

Letter addressed to Robert Johnson, President IDGR  
from Isa Jennings. 8/8/1987  
Transcribed and edited from archive of IDGR-IFBR

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Thank you very much for your letter. Reading your letter, I couldn't help smiling- your experience is so much like my own. I've enclosed an article I wrote for the "Woolgather's NW Quarterly" about my search. I am delighted to hear from the people who want to raise coloured angoras. If there are enough of us creating pressure and a market, I assume some of the Texan taboo on coloured angoras will fall away.

I do have to disappoint you though in regard to breeding stock. 50% of my kids have been white (out of colored parents) and I am keeping all my does- that doesn't leave much for sale. I have already 11 people on a waiting list. I will of course keep you in mind, but at this point my guess is that it will be a couple of years at least before I'll have animals available again.

Yes, I know of Lori Blumhogen, but don't have her address. However, a friend of her's and mine, Ricki Dunlap, also has coloured angoras- in fact, these 2 women work, I think pretty close together. They went down this spring to Colorado and got some more goats. I have seen a picture of 1 doe that looked real good- but as to the rest of their stock I really don't know how purebred they are. Anyhow, next kidding season they might have some stock for sale.

You are absolutely right that we should all work together and Linda Mercer and I have thought about a directory or registry. At this point Linda is keeping a directory to gather information, because we don't know yet what the typical coloured angora will look like \* and too many people use crossbreds. However, your offer about a herdbook with the I.D.G.R. sounds intriguing and if it is o.k. with you I will pass the information on to Linda. Trouble is to get people to fill out the questionnaires on their goats!

\*a purebred coloured angora does not necessarily look like a white one. Their mohair has sometimes 2-3 different kinds of fibers 1) the regular mohair, 2) a short coarser darker fiber (but not kemp) and 3) a very fine down-like fiber. I have a faded red buck out of a registered herd who has 1)+2). One of my does- a black one- out of a purebred herd- has horns that go almost straight up- yet she is covered well and her mohair is quite nice and typical mohair. Another doe, whose coverage, horns + conformation are typical white angora, yet her mohair has the different kinds of fibers and is [undeciferable] soft + "dry", but grows almost 1"/mo. Dr. Sponenberg suggested that the color gene may be hooked up with the kind of mohair the goats had a long time back.

Here is what I have so far:

- 2 faded red bucks
- 2 " " does
- 1 "chocolate" (not true moorit) doe
- 1 black doe
- 1 reverse badger faced black buck w/ white bellie
- 2 " " " doe " "
- 1 white registered doe
- 1 white buck (out of registered lines)
- 2 white does (out of colored parents)

Hope some of this is helpful to you. I do wish you the best of luck in finding some goats and please keep in touch.

Most Sincerely,  
Isa Jennings

P.S. One more possibility- there are several herds of coloured angoras in Australia. I've been in contact with a lady there, who breeds them + recently even bought a fleece from her. Quarantine into the states is long + expensive- but who knows- if several of us get together it may become feasible to import a few animals. If you are interested I'll send you what info I have about her stock and her address.