One Member's Adventure...

Eve Kaplan Walbrecht
Garden of Eve
Aquebogue, NY 11931

I have been keeping my "Farmer's Diary" since January, and had wanted to type it all up and put it on here, to give you all a sense of the flow of the seasons from winter to spring (and relaxation to total chaos).

However, now that we are fully in the "chaos" season, I think if I wait to type all that up, I will never get around to posting anything. So instead of telling you about the past few months, I will start with news of this week and try to keep up with the present.

Last Saturday May 5 Chris and I drove into NYC where he dropped me off in Manhattan at the charter bus that would take me 4 hours down to Maryland to the "Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival". It's considered one of the biggest sheep and wool festivals on the East Coast... and with almost-2-year-old baby Forest with my parents for the day, an 8 hour round trip bus ride (with 5 hrs at the festival) sounded positively blissful... I got to nap and read, and stare into space...

The festival was really fun, there were lots of barns with vendors selling all kinds of wool, yarn, and things relating to knitting, spinning, felting, etc. but mostly I had eyes just for the sheep. There were two big barns full of sheep and a third barn containing the show ring. There were probably at least 40 breeds of sheep represented, and more than 200-300 sheep! I had never seen sheep in the showring, only pictures of it, and was pleasantly surprised to find out that even professional breeders' sheep don't cooperate with them, either! In the photos I had seen, sheep handling looked so easy, I was wondering what was wrong with me. But apparently that is not the case, these sheep were jumping all around the ring, baaaaa-ing, etc. etc. it was quite a ruckus and you couldn't hear either the judge or the announcer.

I had considered trying to buy a sheep to bring back with me, ideally a male to breed to our two Border Leicester ewes. I had cautiously (and sheepishly... sorry, bad pun) asked the bus driver if he'd be OK with that, and had brought a large dog carrier down with me to put the lamb in if I did get one. The bus driver sort of said OK, but insisted that if I did get one, it should ride in the back of the bus, not underneath in the cargo compartment. Well... to make a long story short, I did buy a sheep, and he was a lot bigger than I had bargained for, and he ended up sitting at my feet (and baaaaa-ing) for the whole ride home, at the back of the bus.

When I brought the sheep out to the bus from the festival (I think we're naming him "Infinity", after the bus company) all the other bus-riders were totally shocked, some started clapping, some laughed, some came to pet the sheep. Some were disapproving. I wondered if we had all been at the same festival (we had) since a lot of them asked me where I'd gotten the sheep... if there were sheep for sale at the festival... what I was going to do with the sheep... I guess most people hadn't even seen the sheep barns, just the shops.

Anyhow, Mr. Infinity got back to Manhattan without incident and waited quietly (except for the baaaa-ing) with me on his leadline at the corner of 6th Ave and 36th St, waiting for my Dad to pick us up (in a car). People walking by were going nuts, taking cell phone photos of us, petting the sheep, posing with the sheep. Someone asked me if I should be "walking my sheep in Manhattan." I told them I was in transit on the way back to the farm. All types of people - kids, parents, chic clubgoers on their way out for a Saturday night party, tourists... it was insane. Hopefully I can dig up some of the photos people took and post them here (my camera wasn't working, due to being soaked in egg yolk, but that is another story).

When my Dad got there we put Mr. Infinity in the hatchback and he rode home with us to the NJ suburbs where my parents live. We put him in the garage with some food and water but he didn't like that and broke a window butting
**Presidents Message**

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Border Leicesters were well represented at two recent major events. At the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival ours was nearly the largest breed of sheep shown. Between the Border Leicesters and Natural Colored Leicesters we had an excellent gathering on the bleachers to watch our show.

The Annual Meeting held Saturday evening was well attended with over 50 people enjoying the pizza and camaraderie. Our hats go off to ABLA board member Jennifer Bierhuizen and her crew for organizing the door prizes and refreshments at the event.

A major thank you also goes out to Ruth Barrish, a great promoter of the Border Leicester breed for her part in making our evening very enjoyable with her generous financial support.

The Annual Meeting offered very lively dialogue from the membership which your board listened to very keenly. The Annual Meeting minutes and Maryland results are posted elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our next event was the hosting of the National Sale in Springfield, Illinois. Board member Polly Hopkins went to extra lengths to set up a nice Border Leicester promotional area which we would all be proud of. The sale was excellent and of the seven different breeds of sheep sold in the same barn that day, the Border Leicester breed had more buyers represented with mail bids than any of the other breeds of sheep. Literally buyers from coast-to-coast placed bids on various sheep in the sale.

Border Leicester supporters took advantage of the transportation possibilities offered by the large group of sheep sales. I really want to commend you on your desire to make additions to your gene pool and your attempt to buy sheep in the sale.

Many other summer activities involving Border Leicesters are upcoming. If you have the chance to participate or attend one – take it!

Greg Deakin  
President ABLA

---

**Letter from the editor...**

Hello! I hope everyone’s summer is as full as mine!!! I am sorry this is out late but summer is a crazy time of year (I cant believe its already August). I have included many great articles about Hoof Care, Breeding season care and a great article from a new member and her trip to Maryland to buy a sheep – Thanks Eve! I hope to see new faces at the National Show in September at the Big E!!! Good luck with the rest of your summer! 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
The North East Youth Sheep Show was recently held at The Big E Fairgrounds in West Springfield, Massachusetts on July 19th thru 22nd. There were 198 kids showing a total of 789 sheep, covering 17 different breeds of sheep. On the same weekend in the same barn, the New England Sheep & Wool Growers runs their purebred sheep auction (which by the way had white and colored Border Leicesters entered) and a very successful Used Equipment Auction, of which the commission goes to the Youth Show. Activities for the whole weekend besides the auctions, included a lamb barbeque, ice cream social, a huge raffle to raise funds for NES&WG scholarships, lots of ‘silent auction’ baskets for sale, and an adult showmanship class to raise funds for the Youth Show. Specifically for the youth there was Quiz Bowl, Skillaton, Market Lamb Classes, Fitting & Showmanship classes, as well as all the breed classes. The weekend ended Sunday afternoon with the selection of the Supreme Ram and Ewe of the show. The Border Leicester breed was very well represented with 11 youths exhibiting 23 Border Leicesters!! This was the 10th largest breed of the show – a great showing for our breed. Geoff Ruppert was the judge for the ‘wool breeds’, and the Novice and First Year Fitting & Showmanship classes; Brad Gilmore judged Junior Fitting & Showmanship and the ‘meat breeds’ and Sara Kuykendall was the judge for the Senior Fitting & Showmanship classes and the National Southdown Jr. Show. The largest class of Border Leicesters was the white yearling ewe class won by Grace Smith of Vermont, and that ewe went on to win Champion Border Leicester Ewe. The Champion Border Leicester Ram was also won by Grace Smith, on her yearling ram. The premiums paid to Border Leicester youth exhibitors were supplemented with funds from ABLA. The Champion Ewe and Ram Awards (NEYSS duffel bags) were paid for by the Youth Show Committee, and the Champion Fitting & Showmanship awards were donated by Barbara Thompson of Seldom Seen Farm and Polly & Kevin Hopkins of Maybe Tomorrow Farm. The Border Leicester show was terrific show with the quality continuing to the bottom in each class.

