



THE AMERICAN BORDER LEICESTER ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY NEWS

Spring

2007

Member Profile...

Conway Family Farm Fern Prairie, WA



Conway Family Farm is located in Fern Prairie Washington, about 35 miles northeast of the Portland Oregon metropolitan area. Our urban interface location enjoys the rare luxury of being remote, while at the same time taking pleasure in a marvelous customer base for our farm products.



I was raised on a beef cattle ranch at the foot of Mt. Adams and my father placated me with a handful of sheep and goats as 4-H projects throughout my youth (although, I know now that he would have preferred if I had taken more of an interest in the 'respectable' project of beef cattle as those goats and sheep required different fencing and were far too inquisitive for their own good.) Mom, however, was a fiber enthusiast and instilled her love of spinning and an infectious curiosity with niche markets in all three of her daughters. Although I did show a variety of animals in 4-H, my first love were the small ruminants; they just 'made sense' to me as they were smaller, easier to handle, required less feed and I could care for them on my own.

In 1985 I married Shaun who had no previous farming or livestock experience, but he was a willing learner and felt strongly about providing a wholesome upbringing for our two daughters. In the spring of 1990 we purchased the property where we currently reside, which was nothing more than an overgrown field littered with Canadian Thistle and Bracken Fern. In our ignorant enthusiasm, we hatched a plan to build our own farm including house, barns, fences and pastures...all with two toddlers in tow. Within a few short years, we had accomplished the house, the first barn, cleared the pastures and purchased our first goats and sheep. At that time, I had thought that I wanted to focus more on the meat aspect of the sheep and so I was looking toward Columbia and commercial crosses, but it wasn't long before a hand spinner's unwanted flock was gifted to us and within that ragtag group was Annie, our first Border Leicester type animal. She was without a doubt, the easiest keeper, best mother, and had the most wonderful fleece I had ever touched. By this time, we had drawn up a beginning business plan for the farm outlining the markets that we felt that we could best connect with given the limitations of our small five acre land base. It came as a quick realization that it was much more economically viable to offer high end unique wool products and yarn to our trendy urban neighbors by harvesting from the animals their renewable resources rather than carcasses which (with our small flock) we would have a difficult time meeting the demand. As a result, we started focusing on wool and wool products; the Border Leicester's were an easy top choice for us and we have never looked back.

Our original registered animals came from a breeder in Pennsylvania and we have been able to use some excellent west coast bloodlines in our breeding program. We continue to be pleased with the 180% lamb crop average, exquisite fleeces, supreme mothering abilities, and wonderful dispositions. Our philosophy is "small is very beautiful" and that has forced us to keep only good sheep; it also means that we will only sell good sheep! We would never sell an animal that we would not consider purchasing the same type for our own breeding flock. As our daughters got older, they actively participated in 4-H and open shows with their sheep and always enjoyed preparing these spectacular looking animals for show where (we believe) they stood out among the crowd with their stately appearance and beautiful long curly fleeces.



Continued on page 17...

Presidents Message

Greetings to all fellow Border Leicester breeders! Lambing season is finally winding down, spring is sprung and it's time to make plans for the year ahead.

We have many Border Leicester activities upcoming and I encourage you to take part in as many as you can. The Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival at the Howard County Fairgrounds in Frederick, MD is our first outing and the home of our 2007 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held Saturday evening, May 5 on the grounds. Think about items you would like brought up before the membership. If you cannot attend, contact any of us on the board and we will be happy to voice your concern or pass on your ideas to the membership to help improve our breed.

Our second National Sale will be held in Springfield, Illinois on Saturday afternoon, June 23. Take a good look at the sale catalog when you receive it and look over the genetics that will be offered. This sale will be an excellent opportunity to bring into your flock fresh, new genetics. There will be both White and Natural Colored Border Leicesters coming from coast-to-coast. With our breed's small numbered ewe base, the opportunity to select genetics from flocks away from your home area is limited. Our National Sale is a great chance to mix some new genes in with yours. Plan to attend the sale or call someone who can pick up a good ram or ewe for you. Transportation throughout the United States will be available and on the fairgrounds that same weekend. Nine other breeds of sheep are having their National Sales the same weekend at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Hopefully you can come be part of it.

Our National Show committee is working hard on plans for a first class event in West Springfield, Massachusetts. The Show will be Saturday, September 22 at The Big E complex. More details will follow in our next newsletter.

Interspersed between all these national events are plenty of local and regional gatherings of breeders of Border Leicesters. Get active, get out and let others know just how good our breed is. The moniker that Border Leicesters are the industry's best kept secret is true. Having been around sheep my entire life, I've never experienced sheep that are so good in the lambing barn as Border Leicesters. The strength and vigor of their lambs is unmatched. We need to let others know our strengths and build our breed around them.

Elections for two three-year Board of Director positions are ongoing until April 15. We have three excellent candidates running. Voice your opinion and vote now if you haven't already. I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

Greg Deakin

In This Issue

- 2 **President's Message**
- 3 **Stan Driscoll, Breeder Pioneer Passes**
- 4 **Two Exciting Events**
- 5 **Identification Options**
- 7 **Heat Stress**
- 8 **Needle Felting**
- 11 **Are you a Sheep-Aholic??**
- 13 **2007 National Western Stock Show Results**
- 14 **Event Dates**
- 15 **Your neck of the woods...**
- 16 **New England Sale press release**
- 18 **Crossword Fun**
- 20 **Highlights of Board of Directors Meeting**
- 22 **Easy Lamb Pie**
- 23 **Membership Application**

Letter from the editor...

Hello! I hope everyone has had fun lambing! To everyone that is just starting to lamb good luck! Thanks for all the great feedback from the last newsletter. When I sent the last newsletter there was a mess up with the mail and I have heard from a few people that they never received their Winter 2007 issue. Please let me know if you did not receive your copy and I will send it to you! For this newsletter I tried to find articles to do with Tags since shows and sales are coming up and also I included an article on Heat Stress because summer is coming! We also have a great Breeder Profile from the Conway Family - thanks Lorrie! I still have room available in the next newsletter for business card ads or any other sizes you would like, please take advantage of this great way to promote your sheep! I am also open to any ideas/articles for our future newsletters. Feel free to contact me with ideas or questions newsletter@ablasheep.org.

Sarah Hopkins



Stan Driscoll, Breed Pioneer Passes



Stan Driscoll, one of Canada's most prominent livestock breeders, passed away peacefully Saturday, March 10, 2007 at the age of 64 with his family by his side. Stan is survived by his wife of 40 years Margaret (Smith) Driscoll; two sons, Kelly and his wife Jodi; and Neil and his wife Barb; four grandchildren; and his mother, Grace, of Elora. Brother of Pat and her husband George Davies of Elora, Paul Driscoll and his wife Marilyn of RR 2, Alma; Jean and her husband Doug Skerritt of Rockwood; Kathy and her husband Gary Griffen of Belwood; Helen and her husband Paul Robinson of Elora; Mike Driscoll and his wife Cindy of Elora; and Jim Driscoll and his wife Wendy of RR 2, Alma. Son-in-law of Doris Smith of Fergus and the late Bill Smith. Brother-in-law of Jim and Ceclia Smith of Fergus; Merna and Terry Nelmes of Guelph; Betty and Gunnard Carlberg of Fergus; and Carol and Pete Landoni of Fergus. Fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Stan was proud to be a farmer - he loved the land. At the farm he raised his flock of sheep and for many years he was the North American Premier Breeder of Border Leicester sheep and showed them across Canada and the United States. Stan served as the roads superintendent for Peel Township for 23 years. He was also involved in the community as a member of the Drayton Kinsmen Club as well as a member of the Maryhill Knights of Columbus.

Stan's influence on the Border Leicester breed is legendary in North America as his bloodlines are still the most noted and respected in the breed. He was truly a breeder's breeder. As expressions of sympathy donations to the Ronald McDonald House or to St. Mary's Hospital Cardiac Care Unit would be appreciated by the family.

Photo caption: Stan Driscoll, left, with one of his many NAI LE Champions.

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Border Leicester breeders we have two exciting events to look forward to this year!

