



# The American Border Leicester Association Quarterly News

Summer

2004

## Member Profile . . .

**Anthony and Kay Cole • Chestnut Grove Farms  
Leicester, NC**

### NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear ABLA Members:

Isn't it great to be a Border Leicester breeder! From buying our first Border Leicester ewe from Eldonview Farm in October, 1996, to my experience raising them now, I'm convinced that our breed truly is the industry's best kept secret.

As your new president of the American Border Leicester Association, my goal is to increase public awareness of our breed, increase association membership, and help develop markets for our sheep.

Our own flock has had a great opportunity to enter competitions from coast-to-coast. I have had more satisfaction answering all the questions about the breed and seeing people enjoy the Border Leicester demeanor and temperament at the shows. The real selling point comes across when I get so enthused telling interested breeders from the "mainstream" breeds how Border Leicesters work on the farm, in the lambing barn, and all their many other good points.

My family has raised Hampshires over 40 years. I am very aware of the

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Greetings, fellow Border Leicester shepherds, from.....Leicester, North Carolina! Named after the township of the same name in England in the 1700's, we are located in western North Carolina, in the Southern Appalachian Mountains about 30 minutes west of Asheville. We are within a one-hour drive of the highest peak east of the Mississippi (Mt. Mitchell 6684') and an hour from the hot, flat southern piedmont. Warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico collides with cooler mountain air here, resulting in rainfall of 70 to 100 inches per year in many places, allowing us to grow lots of grass..... and internal parasites in unimaginable quantity.

After completing college in 1980, I returned to this area to take a job with NC State University, Department of Soil Science, in research and extension programs. While trying to decide on additional degree programs, the farm next to our family's place came up for sale. Having the vision and energy of "youth", I made the leap. Over the next few years, four more additions occurred to present day. Since there were no surplus sources of funding, the farm had to pay its own way. Fishing is a much cheaper hobby. Through the school of hard knocks, we now produce burley tobacco, choose-and-cut Fraser fir Christmas trees, pumpkins for the October market, a Fraser fir seedling transplant nursery, hay, grain corn for feed, and..... sheep.

The first 3 cull sheep were purchased in the early 80's. I knew they were culls, but it was all that could be found at the time. Pony-sized Suffolk reigned supreme (the stock of shows, of course). Wool was for the yearly pools, and the idea of a sheep for a "spinning fleece" was laughed upon. Information on breeds was difficult, at best, to obtain. Marketing was a joke. No shearers were to be found and, after a 45-minute session with the dull, used, electric shearers, with three of us tackling a stubborn meat sheep, the learning curve had begun. Over the years, many breeds were tried. The Polypays were the worst for our farm, a hoof management nightmare. They just could not tolerate the continuous wet grass conditions.

During that time, the thought occurred to me that my farm was on the outskirts of the Leicester community. Hence on the border of...Leicester. ☺ I made contact with a wonderful Border Leicester breeder in the Piedmont section of NC, Kris Savage. She had a sailboat in the sheep lot (hundreds of miles from the ocean) and ewes that ate dog

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Chestnut Grove Farms  
nestled in lovely Leicester, NC.



Some of the Cole's commercial lambs out  
of their Border Leicester sired cross ewes.

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# Letter from the Editors



Summer in Vermont seems half over after it has just begun!! After a long, lingering winter and a late spring, it is great to have the green grass and warm summer days. Our sheep spend most of their day in the fields eating the lush clover. The rains have cleaned their wool making them shimmer in the sunlight. I think they are the prettiest breed of sheep! With their regal heads and bare legs and upright ears and the way they like to lay in the field chewing their cud with heads up reaching towards the sky...And when they fall asleep in that position they fall over backwards and have to catch themselves. I always get a chuckle when it happens. Have you seen other sheep relax that way?

In this issue, we have decided to focus on some summer things, like WORMS!! We have collected several articles from different sources. It may not be the most exciting reading that you'll ever do, but managing parasites is an important part of maintaining a healthy and productive flock. Hopefully, you will find the information worthwhile. Like most topics, you will encounter varying opinions.

It is also the summer fair season. We want to encourage you to visit your local fair, and if possible, take some sheep to the sheep show and "show them off." If you are a spinner, donate an afternoon of your time spinning up some of the lustrous fleece you have. You might even sell some breeding stock or wool as a result.

The new ABLA Bylaws and Procedures were approved by the membership this past May. The Board of Directors has asked that we include a copy of both documents. Please take the time to read them over. You'll also find a copy of "Guidelines for Completion of Registration Forms" and "Standard of Excellence - Guide for Judging Border Leicester Sheep". Please familiarize yourself with this information and then consider giving a copy of the "Standard of Excellence" to the judge at your local fair.

And lastly, several articles draw attention to the value of using Border Leicesters in commercial flocks. Our sheep are a well-kept secret that needs to be shared with the rest of the sheep world!

As stated in previous newsletters, we are always looking for interesting articles. If you don't have time to write something, but come across an interesting sheep-related item that you think others would enjoy reading, please let us know and we will include it in a future newsletter.

Our thanks to those of you who took the time to send us articles and pictures! We hope you are all enjoying your summer and that you are having a successful season with your sheep!

~ Sue Johnson and Nancy Smith, Editors

The ABLA Newsletter is published quarterly.  
It is a compilation of submissions from members.  
We value your contributions.

The submission deadline for the next issue is September 15, 2004.  
Please send lots of good stuff to Nancy Smith, Editor  
smithfamily@gmavt.net

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# Introduction to Parasitology

By J.L. Goelz, DVM  
Pipestone Veterinary Supply

Parasitism is the most expensive disease in the sheep industry if one considers the cost of deworming and the decreased performance that is caused by parasites. Due to variation in climatic conditions, location, and sheep density, no single recommendation can be made that will be effective in flocks across the country. However, there are a few things to keep in mind when developing an internal parasite control program.

Internal parasites can be considered in three broad groups: roundworms, tapeworms and flukes. Roundworms attach to the intestinal surface and suck blood or serum from the animal. The most serious of these parasites is *Haemonchus contortus*. These worms will drain enough blood that the sheep will become anemic, very unthrifty, and may die from blood loss. Other parasites in this group are *Ostertagia*, *Nematodirus* and lungworms. *Haemonchus* is the most efficient at developing resistance to dewormers. Generally, if the deworming program can control *Haemonchus*, the other roundworms will be controlled as well. Young growing lambs are particularly susceptible to roundworms and should be dewormed when they are 3 to 4 months old.

Tapeworms do not do as much damage to sheep as roundworms. The greatest concern is that if large numbers of worms are present, they can physically block the intestinal tract and cause death.

Flukes invade and migrate through the liver. Sheep are very sensitive to flukes and even one fluke can cause enough damage to kill a sheep. The life cycle of flukes requires a snail intermediate host. Therefore, fluke problems are found in areas of standing water. One species of fluke, *Fasciola magna*, can also infect deer and is a serious problem in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin.

In developing a deworming program, always keep in mind the two populations of parasites: one population of adult worms in the animal and one population of immature larvae on the pasture. If you deworm sheep and turn them out in an infected pasture, they will be reinfected with worms in 30 days. Plan your deworming to coincide with pasture rotation. Nearly all infective larvae are killed by

freezing temperature, so late fall is an excellent time to deworm your ewes as you can keep them clean all winter.

During the grazing period, pasture rotation combined with deworming will give you the most comprehensive parasite control program possible. A pasture should be empty as long as possible before sheep are reintroduced. Usually this results in rotation every 4-6 weeks. During this 4-6 week period, most of the infective larvae (immature forms of parasitic worms) will die and the pasture will be relatively clean when you turn dewormed sheep back in.

The best time for fall deworming is after the first killing frost. Deworming at this time will allow parasite free ewes until lambing. If a white wormer, such as Valbazen or Panacur is used in the summer, then Levasol (Tramisol) or Ivomec are excellent choices for fall deworming. Remember to refrain from using Valbazen on early pregnant ewes as it has been shown to cause fetal defects in the first trimester of pregnancy.

Levasole and Tramisol contain the same drug and concentration of drug, they can be considered as equivalent. Valbazen is effective against flukes at 6cc/100# orally. Valbazen should not be used in pregnant ewes as the active ingredient, Albendazole, can cause developmental defects in the fetus. Cattle pour-on formulations of avermectins have not been shown to be effective in sheep.

Another management tool is to conduct occasional exams on random fecal samples to determine the level of parasitism in your flock. This can be done by any large animal veterinarian for a small fee. This will give you a rough idea of the amount of parasites in the sheep and, indirectly, the number of larvae in the pasture. Be sure the fecal samples are fresh when delivered to your veterinarian.

Internal parasites can be cost-effectively controlled by the use of pasture rotation, freezing temperatures, strategic deworming and periodic fecal analysis by your veterinarian. Parasitic worms that infect sheep are species specific. They only affect ruminants and cannot be passed to humans or other monogastric animals.

External parasite problems are far more infrequent than internal parasite problems, however, they are responsible for sporadic wool loss and itching sheep. Mites, lice and keds are all seen occasionally as flock problems. We occasionally will see heel mites on the feet and legs of sheep. The mites are microscopic so they cannot be visualized with the naked eye, but what can be seen is a scaly lesion on the lower leg that appears to irritate the sheep. We have seen the best response with dipping the feet in Taktic solution.