**Senior Showmanship**
1. Brittany Sederback, RI
2. Grace Smith, VT

**Junior Showmanship**
1. Colin Siegmund
2. Stacey Ferraro
3. Thomas J. Gelinas
4. Justin Ferraro

**Novice Showmanship**
1. Iris LaRochelle, NH

**First Year Showmanship**
1. Mae Belleavoine, RI

**Yearling Ram**
1. Grace Smith, VT

**Ram Lamb**
1. Grace Smith, VT
2. Emma Morton, RI

**Champion Ram**
Grace Smith – Yearling Ram

**Reserve Champion Ram**
Grace Smith – Ram Lamb

**White Yearling Ewe**
1. Grace Smith, VT
2. Grace Smith, VT
3. Stacey Ferraro, CT
4. Stacey Ferraro, CT
5. Iris LaRochelle, NH
6. Colin Siegmund, MA
7. Brittany Sederback, RI
8. Emily Gibson, NH
9. Emily Gibson, NH
10. Thomas J. Gelinas, CT

**Black Yearling Ewe**
1. Emma Morton, RI
2. Justin Ferraro, CT

**White Ewe Lambs**
1. Colin Siegmund, MA
2. Iris LaRochelle, NH
3. Colin Siegmund, MA
4. Grace Smith, VT
5. Grace Smith, VT
6. Mae Belleavoine

**Black Ewe Lambs**
1. Emma Morton, RI
2. Thomas J. Gelinas, CT

**Pair of Ewe Lambs**
1. Colin Siegmund, MA
2. Grace Smith, VT

**Champion Ewe**
Grace Smith – Yearling Ewe

**Reserve Champion Ewe**
Colin Siegmund – Ewe Lamb

**Exhibitors Flock**
1. Grace Smith, VT
2. Emma Morton, RI

**Best Fleece**
Mae Belleavoine, RI
Hoof Care
by Susan Schoenian
Reprinted with permission.

Hoof care is an important aspect of sheep management. Hooves should be regularly checked for disease and excess growth.

**Hoof Trimming**

Foot growth is affected by breed of sheep, soil moisture and soil characteristics. Sheep grazed on rocky, dry soil may not require the extent of foot care needed for sheep on soil that is free of rocks and higher in moisture content. Sheep in high rainfall areas will need to have their feet inspected more regularly than those on dry ground. How often will depend on the specific conditions.

Proper foot rot or foot paring shears are essential to do the job properly. The ordinary, manual shears are not expensive and make the task so much easier. Air compressor driven shears are an option for people with large numbers of sheep. A sharp paring knife can be used for hoof trimming, but this is a lot harder work than using proper foot rot shears. More importantly, it is much more dangerous for both the sheep and the person doing the paring. Foot paring can be back-breaking work if there are a lot of sheep's feet to pare. There are various types of sheep handling equipment that can "hold" the sheep in a good position so that the stress on the person paring can be reduced. However, for small numbers of sheep, it is usually enough to tip the sheep up and sit it on its rump, as you would for crutching.

Securely hold the leg of the sheep. Inspect the hoof and remove any mud, manure, or small stones between the walls of the hoof. A rotten smell is usually indicative of foot rot. Clean all the junk and crud out of the hoof using the point of the shears. After cleaning the hoof, begin trimming around the perimeter of the hoof. Avoid cutting off large chunks of hoof. Stop at the first sign of pinkness. A pink color means you are getting close to the foot blood supply. The foot should be trimmed from the heel to the toe to remove excess growth of the "horny" portion of the hoof. To learn what a properly trimmed hoof look like, study the feet of a newborn lamb. Its hooves are flat on the bottom and have a boxy look.

When trimming feet, avoid stressful times such as hot weather or late gestation. It's a good idea to combine hoof trimming with other management tasks, such as shearing or deworming. It will be easier to trim hooves that are soft from heavy dew or rain.

**Diseases Affecting the Hoof**

You should never ignore lameness in sheep. Lameness is a sign of several foot conditions – some of which are very serious – as well as some other problems. They include:

**Foot Abscess**

This disease is characterized by a swelling of the soft tissues immediately above the hoof and in advanced cases, draining abscesses in this area and between the toes. Foot abscesses are caused by bacterial infection of damaged foot tissue. The front feet are most commonly affected. Treatment is with anti-bacterial compounds.

**Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)**

Foot and mouth disease is a highly contagious viral disease that affects pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, and deer. It is endemic in many parts of the world. Clinical signs of the disease in infected animals include blisters or ulcerations on the mouth, snout, tongue, gums, teats, or around the top of the feet. The signs of FMD in sheep and goats are usually much less obvious than in cattle or pigs. The United States has eradicated nine outbreaks of FMD, the last of which occurred in 1929. Since then, no cases have ever been reported in the United States. Canada has been free of foot-and-mouth disease since 1929. The United Kingdom experienced a foot-and-mouth outbreak in 2001.

**Foot Rot**

Foot rot is one of the most devastating diseases in the U.S. sheep industry. It is caused by a synergistic action of two anaerobic bacteria, along with environmental conditions conducive to their growth and spread. The bacteria are *Fusobacterium necrophorum* and *Bacteroides nodusus*. The bacteria *F. Necrophorum* is commonly present in soil and manure. It is the *B. Nodusus* organism, when present, that causes the problem. Again, both bacteria have to be present to cause footrot. There are over 20 strains of the *B. Nodusus* bacteria.
Preparing Ewes for Breeding Season

Breeding season is either upon us or a few weeks away. If you haven't yet, now is time to give some thought to your ewes. Make sure that the ewes are in the proper condition for breeding season. You will want to begin flushing ewes 2-3 weeks before ram turnout. This can be accomplished by moving the ewes to a fresh green pasture or feeding ewes one-half to three-fourths of a pound of grain a day. By moving the ewe to a higher plane of nutrition before breeding we can increase the number of ova that she ovulates and thereby increase the number of multiple births. Late summer is also a good time to deworm the ewes prior to breeding. Summer pastures become heavily populated with worm larvae by late summer and it is best to move ewes to a clean pasture at the time of deworming. Valbazen is an excellent choice of dewormers as long as the ram has not been turned out. Ivomec or Levasole are good options but they will not be effective against tapeworms. Now is also a good time to vaccinate the ewes for Chlamydia and Vibrio. Any ewes that are lame or unthrifty should be sorted from the pasture and treated or culled. As you are handling the ewes be on the lookout for moist wool. This is often the only indicator of fly strike. Treat ewes affected by clipping the wool around the wound and spraying the wound with screw worm spray.

Don't forget about the ram. Make sure he is in good body condition, sound on his feet and legs and passes a breeding soundness exam. The hot weather that we experienced in late July appears to have made some rams temporarily infertile. Remember the success of your sheep flock starts with breeding.

J.L. Goelz, D.V.M.

International SheepLetter
Vol. 19 No. 5, August 1999

---

**Meadowland Farm Border Leicesters**

Breeding for correct body confirmation and soft lustrous fleeces for over 25 years

Quality breeding stock for sale

*SUE JOHNSON*  
HINESBURG, VT  05461

802-482-2507  
suejohnson@gmavt.net

*(See our sheep featured in spin-off magazine, spring 2003!!!)*
Breeding Season Ram Management

J. L. Goelz, D.V.M.


Once you turn the rams out into the ewe flock ram management is not done. If possible rams should be observed daily. I prefer observing rams in the evening as you are more likely to see them chasing ewes than during the heat of the day. Rams should be actively chasing ewes during the evening and sometimes you may even observe mounting. This confirms that the libido (desire to breed) is good in the ram. If the ram has a breeding harness new marks can be recorded and a reasonably accurate due date can be calculated. Marking crayons can be switched every two to three weeks (moving from light colors to darker) to help keep track of ewes that remark. Rams should also be observed for general health. Rams should be athletic and sound on their feet. Any lameness is cause to consider pulling a ram out of the breeding pasture. During the act of breeding a ram must be able to support nearly all his weight on both back legs. If one is painful he will not breed. When a ram dismounts half of his weight lands on both front feet; if one is sore he will not breed.

