Presidents Message  
August 2006

It’s August and the sheep shows and summer festivals are in full swing! If you are inclined to exhibit your Border Leicesters, clean them up and take them to a show near you. Our breed is one of the most beautiful breeds of sheep and is a draw for the crowds when they visit the fair.

Fair attendees enjoy scratching the heads of the Border Leicesters and are impressed with how friendly and how good natured our breed is. Even if you don’t show your sheep, you can still help promote our breed by entering spinning contests or taking some of your good fleeces to the shows.

Border Leicester wool is hard to beat and is a favorite among spinners. The contacts you make at the shows or festivals may prove highly profitable and productive when it comes to selling some lambs or fleeces in the future.

This fall Border Leicesters are one of the featured breeds at The Big E at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts in Septem-

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Member Profile

Kelly Mansfield - Spring Breeze Farm

I was born and raised in southeastern NC. In August, 1997, when I was 18 years old, I moved to Kearneysville, WV, with my family. I grew up with horses, and currently have 8 of them. I now live with my boyfriend, 2 miles from my parents. I joined the 4-H club in 1998 and my first experience with sheep came the following spring with the purchase of my market lamb. It was a ewe lamb and she was quite the pet. My fellow 4-Hers kept telling me I should do a Market Steer for my last year—everyone did it! After seeing the steers dragging other kids around, I decided to keep my ewe lamb and take on a breeding project for my final year in 4-H instead. Her lamb that next year was my market lamb and after the fair, when he was sold, I had purchased another ewe to keep the first one company.

I had been to the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival and had seen many breeds. (And Suffolks don’t do very well in wool shows!) But I enjoyed showing my sheep and had fun that year at Maryland, and at that time had decided to purchase a wool breed.

I walked around all of the barns, closely checking out the various breeds. I chose the Border Leicester because of their appearance—and those CURLS! My first ewe came from Don Grant of Ontario, Canada, and she has gone on to be a wonderful ewe. She is the mother of the yearling ram that was very competitive during the 2005 Show Season.

That fall I purchased a ram, which put my flock at 2 Suffolk ewes, a Border Leicester ewe and a ram. Now the farm is home to 12 Suffolk wether type ewes, 2 wether type rams (one Suffolk and one Hampshire), 12 Border Leicester ewes, and 5 Border Leicester rams (3 of which are for sale). This summer I have also purchased 8 Bluefaced Leicester ewes and a ram. I really enjoy showing my sheep, and one of the best parts about going to shows is getting the opportunity to visit with friends. Aside from breeding and showing my sheep, I actively show my horses.

(Continued on page 3)
Letter from the Editor

Wow, this spring and summer have been flying by! The Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival is over. I believe there were 15 different exhibitors entered in the show. Our family has personally been involved in two county fairs. Our State Fair is around the corner and then the summer is over.

My family has been going through some major changes, and it is with regret that I am resigning my position as the newsletter editor. Even though I have not met the majority of the ABLA members face to face, I have come to know a number of you by phone and e-mail. It has been a pleasure meeting the members and working with the ABLA board.

I especially want to thank Greg & Deb Deakin, Archie Murray and Polly Hopkins for all of their help and support as I struggled to learn desktop publishing. I also want to thank Di Waibel. Di is a long time Border Leicester breeder and hand spinner and has willing shared her knowledge through her articles in the newsletter.

The board is actively seeking another newsletter editor. If you get your entries in...but you will need to make entries now!

The National Border Leicester Show will be held in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky on Wednesday, November 15. The show begins at 11:00 a.m. Entries close October 1st, so there is plenty of time to plan to get your sheep to Louisville. Following the show we will have a casual gathering with food and snacks for all the exhibitors and Border Leicester fans in attendance. Try to get to one, two or all three of these Border Leicester events.

Your board is seeking venues west of the Mississippi River to help promote our breed and we are open to suggestions on where and how you want us to direct our attention. Contact myself or any of your Board of Directors with ideas we need to know about.