The first is the second National Border Leicester Sale, which will be held June 22 & 23, 2007 in Springfield, Illinois. The Banner is handling the auction, and entries can be obtained thru their office or website, www.bannersheepmagazine.com. The first National Sale two years ago, although small in numbers, was a huge success. There were buyers from coast to coast, and consignors from four or five different states. This year's sale will be bigger and better. Many breeders around the country are looking for new bloodlines. We encourage everyone to think about entering some of their Border Leicesters this year. And, of course, come to buy some new bloodlines to add to your flock! The same weekend the same fairgrounds will also host: the National Cheviot, National Oxford, National Shropshire, National Montadale, National Lincoln, National Romney, National Polypay, National Targee Sales, and the Tunis Summer Spectacular. This means there are trailers from coast to coast to haul sheep either way! So, visit your barn and plan to enter some sheep in the Border Leicester National Sale this year! Entries close April 6, 2007.

We are very excited announce that the 2007 National Border Leicester Show will be held at the Eastern States Exposition ("Big E") in West Springfield, Massachusetts, September 20-26. Irene Nebiker, who is a very familiar face in the Fiber Nook at the Big E, who is also a Border Leicester breeder from Rhode Island, is making some wonderful mementos for each Border Leicester exhibitor at the National Show. Polly Hopkins, an ABLA Director is collecting donations for trophies for all the Champions and possibly the group classes. The Big E is offering classes for both White Border Leicesters and Natural Colored Border Leicesters. Also, as this is a National event, there will also be a special Fleece Division for Border Leicesters, with classes for White Ram, White Ewe, Natural Colored Ram and Natural Colored Ewe. The American Border Leicester Association is offering a monetary award for every one leading a Border Leicester in Lead Line, with a bonus if you win! The Lead Line Class will be held on Saturday prior to the National Show. Following the show, there will be a together for exhibitors, friends and fellow breeders of Border Leicesters Saturday, with a delicious dinner at the Storrowtown Tavern (a restaurant is right on the fairgrounds). For reservations or information on any part of this event contact Sally Barney @ Sally-Barney@comcast.net or Polly Hopkins @ khop4811@aol.com.

So, as your lambs are born and you study those yearlings, keep in mind the National Sale and the National Show. As you shear your sheep, remember the Fleece Show portion of the National Show at the Big E. You can ship your fleeces to the fair (contact the Big E office for more information), have them judged, put a price on them and sell them thru the Fiber Nook! What a great way to promote your products in a new area of the country! In about a month or so, all the entry information will be on the Big E website: www.thebige.com, entry deadline is August 15th. For questions, contact the Big E Sheep Coordinator, Deb Hopkins at cdcdorset@cox.net.

The 2nd National Border Leicester Sale

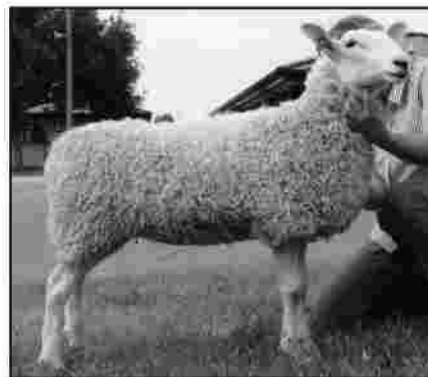
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Eagle, MI

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Offerings are coming from coast-to-coast from the nation's finest flocks!

Sale sponsored by the American Border Leicester Association

**ENTRIES DUE
APRIL 6th**

Watch for the complete sale catalog in May in The Banner and on the web at www.bannersheepmagazine.com!

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Identification Options

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The ideal sheep identification is permanent, resistant to loss or tearing, easily readable at a distance, easy to apply and gives all of the information we desire at a glance. Unfortunately one doesn't exist. Many producers ask which the best time of identification is and our response is: "It depends on what the purpose is for the shepherd." The best type of I.D. varies from farm to farm. Here are our thoughts on the options available, pros and con's, good and bad.

Ear Tags

Ear Tags are generally the favored type of identification. They are easy to apply and stay in pretty well. If applied properly they can be read at a distance. There are a variety of types of tags available. Plastic tags are less reactive than metal tags.

Temple Tags – These are a favorite for many of our producers. Temple tags are plastic and have an open end to prevent ripping of the ear if they get hung up in a fence or twine string. Occasionally we still have lost tags. They are available in a variety of colors. Many producers use a different color for birth year, or sire of the ram. Custom lettering and number sequences are available. They are weather resistant however the color of the imprinted number will fade making the number difficult to read in dim light. Temple tags require using an ear punch to first punch a hole in the ear and then you need to insert the tag.

Kemco Tags – These are aluminum tags that are in numbered sequence. They are inexpensive but sheep lose them pretty easily as they seem to tear out when they get caught. Since they are metal they can cause infection in the ear. The applicator is very good and sheep can be tagged quickly.

Tambra Tags – Tambra tags are small brass tags that are ideal for tagging small or newborn lambs. They are light so they will not pull down on the ear. Because of the small size the lamb needs to be caught to read the tag. The retention is short and producers who use these tags will retag the sheep with a larger tag when they get older. Tambra tags require a Tambra tag pliers.

Duflex Tags – Duflex tags are plastic tags that are available in many sizes, colors, numbered or blank. The larger tags can be read at a distance and work great for those of us whose eyes are not as good as they used to be. Duflex tags are more expensive but are non-reactive to tissue. They are two piece tags that are a bit cumbersome to get on the applicator the first time you are using them. Retention rate is good but the larger the tag the more likely they are to snag and tear out. If you use blank tags be sure to write numbers on heavy, preferably the night before you tag the sheep so they have a chance to dry. If the writing is heavy it will be readable for year in the future.

Tattooing

Tattooing is great identification in that if it is done correctly it is 100% permanent. The major disadvantage is that it cannot be read at a distance. In order to have the best tattoos we recommend green not black ink be used. The tattoo pliers come with a jar of black ink. Throw it away and use green. The tattoo will be more legible. The other trick is to apply the ink after, not before you apply the tattoo. We recommend that you use an old toothbrush to rub the ink into the holes. If you get a lot of blood when you tattoo the sheep you are squeezing the pliers too hard. Holes that bleed do not take ink very well and make the tattoo hard to read. The other disadvantage to tattoos is that they are time consuming to apply. Taking your time to make sure the right number is in the right sheep and the digits don't get scattered all over the barn is important.

Sticks, Sprays and Chalk

Sheep marking chalk is a favorite for many producers to keep track as they deworm a group of ewes are vaccinate a group of lambs. The chalk is inexpensive and scourable so it will not stay in the wool. Marks only last a few days and some of the colors are faint. Another disadvantage for me at least is that I manage to break the stick by the third sheep and am often left with a pile of small pieces in my pocket

Paintstick is available in a variety of colors and easy to see a week after the mark. This is probably one of the biggest disadvantages; the marks will still be there a month later. Paintstick should not be used before shearing as the color will damage the wool. It also makes a nasty mess if left in a coverall pocket and goes through the washer.

Sheep Spray Marker is an aerosol spray mark that is easy to use, quick and can be used on dry or wet wool. It is scourable and marks will last a week or two. In comparison to chalk or paint-sticks it is much more expensive. It dries instantly so sheep will not rub it off on other sheep.

Continued on page 17...

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Heat Stress

J. L. Goelz, D.V.M.
International SheepLetter
Vol. 18 No. 5, August 1998

High temperatures in combination with high humidity will cause heat stress in animals just like in people. In addition to causing sheep to be uncomfortable, high temperature causes an increase in the amount of maintenance energy required to keep the animal cool. This added to the decrease in appetite that sheep experience in warm weather causes significant decreases in average daily gain and feed efficiency. During warm weather pastured ewes will decrease their grass intake and alter their grazing patterns. When temperatures increase above 70 degrees sheep will begin to graze more in late evening, night and early morning. During the warm times of the day sheep will spend their time in the shade. Sheep have little in the way of natural defenses against heat stress or exhaustion. The most effective area for heat transfer is the belly and inguinal (between the rear legs) area. This area contains less dense wool and is rich in blood vessels. When sheep are experiencing heat stress they will often lie on an area of shaded ground which is cool to the touch. Evaporative cooling will occur by rapid breathing; however, as the humidity increases, cooling by this method becomes less effective.