Lice can be a serious problem in flocks in the winter months. Often the first sign is wool tags on gates, fences and feeders. Often the shepherd notices sheep that are constantly itching and wool loss. The most cost-effective method of controlling lice is to pour the sheep with DeLice® pour-on twice, 14 days apart.

Sheep keds, *Melophagus ovinus*, are often referred to as sheep ticks. Actually, this is incorrect as they are not ticks, but are rather a wingless fly. These are easily seen with the naked eye, but are often not noticed until shearing. Small or even moderate ked infestations are generally not noticeable as they only cause mild irritation to the skin. Because they are easily seen, heavy infestation can be avoided by treating the entire flock when they are found. Again, DeLice® pour-on is the most cost-effective product on the market.

While external parasites are far less common than internal parasites as a cause of sickness or death in sheep, on an individual flock basis they can have an impact. Shepherds should be on the lookout for clinical signs of external parasitism, especially in winter when they are most evident and when we can prevent the infestation in the next lamb crop.

*~ Our thanks to Pipestone for the work they do to educate sheep producers. We appreciate them allowing us to reprint this and other articles. See their ad on page 20 and be sure to visit their website at [www.pipevet.com](http://www.pipevet.com).*

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### Part of our Breeding Flock

PJ (center) - Champion Ram in 2003 at Maryland  
Gianna (left) and Hannah (right) - Champion and  
Reserve Champion Ewes in 2003 at Maryland

~~~~~

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## NYAMA CHOMA An African Grilling Marinade

Submitted by Sue Johnson

*This has become one of our favorite recipes for marinating lamb (actually any red meat or game). It comes from a recipe book my son purchased in Kenya. It also works well on old mutton if left to marinate overnight. This recipe marinates a pound or so of meat.*

- 3 tablespoons red wine or red wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 pinch chili or cayenne pepper
- 2 tablespoons chopped dhania (coriander leaves) or fresh herbs or parsley
- 1 teaspoon fresh ginger root, grated
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 teaspoon mustard or mustard seeds
- 1 teaspoon tomato puree
- 1 teaspoon honey
- salt to taste

Cut the meat into steaks or chunks. Combine all the ingredients and cover the meat with marinating liquid in a dish or bowl for 6 hours or overnight in a refrigerator. A Ziploc® bag marinates a larger amount of meat more thoroughly.

Arrange steaks on a hot grill and brush on any remaining marinade to prevent the meat from drying out. Use a sharp knife to test if the meat is cooked. *Enjoy!!*

## 2005 ASI Convention

As your schedule starts to fill, be sure to block-out January 26-29, 2005, for the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) National Convention. The convention will be returning to John Ascuaga's Nugget in Reno, Nevada.

All preliminary conversations indicate that it will be another successful event with the inclusion of the National Lamb Feeders Association, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, American Lamb Board, Western Range, ASI Women and the Make-It-Yourself-With-Wool participants. Detailed schedules will be available later this year.

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# Internal Parasites in your Small Ruminants: Management is on the Outside

By Carol Delaney  
Small Ruminant Dairy Specialist

Sheep and goats that graze or eat near where their feces are kept moist and warm will become infected with internal parasites. Once infected, the ingested larvae implant and develop in the animal's gastrointestinal tract to an adult stage. This can take about 3 weeks. The adult worms shed eggs that are well-protected against outside weather extremes and hatch when the conditions are right for further larval stage development. It may take as little as 5 days to reach an infective stage. In milder climates, like Great Britain, the eggs may survive for a year on pasture. Virtually all the larvae stages are susceptible to dry, hot and anaerobic conditions and, in the animal the adult worms are acted on by the animal's immune response. The animal's immune system is thought to affect implantation of the larvae and the egg shedding ability of the worm. Young animals with underdeveloped immune systems are more easily infected – like coyotes going after the young lambs because they can't defend themselves as well. Older animals are more resistant to infection than younger ones – a fact to hold on to. In some cases, the animal is housing worms that shed lots of eggs, meaning there are lots of worms inside, but the animal seems unaffected. This is called a resilient sheep or goat. A sheep or goat that decreases implantation or egg shedding is called a resistant sheep or goat. Which type of sheep or goat would you like to have?

## Doing Microscopic Fecal Exams

Think on that question and let's talk about what benefits there might be to checking the fecal egg counts in your herd or flock. People examine the feces microscopically to determine what type and infection level of internal parasites. The big reason to do egg counts instead of only identifying an egg is that, at a certain worm load, the animal could die. From spring time until July 4, about 1,000 eggs per gram (epg) for adults and 500 epg for yearlings and younger is the trigger to deworm or to change your feeding management. And you can see if some animals carry a higher burden than others.

Animals contaminate pasture with worm eggs as they graze. If animals are concentrated in an area, near the barn, for

example, the potential larval count will be much higher per unit of grass than in a less densely populated area. Management intensive grazing is great for amount of protein and energy harvested per unit of land but it can maximize parasite contamination, too. And, once the warm season has started, you will always have infective larvae on the grass and the numbers will increase as time goes on. The first few stages of larval development are free-living. One expert I talked with said that she kept a Petri dish of worm larvae and water in her lab and the wee ones stayed alive for weeks, if not months. However, the third larval stage that is infective, often called L3, is parasitic and the larvae must survive on their own food reserves until they enter a host.

## Pasture Management Strategies

If there are always infective larvae in pastures, what can you do? Exposing the sheep or goat to lighter loads of larvae allows the small ruminant to mount an immune response over a period of time, similar to how a vaccine works, making them more resistant to parasites. You can use many management techniques to decrease the egg/larvae load on your pasture by:

- Only passing through each paddock once with your sheep or goats;
- Decreasing the stock density to below maximum levels thereby diluting the number of parasites;
- Following the small ruminants with cows or horses to evade grazing the parasites;
- Mixing cows/horses with small ruminants effectively decreasing the stocking rate (however cows can transfer *Nematodirus* infections to small ruminants);
- Cultivating the land;
- Making hay after one grazing;
- Not grazing below 2-4 inches;
- Not grazing in high manure areas;
- Having pasture plant diversity.

When feces hit the ground, temperatures need to only reach maybe 45°F, with the best range of larval number explosion

being between 65-75°F. From then it takes, on average, 10 days for most species to change into their infective larval stage that then moves up the blades of grass to a height of about 2 inches.

So, mid-June is when people start seeing a rise in fecal egg counts since animals start grazing in May when temperatures are warm enough for larvae to be on the grass. The infective larvae are aided by moisture in moving up the grass, so some folks refrain from grazing until after the morning dew has burned off. Also, larvae move up blades of grass easily but are hampered by the condensed tannins contained in other plants. You could have a browse area (shrubs, small trees like stag-horn sumac or poplar, wild plants like meadowsweet and bramble) or a field dominant with taller legumes like red clover or alfalfa which will host fewer larvae. Ann Wells, DVM with the National Center for Alternative Technology, suggests grazing sage, oregano, chives, birds foot trefoil, lespedeza, sanfoin, and dock which have shown zero to low larval infestation when sampled. The condensed tannin content of these plants is also thought to contribute to the low larval load by inhibiting the hatching of eggs and development of larvae in the feces of animals that have been consuming the plants.

## Health and Nutrition

Another management focus is to be aware of what helps your lambs or kids develop well so that they have strong immune systems. Examples are real milk from dams, clean conditions, good nutrition, etc. For example, animals that have had a coccidia infection are more susceptible to roundworm infection. Active soils, with lots of earthworms, good pH, lots of organic matter, etc, provide lots of available minerals and those like copper, selenium and molybdenum, and zinc become more available in your forages. Copper is a required nutrient for sheep, but its absorption and toxicity level are affected by the interaction of many other minerals present and by the genetic propensity of the animal. A deficiency of copper shows up as swayback, lack of muscle coordination in lambs, anemia and poor growth and, in adults, steely or stringy wool as well as lack of pigment in black sheep. In

## Internal Parasites in your Small Ruminants

Australia, author Pat Coleby says that worms are prevalent in sheep where there is a deficiency of copper or at blood serum levels below 500 to 1100 mL per litre. Copper is added to the diet with dolomite to minimize toxicity risk. She notes that some plants, like St. John's Wort concentrate copper and sheep grazing on that show little worm problems. Check that the animals are getting their nutrient requirements of minerals by forage tests and looking at the minerals you are feeding.