Best of luck in your choices for your flock matings this fall. Remember the decisions you make now are not only going to determine your next year’s lamb crop but also your replacement yearlings in two years. Study your fleeces and study the structure of your animals when you are making your choices.

Greg Deakin
Since I breed market lambs for 4-H and FFA projects, the meat aspect of any sheep is important to me. Size is not as important to me as balance and eye appeal. I don’t care for sheep to be as big as I am. I like an animal with a big top, well sprung rib, that is long and stands on a great set of feet and legs with a consistent, lustrous fleece.

If I had to pick any one person as my “sheep mentor”, I would say that I consider Nancy Weik of Warrenton, Virginia as both a mentor and a friend. When asked her opinion, that’s what she tells you—not just what she thinks you want to hear. She knows sheep and wool; half of my Border Leicester breeding flock consists of sheep that were purchased from her, most of the others are homebred daughters of those ewes. Don Grant has all the credit for helping me to get started in trimming my sheep for show.

The farm is not big—with just over 11 acres, all pasture is horse fence. Because of this, the sheep have their own pens and have access to inside kept horse quality timothy/orchard grass round bales year round. Pens are cleaned regularly; feet are trimmed and sheep are dewormed as they need it. I also do my own shearing. Many hours are spent in the barn with the sheep. They are all halter-broke and, with the exception of just a couple of them, are very friendly. This makes the routine work of caring for sheep simple. To learn more about the sheep please visit my website, http://www.springbreezefarm.com.

January 2007 will mark my 8th year lambing, and I have come a long way since that first ewe. I have learned a lot, and I’m still always eager to keep learning.

I now serve as the Assistant Superintendent of both the Breeding Sheep/Market Lamb and Fiber divisions for the Jefferson County (WV) Fair.

Lamar Leicesters
Breeders of White Border Leicesters
With Length, Depth & Width
Archie Murray & Mina McKinney
580 Sioux Street
Lamar, Nebraska 59023
308-882-3949
lamarleicester@chase3000.com

Cape House Farm

Thanks to all our friends who bought so many lambs and yearlings at Maryland, May they provide you with great fleeces and even greater lambs!

We have six great black and white ram lambs here, both RR and QR. Ready for breeding this fall or as yearlings next year at Maryland. We also have some ewe lambs available.

Bill & Linda Koeppel
Cape House Farm
4808 Warren Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734-747-8112
koeppels@peoplepc.com

like meeting people, enjoy research, are detail oriented, have time and most importantly want to be the voice of the American Border Leicester Association, contact one of the board members and let them know you are interested. This is a paid position. A good computer, internet access, the most recent edition of Microsoft word, and a publishing program are all items that are needed by the individual that takes on this responsibility. If you are interested and have questions, you can contact me at home in the evenings.
**ABLA Annual Meeting**  
**May 6, 2006**

Meeting was called to order by President Greg Deakin at 6:50 p.m. There were 48 people in attendance. The Financial Statement of the association and approved budget for year 2006 were passed out to all members. Greg recognized past officers of the Association and then everyone introduced themselves and stated where they were from. A representative from “Wild Fibers” magazine gave a quick preview of the magazine and invited us to visit her at her booth. A big thank you was given to Ruth Barish from Virginia, who donated money for the evening’s event (Pizza Party and raffle prizes). Unfortunately, Ruth couldn’t make the meeting, however, all present signed a thank you card, and it was announced she will receive an exhibitor mug and life time membership to ABLA. Also passed around for all to sign was a thank you card addressed to retiring director Cynthia Coe.

Greg announced the elections results, and welcomed aboard all new directors. Greg then gave a report on last year’s events and updated everyone on this year’s exciting upcoming events. (Sad news: the National Sale is cancelled for this year.) Raffle items were drawn throughout the meeting and almost everyone won a prize!! A big thank you to Jennifer B. for putting it all together!! Greg “auctioned off” the two remaining exhibitor mugs, with the proceeds to go towards promoting Border Leicesters. Each mug sold for $40.00 each – thank you to the Koeppels and the Beaslys for their support.