Back injuries are a common reason for pulling rams from the breeding pasture. Breeding requires both strength and flexibility in the spine. As rams age the spine becomes less flexible as calcium bridging starts to fuse the vertebrae. If this bring cracks the ram will experience intense pain and have no desire to breed. Intervertebral disks can also become compressed or inflamed and cause compression of the spinal cord. This is often evident as pain or hindlimb weakness or lameness. While lameness from a foot injury carries a good prognosis for recovery and a future as a breeding ram a back injury will nearly always reoccur the next time that a ram mounts a ewe.

Other reasons that rams may have to be pulled from the breeding pasture include pneumonia, rapid weight loss or testicular injury. Pneumonia or fever in general may cause temporary infertility if the testicles get too warm. Testicles are outside of the body for a reason. Sperm cannot be produced at body temperature. Therefore if body temperature increases 2-4 degrees the sperm in the testicles and epididymis are at risk of being dead. It takes 60 days for a sperm cell to be produced so fever can cause 60 days of infertility. Testicular injury is not common but obviously ends the ram's ability to breed ewes. After any insult to the testicle such as infection or trauma the first sign is swelling and heat. Heat will cause temporary infertility just like fever. After the swelling phase you may notice one or both testicles shrink in size. This is a poor prognostic indicator as it indicates that the sperm producing tissue is dead.

Rams will lose weight during breeding season, especially ram lambs as they are still growing and will not eat enough during breeding season to grow and maintain their weight Ram lambs may need to be pulled out of the breeding pasture if they get too thin. Often this is late in the breeding season when most of the ewes are bred and fewer rams are necessary to “clean-up” the remaining open ewes.

Treatment for rams that have to be pulled from the breeding pastures is aimed at 1) salvaging the ram to use later in the breeding season or for next year's breeding season or 2) salvaging the ram for cull value. Number one is not a bad option if the reason for pulling is mild such as pneumonia, foot sprain, etc. Number two is a bad option as cull rams are never worth much. In most cases severe injury, weight loss, etc producers will be better off by culling the ram immediately. As far as we know treatment with Bambamine (flunixin), long-acting penicillin, Excenel, Naxcel or Nulfor is not detrimental to fertility. Treatment with dexamethasone or LA-200 can cause transient infertility for 60 days.

Reprinted with permission.
NOTES FROM VERMONT!!! From Sue Johnson, board member

Summer has come upon us here in northern Vermont. Our unusual year continues...Rain most of the winter, then record snowfalls, then really cold days and nights and then lambing!! And then no sun forever it seemed. Usually the lambs “hang out” in the sunny creep area and sunbathe on their sides with their heads back and their lower lip hanging a little to expose “a white toothed grin”. But this year, there was so little sun; they never hung out in their sunless creep. Instead they lay beside their moms in other parts of the barn. Now they are getting fat on grass and chasing each other around the field.

My lambs were not due until early March, late for me, but I am so glad I put the rams in late because my lambs began to come just as the really cold (-26F or so at night and LOTS of wind) days were passing. Wow! What a lambing season I had this spring! Many beautiful lambs, of which 2/3 were females and more challenges than I have ever faced in one season. I am thankful I have many years of lambing experiences behind me to draw from. I would like to share a few with you. Our second major storm was what we call up here, a “Northeaster.” This means lots of snow and wind with winds from the northeast and not the north or west. And on this particular stormy Friday night, I had a few ewes in labor...and after one gave birth, and I was about to get some sleep around midnight, I realized another seasoned ewe was straining. I waited a bit and when nothing was progressing, I scrubbed up went in to check on things only to find a cervix that was not dilated. So I spent the next hour with my fingers slowly opening the cervix with my husband holding the ewe on the other end. Once opened, I realized there was “nothing” inside except a wall of tissue...From a friend’s description of this last year, I realized the ewe must have a twisted or torqued uterus. I called the vet; it is now about 3:30am and the wind is howling and the snow is piling up. He arrived over an hour later, having driven 15 miles on 15 to 18 inch unplowed snowy roads. (Dedicated vet friend, wouldn’t you say?) After trying unsuccessfully to “turn” the uterus by manipulating the ewe from the outside, we did a c-section in the barn on the clean straw. By the time we got the huge 18 pound black ram lamb out of her he was dead...and after much stitching (do you know they take the uterus out of the incision to stitch it back together? I didn’t) he left after giving her some medications and hoped she’d pull through. The ewe was chilled and loosing ground fast. I covered her with a wool blanket, a polyester sleeping bag, and put a hot water bottle on her back under the covers. I had a runt black triplet that was about a week old that was being raised as a triplet...I put him in her pen and hoped for the best while he screamed for his mom and sisters. She loved her new baby from the start...and though she was too weak to get up, she “talked to him.” After about five hours under the covers with many re-warmed water bottles, she go up, shook her self, had a big drink of warm water and some grain and nudged the guy nurse. He is now my biggest lamb!

Another “event” was when an older ewe, who has been one of my best moms, had a baby born dead with what I understand is called “water belly.” The lamb was huge, fully formed, but had a huge squishy watery belly, like a partly filled water balloon. She loved her dead baby and had a fit when I tried to take it away. This happened in the middle of the night, so I put her and her dead baby in a pen and went back to bed. In the morning, when I went to check on the sheep, she was still licking her baby....I remembered that sometimes shepherds skin dead lambs and put the “coat” on another lamb for grafting it onto the mom. I had a two week old triplet that I was supplementing that just maybe I could give it a better chance with this ewe. In 25 years of lambing, I had never done this but knew that Grace Smith, a junior ABLA member, and her sister had tried it this year and had success....The Smiths live not far from me, so I took the now 10 hour dead lamb to their house and we proceeded to skin it with a dull knife and a razor blade (which worked way better than the knife!). After about an hour we had it done...and we also did sort of an autopsy and sure enough, when we opened the belly, it was full of “water” surrounding all the organs....When we skinned the lamb, we cut around the neck above the shoulders, then we left about two inches of front leg and back leg on the “coat”.