### When You Decide to Use a Dewormer

Dairy, meat, and fiber goats can graze like sheep but the goats are more susceptible to worm infestation. When fecal egg counts reach 1,000 eggs per gram, it is time to do something as the goat can die at 2,000 epg. The most serious worm is *Haemonchus contortus*, or the barberpole worm, which implants in the stomach and sucks blood so much that the animal can become anemic and die without any signs of diarrhea. Each worm can shed up to 6,000 eggs per day. Talk to your vet or read up on which dewormers are approved for sheep and goats and which ones are extra-label and need a vet's prescription. For the lactating animal, the dewormers that your veterinarian might choose to prescribe are Panacur (fenbendazole), Valbazen (albendazole), Eprinex (eprinomectin) and Rumatel (morantel). Ivermectin and Cydectin are secreted in the milk for a long time and should never be used in lactating dairy animals. Another thing you want to keep in mind is that these chemicals have effects on the environment as they are eliminated from the animal. Ivermectin has a negative effect on the dung beetle, your manure dispersing friend, and so you should consider using this only in the winter. Relying on chemical dewormers alone will tend to encourage the development of chemical resistant parasites; better to combine strategic use of dewormers with good nutrition and pasture management. If you do rely solely on chemical dewormers, they will become ineffective, as researchers have found in small ruminant populations around the world, including the United States.

If the worms remaining in your animals are the resistant ones, they will be shed-

ding eggs to infect all the other animals grazing with them. You need to leave some animals untreated so that unselected worms remain in the population. Dr. Ray Kaplan, DVM from the University of Georgia, explains it well:

"Recent evidence suggests that the most important factor affecting the rate of development of drug resistance is the proportion of drug-treated worms to untreated worms in the worm population. The untreated portion of the population, referred to as refugia, provide a pool of genes sensitive to dewormers, thus diluting the frequency of resistant genes. At the moment of treatment, refugia consist of all the worm eggs and larvae already on pasture and all the worms (and future eggs and larvae) in the animals that were not treated. Parasitologists now believe that the most important factor responsible for the widespread development of dewormer resistance is the common practice of treating all animals in a herd at one time. This practice leaves no worms in refugia; the only eggs deposited onto the pasture for several weeks following treatment are from those worms that survived treatment."

In other parts of the world, the fungus *Duddingtonia flagrans* has been isolated and is fed to livestock so that the fungi form nets in the feces that trap and kill many stages of larvae. Feeding 100,000 to 1,000,000 fungal spores per kg of body weight to infected sheep results in a reduction in number of infective larvae by 70-95%. The fungus does not deworm the sheep or goat, it starts to break the cycle after the eggs hatch in the feces. Research is being done at Louisiana State University on *D. flagrans* for use in the U.S.

### Management by Animal Selection

While you are implementing management techniques, you may still find you are having a problem with some animals. It has been noted that 70-80% of the worms reside in only 20-30% of the animals. In your own herd or flock, you might start selecting animal offspring from animals with lower fecal egg counts (including the rams and bucks on pasture). Remember that you can buy in animals from other farms with resistant worms which will be shared with your herd or flock.

### Halting an Epidemic Outbreak

However, in the short term, with high egg counts one recommendation is to deworm only the symptomatic animals (high egg counts, diarrhea, less thrifty, anemic), hold them in an area for 24 hours and then move them to a clean area. The drug will be retained in the body and work better if the animal is held off feed overnight (like getting ready for a shearing). Follow the proper dosage. Goats usually require higher doses than sheep probably due to metabolic differences. If you are having a serious 'epidemic' bloom with sick animals, I would suggest removing them from pasture that is so infective and putting them on dry hay for a while just to stop the constant barrage of infective larvae. In Chinese medicine, conditions associated with gastrointestinal parasite infection are described as a very moist, watery environment in the body. Dry hay passes through the gastrointestinal tract more slowly and can have good results in decreasing or stopping diarrhea which causes loss of electrolytes and decrease in the absorption of other nutrients. Try offering good quality dry hay or forage with some concentrate, if necessary in very weak animals.

Young stock (anything below 1 year of age) are the most susceptible to infection. In France, they followed the counts of eggs per gram of feces (epg) from lambs on continuous grazing with ewes. In May, the epg's of feces from lambs were near zero and by September, the epg's were at the 3,000 level. The researchers sacrificed lambs and found over 30,000 adult worms in their gastrointestinal tracts in September. Supplementing lambs at crucial infestation times can give them more ability to resist some infestation. Feeding higher protein supplements (increase total diet protein to 18%) to ewes at lambing and to challenged lambs has resulted in lower fecal egg counts. Lush pastures are often 20-30% protein so this supplementation is debatable unless the type of protein is important. Perhaps, dam's milk is the best antidote and it is hard to mimic. Lambs start to develop immunity to some parasites starting at 4 months but, again, need a low level of infection for it to be useful and not detrimental.

### Doing Fecal Egg Counts at Home

Now, if you want to check to see what your ewes/does and lambs/kids might have for worm load, it is possible to do your own fecal counts at home. E Kika de



la Garza Institute for Goat Research (<http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/index.htm>) has an "On-line Manual for Conducting Fecal Egg Counts in Goats". (It will work for sheep, too.) Chalex Corporation ([www.vetslides.com](http://www.vetslides.com)) and Farmstead Health Supply ([www.farmsteadhealth.com](http://www.farmsteadhealth.com)) both sell resources and equipment to get you started.

### Checking for Anemia

If you don't want to do fecal egg counts, but want to deworm before the barberpole worm takes a deadly hold, you can check the lower eyelids on your sheep or goats to see if or how anemic they are. Talk to your veterinarian or extension agent to learn how to do it. The Southern Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control (<http://www.scsrpc.org/FAMACHA/famacha.shtml>) has developed a program for evaluating anemia visually.

### Summary

Going back to an earlier question, would you like a resilient animal (with lots of worms but indifferent to them) or a resistant animal (doesn't allow worms to take hold)? For me, a resistant animal seems to make more sense as they are

able to break the cycle of the parasite which will mean fewer eggs deposited on pastures. Also, there will be less damage to the gastrointestinal tract and the feed conversion should be more efficient, meaning lower feed costs. Regardless of the resistant status of your sheep or goat, it is imperative to work on outside management to control internal parasite infection first and use dewormers judiciously.

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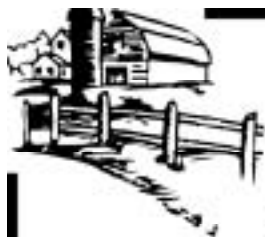
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*Carol Delaney is a Small Ruminant Dairy Specialist at the University of Vermont's Center for Sustainable Agriculture ([www.uvm.edu/sustainableagriculture](http://www.uvm.edu/sustainableagriculture)). She very kindly agreed to write this article for us. Carol can be reached via email: [carol.delaney@uvm.edu](mailto:carol.delaney@uvm.edu).*



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### The 12th National Small Farm Trade Show & Conference

is on November 4-6, 2004, in Columbia, Missouri.  
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# American Border Leicester Association

## Bylaws

### Article I

#### The Name and Purpose

Section 1. The Association shall be known as and referred to herein as the American Border Leicester Association (ABLA).

Section 2. The purpose of the association shall be to promote purebred breeding of Border Leicester sheep for seed stock, show stock, commercial lamb production and niche market wool production.

Section 2a. To engage in the education and promotion of Border Leicester sheep. To keep breeders informed of market strategies for Border Leicester sheep and wool, as well as all health issues, proper maintenance of sheep and the lands that support them.

Section 2b. To register and keep pedigree records of all animals that qualify as pure Border Leicester sheep according to the guidelines of the association.

Section 2c. To provide interested people with information about the Border Leicester sheep and their products.

Section 2d. To promote interest in the Border Leicester breed of sheep wherever possible in order to attract new individuals interested in the conservation and well being of this breed.

### Article II

#### Membership and Meetings

Section 1. Voting memberships shall be open to any Border Leicester breeder who adheres to the policies and rules of this association. Each paid membership represents one vote.

Section 1a. Any person, family or corporation who owns, breeds, or is actively involved in the breeding of purebred Border Leicester sheep may become an *active member* of the ABLA. Active means current on their membership dues (in good standing) to be eligible to vote and/or hold elective office.

Section 1b. Individuals under the age of 18 may have a separate *junior membership*.

Section 1c. Any person, family or corporation interested in the promotion of Border Leicester sheep may become an *associate member* of the ABLA, and as such is entitled to all privileges of full members except they shall have no vote, nor shall they be eligible to hold elective office.