Greg then opened the floor to the members. Items discussed by the members that they wished the board to review:

- Breed standards – need to be on website and in newsletters
- Advertising – should be “appropriate ads” – aiming at new buyers for Border Leicesters; ads should not be aimed at “repeat breeders”
- Suggested a revolving trophy for black Border Leicester (possibly there is one not in use?)
- Promote wethers – have a slick sheared border Leicester in the breed aisle; have many farmers buying Border Leicester rams for wether sires; Fleece discussion by members present on what fleece type should been; needs to be more guidance for judges, suggestion of “having a committee to specify more information on requirements of fleeces”.

The meeting was adjourned and members continued to socialize in the barn.

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**Welcome New and Returning Members**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dennis Lenhart</td>
<td>480 Arapahoe Street</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dlenhart@chase3000.com">dlenhart@chase3000.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John and Rene Nestlebush</td>
<td>74471 318 Avenue</td>
<td>Rene@<a href="mailto:roost@yahoo.com">roost@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Terriane Warner</td>
<td>Double Ewe Ranch P. O. Box 70</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Warmdawg@rmi.net">Warmdawg@rmi.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lois and Alice Miller</td>
<td>Maple Ewe Farm 157 Drury Road</td>
<td>207-431-3880.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ingrid Hiltz &amp; Susan Wit</td>
<td>Autumn Meadows Farm 1253 Hoodsmill Road</td>
<td>410-549-1438.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Hiltz (Jr)</td>
<td>1253 Hoodsmill Road Woodbine, MD</td>
<td>410-549-1438.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lauren Hiltz (Jr)</td>
<td>1253 Hoodsmill Road Woodbine, MD</td>
<td>410-549-1438.</td>
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**COME ONE COME ALL**

To the dinner for Border Leicester Exhibitors and ABLA members to be held on Saturday September 23 2006 after the Border Leicester Show at the Big E.

ABLA has reserved a room at the restaurant in Storrowton on the Big E fairgrounds.

You do not have to show to join us at the dinner. The dinner is $25 per person. Send your check and reservation by September 8 to: Polly Hopkins 494 Evans Road Chepachet, RI 02814.

If you have questions, contact Polly at 401-949-4619 or khop4811@aol.com

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**Lois and Alice Miller**  
Maple Ewe Farm  
157 Drury Road  
Solon, ME 04979  
207-431-3880  
Wool for sale

**Ingrid Hiltz & Susan Wit**  
Autumn Meadows Farm  
1253 Hoodsmill Road  
Woodbine, MD 21797  
410-549-1438  
tghiah@aol.com

**Joseph Hiltz (Jr)**  
1253 Hoodsmill Road  
Woodbine, MD 21797  
410-549-1438

**Lauren Hiltz (Jr)**  
1253 Hoodsmill Road  
Woodbine, MD 21797  
410-549-1438

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**Gwendolyn M. Martens**  
06

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<td>GM Border Leicesters</td>
<td>51939 County Highway V</td>
<td>608-489-2329</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gmartens55@hotmail.com">gmartens55@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>Breeding stock and fleeces</td>
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2006 Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival

Border Leicester Show Results

BLACK BORDER LEICESTER –
CHAMPION RAM – Lili Weik, Warrenton, VA
RESERVE CHAMPION RAM – Mallory Ketterer, Bernville, PA
CHAMPION EWE – Tiffany Deakin, Cuba, IL
RESERVE CHAMPION EWE – Linda & Bill Koeppel, Ann Arbor, MI

YEARLING RAM – 1) Lili Weik, Warrenton, VA; 2) Mallory Ketterer, Bernville, PA
SENIOR RAM LAMB – 1) & 3) Linda & Bill Koeppel, Ann Arbor, MI; 2) Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV
PAIR OF RAM LAMBS – 1) Linda & Bill Koeppel, Ann Arbor, MI