We also cut it from the chest to the anal area to make it just like a coat and we kept the whole tail attached as well. We had a bit of a mess when we were done, but the coat looked pretty good. We rinsed the blood off it, I thanked her and headed home. I put it on the little triplet (who was still smaller at two weeks than this new born had been) and tied the chest area together with a small piece of bailing twine to keep it on. I put the lamb in the pen and the mom loved it instantly. It smelled like her baby and she was so glad I had “brought it back to her alive.” The lamb wore the coat for three days. The coat-tail wiggled when it nursed and everyone was happy. The whole barn smelled pretty bad after one day... and after the coat was removed, the poor lamb smelled for another week. Mom and baby are still happy together. The photo shows mom and baby with her coat on.
Breeding Time Management

It is once again time to start planning for the next year’s lambing season. The first step should be in determining when you want the ewes to begin lambing and counting back the 147 days which is an average gestation. The success of the next year’s lamb crop actually begins prior to the breeding season. The rams need to be in adequate body condition because they will lose weight during the breeding season. Having a ram breeding soundness exam done is a good suggestion. The ram breeding soundness exam should include an overall physical exam of the ram as well as a semen collection and semen evaluation. In smaller flocks that only have one or two rams this is more critical, because if one ram is infertile or has an inability to breed a ewe it will impact an entire lamb crop. In larger operations often a ram’s poor performance is masked by the other rams. Purebred producers who wish to make specific matings with a group of ewes to a particular ram, should follow the next heat cycle with a proven stud to prevent a large number of ewes from being left open. The use of a marking harness is an excellent tool to help identify problem rams or recycling ewes. Purebred breeders or small flock owners who wish to keep track of matings should place a marking harness on their rams starting out with a light color such as yellow. Then every 17 days switch to a slightly darker color such as orange, then red, then blue followed by a dark green or black. If you wish to switch rams then you can also record if a ewe remarks and to which date a particular ram mounted her. If you keep a written daily record of the activity you can also use this information at lambing time to help identify which ewes are near lambing.

Rams also need to be wormed and have their feet trimmed prior to the breeding season. It is also a good idea to begin flushing the rams with some grain prior to the breeding season if you do not already have the rams on a diet containing some grain. They should not be in full fleece, if you shear prior to turning out with the ewes in the summer make sure to use a fly control product such as Delice. Avoid turning out ram lambs into large pastures or mixing them in with a set of older rams. Ram lambs have a tendency to be well fed and used to getting a high quality diet. If they suddenly get placed out on a pasture with only a "water hole" and salt feeder they can look quite different in 2 to 3 weeks. Combine their diet change with some older dominant rams competing for the same ewes and the ram lambs quickly become statistics.

Handling the ewe prior to the breeding season is essential to your program’s success. There is a lot of literature written on this particular topic and well worth your time to read and understand. Unfortunately we are going into this breeding season with a limited choice of abortion vaccines. Colorado Serum Company has a license on their Campylobacter Fetus (Vibrio) Bacterin which is a 5cc product given 2 weeks prior to breeding and booster in 60 to 90 days for first time vaccinates. Previously vaccinated sheep need only the annual booster prior to breeding. High risk flocks that have a history of vibrio abortion or flocks that make new additions should always revaccinate at mid gestation. The Colorado Serum product is an aqueous suspension of inactivated (killed) cultures of Campylobacter fetus sub sq. jejuni and intestinalis with aluminum hydroxide as an adjuvant. Colorado Serum has also been working on getting a Chlamydia vaccine released, but it is not available at the present time and we do not really expect to have it prior to the breeding season, however we continue to be optimistic that it will eventually be released.

Prior to breeding is a great time to worm the ewes with a product that will also get tapeworms such as Valbazen, Panacur or Synanthic. The products that are effective on tapeworms also have a risk to pregnant ewes and we prefer not to use them during gestation. Many producers also take this as an opportunity to do a final culling on any ewes that are excessively thin, lame or have lumps in their udders. Make sure that there is plenty of salt available, we recommend using additional selenium and Vitamin E during this period and again prior to the lambing season.

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

Reprinted with permission.
varying in their infectivity and severity. Warmth, mud and poor sanitation are environmental conditions that also favor footrot spread. These conditions create the anaerobic (lack of oxygen) conditions necessary for the spread of the disease. The *B. Nodusus* organism will only live in soil for 14 to 21 days.

The bacteria that causes foot rot, *Bacteriodes nodosus*, is spread from infected sheep to the ground, manure, bedding, etc., where it is then picked up by noninfected sheep. Foot rot is introduced by purchase of an infected animal or by simply using facilities or trucks that have been contaminated by infected sheep. Spread occurs best when temperatures are from 40-70 degrees F and the environment is wet. Since the organism doesn't survive long in the environment (< 2 wks), carriers in the flock will continue to reinfect the flock unless the animal is either culled or the organism is eliminated by proper treatment.

Treatment of foot rot should be approached from a flock standpoint. Since the footrot organism is anaerobic, the introduction of oxygen to its environment will help in eradicating it. Thus, it is important to keep sheep's hoofs trimmed. Elimination of overgrown hoof tissue will result in less mud and manure packing, which aids in environmental conditions conducive to footrot development. After foot trimming, the use of regular soaking in a footbath of a zinc sulfate solution (10% w/v) can greatly help in eradicating the disease. Vaccination of flocks with a history of footrot can help in prevention and in treatment of current cases. However, just because a sheep is vaccinated for footrot does not mean it is immune to infection. The vaccine does not cover all the strains of footrot. Producers with clean flocks can control footrot more economically by prevention rather than vaccination. Antibiotics can also be used to help treat cases of footrot. Penicillin can be particularly effective on a short-term basis.

Severely infected sheep that do not respond to treatment should be culled. There can be a genetic susceptibility to footrot; some sheep are more susceptible to footrot than others. Also, there can be breed differences in susceptibility to footrot. British and European breeds are less susceptible to footrot. Thus, sheep that have a resistance to footrot should be propagated, while, susceptible animals should be culled. Keeping records can help in identification of these types.

It is much easier to prevent foot rot than to eradicate it. Several management practices help to minimize the chances that foot rot will establish itself in a flock. You should never buy sheep infected with foot rot. Avoid buying apparently clean sheep from an infected flock. Avoid buying sheep from sale barns where clean and infected sheep are penned together. Assume all new additions to your flock are infected with foot rot. Always isolate new animals for at least two weeks. Trim feet immediately upon arrival. Treat feet of new sheep following trimming. Reinspect feet during the quarantine period.

**Foot Scald (interdigital dematitis)**

Foot scald is an infection of only *F. necrophorum* and is not contagious. Foot scald causes lameness, frequently on the front feet, and lesions are found between the hooves. The tissue between the toes of a sheep with foot scald are generally blanched and white, or red and swollen. Foot scald is much easier to treat than foot rot. Many times, placing sheep on drier footing and out of mud will alleviate the problems of the disease. Foot scald may also be treated topically by applying a solution of copper sulfate (Kopertox). The simplest and most effective treatment is use of a footbath containing 10% zinc sulfate solution (8 pounds zinc sulfate to 10 gallons water). The frequency and severity of foot scald infection will decline as drier weather returns.

**Laminitis (founder)**

Lameness related to laminitis is caused by inadequate blood flow in the hoof caused by digestive problems resulting from the excessive intake of grain (grain overload, acidosis). Animals often die before the feet become involved. Recovered animals may exhibit unusual foot growth and/or permanent lameness.

**Soremouth (contagious ecthyma)**

Lameness caused by soremouth is the result of blisters appearing on the skin near the top of the hoof wall. Simultaneous blisters may appear on the mouth and other areas of the sheep's body. The infection is more common around the mouth than on the legs or feet. Lesions can be treated with an ointment containing a broad spectrum antibiotic. Soremouth can be prevented with vaccination.
Continued from cover...

the garage door. So we got a neighbor’s long dog leash and tethered him to a tree on the lawn. He baa-ed a lot but settled down and ate grass and at least was still there in the morning when I woke up. I abandoned my plan of taking public transport home (LIRR or Hampton Jitney) and borrowed my parent’s car. He rode in the Prius hatchback out to Riverhead and is now fully at home with his pen-mates the Nigerian Dwarf goats, and our Maremma livestock guard dog named Casper.

