



THE AMERICAN BORDER LEICESTER ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY NEWS

Winter

2007

EWE FLOCK SELECTION

by Judy Lewman, Spring Creek Farm

On a bright spring day nearly 30 years ago I was having trouble concentrating at a Paula Simmons spinning workshop. The distraction was a basket overflowing with freshly shorn fleece—a tumble of Border Leicester curls. Such was my introduction to the breed, and I was hooked. A new ram soon joined our flock, followed by several ewes. And a few years later, having seen how well the breed fit our marketing objectives, we made the move to concentrate exclusively on white Border Leicesters, dispersing all of our Suffolks and natural colored crossbreds.

When Sarah asked me to share some thoughts on ewe selection as a follow-up to Bill Koeppel's excellent article on rams, I began a mental note of *Most Important Attributes*. Ewe selection, for me, is a continuous search to discover the elite animal—the one most likely to produce stud quality ram lambs—and since “the ram produces his dam” selection then becomes a never ending cycle. My perspective is that of one who selects homegrown replacements. Hopefully, those purchasing seedstock will also find the following comments useful in generating questions to ask.

Production: It's my job to see that the flock is well managed and properly fed. In return, I expect the ewe to give birth and care for all of her lambs with the least bit of assistance from me (preferably none at all) including, in a mature ewe, production of ample milk for triplets. We keep careful records to learn who is best holding up her end of the bargain, indexing the ewes based on 50-day lamb weights adjusted for age of dam, sex of lamb, type of birth (single, twin, or triplet) and how raised (as a single, twin, or triplet). Each ewe's production history is updated annually, as is the performance of any retained offspring.

Temperament: While our breed is noted for its calm demeanor, this is an area in which selection pressure can make a huge difference over time in how easy (or not) the flock is to manage. Any ewe who jumps over or scoots under fences quickly loses points with me, as does one who thrashes relentlessly on the shearing floor, is mean to lambs not her own, who fidgets during foot trimming, is consistently difficult to catch or flighty without reason. You get the idea. I don't want ewes like that, no matter how beautiful they may be, nor do I want any of their offspring.

Conformation/Scale: In a mature ewe age 3 years and up, I like to see a well balanced, moderately large (200# absolute max at condition score 3.0), sound, muscular animal with adequate bone, good body capacity (translates into more milk), long loin and straight back (no dip behind the shoulders), and not carrying excess weight (too often seen in Border Leicesters). Set of the hind legs is especially important (not cow hocked or post legged).

Having mentioned a preference for moderation in size, I must now confess to having played chase-the-yardstick when our daughters were showing Suffolks. Today, some 30 years later, we see the cumulative effect of having added just 1/4" in height per year. I hope and pray that this is not where the Border Leicester is headed. Similar concern was expressed 10 years ago by renowned U.K. breeder and judge, Archie Smith-Maxwell. While addressing colleagues prior to the 100th anniversary celebration of the British Border Leicester Society, he wrote, “. . . Fashion is a fickle friend . . . I wonder whether we will want such a big ewe in the next century. Listen to the debate . . . and act in time. The key to the coffers comes from the commercial attributes. Unfortunately we are allowing the showing to elude our judgment . . . we must stay a working breed.”

Continued on page 17...

Inside This Issue

- 2 President's Message and Treasurer Report
- 3 Through the eyes of a Youth...Youth Breeder Profile
- 4 Painting Handspun for Self-Patterning Sock Yarn
- 5 Prelambing Time Vaccination
- 6 Why Sheep Don't Shrink When It Rains & Answers to Other Questions About Wool
- 11 Shearing School Dates
- 13 N.A.I.L.E Show results
- 15 Water – Winter – Ewes
- 16 Interruptions to a Healthy Pregnancy
- 19 Recipe Corner: Lamb Pita Sandwiches

Presidents Message

Happy New Year Greeting to all! I hope you will all soon be filling your barn with healthy, strong Border Leicester Lambs.

2006 was very successful for our breed as we continue to grow. Our visibility at many of the Nations most prestigious festivals and livestock shows is outstanding. Compliments about our breed from veteran breeders of "old guard" breeds is rewarding and I believe our image within the industry is at an all time high.

Your board worked hard last year trying to expand the merits of Border Leicesters on a national basis. Our 2007 plans include an aggressive advertising and promotional campaign to increase awareness about Border Leicesters with a goal of attracting more new breeders. "Start at the top with Border Leicesters" is going to be our catch phrase for 2007. You will soon see it in our advertising and new promotional material.

Our breed is relatively young in terms of age of other breeds that have been in the United States. The Tunis breed celebrated its 200th Anniversary two years ago and Southdowns are marking 2007 as their 125th Anniversary. As a breed whose primary roots trace less than 40 years in the United States, I believe our future is bright. Foremost, we have a great product. Border Leicesters have great eye appeal and a great disposition. Border Leicester ewes produce husky, thrifty lambs and know how to be good mothers. Border Leicesters are such good caretakers that they make animal husbandry much easier compared to many of the older breeds.

Be proud of your breed and set a goal in 2007 to attend one of the shows or festivals in your area where Border Leicesters will be exhibited. Participation builds enthusiasm which is contagious. People like to be around people who feel good about themselves and their breed. We have that momentum going now and I challenge each of you to get out and show off your Border Leicesters and bring a new breeder or two into our fold.

This newsletter is the first edited by Sarah Hopkins. We welcome Sarah aboard and I personally want to thank Noreen Atkins for her fine job and service publishing last years newsletter. Send Sarah your news!

Greg Deakin
President, ABLA

ABLA TREASURER REPORT FOR YEAR 2006

Starting Balance		\$2,393.44
Income:		
2006 Dues, registrations & transfers	\$8549.13	
2007 dues (6-Jrs; 15 family/adults)	390.00	
2008 dues (3)	60.00	
2006 Ads	544.40	
2007 Ads	305.00	
Sale of T-Shirts	64.00	
Donation for Social @ Maryland Festival	500.00	
Big E – National Regional – trophy donations, dinners	1667.00	
Replacement of bounced checks	<u>24.00</u>	
		+12,103.53
Expenses:		
Associated Registries	\$3357.85	
Bank fees	71.84	
Insurance	1069.00	
Wisconsin Sheep Breeders – 2005 National Show	296.35	
NAILE 2005	300.00	
NAILE 2006	500.00	
Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival – social	500.00	
North East Youth Sheep Show	100.00	
Big E National Regional Show	410.00	
Big E – trophies and dinners	1653.75	
NY Sheep & Wool Festival	219.12	
Siteman Inc.	89.03	
K. Smith – Webmaster	200.00	
D. Waibel – Reimbursement Secretary expenses	270.38	
N. Atkins, 2006 Editor/fee, reimbursement expenses	1927.04	
The Shepherd Advertising	40.00	
S. Hopkins, 2007 Editor/reimbursement initial exp.	103.73	
Repayment of bounced checks	24.00	
Misc. Reimbursements (Johnson, Smith, Hopkins)	<u>104.21</u>	
		-11,236.30
Balance as of December 31, 2006		<u>\$3,260.67</u>

Letter from the editor...

Hello! I hope everyone has had a great holiday and new year! I am so excited about this being my first newsletter. For this newsletter I tried to find articles to do with lambing since it is that time of year...We also have a great article from Judy Lewman on Ewe Selection and a Youth Breeder Profile - thanks Judy and Colin! I still have room available in the next newsletter for business card ads, 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 cheviot99@cox.net.

Happy Lambing!