YEARLING EWE – 1) Tiffany Deakin, Cuba, IL; 2) & 3) Linda & Bill Koeppel, Ann Arbor, MI; 4) Michael & Jacob Economou, Howell, MI
JUNIOR EWE LAMB – 1) & 4) Linda & Bill Koeppel, Ann Arbor, MI; 2) & 5) Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV; 3) Tiffany Deakin, Cuba, IL
PAIR OF YEARLING EWES – 1) Linda & Bill Koeppel, Ann Arbor, MI
PAIR OF EWE LAMBS – 1) Linda & Bill Koeppel, Ann Arbor, MI; 2) Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV
BEST FLEECE – Tiffany Deakin, Cuba, IL

WHITE BORDER LEICESTER –
CHAMPION RAM – Lili Weik, Warrenton, VA
RESERVE CHAMPION RAM – Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL
CHAMPION EWE – Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL
RESERVE CHAMPION EWE – Mallory Ketterer, Bernville, PA
YEARLING RAM – 1) Lili Weik, Warrenton, VA; 2) & 5) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL; 3) Grace Smith, Charlotte, VT; 4) Bailey Bierhuizen, Culpeper, VA
JUNIOR RAM LAMB – 1) Lili Weik, Warrenton, VA; 2) & 3) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL; 4) Bailey Bierhuizen, Culpeper, VA; 5) Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV
PAIR OF RAM LAMBS – 1) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL; 2) Bailey Bierhuizen, Culpeper, VA; 3) Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV
PAIR OF RAM LAWS – 1) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL; 2) Bailey Bierhuizen, Culpeper, VA; 3) Tiffany Deakin, Cuba, IL; 5) Rebecca Butt, New Park, PA
JUNIOR EWE LAMB – 1) Linda & Bill Koeppel, Ann Arbor, MI; 2) & 5)
Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL; 3) & 4) Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV
PAIR OF YEARLING EWES – 1) Mallory Ketterer, Bernville, PA; 2) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL; 3) Tiffany Deakin, Cuba, IL; 4) Lili Weik, Warrenton, VA; 5) Rebecca Butt, New Park, PA
PAIR OF EWE LAMBS – 1) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL; 2) Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV; 3) Linda & Bill Koeppel, Ann Arbor, IL
FLOCK – 1) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL; 2) Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV
BEST FLEECE – 1) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL

Have you checked out the ABLA website? www.ablasheep.org. It contains information about the organization, forms to join, register and transfer your sheep. There is a list of current happenings, a member listing, and it’s a great place to advertise any sheep or products you have for sale.

Katie Smith is the webmaster and would be happy to include any sheep pictures, show pictures etc that you want to see posted on the site. She can be reached at smiths@smithvamilyfarmvt.com
ABLAA’s Treasurer’s Report

January 1 2006 to July 12, 2006

Balance 1/1/06 $2,393.44

Deposits made: $4,954.93

Deposits are made up of dues, registrations/transfers, ad income from the newsletters, and a donation of $500.

Expenses paid:

- Associated Registry $1094.80
- Bank fees 30.74
- Returned check 4.00
- Newsletter/N. Atkins 887.71
- NAILE/2005 300.00
- Secretary expenses/ D. Waibel 165.38
- Maryland meeting expenses 500.00
- Nancy Smith/ balance due 64.06
- Website expenses/Katie Smith 200.00
- Sue Johnson/balance due/ misc 7.80
- Insurance 1069.00
- North East Youth Show 100.00
- The Shepard Magazine ad 40.00

Total Expenses $4,463.49

Balance as of 7/12/05 $2,884.88

Advertising Rates

Display Ads

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Please include a SASE if you want the photo returned.

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Deadlines for Submission

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

Send ads to:
Noreen Atkins
ginlipfarm@yahoo.com

Need to Contact Associated Sheep Registry?
Karey Claghorn
Associated Sheep Registry
15603 173rd Ave.
Milo, IA 50166
Phone: (641)942-6402
Fax: (641) 942-6502
Email: kclaghorn@earthlink.net
FINDING YOUR “PERFECT” SHEEP
by Di Waibel

A member of the ABLA contacted me one day and asked what I looked for in a Border Leicester. What was my ideal when I looked at an animal. She told me she looked at her sheep and could see all different “types” in the animals she had purchased as the brood stock for her flock.