Vegetables are a lot of work, but it’s constant low-level work. Animals are either really fun and easy, or a total emergency (like trying to figure out a way to hold Mr. Infinity overnight in the NJ suburbs, after he broke out of the garage). My whole life I have wanted animals but now that I have them it’s a real learning experience. But he’s a sweet lamb and we’re excited about him.

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

Cape House Farm
Border Leicester Sheep!

As always, we had a great time in Maryland, seeing old friends and making new ones!
We wish the best to all our Buyers.

We still have a few nice black rams and one black-factored ram lamb still available.
Give us a call.

Linda and Bill Koeppel
(734) 747 – 8112
koeppels@peoplepc.com

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
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 APPERANCE (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 purled tips ending in a curl
2. High luster
3. Minimum of kemp hair
4. Uniform fleece and belly wool
5. No black spots in white, no white spots in black wool

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.
Border Leicesters

**Yearling Ram** –
1) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA
2) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA
3) Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV
4) Spirit Hill Farm, Culpeper, VA
5) Spirit Hill Farm, Culpeper, VA

**Senior Ram Lamb** –
1) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA
2) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA

**Junior Ram Lamb** –
1) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL
2) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL
3) Maybe Tomorrow Farm, Chepachet, RI
4) Marilyn & Gilbert Fogle, Raymond, OH
5) Marilyn & Gilbert Fogle, Raymond, OH

**Pair of Ram Lambs** –
1) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL
2) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA
3) Marilyn & Gilbert Fogle, Raymond, OH
4) Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV

**Grand Champion Ram** –
Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA

**Reserve Champion Ram** –
Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL

**Yearling Ewe** –
1) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL
2) Maybe Tomorrow Farm, Chepachet, RI
3) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA
4) Maybe Tomorrow Farm, Chepachet, RI
5) Rebecca Butt, New Park, PA

**Pair of Yearling Ewes** –
1) Maybe Tomorrow Farm, Chepachet, RI
2) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA
3) Linda & Bill Koeppel, Ann Arbor, MI
4) Spirit Hill Farm, Culpeper, VA
5) Dave & Cathie Shiff, Amissville, VA

**Junior Ewe Lamb** –
1) Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV
2) Marilyn & Gilbert Fogle, Raymond, OH
3) Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV
4) Dave & Cathie Shiff, Amissville, VA
5) Emily Adham, Ivor, VA

**Pair of Ewe Lambs** –
1) Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV
2) Marilyn & Gilbert Fogle, Raymond, OH
3) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL
4) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA
5) Spirit Hill Farm, Culpeper, VA

**Grand Champion Ewe** –
Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL

**Reserve Champion Ewe** –
Maybe Tomorrow Farm, Chepachet, RI

**Flock** –
1) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA
2) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL
3) Marilyn & Gilbert Fogle, Raymond, OH
4) Spirit Hill Farm, Culpeper, VA

**Best Fleece** –
Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA

Natural Colored Border Leicesters

**Yearling Ram** –
1) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA
2) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA
3) Linda & Bill Koeppel, Ann Arbor, MI
4) Taryn Bierhuizen, Culpeper, VA

**Junior Ram Lamb** –
1) Maybe Tomorrow Farm, Chepachet, RI
2) Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV
3) Dave & Cathie Shiff, Amissville, VA
4) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA
5) Linda & Bill Koeppel, Ann Arbor, MI

**Pair of Ram Lambs** –
1) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA
2) Linda & Bill Koeppel, Ann Arbor, MI

**Grand Champion Ram** –
Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA

**Reserve Champion Ram** –
Maybe Tomorrow Farm, Chepachet, RI

**Yearling Ewe** –
1) Mallory Ketterer, Bernville, PA
2) Mallory Ketterer, Bernville, PA
3) Taryn Bierhuizen, Culpeper, VA
4) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA
5) Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV

**Pair of Yearling Ewes** –
1) Mallory Ketterer, Bernville, PA
2) Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV
3) Taryn Bierhuizen, Culpeper, VA
4) Linda & Bill Koeppel, Ann Arbor, MI

**Junior Ewe Lamb** –
1) Taryn Bierhuizen, Culpeper, VA
2) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA
3) Taryn Bierhuizen, Culpeper, VA
4) Dave & Cathie Shiff, Amissville, VA
5) Emily Adham, Ivor, VA

**Pair of Ewe Lambs** –
1) Taryn Bierhuizen, Culpeper, VA
2) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA
3) Dave & Cathie Shiff, Amissville, VA

**Grand Champion Ewe** –
Mallory Ketterer, Bernville, PA

**Reserve Champion Ewe** –
Maybe Tomorrow Farm, Chepachet, RI

**Flock** –
1) Taryn Bierhuizen, Culpeper, VA
2) Overlook Manor Farm, Warrenton, VA

**Best Fleece** –
Taryn Bierhuizen, Culpeper, VA

---

2007 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival Show Results
January 20, 2007
## Some exciting upcoming events!!!!

### August

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 – 19</td>
<td>Michigan Fiber Festival Inc.</td>
<td>Hastings MI</td>
<td><a href="http://www.michiganfiberfestival.org">www.michiganfiberfestival.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>Gibsons Landing Fibre Arts Festival</td>
<td>Gibsons Landing, BC, Canada, V0N 1V0</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gibsonslandingfibrearts.com">www.gibsonslandingfibrearts.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th-Sept. 3</td>
<td>Colorado State Fair</td>
<td>Pueblo, CO</td>
<td><a href="http://www.coloradostatefair.com">www.coloradostatefair.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>Back of the Wasatch Fiber Art &amp; Wool Festival</td>
<td>Coalville, UT</td>
<td><a href="http://www.xmission.com/~3smiths.fiberfest.htm">www.xmission.com/~3smiths.fiberfest.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>Wisconsin Sheep &amp; Wool Festival</td>
<td>Jefferson, WI</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wisconshepandwoolfestival.com">www.wisconshepandwoolfestival.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>Vermont Sheep &amp; Wool Festival</td>
<td>Essex Jct., VT</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vermontsheep.com">www.vermontsheep.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-26</td>
<td>National Border Leicester Show</td>
<td>The Big E</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thebigel.com">www.thebigel.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-23</td>
<td>Oregon Flock &amp; Fiber Festival</td>
<td>Canby, OR</td>
<td>Includes Sheep Show <a href="http://www.flockandfiberfestival.com">www.flockandfiberfestival.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>Wool Festival at Taos</td>
<td>Kit Carson Park Taos, NM</td>
<td><a href="http://www.taoswoolfestival.org">www.taoswoolfestival.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>Trailing of the Sheep Festival</td>
<td>Ketchum, ID</td>
<td><a href="http://www.trailingofthesheep.org/index.htm">www.trailingofthesheep.org/index.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-Nov. 4th</td>
<td>Arizona State Fair</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>Contact: Susan Frazier (602)988-9166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-22</td>
<td>New York Sheep &amp; Wool Festival</td>
<td>Rhinebeck, NY</td>
<td>Includes Sheep show <a href="http://www.sheepandwool.com">www.sheepandwool.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-28</td>
<td>Southeastern Fiber Festival</td>
<td>Asheville, NC</td>
<td>Includes Border Leicester Show <a href="http://www.saffsite.org">www.saffsite.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Franklin County Fiber Twist</td>
<td>Old Deerfield, MA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fibertwist.com">www.fibertwist.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-28</td>
<td>Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival</td>
<td>Berryville, VA</td>
<td>Includes Sheep Show <a href="http://www.shenandoahvalleyfiberfest.com">www.shenandoahvalleyfiberfest.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>Kid ‘n’ Ewe and Llamas Too</td>
<td>Kendall County Fairground Boerne, TX</td>
<td><a href="http://www.scla.us/kidnewe.html">www.scla.us/kidnewe.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>Best of the Southwest Fiber Arts Festival</td>
<td>McGee Park Convention Center Farmington, NM</td>
<td><a href="http://www.woolfestivalsw.meridian1.net">www.woolfestivalsw.meridian1.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>San Juan Weavers Guild</td>
<td>Montrose, CO</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sanjuanweavers.com/showandsale.htm">www.sanjuanweavers.com/showandsale.htm</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hello from Twin Birches in Millerton, New York, the most eastern part of the state. Our weather here is most unpredictable. We just had a very hot, humid week and now we are having a rather cool, low humidity week for this time of year. The yards are starting to brown, pasture growth is slowing down, but hay making excels. The garden is planted and the lambs are growing.

