

**American Border Leicester Association**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 19, 2012**

**Present:** Greg Deakin, Jerry Wigglesworth, Mark Korf, Jennifer Bierhuizen, Polly Hopkins, Barb Hintzsche, Sally Barney

President, Greg Deakin called the meeting to order and Sally announced that a quorum was present. The minutes of the January 9, 2012 meeting were approved as sent. It was voted by all present to approve the Treasurers report subject to review of the postage charge on the March 2011 newsletter. Polly reported that the books have been closed on 2011 and if there are monies due they would come out of the 2012 budget. It was voted to run the 2011 year-end treasurers report in the newsletter. Sally read a letter from the Michigan Fiber Festival Wool Sheep Show requesting a sponsorship. Polly moved and Jerry seconded a motion to give \$125 to the Michigan Fiber Festival Wool Sheep Show. The Secretary will inform our Michigan breeders that we have done this. There will be a notice in the next newsletter regarding this donation. Sally also read a thank you note from Emily Gibson thanking the ABLA for supporting the ABLA Futurity.

Greg reported that to date in 2012 there have been 118 Border Leicesters registered and 30 transferred. Polly reported 111 members to date including 22 juniors.

**Publicity Committee:** Jerry shared an idea he had regarding placing prices received for Border Leicester wool out on the website or in the newsletter. Directors had a variety of questions and thoughts regarding the opportunity and what exactly we would be referring to. Jerry suggested that such information might suggest to breeders what extra work on marketing fleeces might return to a breeder. It was suggested that perhaps the focus should be on the breed standard and working with breeders to produce a more uniform fleece across the breed. Jerry will continue to refine the suggestion and welcomed other Board members to join in the project.

**Newsletter:** Greg reported that the newsletter was ready to go and will be in mailboxes within the next week. The Board applauded the previous newsletter. The newsletter trial was for two months; it was agreed to discuss the newsletter at the next meeting after the Board has had a chance to see the second edition prepared by Stacy Wise. The next newsletter deadline is June 15, 2012.

**Website:** Webmaster, JoAnne Tuncy, asked to move the request for resumes for the newsletter editor position off the front page of the Website to make room for current events and activities; the Board agreed and asked JoAnne to remove the article. JoAnne reported that she is updating the Breeder Directory.

**Futurity:** Polly shared that the Futurity information is on the Website. Nominations have not started coming in. It was agreed to highlight the Futurity on the ABLA display at Wooster.

**Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival:** Jennifer shared that she is working on finger foods for the social gathering of Border Leicester breeders after the Saturday shows at Maryland. This will be an open meeting for all breeders and Border Leicester enthusiasts.

**National Sale:** Greg shared that there are about 40 whites and 12 or so natural colored Border Leicesters entered into the National Border Leicester Sale at Wooster. It was agreed to have ABLA purchase sashes or other awards for the Champion and Reserve ewes and rams in both the white and natural colored shows. It was voted to have Barb and Sally look into this and they will have a budget of \$150 for the awards.

**National Sale Dinner; Annual Meeting; Fleece Show and Friday Social:** Greg reported that he had heard from Marilyn Fogle and that her crew has done a great job planning many of the Border Leicester activities during the Sale week-end. The Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held on Saturday night at the Olde Jaol House Restaurant. This event includes a Silent Auction. Friday night there is a social gathering at the Best Western starting at 7:00PM. Each breeder is asked to send a 3-5 minute video of their farm for inclusion in a video tour of Border Leicester farms. The Border Leicester Fleece Show is moving to the Fiber Fest held during the National Sale week-end. It was agreed that Polly would do a fleece skirting workshop sometime Saturday afternoon.

**Videos:** Jerry brought the Board up to date on his thinking regarding the opportunity to show You Tube type videos on the ABLA website. Sally had suggested that perhaps the videos could focus on selling the breed as a lead-in to videos focused on management, etc. Sally agreed to join with Jerry in developing this concept further.

**Other:** Greg and Mark reported that Ashley Jones, Border Leicester breeder, is featured in the recent FFA publication having earned her Proficiency Award through her Border Leicester management. Polly shared that Eastern States Exposition will host a National Regional Border Leicester Show; Doris Powell is judging and juniors receive extra premiums in breed classes; in addition, the Eastern Border Leicester Breeders will meet on April 15 on the grounds of Eastern States Exposition.

#### **New Business:**

**Election:** Sally reported that she had received election Bios from Tom Key, Montana; Linda Koeppel, Michigan; Coleen Smith, Oregon and Kevin Young, Illinois. There are three openings on the Board of Directors; Jennifer Bierhuizen and Greg Deakin are not running for an additional term and there is an anticipated vacancy in Anne Key's position as illness will prevent her from completing her term. Ballots and Bios will be mailed to all current members to be returned by April 15. All ballots will be mailed to Sally.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Barney – Recording Secretary

**NEXT MEETING April 23, 2012 - 8:30 PM Eastern**