I thought about that for awhile and can only say there is a picture in my head of what I think a Border Leicester should look like. My “ideal” started by seeing the above photo in an old book put out by sheep producers in Great Britain. I fell in love with the looks of this animal and went about trying to find some starter ewes and a ram. Granted I didn’t find any that looked exactly like this animal but I came as close to this as I could get. Since then I have been working on my picture-perfect Border Leicester for some thirty-five years. The animals I see today are still all over the map when it comes to consistency in what a Border Leicester should look like. My “ideal” has not changed.

I learned a lot about producing my picture-perfect Border Leicester from Glen Eidman. For those of you who never met Glen Eidman, he was truly a sheepman who knew all aspects of raising sheep. I believe sheep were his passion. We were fortunate enough here in Oregon to have been able to attend seminars put on by Glen about raising sheep. We were able to show under him as a judge often since he came to Black Sheep Gathering a lot and he always took time to explain why he was placing sheep where he did and instruct the beginners.

One of the main things I learned from Glen was to decide in your mind what you wanted as an end product in your flock. He said find a small starter flock of ewes that came as close to your ideal as possible. Look at the entire flock and see if on a whole they come close to what you are looking for as your end product. Then start looking for a ram that will improve your flock, still going toward that end goal of your perfect sheep. You might have to go through five or six rams to find that buck you need to produce your lambs or you might luck out and find him the first time around but keep looking.

The most important things I learned at one of Glen’s seminars was how to chose replacement ewes for your flock. Rule number one: raise them yourself. Keep replacement ewes from your own flock and they will do better. Keep records on what each ewe produces and give them ratings as to confirmation, wool quality, health, teeth, feet, production, overall conversion of feed and mother ability. Keep only replacements that get you closer to your “perfect” sheep as you can but know what you want as an end product right from the start. Send those that don’t meet your “ideal sheep” to market or put them in the locker or somebody else’s locker!

Lamar Leicesters would like to thank the wonderful people who had enough faith in our genetics to help us out at our drought induced 90% sell off.

Di Waibel OR. 4 ewes
Don Hazen MT. 4 ewes
Ewe View Farm NE. (a new breeder) 5 ewes
Jason Frieden MO. Ram & ewe lamb
Cody Rester CO. Ram & ewe & ewe lamb
Terrianne Warner CO Ram
Linda Kinsel CO. Ram
Dennis Lenhart NE. Ram
Jim Gall NE. Ram lamb

We are sure they will do well for their new owners. We have kept a small show flock, if conditions do not change Moisture wise by the end of SD. State fair these will be for sale too.

Thanks again
Archie & Mina.
Copper Toxicity in Sheep

This article first appeared in 2002 in Indiana Sheep Tales

by Mike Neary
Extension Sheep Specialist Purdue University

Sheep are unique among food and farm animals in the way they utilize copper. Copper is a required mineral for all farm animals and also is potentially toxic to all of the food-producing animals. Sheep are the most susceptible of all food-producing animals to copper toxicosis.

Copper nutrition in sheep is quite complicated. It is a required mineral for sheep, yet highly toxic. Copper status of sheep is influenced by breed, age of animal, health status of animal, levels of other minerals consumed, and even levels of some feed additives in the diet.

Copper metabolism in sheep is influenced by the breed or crosses of breeds the sheep are. Generally, the down type, medium wool sheep of British or European origin, are the most susceptible to copper toxicity. Sheep from Texel breeding are the most susceptible to copper toxicity. Fine-wool type sheep are intermediate in susceptibility to copper toxicosis, while sheep with a high percentage of Finn sheep breeding are least susceptible to copper toxicity.

Presence or absence in the diet of sheep of other minerals and some ionophores affects the copper metabolism of sheep. Especially the level of molybdenum and sulfur in the diet. Molybdenum and sulfur act as antagonists to copper. The presence of these compounds bind with copper and prevent gut absorption and increase excretion of absorbed copper in the liver and body tissues. Molybdenum is often added to sheep diets to try to help prevent copper toxicity. However, molybdenum added at too high of levels can actually result in sheep having a copper deficiency. Also, feeding ionophores (monensin, lasalocid) to sheep, which is done frequently, can result in increased efficiency of copper absorption by sheep.

