Dear Fellow ABLA Members:

2005 has been an exciting year for our breed and there does not seem to be any let up in sight! Border Leicesters had a great showing at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival in May with Diana Anson capturing Supreme Champion Ram honors over all breeds.

Our first ever National Sale was held in June in Springfield, Illinois, with excellent success. Our sale average of over $400 per head reflects the value the public puts on our sheep and we made many new friends with our offering. Four new breeders started their flocks from the sale and I truly wish them the best with their purchases.

State fairs are cropping up all over the country and I encourage all of you who can “show off” your Leicesters to do so. We have a great breed and the more exposure we can give ourselves the better off we’ll be. I know many breeders are sold out of ewe lambs and ram lambs, which is another strong sign our breed is prospering and growing.

Continued on page 15

The Green River flows lazily through Triple R Farm. Located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains in North Carolina, our farm consists of 26 acres, part in pasture and part in pines. My husband Keith is a builder. I worked in the school system as a teacher for twenty years. I left to start my own farm business two years ago. We have two daughters, Kelsey who is sixteen and Kailey who is twelve.

The girls have grown up as members of a 4-H livestock club known as the Barnyard Bandits. It was through 4-H that we came to own our first lamb. His name was Buckwheat and he was a Suffolk cross. We showed him in the Meat Breeds show at our local fair. We continued to show market lambs for three years. While showing market lambs at the fairs, we had the chance to see a Wool Breeds sheep show. This introduced us to a whole different world of sheep. It was so interesting to see such a variety of breeds, however, it only took one look at the Border Leicester breed and our minds were made up! This was the breed for us. We purchased our first Border Leicesters in 1998 and we have shown in the Wool Breeds shows with our Border Leicesters ever since!

We currently have fifty-two Border Leicesters in our flock. Our flock is made up of both white and natural colored Border Leicesters. The natural colored range in colors from black to silver to chocolate. Our main shearing is once a year usually in November, following the show season. We generally do a “sacrifice” shearing in February or March following lambing. This allows our sheep to have a 6-7 month fleece for the fall shows.

Our sheep live in two different areas on the farm. Some of them graze continuously on grassland. They are rotated between four different small pasture areas. The other group lives in the pine areas. They are grain fed each day and have hay available at all times. This pine area has been an excellent place during lambing time. The pine straw provides a soft, clean bed for the newborn lambs. Both groups are inside woven wire and they have a guardian dog with them that keeps constant watch. Since Border Leicesters are such easy keepers, both groups do very well.

Their regal appearance and their lustrous wool first drew our attention. We have since come to appreciate the versatility of the breed. We do market some commercially. All of our customers are very pleased with the lean and delicious meat. We do have a farm store where we market our wool and our wool products. We offer handspun yarns and many handmade garments as well as roving and fleece for sale. People that visit the store, as well as our farm, enjoy “meeting” the sheep and gain a new appreciation for the process of bringing wool from the sheep to a handmade garment.

It is time to begin another season of showing sheep. We are always proud to be able to show our Border Leicesters at the shows that we attend, and to share this most special breed with the public!
Greetings from steamy Vermont!! We have had the hottest June and July on record here in the North Country. And with the heat have come thundershowers and humidity. Our sheep spend their day in the muddy shade trying to keep cool. I have spoken to Greg Deakin and Jon Tecker, board members from Illinois and Nebraska, and the temperatures at their farms have been much higher and without rain. Every year it seems there is some type of challenge we must face - too hot, too cold, too rainy, too snowy, too dry, too windy. In the big scheme of things, I believe we come out of these experiences as stronger and more resilient people.

This issue is quite a bit behind schedule and for that we apologize. Everyone seems busy this summer and material for the newsletter was hard to come by. No one responded to our request for articles of how to profit from sheep so Nancy and I decided to share some of our experience. Are you all too busy making money with your sheep this summer??

We are again, at the request of the Board of Directors, including information about Border Leicesters and the Breed Standards that we, as an organization, are currently using. PLEASE take or send these to the judges of the shows you plan to attend. Many judges are clueless about our breed and we need to educate them on how Border Leicesters should be judged; meaning not just like another meat breed. The best way we can hold on to the special characteristics of the Border Leicester is to have them judged correctly; especially at the bigger shows where many Leicesters are presented.

Summer is show time for many sheep breeders. This issue features results from a couple shows. Provided we have the space, we are happy to publish any show results that folks want to submit. Sending along photos and a narrative would be even better. Go ahead and toot your own horn!

Summer is also parasite season for all of us. We have included two articles about parasite management that include using the FAMACHA system. We have received several requests for articles on this topic, so we hope this will meet the need.

Be sure to notice the new ABLA T-shirts and patches that are available on page 10. Order yours today and promote your breed wherever you go. A most hearty thank you to Krys Schrom for making it happen!! Thanks also to the Deakin children, Tiffany and Colin for modeling them!

“For everything there is a season…” Nancy and I have made the difficult decision to step down from our job as editors. The fall issue will be our last. Nancy committed to work as editor for one year until someone else could be found, and with this fall issue she will have had the job for two and a half years. Her family would like to have her back. I do not have the computer skills nor the computer to take over from her. With over 130 ABLA members, surely there are others capable of the task! The newsletter is an important part of our organization. It serves to educate, inform, and to develop the Border Leicester community. You will get to meet and to work with some really great folks in our association. Please consider serving your fellow members in this way. Nancy and I will support the new editor any way we can.

As always, please send us articles to publish in the next issue. The deadline is September 15th. We hope you are having a successful season and that your lambs are thriving despite whatever challenging weather and parasites you may be facing.

~ Sue Johnson and Nancy Smith, Editors
Low-Cost Tool That Can Influence Management of Internal Parasites in Small Ruminants

By James Morgan, Ph.D.

There is a low-cost way for extension and small ruminant producers to assess the need for anthelmintics that can increase both animal performance and financial returns. The technique is called FAMACHA. A relatively small financial and time investment by university and cooperative extension service to train producers to use FAMACHA can reap huge benefits for our industry.

FAMACHA is an old technique with a new, qualitative twist that involves assessment of the shades of red/pink in the lower eyelid. The FAMACHA card was developed in South Africa by a multi-institutional group of scientists and veterinarians. It has five shades of red/pink/cream that when matched to the eyelid color are accurate enough to determine whether a sheep or goat requires anthelmintic (dewormer) treatment to prevent death from anemia or poor performance due to the barber pole worm (Haemonchus contortus).

So, here’s the challenge. Who will be first to demand that this low-cost, low-tech tool for control of parasites be universally taught to shepherds and goat producers? Will it be the shepherds, the extension agents or the administrators in land-grant agricultural schools? FAMACHA needs to be incorporated into Parasitology 101 in all veterinary schools as well. I think that all of us can work together to make FAMACHA more universally available.

Now, before you say, “Whoo! My granddaddy looked at eyelid color 50 years ago.” I agree that FAMACHA is “Back to the Future.” Many things were done right 50-years-ago, before the development of anthelmintics and antibiotics. With the minor, qualitative modification provided by the FAMACHA card, this old technique is an incredibly effective tool that enables us to quickly determine on each sheep whether it needs deworming due to barber pole worm infestation. A shepherd can determine with 95-percent accuracy whether an animal needs to be dewormed at the time of checking.

FAMACHA was brought to the United States and validated here by a group of parasitologists in the Southern Consortium of Small Ruminant Parasite Control (SCSRPC). This group of research scientists and veterinarians is integrating knowledge about the ecology, population genetics, physiology and immunology of the interaction between the barber pole worm and goats and sheep to help manage internal parasites. Rarely are management tools and techniques this effective at integrating basic scientific knowledge from all these fields. You can visit the SCSRPC web site at www.scsrpc.org to learn about their activities and the specifics of FAMACHA.