Sarah Hopkins





*Through the eye of a youth breeder...
A Youth Breeder Profile*

Colin Sigmund

I own a Border Leicester for several reasons and I will explain some of them. My great aunties always wanted me to be a farmer. They told me many stories of when they had a farm of their own. My interest in sheep was sparked when I purchased 2 books, Back Yard Livestock and Storey's Guide to Raising Sheep. I not only read these books but I studied them and found that cows were too big, pigs too mean, and sheep were just right for a small farmer like myself. I decided to join a 4-H group in hopes of raising sheep. The group that I joined was a rabbit group but the leader had decided that they were going to expand into sheep. I was thrilled to hear this news, my dream would come true. The leader arranged for our group to visit 3 sheep farms in Chepachet, RI. They were; Maybe Tomorrow Farm, Seldom Seen Farm and Emma Morton's farm.

The big decision was what breed of sheep that I wanted to purchase. I have interest in Cheviots, Border Leicesters, Oxfords, Southdowns, and Corriedales. After our visit to the farms and deep thought, I decided on a Border Leicester. I chose this breed because of their wonder wool, good meat, fast growing, and even-tempered.

We went to the Maybe Tomorrow farm that is operated by the Hopkins family and we meet with Polly who had 3 lambs for me to choose from. We went in the basement of the barn and the lambs were in one pen. Polly asked me to come in and choose one of the lambs. I chose Ellen because she was the biggest and friendliest. We put her in a dog crate which has now turned into a sheep crate and brought her to my 4-H leader's house, where she would stay for the next 5 months.

At 4-H, we would spend every other day, walking our sheep with halters. We would have little mock shows in the field next to the pasture. One of us would play the judge and award placement according to the ability of the handler. One time, when I was tying my shoe, my friend was holding Ellen and she got loose. All I had to do was call Ellen's name and she came to me. Another time, when we were cleaning up our sheep for our first show, I was done rinsing her off and we were walking back to the pen, when she plopped down in the mud. She looked up at me with a look as if she was saying "oops". At that first show, I placed 2nd showmanship and 2nd in breed class. The show season flew by so quickly and this was my first season. I did not place too high in showmanship and I did much better in breed class. It wasn't until the show at Hebron that my luck finally came through. I placed 2nd in lead line, 2nd in showmanship and 1st and champion ewe in breed class. Then at the Big E, I continued my winning streak as I placed 4th in lead line and 3rd in breed class. We then, finally took her home to the farm at the end of our road. She is staying there with 2 other sheep and I get to see her every day. My dream has finally come true to have and own a sheep. She is a sweetheart and always will be.

ABLA Directors

Greg Deakin (2009), President
P.O. Box 500
Cuba, IL 61427
309-785-5058
ads.banner.sybertech.net

Polly Hopkins (2007), Treasurer
494 Evans Road
Chepachet, RI 02814
401-949-4619
Khop4811@aol.com

Sue Johnson (2008)
578 Baldwin Road
Hinesburg, VT 05461
suejohnson@gmavt.net

Jennifer Bierhuizen (2009), Jr Coordinator
17292 Kibler Road
Culpeper, VA 22701
540-829-0806
Daedalus6@hotmail.com

Jon Tecker (2008)
P.O. Box 548
Parks NE 69041
308-423-2995
jctecker@bwtelcom.net

JoAnne Tuncy (2008), Promotional Director
692 Smithfield Road
Millerton, NY 12546
518-789-6113
Ewebe53@yahoo.com

Linda Hansen (2007)
29632 Beaver Creek Road
Corballis, OR 97333
541-929-3129
dayspring@casco.net

Recording Secretary
Sally Barney
52 Cartland Road
Lee, NH 03824
RSally-Barney@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor
Sarah Hopkins
237 Western Ave
Albany, NY 12203
401-787-8316
Cheviot99@cox.net

Painting Handspun for Self-Patterning Sock Yarn

By Liz Hubbard and Sharon Allen
Hub Corriedales and Ramifications
Lakeview and Chiloquin, Oregon

I think self-stripping sock yarn is about the funniest thing to come out since Pop Rocks candy in 5th grade. I so enjoy seeing a striped ankle peeking out under a conservative set of trousers. And when I say, "Did you knit your socks?" their faces always light up. Knitting these colorful socks is a private little joy.

Being a spinner however, it wasn't long until knitting with commercial yarn wasn't enough for me. Surely I could make my own self-stripping sock yarn? I spent some time tossing ideas back and forth with my friend Sharon Allen, and this is what we came up with.

Magic formula—First, we knitted many pairs of socks with commercial yarn to get a feel for what was going on. Sharon counted stitches per color and I measured yards and inches per color repeat. I unwound many balls looking for the pattern of the sequencing. In the end we came up with a simple formula that works for medium size socks.

One yard of yarn equals one round of knitting.
One inch of yarn equals one stitch.

Using this formula we began planning how to dye our sock yarn. If you want a wide band of color, paint 3 to 6 yards to get 3 to 6 rounds knitted. Try putting some wide bands in, if you change color every round, your socks might look more like variegated yarn than self-patterning yarn. Remember that you can also leave some segments the natural color of the yarn.

Different dyes—When analyzing the commercial self-patterning yarns, it looked as though the dye had been sprayed onto the yarn. Our best option to mimic this would be hand-painting the dye. My first effort I used fabric paints. These paints are thick and stayed where I put them so I was able to control the color easily. Unfortunately, the dye left a nasty *feel* on the yarn. Next, I painted with RIT™ dye from the grocery store. This works fine and is a good option if you don't have other dye materials on hand. We used ProChem's Sabraset acid dye (dyes comparable to Lanaset and Telana dyes) for our last project.

Using Sabraset dyes—When preparing to do our socks, we mixed enough dye to do about three pairs, or 3 six-ounce skeins. We mixed five colors at 1% depth of shade. Then we mixed 500 ml of very hot water with 4 grams of citric acid crystals and 1 gram of sodium acetate. We didn't use any salt or albeal set because it doesn't matter if the dye is even for this project. Then we added 5 grams of dye for each color by first dissolving the dye with a little of the prepared water to form a paste. Add this paste to what remains of the 500 ml of water with citric acid and sodium acetate. Now the dyes are ready to use for painting.

Preparing the yarn for painting—To prepare the yarn for painting we needed to determine how to lay out the yarn to get the long repeats we are trying to achieve. I unwound several balls of commercial sock yarn and was amazed that one pair had a 50



of commercial sock yarn and was amazed that one pair had a 50 yard cycle. On my first batch I ran strips of plastic wrap the length of my house. I placed two buckets on each end and wound the yarn around the outside of the buckets, placing a loose figure-eight cross tie, every 4 to 6 yards, to keep the skein from tangling. This gave me about 17 yards ready for painting.

My husband and daughter came home at this stage. What they saw didn't even give them pause, they just stepped through and around the yarn, paints and buckets. Spinners always have something odd going; soon the bizarre becomes the norm.

Painting the skein—Next is the fun part, painting. With a ¾- to 2-inch paint brush or sponge brush, paint the dye onto the skein that is lying on the plastic wrap. Remember, you are painting in segments of one yard or multiples of one yard; one yard will equal one round of knitting. You will probably want to measure your entire skein so you know how many yards you have to work with. Then you can either work it out on paper beforehand or just decide what you want to do as you go.

You may wish to keep your colors separate, if so start painting a little after your last color. Let the dye run to cover the end of that segment. Mostly, we find that a little blending of color at the change is nice so we paint right up to the last color. If you wish to make a checkered or mottled segment, paint your yard(s) in one-inch increments. Usually we went with one-inch color, one-inch natural wool color. Trying to paint in two colors will blend into one color. If you want more control, you can add a little dye thickener to keep the dye from spreading.

Setting the dye—When the painting is completed on the yarn, wrap the plastic wrap up around the yarn making a long sausage-like skein. Coil this up like a cinnamon roll; place on a rack in a pan with an inch or so of water on bottom. Position the rack about two inches above the water level so the boiling water won't come in contact with the coil of yarn. Steam the yarn for 30 minutes. Let cool and remove wrap. Wash the yarn thoroughly to remove excess dye.

Using a warping board—Sharon used a warping board to measure her long skein. She wound the yarn onto her warping board noting that warping boards usually have spans of one yard or ½ yard between pegs. She then placed her cross ties. It is possible at this stage to place the ties so as to be markers for the painting segments. Sharon also used color ties to remind her what color she would be using in each section.

Continued on page 5

Prelambing Time Vaccination

The idea of vaccinating a ewe prior to lambing is not only good management, but essential to reduce newborn lamb mortality. When we vaccinate a ewe several weeks prior to the lambing season it stimulates her immune system and the production of antibodies against the disease. Vaccinated ewes will pass these antibodies in their colostrum to their newborn lambs. Each lamb needs to consume approximately 8 ounces of colostrum in the first several hours after birth to receive these antibodies from their mother.

Diseases that are routinely vaccinated for include E. coli, overeating Type C, and tetanus. Ewe lambs or first time lambing ewes should receive two vaccinations at least two weeks apart. A good protocol for ewe lambs is vaccinating at 5 weeks and 3 weeks prior to lambing. For mature ewes that have lambed in previous years a single vaccination at 3 weeks prior to lambing is sufficient to stimulate the immune system. The antibodies the newborn lamb receives will help protect it against the challenge of the disease. These passive antibodies are very effective for E. coli and Type C overeating. They will help control tetanus, but you need to provide additional protection in lambs when docking and castrating to prevent tetanus.

Shearing time, if done in the last month of pregnancy is a good time to also complete the prelambing vaccinations. Many producers use a nurse goat or a milking goat to raise orphan lambs or produce milk for the bottle lambs. Goats should also be vaccinated the same as ewes to help insure adequate supply of antibodies if their colostrum is to be saved for newborn lambs. Some research indicates that frozen colostrum should be replaced after one year of storage to insure adequate antibody levels.

When thawing frozen colostrum to feed newborn lambs, you need to prevent heating at high temperatures which can destroy the proteins which form the antibodies.

J.D. Bobb, DVM

International Sheep Letter

Vol. 18 No. 1, January-February 1998

Mark your Calendars!!

National Border Leicester Sale

June 20-21, 2007

Springfield, IL

Congratulations to Kelsey and Kailey Russell for how well they did at the North Carolina State Fair on October 9, 2006 with their Border Leicesters! The judge was John Mrozinski from Manhattan, Kansas. They received:

Supreme Champion Ewe of the Junior Show

Open Show

White Long Wool Champion Ewe

Colored Long Wool Champion Ewe

Colored Long Wool Champion Ram

Continue from page 4-Painting Handspun for Self Patterning...

Dry or wet?—We started with dry yarn; it was easier to wind the yarn from skein to ball and then wind the yarn around the buckets (set quite far apart) with dry yarn. This method is a bit unorthodox but it worked for us, the dye saturated the yarn well and was colorfast after steaming.

Knitting the yarn—The “one-yard for one round on the sock” rule worked for medium sized socks and yarns with 9 wpi, 10 or 15wpi. Use size 7 needles for the 9wpi yarn; size 5 needles for the 10 wpi yarn; and size 2 or 3 for the 15 wpi yarn.

Dobby socks—If you want your socks to match, you will need to look at your repeat pattern and start each sock at the same point. Or you could not worry and make “Dobby socks.” Dobby is Harry Potter’s friend, a house elf who loves socks and knitting. In **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**¹, Harry has just given Dobby a pair of socks as a Christmas present, “‘Socks are Dobby’s favorite clothes, sir! ... But sir ... ’ he said, his eyes widening, having pulled both socks up to their highest extent, so that they reached to the bottom of his shorts, ‘they has made a mistake in the shop, Harry Potter, they is giving you two the same!’”

I hope you have fun painting your yarn.

1. **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, by JK Rowling. Hardcover edition published by Arthur A Levine Books in 2000. ISBN 0439139597.

This article is reprinted with permission from the Black Sheep Newsletter issue 125.



PREMIER EXHIBITOR 2006 NATIONAL SHOW

*Both White & Natural Colored
Border Leicesters*



"American Beauty", Deakin 05-1079
National Grand Champion Ewe



Congratulations to Tiffany Deakin with her 1st Place Natural Colored Flock.



Silver Mountain 06-05

"Inferno" - National Grand Champion
Natural Colored Ewe. Also winner
of the Best Fleece Award.



Deakin 06-1164 RR

National Reserve Grand Champion Ram.
Special thanks to Katy Cain, Ramona,
CA on his purchase after the show.



Deakin 06-1185 RR

National Reserve Grand Champion Ewe - the
first time shown with this late ewe lamb.

Thanks!

To everyone who bought our
Leicesters & Hamps in 2006!

Special Thanks!

To Kolette Alford & Richard
& Mary Ann Johnson for
their great show help.



Keoppel 412

Reserve Grand Champion Natural Colored Ewe.
She also won Best Fleece honors in the NAILE Jr. Show.

Top stud ram & ewe prospects are for sale at the farm.
A nice package of bred ewes is also for sale.



Pre-lambing Ewe Management

Time and effort spent on the ewe flock pre-lambing can result in relieving stress during lambing and improve health of the baby lamb. A few management checks or changes at this time can save dollars and time down the road.

Pre-lambing vaccination - ewes should be vaccinated 3 weeks prior to lambing with Clostridia perfringes C & D with tetnus. This will stimulate the ewe's immune system to produce antibodies that will concentrate in her colostrum. The lambs will then have high levels of antibodies that will help prevent type C and tetnus. This is the best and most cost-effective way to protect young lambs against these two diseases.

Nutrition - ewes should be on an increasing plane of nutrition. Requirements for ewes in late gestation greatly increase as they approach lambing. Ewes carrying twins or triplets require even more feed. Any thin ewes should be sorted into a smaller group to allow them to 1) eat a more concentrated ration and 2) have less competition for bunk space. If the ewes have been maintained on cornstalks as their primary feedstuff it is critical that you begin feeding vitamins if you haven't already. Crop residue has very low levels of vitamins and gestating ewes can become deficient. If the ewes are on a hay diet the vitamin level may be sufficient although you will still benefit from feeding a mineral high in Selenium and Vitamin E. These are important to ensure that the lambs are not born deficient in Selenium or Vitamin E which will predispose them to White Muscle Disease. Gestating ewe lambs are still growing and less competitive at the bunk so they need to be in a separate pen than the mature ewe flock.

If conditions allow, ewes should be shorn one month before lambing. This will allow the ewes to begin mobilizing energy from fat reserves. Also, lambs have a much easier time finding the udder of shorn ewes. Shorn ewes take up less space in the lambing barn and give off more heat into the environment. Care must be taken the first week after shearing. It is important that the ewes have dry shelter that will protect them from rain and snow. If the temperature is below zero shorn ewes will require additional energy which can most cost-effectively be supplied by increasing the grain fed to the ewes. Small amounts of exercise is beneficial to the pregnant ewe such as feeding in an outside lot or allowing the ewes access to a small pasture during the day. Often this gives the shepherd an opportunity to see slow, limping, ketotic or problem ewes. These are all candidates to move to a smaller group such as with the ewe lambs.

All feed fed to gestating ewes should be fed in bunks or feeders. Feeding gestating ewes on the group greatly enhances the transmission of abortion disease. Additionally, feeding 250 mg. per head per day of tetracycline will help control Chlamydia abortions. Any aborted fetuses and placenta need to be immediately removed from the pen to prevent transmission. The shepherd should always wear disposable latex gloves when handling aborted fetuses as many of the common causes of abortions can infect humans. Pregnant women should stay out of the lambing barn.

J.D. Bobb, DVM
International SheepLetter, Reprinted with Permission
Vol. 19 No. 7, January 2000



Corner of Fun



H L M T R N W
X A R N E H Z
R D Z C T F N
T K Y Q S N R
L U S T E R F
X V P D C B N
E V K K I M D
W S N W E K N
E B H G L D A
X M T E R N L
L Y C L E Z G
Z N R V D P N
Y V I M R N E
L L M B O X K
R X P C B R M

List of Words

Border Leicester
Crimp
England
Ewe
Luster
Ram
Sheep

Plan Now To Attend!

The Second **National**
Border Leicester
Sale

SHOW: Friday Afternoon
JUNE 22

SALE: Saturday Afternoon
JUNE 23

ILLINOIS STATE FAIRGROUNDS
Auctioneer: Gary Saylor
Selle Center, Ohio

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

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

Classes for both
WHITE & NATURAL COLORED
YEARLING RAMS & EWES
RAM LAMBS & EWE LAMBS

Entries are open to the world!

Sale sponsored by the American Border Leicester Association

ENTRIES CLOSE APRIL 6TH

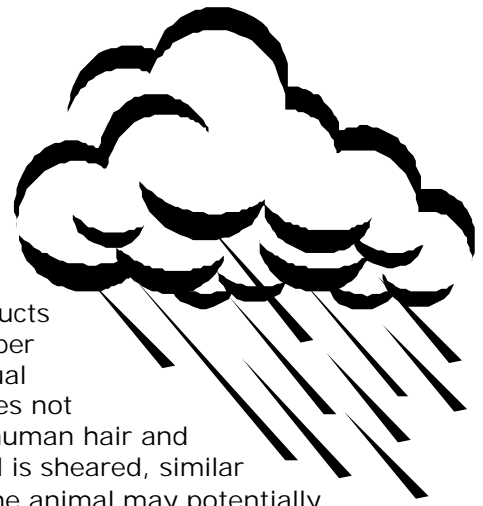
Watch for the complete sale catalog in May in The Banner and on the web at www.bannertheepmagazine.com!

Banner
Sale Management Service
P.O. Box 500 • Cuba, IL 61427
309/785-5058 • Fax: 309/785-5050
www.bannertheepmagazine.com



WHY SHEEP DON'T SHRINK WHEN IT RAINS AND ANSWERS TO OTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT WOOL

Written by: Robert F. Padula Wool Quality Improvement Consultant
This article was a reprint from ASI.



MYTH: Shearing is inhumane and causes the animal pain

The wool from sheep is an annually harvested fiber. The fiber is used in a number of ways from apparel to environmentally friendly products such as wool mats that absorb oil-spills. Wool is a continually growing fiber on the animal during its lifetime. Domestic sheep with wool require annual harvesting called shearing. The wool fiber is a hardened protein, and does not contain any sensory structures. It is similar in chemical composition to human hair and fingernails. Therefore, the sheep does not “feel” anything when the wool is sheared, similar to when humans have their hair cut or a manicure. Without shearing, the animal may potentially suffer due to excessive wool growth. Too much wool, or lack of shearing, may result in manure or feces accumulating on the wool and encouraging fly egg development. The resulting fly larvae can cause serious harm to the animal and eventually death through infection. Also, too much wool and the extra wool weight caused by lack of shearing can result in heat exhaustion or heat stroke during hot weather conditions. Having said that, there is scientific evidence that shows sheep with 1 inch of wool are more comfortable during hot periods, compared to sheep with less wool, as the wool fiber dissipates heat from the animal's body more rapidly. Therefore, most sheep producers time their annual shearing to correspond with seasonal climate changes. Shearing generally takes place in the spring when the temperature is warmer. This allows the sheep to have a full wool coat during the winter. And they have adequate wool growth to keep the animal cool and avoid sunburned sheep in the summer.

Sheep producers employ skilled tradesmen for the shearing of their sheep. To the untrained eye, it may look like the positions used during shearing are strenuous or hurt the animal; it is actually to the contrary. The positions used during shearing are actually very comfortable to the sheep. If the positions were not comfortable, the animal would struggle and fight to get away. Sheep shearers are very careful to make sure they maintain proper positioning of the feet and legs – for both the sheep and the shearer. Sheep shearers are schooled and trained in the proper techniques for animal handling, wool harvesting and animal care. From a sheep production standpoint, it is in the sheep producer's financial interest to keep the sheep in a healthy and “happy” condition. Sheep that are stressed produce less desirable fiber, resulting in a lower economic return for the wool. Wool production is extremely sensitive to changes in nutrition; anything that can cause a stress or undue anxiety will have a negative affect on wool production. For this reason, sheep producers make sure that production practices employed do not negatively impact the animal's well being.

Why Sheep Don't Shrink

A frequently asked question to sheep producers is why sheep don't shrink when it rains. While humor is obviously intended, there does exist an underlying question that has a real answer. The “shrinking” that people have in mind is what happens to a wool sweater mistakenly put into the washing machine and/or dryer – resulting in a sweater of much smaller size. The technical term for this is called felting. In order to understand the process, a little background information on the structure of the wool fiber is needed.

Wool is made up of amino acids, the building blocks of protein. The protein in wool is keratinized or “hardened” during its formation and growth on the sheep. Fingers nails and hair are forms of keratinized proteins. The wool fiber is surrounded by flat, overlapping scales. These scale edges always point away from the body of the sheep while it is growing on the animal.

However, when processed, the fibers are mixed in their orientation and the scale edges may point in opposite directions. When spun into yarn, the wool fibers come in close contact with each other. Additionally, the fibers come into contact with each other when woven or knit into fabric. Therefore, the orientation of the fiber and subsequently the direction the scale edges are random.

When wool fabrics are subjected to agitation and moisture – the fibers in the fabric will slide past each other. However, the edges on the scales come in contact with each other, and do not allow the wool fiber to slide back, “locking” the fiber into position. It is not just one or two fibers that are locking together, but literally hundreds of fibers that come in contact with each other and lock into this position – causing the garment to “shrink”.

In contrast, the scale edges point in one direction while on the sheep, and can slide back and forth – therefore not felting or shrinking. The sheep also produces lanolin that covers the fiber, which acts as a “lubricant” and water repellant. This can also have a small affect to reduce felting of the wool while on the animal.

Continued on page 9...

Washable and Easy Care Wool

Today, the wool textile industry has developed processes to create easy care, washable wool fabrics. There are two basic processes used to create washable wool. One is to coat the fiber to allow the fibers to slide past one another. The other treatment is to subject the wool fibers to compounds that smooth out the edges of the fiber scales. The result for both treatments is a smooth fiber and with no prominent scale edges.

The United States Department of Agriculture and the American Wool Council are currently conducting research on the use of more environmentally friendly and less expensive methods to create washable wool.

MYTH: But I can't wear wool – I'm allergic to it!

There are very few people that are allergic to wool. Wool is similar in chemical make-up to fingernails and hair. So if you are not allergic to your fingernails, you are probably not allergic to wool.

Research has demonstrated, that most fibers greater than 30 microns in diameter (a micron is 1/25,400th inches) are structurally rigid enough that when they come in contact with your skin, they do not bend – and cause a “poking” of the skin. The sensory receptors in your skin feel this poking and elicit a response. In some cases, this response is similar an allergic reaction on the skin where a redness or “rash” occurs. Some people have more sensitive skin than others, and react more. Most chemical fibers are made to be less than 30 micron in diameter, and therefore do not elicit this sensory reaction.

Wools garments designed to be worn next to the skin do not contain more than 5% of the wool fibers greater than 30 micron. The number of fiber ends exposed and touching the skin are low enough that the skin does not feel the poking sensation.

New technologies are being perfected that “tuck” the loose fiber ends into the yarn, so the end does not stick out and come in contact with the skin, therefore eliminating detection by the skin sensory receptors. Another new technology is to “stretch” the wool fiber, effectively thinning it out, making it less rigid – and having it bend when it comes into contact with the skin.

MYTH: But I can't wear wool – I'm allergic to it!

There are very few people that are allergic to wool. Wool is similar in chemical make-up to fingernails and hair. So if you are not allergic to your fingernails, you are probably not allergic to wool.

Research has demonstrated, that most fibers greater than 30 microns in diameter (a micron is 1/25,400th inches) are structurally rigid enough that when they come in contact with your skin, they do not bend – and cause a “poking” of the skin. The sensory receptors in your skin feel this poking and elicit a response. In some cases, this response is similar an allergic reaction on the skin where a redness or “rash” occurs. Some people have more sensitive skin than others, and react more. Most chemical fibers are made to be less than 30 micron in diameter, and therefore do not elicit this sensory reaction. Wools garments designed to be worn next to the skin do not contain more than 5% of the wool fibers greater than 30 micron. The number of fiber ends exposed and touching the skin are low enough that the skin does not feel the poking sensation.

New technologies are being perfected that “tuck” the loose fiber ends into the yarn, so the end does not stick out and come in contact with the skin, therefore eliminating detection by the skin sensory receptors. Another new technology is to “stretch” the wool fiber, effectively thinning it out, making it less rigid – and having it bend when it comes into contact with the skin.

MYTH: I'm not allergic to the wool - it's those chemicals and dyes

Another common misconception is that chemical compounds and dyes used to process wool cause an allergic reaction. While it is true that the wool industry uses chemicals during processing (for example mild detergents are used to clean the raw wool) – the unused portions are reclaimed after use. Wool fabrics are also washed and rinsed many times to remove any chemicals that would potentially remain. This is done before the wool leaves the textile mill. Textile worker safety and health issues are major concerns of the industry. The US government has strict rules and regulations regarding exposure to chemicals, which the mills must comply with. It would be nearly impossible for a fabric to leave a mill that contained any chemical residue that would cause harm to the next person handling the fabric – or the consumer purchasing a garment.

Also, with its unique chemical make up, the dyes used in wool are absorbed into the wool fiber itself, not simply onto the surface of the fiber. Once “inside”, the dyes are not easily removed. The phrase “Dyed in the wool” was used to reflect that one maintained their principles, like wool maintained its color. Therefore it is also unlikely that dyes from wool are being released by the wool fiber causing an allergy.

Wool garments will fade over time when exposed to sunlight. It is the dye deteriorating and losing it's color, not the wool fiber deteriorating.

Continued on page 17...

Editor's note: I got this thru email – don't know who the author was, but I enjoyed reading it, hope you do, too.

How to induce labor in a ewe?

Go inside and take a nap.

How to cure constipation in your sheep?

Load them into the hatchback of your new car.

How to get a sheep to wash her own hooves?

Scrub the water trough and fill it with fresh water.

How to get a ewe to settle on the first cover?

Let the wrong ram go through your fence.

How to make sure that a ewe has that beautiful, perfectly marked lamb you always wanted?

Sell her before she lambs.

How to get your ram to aggressively court and breed your ewes?

Have the local pre-school class out for a farm tour.

How to induce a cold snap in the weather?

Shear your flock.

How to make it rain?

Mow a field of hay.

How do we know its time we left for an important appointment?

There's a sheep missing.

Anyone interested in running for a Director, please note biographies need to be received by the Newsletter Editor by March 1, 2007.

Voting will be done by mail with the results being announced at the Annual Meeting to be held Saturday Night (place to be announced) during the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival in May.

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

Coffee Mugs

Travel Mugs

Coasters

Photo Frames

Desk Clocks

Wall Clocks

Key tags

Magnets

Crate Name Tags

Christmas Ornaments

Plaques

Jewelry Boxes

Clipboards

Mouse Pads

Glass Cutting Boards

Place Mats

Tote Bags

Photo tiles

Tee Shirts

Jewelry

Pendants

Ear Rings

Charms

Shoulder Bags



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 Interested in a Shearing School???
Here are some place and dates of Shearing Schools!

March 8-9, 2007

Cornell University Shearing School (advanced level)

Contact: Doug Rathke (320)587-6094

Email: lambshop@hutchtel.net

Additional Info: Registration Fee: \$ 125/student

Student Limit: 20

Register by February 15, 2007

March 10-11, 2007

Cornell University Shearing School (Beginner level)

Contact: Doug Rathke (302)587-6094

Email: lambshop@hutchtel.net

Additional Info: Registration Fee: \$125/student

Student Limit: 20

Register by February 15, 2007

March 24, 2007

Maine Shearing School (beginner level) @ Sun Rise Acres,
Cumberland, Maine

Contact: Richard Brzozowski (207)780-4205

Email: rbrz@umext.maine.edu

Additional Info: Student Limit: 22

March 30-31, 2007

Illinois Shearing School – Western Illinois University

Contact: Richard Cobb, Extension Sheep Specialist

(217)333-7351, Email: arcobb@uiuc.edu

April 2-6, 2007

Washington Shearing School (beginner level) @ Parker Sheep
Ranch, Moses Lake, Washington

Contact: Sarah Smith, Extension Agent

(509)754-2011 ext 413, Email: smithsm@wsu.edu

Additional Info: Registration Fee: \$125 (member),

\$175 (non-member)

Student Limit: 16

Register by March 20, 2007

April 7, 2007

Washington Shearing School (advanced level) @ Parker Sheep
Ranch, Moses Lake, Washington

Contact: Sarah Smith, Extension Agent

(509)754-2011 ext 413, Email: smithsm@wsu.edu

Additional Info: Registration Fee: \$35/student

Student Limit: 10

Register by March 20, 2007

April 19-20, 2007

Kentucky Shearing School (beginner level) @ University of
Kentucky, Animal Research Center Sheep Unit

Contact: Don Ely (859)257-2717, Email: dely@uky.edu

Additional Info: Registration Fee: \$50/student

April 20-22, 2007

Minnesota Shearing School (All levels) in Huthinson, MN

Contact: Doug Rathke (320)587-6094

Email: lambshop@hutchtel.net



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
koepfels@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.

North American International Livestock Exposition Show Results from November 16, 2006

Open White Border Leicester Show

Class 01 - Yearling Rams

- 1 WEIK OMF 2638 Mansfield, Kelly Kearneysville WV
- 2 2641 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 3 Deakin 05-847 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 4 Guffey 685 Guffey, John & Brigitte Hodgenville KY
- 5 Guffey 672 Guffey, John & Brigitte Hodgenville KY
- 6 2580 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 7 Hintzsche 249 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL
- 8 Hintzsche 248 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL

Class 02 - Fall Ram Lambs

- 1 Deakin 06-1177 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL

Class 03 - Early Ram Lambs

- 1 2679 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 2 Deakin 06-1104 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 3 2694 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA

Class 04 - Intermediate Ram Lambs

- 1 ANSON 340 Anson, Diana Simpsonville KY
- 2 Deakin 06-1131 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 3 ANSON 344 Anson, Diana Simpsonville KY
- 4 2753 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 5 Phelps 635 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 6 2713 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 7 Spring Breeze 6019 Mansfield, Kelly Kearneysville WV
- 8 Spring Breeze 6017 Mansfield, Kelly Kearneysville WV
- 10 Hintzsche 260 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL
- 11 Guffey 893 Guffey, John & Brigitte Hodgenville KY
- 12 Spring Breeze 6016 Mansfield, Kelly Kearneysville WV

Class 05 - Late Ram Lambs

- 1 Deakin 06-1164 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 2 2727 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 3 Deakin DG 1178 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 4 Hintzsche 268268 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL
- 5 Guffey 898 Guffey, John & Brigitte Hodgenville KY
- 6 2754 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA

Class 06 - Pair of Ram Lambs

- 1 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 2 Anson, Diana Simpsonville KY
- 3 Mansfield, Kelly Kearneysville WV
- 4 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 5 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL

Class 07 - Grand Champion Ram

- ANSON 340 Anson, Diana Simpsonville KY

Class 08 - Reserve Grand Champion Ram

- Deakin 06-1164 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL

Class 09 - Best Headed Ram

- 2694 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA

Class 10 - Yearling Ewes Early

- 1 Deakin 05-1079 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 2 Deakin 01-1081 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 3 2772 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 4 Guffey 671 Guffey, John & Brigitte Hodgenville KY
- 5 P Hopkins 501 Homestead Farm Fort Lupton CO
- 6 Guffey 683 Guffey, John & Brigitte Hodgenville KY

Class 11 - Yearling Ewes Late

- 1 AJ's Flock 72 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 2 2650 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 3 Spring Breeze 5011 Mansfield, Kelly Kearneysville WV
- 4 Hintzsche 253 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL
- 5 Spring Breeze 5020 Mansfield, Kelly Kearneysville WV
- 6 Hintzsche 251 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL

Class 12 - Pair of Yearling Ewes

- 1 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 2 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 3 Mansfield, Kelly Kearneysville WV
- 4 Guffey, John & Brigitte Hodgenville KY
- 5 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL

Class 13 - Fall Ewe Lambs

- 1 Deakin 06-1102 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL

Class 14 - Early Ewe Lambs

- 1 Deakin 06-1114 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 2 2696 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 3 Spring Breeze 6015 Mansfield, Kelly Kearneysville WV
- 4 Deakin 06-1126 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 5 Hintzsche 254 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL
- 6 Hintzsche 255 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL

Class 15 - Intermediate Ewe Lambs

- 1 Deakin 06-1132 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 2 Deakin 06-1134 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 3 2709 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 4 Hintzsche 258 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL
- 5 Hintzsche 259 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL
- 6 Guffey 839 Guffey, John & Brigitte Hodgenville KY



Champion Rams



Reserve Champion Rams



Champion Ewes



Reserve Champion Ewes

Class 16 - Late Ewe Lambs

- 1 Deakin 06-1185 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 2 ANSON 353 Anson, Diana Simpsonville KY
- 3 Hintzsche 269 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL
- 4 Guffey 883 Guffey, John & Brigitte Hodgenville KY
- 5 Deakin 06-1169 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 6 Hintzsche 270 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL
- 7 Guffey 837 Guffey, John & Brigitte Hodgenville KY

Class 17 - Pair Ewe Lambs

- 1 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 2 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 3 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL
- 4 Guffey, John & Brigitte Hodgenville KY

Class 18 - Grand Champion Ewe

- Deakin 05-1079 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL

Class 19 - Reserve Grand Champion Ewe

- Deakin 06-1185 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL

Class 20 - Best Headed Ewe

- Hintzsche 269 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL

Class 21 - Best White Fleece

- 1 Mansfield, Kelly Kearneysville WV
- 2 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 3 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 4 Guffey, John & Brigitte Hodgenville KY
- 5 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL

Class 22 - Get-of-Sire

- 1 Silver Mtn Vern 160 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 2 Weik 1959 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 3 Valenta J & L Y48 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL

Class 23 - Flock

- 1 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL
- 2 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 3 Guffey, John & Brigitte Hodgenville KY
- 4 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL

Class 24 - Premier Exhibitor

- 1 Deakin Family Farms Cuba IL

Open Natural Colored Border Leicester Show

Class 25 - Yearling Rams

- 1 2630 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA

Class 26 - Ram Lambs

- 1 2703 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 2 2721 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 3 Deakin 06-1107 QR Deakin, Tiffany Cuba IL

Class 27 - Grand Champion Ram

- 2703 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA

Class 28 - Reserve Grand Champion Ram

- 2630 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA

Class 29 - Yearling Ewes

- 1 Silver Mountain 6-05 Deakin, Tiffany Cuba IL
- 2 Keoppel 412 Deakin, Tiffany Cuba IL
- 3 2590 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 4 2631 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA

Class 30 - Pair of Yearling Ewes

- 1 Deakin, Tiffany Cuba IL
- 2 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA

Class 31 - Ewe Lambs

- 1 Deakin 06-1110 Deakin, Tiffany Cuba IL
- 2 2741 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA
- 3 Deakin 06-1108 Deakin, Tiffany Cuba IL

Class 32 - Pair Ewe Lambs

- 1 Deakin, Tiffany Cuba IL

Class 33 - Grand Champion Ewe

- Silver Mountain 6-05 Deakin, Tiffany Cuba IL

Class 34 - Reserve Grand Champion Ewe

- Koeppel 412 Deakin, Tiffany Cuba IL

Class 35 - Flock

- 1 Deakin, Tiffany Cuba IL

Class 36 - Best Natural Colored Fleece

- 1 Deakin, Tiffany Cuba IL
- 2 Deakin, Tiffany Cuba IL
- 3 Overlook Manor Warrenton VA

Premier Natural Colored Border Leicester Exhibitor

- Deakin, Tiffany Cuba IL

Class 38 - Slick Sheared Lamb

- 1 2742 Weik, Lili Warrenton VA
- 2 2729 Weik, Lili Warrenton VA
- 3 Hintzsche 256 Hintzsche, Frank & Barb Rochelle IL
- 4 Spring Breeze 6005 Mansfield, Kelly Kearneysville WV

Advertising Rates

Display Ads

Per Issue

Full Page -----\$75.00
 ½ Page-----\$45.00
 ¼ Page-----\$25.00
 Business Card ----\$12.00

4 Issues Prepaid (discount)

Full Page -----\$270.00
 ½ Page-----\$162.00
 ¼ Page-----\$90.00
 Business Card ----\$43.00

Classified Ads

Per Issue

Up to 50 words -----\$10.00
 Up to 75 words -----\$15.00
 Up to 100 words -----\$20.00

Deadlines for Submission

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

Send Ads to:

Sarah Hopkins
 237 Western Ave
 Albany, NY 12203

or Email:
 Cheviot99@cox.net

Please pay your Dues NOW, and
 you will be entitled to vote in
 the election this Spring!!!

See center page insert

OVERLOOK MANOR FARM

Our champions over the years have resulted from a breeding program that emphasized strong legs and feet, heavy muscling and bone and true Border Leicester breed characteristics. They perform well in the show ring for us and their new owners and most importantly out in the pasture and range. Our flock has always been expected to pay the bills. If you would like some true top performing Border Leicesters give us a call. We only have a few left.



Grand Champion Border Leicester Natural Colored Ram, 2006 NAILE Show.



Grand Champion Ram, 2006 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival sold to Frank & Barb Hintzsche, IL.



Reserve Grand Champion Natural Colored Border Leicester Ram, 2006 NAILE Show.



Best Fleece Ewe & 1st Late Yearling Ewe, 2005 NAILE, won by Kelley Mansfield, purchased from us. She also won best head honors.



Congratulations to Kelley Mansfield with her 1st Yearling Ram & Best Fleece winner, 2006 National Show with an Overlook Manor Farms ram!



1st Slick Sheared Lamb, 2006 National Show & winner of the Kenneth McKinney Memorial Trophy.

Thanks & best of luck to Kit & Kerry Phelps on the purchase of our brood ewe flock; Trico Farms ewe flock; Aynsley Musgrave ewe flock; Tom Wilson stud rams and all the breeders who purchased single animals. Congrats to Archie Murray & Mina McKinney on winning Grand & Reserve Grand Champion at the National Western Stock Show in Denver with our ewes. Thanks to Leon & Barbara Cassell, Ashley Craun, Ashley Jones, and Kit, Kerry & Kayla Phelps for helping us show at NAILE.

Nancy & Lili Weik

1725 Overlook Trail • Warrenton, VA 20186 • 540/347-2569 • www.overlookmanorfarm.com

Water - Winter - Ewes

Written by:

Roger G. Haugen
Extension Sheep Specialist
North Dakota State University
Fargo, North Dakota 58105

During cold winter months, many times ewes are maintained on extremely cold water in troughs and even sometimes on snow. Both circumstances lead to a reduced water intake. Ewes prefer and will consume larger quantities of warm water than cold.

Water intake increases by the third month of gestation, is doubled by the fifth month, and is greater for twin-bearing ewes than for ewes carrying a single fetus. It is estimated that lactating ewes require 100 percent more water than nonlactating ewes. If you ever wonder why your ewes are not milking enough, don't overlook the possibility that they're not drinking enough water because it's too cold.

Voluntary water consumption is two or three times dry matter consumption and increases with high-protein and salt-containing diets. A significant relationship exists between total water intake and dry matter intake. Ewes denied water for more than 24 hours may eat little or no dry feed. A lack of water accompanied by a severe depression in feed intake predisposes ewes to all sorts of problems, namely unthriftiness, malnutrition and, possibly, pregnancy disease in the case of multiple bearing ewes.

Ewes in drylot require about 1 to 1.5 gallons of water per day during gestation and between 2 to 3 gallons during lactation. Ewes on winter ranges will drink about .75 gallons per head per day when no snow cover is available. In late winter, when temperatures go up and the ewes are farther along in gestation, daily consumption will go up to 1.5 gallons and, if the forage is extremely dry, a ewe could consume over 2 gallons per day.

Salt is also important during the winter. Remember that if ewes are drinking cold water, they tend to self-regulate their salt intake. This is fine as long as salt is available at all times. However, sometimes we forget to check the salt and it runs out. This is when we can get into problems. After long periods without salt, ewes get hungry for salt and when it's re-introduced they can over-consume. These ewes, especially if they are drinking less water because it's cold, can become salt poisoned. Therefore, be aware of both the water your ewes are drinking and the amount of salt they are consuming. **REMEMBER!** Adequate intake of good-quality water is essential for ewes to excrete excess toxic substance such as oxalates, ammonia, and mineral salts.



Interruptions to a Healthy Pregnancy

Written by:

Roger G. Haugen
Extension Sheep Specialist
North Dakota State University
Fargo, North Dakota 58105

Tracking Weight And Condition Of Ewes During Pregnancy

The nutritional adequacy of ewes during the first 90 days of pregnancy can be assessed by tracking changes in body weight and body condition. During the first month after breeding, ewes should, if possible, maintain their weight and body condition. Short periods of either severe underfeeding or excessively high levels of feeding at this time can adversely affect embryo survival. In many cases, it is not possible to prevent some loss of weight and condition following breeding, but it is important that any losses are gradual and don't exceed 3 to 4 percent of the ewe's weight at breeding.

During the second and third months of pregnancy, changes in a ewe's weight becomes more difficult to interpret because of the increase in her weight due to fetal products (fetus, uterine wall, placenta, fluid, etc.). For example, at 90 days of pregnancy a 150 pound ewe carrying twins would have 10 to 11 pounds of fetal product included in her body weight or 6 to 7 percent. Taking into account this increase in weight due to the uterus and its contents, an acceptable body weight change during the second and third months of pregnancy would be a net loss of between 4.5 to 9 pounds (3-6% of ewe's body weight). Losses greater than this are likely to affect fetal growth and hence birth weight may become adversely affected.

Naturally such effects will be greater in ewes in poorer condition and that's why it is important to feed thinner ewes a higher level of nutrition during pregnancy to prevent body weight losses and minimize any loss in body condition.

In late pregnancy (last 60 days), the rapid growth of the fetus makes changes in body weight also difficult to interpret. The ewe's requirements for energy and protein increase rapidly during this period and especially during the final few weeks of pregnancy. Approximately 70% of the fetal growth occurs during the final six weeks. The difference in a ewe's weight between a single fetus and twin fetuses over this short period can be over 6.5 pounds. Although a ewe will generally be drawing on some body reserves during this time, her tissue weight loss should be more than offset by the increase in weight of the fetus or fetuses plus the uterine fluid weight.

As a general rule, a satisfactory level of feeding in late pregnancy should result in a body weight increase over the final eight weeks of about 10% in single-bearing ewes and 18% in ewes carrying twins. A 150 pound ewe carrying twins should increase her body weight by 27 pounds during the eight weeks before lambing.

Body condition is a more meaningful way than body weight change of assessing the adequacy of nutrition during late pregnancy because its evaluation is independent of number of fetuses. However, the time it takes to detect a meaningful change in body condition may be too great to allow for any necessary increases in nutrition to be made at the proper time. It is, however, a good practice to assess body condition about eight weeks before lambing and take out the leaner ewes for preferential feeding. Very often the period of greatest dependence on body reserves is during early lactation and if ewes are expected to have sufficient reserves for milk production, it is important that their body is in good condition.

Poor Nutrition During Late Pregnancy

The importance of ewe nutrition in late gestation cannot be emphasized enough. Poor nutrition during this period can have the following results:

- 1) An increase of ketosis (pregnancy disease).
- 2) An increase chance of losing ewes from pneumonia or starvation, especially older ewes.
- 3) An increase in light-weight lambs. In itself, light-weight lambs are not bad because you have fewer difficult births. However, some of these light lambs will be weak lambs as well and if weather conditions are rough, these lambs will be the first to die or will require more special care.
- 4) Milk production of the ewes will be reduced as will lamb gains.
- 5) If your ewes are not sheared before lambing, poor nutrition will reduce the value of your wool clip through wool breaks in the fibers, etc.

Providing a 1/2 to 1 pound of grain plus good quality roughage during the last 4 to 6 weeks of pregnancy is well worth the investment.

Continued on page 18...

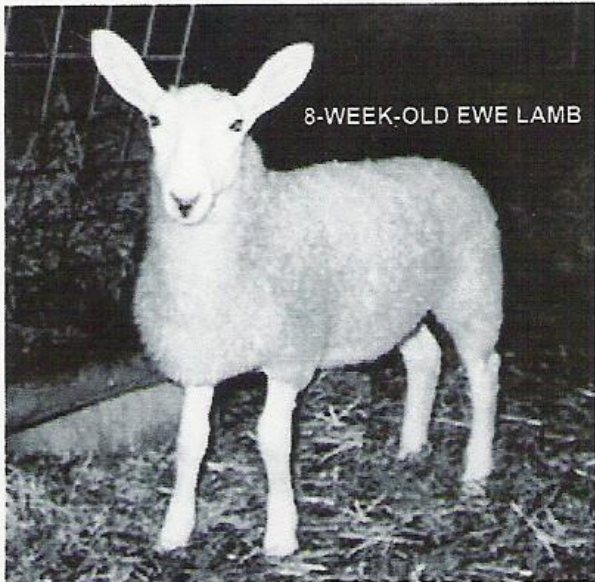
Continued from front cover...

Fleece: That basket of curls at Paula's workshop literally sold itself. What makes our wool so attractive to spinners and how do you judge a good fleece on the hoof? The ideal is of adequate density to prevent parting to the skin along the back when wet, but with well defined curly locks that fall freely from one another when the fleece is opened along the animal's side. I like to see bright, uniform color (no canary staining in white or natural colored fleece), silky luster, good crimp (as opposed to open waves), no kemp, and a soft hand. Uniformity of crimp and style—from the shoulder right through the britch and covering the belly—is what we should be shooting for.

There you have it. My list of *Most Important Attributes* for selection of the ewe flock. What? you say. Not a word about ears . . . or noses . . . or those dreaded *Black Spots*? Sorry, we're out of room this issue but there may be other articles.

In closing, I want to say that writing this piece has reminded me once again of the importance that fleece quality plays in our search for the proverbial "perfect" Border Leicester. For me, and perhaps you as well, the unique character of the Border Leicester fleece was the initial attraction. It's also what brings in many of our new buyers—they're either handspinners themselves or hoping to break into the fiber arts market. And these aren't all backyard hobbyists! Savvy commercial producers with a clear view of the bottom line see our breed as best suited for direct marketing of meat, wool, and prime pelts. Our breed standard weights wool quality at 40% for good reason. Without that special fleece, you've got just another friendly, easy keeper and plenty of other breeds can rightly claim those qualities. Lose the unique Border Leicester fleece and we've lost the breed!

Still not convinced? I'll leave you with a story about some old timers we visited in Scotland—those who can remember what the U.K. Border Leicesters looked like back in the '30s and '40s (very much like ours, by the way). I'd already figured out that there's a negative correlation between muscling and hand spinning fleece qualities (makes breeding the elusive "perfect" sheep even more fun for those of us who enjoy a challenge) but I was taken aback at their reaction to the few locks of fleece that I'd brought from home. With a knowing smile, more than one replied, ". . . aye, and that yo's a milky one, too."



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

Subscribe Now To

The Banner



1 Year \$25

Sheep Magazine

The Nation's Fastest Growing All Breeds Sheep Magazine!
Nine Colorful Issues Printed Annually.

P.O. Box 500 • Cuba, IL 61427 • (309) 785-5058 • Fax: (309) 785-5050
www.bannersheepmagazine.com

Continued from page 9 – "Why Sheep Don't shrink..."

Lambs Wool and Virgin Wool

And finally, some words used in the wool trade for marketing of wool products may sound inhumane to the animal. For instance, boiled wool – refers to an additional processing step, where the wool fabric is boiled after the wool fabric has been woven; the animal is not "boiled" to obtain the wool. Lambs wool refers to the first harvesting of the fleece, which generally has a softer feel or touch to the fiber; the animal is not sacrificed to obtain this wool. Virgin wool refers to wool that has not been previously processed - it has nothing to do with the age of the animal at shearing or with the fact that the animal has never lambed.

Continued from page 16 – “ Interruptions in a Healthy Pregnancy”

Managing Pregnant Ewe Lambs

- * Ewe lambs should be fed to gain 35 to 40 pounds during gestation.
- * Feed for growth as well as pregnancy. Be especially careful not to cheat her on energy during late pregnancy.
- * Remember her calcium and phosphorous requirements are higher than an older ewe. A free-choice mineral supplement containing calcium, phosphorous, and a trace-mineralized salt should be made available.
- * Feed high quality feedstuffs to the ewe lambs. Avoid screenings, straw, and other low quality roughage.
- * Manage and feed the ewe lambs separately from the older ewes.
- * If possible, put ewe lambs in your lambing area ahead of their lambing time to give them time to become familiar with the lambing area.
- * As lambing time approaches, avoid disturbing ewe lambs as much as possible outside of feeding.
- * Avoid mixing them with older ewes.

Printed with permission.

The ABLA year at a glance...

2006 registrations = 688
2006 transfers = 329

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

Maybe Tomorrow Farm



“Dory”

Reserve Champion Ewe at the 2006 Big E and The New York Sheep & Wool Festival.

Thank you Sally Barney for purchasing twin ewe lambs the full sisters to this ewe.

Look for our
entries in the
National Sale



Our 1st place Breeders & Exhibitors flock at the 2006 Big E and The New York Sheep & Wool Festival

Polly, Kevin, Sarah and Chris Hopkins

494 Evans Road
Chepachet, RI 02814
401-949-4619

Email: khop4811@aol.com
Website: maybetomorrowfarm.com



Congrats to Colin Sigmund on his 3rd place ewe lamb purchased from us



Reserve Champion Ram at the 2006 Big E and The New York Sheep & Wool Festival – Sold to Noreen Atkins after the show

Hampshires and Border Leicesters

Marcus and Barbara Thompson



Seldom Seen Farm

406 Evans Road
Chepachet, RI 02814

401-949-0264
mthompson5@cox.net



Suzanne Higgs
213 Gilkey Avenue
Plainwell, MI
49080

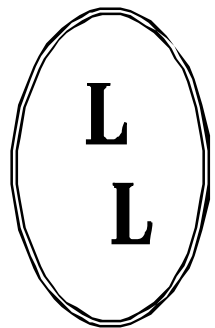
E-mail: INFO@HOOKEDONFELT.COM
Website: www.hookedonfelt.com

Mistwood Farm

Border Leicesters

Irene Nebiker
28 Grange Road
North Smithfield, RI 02896

A small flock on the move...



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

Things to remember for Spring Shearing:

*Call early to book your shearer, and follow up the week before to confirm date and time.

*Give the correct number of sheep to be sheared when you are scheduling your shearer.

*Be sure to tell the shearer which sheep are wethers and if a particular sheep has large scarring – this will avoid unnecessary cuts.

*Keep your sheep dry – on the day or two before the scheduled shearing day – a wet fleece is not a good product to try to sell.

*Have your sheep penned and ready for the shearer when he/she arrives.

*Take collars off the sheep before shearing.

*Remember this is hard work for the shearer – help as much as possible: bring the sheep to the “shearing mat” and take the sheep off the “shearing mat” when the shearer is done, pick up & bag the fleece and sweep the mat off before bringing the next sheep. It is a good idea to have 2 or 3 people to help you with all these steps. The less “extra work” the shearer has to do – the more sheep he/she can shear for you.

*The shearer usually does not trim feet, deworm your sheep or give medicine—if you want him/her to do this, it is best to discuss ahead of time – do not assume they “do it all” because they usually don’t!

RECIPE CORNER:

(from Sheep Industry News)

LAMB PITA SANDWICHES

(8 servings)

- 8 pita breads
- 1 pound sliced, cooked leg of
American Lamb (medium
doneness)
- 2 red Delicious apples, sliced and
dipped in lemon juice
- 1 jar (12 ounces) sweet pickles,
sliced
- 1 ½ cups shredded lettuce
- ¾ pound Swiss cheese, shredded
- 1 cup plain yogurt or sour cream

Steps:

- 1.) cut pita breads in half
- 2.) stuff pockets with lamb, apples, pickles, lettuce and cheese
- 3.) Top with yogurt or sour cream.

Enjoy!!



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

start at the top
with

BORDER LEICESTERS