Section 1d. *Lifetime membership* can be obtained by paying the equivalent of ten years dues at the current rate, in one payment.

Section 2. The members of the ABLA shall meet annually at such time and place as designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to set the time and place for the annual meeting of the ABLA, and

it will be the responsibility of the president to so notify the membership. In addition to the annual membership meeting, additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the president and the Board or by petition by 25% of the active membership.

Section 4. Voting on issues addressed at membership meetings shall be conducted by mail ballot no less than 30 days after the Annual Membership Meeting, the Secretary of the Association shall mail the ballot to each active member. Results of the balloting shall be counted by the Secretary of the Association or a person designated by the Board, and shall be kept in his or her custody for a period of time as designated by the Board, and be subject to inspection at reasonable times by any member of the Association. The membership shall be promptly notified of the results of such balloting. The act of the majority of those voting shall be considered an act of the membership of the association, except when a two-thirds majority of the membership is called for in these bylaws.

### Article III

#### Officers and Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors of the ABLA shall be the governing board of the ABLA and have ultimate authority over and responsibility for all association expenses, properties, funds, and debts. The Board of Directors shall have ultimate authority over any and all policy decisions.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall consist of a seven-member Board, who shall be active members of the Association and registrants of Border Leicester sheep.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall consist of not less than four elected directors. Two (2) directors will be elected each year for a term of three (3) years. A call for nominations will be announced in the newsletter and bios requested.

Section 4. Vacancies may occur during the term of a Board member by death, resignation, removal, disqualification, incapacitation, or by expansion of the Board at the discretion of the Board. In the event a vacancy occurs in a Board position, the other members of the Board shall elect a new Board member to serve until the next annual membership meeting, at which time the members shall elect a member to fill the unexpired term. Board vacancies shall be filled within 60 days after the position becomes vacant.

Section 5. The officers of the Board shall be President, Vice-President and Treasurer.

Section 5a. The vice president shall, in the absence of or the incapacity of the President, act in the capacity of the President.

Section 5b. The treasurer of the Board will be appointed by the Board on an annual basis and will be a voting member of the Board of Directors.

Section 5c. The secretary shall be an appointed position by the Board of Directors.



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**Article IV**  
Elections

Section 1. Elections will be held on a yearly basis.

Section 2. Bios will be requested and election of officers will be by confidential ballot. All paid members will receive the appropriate ballots by mail with the deadline to be affixed to the ballots.

Section 3. The ballots will be counted by an independent committee of at least three individuals not affiliated with the association. As soon as the votes have been tallied, the results will be announced and the new officers will assume their responsibilities.

**Article V**  
Committees of the Board

Section 1. The executive committee consists of all officers of the Board. The President shall act as chair of the meetings of this committee.

Section 2. The Board may establish committees to perform such duties and to have such powers as may be set by the Board, and these committees shall assist the Board with specialized tasks delegated to the committees. The role of the committees shall be of an advisory and assisting nature. Each committee may make its own rules of governing the conduct of its activities, provided they are in compliance with the wishes of the Board.

**Article VI**  
Quorum

Section 1. At the annual general membership meeting and at all other meetings the quorum shall consist of those who attend the meeting.

**Article VII**  
Dues and Fees

Section 1. Annual membership dues and fees shall be set at the discretion of the Board of Directors based on the need and expenses of the association.

Section 2. Annual membership shall begin January 1<sup>st</sup> and shall expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Section 3. Lifetime membership dues shall be obtained by paying the equivalent of ten years dues at the current rate, in one payment.

Section 4. All other fees such as those for registration, transfer of ownership of animals, etc. will be established by the executive committee.

**Article VIII**  
Audits

Section 1. The president will appoint an auditing committee whose responsibility will be to see that the treasurer's accounts are audited either prior to the annual meeting or during the annual meeting.

**Article IX**  
Amendments

Section 1. Proposed bylaw changes may be initiated by the Board or by petition to the Annual Membership Meeting, signed by not less than 25% of the members of the Association.

Section 2. These bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed by the affirmative two-thirds of the active membership in good standing. Proper notification as noted above shall include a clearly stated notice of what section of the bylaws is to be deleted, changed, or added; and what the exact wording of the desired change or addition shall be. No more than 30 days after the Annual Membership Meeting the Secretary of the Association shall mail the proposed amendments and ballots to each active member. Results of the balloting shall be counted by the Secretary of the Association or such other person as designated by the Board, and shall be kept in his or her custody for a period of time as determined by the Board, and subject to inspection at reasonable times by any member of the Association. The membership shall be promptly notified of the results of such balloting.

**Article X**  
Parliamentary Procedure

Section 1. Where not otherwise specified, Roberts' Rules of Order will govern the procedure of this organization.

**Article XI**  
Dissolution or Succession of Association

Upon dissolution of the American Border Leicester Association, the Board of Directors shall after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the association, will dispose of all assets of the association exclusively for the purposes of the association in such manner, or to such organization or organizations under section 501 (c ) (5) or the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) as the Board of Directors shall determine.

We, the undersigned do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Bylaws were duly adopted as the Bylaws of the ABLA on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2004.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
President  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

# American Border Leicester Association

## Rules and Procedures

1. Only Border Leicester sheep that can trace their ancestry through an official purebred livestock registry shall be accepted for registration. If the sire or dam is not officially registered with the ABLA, a copy of their registration information must accompany the application for registration of the offspring.

2. Application for registry of animals must be presented to the Registrar on blank registration application forms provided by the ABLA registrar. The necessary funds must accompany the application forms.

3. The registrar shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. It will be the duty of the Registrar to enter the pedigrees of all sheep accepted for registration in such manner as may be directed by the Board.

4. Fees to ABLA members for registration or transfer of sheep in the ABLA shall be as designated and approved by the Board of Directors. Fees will be double for non-members. Fees for registering imported sheep in the ABLA will be the same as above. The correct fees must accompany the application. Remittance can be made using a check, money order, or bank draft made payable to the ABLA. Animals originally registered in Canada, with NABLA or animals produced by artificial insemination must be re-registered with the ABLA. The usual fee will be charged. Copy of the paperwork from the country or association of origin must accompany the request for registration of any lambs.

5. Registration applications for animals not previously registered in another registry, received later than one calendar year from the animal's birth date will be charged double fees. Imported animals must be registered within one year of importation or double fees will be charged.

6. It is required when presenting application for registration of sheep bred in the United States or Canada that there be given the name/farm tag, sex, color, and birth date (mo/day/yr) of the animal to be registered. Also included must be the name/farm tag and registration number of the sire and dam. It is necessary that


sheep be designated by the flock name or character and the number such as "Jones 46" or "HZH 234". Names may also be included but must be accompanied by the flock name and assigned number.

7. The breeder must sign the application. "Breeder" is defined as the owner of the dam at the time of service. If the breeder is not the owner of the sire at the time of service, as is in the case of a leased or borrowed ram, a Breeding Certificate signed by the owner of the sire must accompany the application for registration of any offspring.

If the dam was owned by other than the applicant at the time of service, a Breeding Certificate, signed by the breeder, must accompany applications for registration stating the name and registration number of the ram to which the ewe/ewes were bred. One application will suffice for any number of bred ewes sold to the same applicant subsequent to breeding. Breeding Certificates are available from the Secretary.