Heat Index Chart

Temp (F)	Dew Point (F)							
	50.0	55.0	60.0	65.0	70.0	75.0	80.0	85.0
65:	62.7	63.8	65.0	66.66				
70:	67.8	68.7	69.8	71.1	72.6			
75:	73.1	73.9	74.8	75.9	79.2	80.7		
80:	79.8	80.6	81.6	82.8	84.4	86.9	90.9	
85:	83.5	84.7	86.1	88.0	90.5	94.0	99.0	106.6
90:	87.9	89.4	91.2	93.6	96.9	101.2	107.2	115.6
95:	92.9	94.5	96.7	99.6	103.4	108.4	115.2	124.3
100:	98.1	99.9	102.4	105.6	109.8	115.3	122.7	132.3
105:	103.4	105.4	108.1	111.6	116.1	122.0	129.7	139.7
110:	108.7	110.9	113.8	117.5	122.3	128.4	136.3	146.5

Heat stroke and heat exhaustion do not occur frequently in sheep if they are allowed to naturally find shade and lie quietly during the warm part of the day. Moving, showing and transporting sheep may cause an episode of heat stroke or heat exhaustion. Clinical signs include rapid breathing, unable to stand and an elevated rectal temperature. If their temperature is over 105 degrees it is critical to get the sheep in a shaded area and cool the animal with rubbing alcohol applied to the area between the rear legs. If the rectal temperature rises above 107 degrees cellular degeneration occurs with death of the sheep following.

Temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit have been shown to have a detrimental affect on ram fertility. High temperatures cause sperm cell degeneration and death. It is important to shear the scrotum and belly of rams at this time of year to allow them to better cope with the warm temperatures. Furthermore, a breeding soundness exam prior to ram turnout will allow the shepherd to know his rams have live sperm and is good insurance against a breeding disaster. Heat stress has been implicated as a cause of early embryonic death in ruminants.

Continued on page 19

Are you interested in donating items for the penny social/raffle at the Maryland Sheep and Wool festival???

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or Email:
Cheviot99@cox.net

Needle Felting
The Oldest Textile Craft
(A crocheting and knitting alternative)
By Susan Erica Squier

Needle felting began for me during the summer of 2004 when my husband opened our wool processing mill, Twist of Fate Spinnery, LLP, from the comfort of our garage. My husband, Jeremiah Squier, has been raising Dorset sheep for over 15 years here at Hide-A-Way Farm in Portland, Connecticut. We now raise a variety of bantam chickens and a variety of sheep. Our mill is operated six days a week on a part-time basis by my husband and his partner Rick Trojanoski; we're a family owned and operated home business. Rick Trojanoski has been a farmer for over 25 years. Since our opening, Twist of Fate Spinnery, LLP has survived solely on word of mouth. We are a proud and all natural wool mill.

When the mill opened I desperately wanted to contribute but having been raised in the city, I didn't have much "wooly" experience. I tried knitting and crocheting but found myself becoming very discouraged and frustrated; I couldn't ever see a finished product. My husband then introduced me to the wonderful world of needle felting. I was hooked immediately. Not only did I begin seeing a finished product but many finished products in a very short amount of time. Before the end of the year, I was teaching needle felting classes at wool festivals and craft guilds throughout Connecticut. Now I am in charge of the production, marketing and new design concepts of all the needle felting kits offered by Twist of Fate Spinnery, LLP.

For hundreds of years people have practiced numerous methods of turning their animals' wool and fibers into felt. Felt is a fabric made from combining wool and other hair fibers by agitation and using pressure, warmth and moisture. The making of felt dates back in antiquity to 1000 B.C. It was discovered when settlers used wool from their animals to line the soles of their shoes for comfort. After a long day of being dampened from perspiration, warmed and pressed by walking, the wool fibers became felt; a firm yet soft and durable material. Felt won't fray when cut and is easily pierced by a needle.

Once felt was discovered, the possibilities became endless. Settlers began producing felt by hand. Felt making became known as a crude and manual skill. Making felt was a long process for our settlers. Beginning in early spring, after the fear of winter was over; they would first shear all of the wool from their fiber bearing animals. Today the removal of wool from our herds is rather easy, with modern technology, taking only a day or so. But back before Christ, this process could take weeks or months depending on the herd size. The wool was always removed in the spring so the animals wouldn't sweat to death during the long hot summer months. First, the wool was spread out so the chunks of waste could be cut off. Then the wool was hand washed carefully for hours. Again, the wool was spread out and checked for any remaining debris. Once cleaned, the wool was rolled up and the settlers began beating it with sticks to simulate the agitation and pressure factor, which had been achieved by walking.

Many large pieces of felt have survived for thousands of years, giving us a great deal of evidence of our early settlers' inventiveness. Undoubtedly, this was the beginning of the development of this textile craft along with the domestication of fiber bearing animals. Caps of thick felt are displayed in the National Museum in Copenhagen. Those caps date back 3500 years. Chinese historical records refer to felt in 2300 B.C., when the emperor was carried into the presence of his people seated on a large felt mat.

Felt was a gold mine for our early settlers. They used it first for clothing, hats, gloves, blankets, pillows, protection against sword cuts and used as carpets and walls for their yurts. A wooden frame was built as a foundation for their homes, called "yurts". Large pieces of thick felt were laid over these frames creating a barrier from bad weather. The same types of pieces were lined along the inside for insulation and padding. The oils from the fleece, now known as lanolin, protected them against the heaviest of rains. Later evidence shows us their advanced uses for felt. Horse bridles and saddle blankets made of felt were found with elaborate designs and trimmings; some in a red, white and blue design. Uniforms with beautiful trim were discovered in coffins. In their tombs were head coverings for the dead and magnificent wall hangings of felt. To make their blankets and hangings more attractive, they poked small pieces of raw wool and fibers into the felt using sharpened sticks, thus creating an appliqué work of art. This appliqué work of art is called needle felting.

To obtain the different colors in their fibers, they used bark, nuts, flowers, roots and other plants. Onion skins were used for tan, walnut hulls for brown and black, eucalyptus leaves and blueberries for shades of green and blue, raspberries for reds and sunflowers and marigolds for yellows. During the Medieval period many plants were heavily relied upon for colors. Humans started dyeing as early as 6000 B.C. The plants were thrown into boiling

Continued on page 9...

Continued from page 8...

water and left to simmer for hours. Later, the dye bath was brought back to a boil and the fiber thrown in. The boiling, along with large sticks for added agitation, kept the fibers moving; resulting in an evenly dyed piece of material. Today, I use good old fashion sugar free kool-aid. The kool-aid makes a great non-toxic dye.

Felt became so valuable, so quickly; it was produced in mass quantities. At first, felt was made utilizing crude labor, then with the invention of the wool carding machine in the middle 1700's. The hardening machine followed it in the 1900's, to worldwide manufacturing in the 20th century. Felt making is now a worldwide production.

With this great history in mind, I'm still amazed at how confused people are when I tell them that I needle felt. Needle felting is achieved by poking raw fibers into a piece of felt to create wonderful things. As the loose fibers are poked into the felt with a standard felting needle, you activate the natural microscopic barbs found in wool, which holds the fibers in place. The needles are very sharp. To protect you or your table from needle punctures, a piece of foam is used under your felt. I have forgotten my piece of foam a time or two and it doesn't work well, it doesn't feel very good either. This craft is recommended for anyone ages seven through senior adults. The materials you will need to get started are the following items:

1. Felt - (The size of your felt is up to you, size does not matter.)
2. A 5"x7" piece of foam, at least an inch thick or a foam pillow if you are working on your lap. Foam balls are also available for making a hat.
3. A standard felting needle for beginners. Other sizes are available for a more advanced level.
4. Dyed roving, wool or other fiber - (Roving is carded fiber drawn into a long thin web, which can then be used in fiber crafts as is or further processed into yarn.)
5. A pattern, or your own design and imagination. I traced my designs onto tracing paper utilizing a heat transfer pencil. Then, I iron my pattern on to the felt.