So, it becomes quickly apparent that copper nutrition in sheep is pretty complicated. It is no wonder that it is a significant concern in mid-western sheep operations. Sheep have a narrow range or band between required levels of copper and levels where toxicity can occur. In general, sheep need four to eight ppm of copper in the diet, depending on breed, sulfur, and molybdenum levels in the diet. Consider the fact that a sheep diet of 80% mixed hay and 20% of a grain mix can have copper levels of 14 to 15 ppm, without any added copper, and it is easy to see why copper toxicity can be a problem. In general, copper levels in a diet for sheep with molybdenum levels at three ppm or slightly higher can usually tolerate 20 to 25 ppm copper. Sheep fed diets lower in molybdenum than this tolerate lower levels of copper. Especially if the sheep are of British or Texel origin.

Copper toxicity can be of two types: chronic or acute. The acute form of copper toxicity occurs quickly, shortly after ingestion of high amounts of copper. The chronic form occurs when sheep are fed diets over a period of time that are marginally higher in copper content relative to level of copper antagonists in the diet. This could be over a period of weeks or months, depending on actual copper intake by the sheep. What happens is that sheep bind absorbed copper very tightly in the liver. Copper buildup in the liver occurs because sheep do not excrete copper from the body as efficiently as other animal species. When the liver becomes saturated with copper, tissue damage occurs in the liver and large amounts of copper are released into the bloodstream. This causes the death of red blood cells and subsequent tissue damage. Often, the first very noticeable sign of copper toxicity is dead sheep. This many times may follow some stressful event for the sheep.

Prevention of copper toxicity is the most practical method of dealing with this problem. There are a number of strategies that can be used to prevent copper problems. They entail trying to decrease intake or absorption or copper and include:

- Do not feed swine or poultry feed to sheep. They contain high levels of copper by design.
- Carefully investigate copper levels in beef or dairy products before feeding to sheep. Some of them will have high levels of copper, while others will not.
- Communicate with feed company representatives or country elevators supplying feed. It is important that mixers are clean, augers clean, and feed delivery trucks clean before handling sheep feeds, especially if they mix and handle swine feeds.
- Test feeds and forages for levels of copper, molybdenum and sulfur.
- Avoid grazing sheep on pastures where swine or poultry waste is applied.

(Continued on page 11)
Consider adding molybdenum to the diet at a rate of 3 ppm.

Have post mortems done on dead animals. This is a good routine management practice.

Treatment of sheep with copper toxicity should be done under the advice of a veterinarian. The usual treatment consists of drenching or feeding ammonium molybdate, sodium sulfate and penicillamine over a period of weeks. Future performance of sheep that recover from copper toxicity is variable and not fully known. Prevention is the best course of action.

Sources of further reading:

A Strong Force Again At The Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival!

PREMIER EXHIBITOR and winners of BOTH BEST FLEECE WHITE & NATURAL COLORED BORDER LEICESTERS!

1st Place Flock... 4 Years In A Row!

Also 1st Place at Wisconsin State Fair!

"American Beauty" • 1st Yearling & Grand Champion Ewe. She was also Grand Champion at Wisconsin State Fair.

"Eliesmera", Tiffany Deakin’s 1st Place Yearling & Grand Champion Natural Colored Border Leicester & Best Fleece Winner!

2nd Yearling Ram & Reserve Grand Champion Ram Best Fleece Border Leicester! Special thanks to JAMES DASHER, Maryland, who bought this stud following the show.