Show season in this immediate area is gearing up. In August the Dutchess County Fair in Rhinebeck, NY has a very nice sheep show. Border Leicesters have their own class. Check out their website at www.dutchessfair.com. Coming up this month is the 23rd Annual NorthEast Youth Sheep Show and the Annual New England Sheep Sale, July 20, 21 & 22 at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA. For more info www.nesheep.org. In September is the National Border Leicester show at the Big E in West Springfield, MA. I can’t say enough about how great this show is and the facilities are fabulous. For all the info you need about this show: www.thebige.com.

Well, time to tend to the weeds in the garden and have another leading session with the lambs that will be showing. Gotta love um!!

As the Promotional Director for ABLA, I always welcome any ideas or suggestions you might have for ways to showcase our wonderful breed of sheep. Hope your summer brings many rewards for you.
JoAnne Tuncy
ewebe_53@yahoo.com

Sad news in Maryland

We got this sad information via an email from a Romney breeder:
On Wed, May 23, 2007 Nancy Cox Starkey’s husband, George Starkey, died suddenly at his home at the age of 55. Nancy raised Border Leicester sheep in the past and currently her Trial and Error Acres Farm in Mt. Airy, Maryland, is very involved in breeding quality Blue Face Leicester sheep. She has been a mentor to some as they became involved with sheep, and has always been willing to come and help with a problem at a moments notice. Nancy loves the working Border Collie, and has been very involved in Northeast Border Collie Rescue. She runs the sheepdog demos at the Maryland Sheep and Wool festival, and those of you who were there, most likely heard her commentary. Thought that those of you, who know Nancy, may want to keep her in your thoughts and prayers, and perhaps drop her a line.
Rhody Blankets Give That Warm and Fuzzy Feeling

By Katherine Imbrie
Reprinted with permission from the March 18, 2007 issue of the Providence Journal

This is how special “Rhody Warm” blankets are: You can’t get one of these Rhode Island-sheep-wool blankets from any other source than Marcus and Barbara Thompson’s 1790 farmhouse deep in the woods of Harmony, Rhode Island — not from a Garnet Hill catalog, not from Target or Linens ’n’ Things or Bed, Bath & Beyond.

Like Rhody Fresh milk, the blankets are a local-farm-grown product. By buying one, you are helping Rhode Island farmers stay in business, and that should make you feel as warm and fuzzy as one of these blankets does.

Neatly folded in clear plastic cases, the blankets come in three sizes: a 45-by-72-inch throw ($92), a 90-by-90-inch queen blanket ($184), and a 72-by-90-inch twin blanket ($130). The blanket wool is tightly woven and very soft, available in two color variations, both in the classic windowpane pattern: White with brown/gray, or brown/gray with white.

The Rhody Warm blankets that are piled in the Thompson farmhouse are the last of the 2006 inaugural year production line, and each one carries an “Inaugural Edition, 100 percent Local Wool” label noting that fact.

The wool was sheared last spring from the sheep at 17 Rhode Island farms, all members of the Rhode Island Sheep Cooperative, including Thompson’s Seldom Seen Farm. Altogether, some 1,400 pounds of Rhode Island wool were collected last April. The wool went to Faribault Mills in Minnesota for cleaning and processing, and afterward returned to S&D Spinners in Millbury, Mass., where it was woven into blankets that became available around Christmastime. The farmers who produced the wool got the first chance at buying the limited-edition blankets, and only a few dozen toasty-warm throws and queen- and twin-size blankets are still for sale.

But if you miss out this year, don’t despair: In just a few weeks, shearing will begin for the Rhody Warm 2007 blankets at each of the 17 farms around Rhode Island that participate in the blanket program. You can put your name on a list now to purchase a 2007 blanket when they become available in time for next Christmas.

Rhody Warm is a two-year collaborative project of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management’s Division of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Rhode Island Rural Development Council, the Sheep Cooperative and others.

To sign up for a 2007-edition blanket for delivery around Christmas, call (401) 822-8877 or e-mail chris.modisette@ri.usda.gov. To buy one of the remaining 2006-edition blankets, call Barbara Thompson, (401) 949-0264. If you like, you can also arrange to visit the Thompson farm on Evans Road in Gloucester on one of the dates in April when this year’s sheep-shearing is done. The Thompson’s raise two kinds of sheep: Border Leicesters and Hampshires, and right now their old country barn is full of the gentle baaing and cud-chewing sounds of two rams, 27 ewes and 36 lambs that were born last month. Not coincidentally, their fuzzy fleeces are exactly the same shades of white and soft brown that Rhody Warm blankets are.
2007 National Sale Results
Springfield, Illinois
June 22-23, 2007

White Yearling Ram
Champion - Deakin Family Farms $500.00 to Cinderella Farms, Knoxville, TN

White Ram Lambs
Deakin Family $375.00 to Roger & Rachael Green, Greenbush, MN
Phelps’ Farm $325.00 to J&L Farms, Two Rivers, WI
Deakin Family Farms $600.00 to Spirit Hill Farm, Culpeper, VA

Colored Ram Lambs
Seldom Seen Farm/Barbara Thompson $175.00 to Alona Berglund, Rossville, IL

White Yearling Ewes
Res. Champion - Deakin Family Farms $550.00 to Cinderella Farms, Knoxville, TN
Maybe Tomorrow Farm/Hopkins $675.00 to Cinderella Farms, Knoxville, TN
Deakin Family Farms $1000.00 to Cinderella Farms, Knoxville, TN
Hintzsche Sheep $350.00 to Archie Murray, Lamar, NE
Seldom Seen Farm/Barbara Thompson $225.00 to John, Shannon & Alex Taylor, Frankfort, IN
Mist O Morn Farm/Di Waibel $475.00 to Mina McKinney, Lamar, NE
Seldom Seen Farm/Barbara Thompson $500.00 to Bridgette Eldridge, Martell, CA
Mist O Morn Farm/Di Waibel $200.00 to Megli Farm, Lamar, MO

White Ewe Lambs
Champion – Maybe Tomorrow Farm $500.00 to Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL
Seldom Seen Farm/Barbara Thompson $300.00 to Jerry & Dena Early, ZNK Border Leicesters, West Liberty, OH
Maybe Tomorrow Farm $425.00 to Spirit Hill Farm, Culpeper, VA
Seldom Seen Farm/Barbara Thompson $250.00 to Phelps’ Farm, Tipton, IA
Phelps’ Farms $300.00 to Kelly Mansfield, Kearneysville, WV
Phelps’ Farm $225.00 to Tamara N. Russell, Rutherfordton, NC

19 sheep sold……Average $418.42

STUD RAMS FOR SALE

“ANDREW”
Koeppel/Weik Pedigree
4th Place Yearling Ram at MD Sheep & Wool 2007.

