If you do not have it, go get it. To produce good fur you must have good fur in your breeding stock. Good fur must be apparent in your buck or doe or it just will not appear in their young. A good hard firm body comes from parents that have hard firm bodies. If you do not have a few hard bodied Reds, go get some. If you have hard bodied Reds of decent color and good size, call me for I want them. They are rare.

Seriously, where do you find Reds with these good qualities? By far the best place is the national shows, either the National All-Satin or the ARBA Convention. Why? Because the serious breeders are usually there. They raise their Reds to show at these major events and they will have stock for sale that they would not part with before the show. I seldom leave one of these shows without something to help improve my herd. At the 1992 Convention I bought a hard bodied buck. His son won the junior class III the 1993 National All-Satin. At the 1994 National I purchased color. Both of these Reds were purchased from the Satin Auction that is held at the National and the Convention show. Only good stock is allowed in this auction.

When I purchased good color and firmness I made sure these qualities were on otherwise nice animals. The buck with flame orange color was a little flat, but I have several does that are very high. Now I have firmness and good color in my herd. It is now up to me to bring all these good qualities together on the same animal. Without these qualities somewhere in my herd, I would not have a chance.