When you have your materials together, examine your piece of felt and decide where you want to begin. Place the piece of foam under the area on which you wish to work, choose your fiber and you're ready to begin poking. I know, it sounds fun already. Place the fiber where you want it and poke the fiber into the felt utilizing your felting needle. You poke the fiber until you have reached your desired appearance. The less you poke the fluffier your product. The more you poke the firmer it gets. One of the many beauties of needle felting is that at any stage, you may add or remove fibers from the felt. No matter how often you do this, you won't damage the felt. This makes experimenting with felt fun and affordable. Also, if you make a mistake, no one but you will ever know. Simply pull the roving out with your fingers and start again. The fibers come out as easily as it goes in. On the other hand, your roving will only come out of the felt when you take it out. You can shake the felt, hold it upside down, or hang it on your wall and it won't come apart. I find this to be quite the confidence booster for people of all ages.

When you are ready to change colors, simply do so. There's no rinsing, wiping or erasing. Just choose a different color of fiber and poke some more. It's a great stress reducer. I tend to make tight pincushions when I'm mad at the world and after poking for awhile, I become very relaxed. Please, don't forget to move the foam as you change areas, keeping your foam piece directly under your working area.

If you don't currently have fiber bearing animals then you can purchase sheets of felt, foam and felting needles at www.twistoffatespinnery.com. Our all natural felt ranges from \$12-\$40 a sheet. The felting needles are extremely cheap; they are only 2 for \$1.00. Please see our website for pricing information as we have different sizes, thicknesses and colors; wholesale pricing also available or contact Twist of Fate Spinnery, LLP, 194 Rose Hill Rd, Portland, CT 06480 (860) 342-4304.

Needle felting is like a good book; once you start you can't put it down. Even the antsiest of children can complete a needle felting kit in one sitting. My oldest son has an attention disorder. He must take medication daily so he can concentrate. His schoolteacher allows him to do his work while sitting on his feet because it's the only way he can keep himself still. Yet, he can finish a large needle felting kit in one sitting, and then he will come back and ask for another one.

Today many farmers and people alike are saving hair fibers from their dogs, cats and rabbits to have processed into roving, yarn or felt to create unique country home decorations and gifts. Many people are making contemporary geometric designs, clothing, hats, felt pocketbooks, felted pins, magnets, wall hangings, scarves, pillows and ornaments, to name a very few possibilities. The possibilities are endless with needle felting. Take some time to explore wool festivals and agricultural fairs in your area, let your imagination run wild and you'd be amazed at the many things one can do with felt. Felt products are best sold at wool festivals and agricultural fairs.

Continued on page 18...



Congratulations to Jessica Dochterman and her ewe on their Intermediate Champion Ladies Lead line at the Dane County Fair.

Find a great article???

Want to write a breeder profile???

Want to advertise your farm or business???

Let us know!

Contact Sarah

Email: newsletter@ablasheep.org

Phone: 401-787-8316

Personalized Awards and Gifts For all Occasions

Any of these items can be personalized for you with **your photos and/or your logo**, along with any printing that you would want

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Christmas Ornaments

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Mouse Pads

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Tote Bags

Photo tiles

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Jewelry

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Ear Rings

Charms

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Glass Cutting Board



Ceramic Tile Mural



Many other items available

Kuykendall's Border Collies and KBC'S Imagery

Phone: 336-824-2736 Night

336-629-5171 Day

E-Mail: hkuyk@earthlink.net

Are you a SHEEP-AHOLIC???

I am a sheep-aholic. I would like to welcome all of you to this month's meeting of Sheep-Aholics Anonymous. You may be sitting there thinking you are OK, and don't really need any help. It is not easy to realize you are a sheep-aholic, and even harder to bring yourself to an SAA Meeting for help. SAA is here to assist you. I have some questions to ask to try to determine if you can be helped.

1. Can you say 'sheath' in public without blushing?
2. Do you drive a truck with some type of towing package and/or dual rear wheel when everyone else you know drives a real car?
3. Do you have more than one type of trailer because you own sheep?
4. Do you spend your holidays going to shows, sales, clinics, and seminars when everyone else goes on cruises?
5. Do you discuss things at the dinner table that would make a doctor leave in disgust?
6. Do you consider formal wear clean jeans and freshly scraped boots?
7. Does the inside of your home look like your interior decorator is 'Sullivan Show Supply'?
8. Do you often have barn boots on your front porch?
9. Is your mail made up primarily of breed magazines and sale catalogs?
10. Do your shirt pockets often contain bits of feed, hay, and empty syringe covers?
11. Do you worry about paying your monthly feed bill before you think of paying your electric bill?
12. When you meet a person, do you ask how many sheep they have, and pity them if the answer is none?
13. Do you remember the name of a great-great-great grandsire when you can't remember your own great grandfather's name?
14. Is your primary dream in life to breed the perfect lamb?
15. Do you find non-sheep people boring?
16. Is 99% of your e-mail about sheep?
17. Do you have a collection of cards and curry combs even larger than your collection of sheep?
18. Do you know more than five people this list fits exactly?
19. Are all of your plastic cups in the kitchen cupboard from milk replacer?
20. Do you have to wash your hands before going to the bathroom?

If you answered YES to three of these questions, you are in pretty good shape. You will lead a long, dull life, and never call your mother and tell her "I'm in the hospital, but everything is fine! The sheep are OK."

If you answered YES to 10, you are in serious trouble. Give in gracefully, and become a member of Sheep-Aholics Anonymous now... You will qualify eventually anyway.

If you answered YES to 15 or more, you are incurable. My advice to those who, like me, are incurable is as follows.....Sit back, smile, read your email, and know that your life will always be filled with good friends and better sheep, and it will never be boring!

(I received this thru the email the author is unknown... I know this applies to most sheep lovers!!)



Border Leicester Sheep!

In 2006, for the 6th Consecutive
Year Premier Breeder
With our Black Border Leicesters
at both Maryland and
The Michigan State Fair

We expect to have outstanding
Black Yearling Rams and Ewes
available in May at Maryland
and we look for a
quality lamb crop, colored and
white

Call us Early to Discuss Your
Needs!

Linda and Bill Koepfel
(734)747-8112
koeppels@peoplepc.com

American Border Leicester Association
Standard of Excellence
Guide for Judging Border Leicester Sheep
(Applies to both white and natural colored animals)

HEAD & NECK (10 Points)

HEAD: High, erect ears
Spots on ears permissible
Roman nose
Black nose and lips (dark mottled with grey acceptable)
No mottling on muzzle
Both sexes polled

NECK: Moderate length, fitting into shoulders gracefully

FOREQUARTER (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
LEGS: Straight, wide apart, free of wool below hocks
No evidence of low pasterns
Black hooves
UDDER & SCROTUM:
Ewes – Udder should show evidence of two good teats
Rams – Testicles well-developed and hanging down a distance from the body

CONDITION (10 Points)

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

GENERAL APPEARANCE (10 Points)

STANCE: Overall appearance to be regal in structure
QUALITY: Should be strong-boned
Rams to appear masculine
Ewes to appear feminine

WOOL (40 Points)

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

Border Leicesters are typically shown with 3-5 month of wool growth, so that the judge can accurately evaluate the fleece, one of the most important characteristics of the breed. They are relatively easy fit for exhibition. They should appear clean and neat, but never shampooed, as this would remove the natural oil from the wool. A light spritzing with luke warm 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.

2007 National Western Stock Show Results

January 20, 2007

Class 001 – Ram (born before 12/1/05)

- | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Weik OMF 2641 | Overlook Manor Warrenton, VA |
| 2 | Tecker 570 | Tecker Ranch Parks, NE |
| 3 | Tecker 539 | Tecker Ranch Parks, NE |
| 4 | LLMcKinney 14-05 | Lamar Leicesters Lamar, NE |
| 5 | Gall 58 | Jim Gall Scottsbluff, NE |
| 6 | Krogman 05K147 | Ronald Krogman Whit River, SD |
| 7 | Gall 56 | Lindy Krogman Winner, SD |
| 8 | Weik OMF 2647 | Lamar Leicesters Lamar, NE |

Class 002 – Winter ram lamb (born 12/1/05-2/28/06)

- | | | |
|----|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Weik OMF 2713 | Overlook Manor Farm Warrenton, VA |
| 2 | Weik OMF 2735 | Overlook Manor Farm Warrenton, VA |
| 3 | Weik OMF 2679 | Lili Weik Warrenton, VA |
| 4 | Gall 85 | Jim Gall Scottsbluff, NE |
| 5 | Weik OMF 2696 | Lili Weik Warrenton, VA |
| 6 | 06K207 | Lindy Krogman Winner, SD |
| 7 | 06K213 | Ronald Krogman White River, SD |
| 8 | Gall 83 | Jim Gall Scottsbluff, NE |
| 9 | Tecker 680 | Tecker Ranch Parks, NE |
| 10 | 06K211 | Lindy Krogman Winner, SD |

Class 003 – Spring ram lamb (born 3/1/06 and after)

- | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Weik OMF 2754 | Overlook Manor Farm Warrenton, VA |
| 2 | Weik OMF 2727 | Overlook Manor Farm Warrenton, VA |

Class 004 – Pair of Ram lambs

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1 | Lindy Krogman |
|---|---------------|

Champion Ram

Weik OMF 2713 Overlook Manor Farm Warrenton, VA

Reserve Champion Ram

Weik OMF 2735 Overlook Manor Farm Warrenton, VA

Class 005 – Ewe (born before 12/1/05)

- | | | |
|----|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Tecker 542 | Tecker Ranch Parks, NE |
| 2 | LL McKinney 4-05 | Lamar Leicesters Lamar, NE |
| 3 | Weik OMF 2592 | Lamar Leicesters Lamar, NE |
| 4 | Weik OMF 2572 | Overlook Manor Farm Warrenton, VA |
| 5 | Weik OMF 2650 | Overlook Manor Farm Warrenton, Va |
| 6 | Weik OMF 2614 | Lamar Leicesters Lamar, NE |
| 7 | Tecker 569 | Tecker Ranch Parks, NE |
| 8 | Gall 55 | Jim Gall Scottsbluff, NE |
| 9 | Weik OMF 2666 | Lamar Leicesters Lamar, NE |
| 10 | Krogman 05K148 | Ronald Krogman White River, SD |
| 11 | 05K142 | Lindy Krogman Winner, SD |
| 12 | 05K141 | Lindy Krogman Wimmer, SD |
| 13 | Krogman 05K162 | Ronald Krogman White River, SD |

Class 006 – Winter ewe lamb (born 12/1/05 – 2/28/06)

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Weik OMF 2700 | Overlook Manor Farm Warrenton, VA |
| 2 | Tecker 672 | Tecker Ranch Parks, NE |
| 3 | Weik OMF 2696 | Overlook Manor Farm Warrenton, VA |
| 4 | Weik OMF 2709 | Overlook Manor Farm Warrenton, VA |
| 5 | Gall 82 | Jim Gall Scottsbluff, NE |
| 6 | Gall 86 | Jim Gall Scottsbluff, NE |
| 7 | LL Murray 19-06 | Lamar Leicesters Lamar, NE |
| 8 | 06K223 | Ronald Krogman White River, SD |
| 9 | 06K212 | Lindy Krogman Winner, SD |
| 10 | 06K222 | Ronald Krogman White River, SD |
| 11 | 06K226 | Lindy Krogman Winner SD |

Class 007 – Spring ewe lamb (born 3/1/06 and after)

- | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | LL Murray 20-06 | Lamar Leicesters Lamar, NE |
| 2 | LL Murray 23-06 | Lamar Leicesters Lamar, NE |
| 3 | LL McKinney 2506 | Lamar Leicesters Lamar, NE |
| 4 | LL McKinney 2606 | Lamar Leicesters Lamar, NE |

Class 008 – Pair of Ewe lambs

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Lindy Krogman Winner, SD |
| 2 | Ronald Krogman White River, SD |

CHAMPION EWE

Weik OMF 2700 Lili Weik Warrenton, VA

RESERVE CHAMPION EWE

Tecker 542 Tecker Ranch Parks, NE

Class 090 - Best Four Head (both sexes represented)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Ronald Krogman White River, SD |
| 2 | Lindy Krogman Winner, SD |

Class 010 – Flock (1 ram, 2 ewes, 2ewe lambs)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Ronald Krogman White River, SD |
| 2 | Lindy Krogman Winner, SD |

SUPREME NATURAL COLORED/ HANDSPINNING

CHAMPION RAM

Weik OMF 2713 Overlook Manor Farm Warrenton, VA

SUPREME NATURAL COLORED/ HANDSPINNING

CHAMPION EWE

Weik OMF 2700 Lili Weik Warrenton, VA



Champion Ram



Reserve Champion Ram



Champion Ewe



Reserve Champion Ewe



Some exciting upcoming events!!!!



April

- 13-15 DFW Fiberfest
Addison Conference Center
Addison, TX 75001
<http://home.earthlink.net/~mlhobbies/dfwfiberfest2007/>
- 20-22 Central Plains Fiber Festival
Phillipsburg, KS
www.centralplainsfiberfest.com
- 20 Stephenson County Fiber Art Festival
Cedarville, IL
<http://www.suzybeggin.com/FAF.htm>

May

- 5-6 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival
West Friendship, MD
Includes Border Leicester show
www.sheepandwool.org
- 11-12 Fibrefest International 2007
Tradex, in Abbotsford BC, Canada,
www.sterlingfarms.com
- 12-13 New Hampshire Sheep & Wool Festival
Hopkinton State Fairgrounds
Contoocook NH
<http://www.yankeeshepherd.com>
- 26-27 Massachusetts Sheep & Wool Festival
Cummington Fairgrounds
Cummington, MA
<http://www.masheepwool.org/>
- 26-27 Pagosa Fiber Festival
Archuleta County Fair Grounds
Pagosa Springs, CO
<http://www.pagosafiberfestival.com/>

June

- 1-3 Missouri Natural Wool Growers Association
State Fairgrounds, Swine Pavilion
Sedalia, MO
<http://www.moncwga.com/>
- 14-16 Estes Park Wool Market
Estes Park, CO
Includes Border Leicester show
www.estesnet.com/events/woolmarket.htm
- 22-23 The 2nd National Border Leicester Sale
Springfield, IL
www.bannersheepmagazine.com

August

- 15 – 19 Michigan Fiber Festival Inc.
Hastings MI
www.michiganfiberfestival.org
- 15-19 Gibsons Landing Fibre Arts Festival
Gibsons Landing, BC, Canada, V0N 1V0
www.gibsonslandingfibrearts.com

July

- 20-22 Northeast Youth Sheep Show
West Springfield, MA
www.nesheep.org/youthshow.html

September

- 7-9 Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival
Jefferson, WI
www.wisconsinheepandwoolfestival.com
- 8-9 Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival
Essex Jct., VT
www.vermontsheep.com
- 20-26 National Border Leicester Show
The Big E
West Springfield, MA
www.thebige.com
- 22-23 Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival
Canby, OR
Includes Sheep Show
www.flockandfiberfestival.com

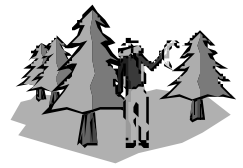
October

- 21-22 New York Sheep & Wool Festival
Rhinebeck, NY
Includes Sheep show
www.sheepandwool.com
- 26-28 Southeastern Fiber Festival
Asheville, NC
Includes Border Leicester Show
www.saffsite.org
- 27 Franklin County Fiber Twist
Old Deerfield, MA
www.fibertwist.com
- 27-28 Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival
Berryville, VA
Includes Sheep Show
www.shenandoahvalleyfiberfest.com



What's going on in "YOUR neck of the woods"???

We hear from some of our directors...



Up here in northern Vermont, we are still recovering from a 3 foot snowstorm that hit on Valentines Day, aptly called the Valentine's Day Blizzard. It was the 2nd largest one day snowstorm anytime in Vermont's history. Many farmers have had their barns cave in and a number of livestock have died or been injured as they were unable to shovel the snow off fast enough. After the snow was done falling, the winds continued to move the snow into high drifts. To get to the barn, I had to make paths with snow shoes, which would keep being covered over by more snow. The rams were trapped in a small area near their 8 by 12 ft lean- and I had to use snowshoes to get to them too. We are now still walking on paths on top of the drifts and I have walked over the gate (until recently when I dug it out) to get to the sheep. They are happy in the barn, are sheared, and 20 or so are getting ready to have their babies starting around March 10th. I used a black ram on many of them and I am looking forward to many colored lambs. Yesterday, 2½ weeks later, we got another 7 inches plus some rain and still have 1½ to two feet on the ground. It has been a very pretty but challenging few weeks.

Sue Johnson, Hinesburg, VT

Southwest Nebraska is finally thawing after a winter unlike we are used to. We have received more moisture this winter than the last few years combined. Lambing is winding down with good results considering the snow and temperatures. This winter was hard on the inventory of hay with grass being covered in snow. Hay is hard to find this time of year and at least double the cost, compared to past years, when found. The availability may not improve with so many feed acres going into the production of corn for ethanol.

Our Border Leicester breed show at the National Western Alpaca Show was a success with 7 breeders and around 50 sheep competing. The Border Leicester breed did well as Overlook Manor Farm and Lili Weik of Warrenton, VA, took Supreme Ram and Ewe in the Natural Color/Handspinning Division.

Jon Tecker, Parks, NE

Greetings to all the junior members of the ABLA. My name is Jennifer Bierhuizen and I have volunteered to be the Junior Coordinator for the coming year. I am interested in starting several new and exciting events for our juniors. I believe that our juniors are the key to our future as a breed, so I am working hard on some special recognition and projects that they can participate in. I am open to any suggestion or idea that anyone would like to offer. Please feel free to call me at 540-829-0806 or email me at daedalus6@hotmail.com and lets chat for a few minutes. I am also looking for sponsors/donors who would be willing to contribute to our junior fund. I look forward to this coming year and I hope that every member in the ABLA will support our junior members.

Many thanks,

Jennifer Bierhuizen, Culpeper, VA

Hello from the little State of Rhode Island! The weather has been very strange this year. It was very warm up until about a month ago, when the temperatures dropped and we had rain that turned to thick ice everywhere and became very dangerous for the sheep outside. Of course, that was during lambing and some of our baby bunnies were being born, too! Then it warmed up again (almost 60° today) finally all the ice is gone, the mud is starting to clear up and we saw the sun. But as I write this (3/15) we are hearing about a storm coming in the next couple days with about 5 inches of that *white stuff!!!* On the plus side of things, this is the time of year for the meetings of the upcoming summer events, such as the North East Youth Sheep Show in July (which, by the way does have a Border Leicester show), the National Border Leicester Show to be held at the Big E in September, and our local 4-H events which happen all summer long. There is also in the works, the first ever Rhode Island Wool & Fiber Festival to be held in May – and, of course, Border Leicesters will be present showing off their great fleeces!!

Polly Hopkins, Chepachet, RI

New England Sheep Show and Sale

The New England Sheep Show and Sale will be held July 20 & 22, 2007 at the Big E Fairgrounds, West Springfield, Massachusetts in the Mallary Agricultural Complex. The New England Sale has become one of the major purebred sales in the United States as it attracts consignors and buyers from all over the nation. The New England Sheep and Wool Growers Association sponsors the event which is run by its very capable and eager sale committee. This will be the 65th sale as it has been an annual event since 1942. The number of sheep entered in past sales has averaged about 200 head.

The sale is open to all breeds of sheep. Featured this year is the 125th Anniversary National Southdown Sale. Classes are offered for registered rams and ewes of all breeds. There are several classes for lambs of different ages, yearlings, and a bred ewe class. Classes are also offered for purebred and crossbred wether-type ewes. Wether-sire classes are not offered. Entry fees are \$15 for ewes and \$20 for rams. The entry deadline is APRIL 20, 2007. Brad Gillmore of Corinth, MS will serve as the judge for all breeds. Bill MacCauley of Atglen, PA will sell the sale.

For consignors, the sale offers special cash jackpots for breed and Supreme Champions besides the low entry fees and commissions, and the availability for all breeds to participate. For buyers, the sale raffles off several buyers credits for up to \$200.

Any sheep sold consigned to the sale must be positively identified with an ear tag approved by the USDA and accompanied by an approved interstate health certificate. This will be the consignor's responsibility. Please make your plans now. For more information on this rule, call 866-873-2824 or www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/scrapie.htm

A used sheep equipment auction is held in conjunction with the sheep sale. This auction attracts a lot of different sheep and farm related equipment. The auction has a \$10 entry fee per consignor for items that are to be prelisted in the sale catalog. Post entries are also welcome and there is no entry fee for these items. The sale commission from the equipment auction goes directly towards the Northeast Youth Sheep Show, which is also held the very same weekend at the BIG E fairgrounds. All consignors of sheep & equipment must be members of the New England Sheep and Wool Growers Association.

For more information about the sale and/or entry forms contact Becky Peterson, Sale Manager, 41 Bell Rd., Leyden, MA 01337 Tel (413) 624-5562 or Email ovfarm@mtdata.net or visit our website at www.nesheep.org to download printable entry forms.



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website: www.mistomornfarm.com

**Supreme Champion ram Oregon Flock & Fiber 2005
Glen Eidman trophy for overall champion at Black Sheep Gathering 2006**

Continued from front cover...



We currently maintain about 15 breeding ewes on the farm and sell yarn and woolen blankets from the farm gift cottage. In addition to the sheep, we were among the first micro-dairy farms to be granted a Grade A Raw Goat milk dairy license in the state of Washington. We raise and show registered Nubian dairy goats and direct market between 100-150 gallons of milk per month. Since space is at a premium for us, it has been our philosophy to cull heavily and keep only the best of the best (although we make room for a few retired old girls that have earned their keep for the rest of their happy days.)

In addition to the livestock, our farm produces about 2000 pounds of blueberries from a blueberry field which was planted using a compressed planting method, as well as a small commercial lavender field which has been the perfect setting for unique weddings. We have managed to market the farm as a specialty place in our area and now host field trips, weddings and open-farm tours throughout the year in an effort to teach people about sustainable agriculture. In 2006, our farm was nominated for the SARE Patrick Madden

Award, an honor recognizing efforts toward sustainable agriculture. We felt privileged to be among the finalist considered for this award. Shaun and I both work full-time and maintaining the farm for public display 24/7/365 is a constant challenge. Since we feel strongly about being the sole caretakers of our enterprise, juggling the management of the farm has motivated us to create good albeit unconventional processes. For example, I am an accountant, so we try to never lamb before April 15th; a date that would be considered far too late for most commercial operations. Since we only direct market a small number of lambs aside from what we use for your own purposes, the later lambing time has never been a detriment for us. Our farm is set up so that if only one of us is available, we can manage whatever task at hand alone. We have been blessed with two daughters who share our love for the farm and have been a tremendous amount of help throughout the years. That also forced us to create good 'kid friendly' facilities when they were younger as we expected them to do chores and help take care of the animals. That and our limited space has forced us to be creative in making sure that we have easy to use feeding areas and fold away lambing pens and creeps.

We practice intensive rotational grazing methods, utilizing small paddocks and moving the ewes frequently. Although we are not a certified organic farm, we tend to practice integrated land stewardship and individualized animal husbandry. Our primary concern is for the health of the animals and the health of the land.

Our flock of Border Leicester's is one of many components on our farm, but their contribution is integral. Around this time of the year, I start yearning for the smell of a newborn lamb and can't wait to see them happily bouncing through the pastures.

Now, almost 20 years later, our oldest daughter is at Washington State University, and our youngest will be heading off to college next year. The reality is that although this started out as a way to raise our kids, it has ended up being simply a way of life!



Continued from page 5...

Paint Brands

Paint brands have been a favorite for decades for temporary identification in the lambing barn. Many shepherd paint the same number on the ewe as the lamb. The brands last about one month and are easy to see from a distance. Just by walking through the pen you can find the mother of the starving lamb and check to see why. Many producers paint brand the ewes and lambs when they leave the jug starting with 1 on the first ewe and going up from there. This also gives the producer an approximate age of the lambs at a quick glance. The brands work great for the first few weeks and then fade by weaning so if you don't want to lose track of the lambs you will want to get a tag or tattoo in before the paint brand fades.

