

Letter addressed to Robert Johnson, President IDGR
from Linda Mercer 8/20/1987
Transcribed and edited from archive of IDGR-IFBR

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Greetings!

I am sorry about the delay in answering your letter. We took a 16 day vacation- our first real one in 17 years! It was so nice to get away.

You have gotten the same run-around and information about obtaining colored Angoras that we have. At least the Texas breeders are consistent!

At this point we do not have any colored stock for sale as we are trying to build the herd. We did have our first colored off-spring born on our property this spring- a pitch black buck! After seeing "Otis" we now feel we are on the right track with our breeding (We started with three colored females and a white registered buck in July 1985). Hopefully, now that the 1986 kids are breeding we will see more color in 1988.

Isa Jennings ([REDACTED]) also is raising colored Angoras. She and I are in partnership. She had a few colored ones for sale this year. You might be able to get on her waiting list.

Lori Blumhagen's address is [REDACTED].

I am interested in more communication about the IDGR registry. Last year Isa Jennings and I talked and worked up a tentative registry form for colored Angoras in hopes of tracking this elusive gene (or genes, as I now think). At this point everything is on hold because, after looking at many samples of colored hair as possible (including some from New Zealand), we don't know what true colored mohair is like! My thinking is: since Angoras were originally a hair and down animal, are the colored genes in some way connected to this "wild" gene and therefore we get a medullated fiber and kemp as well as what we call "true-mohair"? (We are getting some kemp and the medullated fibers with the mohair.) Finding colored Angoras from registered parents should help to answer my question. Anyway, time and a lot more research will help. Isa and I are continuing to scour the US in hopes of finding colored stock from registered parents.

I write regularly for *Black Sheep Newsletter* and am planning an article on registries for Angora goats. I would like to include something on the IDGR and see if there is any response to your proposal. Please send whatever information you have available and any personal comments you care to make. My deadline for the next issue is the middle of September so I would like the information soon. Thanks. I will be sure to send you a cope of the article and any comments I get.

Sincerely yours
Linda Mercer