“PANTHER”
Res. Champion NC Ram at Rhinebeck, NY

“BASIL”
3rd place Yearling Ram at MD Sheep & Wool 2007.

Price: $400 each

SPIRIT HILL FARM
The Bierhuizens
17292 Kibler Rd. * Culpeper, VA 22701
(540)829-0806 * sheepygbabab@hotmail.com

6 consignors from 4 states sold sheep to buyers from 13 different states!

Thank You!!
WOOL JUDGE MARY GRANT
By Kit Phelps
Reprinted with permission.

“I’ve done a fair bit of judging,” says wool judge Mary Grant, who has always been interested in wool. Her father and grandfather raised long wool sheep, and her grandfather gave her triplet Border Leicester lambs when she was 3 years old. When she married Don 49 years ago, they started raising Border Leicesters on Eldonview Farms in Woodville, Ontario, where they still have about 60 ewes, both white and colored. They also have a few Targhees and Romneys, and their son owns Lincolns. Mary says, “All these years we’ve been exposed to plenty of sheep and wool.”

Twenty years ago, Mary, a former teacher, decided to take her interest in wool a step farther and entered the 6 year Master Spinner program at Georgian College, Barrie, Ontario, about an hour away. “It was very intense,” Mary says. After she completed the course she had 2 years to write a thesis with the requirement that no one else could have already written on that topic. She wrote on the wool in three Leicester breeds – Blueface, Border and English.

During this time she also enrolled and passed a course on judging wool and became a certified wool judge. Her husband Don is a certified sheep judge, and they sometimes judge at the same shows like in Altamont, New York and at the Western Washington Fair in Puyallup. Eldonview Farms show their sheep and fleeces in Canada and when the border was open, showed at Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, the Big E, Rhinebeck Sheep and Wool Festival, and at Louisville. They miss participating at those shows. “It gets in your blood,” Mary says. So they have been going to Maryland in May and Rhinebeck in October without their sheep. Mary judged at the Maryland show two years ago and she has been invited to judge Rhinebeck this year.

When Mary judged the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival there were 500 entries, “I just waded through it,” she says. She starts judging when she first sees the fleeces and looks for something to catch her eye. Then she starts going through each fleece checking on a variety of qualities. She worked from 5 pm to 10 pm judging the entries and writing comments. The next day she gave the placings with comments on strengths and weaknesses believing that everyone should be encouraged, especially those entering the first time and those in 4-H.

When it came time to judge for champion fleeces, Mary threw those fleeces out on the table to judge more thoroughly. In smaller shows she judges every fleece out of the bag or in Canada where they are rolled up, she unrolls each one. Cleanliness is especially important when judging wool shows for handspinners (like the Maryland Sheep and Wool Show). Mary says that long pieces of straw can be removed, but little alfalfa leaves are almost impossible to take out. Sheep need to be fed carefully to avoid the vegetable matter. Putting a coat on a sheep does not guarantee a good fleece. She can often tell when the fleece has had a coat, because of a ring around the neck and the ends of the wool are bent over. Coats need to be maintained and changed monthly. According to Mary, some breeds such as Lincolns and Border Leicesters should not wear coats at all because the condensation under the coats easily mats their wool.

“Wool is almost a barometer of the sheep’s well being – good health during the year the fleece was growing,” Mary says. “You will not prepare a show fleece on shearing day unless you have practiced good management prior to shearing.” To check for soundness, Mary holds a lock by her ear to listen for a squeaky sound when she pulls it. The fleece should be uniform in quality and in crimp from the shoulders to the britch. Evenness of length is checked with a ruler or her index finger. “If the sheep has been blocked for a show, the back has been trimmed and that spoils the fleece, Mary says. Long wools must have luster, but she checks all the breeds to make sure the wool is not dry or brittle. She also feels it for softness opposed to harshness. Then she looks for brightness and whiteness not wanting to see canary yellow that does not wash out. Weight is a very important factor at producers’ fleece shows (like the Western Washington Fair in Puyallup), but not as important to handspinners. Handspinning fleeces should be extremely well skirted. The producer fleece will often not be as heavily skirted so that it will have more weight. Once Mary found a tail. “They weren’t expecting me to open the bag.” she laughs.

Each fleece should show breed character. Crimp is very pronounced in fine wool breeds like the Merino. Crimp is valuable in spinning because it increases the elasticity of the yarn and fiber. A Border Leicester’s fleece will be more lustrous and the crimp will be much looser with a corkscrew curl on the end. Disqualifications can occur with kemp (hair), mats, extensive vegetable matter, second cuts, and black fiber in a white fleece. For colored fleeces Mary always asks at the beginning if consistency in color is desired or if variegation is okay. According to Mary, the shearer and the shearing process is an important part of obtaining a good fleece. Know when to shear – at the right length and before matting occurs – and never shear when a sheep is wet.

“Cherish a good shearer,” Mary says. “Personally I don’t want a speed shearer. I would sooner pay a shearer extra to take his time and do a good job. You end up with a better product and it’s easier on the sheep – less stressful.” Mary likes a shearing platform that can be swept. She “floor skirts” when the shearer throws the fleece on the skirting table quickly taking off the belly, britch, tags and what she can. Then she rolls it up and puts it in a burlap bag or if she knows it will be a show fleece, she puts it in a box. Then before she sells it to a handspinner or takes it to a show, she will reskirt it.

Other recommendations are not to show fleece that were trimmed for sheep shows, and don’t keep fleeces longer than a year. Also she can immediately smell when a sheep has been dipped. “I throw those fleeces under the table,” she says. Her final advice is, “Remember that competitions are not intended to be a market for selling your entire wool clip, so take only the fleeces you are proud to claim.”
"Introduction of the new ABLA Junior Achievement Award"

Any youth that is interested in Border Leicesters is encouraged to participate in a new and exciting program being offered to all juniors, under the age of 21, by the American Border Leicester Association. This program awards points for a wide variety of activities; such as shows, community service, displays, demonstrations, interviews, etc. Once the junior accumulates a minimum number of points, s/he automatically wins this award. A plaque and special recognition will be given to each applicant that successfully achieves this honor. Deadline for all applications is December 1, 2007. This award is retroactive from January 1, 2007.

For more information and applications, please contact Jennifer Bierhuizen, junior coordinator, at daedalus6@hotmail.com or 540-829-0806.

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

Polly, Kevin, Sarah and Chris Hopkins
494 Evans Road
Chepachet, RI 02814
401-949-4619
Email: khop4811@aol.com
Website: maybetomorrowfarm.com

2007 Champion Ewe at The Second National Sale in IL

Reserve Champion Ram at Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival 2007

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

Thanks to all our buyers!
The Annual Meeting of the American Border Leicester Association was held on May 5, 2007 at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, Frederick, MD. Greg Deakin, President called the meeting to order and introduced Board members Polly Hopkins and Jennifer Bierhuisen who were in attendance. Also attending was newsletter editor Sarah Hopkins and Recording Secretary, Sally Barney. Greg Deakin announced that Polly Hopkins and Di Waibel had been elected to the Board of Director’s and outgoing Director Linda Hansen was thanked for her time and support.