Populations of worms develop resistance to dewormers in much the same way that bacteria develop resistance to antibiotics, just a little slower. As with antibiotics and bacteria, inappropriate use of anthelmintics can quickly increase populations of worms that are resistant to them. The deworming of all animals or lambs in a flock when only 10 percent to 50 percent need anthelmintics increases the percentage of the worm population that no longer responds to that anthelmintic. For several weeks following the anthelmintic treatment of all animals in a flock, only eggs from worms resistant to the dewormer are added to the pasture population.

If the sheep industry is going to survive in areas with major internal parasite problems, it is imperative that shepherds quit deworming all lambs when only a percentage needs it. As small ruminant producers, we need to start using our anthelmintics responsibly.

So, how do you tell which animals need anthelmintic treatment and which don’t? Regular use of FAMACHA allows on-the-spot, effective determination of which sheep or goats need deworming.

FAMACHA is a tool that can decrease development of populations of worms with wide resistance to anthelmintics in your pasture. Unlike their pursuit of antibiotics, pharmaceutical companies are not developing new anthelmintics. The more shepherds who limit their use of anthelmintics only to the animals that need treatment, the longer we will have effective worm treatments. Use of FAMACHA will save you money and solve many parasite management issues for the following reasons.

1) There will be near-term savings because the majority of shepherds will decrease their use of anthelmintics by 25 percent to 75 percent. In South Africa, use of anthelmintics decreased by as much as 90 percent. (I know a shepherd in the United States who used FAMACHA in 2004, that dewormed 5 percent, 20 percent and 60 percent of his lambs at three different times, when in previous years he would have dewormed all the lambs). Most parasite treatment plans are designed for only 20 percent to 30 percent of a flock. With FAMACHA a shepherd can treat only those animals that need it.

2) For many, the peace of mind of knowing that all lambs that needed treatment, received it, is worth a lot. A shepherd can make a more informed decision about treatments.

3) Preventing (or at the least decreasing the rate of) development of anthelmintic resistance in the worms in your pastures will have great financial benefit in future years.

4) Regular use of FAMACHA will identify those animals that need treatment and are performing poorly due to barber pole worms. Treatment will enable them to perform better by producing more milk or weight gain. Identification of the more susceptible animals can aide in culling decisions.

5) Regular use of FAMACHA can prevent the buildup of high numbers of worm larvae in a pasture, thus decreasing the number of worms ingested by your sheep. Research indicates that 20 percent to 30 percent of the sheep put 70 percent to 80 percent of the worm eggs/larvae on the pasture. If a shepherd deworms these sheep on a regular basis, pasture loads will be lower, sheep will need less treatment and production will be less affected by worms.

FAMACHA is useful for management of the barber pole worm, Haemonchus. Continued on page 4
contortus, which is the worm species responsible for most death and poor performance due to worm parasites in areas with summer rainfall. Other species of worms that do not cause anemia (low red-blood cell count) or bottle jaw/mandibular edema cannot be managed by FAMACHA. Not all cases of anemia are due to the barber pole worm and the shepherd needs to eliminate other factors. Coupling FAMACHA with fecal egg counts on a subset of sheep will ascertain that there is no other cause of anemia. FAMACHA doesn’t replace fecal-egg counts, but it can decrease the frequency or number of fecal egg counts needed to manage barber pole worm infections. FAMACHA cannot be used to monitor coccidia infestations, another major cause of lamb death. Of even more importance than FAMACHA for managing worms is to select animals that are more resistant to parasites and to manage pastures and animals so that parasites are less of an issue. FAMACHA can only do so much. Identifying productive animals with good performance that are resistant to parasites and that pass this trait on to offspring will be an important future step in small-ruminant production systems as anthelmintic resistance in worm populations develops.

So, start the challenge today. Call your extension agent and ask him or her to organize a FAMACHA training session for your county. Ask your vet to help train you in the use of FAMACHA. If they don’t know, then challenge them to learn or find another professional who will listen and learn. Don’t take ‘no’ for an answer!

Author’s Note: University and cooperative and extension services in a few states have started teaching FAMACHA to producers and they deserve our thanks. I would also like to thank Jim Miller, DVM, of Louisiana State University Veterinary School and Joan Burke, Ph.D., of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agricultural Research Services, who taught me FAMACHA, introduced me to the concept of refugia and Haemonchus control and for their discussions of the use of FAMACHA to control anthelmintic resistance.

~ Editor’s Note: Mr. Morgan raises registered and commercial Katahdins and direct-markets lamb meat in northwest Arkansas. He also works in the Katahdin Hair Sheep International Operations Office, is president of the National Sheep Improvement Program and is on the administrative council of the Southern Region USDA’s Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education program.

A producer is shown here comparing the eyelid of an animal to that on a FAMACHA card.

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ABLA Seeking Newsletter Editor

The position of Newsletter Editor will be available beginning with the Winter 2006 issue. Submissions are due December 15, 2005 with a mailing date of January 15, 2006. The newsletter is published four times a year and the editor is responsible for its production and distribution. Anyone interested in the job should have skills in writing and desktop publishing. This is a paid position. For more information, contact Nancy Smith, 802-425-5588 or smiths@smithfamilyfarmvt.com.

ABLA Web Site
www.ablasheep.org
American Border Leicester Association
Standard of Excellence
Guide For Judging Border Leicester Sheep

HEAD & NECK (10 Points)


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. Hindquarters 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.


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


WOOL (40 Points)

1. Locks with purled 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 Leicesters are typically shown with 3-5 months wool growth, so that the judge can accurately evaluate the fleece, one of the most important characteristics of the breed. They are relatively easy to fit for exhibition. They should appear clean and neat, but are never shampooed, as this would remove the natural oil from the wool. A light spritzing with lukewarm water can emphasize the natural curl of the fleece, but it needs to be done well before the show so that the dampened locks have time to dry thoroughly. Stray locks may be trimmed, but Border Leicesters should not be combed, carded, or blocked, which would disturb the natural lock formation and detract from the character of the fleece.

A ram at maturity should weigh 200-225 pounds and stand about 32 inches at the shoulder. He should have a wide, level back. Ewes usually weigh 150-175 pounds.

* The last two paragraphs are taken from the ABLA web site: www.ablasheep.org
New Tools in Parasite Management for Goats and Sheep
Learning FAMACHA - A Workshop with Susan Schoenian
By Sarah Flack

~ Editor’s note: In May 2005, Sarah Flack and I were among the participants in an “Integrated Parasite Management” workshop taught by Susan Schoenian from the University of Maryland. The workshop was sponsored by the Vermont Sheep and Goat Association together with the Small Ruminant Dairy Project at the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture. In this article, Sarah shares just some of the information that Susan Schoenian presented. This is an example of the type of training that Dr. Morgan, in the previous article, is encouraging folks to seek out.

Management of internal parasites remains the biggest challenge for farmers interested in managing their goats and sheep organically. However, organic producers aren’t the only ones in search of new ideas, as the parasites of sheep and goats are developing increasing levels of resistance to the chemical dewormers available. Over time, the chemical dewormers are becoming less effective, and in some areas they are no longer effective at all!

Why all this focus on sheep and goats instead of cows? This is because when it comes to internal parasites, sheep and goats are the most susceptible livestock, and when they are grazing, either continuously or using management intensive grazing, they have increased exposure to the parasites.

The Internal Parasites

Susan Schoenian reviewed a long list of individual parasites at the workshop. Of the many parasite species out there, she feels that the Barber Pole Worm (Haemonchus contortus) is often creating the worst problems. Some of the symptoms are pale eyelids and other mucous membranes caused by anemia. They may also show signs such as edema under the jaw (bottle jaw) and death. They generally don’t show scours as a symptom so this one is easy to miss in early stages. Once shed into the pastures in the manure, the parasite can survive for at least a year.

