Leicesters in North America

The English Leicester is said to have been introduced into the United States by George Washington, who kept a small purebred flock of Leicesters and used the rams extensively in his flock of 800 head at Mount Vernon. And in 1854, the Champion Ram at the first Minnesota State Fair was a Leicester owned by J.G. Lennon of Ramsey County. The original American Leicester Breeders Association was established in 1888. It is not known when the first Border Leicester sheep arrived in the U.S. or Canada but we do know that the 1920 census lists 767 purebred Border Leicesters in the United States. However, the decline of the wool carpet industry in the 1940’s resulted in reduced numbers of all longwool breeds including the English and Border Leicesters.

By the 1970’s increased interest in handspinning and other crafts has rekindled interest in these unique sheep with their distinguished heads and long, curly, lustrous wool. Though Border Leicesters in North America have been kept primarily in small purebred flocks, progressive commercial breeders in increasing numbers are realizing greater profits with the breed. Border Leicesters give them rapidly growing, high-quality market lambs as well as a much sought after specialty wool crop.

The American Border Leicester Association was established in the U.S. in 1973 by Dennis Olson of Dawson, Minnesota with the assistance and cooperation of Merle Light in North Dakota State University. By the early 1990’s, ABLA had completed computer data entry of all the Association’s registrations and pedigrees. There are now well over 200 purebred Border Leicester flocks in the U.S. and Canada and numbers are on the rise.

For more information about Border Leicesters:

www.ablasheep.org

ENJOYABLE!

American Border Leicester Association
info@ablasheep.org
www.ablasheep.org

“Start at the TOP with Border Leicesters”
THE PERFECT FAMILY SHEEP!

- Gentle Disposition
- Easy To Handle
- Medium-Sized
- Mild-Flavored Meat

ELEGANT, EYE APPEALING

WHITE OR NATURAL COLORED

BORDER LEICESTERS ARE SUPERB FOR

- Show and youth projects
- Improving wool quality
- Hybrid vigor in crosses
- Small or homestead farms

- Unique Lustrous Fleeces
- Open fleeced for easy shearing
- Excellent for weaving, spinning and handcrafting
- CURLS!