

**American Border Leicester Association  
Annual Meeting  
Wooster, Ohio  
May 26, 2012**

The annual meeting of the American Border Leicester Association was called to order by President, Greg Deakin. Greg introduced guests and dignitaries as well as the total ABLA Board of Directors. Sally Barney read the minutes of the 2011 annual meeting which were approved as read. Polly Hopkins, ABLA Treasurer, presented the year-end treasurers report for 2011 and the 2012 budget; both were approved as presented. Greg reported that in 2012 to date the ABLA has registered 344 Border Leicesters and transferred 71.

Greg introduced the newly elected ABLA Directors; Linda Koeppel, MI; Kevin Young, IL and Tom Key, MT. It was announced that the Directors would meet directly after dinner. Greg shared that the Board of Directors has appointed Stacy Wise to the position of newsletter editor and he asked that members forward information for the newsletter to Stacy and information for the website to web master JoAnne Tuncy.

Polly shared that there were a good number of Futurity nominated yearling ewes and ewe lambs in the National Sale. Greg reported that there were also a good number of Border Leicesters consigned to the sale and encouraged buyers to look them over.

Marilyn Fogle reported on the National Fleece Show held in conjunction with the Great Lakes Fiber Fest which this year added a Border Leicester division to its show and sale. In the white division the top ewe fleece was the entry of John Moran followed by the entries of Marilyn Fogle, Linda Koeppel and John Moran. The top white ram fleece was the entry of Linda Reichert followed by the entry of John Moran. Champion White Fleece was exhibited by John Moran and Linda Reichert had the Reserve Champion. In the natural colored division the Champion Ram fleece was the entry of John Moran and following up were the entries of Linda Koeppel and Kent Knappenberger. The Champion Ewe fleece was the fleece entry of Linda Koeppel followed by entries from Linda Koeppel, Kent Knappenberger and John Moran. The Champion Natural Colored Fleece was the entry of Linda Koeppel and the Reserve Champion ribbon went to John Moran. The Supreme Fleece honors went to the Linda Koeppel, Cape House Farm, with their natural colored ewe fleece. There were twenty-three total fleeces in the contest. David Freds, ABLA member, attended the Fleece Show and reported that the judge was very specific on the need to skirt fleeces well and on the need to eliminate second cuts if possible. He reported also that the judge took care to evaluate the fleeces against the Border Leicester standard.

Sarah Jakeman, Chair of the Northeast Youth Sheep Show encouraged young Border Leicester breeders to try the northeast show. Sarah reported that in 2011 there were 248 youth in the show exhibiting 839 sheep; of that number there were 9 youth in the Border Leicester Show exhibiting 33 sheep. The 2012 date is July 19-22 in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Polly reported on the opportunity to exhibit in the Border Leicester Show at Eastern States Exposition in September. This will be a National Regional Show.

Greg reported that the Junior Border Leicester Show at NAILE was in danger of losing its place at NAILE unless it could bring out at least 5 exhibitors and a minimum of 25 sheep. He stated that the 2012 Junior Show was to be held on Sunday, November 11. Greg presented six year old Callie Taylor, State College, PA, with a plaque for having exhibited the Best Headed Border Leicester in the 2011 NAILE Open Show; in addition, Callie was presented with a Buyers Credit for use in the Border Leicester Sale on Sunday.

Greg opened the meeting for a member discussion. He announced that there were four buyers' credits, sponsored by ABLA, in the Sunday Sale; these credits were given in memory of Anne Key, Montana Aerie Sheep Ranch, Great Falls, MT. Members were reminded that the annual meeting would be in Maryland in 2013.

There being no further business to come before the meeting the meeting was adjourned.

Following the annual meeting members made final silent auction bids where \$700 was raised to support Border Leicester activities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Barney – Recording Secretary