Other parasite species discussed included some other stomach worms including trichostrangylus, Ostertagia and Nematodirus. These have a similar lifecycle to the Barber pole worm, but symptoms generally cause scouring, weight loss, rough hair coat and poor looking animals.

Tape worms are generally not a problem unless there is a severe infestation. Lungworm is another parasite which generally doesn’t cause problems severe enough to warrant treatment. Liver fluke requires wet conditions or open water where snails can live, but again she considered as generally not creating a problem.

Coccidia, which is a single celled protozoa which damages the lining of the small intestines, causes bloody diarrhea and may cause permanent damage. This is usually a problem in confinement, but can occasionally be a problem on pasture. Carol Delaney reported an herbal treatment to heal damage using cats claw. The type of coccidian carried by poultry is a different type… and will not infect sheep and goats.

Meningeal worm or brain worm (parelaphostrongylus tenuis) is a parasite of white tail deer which when it gets into sheep or goats causes lameness, gait abnormality, hind quarter weakness, paralysis and death. It also requires an intermediate host, which is a snail or slug, and it doesn’t cause any symptoms in the deer. Diagnosis is by necropsy in most cases. Control of the deer population sounds like the best way to reduce the risk of this parasite, along with restricting the sheep and goats access to certain pasture areas.

Parasite Lifecycles

Understanding the lifecycle of the stomach worm is the first step in coming up with the management and prevention plan for them. Eggs are shed in manure from infected animals, land in the pasture where once it’s warm enough (60 degrees F) and moist enough they hatch into larvae. Larvae are then on the grass, where they are eaten by grazing livestock and begin the cycle over again. Egg numbers in the pasture generally build up through the spring and then reach a peak of infectivity in mid summer and stay high through the fall (unless there is a drought). There are also seasonal fluctuations in the number of eggs being shed by the animals. Additionally, the life stage of the animal influences the number of eggs shed, with young stock and the mothers right after birthing shedding more eggs.

Management and Treatment Strategies

Drugs: There are an array of drugs (some FDA approved and some not…) which can be used on non organic sheep and goats to deworm with. However, on a certified organic farm, Ivermectin is the only drug allowed, and once used on an animal they can never be sold as organic meat, and if lactating there is a withholding period of 90 days. Additionally, Ivermectin is not effective against some of the parasites including tapeworm and coccidia. In the workshop we reviewed all the drug families used for internal parasite control (on non organic farms), and which parasites and stage of lifecycle the various drugs are effective against. There was a lot of discussion about the optimum ways to use them… and not use them… to manage parasites without developing resistance to the drugs by the parasites. Drug resistance is a serious issue for all farmers, including organic farmers to consider, as these drugs are rapidly becoming less effective (including ivermectin).

Some guidelines from Susan Schoenian for slowing down the development of drug resistant parasites include:

- don’t overuse drugs
- don’t introduce resistant worms to your farm when bringing new livestock home
- don’t underdose when using drugs (dose based on weight)
- don’t rotate drugs after each treatment
- don’t treat the whole flock

To maximize the effect of a single treatment:

- don’t underdose
- dose orally (not a paste)
- put the dewormer in the back of the mouth behind the tongue
- restrict feeding 12 to 24 hours before deworming or use two doses 12 to 24 hours apart
- goats require a higher dose

There were also several questions from the audience about the potential environmental toxicity of these chemical dewormers...
ers. Concerns were expressed about the effects of these chemicals on soil organisms such as earthworms, dung beetles or other organisms involved in breaking down the manure in pastures and compost piles. One audience member referred to a statement by a veterinarian from Crystal Creek at a workshop last winter who spoke of the residual effect of some of these dewormers, and their effect on the micro and macro organisms in our soils and water. Clearly the less these chemicals are used, the better off overall soil health will be, and the less resistance to these drugs will develop. Whether a farm is organic or not... there is clearly a lot of incentive to find methods to decrease or (maybe one day) eliminate the use of chemical dewormers.

**What are the non chemical strategies?**

*Clean pastures*: This is ‘easier said than done’! But, now that we know the lifecycle of the parasite, we see that a longer pasture rest period between grazings can decrease infection (at least 60 days, but it takes closer to 12 months before the pasture is considered “clean”). This means that an intensive rotational system where sheep or goats are returned to the pasture every 3 weeks or so can create very infective pastures... but so will continuously grazing sheep for a whole season on one or two pastures. This is an interesting subject to think about, as creating a grazing system which provides optimum forage quality in your pastures also increases the ideal environment for parasites to infect your livestock.

Some ways discussed to create a “clean” pasture included tilling and reseeding, resting pastures for a full year by grazing it with another species of livestock or haying it. Other ways to reduce infection rates of a pasture include taking a cut of hay, or grazing with horses or cattle. In general, having a lower overall stocking rate on the farm… less sheep per acre... or using multi species grazing, fallow and haying to avoid returning the animals to the same pasture for as long as possible.

Eighty percent of the larvae are in the first two inches of the pasture, so not allowing the livestock to graze below 2 inches (easier said than done) will decrease the rate of infection. This is also one of the reasons that grazing them in browse, which is much higher off the ground, will keep worm loads lower.

*Sanitation*: When feeding in the barn or barnyard, using feeders that they can’t get into so that hay or grain is never contaminated with manure will reduce infection risk. Additionally, not overstocking the pastures or pens, keeping the waterers clean and general good sanitation can be helpful.

*Alternative Plant Species*: Livestock which browse have fewer parasite problems, partly due to the fact that 80% of the parasites are in the bottom 2 inches of the pasture, but also due to the higher tannin content of browse species. Some other plant species high in tannins include chicory, sericea lespedea and Birdsfoot trefoil. Chicory and Trefoil grow well in Vermont and are probably worth some research here, as research in other areas has shown that they can reduce fecal egg counts and possibly larval development.

*Nutritional management*: Animals on a high plane of nutrition and better body condition seem to be better able to withstand worm burdens, likely having an effect on immune response to parasites. There is also some experimentation with different types of supplemental feeds (like ones high in tannins or protein supplementation)

*Not grazing*: Not grazing, which isn’t an option if you are organic, can eliminate some of the ways that sheep and goats can get infected. Keeping young stock, who are most susceptible, or even adults in a dry lot with no grass means they usually don’t get infected with stomach worms. Coccidia may still be a problem in this system.

*Genetics*: Livestock can have two helpful parasite related traits which include resistance and resilience. Resistance is the ability to limit the infection, and is generally measured by doing a fecal egg count. Resilience is the ability of the animal to withstand the infection while staying healthy, and this is generally assessed by measuring anemia (if the main parasite is the barber pole worm). These traits are moderately heritable, so it is something that can be developed over time in a flock if it is part of the farmer’s selection criteria.