Ear Notches

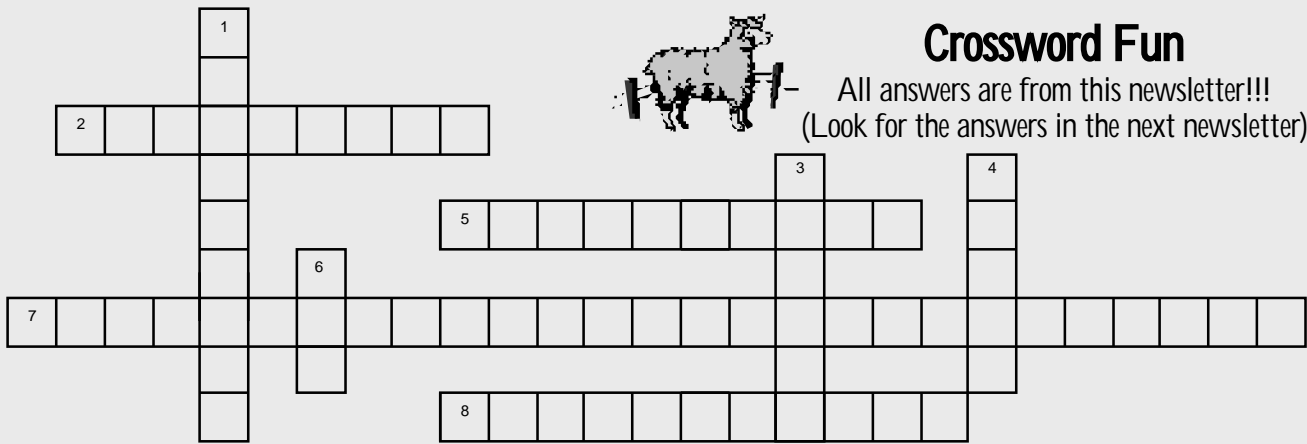
Ear notches are not very common in the sheep industry but some commercial producers use them as a method of permanently identifying culls. They carry a notcher with them in the lambing barn and notch any ewe that they really don't want to lamb again, bad udders, poor mothers, etc. When it comes time to sell cull ewes they simply sort the notched ewes off in the cull pen.

Electronic I.D.

Microchips are currently being used in horses and dogs and some cattle tags. The problem with electronic I.D.'s is that you need a reader to read the I.D. and in the case of microchips the chip tends to migrate around the body of the animal. As far as the sheep industry goes I don't anticipate their use to ever be popular. They are expensive, require a reader, and cannot be used at a distance.

Crossword Fun

All answers are from this newsletter!!!
(Look for the answers in the next newsletter)



ACROSS

- 2 Needle felting is like... (Taken from the Needle Felting Article by Susan Erica Squier)
 5 Polly Hopkins refers to the five inches of snow as "five inches of..."
 7 The "first exciting event of this year"..
 8 Conway Family Farm also produces about 2000 pounds of _____?

DOWN

- 1 Sue Johnson had to use these to get to her sheep after the snow storm.
 3 Jennifer Bierhuizen refers to being the _____ coordinator for the year.
 4 Wool on the breed standard is worth how many points?
 6 John Tecker refers to this being hard to find and double the cost.

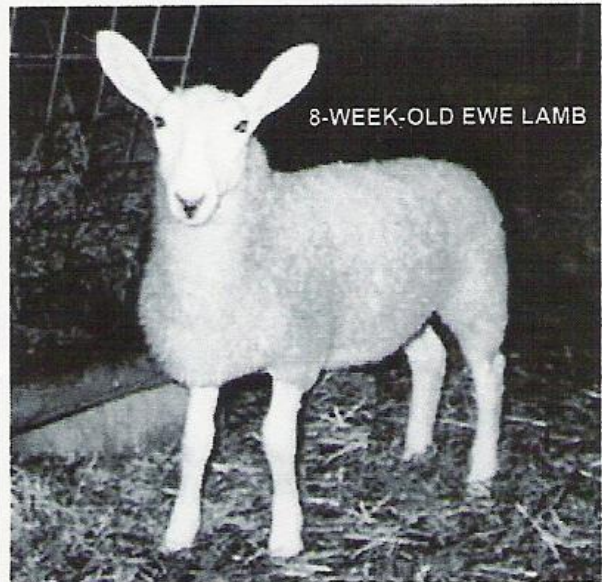
Continued from page 9...

Independent yarn and quilt stores may be willing to display your needle felted works of art on a consignment basis. Recently, while visiting the Maryland Wool Festival, I was amazed by the many opportunities one has in the world of wool. There was even a vendor selling felted dust mops. We currently sell and market our needle felting kits at wool festivals, agricultural fairs throughout different states, through our website; www.twistoffatespinnery.com and in an eBay store.

Twist of Fate Spinnery, LLC, has been working with exotic fibers and making exotic roving from raccoon, camel, buffalo and yak fibers. Most commonly used today are mohair, alpaca, cashmere, and other fleece from the hundreds of sheep breeds available today.

Needle felting has no limits. Felt and wool fibers are used in museums, schools, churches, wool festivals, craft guilds and by people all over the world. Felt is made and distributed worldwide on a rather high demand, which doesn't seem to be decreasing anytime soon. Felt has survived dinosaurs, millions of people and thousands of years, and it is still in demand around the world today.

Printed with permission from Susan Erica Squier.



8-WEEK-OLD EWE LAMB

Hardy white Border Leicesters. Production records, 100% Canadian bloodlines, SFCP Certified, OPP-neg. Breed character plus!

SPRING CREEK FARM

Judy & John Lewman
 6250 Game Farm Road
 Minnetrista, MN 55364
 952-472-4524 — JL6250@visi.com

Prime Handspinning Wools for Over 35 Years

Continued from page 7...

During hot summer months shepherds need to be conscious of the heat index and plan all activities such as transporting, deworming, vaccinating, etc. during the cool part of the day. This will be less stressful on the sheep and the shepherd a well. Shaded pastures are a definite benefit. If no shade is available inexpensive shade can be constructed from plans available at your county extension office. Availability of clean fresh drinking water is critical since the amount of water lost at high temperatures is much higher than when it is cool. Fans are beneficial if sheep are confined to a barn with little air movement. If sheep are transported, such as to shows, open the trailer vents as much as possible and park the trailer in the shade whenever possible. Generally summer sheep shows should be scheduled during morning or evening. Never spray a sheep with cold water to attempt to cool them. While this practice is beneficial for most animals, if the wool gets wet, air will not pass over the skin and virtually no cooling will occur.

On page one is a heat index table. The heat index is a simple combination of temperature and humidity. Essentially it is the heat that an animal or person feels. While it has been designed as a measure of human comfort it is entirely applicable to sheep. Remember a bit of common sense goes a long way.

Did You Know....??

Your ad on
www.ablasheep.org
can be viewed by almost
1000 visitors each month?

**Ads are only \$5 - \$15 and can
generate plenty of
exposure for your farm.**

Details at
www.ablasheep.org
or contact **Katie Smith** at
webmaster@ablasheep.org

Maybe Tomorrow Farm



**Look for our
entries in the
National Sale**

Polly, Kevin, Sarah and Chris Hopkins
494 Evans Road
Chepachet, RI 02814
401-949-4619

Email: khop4811@aol.com

Website: maybetomorrowfarm.com

Border Leicesters,
Natural Coloreds
Fleeces, roving, yarn &
Lionhead Rabbits

Thanks to John Pitocco for the great pictures

American Border Leicester Association
Highlights of the January 15, 2007
Board of Director's Meeting

Present: Jennifer Bierhuizen Sue Johnson Linda Hansen Polly Hopkins
Greg Deakin Joanne Tuncy Jon Tecker Sarah Hopkins (newsletter)
Sally Barney (recording secretary)

The meeting was called to order by Sue Johnson. It was moved by Joanne and seconded by Linda to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed and mailed to the Board of Director's. The motion passed.

