

Developing a "Line"

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Breeders often talk about having their own "line". It can be traced on pedigrees by looking at the prefixes in front of the rabbit's name. It takes a while to get a line developed; it's not something that just happens overnight. Here are some ideas on how to get a line started:

1. Start with good stock. Especially the herd buck. A nice herd buck with terrible does though won't go anywhere. Try getting at least a trio from the same breeder, because they will be able to put a group of rabbits together that will go well with each other, because they know their own lines.
2. Cull cull cull! Look often at what is being produced! Keep the offspring that are better typed, then sell the parents. And then, cull some more!
3. Are the rabbit's bad traits showing up often and good traits hardly showing up at all? If so, then the crosses need to be planned differently, or perhaps those rabbits are not worth having in your breeding program. There needs to be compatibility between your rabbits. If it's not there, then you won't get far.
4. A good line produces quality animals consistently
5. Line breed. This is a form of breeding where two rabbits are bred together, then the offspring back to the parents. From the offspring's litters breed two together. Just keep working down the line, after a few generations down, cull and keep the best.
6. Although line breeding is a good way to solidify good traits into your line, it can also bring up faults and solidify those just as well, so be sure to bring in new blood that is compatible with your line to fix these faults. As you develop your line, you will learn which other lines mesh well with yours, and which don't.