Some interesting things to consider in your culling and selection decisions:

- 20 to 30% of the flock sheds most of the parasite eggs

**Continued on page 17**
### White Border Leicesters

#### Yearling Rams
1. Diana Anson, KY
2. Kelly Mansfield, WV
3. Lora & Jerry Valenta, WI
4. Lili Weik, VA
5. Greg & Deb Deakin, IL
6. Nancy Weik, VA
7. Lili Weik, VA
8. Greg & Deb Deakin, IL
9. Bailey Bierhuizen, VA
10. Joanne Tuncy, NY
11. Nancy Weik, VA
12. Joanne Tuncy, NY

#### Junior Ram Lambs
1. Andrea Staskal, WI
2. Greg & Deb Deakin, IL
3. Greg & Deb Deakin, IL
4. Andrea Staskal, WI
5. Lili Weik, VA
6. Lili Weik, VA

#### Champion Ram
1. Diana Anson, KY

#### Reserve Champion Ram
1. Kelly Mansfield, WV

#### Yearling Ewes
1. Diana Anson, KY
2. Tiffany Deakin, IL
3. Greg & Deb Deakin, IL
4. Tiffany Deakin, IL
5. Greg & Deb Deakin, IL
6. Diana Anson, KY
7. Nancy Weik, VA
8. Lili Weik, VA
9. Lora & Jerry Valenta, WI
10. Nancy Weik, VA
11. Lili Weik, VA
12. Bailey Bierhuizen, VA
13. Bailey Bierhuizen, VA
14. Dave & Cathie Shiff, VA
15. Dave & Cathie Shiff, VA
16. Roy Higginson, PA
17. Mallory Ketterer, PA
18. Joanne Tuncy, NY
19. Kelly Mansfield, WV

#### Pair of Yearling Ewes
1. Tiffany Deakin, IL
2. Greg & Deb Deakin, IL
3. Diana Anson, KY
4. Nancy Weik, VA
5. Lili Weik, VA
6. Bailey Bierhuizen, VA

#### Junior Ewe Lambs
1. Greg & Deb Deakin, IL
2. Greg & Deb Deakin, IL
3. Lora & Jerry Valenta, WI
4. Andrea Staskal, WI
5. Nancy Weik, VA
6. Andrea Staskal, WI
7. Lora & Jerry Valenta, WI
8. Nancy Weik, VA

#### Pair of Ewe Lambs
1. Greg & Deb Deakin, IL
2. Andrea Staskal, WI
3. Lora & Jerry Valenta, WI
4. Nancy Weik, VA

#### Champion Ewe
1. Diana Anson, KY

#### Reserve Champion Ewe
1. Tiffany Deakin, IL

#### Flock
1. Greg & Deb Deakin, IL
2. Nancy Weik, VA

#### Best Fleece
1. Diana Anson, KY

### Black Border Leicesters

#### Yearling Rams
1. Linda & Bill Koeppel, MI
2. Mallory Ketterer, PA
3. Dave & Cathie Shiff, VA

#### Junior Ram Lambs
1. Linda & Bill Koeppel, MI
2. Linda & Bill Koeppel, MI
3. Krystine Schrom, NY

#### Pair of Ram Lambs
1. Linda & Bill Koeppel, MI

#### Champion Ram
1. Linda & Bill Koeppel, MI

#### Reserve Champion Ram
1. Linda & Bill Koeppel, MI

#### Yearling Ewes
1. Michael Economou, MI
2. Bailey Bierhuizen, VA
3. Linda & Bill Koeppel, MI
4. Taryn Bierhuizen, VA
5. Michael Economou, MI
6. Linda & Bill Koeppel, MI
7. Bailey Bierhuizen, VA
8. Joanne Tuncy, NY
9. Kelly Mansfield, WV

#### Pair of Yearling Ewes
1. Tiffany Deakin, IL
2. Greg & Deb Deakin, IL
3. Diana Anson, KY
4. Nancy Weik, VA
5. Lili Weik, VA
6. Bailey Bierhuizen, VA

#### Junior Ewe Lambs
1. Greg & Deb Deakin, IL
2. Greg & Deb Deakin, IL
3. Krystine Schrom, NY
4. Matthew Schrom, NY
5. Krystine Schrom, NY

#### Pair of Ewe Lambs
1. Greg & Deb Deakin, IL
2. Andrea Staskal, WI
3. Lora & Jerry Valenta, WI
4. Nancy Weik, VA

#### Champion Ewe
1. Michael Economou, MI

#### Reserve Champion Ewe
1. Krystine Schrom, NY

#### Flock
1. Linda & Bill Koeppel, MI

#### Best Fleece
1. Michael Economou, MI
For over 15 years, I have had a profitable wool business from my flock of 35 Border Leicester ewes. In the past, three fourths of my fleeces were sold as raw wool, usually at $8/pound and up (and never under $6/pound) and over the course of the year it always sold. This typically included the 35 adult fleeces plus an additional 35 lamb fleeces, totaling approximately 70 fleeces a year. Whatever wasn’t sold as raw wool was dyed and sold in lock form, carded and sold as roving, or handspun and sold at $50/pound. These sales every year boosted the profits from our sheep operation and made the difference between being in the red and being in the black.

Three years ago, after a very muddy and windy winter, I made the decision to send part of my white wool clip from the pregnant ewes to Taos Woolen Mill in New Mexico to be made into yarn. I felt it was a gamble, as it is expensive to send raw wool that far from Vermont, but I was concerned that the “muddy” clip would not be saleable at my usual rates. I hoped that the finished product would be marketable for a good price and reasonable net profit for me. I sent 59 pounds of well-skirted, raw, white wool in clean 100 pound-sized white plastic grain sacks, with a sample yarn showing how I wanted it handled at least 30 times each market day; a colored baby hat that sits on my table gets handled at least 30 times each market day; a sample of items made with my yarn and often they call to buy more only to find it has all been sold.

A few months later, I received 38 pounds of beautiful, soft, and lustrous yarn. It ended up a little heavier and less yardage (135 yards/4 ounce skein) than I had hoped for, but was otherwise very beautiful. Including shipping, it cost me just under $700. I proceeded to wash it (to get the spinning oil out) and dye (most of it) into 10 colors I liked. By the fall of that year, I had sold all but 9 four ounce skeins, most for $8/skein or $32/pound or $1,175. With five of the remaining skeins, I knit 6 cute multi-colored baby hats and two adult hats which I sold for $40 each at the farmers’ market I attend all summer and fall. The gross income from this first try was approximately $1,480. After expenses, not including the dye materials or the gas for my stove, I earned about $780 and ALOT of experience.

All of my lambs still on the farm in the fall get sheared. This includes the ones that head to the butcher as well as the ones I plan to keep over the winter. So after the fall 2003 shearing, I shipped the whole white lamb clip (84 pounds) to the Taos Woolen Mill. I sent another sample of thinner yarn, and this time received 50 pounds of very pretty, soft, lustrous yarn that was 175 yards/4 ounce skein. This batch cost me just over $900 including shipping. After dying it in colors I know people like (from experience) I sold all but three skeins at the Farmers’ Market last summer for $10/ skein or 4 skeins for $9/skein. My gross sales were $1,964.

Now it is the summer of 2005. I once again shipped most of my white adult clip, well-skirted, to be made into yarn. This time I sent just over 100 pounds and received 67 pounds of yarn back. The 4-ounce skeins are 182 yards each. Taos’ prices have gone down slightly and including shipping I have $1,051 plus dye materials and propane into it. I have brought it to the farmers’ market now for 6 weeks and have already sold 161 skeins (one person bought over 60 skeins!!). I am again selling it for $10/skein…so I have already recouped my expenses and nearly $500 profit. If I sell all the yarn (which I am confident will happen), I will gross over $2,600. This year I had planned to sell children’s hats and hat kits which will give me more return per pound of wool, but at this sales rate I spend my time dying more wool and not knitting.

My sheep have very soft and lustrous wool and the yarn really shows this off. Many people even think it is mohair or mixed with mohair. Many people send me pictures of their finished products they have made with my yarn and often they call to buy more only to find it has all been sold.

Looking over what I have written, I realize this is not a lot of money for all my work. It does not include my time spent, dye materials (under $50/yr), or propane (I figure about $30 added to our bill over the summer). But the satisfaction of selling a beautiful product to people that think it is mohair or mixed with mohair. Many people send me pictures of their finished products they have made with my yarn and often they call to buy more only to find it has all been sold.

Some of the things I have learned from my yarn experience: Research mills to send your wool too. Be sure they can handle long wool. Many mills can only handle fiber up to 4 inches…and longer fiber they may cut before processing. Taos Woolen Mill has specialized in spinning long fibers since their beginning. They match any sample you send them. “Mini-Mills” that are made in Prince Edward Island are being purchased by many Americans and they can handle long fiber too. Again, do your homework! To get nice yarn, you have to send nice wool. It should have very little, if any, vegetable matter in it. Some dirt is fine as it will wash out. Lay each fleece out and take away really dirty, manure-covered, very short, or matted wool. The fibers need to be close to the same length, i.e. 5 to 7 inches is OK but 3 inch lamb clip and 7 inch adult clip together will not spin up well…much will be lost in the processing and the finished product will not be consistent. Choose dye colors that are in fashion. Plan to dye at least 3 pounds of each color (even more is better) so a customer can purchase enough to make a sweater. I have lost many sales because I did not have enough yarn of one color. Having a nice welcoming display also encourages people to want to look and feel your yarn, and a large framed poster with pictures of your sheep and farm always draws people to your selling space. I also keep examples of knitting patterns that work well with the thickness of yarn I have. Some samples of items made with the yarn helps sell yarn too. The multi-colored baby hat that sits on my table gets handled at least 30 times each market day; so does a purple lace scarf that I share the pattern with to anyone that buys yarn that wants it.

I would like to encourage you readers to consider selling yarn as an option for your wool clip. If you live near a city that has a farmers’ market, (and there are more and more around America each year) consider getting involved in one. See if a friend with a knitting store is willing to sell your yarn. A friend of mine that has a yarn store bought my winter 2004 ewe clip, sent it to Taos Woolen Mill, has dyed it, and has sold most of it already for $18 a skein!! The yarn’s luster and softness has put it in a category alongside designer yarns. If the wool from your sheep is “clean” and in good shape, there are many
ABLA T-Shirts and Patches
Promote Your Breed!

T-Shirts

2 styles of shirts to choose from:

**Style A:** Short-sleeved T-shirt with “American Border Leicester Association” on the front left and a large ABLA logo on the back. $14.00

**Style B:** Short-sleeved T-shirt with ABLA logo on the front left. $12.00

2 colors: Grey or blue

4 sizes: Youth Medium, Adult Medium, Large, X-Large

Patches

Embroidered patch is outlined in red with a white sheep, blue writing, and a light blue background. $2.00

Shipping

$3.00 for each T-shirt
$1.00 for each patch

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

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| Shipping |
| $3.00 for each T-Shirt, $1.00 for each patch |

| Total |

To Order:

Send your check made out to “ABLA” along with your order to:

Krys Schrom
683 Bangall Amenia Road
Amenia, NY 12501

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Advertising Rates

**Display Ads**

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<td>Full page ..............$75.00</td>
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<td>1/4 page...............$25.00</td>
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<td>Business card.......$12.00</td>
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**4 Issues Prepaid 10% Discount**

| Full page ...........$270.00 |
| 1/2 page...............$162.00 |
| 1/4 page................$90.00 |
| Business card.......$43.20 |

**Photographs**

For best printing quality, photos should be at least 300 dpi. Use a high resolution setting on your camera.

Please include a SASE if you’d like the photo to be returned.

**Classified Ads**

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<td>Up to 50 words ....$10.00</td>
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<td>Up to 100 words ..$20.00</td>
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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
BREEDING CONSISTENTLY HIGH QUALITY BORDER LEICESTERS...

1ST PLACE FLOCK MARYLAND SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL

PREMIER EXHIBITOR Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival

Thank You!
Mary Mitchell, Phantasy Farm, NM on her purchase of the stud ram left, 
& a package of 5 stud ewes privately. 
Watch her flock develop!

Deakin 04-1046 RR
Sold privately to Mary Mitchell, NM.

Deakin 04-1024
Congratulations to Tiffany Deakin with her Reserve Champion Ewe. 
Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival.

Presenting “HD”, “Hi-Definition” Champion Ram • 2005 National Border 
Leicester Sale purchased from Maybe Tomorrow Farm, RI. 
Sire: Darling 0202 • Dam: Deakin 02-950

Special Thanks!
Briquette Ldridge, CA. who bought our proven stud “Phoenix”, Grand Champion Ram, 2003 NAILE. Watch for his first lambs in her elite flock next year!

Deakin 04-1046 QR
Reserve Champion Ram National Sale
Thanks to Gary Lawson, KY on his purchase.

Deakin 04-1061 RR
Reserve Champion Ewe National Sale
Thanks to Phelps Farm, IA on her purchase.

Presenting our new Willwerth Hamp stud, twin brother to the best ewe lamb at Willwerth’s.

Thanks to Christopher Hopkins, RI & Irene Nekberi, RI on their purchases at the sale.

Thanks to Jerry Early, ZNK Border Leicesters, OH & Norris Family Leicesters, PA for their purchases at the farm.

Welcome Ryan Hendricks, Shepherd
Watch for our sheep at the shows & sales under his capable guidance. We’re proud to have Ryan aboard!

DEAKIN FAMILY FARMS
21632 N. Cameron Rd.
Cuba, IL 61427
309/785-5115
Please support the Junior Border Leicester Show at NAILE by selling raffle tickets. Photocopy this page as needed.
While Sue Johnson has had great success selling her yarn, I have found a niche for selling carded batts at my local farmers’ market. My buyers seem to be felters - both wet felters and needlefelters. Each week I try to have 40 batts in about fifteen different colors. Each batt is 1.5 - 2 ounces. I sell the batts for $1.50 per ounce.

To dye the variety of colors in the small quantities that I use for the carded batts, I broke away from the traditional immersion dyeing that I had always used to dye several pounds at a time. This technique is called canning jar dyeing and was designed as a way to do “rainbow” dyeing. This fun, easy method for creating gorgeous multi-colored fiber also happens to work perfectly for doing lots of different solid colors at the same time. A woman from our spinning guild shared the method at a dyeing workshop, but I do not know where it originated. My thanks to the ingenious person who came up with this technique! Last year I dyed all my white yarn in this multi-colored style and it sold very well at two different fiber festivals. Now I also use this method to dye solid colors for my batts.

This method can be used to dye washed wool, roving, or skeins of yarn. It is one of the few methods that works well for dyeing roving because the roving stays intact and doesn’t get felted. So if you are bored spinning your way through that 20 pounds of white roving that you had processed, grab some jars and start playing with color!

What you’ll need
- Measuring spoons - you’ll be measuring very tiny amounts so Grey Dye Spoons are great to have. They are a set of three double-ended spoons with measuring bowls of 1/128 teaspoon to 1/4 teaspoon. You certainly can manage without these special measuring spoons, but I love mine and wouldn’t want to be without them.
- Wide mouth quart jars - never to be used again for food.
- A water bath canner - again, best if it is not the one you use to can tomatoes.
- Acid dyes - I use ProChem WashFast Acid Dyes, but have heard that any acid dye, such as Lanaset or Jacquard, will work.
- Gallon jug for water
- White distilled vinegar
- Thermometer
- Newspaper
- Canning jar tongs

Directions
1. I like to cover my workspace with newspaper and then spray it with water. That way, if any dye powder spills it will stick to the damp newspaper and not be floating in the air to be inhaled. My younger children are usually assisting with the dyeing so it is safer for everyone.

2. Stuff the jars up to the neck with dry fiber. A 4-ounce skein of yarn fits nicely in a quart jar, but 4 ounces of roving will be too much. Just put in as much as comfortably fits.