The 2006 Annual Meeting minutes were approved as read and the 2006 Budget Report was accepted. The 2007 budget, as approved by the Directors, was presented and approved.

Committee reports were presented. Greg led the discussion for the Publicity & Promotion Committee. Cathy Shiff volunteered to draft a new one page brochure and her offer was gladly accepted.

Greg reported that there were 22 entries in the National Border Leicester Sale and Polly shared that plans for the National Border Leicester Show at Eastern States Exposition on September 22, 2007 are well underway. Entry information is located at www.thebige.com. Entries are due August 15th.

The Western District Committee will be active as the year goes on. The newsletter is going well. There is always an opportunity to advertise in the newsletter and Sarah is always looking for members to profile.

Jennifer Bierhuisen presented a Junior Achievement Program for ABLA youth. This program is open to all youth and Jennifer is the contact person.

The Fogels reported that they are trying to establish a Border Leicester Show at the Ohio State Fair and encouraged breeders to enter.

The members present asked the Board of Directors how successful they had been in addressing issues brought up at the 2006 annual meeting. 1. Greg reported that the breed standard was being inserted into every other issue of the newsletter. 2. He reported that advertising is limited by the dollars available. 3. With regard to fleece type, it was decided to use the breed standard and to not recommend changing it.

There was strong sentiment to endorse the slogan … “Start at the top with Border Leicesters.” It was moved by Nancy Weik, seconded by Cathy Shiff and voted affirmatively to adopt the slogan.

The meeting was adjourned and each participant went home with a Border Leicester decal and a thank you gift.

President, Greg Deakin called the meeting to order. The April meeting minutes were approved as sent to the Board. Polly reported a balance of $1,529.97 in the treasury. The Treasurer’s report was approved as presented. There are a number of members who have not renewed their dues and it was agreed that Greg would send them a letter encouraging them to join. Unpaid members will not continue to receive the newsletter.

Greg reported that to date ABLA had registered 393 sheep and transferred 124. NABLA had registered 80 and transferred 10.

The excellent annual meeting was reviewed. JoAnne Tuncy, Chair of the Promotion & Publicity Committee reported that the membership packets were going out very soon and will include a euro decal with a Border Leicester and our new slogan. Greg will transport one of the Border Leicester banners to the Border Leicester events he is attending in the next few months.

The National Sale results will be in the next newsletter. Jennifer Bierhuisen reported that the ABLA Junior Achievement Award Program is ready. It was suggested by the Board that all paid junior members receive information on this program.

Polly reported that the National Show continues to come along well. She reminded us that there will be a dinner following the show and that exhibitors and friends will be asked to confirm their reservations prior to the show date.

Di Waibel reported that there was enthusiasm for Border Leicester involvement at the Black Sheep Gathering and the Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival.

The following slate of officers was unanimously elected by the Board of Director’s for 2007/08: President: Greg Deakin; Vice President: Jon Tecker; Treasurer: Polly Hopkins. Jennifer Bierhuisen was appointed Junior Coordinator and Sally Barney is the Recording Secretary. Sarah Hopkins was confirmed as Newsletter Editor at the previous meeting.

Sally Barney – Recording Secretary
Eastern States Exposition (more commonly known as the “Big E”) in West Springfield, Massachusetts is hosting the National Border Leicester show this coming September, during the “Wool Week” division of the sheep show. Classes are being offered for both white and natural colored Border Leicesters. Entries are now being accepted, you may go to the Exposition’s website for more information: www.thebige.com. The National Show will be at 2:30 on Saturday afternoon, September 22, 2007, with Ed Julian of Ohio judging. The show follows the Lead Line competition with the prejudging at 8:30 and the Classes starting at 12:00 noon. The Big E also holds competitions in Fiber Products, Fleece judging and a Spinning Bee (check the website for details). Deadline for entries is August 15, 2007, which may be accepted via email or regular mailing.

For an enjoyable ending to the events of the day, a room has been reserved at the Storrowton Tavern for a delicious evening meal. The Storrowton Tavern is located right on the fairgrounds so all attending does not have to fight the fair traffic to enjoy a good meal. The cost will be $25.00 per person. Unfortunately, we will need to receive your reservations and money by September 14, 2007. We want to say a big thank you to Sally and Dwight Barney (“newbies” in the Border Leicester world) who donated funds to cover the tip and gratuity for the evening! Oh yea, there is one catch!! Anyone who walks thru the door to our dinner must bring a small sheep-related item for a door prize. Everyone coming in will receive a ticket and numbers will be drawn throughout the meal for your prize.

This dinner is open to all - we have a good size room so there is plenty of room for ‘Border Leicesters friends’. If you know of anyone who wants to join us but they don’t raise Border Leicesters, invite them along – maybe we can win them over!!

For more information or RSVP contact Sally Barney at Sally.Barney@comcast.net or fill out the form below and mail to her with your check today.

We “New Englanders” look forward to seeing you all at the Big E.

RSVP for dinner at Big E/National Show weekend:

Name: ____________________________________________ ______________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________ ______________________________________
Tel: _______________________ ______  Email:__________________________________

X I would like to reserve ______ meals at $25.00 per meal
X I enclose a check in the amount of  $___________

Make your check payable to: “ALBA”

Mail to: Sally Barney, Secretary
American Border Leicester Association
52 Cartland Road
Lee, NH 03861
Consistently Breeding High Quality Border Leicesters That Work For Us...And For Others!

Deakin 06-1116 RR
GRAND CHAMPION EWE
MARYLAND SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL

Deakin 07-1228 RR
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION RAM
MARYLAND SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL

Deakin 06-1177 QK
NATIONAL SALE GRAND CHAMPION RAM
Thanks to Cinderella Farms, PA on his purchase. Congratulations to Maybe Tomorrow Farm, RI on their National Sale Champion Ewe dammed by a Deakin ewe.

Deakin 06-1134 RR
HIGH SELLING BORDER LEICESTER - 2007 NATIONAL SALE
Thanks to Cinderella Farm, PA on her purchase. We also had 1st Yearling & Res, Grand Champion Ewe, selling to Cinderella Farm.

[Deakin Family Farms logo]

Deakin 06-1157 QR
GRAND CHAMPION EWE - GREAT LAKES SALE
Thanks to Bear Hollow Farm, OH on her purchase.

Kolette Alford, Shepherd

Email: ads.banner@sybertech.net

FOR SALE
A powerful set of ram lambs either RR or QR. Also, a foundation set of 10 breed ewes. Will sell open or as a bred package.

Deakin Family Farms
11191 E. Cameron Rd.
Cuba, IL 61427
309/785-3115
Suzanne Higgs
213 Gilkey Avenue
Plainwell, MI
49080

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

Suzanne Higgs
213 Gilkey Avenue
Plainwell, MI
49080

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

Irene Nebiker
28 Grange Road
North Smithfield, RI 02896

A small flock on the move...

Border Leicesters

Mistwood Farm

Irene Nebiker
28 Grange Road
North Smithfield, RI 02896

A small flock on the move...

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

Lamar Leicesters
Breeders of White Border Leicesters
With Length, Depth & Width

Murray & McKinney
580 Sioux Street
Lamar, Nebraska 69023
308-882-3949
lamarleicester@chase3000.com

You could be here
Contact Sarah for a spot in the next newsletter.
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.

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
American Border Leicester Association
Newsletter Editor
Sarah Hopkins
P.O. Box 3144
Albany, NY 12203

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED