

Breeding Systems

Source: ARBA Guidebook

Out crossing: The most common system of breeding is out crossing, or combining two unrelated strains within the same breed. It is sometimes possible to improve the vigor of offspring in the first cross.

There is an opinion by some that using a buck on an unrelated doe is more likely to improve the strain. This is not always the case. The most progress is made by breeding animals to intensify the characteristic found in families through either inbreeding or line breeding.

Inbreeding: Inbreeding is breeding parents that are more closely related than the average population of the herd. Such close breeding does not produce bad results when it is scientifically employed. The first thing to establish that there are no outstanding weaknesses in the participating family. Such close breeding intensifies every family characteristic. Therefore, if a weakness exists such as a tendency toward low milk production, etc., or a desirable tendency such as long life, excellent pelts, greater size, disease resistance or any other desirable quality, these characteristics will be intensified by line breeding.

Line breeding: It is in this third and last breeding system that the average rabbit person will find the greatest safety and most positive progress. Line breeding is a form of inbreeding where offspring are bred back to a common ancestor. By such means you again intensify the characteristic of the family, but at the same time there is less risk of intensifying some obscure or little understood undesirable characteristic which is present in the family.

