

A FEW TIPS FOR SUCCESS

There is nothing overly difficult about racing pigeons successfully. Here are a few pieces of advice that have been helpful to me, maybe they will be a benefit to you.

- *Campbell Strange always said "play the odds." He was successful in business and in the sport because he understood what factors lead to success. Talk to successful flyers to find out what practices will lead to the highest success rates.*
- *The late Art Hees always told me. "Have a winner on every line of the pedigree". Great advice.*
- *Many of the fad strains will have generations of unflown pigeons in their backgrounds. That is why it is generally a good idea to stay away from what is touted as the latest and greatest. Watch and see what birds are actually producing winners and buy those lines. Let others pay the big bucks and weed out the bad ones.*
- *Breed from young hens and cocks. Especially hens. The exception would be a super breeder. Mate good young pigeons to the super breeder to increase your odds of getting vigorous offspring.*
- *If possible buy the champion flyer/breeder. Economically this can be expensive and unrealistic for some fanciers. Get as close as you can. Inbred children/grandchildren are good alternatives.*
- *Cross for the best racers. Hybrid vigor leads to the highest percentage of vigorous racers. Crossing two inbred families has led to many champions.*
- *Most pigeons are not good. Cull no matter what the origin or price of the pigeon. Don't waste space on pigeons that don't produce at a high level.*
- *Don't get suckered on "Paper Tigers". There is a whole network of fanciers in this country who get excited by a great pedigree. Pigeons right off a famous champion or down from a famous champion. These pigeons are the most expensive. After finding out pigeon with a super pedigree will not breed the goods, they are sold or traded to someone else, and often are passed around the nation to guys who get super excited about a fancy pedigree rather than good pigeons.*
- *As a general rule don't buy recycled breeders. A fancier who wants to fly well will not sell their best breeders and weaken their own breeding loft. Total loft auctions are the exception. Better yet buy a round of late hatches from a top fancier.*
- *Remember there are many roads that lead to success. Find what works for you.*