Old Business:

Denver Stock Show – Jon has been contacted to see if he might need money to host a social gathering of some sort at the Denver show. He indicated he did not feel that they did need the assistance, but should they decide to hold a social he would bill the Association later.

Newsletter Report – Sarah Hopkins reported that she has the newsletter well on its way with printing and mailing scheduled for Friday, January 19, 2007. There is still a bit of room for business card ads should anyone need to place an ad. Sarah asked that each Director write something about themselves for the next newsletter. Articles are due March 15. Sarah will send an e-mail reminder to Directors.

Website Report – Katie Smith was not on the call, she has been extremely busy. It was suggested that if we have questions for the web master we might send them to her ahead of time so that she might e-mail answers prior to the meeting. Sarah will be sure she receives the next newsletter. Sue will be asking Katie to update the names of Directors as well as support positions (newsletter, recording secretary, promotion and publicity).

Logo Discussion – The concept of a new logo was discussed. The logo will appear on papers and membership cards. There were points made both for and against a change and no decisions were finalized. For discussion purposes Joanne will ask the artist that did the Border Leicester for the New York Bred Ewe & Lamb Sale if we could use the likeness in an ABLA logo. The slogan ... Start at the Top ... was well received as a promotional slogan.

The wording American Border Leicester Association is the preferred wording for a logo. One color (white) is preferred to black and white due to ease of reproducing.

New Business:

Review of Finances - Polly led a discussion regarding the draft budget sent to Directors prior to the meeting. According to her records there are 133 members for 2006. The draft budget was further discussed. It was moved; seconded and approved that Polly will re-work the budget and send it to Directors. Final approval will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Promotion & Publicity Committee - Joanne Tuncy (Chair). Joanne and Jennifer will be working on a new member packet that will include items bearing the new logo. Greg has volunteered to print an update of the "gray book".

Annual Meeting Committee - Jennifer Bierhuizen (Chair), Cathy Shiff. It was moved by Polly and seconded by John to have the ABLA annual meeting at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival on Saturday night, May, 5, 2007. The motion passed unanimously. Jennifer will take charge of setting up the meeting. Additional pizzas will be ordered. Greg has reserved the meeting location with Gwen Handler.

National Border Leicester Sale Committee – Greg Deakin (Chair), Polly Hopkins. Greg and Polly will work on a display/hospitality table for the sale and get other items as needed.

National Border Leicester Show Committee - Polly Hopkins (Chair), Barbara Thompson, Irene Nebiker, Sally Barney. This group will see to the arrangements for the National Show to be held at the Eastern States Exposition.

Western District Show Committee – Jon Tecker (Chair), Linda Hansen, Di Waibel. This group will organize functions in conjunction with a Border Leicester Show in the western part of the country.

Newsletter & Advertising Committee – Sarah Hopkins (Chair), Sue Johnson, Greg Deakin, Cathy Shiff will assist as well. Sarah is to call Sue for assistance as needed. This committee will solicit newsletter articles and advertising.

2007 Director Elections - Sarah will send out the ballots and bios. Sally Barney will receive completed ballots. The following election timeline was established.

- January newsletter – general alert that the election is coming. Members interested in running for Director are to get their bio's in to Sarah by March 1
- March 1 – Deadline for bio's to be received
- March 15 – Ballots and bio's sent to membership
- April 15 – Deadline for postmark on all ballots
- April 20 – Sally informs Board of voting results
- May 5 – New Directors are announced

Other New Business – None

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Edited for the Newsletter,

Sally Barney, Recording Secretary

Sell a sheep to a non member
of ABLA????
Hand them the membership
form on page 23!

**Need to contact Associated
Sheep Registries??**
Telephone 641-942-6402
Fax: 641-942-6502
Email: kclaghorn@earthlink.net

Karey Claghorn
Associated Sheep Registries
15603 173rd Avenue
Milo, IA 50166

ABLA ANNUAL MEETING

Where?
Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival
Market lamb show ring

When?
Saturday, May 5, 2007

Time?
After the conclusion of the sheep
show

Refreshment provided!!

Seldom Seen Farm



SSF #754
Consigned to the
National Border Leicester Sale
in Springfield, IL

Check him out!!!!



Fleece of our new
Levin #49
Stud Ram



SSF #643
One of our Yearling ewes
for the 2007 show flock

Barbara & Marcus Thompson
406 Evans Road
Chepachet, RI 02814
(401) 949-0264
Email: mthompson5@cox.net

Twist of Fate Spinnery, LLC

194 Rose Hill Road
Portland, CT 06480



Custom processing,
lots as small as 2 pounds

e-mail :
info@twistoffatespinnery.com

Jeremiah Squier
(860) 759-9335

Richard Trojanoski
(860) 759-9334



Suzanne Higgs
213 Gilkey Avenue
Plainwell, MI
49080

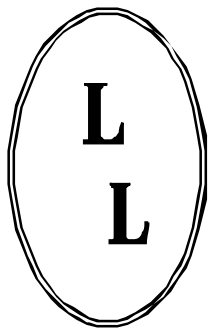
E-mail: INFO@HOOKEDONFELT.COM
Website: www.hookedonfelt.com

Mistwood Farm

Border Leicesters

Irene Nebiker
28 Grange Road
North Smithfield, RI 02896

A small flock on the move...



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Breeders of White Border Leicesters
With Length, Depth & Width

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Recipe Corner



Easy Lamb Pie

Total Time: 30 minutes or less

Lamb Cuts: Ground Lamb

Category: Casserole

Servings: 8

Preparation Time: 5 minutes

Cook Time: 20 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground American Lamb
- 2 cups light sour cream
- 2 cans (10-3/4 ounces each) mushroom soup with roasted garlic
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 2 teaspoons garlic salt
- 2 teaspoons ground black pepper
- 8 ounces (1-2/3 cups) frozen peas and carrots, defrosted
- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, unfolded and defrosted
- Butter cooking spray

Directions:

Spray a medium skillet with nonstick cooking spray. Add lamb and cook over medium-high heat until brown, stirring to crumble. Drain well. In large bowl, combine sour cream, undiluted soup, Italian seasoning, garlic salt and pepper. Stir in cooked lamb, peas and carrots. Spray a 9 x 9-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Pour in lamb mixture, spreading evenly. Top with pastry, turning under edges to fit pan. Using a sharp knife make slits in pastry. Spray with butter cooking spray. Bake in 425 F oven for 20 minutes or until pastry is golden brown and filling is bubbling. Let stand for 5 minutes

Reprinted with permission from American Lamb Board website.



American Border Leicester Association

Membership Application

The American Border Leicester Association was founded in 1973 to promote and register Border Leicester sheep in the United States and Canada. Both white and natural colored Border Leicesters are eligible for registry with the ABLA. Our association is experiencing some exciting growth, both in membership and numbers of sheep registered. We invite you to join us!

We provide the opportunity for our members to promote themselves and their farm products through our Member Directory. Please provide the information that you'd like included with your listing. Our membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st.

For more information about Border Leicesters and the American Border Leicester Association, visit our website: www.ablasheep.org.

<input type="checkbox"/>	New Member
<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Annual membership 20.00 Individual or family
<input type="checkbox"/>	Junior Membership \$15.00 18 years and under

Name: _____

Farm/Ranch Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Website Address: _____

What farm products would you like in the directory? _____

Any other comments you would like to add about your operation or specialty? _____

In addition to Border Leicesters, what other breed of sheep or animals do you raise? _____

Do you run a commercial operation using Border Leicester sires? _____

Helpful but not included in the directory:

Total flock size:

Number of white Border Leicesters.....Rams _____ Ewes _____

Number of colored Border Leicesters.....Rams _____ Ewes _____

Articles you would like to see in the newsletter or for the board to address? _____

Please send this form,
along with your check made out to
"ABLA", to:

Polly Hopkins, ABLA Treasurer
494 Evans Road
Chepachet, RI 02814

start at the top
with
BORDER LEICESTERS

American Border Leicester Association
Newsletter Editor
Sarah Hopkins
237 Western Ave
Albany, NY 12203

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