8. The owner of the dam at date of lambing shall be deemed the owner of the lamb. Subsequent changes in ownership are considered a transfer. When the dam of any sheep presented for registry is not shown by the records to be properly transferred to the applicant, such offspring shall not be recorded until the proper transfer has been made.

9. **ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION/ EMBRYO TRANSPLANT:** At time of insemination you must obtain a signed paper from the technician who will show ewes inseminated, time, date, and ram identification. Copy of this paperwork must be submitted to the registrar at the time registration of the lambs is requested. The following abbreviations will appear on the registration papers for identification of these lambs: "INS" for insemination or "IMP" for implantation or "LAI" for laproscopic.



Hardy white Border Leicesters. Production records, no foot rot or CLA. SFCP Certified. OPP test-negative. Breed character plus!

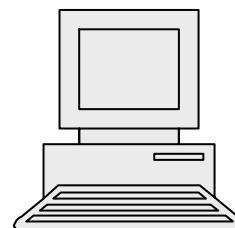
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## ABLA Internet Discussion Group

You are cordially invited to join other ABLA members in an internet discussion group. You can find us at [www.groups.yahoo.com](http://www.groups.yahoo.com). Search for "ABLASheep" and become a member!



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Could ovine progressive pneumonia be affecting *your* bottom line? Recent survey reports 36% of U.S. flocks OPP positive.

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# WE'RE OFF TO A FAST START!



**"PHOENIX", DEAKIN 03-30**  
**GRAND CHAMPION RAM • 2004 MARYLAND**  
**GRAND CHAMPION RAM • 2003 NAILE**  
*His first lambs came mid-March and are great!*  
*We also had Reserve Grand Champion Ewe on*  
*Deakin 04-1026, a maternal sister to "Phoenix".*

## MARYLAND SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL

Champion & Reserve  
 Champion Ram  
 Champion & Reserve  
 Champion Ewe  
 Premier Exhibitor  
 Best Fleece on "Phoenix"

Watch for our  
 Show Flock at the  
 Midwestern State  
 Fairs; Big E Regional  
 Show & the National  
 Show in Louisville  
 under the guidance  
 of Larry & Dixie  
 McDaniel.



**"JUMBO", DEAKIN 03-02**  
**GRAND CHAMPION EWE • 2004 MARYLAND**  
**GRAND CHAMPION EWE • 2003 NAILE**  
*Watch for "Rolet", our most exciting 2004 ram lamb,*  
*a maternal brother to "Jumbo" sired by "Vern",*  
*the 2002 NAILE Champion Ram.*  
*"Rolet" was 1st at Maryland!*



**"TRAVELLER", DEAKIN 03-03**  
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION RAM • 2004 MARYLAND**

## SPECIAL THANKS!

To Richard & Maryann  
 Johnson, Billy Bryant,  
 Barb & Frank Hintzsche,  
 Linda Schauwecker, &  
 Ed Julian for all their  
 great help with our  
 Leicesters at Maryland!

## FOR SALE!

4 powerful yearling rams  
 ready to go to work,  
 plus a great set of spring  
 ram lambs. We can assist  
 with delivery to most  
 parts of the country.



*Thanks to Fred Dickhouse, Shedd, Oregon, who*  
*bought "Visionary", Deakin 03-17, one of our favorite*  
*yearlings and a package of five ewe lambs!*

*Special thanks also to Sean Eldridge,*  
*Willows, CA on his purchase of a junior*  
*stud prospect and 5 top ewe lambs*  
*to start his flock!*

*We raise Hamp's, too!*



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**2004 EASTERN STUD RAM SALE**  
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# 2004 NAILE BORDER LEICESTER PREMIUM FUND RAFFLE

1 TICKET - \$1.00 • 6 TICKETS - \$5.00



**YOU WIN ONE OR THE OTHER (PLEASE CHECK ONE)...**

(Tickets not marked will receive the lamb)

- 1 Border Leicester Spring Ewe Lamb from Deakin Family Show Flock  
 \$300 Cash



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

The drawing will be held during the 2004 NAILE National Border Leicester Show. If you win and choose the cash option, the lamb will be auctioned off at the Exhibitor's Meeting following the show. All proceeds will go to the Border Leicester Premium Fund with the emphasis on establishing a Junior Border Leicester Show at NAILE. Make checks payable to NAILE Premium Fund, c/o Nancy Weik, 1725 Overlook Trail, Warrenton, WA 20186-5402.

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Feel free to copy this page as many times as needed. The success of the fundraiser depends on folks selling tickets. Raffle proceeds will go to the Border Leicester Premium Fund at NAILE. Be sure to send all tickets and money collected to Nancy Weik. Her address is listed on the raffle ticket. Thanks to Deakin Family Farms for donating the ewe lamb!

PLEASE NOTE: This is not an ABLA sanctioned raffle. It is sponsored by the NAILE Border Leicester Premium Fund and is the sole responsibility of its organizers.

# American Border Leicester Association

## Guidelines for Completion of Registration Forms

Fill out the Application for Registration form completely and carefully. Mail information to:

**Associated Sheep Registry**  
**15603 – 173<sup>rd</sup> Avenue**  
**Milo, Iowa 50156**

Include the proper amount of fees. Applications that are incomplete, incorrect, or lacking fees will be returned to the sender with an explanation of the problem. Applications will not be accepted unless an ABLA Application for Registration form is filled out for all animals to be registered by the breeder/owner. The accuracy of the information is the breeder/owners responsibility. A new form will be sent back with all certificates issued. Additional forms can be requested from ASR if needed.

**WHITE SHEEP:** Spots on ears are permissible. Black nose and lips (dark mottled with grey acceptable). No mottling on muzzle. There should be no wool below the knees and no rust-colored hair on legs, with black hooves. A white animal should have no black spots in the wool and a colored animal should have no white spots in the wool.

Please note: a certain amount of gray-ing can and often does occur in colored sheep. Please register lambs at weaning whose fleeces are:

**COLORED SHEEP:** No white spots allowed in colored fleeces. Remember when choosing the color of your animal: If your animal appears brown at a distance, check the fleece close to the skin. If the fleece is black at skin level and has brown legs and face, it must be registered as a black lamb. The brown coloring on the outer part of the fleece is simply sun bleaching. A brown lamb will have a brown face and brown legs. The fleece will show brown color all the way to the skin.

### 1. BREEDER AND/OR OWNER

ASR will issue ABLA registration certificates to the person listed as the owner on the application unless directed otherwise in writing. The “breeder” is the owner of the dam at the time of breeding. The “owner” is the owner of the dam at the date of birth of the lamb or the owner

of an adult animal to be registered with the ABLA. It is suggested that the application form copy be kept in a different location from the certificates in case of loss. Compare all registration certificates with the application form and report any errors to ASR immediately.

### 2. NAME AND NUMBER ON EAR TAG

If the animal has a farm ear tag or tattoo, record it in the proper column, including any names or initials on the tag or tattoo. Many farms use the same numbering system each year so the number should be preceded by additional information on the registration certificate. If you only have two lambs and they do not have an ear tag, assign them a number and specify a farm name or your last name preceding it. Likewise, if the animal has been given a name, the name alone is not sufficient information. If a number only is listed on the form, ASR will use the breeder’s last name to precede the number unless you specify farm name on the application instead.

### 3. ABLA NUMBER, REGISTRATION NUMBER

The ABLA number refers to the ABLA registration number that will be assigned by the registrar. A “BF” behind the number indicates the presence of color genetics in the ancestors of that animal even though it is white. A (BL) indicates a black animal, a black animal with obvious signs of turning gray (GR), medium to light gray as silver (SL), any shade of brown to be registered as brown (BR), any shade of blue\* as (BU) \*paying particular attention to the distinctive teardrop facial markings noted by geneticist Dr. Sponenburg in his Border Leicester color genetics article.

Registration number will normally be the ABLA number unless the application is for registration of an animal registered in another association. Applications will not be accepted unless registration numbers of the sire and dam are included. If you are registering lambs sired by a leased or borrowed ram, the owner of the ram must provide you with a copy of that animal’s registration papers, if the animal does not carry an ABLA ear tag or tattoo. Likewise, if you purchase a bred ewe the seller must provide a copy of the registration papers of the sire of her offspring in order to register them.

### 4. TRANSFERS

Transfers of animals already registered will not be accepted unless the registration certificate is received by ASR. The back of the certificate must be signed by the seller and include the complete address of the buyer. ASR will record the transfer in the Association records and send the certificate to the new owner. In most cases, the seller of the animal sends in the certificate to ASR with fees as a courtesy. It is common in many associations to charge a penalty fee if the transfer is not sent in within 60 days of sale of animal. The ABLA will also institute such a policy if late transfers become a problem and complaints are received from purchasers.

### 5. ANIMALS REGISTERED IN ANOTHER ASSOCIATION (Canada, NABLA, ABL Ltd.)

Applications for animals already registered in another association must be accompanied by a copy of the registration certificate (Canada, N.A.B.L.A. and ABL Ltd.) for that animal. Animals purchased that are registered in another association should be transferred to the new owners name in all associations so that record keeping is accurate for all associations involved. For example, if you purchase an animal in Canada, the Canadian registry should show the animal transferred to your name.