3. If you want the multi-colored effect, spoon 3-5 different colors of dry acid dye powder into little piles on top of the fiber or yarn. I have never used more than three colors in one jar. Experiment using different color combinations. The TOTAL amount of dye for each jar should not exceed 1/4 teaspoon, but I typically use only 1/8 teaspoon.

To dye fiber for my carded batts, I just use a single color in each jar. My canner happens to hold nine quart jars so I can dye as many as nine different colors at one time. Usually I do a couple jars of each color.

4. Mix 1/2 cup white vinegar into 1 gallon of hot water. Slowly pour the water over the top of the fiber and dye powder until the jar is full. You can affect how the colors blend by how and when...
The Border Leicester breed held its first ever National Sale at the Springfield, IL sale on Saturday, June 18th.

The Grand Champion ram of the sale was a yearling bred by Maybe Tomorrow Farm, RI. He sold for $600 to Deakin Family Farms, IL.

The Grand Champion ewe at the sale was a fancy ewe lamb bred by Maybe Tomorrow Farm, RI. She topped the sale going for $1375 to Phantasy Farm, Mary Mitchell, NM.

Reserve Grand Champion ram honors went to the second place yearling ram bred by Deakin Family Farms and he sold for $600 to Gary Lawson, KY.

Reserve Grand Champion ewe honors were won by Deakin Family Farms with their first place yearling ewe. She sold to Phelps’ Farms, Tipton, IA for $650.

Reserve Grand Champion honors were won by Deakin Family Farms with their first place yearling ewe. She sold to Phelps’ Farms, Tipton, IA for $650.

Reserve Grand Champion Ewe

Reserve Grand Champion Ewe

Reserve Grand Champion Ram

Reserve Grand Champion Ram

Plan Ahead…..

Border Leicesters will be the featured breed for the 2006 New York State Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, NY. The festival is held the 3rd weekend in October. Visit their web site: www.sheepandwool.com.
President’s Message

The National Show will be upcoming in Wisconsin in September and details about the event are covered elsewhere in the newsletter. The Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Association is trying hard to roll out the “red carpet” for us and I hope to see many of you there.

The Oregon State Fair and the Puyallup, Washington show in the autumn always have a good contingency of Border Leicesters and if you live in that neck of the woods, stop in and catch the show. The Eastern States Exposition at the Big E in West Springfield, Massachusetts, is always a great gathering place for Border Leicester breeders too.

I commend Archie Murray, our past president, for all his efforts building strong Border Leicester shows at the Nebraska State Fair in August and at the National Western Stock Show in Denver in January.

In addition, our last, but not least, event coming in 2005 is the big North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky. The Border Leicester Junior Show is Sunday, November 13, and the Open Show is Wednesday, November 16. We have over $3,200 in premiums available in the Border Leicester Open Show! Those of you breeders with children should consider entering their animals in the Louisville Junior Show. We need entries to sustain our Junior Show at NAILE. Premiums for that show are funded in part by ABLA and the balance by the NAILE Border Leicester Exhibitors Premium Fund. Raffle tickets to help the Junior Show are available in this newsletter or from any member of the ABLA Board of Directors. Get involved, get active and get out to any one of many events where Border Leicesters will be presented.

There is nothing more fun than talking to fellow Border Leicester breeders about our animals and making plans for them for the future. As you approach the fall breeding season, the challenge arises to select the best mating possible. Consider your options wisely, evaluate your needs, and hope for a little luck along the way.

I look forward to seeing you soon!
~ Greg Deakin

Make Yarn - Make a Profit

people (like my yarn-store friend) or sheep owners who would like to sell yarn but don’t have enough pounds to make it worth their while. Advertise in the ABLA newsletter or on the ABLA Yahoo group and you may be able to sell your wool to them for $2 to $4 a pound; much more than a wool pool will give you. Border Leicester wool is too special to leave in a heap in your barn or basement collecting moths.

26th Annual
NEW YORK
Bred Ewe & Ewe Lamb

Sale

Show: Friday
Afternoon, 1:00 pm
OCTOBER 14
Judge: Tom Brown, Troy, Ohio
Sale: Saturday, 10:00 am
OCTOBER 15
Selling White & Natural Colored
Border Leicesters plus 20
other breeds of sheep.
Offering over 150 head of
Bred yearlings & bred brood
ewes up to 4 years old;
open ewe lambs.

For sale entries & a complete
sale catalog contact:
P.O. Box 500
Cuba, IL 61427
309/785-5058
Fax: 309/785-5050
www.bannersheepmagazine.com
We had heard such good things about the NorthEast Youth Sheep Show that we decided to give it a try. It was our first “real” show and we all learned a lot. The show takes place at Eastern States Exposition Grounds in West Springfield, MA. This year it was held July 14-17. Show sheep, sale sheep, and exhibitors all arrived by Thursday night and the place was abuzz as everyone worked to get their animals settled. Quiz bowl teams from different states competed against each other that first evening. Everyone was recognized and prizes were awarded.

The New England Sale is held each year in conjunction with the Youth Show. Friday morning started with the sale sheep show. Youth exhibitors split their time between watching the show and fitting their sheep. They also had the opportunity to participate in a Sheep Skillathon competition. Friday night ended with a family barbecue and ice cream social.

Saturday was a full day beginning with the New England Sale. The New England Sheep and Wool Growers Association followed with their 15th Annual Used Equipment Auction. There was something for everyone and lots of it! About 8 p.m. the Fitting and Showmanship classes were held with each breed having 4 levels - First Year, Novice, Junior, and Senior. Several breeds, including Border Leicesters, were shown on Saturday night. Polly Hopkins brought a group of 4 youth exhibitors from Rhode Island, and Grace Smith from Vermont made up the 5th Border Leicester exhibitor. There were 16 Border Leicesters shown. Geoff Rupert was the judge for the Border Leicesters. I had given him a copy of the Border Leicester Standard of Excellence last year when he judged at our local fair. Either he studied the Standard or he was already familiar with Border Leicesters. He did a great job!

Sunday was the final day of the show and two show rings were busy all day. The youth exhibitors were required to wear the special Youth Show T-shirts which were handed out the evening before. On the back of each T-shirt was printed a list of all the businesses, organizations, farms, and individuals who had contributed to the show. What a great way to advertise! We continue to wear the shirts that we brought home. Those who purchased sheep through the sale the day before were allowed to show them. Everything wrapped up about 5 p.m. and we were able to pack up and head home.

It was a great experience for our family! Try to imagine 200 kids and 800 sheep in one huge building and you may begin to sense the energy and excitement that was present. There was a vast amount of experience and wisdom in that place. It was a great opportunity for the kids to learn from each other as well as from the adults. The folks who organize the event do a super job. We were very happy to have participated and have already marked our calendar for next year. Won’t you join us??

For information about next year’s show, contact Polly Hopkins, 401-949-4619 or khop4811@aol.com.

### White & Black Border Leicester Show Results

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Harmony, RI</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Christopher Hopkins</td>
<td>Chepachet, RI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Showmanship</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Brittany Sederback</td>
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<td>First Year Showmanship</td>
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<td>Junior Ram Lamb</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Emily Mombourquette</td>
<td>Harmony, RI</td>
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**A very special thank you to the Border Leicester folks who contributed to the NEYSS! They couldn’t have done it without you!!**

**American Border Leicester Association**

**Cape House Farm**
Bill and Linda Koeppel

**Deakin Family Farms**
Greg and Deb Deakin

**Polly Hopkins,**
Border Leicester
Breed Secretary
for the show

---

16 American Border Leicester Association Summer 2005
New Tools in Parasite Management

• culling the parasite susceptible animals will increase the flocks overall resistance level while also decreasing pasture contamination
• deworming the most susceptible animals will reduce the rate of pasture contamination

Non Chemical Dewormers: Susan Schoenian briefly mentioned some of the herbal and other non chemical dewormers. While there are some plant materials that seem to have some “de wormer” capabilities, many seem to be working in other ways, such as immune support, prevention of secondary infection and other ways that hopefully future research will help us understand better.