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Junior Member News

Bailey and Taryn Bierhuizen of Spirit Hill Farm exhibited their sheep at the Shenandoah Sheep and Wool Festival in Berryville, VA May 20, 2006. Besides winning Champion Border Leicester Ewe and Reserve Champion Ram, their ewe Spirit Hill Sapphire garnered the overall Supreme Champion Ewe over all wool breeds competing in the event. In addition, June 2006, they competed in the Northern District Livestock Show in Culpepper VA and their ram, Spirit Hill Victor, was recognized as Supreme Champion Ram and Champion Bred and Owned Ram. Congratulations to these Junior Members!

North East Youth Sheep Show - West Springfield MA

Leicesters at the NorthEast Youth Sheep Show.
It was my pleasure to attend the North East Youth Sheep Show last weekend with my granddaughters, grandson and 4 other youths from Rhode Island. As you can remember, (who can forget?) it was very hot and humid during the 5 days that we were there. But despite the weather, all, sheep and exhibitors, did very well under trying circumstances.

Joe Haddock did the honors for the Border Leicesters and was thorough and just great with all the exhibitors, especially the novices. So much fun to watch!

Pictures are of Grace Smith with her Champion White Yearling Ewe, Emma Morton with her first place black ewe lamb, and Bev Mason with her white yearling ewe.

Barbara Thompson
Pulled Lamb Recipe
From the American Lamb Board

**Total Time:** 60 minutes or more

**Lamb Cuts:** Shanks
**Category:** Entree
**Servings:** 6
**Preparation Time:** 25 minutes
**Cook Time:** 2 hours

**Ingredients:**
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 American lamb foreshanks
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 yellow onions, sliced into 1/2-inch-thick wedges
- 4 cups fat-free chicken broth
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano leaves, crushed
- 3/4 cup prepared barbecue sauce
- 6 crusty rolls

**Directions:**
In large skillet, heat oil over high heat. Pat shanks dry with paper towel. Season with salt and pepper. brown shanks on all sides. Place in a roasting pan. Add onion, chicken broth and oregano. Roast in 375 degree oven for 2 hours, turning shanks every 30 minutes.

When meat is done, remove from broth and cool. Strain broth, reserving onions. Reserve 1/4 cup of broth. Refrigerate or freeze remaining broth for use in soups or stews.

Remove meat from bones; shred meat removing fat.

In pan, combine pulled lamb, barbecue sauce and 2 tablespoons to 1/4 cup reserved broth if needed. Heat, stirring to combine sauce and lamb.

Split rolls and spoon on meat.

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**Tips Corner**

This month non border Leicester owners, Brian and Ann Shaw are kind enough to share their experience with us.

**HYPERthermia in Lambs**

As often as we ask for information, now I'm going to share some.

The last couple of days here has been pretty hot. The humidity has also been high. Yesterday we got our first ever case (4x) of hyperthermia. These lambs had been born outside in the clear fresh air, so we left them there. Mothers were doing well, and all had let their lambs nurse. However after we checked them all just before supper we found 4 in various stages of heat stress. Rapid breathing, laying flat out, but only mildly dehydrated. Body temperatures ranged from 104 to 107 F. We brought them in and proceeded to cool them down as quickly as possible. The worst one died within an hour, the second one cooled off, but eventually after laying still and comfortable for several hours went into convulsions. It did last through the night, but also died. The other two are doing better, and are on antibiotic, and a steroid (as per vet instructions). Our vet did a post mortem and did confirm heat stroke in the lamb that died this AM. The only visible signs were small hemorrhages on the heart and some of the muscles. The lamb’s stomach was full, so she had been feeding. She did not crack the skull, but said that it would likely be full of fluid, and bleeding.

I wonder if this could be the cause of other lamb deaths during the summer lambing sessions that we have all only just assumed was pneumonia? An occasional PM by a vet can answer a lot of questions. I hope that this information can help someone else, though I hope you don't ever have the occasion to need it.

Best of luck

Brian and Ann Shaw
Canada (Where its NOT always cold).
Dyeing Self Patternng Wool Yarn
By Diana Jarnutowski

Dyeing wool is really lots of fun and provides for a fair amount of anticipation.

In this article, I shall be addressing dyeing yarn only. Fiber can be dyed too but it needs to be handled differently and is outside the scope of this article.

So, starting with yarn, and this method, I like to make the effort worthwhile so I tend to use 900 plus yards of wool or a large skein. A lesser amount works well but do use enough to complete your entire project planning on a little extra yarn because the colors will be impossible to match in the event there was not quite enough.

The jig - You need one of these. It is made using a piece of 12” wide or larger wood by 2, 3 or 4 feet long. You also need 8 to 10 large nails, stainless if possible. I just use common nails and wrap mine with wax paper. Place the same number of nails on each piece of wool spaced as far apart as possible but still being able to get them all on. The farther apart the nails, the lesser the chance of each strand touching its neighbor. Needed are 4 - 3” C-clamps. Clamp the jigs to 2 saw horses about 6 feet apart from where you plan to place your knitting projects.

Plan the colors required for your patterning now. It can be any color you so desire. It can be spaced 1” with a second color of 1” placed next to it alternating the colors which will then resemble Fair Isle knitting.

If 5 nails were used for each board, the number of colors is 9 so paint some the same or all different.

Now on to dyeing the wool.

First prepare the dye colors of your choosing. I like to use Jacquard Protein dyes because they are easy to use, I get vibrant colors and they can easily be custom mixed by you as desired.

So, measure about 200 mls or ½ of a pint of water. Add the dye, about 1/3 of a teaspoon depending upon the depth of color desired. Now it is time to thicken it with Guar Gum which can be obtained from any health food store. Use it sparingly because a little goes a long way. Add a little at a time, give it about 3 to 4 minutes to thicken and then determine if it is to thin or thick. If the wool is really wet, thicker is better, if the wool is not so wet, thinner is better. It is worked into the wool with a gloved hand because being protein, we will be dyed too.

Paint the strands according to your color chart that was so carefully prepared. Each strand can be one color or one stand can be several colors. The effect could be stunning.

After the colors are applied, acquire a couple more willing hands to wrap each strand in plastic wrap after spraying it with a vinegar and water mixture. Wrap each strand in plastic like sausages as they are removed from the jig. When all are removed, fold them in half and wrap a 2nd time with plastic wrap to secure everything.

Place the precious bundle in a roasting pan designated for this purpose. Wire rack holds the wool up out of the water that is placed in the bottom of the pan. Just place the wire rack up on a couple of upside down empty tuna cans or something small like that. Place in a 300 degree oven for 30 minutes. Turn off the heat and let it cool down over night. The colors will be extremely vibrant.

I have used this technique from Susan Rex’s book Dyeing Wool and Other Protein Fibers, An Introduction to Acid Dyes.

Materials needed:
Wool yarn - lots of it or at least enough for an entire project
Dyes - Jacquard in the colors of choice
Wood - 2 pieces 12” wide or so by 3, 4 or 5 feet
Nails - 8 to 10, 16d
Saw horses - 2
“C” clamps - 4 - 3” size to clamp the pieces of wool in place
Wax paper - 2x3 pieces to wrap the nails
Plastic wrap - to wrap the strands of painted yarn
Guar Gum - obtained from a health food store It is a thickener for food that does not need to be heated.

Your very own imagination and spirit of adventure, go for it.

References
Rex, Susan - Dyeing Wool and Other Protein Fibers, An Introduction to Acid Dyes
To contact Susan srex@shockware.com
To view the book or order it.
http://users.shockware.com/srex/dyeing.html

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Newsletter Editor
1327 Spring Street Ext.
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Address Service Requested

Dates to Remember

8/18/06-8/20/06  Michigan Fiber Festival

9/16 - 9/17  Fingerlakes Fiber Festival, Hemlock NY new this year is a fleece show
            www.gvhg.org/fest.html

9/21/06- 9/27/06 Big E Wool Show, West Springfield MA, entries close August 15.

10/21 & 10/22 Dutchess County Sheep and Wool Festival, Bred Ewe
            And Sheep Show.  Border Leicesters are the
            Featured Breed. Rhinebeck NY contact JoAnne Tuncy for more
            information regarding the show  518-789-6113