### 6. LOST CERTIFICATES

If a registration certificate is lost, a duplicate should be requested from ASR by furnishing ASR with the ABLA registration number of the animal. It is for this reason that the owner/breeder should have backup records so that the animal’s registration number can be provided. A duplicate certificate will be issued and will be stamped “duplicate” on the face.

ABLA Website  
[www.ablasheep.org](http://www.ablasheep.org)

# American Border Leicester Association

## Standard of Excellence

### Guide For Judging Border Leicester Sheep

#### HEAD & NECK (10 Points)

- Head:** High, erect ears (spots on ears permissible). Roman nose. Black nose and lips (dark mottled with gray acceptable). No mottling on muzzle. Both sexes polled.
- Neck:** Moderate length, fitting into shoulders gracefully.

#### FOREQUARTERS (5 Points)

- Shoulders:** Well-rounded.
- Legs:** Straight, wide apart, no wool below knees.

#### BODY (15 Points)

- Chest:** Deep and wide, but not fat.
- Ribs:** Well-sprung, long, showing no signs of excess fat.
- Back:** Broad, long and level. Somewhat narrower in front than rear. Hind-quarters should be 1/3 or less in proportion.
- Wool Cover:** Belly and armpits well-covered with wool (minimum of skin) and consistent with balance of fleece.

#### HINDQUARTERS (10 Points)

- Hips:** Level, smooth and wide apart.
- Thighs:** Deep and full.
- Legs:** Straight, wide apart, free of wool below hocks. No evidence of low pasterns. Black hooves.
- Udder & Scrotum:** Ewes - Udder should show evidence of two good teats.  
Rams - Testicles well-developed and hanging down a distance from the body.

#### CONDITION (10 Points)

Animals should be in working condition, well-muscled and not overly fat or thin.

#### GENERAL APPEARANCE (10 Points)

- Stance:** Overall appearance to be regal in structure
- Quality:** Should be strong-boned. Rams to appear masculine and ewes to appear feminine.

#### WOOL (40 Points)

1. Locks with purlled tips ending in a curl.
2. High luster
3. Minimum of kemp hair
4. Uniform fleece and belly wool
5. No black spots in white, no white spots in black wool

These guidelines apply to both white and colored animals.

### Border Leicester Signs for Sale



- Heavy-duty metal sign
- 24" wide x 18" high
- White with black printing
- Printed on both sides
- Metal grommets in each corner
- Great for shows, festivals, and farmers' markets

Let the world know that  
you've got Border Leicesters!

Order your sign today!!

Price is only \$55.00  
plus shipping.

To purchase a sign, please  
contact:

Di Waibel  
ABLA Secretary  
P. O. Box 947  
Canby, OR 97013  
503-266-7156  
momfarm@canby.com



## Member Profile...

food. I made a new friend, was introduced to a wonderful breed, and left with 2 black-factored ewes. They never had one moment of foot problem. This interested me.

In the meantime, I married my wonderful wife, Kay, in '93. She, being a hand spinner, introduced me to the world of quality fiber. My shearing for fleece improved dramatically. Over time, we began to add to our Border Leicester flock. The coyote population was growing in our area, and during the drought years, they learned to dig under the electric and net fences in the woods. They would take out the Border Leicester ewes from groups of 45 to 60 mixed ewes...20 animals the first month. Then came the wild dog pack attacks...another 14 gone. The Border Leicesters were wiped out except for our ram. With the introduction of guardian llamas, the coyote problem ended. And to this day, has been a success beyond our wildest hopes. When we were blessed with the addition of our children, Eli and Anna, Kay left the public work force in the legal field and left behind the comfort of a second paycheck. The sheep suddenly took on a more serious role. While on a shearing job (I now do custom small flock shearing), I saw a BL x Suffolk lamb that had been a "mistake". I was impressed.

After 20 years, we are now developing a flock of BL-sired cross ewes. We have primarily utilized ram stock from

Cathie Schiff in Virginia on our commercial Dorset and spot-faced ewes. This has resulted in a long bodied ewe that has good capacity, is very capable of carrying twins, a ewe that lambs easily (I still work full-time with NCSU and farm - time is short), and produces copious amounts of milk. With clean faces and legs, and Border Leicester type fleece, they shear wonderfully with a good quantity and quality of fleece. They have feet of iron. And, they seem to tolerate the parasite load well (with worming and 30 day pasture rotations). With the Dorset crosses, we can still get lambs by November or December.

In our program, we now keep a breeding flock of 100 ewes. Ewes are exposed for late fall/early winter lambing. Some will cycle, allowing us a moderate quantity of lambs to market for earlier season events such as Feast of Abraham and Pascha. Those lambs will be gone by May. Lambing of the remainder of the flock is pushed later into the spring to take advantage of grass. Those lambs are finished on commodity feeds, with grass, in fall. Most of our lambs are now shipped into New Holland, PA and have met very favorably with buyer acceptance. We have sold many lambs off the farm to the Hispanic, Greek, and Muslim community, along with folks from Scotland, England, Norway, and the Middle East. These cross lambs finish nicely around the 100 pound mark with good flavor.

The Eastern market does not like the larger lambs. Our first generation of Border Leicester cross ewes bred to a terminal sire lambed this past December with very favorable results.

So, in our 20 year journey, we have gone from obtaining a couple of sheep for the sake of word play, to utilizing Border Leicester sires on our entire 100 ewe flock. For our wet part of the Southern Appalachians, this has resulted in a very hardy, prolific sheep with good temperament that performs well on farm-flock conditions with less intense management. Will this work in every situation? That, I cannot say. But in our situation and with our conditions, the Border Leicester sires have put the profit and pleasure back into our sheep operation, which is fortunate... I really have never liked fishing very much. From our farm in Leicester...our best to you all!



Kay and Anthony Cole  
with children Eli and Anna

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## My Experience Using Border Leicesters in a Commercial Flock

By Jon Tecker  
Tecker Ranch Border Leicesters

I have used Border Leicester rams on my Suffolk and Polypay ewes and found that the Border Leicester compliments both breeds. The most noticeable factor would be fleece quality improvement. But, more importantly, would be the increase in maternal traits of the crossbred ewes. Crossing has allowed me to produce ewes possessing the longer breeding season of the Suffolk and Polypay, but with the exceptional maternal traits of the Border Leicester.

As far as carcass value, my experience has shown that the Border Leicester adds more muscle and body to the Polypay and broadens the back of the Suffolk without losing any of the Suffolk meat breed characteristics. As part of our 4-H show string, they have competed very well against purebred Suffolk. The natural luster of the Border Leicester fleece carries through in the crossbred lamb. When lambs are slick shorn for show it makes for a noticeable and eye catching blue or gray-faced lamb.

While the Polypay are exceptional mothers and milkers, the Border Leicester adds some strength and longevity to the udder. The Border Leicester also cleans up some of the leg and face wool, making shearing a little easier on the Poly-Border crosses. All in all, I think that the Border Leicester breed is a definite enhancement to any cross-breeding program.

# Parasites and Drug Resistance

By Suelee Robbe-Austerman, DVM, MS  
National Animal Disease Center

Over the last few years the problem of parasites resistant to dewormers has exploded. The problem varies dramatically depending on the area of the country and the individual risk factors each producer has. We will discuss species differences then talk about other risk factors that increase the potential for drug resistance.

## Species difference:

**Cattle** - Because cattle have evolved with parasites, they are more adapted at fighting off parasites; it is rare to see an adult cow die of clinical parasitism. Drug resistance can occur if a lot of dewormer is used, however since most producers don't deworm multiple times a year, drug resistance is less of a problem in cattle.

**Sheep** - Sheep are more susceptible to parasites than cattle. Adult sheep can become overwhelmed with parasites and die. Because of this, more dewormers have been used and parasite drug resistance has become a major problem in certain areas of the country.

**Goats** - Goats are very susceptible to parasites, even more so than sheep. They also tend to metabolize drugs faster than sheep, so often they are under-dosed. Drug resistant parasites are considered a major problem for goat producers in the USA.

Not all sheep and goat producers are destined to have drug resistant parasites. In general, anything that increases a pro-

ducer's dependence on dewormers increases the chance of resistance such as environments that enhance parasite transmission and parasite numbers. Some examples of increasing risk are:

1. Purchasing animals from farms that have resistant parasites.
2. As flock or herd size increases, so does the parasite risk.
3. Running lambs or kids on pasture increases parasite loads.
4. Increased grazing utilization of pastures.
5. Farm history of parasite problems.
6. Deworming the flock or herd multiple times per year.
7. Ambient temperatures that stay above 50°F at night for extended periods (weeks or months).

Strategies that prevent or reduce the risk of parasite development:

1. Reduce the amount of dewormer use.
2. Use dewormer only on the most susceptible animals (such as using the FAMACHA® program). [Their web address is listed in the bibliography on page 7. Ed]
3. Decrease grazing utilization of pastures/increase browsing.
4. Utilize crop residue and hay fields for grazing and harvest pastures for hay.

5. Mixed species utilization of forage, i.e. sheep/goats grazing an area, then cattle or horses graze that area.

## Summary:

As you can see, implementing strategies that reduce parasite resistant development can cost money and reduce efficiency, but so do parasites. Producers must work to develop an individual deworming program that fits their production system and is sustainable. General recommendations such as deworming three or more times a year without considering parasite resistance have served the sheep and goat industries poorly in the past.

Parasites that are resistant to dewormers have driven producers out of business. We must keep a susceptible parasite population in order to treat animals effectively in the future. There are no new drugs in the "pipeline" that will be approved for food animals in the next few years. Improper use of the ones we have available will seriously hinder the sheep and goat industry in the future.

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## Flashback

This photo is from an old book entitled *Sheep Management: a Handbook for the Shepherd and Student*, written by Frank Kleinheinz, who was an instructor in sheep husbandry at the University of Wisconsin. The book was published by the author and printed by Cantwell Printing Co. in Madison, WI in 1912.

Thanks to Judy Lewman for submitting this great photo!



PLATE 41. First prize Leicester ram and ewe lamb at the International, 1910, shown by Whillaw Bros., Ontario, Canada.

# Deworming Spring Lambs

By J.L. Goelz, DVM  
Pipestone Veterinary Supply

How much parasitism is too much? Ideally, we would like to have our feeder lambs parasite free. Of course, this is unrealistic and also not cost-effective. Lambs can compensate for a small level of parasitism. The immune system will recognize the parasites and mount an immune response to them. If the level becomes higher, growth is impaired for a few reasons:

- 1) The parasites rob nutrients from the small intestine;
- 2) The parasites cause damage to the intestinal wall which results in less surface area for the animal to absorb nutrients and less efficient digestion;
- 3) The lamb uses nutrients to "battle" the parasites which could be used for growth in the absence of parasites.

In summary, a few worms are no problem, but a high number has productivity and profitability implications.

Lambs are born parasite-free. None of the sheep internal parasitic roundworms can cross the placenta and infect the lamb. The only way that lambs become infected is from the environment. If we deworm the ewe in the lambing jug, we can greatly decrease the number of worm eggs that she sheds in the grouping pen (post-lambing pen). If the ewe is not dewormed at lambing or shortly before lambing, she will shed high numbers of eggs into the environment. Lambs become infected by nibbling or licking the bedding. Feeding hay and grain up off the ground in the creep area reduces the number of eggs that the lamb is exposed to and subsequently the amount of parasitism.

How do we assess the level of parasites? There are two general classifications: clinical parasitism and sub-clinical parasitism. If we see signs such as ill-thriftiness, poor growth, diarrhea, anemia (pale mouth and eyelids), we refer to the lamb as suffering from clinical parasitism. Sub-clinical parasitism is when lambs are infected, but do not show signs of being infected. Lambs that have clinical parasitism will benefit greatly from deworming. Lambs that have sub-clinical levels of parasites may be heavily infested and, if the level is high enough, may also benefit from deworming.

I like to use four measures to assess the level of parasites in a group of lambs. The first is the number of lambs with clinical parasitism. This is measured by examining a few poor-doing lambs for the presence of anemia, diarrhea and body condition.

The second measure is a fecal flotation. Nearly every veterinarian and some producers can perform a simple flotation that can give a rough idea of the type and amount of parasites that are present in the group of lambs.

Third is post-mortem examination of a carcass of a lamb that has died. Even if the cause of death is unrelated to parasites, such as pneumonia, I like to immerse a section of the abomasum in water. After about 5 minutes, barberpole worms (*Haemonchus contortus*) can be seen on the surface. They are about the size of a piece of thread.

Lastly, the fourth category that I consider is farm history. The history of the farm and lambs often gives us our best indicator of parasitism. Lambs that have been on pasture are nearly always challenged with heavy parasite load because they become infested from grazing parasites as they graze grass. Lambs that have been born and raised in a drylot often have low levels of parasites or none at all. If the lambs have always eaten out of a raised bunk and the ewes have been dewormed at or before lambing, the level of parasites may be low enough that deworming isn't necessary or economically justifiable. Another always important history factor is past experience. Farms that have had a history of parasite problems tend to always be challenged with parasites.

Drylot feeder lambs often only need to be dewormed once or not at all. These lambs are unlikely to get infected even if they remain in the same pen or yard as these lambs are eating from a feeder or bunk. If the lambs are grazing, you may need to deworm frequently and rotate pastures to keep the level of parasites low enough to not hinder productivity. Generic ivermectin or Valbazen are two of the more economical dewormers to use in spring born lambs. Remember, the goal is not to eliminate worms, but to keep the level low enough to not impact production.

## Advertising Rates

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### Deadlines for Submission

Spring Issue .....	March 15th
Summer Issue.....	June 15th
Fall Issue.....	September 15th
Winter Issue.....	December 15th

Non-members pay double the above rates.

#### Send ads to:

Nancy Smith  
smithfamily@gmavt.net

# Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival

## Border Leicester Show

### May 1 & 2, 2004

#### Black Border Leicester Show

##### **Yearling Ram**

1. KOEPPA292 - Koepfel, MI
2. 079 - Ketterer, PA
3. KOEPPA286 - Koepfel, MI
4. OAKVIEW01 - Barish, VA

##### **Jr. Ram Lamb**

1. KOEPPLE302 - Economou, MI
2. KOEPPLE298 - Koepfel, MI
3. KOEPPLE303 - Koepfel, MI

##### **Pair of Ram Lambs**

1. KOEPPLE298 & 303 - Keoppel, MI

##### **Champion Ram**

1. KOEPPA292 - Koepfel, MI

##### **Reserve Champion Ram**

1. 079 - Ketterer, PA

##### **Yearling Ewe**

1. KOEPPLE193 - Koepfel, MI
2. KOEPPLE189 - Economou, MI
3. KOEPPA191 - Koepfel, MI
4. 3FF-11 - Penwarden, NJ
5. 078 - Ketterer, PA
6. 3FF-13 - Penwarden, NJ
7. SILVERMTN231 - Shiff, VA
8. 077 - Ketterer, PA

##### **Pair of Yearling Ewes**

1. KOEPPA191 & KOEPPLE193 - Koepfel, MI
2. 077 & 078 - Ketterer, PA

##### **Jr. Ewe Lamb**

1. KOEPPLE401 - Koepfel, MI
2. WITSEND406 - Shiff, VA
3. KOEPPLE195 - Economou, MI
4. KOEPPLE197 - Economou, MI
5. KOEPPLE405 - Koepfel, MI

##### **Pair of Ewe Lambs**

1. KOEPPLE401 & 405 - Koepfel, MI
2. KOEPPLE195 & 197 - Economou, MI

##### **Champion Ewe**

1. KOEPPLE193 - Koepfel, MI

##### **Reserve Champion Ewe**

1. KOEPPLE189 - Economou, MI

##### **Flock - Koepfel, MI**

##### **Best Fleece - KOEPPLE189, Economou, MI**

##### **Premier Breeder - Koepfel, MI**

#### White Border Leicester Show

##### **Yearling Ram**

1. DEAKIN30 - Deakin, IL
2. DEAKIN03 - Deakin, IL
3. KOEPPA287 - Koepfel, MI
4. 194 - Callaway, KY
5. Y-201 - Valenta, WI
6. SM2314 - Penwarden, NJ
7. 222 - Anson, KY
8. Y-203 - Valenta, WI
9. 304 - Mansfield, WV

##### **Jr. Ram Lamb**

1. DEAKIN1000 - Deakin, IL
2. DEAKIN1028 - Deakin, IL
3. Y-208 - Valenta, WI
4. 192 - Anson, KY
5. WITSEND401 - Shiff, VA

##### **Pair of Ram Lambs**

1. DEAKIN1000 & 1028 - Deakin, IL

##### **Champion Ram**

1. DEAKIN30 - Deakin, IL

##### **Reserve Champion Ram**

1. DEAKIN03 - Deakin, IL

##### **Yearling Ewe**

1. DEAKIN02 - Deakin, IL
2. 201 - Anson, KY
3. DEAKIN55 - Deakin, IL
4. 231 - Anson, KY
5. Y-202 - Valenta, WI
6. 1N - B. Bierhuizen, VA
7. 3FF07 - Penwarden, NJ
8. Y-204 - Valenta, WI
9. 3FF06 - Penwarden, NJ
10. 473 - T. Bierhuizen, VA

##### **Pair of Yearling Ewes**

1. 201 & 231 - Anson, KY
2. DEAKIN02 & 55 - Deakin, IL
3. 3FF06 & 3FF07 - Penwarden, NJ
4. Y-202 & Y-204 - Valenta, WI
5. 1N & 476 - B. Bierhuizen, VA

##### **Jr. Ewe Lamb**

1. DEAKIN1026 - Deakin, IL
2. Y-209 - Valenta, WI
3. DEAKIN1024 - Deakin, IL
4. WITSEND402 - Shiff, VA
5. SBF225WV - Mansfield, WV

##### **Pair of Ewe Lambs**

1. DEAKIN1024 & 1026 - Deakin, IL

##### **Champion Ewe**

1. DEAKIN02 - Deakin, IL

##### **Reserve Champion Ewe**

1. DEAKIN1026 - Deakin, IL

##### **Flock - Deakin, IL**

##### **Best Fleece - DEAKIN30, Deakin, IL**

##### **Premier Breeder - Deakin, IL**



**Yearling Rams**



**Yearling Ewes**



**Ewe Lambs**

# An ABLA Get-Together At Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival

By Sue Johnson

Over 30 Border Leicester owners and prospective owners met for an informal meeting at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. We met in the Breed Display barn, in front of the Border Leicester Display (which took the *Best of Show Award* thanks to Nancy Weik's hard work putting it all together!). Among those present were board members Sue Johnson, Greta Dise, and Polly Hopkins, as well as Nancy Smith, newsletter editor. We shared a meal of sandwiches, salads, and homemade desserts. It was a great time for connecting with both old and new friends who share a common interest. A lively discussion followed. Below are some of the highlights of the meeting.

The biggest concern of members present, is the fear that the Border Leicester, as we know it, is in danger of going the way of the Southdowns and Dorsets and other breeds that have evolved into a "new" sheep showing in the "bigger is best" show ring. We were reminded by many who spoke that we have an ABLA "Standard of Excellence - Guide for Judging Border Leicester Sheep" [see page 14]. We, as members, need to see that those who are judging Border Leicesters be given a copy of the Standards prior to the show to remind them what they are to be looking for.

Some of the comments at the meeting included the following:

"Bigger is not always better."

"Border Leicesters are a medium-sized breed. The tallest and longest may not be the best example in the ring and should not always be put first. We may need to set guidelines for length and height limits in the future in

the breed standards."

"Freshly shorn bellies should be discouraged (or not allowed at all!!)."

"Sheep placed first and second, should have purred tips ending in a curl and some belly wool."

"Border Leicesters shown in England, Australia, and New Zealand all show in long fleece. We should encourage those showing to have at least 2 inches on the animal, with more length encouraged."

"Judges at large shows do the breed a disservice when placing animals that do not follow the breed standards in the top positions in a show ring."

"I want to be part of a level playing field."

"The membership needs to be aware of the breed standards and help promote them."

"Size guidelines need to be on the breed standards to help keep the BL's what they are: not miniatures, not giants."

Another topic shared was the idea of having T-Shirts with some logo referring to Border Leicesters made up in the future, especially for kids that participate in youth shows or youth sheep events. Many other breeds do it and it is great advertising and something nice to give our youth.

As outgoing Vice President, I have shared all the comments with the Board, and hopefully they will be acted upon in the future.



Sue Johnson and Nancy Weik lead a lively discussion.



Don Grant and Vice President Greta Dise



Sue Johnson, Treasurer



Nancy Smith and Sue Platts



Rosemary & Ashley Jones came all the way from Tennessee



Barbara Thompson & new Board Member Polly Hopkins



Katie Smith, Cathie Schiff, Sue Platts, and Taryn Bierhuizen



Bill Koeppel and Nancy Weik



Martin Dally, Sue Platts, and Jennifer Bierhuizen



Nancy Weik and Don Grant from Canada



## New President's Message

care it takes to raise black-faced sheep. However, this year we will lamb 50 more Border Leicester ewes than Hampshires and the work load and feed bill for both will be about the same!

Border Leicester sheep are a great flock addition for anyone already raising sheep. They are perfect for a new breeder because of the superior performance of the ewe through the lambing season. They are easy to maintain and fun to raise. This is the message I hope we can convey to our peers.

Following the footsteps of Archie Murray, our immediate past president who did such a great job, will be no easy task. I will try to lead by his example and welcome all your thoughts and concerns about our breed.

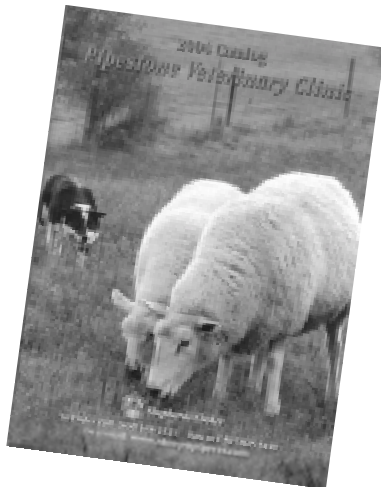
The board is solid and has an excellent diversity which brings many ideas to each meeting. I encourage you to make your own flock as available to the public as you can. Perhaps a local or regional show would work for you, or perhaps a larger show might be feasible for you to attend. Whether it is your sheep you show or fleece you may compete with, let's all work hard to raise public awareness of our breed.

~ Greg Deakin

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## Common Anthelmintics (Dewormers)

Drench	Dosage	Cost/150#
* Albendazole (Valbazen)	3cc/100#	\$.32/head
Fenbendazole (Safe-Guard)	4.6cc/100#	\$.77/head
* Ivermectin (Ivomec)	3cc/26#	\$.92/head
Synantac 9.06%	2.5cc/110#	\$.32/head
Injectable	Dosage	Cost/150#
Ivermectin (Ivomec)	1cc/110#	\$1.07/head
Ivermectin (Generic)	1cc/110#	\$.44/head
Levasole (Tramisol)	2cc/100#	\$.39/head
Dormectin (Dectomax)	1cc/110#	\$.81/head

\* FDA approved for use in sheep

You notice from the above chart with approximate costs that you have a wide range of dewormers and costs from which to choose. Various climatic conditions found across the country make it impossible to give one recommendation which will adequately control internal parasites for everyone. Use fecal sample analysis to help you determine the type of parasite and use an appropriate dewormer effective against the parasite you are controlling.

Parasite control is part of good management and accomplished by deworming at strategic intervals. Ewes should be dewormed before they are put on pasture in the spring and again in the fall prior to breeding. Deworm the ewes and hold them in drylot overnight to allow them to eliminate the worm eggs and then turn the ewes onto clean pastures.

Don't overlook the lamb crop on pastures. Effective parasite management may include deworming every 18 days to effectively control internal parasites.

**Shepherd's Choice® Management Tip**  
from Pipestone Veterinary Supply Catalog

## You've read about them... Now see what they look like!

The Scientific Animation and Illustration website has an interesting series on parasites. They have drawings and information about more parasites than you'd ever want to know about. See an animation of the life cycle of *Haemonchus contortus* and others. Their focus is on goats, but the information applies as well to sheep. As they state, "If a herd is diagnosed with a parasite, an understanding of the life cycle may aid the goat [or sheep] owner in management practices that will prevent outbreaks of parasitic diseases."

Check it out!

[www.imagecyte.com/resources.html](http://www.imagecyte.com/resources.html)



## Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to welcome the following new and returning members.  
Please keep your 2004 Member Directory up-to-date  
by cutting this out and tucking it in your directory

Michael & Debra Carroll  
61 Bunnvale Road  
Califon, NJ 07830  
908-638-6226

Don & Barbara Fox (B)  
Foxy Farm Critter  
38061 M.J. Chase Road  
Springfield, OR 97478  
541-747-5618  
foxyfarmcritters@aol.com  
Products: stock, meat, hides, wool

LaDonna Haefer (B)  
Haefer Ranch  
43569 West Airport Road  
Baker City, OR 97814  
541-523-4129  
Products: wool & wool products,  
market lambs, BL x BFL sheep

Bill & Catherine Hammond  
Hammonds Farm  
1717 Old Generals Highway  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-573-1531  
ccwa@comcast.net

Michael & Sarah Hurst  
10121 Magnolia Manor Lane  
Windsor, VA 23487  
757-357-7949

Joe & Judy Miller  
Rivercroft Farm  
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207-696-8203  
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Kate Mills (B)  
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6427 Weyer Road  
Imlay City, MI 48444  
586-242-8271  
farm\_girl2004@hotmail.com

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126 Ravine Park Road  
Blairsville, PA 15717  
724-459-7018  
maf29@hotmail.com

Rod, Cindi & Emily Schroeder  
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1255 Tierra Redonda Road  
Bradley, CA 93426  
805-472-2528  
rcschroeder@tcsn.net

Kylie Zettle  
83576 Rattlesnake Road  
Dexter, OR 97431  
541-726-6505

### Please make the following changes and corrections:

Cynthia Coe  
Email: mtwoolie@yahoo.com

Nancy Hall & Kim Roberts  
Email: kimater@peoplepc.com

Don Hazen  
Email: adhazen@attc-cmc.net

Jean Kennedy  
Email: borderline1@verizon.net

Linda Kinsel  
Zip code: 80524

Jon Tecker  
Email: jctecker@rivervalleyalpacas.com

## Northeast Regional Border Leicester Show at the "Big E" in September

By Krys Schrom

The Eastern States Exposition is the Great New England Fair held in West Springfield, Massachusetts and runs from September 15<sup>th</sup> through October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004.

The Northeast Regional Border Leicester Show is scheduled for Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Mr. John Mrozinski will be judging. Black Border Leicesters can be exhibited in the Natural Color Long Wool Division on Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m., judged by Mr. Tom Brown. Sheep entries close on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Entry forms and all other information can be found on their website at [www.thebige.com](http://www.thebige.com).

There will be a silent auction again this year to benefit the open show at NAILE. Anybody wishing to donate an item can bring it with them to the show, or mail it to Krys Schrom, 683 Bangall Amenia Road., Amenia, NY 12501. My phone number is (845) 868-1706.

There are many, many things to see and do at the Big E. The facilities are the best around. Definitely a place to spend a few vacation days!



Caption??

Send us your ideas for a caption.  
Best entry wins a free  
business card size ad in the  
Fall 2004 ABLA Quarterly News.

*Thanks to JoAnne Tuncy for helping us  
end this issue with a smile!*



American Border Leicester Association  
Newsletter Editor  
3307 Spear Street, Charlotte, VT  
05445

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## ~~ 2004 Upcoming Events ~~

### August

July 30 - Aug. 7

**Montana State Fair**

ExpoPark  
Great Falls, MT  
[www.montanastatefair.com](http://www.montanastatefair.com)

21-22 **Michigan Fiber Festival**

Allegan County Fairgrounds  
Allegan, MI  
[www.michiganfiberfestival.org](http://www.michiganfiberfestival.org)

24-29 **Dutchess County Fair**

Dutchess County Fairgrounds  
Rhinebeck, NY  
[www.dutchessfair.com](http://www.dutchessfair.com)

25-29 **Nevada State Fair**

Reno Livestock Events Center  
Reno, NV  
[www.nevadastatefair.org](http://www.nevadastatefair.org)

### September

10-12 **Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival**

Jefferson Fair Park  
Jefferson, WI  
[www.wisbc.com](http://www.wisbc.com)

17-19 **California Wool & Fiber Festival**

Mendocino County Fairgrounds  
Boonville, CA  
[www.fiberfestival.com](http://www.fiberfestival.com)

24-26 **Northern Michigan Lamb & Wool Festival**

Ogemaw County Fairgrounds  
West Branch, MI  
[www.nmlw.homestead.com](http://www.nmlw.homestead.com)

25-26 **Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival**

Clackamas County Fairgrounds  
Canby, OR  
[www.flockandfiberfestival.com](http://www.flockandfiberfestival.com)

26 **Northeast Regional Border Leicester Show**

Big E, West Springfield, MA  
[www.thebige.com](http://www.thebige.com)  
Info: Krys Schrom (845) 868-1706

### October

2-3 **Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival**

Champlain Valley Exposition  
Essex Junction, VT  
[www.vermontsheep.org](http://www.vermontsheep.org)

16-17 **New York State Sheep & Wool Festival**

Dutchess County Fairgrounds  
Rhinebeck, NY  
[www.sheepandwool.com](http://www.sheepandwool.com)

22-24 **Southeast Animal Fiber Fair**

Western NC Ag. Center  
Asheville, NC  
[www.saff.org](http://www.saff.org)

### November

6-19 **N.A.I.L.E. - National Border Leicester Show**

Kentucky Fair & Expo Center  
Louisville, KY  
[www.livestockexpo.org](http://www.livestockexpo.org)  
Info: Nancy Weik  
(540) 347-2569