Fecal Egg Counting: While most people rely on their vet to do fecal egg counts, is not difficult to set up to do this on the farm. You need a microscope, flotation solution, mixing vial and slides. If you want to do a quantitative count you’ll need a McMaster egg counting slide. Susan Schoenian, with help from Carol Delaney, lead the workshop participants in learning this technique. You can order a kit, and there is even an online tutorial to show you the technique.

Fecal egg counts can provide helpful information, but they DON’T tell us what the severity of the infection is. What they do tell us is the potential pasture contamination rate, so they can be used to monitor and maintain low egg shedding rates by deworming to keep pasture contamination minimal. They can also be used for determining how effective your deworming treatment is if you compare a treated animal with a control animal (a non dewormed animal).

FAMACHA: FAMACHA is another monitoring method which was developed in South Africa in response to the very high levels of resistance to chemical dewormers. This is a system which can assess the level of Haemonchus (Barber pole worm) infection in sheep and goats. FAMACHA can be used to reduce the number of times animals need to be treated by treating individual animals instead of routinely treating the whole flock. This method can be used to pick out which animals will most benefit from treatment.

This monitoring method has a few limitations. It is only helpful when Haemonchus is the primary parasite species, and you need to be aware that other factors can cause changes in the color of the eyelids. Other factors which need to be considered include body condition, evidence of scours and age of the animal. Susan Schoenian also said it was important to always use the eyelid color card which you receive as part of the FAMACHA training. [See a sample of the chart on page 4.]

Other tests: There are also places you can send fecal samples to, one of which will actually test parasites for resistance to chemical dewormers.

What does all this mean?

As usual when I consider the challenge of parasite management, I realize that there is no easy answer, and that parasite management requires an integrated approach using many methods.

• mixed species grazing
• grazing planning for reducing pasture infectivity rates
• browsing
• introducing high tannin forages and browse
• if you decide to use chemicals, be strategic in selecting which animals to deworm, when you deworm them, the dose you use and the dewormer you choose. Be aware of environmental toxicity and resistance development by parasites.
• improve your soil fertility and soil biological activity
• use monitoring techniques like fecal egg counts, FAMACHA, body condition, manure observation
• culling and selection for resistant and resilient animals

For more information from Susan Schoenian and links to many useful websites go to www.sheepandgoat.com or www.westernmaryland.umd.edu.

For more information on the Vermont Sheep and Goat Association visit www.vermontsheep.org and for more information on the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture’s Small Ruminant Project visit www.uvm.edu/sustainableagriculture.

~ Sarah Flack is an organic and biodynamic farmer and lives on the farm in Northern Vermont where she was raised. Her farming experience includes dairy, sheep, beef, pastured poultry, pigs, and lacto-fermented vegetables (sauerkraut and kimchi). Her current work includes organic and biodynamic certification inspection of farms and processing facilities, public speaking, writing, consulting on grass farming, farm design, farm business management and planning. She is the author of Organic Dairy Production and many articles on agriculture and food. You may contact Sarah at sarahf@globalnetisp.net.
WHEN? September 9-11, 2005
WHERE? Jefferson County Fair Park – Jefferson, Wisconsin

Wisconsin’s big event for sheep producers and fiber enthusiasts is off and growing again! If it has to do with raising sheep or the wool they produce, you’ll find it at Jefferson, Wisconsin on September 9-11. This year’s festival is also the site of the National Border Leicester Show and your host, the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative, welcomes Border Leicester breeders and ABLA members to its show schedule and to the festival!

The Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival is the fastest growing event of its kind in the Midwest. Just into its fourth season, it will feature a newly expanded program that will include over forty Wonders of Wool fiber arts classes and workshops. The classes, taught by instructors from across the country, cover everything from Beginning Weaving to Australian Locker Hooking and will run Friday through Sunday. Pre-registration is required.

If dogs are your deal, then you won’t want to miss the Crook & Whistle Stock Dog Trial. In its premier just a year ago, the sanctioned event drew over 90 dogs. Trial competition will run through the weekend, but entertainment Border collie-style doesn’t stop with the trial. Daily shows will also put the popular herding dogs through their paces and delight kids of all ages.

If you’ve always wanted to raise sheep, then get ready to be educated! Classes designed for shepherds of all experience levels – including kids - will be offered Saturday and Sunday. All producer classes and kids’ workshops are free. Want to start a flock? Then be sure to attend the Wisconsin Classic sheep sale on Saturday afternoon, right after the Used Equipment Auction.

If a fleece is more your style, then the Fleece Show & Sale is your event. Competition will cover all breeds, with fleeces available for sale to the public beginning Sunday afternoon. If you need a little help on how to convert your fleece into clothing, the Marshall Pleasant Spinners will show you just how to do it with their demonstrations of traditional fiber skills. Look for them in the Country Store on Sunday.

Come prepared if you’re into shopping, because the Country Store will feature over 100 exhibitors from across the country, offering everything from toy lambs to drop spindles, yarn to wool quilt pieces & rug looms. No admission will be charged to the general public when the Country Store opens from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. on Friday evening for early bird shoppers. The vendors will be open for business on Saturday and Sunday beginning at 9:00 in the morning.

Sheep shows are always popular and the festival has a greatly expanded schedule this year. The Midwest Shetland Sheep Breeders return with their regional show, while the National Border Leicester Association brings its national show to Jefferson for the first time with classes for both white and colored Border Leicesters. Festival organizers have also added a junior breeding sheep show, along with showmanship and lead-in competition.

If fashion is your thing, you won’t want to miss the state Make It Yourself With Wool competition on Saturday, where designers of all ages compete for a chance in the national spotlight. Look for the Best of Wisconsin fashion show at 3:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

Other popular festival features include the Celebration of Wool In Quilts show and the shearing demonstrations – and no, it doesn’t hurt the sheep! You’ll even have a chance to try some lamb at the festival food stands!

Admission to the festival is only $5 per person, kids 8 and under are free. 3-day weekend passes are available for only $10 and parking is free. Camping is also available on the festival grounds.

For a free catalog, contact the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op office at 608-868-2505 or email alfhamp@inwave.com. Registration and entry forms, plus complete festival information is also available on-line at www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com. If ABLA members have any questions about the show schedule, show regulations, health or entry requirements, please contact Barbara Bishop at southdowns@mbgenetics.com or call 920-992-6183. Vince Pardus will be our judge.

5. Place the jars into the water bath and heat to simmer. You can put the lid on the canner to help it heat up faster, but you don’t put lids on the quart jars. Once the temperature inside the jars reaches 180 degrees, maintain that temperature for 40 minutes. When done, lift the jars out and let them sit on a towel to cool. I usually have another set of nine jars ready to go into the canner as soon as the first batch is finished. When the jars are cool enough to handle or when I can’t wait any longer to see what I’ve created, I shake them out into a clean sink. The water in the jars should be absolutely clear. If not, use less dye next time. Rinse the fiber or yarn ever so gently. I usually do the rinse by placing the whole batch into my washing machine whose tub is already full of warm water. I let things soak for a little while, do a little gently squeezing, and then set the washer to spin only. Then everything gets set on an old screen to dry.

6. With the multi-colored yarn, you’ll want to re-skein it before putting it out for sale. If you are not sure you like what you have created, try to reserve judgment until the yarn is dry and re-skeined. You’ll be amazed at the transformation that takes place when you re-skein.

Whether you are selling your fiber, giving it away, or just enjoying it yourself, try adding some color using the canning jar technique. It is great fun and easy to do!

Resources
ProChem Washfast Acid Dyes
ProChemical & Dye 1-800-2-BUY-DYE www.prochemical.com
Fast service and lots of gorgeous colors Gloria Grey Dye Spoons
C/o Douglas Grey
59 Wallace Street, Jackson, CA 95642
209-223-7735
$37.00 for a set of 3 double-ended, polished aluminum spoons
Mist O Morn Farm
Home of Quality Border Leicester Sheep and Naturals

Yearling Border Leicester rams from our New Zealand stock.

These three have been running on grass all winter and spring and weigh a good 200 plus pounds as spring yearlings, on grass alone. They are long in the body, deep through the chest, and have good sound feet with uniform wool from front to back. This is our first cross using two different New Zealand rams. The wool production has just about doubled in quantity and quality.

We have heard very good results from purchasers of these rams where they have used them to cross on a variety of other breeds. The lambs have been outstanding and will be used not only for market lambs, but for replacement ewes. We breed here for a true dual-purpose animal and believe we are now on the right track.

Diana Waibel
9838 S. Gribble Road
P. O. Box 947
Canby, OR 97013

(503) 266-7156

momfarm@canby.com ♦ www.mistomornfarm.com
2005 Upcoming Events

September

Aug. 26 - Sept. 5
Oregon State Fair
Oregon State Fair and Expo Center
Salem, OR
www.fun-oregon.com/fair

Aug. 27 - Sept. 5
Nebraska State Fair
State Fair Park
Lincoln, NE
www.statefair.org

Aug. 27 - Sept. 5
Champlain Valley Fair
Champlain Valley Exposition
Essex Junction, VT
www.cvfair.com

9-11 Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival
National Border Leicester Show
Jefferson County Fair Park
Jefferson, WI
www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com

9-25 Puyallup Fair
Puyallup, Washington
www.thefair.com

15 Submission deadline
for the Fall Issue of the ABLA Quarterly News

16-18 California Wool & Fiber Festival
Mendocino County Fairgrounds
Boonville, CA
www.fiberfestival.com

17-18 Midwest Festival of Fibers Wool Gathering
Young’s Jersey Dairy
Yellow Springs, OH
www.awoolgathering.com

23-25 Northern Michigan Lamb & Wool Festival
Ogemaw County Fairgrounds
West Branch, MI
www.nmlw.homestead.com

23-25 Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival
Clackamas County Fairgrounds
Canby, OR
www.flockandfiberfestival.com

24-25 Harvest Sheep & Fiber Festival
Salem County Fairgrounds
Sharptown, NJ
njsheepandfiber.org

October

1-2 Natural Fiber Fair
Mateel Community Center
Redway, CA
naturalfiberfair@yahoo.com

1-2 Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival
Champlain Valley Exposition
Essex Junction, VT
www.vermontsheep.org

1-2 Wool Festival at Taos
Kit Carson Park
Taos, NM
www.taoswoolfestival.org

2-9 Fryeburg Fair
Fryeburg, ME
www.fryeburgfair.com

15-16 New York State Sheep & Wool Festival
Dutchess County Fairgrounds
Rhinebeck, NY
www.sheepandwool.com

22-24 Southeast Animal Fiber Fair
Western NC Ag. Center
Asheville, NC
www.saffsite.org

29-30 Wool Festival of the Southwest
McGee Park Convention Center
Farmington, NM
www.woolfestivalsw.meridian1.net

November

5-20 N.A.I.L.E.
National Border Leicester Show
Kentucky Fair & Expo Center
Louisville, KY
www.livestockexpo.org
Info: Nancy Weik
(540) 347-2569

December

15 Submission deadline
for the 2006 Winter Issue of the
ABLA Quarterly News

30 ABLA membership renewals due
**Member Directory Update**

Please add these names and addresses to your 2005 Directory.

- **Atkins, Noreen (B)**
  GinLip Farm
  1327 Spring Street Ext.
  Groton, NY 13073
  607-898-4814
  ginlipfarm@yahoo.com

- **Barnhill, Tationa**
  P.O. Box 1240
  Atascadero, CA 93423
  805-460-0154
  randyb@fix.net

- **Beasley, Ricky & Carolyn**
  508 Sedgewood Road
  Four Oaks, NC 27524
  919-934-2427

- **Bradish, Frank & Pat**
  Twin Hickory Farm
  2522 Adams Road
  Kingsville, OH 44048
  440-577-9701
  thaseapat@aol.com

- **Burns, James & Ann**
  Dunedin
  860 Sparksville Road
  Columbia, KY 42728
  270-378-5952
  jgburns@duo-county.com

- **Coward, Shania**
  277 Chestnut Street
  St. Thomas, Ontario N4R 5N1
  Canada

- **Dochterman, Jessica (JR)**
  Wooly Acres
  10326 Brattile Road
  Mount Horeb, WI 53572
  608-437-1004
dokadawaja@earthlink.net

- **Dodd, Ginni and Jon (B)**
  Evening Star Farm
  15 Painter Hill Road
  Woodbury, CT 06798
  203-263-4725
  eveningstardodd@charter.net

- **Hopkins, Christopher (JR)**
  Maybe Tomorrow Farm
  494 Evans Road
  Chepachet, RI 02814
  401-949-4619
  khop4811@aol.com

- **Katzer, Kango (JR)**
  Buck-A-Roo Farm
  176 Elma McCleary Road
  Elma, WA 98541
  360-482-5487
  buckaroofarm@hotmail.com

- **Knappenberger, Kent**
  Allen-Dale Farm
  7093 Fish Road
  Westfield, NY 14787
  716-326-6258
  kknappenberger@wacs2.wnyric.org

- **Mitchell, Mary Anne & R. John Olson**
  Phantasy Farm
  P.O. Box 1266
  Edgewood, NM 87015
  505-281-3431
  ncsheep@aol.com

- **Murray, Glen**
  5689 Riverside Drive, R.R. 1
  Melbourne, Ontario N0L 1T0
  Canada

- **Nebiker, Irene**
  28 Grange Road
  North Smithfield, RI 02896
  401-767-2677

- **Phelps, Kerry & Kit**
  Phelps’ Farms
  1563 Highway 103
  Tipton, IA 52712
  563-886-2640
  keepingintouch@mymailstation.com

- **Shink, Susan**
  North Wind Farm
  600 West Joy Road
  Ann Arbor, MI 48105
  734-663-0225
  seshink@aol.com

- **Smith, Grace (B) (JR)**
  Smith Family Farm
  3307 Spear Street
  Charlotte, VT 05445
  802-425-5588
  smiths@smithfamilyfarmvt.com

- **Taylor, John, Shannon & Alex**
  Taylor Border Leicester
  1241 North State Road 75
  Frankfort, IN 46041
  765-659-0829
  sstaylor@accs.net

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**Classified Ads**

**FOR SALE:** Border Leicester rams and ewes; BL crossbred ewes and wethers. Total flock 33 head. Australian bloodlines. Registered mature and yearling ewes, registered mature ram and two yearling rams, all whites. Great wool, black and white in crossbred sheep. Sheep are all healthy. Will be glad to send photos on request. Will make a great deal for entire flock. Interested parties call or e-mail for details. James & Ann Burns, 860 Sparksville Road, Columbia, KY 42728, (270) 378-5952, jgburns@duo-county.com.

**FOR SALE:** White Border Leicester ram lambs, black-factored. Contact: Susan Shink, North Wind Farm, Ann Arbor, MI, (734) 663-0225.

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Summer 2005
American Border Leicester Association
Newsletter Editor
3307 Spear Street, Charlotte, VT 05445
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED