A Breeder’s Experience with a Border Leicester!

"Vanessa"

Written by Katy Cain, Ramona, CA

In the picture on the right is my ewe Vanessa and her quad ram lambs born in December 2001. I weathered the two blacks and sold them for pets and showed the two whites at our County Fair and won Ventura Fair as ram lambs. One won his class at both fairs!

I bought Vanessa from Don and Mary Grant as a yearling ewe with a black lamb at her side in 1997. I showed her at our county fair in Natural Colored course wool. She placed near the bottom of her class. Asking the judge why she placed so low, his only reason was she didn’t have enough volume. I thanked him and told him I still really liked her in spite of his opinion. He said go for it as “I am only one opinion”. How true I found out were his words, as Vanessa went on to produce many champions and my flock is her daughters and granddaughters today.

More importantly Vanessa produced nineteen lambs in her seven years of life! As a yearling she had twins, then four sets of triplets and one set of quads. She raised all her lambs with my supplementing bottles for the triplets and quads. She was a devoted mother and all the lambs born were good sized and grew well! She threw both blacks and white, excellent fleeces and beautiful heads and bodies. I was always amazed at how well she bounced back after the lambs were weaned.

She had been bred back when she suffered what appeared to be a stroke. Lost mobility on one side, and had difficulty eating. I had my vet out and he said there wasn’t much he could do for her. I spent the next two weeks hand feeding her pieces of apples, orange, grass, anything she would eat. But finally she weakened until I finally called the vet to have her put down. It was a very sad day as I buried her myself as I reflected back on what a good ewe she had been. She had the kindness disposition besides producing such wonderful lambs.
**Presidents Message**

Spring has officially sprung and I am sure glad winter is over. I respect the concern about global warming, but in western Illinois we tried our hardest to buck the trend this winter. We recorded 22 snowstorms and several record lows. It is not that I don’t like winter, but we’ve had enough and I’m ready for warm weather.

I have heard lots of of breeders who lambed late this year. Not only Border Leicester breeders, but breeders with all breeds of sheep all over the country. Much of that has been attributed to the prolonged heat and drought that affected so much of the country last fall.

I hope you have enjoyed a really good lamb crop. Your board has been busy this winter preparing for the year’s events and we have plenty of activities which could involve your lamb crop.

For you junior breeders, we are very excited about our photo contest and the results of our first contest are in this newsletter. Kids, get your cameras out and go out and take some pictures around the farm. Pick your favorites and send them in to the newsletter. Also for our junior members we have a nice contest set up which runs all year long. It is educational, interactive, and fun to do. Check elsewhere in the newsletter or on our website for more information.

Our annual meeting kicks off our first official function and it will be held Saturday evening, May 3rd at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. Our gathering gets bigger every year and we look forward to enjoying your company and sharing your thoughts and ideas about our breed.

In June we will be sponsoring our National Show and Sale in Springfield, Illinois. Several breeders will have top animals with great genetics in the sale. Trucking to all parts of the country will be available and now might be the time to consider putting some new blood in your flock. If you need to improve your fleeces or put more meat in your sheep, there will be plenty to choose at the sale on June 21.

Summer fairs and festivals are just around the corner. We will all be shearing our Border Leicesters soon so take good care of your fleeces so you will have some to put on display or sell at your favorite events.

Your board is always open for ideas and suggestions on how to improve and promote our breed. We want to hear from you so feel free to contact any of us anytime.

Greg Deakin, ABLA President

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**Letter from the editor...**

Hello! I hope everyone’s Spring is going well and your ewes are lambing or all lamb out! I can’t wait for the Spring time weather to be here!!! As always if you come across any great articles or would like to write one for the upcoming newsletters please let me know! I am looking for a youth or adult breeder to write a short story about their sheep/farm for the next newsletter!!! I also still have room available in the next newsletter for any size ads you may be interested in, please take advantage of this great way to promote your sheep! I am also open to any ideas for our future newsletters. Feel free to contact me with ideas or questions by email at newsletter@ablasheep.org.

Sarah Hopkins
Come One Come All,
The Annual Meeting will be held at
The Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival.

Date: May 3, 2008
Time: To Be Announced
(Usually ½ hour after the show ends)
Location: Lower Barn in the Show Ring

Tips from Pipestone for Growing Lambs

- Always wear latex gloves when handling soremouth vaccine. The vaccine is transmissable to humans!
- Before releasing elastrator bands be sure both testicles are below the band.
- Merrick’s Lamb Electrolyte is one of the best on the market for treating dehydrated lambs.
- Spectam Scour-Halt is our first choice for antibiotic therapy for E. coli scours.
- White Muscle Disease - For lambs with stiff hind quarters (white muscle disease) inject 600-800 IU of Vitamin E once daily for several days.
- The most efficient and cost-effective method of prevention of Type C overeating disease in lambs is to vaccinate the ewes before lambing to booster colostrum antibody levels to type C.
- Electorid D (Clostridium perfringes Type D toxid) is primarily used in weaned lambs, feedlot lambs and lambs on a high energy diet.

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Congratulations to the winners of ABLA’s 1st Photo Contest!

The contest was divided into 2 groups – 13-18 years old and 13 & under. Every issue will have a new Photo Contest so Youth Breeders Join the next Photo contest!!! (Rules are on page 5)
The top three were placed and will receive a cash prize!

1st: Emily Gibson, Lee, NH, 9 years old

2nd: Hunter Gibson, Lee, NH, 7 years old

3rd: Faith Belleavoine, Chepachet, RI, 10 years old

1st: Grace Smith, Charlotte, VT, 17 years old

2nd: Grace Smith, Charlotte, VT, 17 years old

3rd: Gates Bierhuizen, Culpeper, VA, 13 years old

1st: Bailey Bierhuizen, Culpeper, VA, 17 years old

2nd: Taryn Bierhui zen, Culpeper, VA, 15 years old

Brittany Sederback, Chepachet, RI, 17 years old
ABL'A's 2nd Junior Achievement Awards

Our first year is complete and there were four recognized recipients of the award. I have modified the program and hope that more juniors will apply for this worthwhile recognition program.

This award is based on merit and anyone can win it. All it takes is meeting a minimum of the guidelines listed. If you raise Border Leicesters, show or sell them, show their fleeces, attend shows or sales, register your lambs, assist in community activities, or know Border Leicester breeders that you can interview, and then you probably are eligible to receive this award. These are just a few of the items that you can earn points in for participating. I encourage all junior members under the age of 18 to email me at daedalus6@hotmail.com for a complete set of rules, applications and guidelines. The deadline for receipt of applications is December 15, 2008.

Good luck and hope to hear from you.

Jennifer Bierhuizen, junior coordinator and board member

ATTENTION ABLA YOUTHS !!!

Do you like to take pictures?? We are offering our first Border Leicester photo contest of 2008. Winners to be announced in the next newsletter. Rules are simple: (a) must be a paid 2008 ABLA member or your family holds a paid 2008 ABLA membership; (b) picture must be taken by the youth submitting the picture; (c) picture must include a Border Leicester sheep; and (d) limit to two entries per child. All pictures submitted will be property of the American Border Leicester Association (possibly to be used in advertising or promotion materials in the future). Cash Prizes offered for winners: First Place=$25.00, Second Place=$15.00, Third Place=$10.00. Name of youth along with his/her address, age and date of birth should accompany the picture submitted. Digital pictures are best, but you can also mail your pictures (size: 4 x 5). Pictures will be judged by a committee of three disinterested parties, appointed by the President.

Submit pictures to the Newsletter Editor: Sarah Hopkins, P.O. Box 3144, Albany, New York 12203 or email to cheviot99@cox.net. DEADLINE IS - JUNE 1, 2008

So, kids – enter now!! If this contest is a success, there will be another contest in the future. Look in the next newsletter for information.
Baby Lamb Survival

Without a doubt the first three weeks are the most critical in a lamb’s life. If the lamb consumes enough colostrum and is off to a good start his performance will be good. On the other hand we have all witnessed lambs that were chilled when born or had severe scours and just didn't start life on the right foot. These lambs can be picked out of a group months later. They fail to thrive and simply don't grow or perform as well.

As shepherds we have more opportunity to influence the number of lambs sold /ewe and the overall profitability of the sheep flock during the first three weeks than any other time in the lamb's life.

Maximizing lamb survival requires a plan. First we need to have the ewe in the correct body condition score and on a correct nutrition and mineral program. Additionally, we need to have an effective abortion control program in place. If we have accomplished these goals we will have a healthy ewe that is in position to lamb with minimal help and lactate well. This is sound prevention for lambing time problems. Secondly, we need to be prepared for lambing. The shepherd should have supplies purchased, lambing pens arranged and ewes shorn before the first lamb hits the ground.

If we want to minimize baby lamb mortality let us look first at the causes of baby lamb mortality. A study at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station showed that 46% of lamb mortality was caused by scours, 20% by starvation and 8% by pneumonia. Individual variation occurs between farms but our experience suggests that these three categories are most important to control.

There are many inherent factors that predispose lambs to mortality. A lamb is born from a sterile environment in the uterus that is 101 degrees into an environment that is cold and often loaded with bacteria. The lambs internal thermoregulatory mechanism isn't fully functional until it is three days old. It has limited body energy reserves (brown fat). Also the lamb is born antibody deficient and has a compromised immune system until it suckles colostrum. Taking these inherent factors into consideration the third step to our plan is to provide an environment that is warm and dry. Good sanitation practices will decrease the bacteria load in the environment.

After the lamb is born we need to ensure adequate colostrum intake. In addition to providing the lamb with antibodies that will protect it from disease, colostrum has high energy density that provides the lamb the energy to get up and nurse. Lambs require 90cc (3oz) per pound of body weight. This should be consumed in the first 18-24 hours of life. From a practical standpoint we need to identify lambs that haven't suckled colostrum and feed them colostrum by a stomach tube (6 oz/feeding). If we catch these lambs early they will be up and suckling the rest of their colostrum requirement on their own.

Next we need to identify starvation/hypothermia lambs. These are lambs that are not consuming enough milk and therefore do not have enough energy to suckle and do not have enough energy to keep warm. Starvation/hypothermia lambs may be unable to rise, have a gaunt, bony appearance and will be weak. These lambs need to be fed with a stomach tube until they are strong enough to suckle on their own. If the lamb is in a cold environment placing it in a warming box will speed recovery.

By now we should have the lambs off to a good start. For the remainder of the next three weeks we must minimize death loss to scours and pneumonia. This means early detection and effective treatment. Scouring lambs will be gaunt, depressed and have wet rear legs. These lambs should be treated with oral antibiotics such as spectinomycin orally and electrolytes if they are dehydrated. Dehydration can be determined by pulling on a pinch of skin. Sheep that have normal hydration will have elastic skin that quickly returns to normal. Dehydrated sheep lose their skin elasticity and the skin will stay “tented” for two or more seconds. If the lambs are dehydrated oral electrolytes should be given by stomach tube.

Lambs with pneumonia will be depressed with drooped ears and often will be in a corner by themselves. Their breathing will be shallow and quick and often they will appear painful. These lambs will have an elevated rectal temperature (above 103). Treatment with LA-200, Naxcel/Excenel, Micotil or Nuflor is very effective. Checking young lambs at least twice daily is recommended so the shepherd can treat sick lambs early in the course of disease.

J. L. Goelz, D.V.M.
International SheepLetter
Vol. 21, No. 2, March 2001

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Barbecue Lamb Pita Pizza

Preparation time: 15 minutes  
Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients:
1 cup Chopped Bell Pepper  
1 cup Chopped Onion  
1 Pound ground American Lamb  
4 teaspoons Garlic Salt  
2 cups Bottled Sauce, divided  
½ teaspoon Cayenne pepper  
8 Pita Breads (5-7 inch)  
8 Canned Pineapple slices, cut in half  
1 cup Shredded Provolone Cheese

Directions:
Spray a medium skillet with nonstick cooking spray. Add bell pepper and onion, cook over medium-high heat for 2 minutes. Add lamb, garlic and cook until brown, stirring to crumble. Drain well. In bowl, mix together barbecue sauce and cayenne pepper. Add 1 cup barbecue sauce mixture to cooked lamb. Spread 2 Tablespoons remaining barbecue sauce on each pita bread. Top each pita bread with 4 pieces of pineapple and ½ cup of lamb mixture. Sprinkle each pita with 2 tablespoons cheese. Bake in 400 degrees F oven until topping is hot and cheese is melted. Cut each pizza into 4 or 8 wedges.

SuDan Farm


Transportation available in 2008 to Springfield, IL; Sedalia, MO; NY Sheep & Wool Festival!

If the sheep will not speak for themselves, nothing that can be said for them will do it.  
---Robert Bakewell (1725-1795)

Dan & Susie Wilson  
32285 S. Kropf Rd  
Canby, OR 97013  
503-651-LAMB (5262)  
susdan@web-ster.com  
www.oregonwool.com (click on “farms”)

SDF 510, a 6-month old Ewe Lamb
Guard and Herding Dogs

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

SheepLetter, Vol. 25, No. 4, September 2005

Guard and herding dogs are very popular in the sheep world. In fact in some cases I think the reason that operations have sheep is so that they can train herding dogs. While it is a joy to watch a good herding dog and owner work a group of sheep I have a few cautions that I would like to pass on to sheep/dog owners.

First of all dogs should handle sheep with the least amount of aggression that is required for the job. Bite wounds from over aggressive dogs can lead to infections or fly strike. The logic of herding sheep with dogs is based on the sheep moving away from the dogs out of fear. While this is effective in terms of herding I have often thought about what this means for the sheep. We know that elevated stress hormones can be detrimental to implantation of embryos during breeding season. Therefore I think that it is prudent to use herding dogs cautiously, at least while sheep are being bred.

From a disease standpoint the most common disease which can be transmitted from dogs to sheep is cysticercosis. This is the intermediate stage of a tapeworm in dogs and foxes that belongs *Taenia* genus. The adult stage is in the canine or fox. Eggs (proglottids) are shed in the feces. If sheep consume the eggs during grazing the eggs hatch, penetrate the small intestine and are carried via the bloodstream throughout the body. The preferred tissue for development is muscle where the immature worm forms a cyst. While the cyst is generally asymptomatic, e.g. it causes no harm to the sheep; occasionally lambs with cysts on their heart can suffer heart damage. The financial damage of cysticercosis is at slaughter where affected meat must be trimmed from the carcass. Multiple disseminated cysts can cause the entire carcass to be condemned.

Prevention of cysticercosis is easy in farm flock situations simply be deworming guard and herding dogs every six months. Since sheep serve as an intermediate host feeding dog food to the dogs and not allowing them to chew on dead sheep are also important. Unfortunately in ranched sheep control is difficult. Because coyotes, wild dogs and foxes can all harbor *Taenia* tapeworms there is little that can be done except predator control. Of course, as with farm flocks, any herding or guard dogs should be dewormed for tapeworms every six months.

Another parasite that can be transmitted between dogs and sheep is *Sarcocystis*. This is a group of coccidian parasites of dogs. Dogs shed the parasite in their feces. If sheep or goats consume the parasite it penetrates the small intestine and is spread throughout the sheep or goat via blood. Like cysticercosis, sarcocyst sp. have and affinity for muscle where they form a small microscopic cyst. The parasite lies dormant in this cyst until the sheep or goat dies and if consumed by a carnivore then completes its life cycle in the carnivore. While it takes a number of cysts to impair muscle or nerve function large infections can lead to muscle weakness or death. Like cystercercosis, sarcocystosis can result in trim or condemnation at slaughter and is commonly referred to as Eosinophilic Myositis. Eliminating *Sarcocystis sp* from dogs is difficult especially given that most infections are asymptomatic. However by simply not allowing guard or herding dogs to eat raw meat we can break the cycle and prevent infection in the dogs. In range conditions predator control can reduce the risk of *Sarcocystis* infection.

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The 3rd National Border Leicester Sale

SHOW: Friday Afternoon
JUNE 20
Judge: Tor Sorenson, Tuscon, AZ

SALE: Saturday Afternoon
JUNE 21
Auctioneer: Gary Saylor, Belle Center, Ohio

Held in conjunction with the Spectacular Springfield, IL Sales Weekend!

ILLINOIS STATE FAIRGROUNDS
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

2007 National Sale Champion Ram
Bred in Illinois and sold to a Tennessee buyer.

2007 National Sale Champion Ewe
Bred in Rhode Island & sold to an Illinois buyer.

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

Sale sponsored by the American Border Leicester Association

ENTRIES DUE APRIL 11th
Watch for the complete sale catalog in May in The Banner and on the web at www.bannersheepmagazine.com!
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

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

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
American Border Leicester Association
Standard of Excellence
Guide for Judging Border Leicester Sheep
(Appplies 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

The fleece weight from mature females ranges from 8 to 12 pounds with a yield of 65 to 80 per cent. The stable length of the fleece ranges from five to ten inches with a numeric count of 36 to 48 which is 38.5 to 30.0 microns.

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 lukewarm water can emphasize the natural curl of the fleece, but it needs to be done well before the show so that the dampened locks have time to dry thoroughly. Stray locks may be trimmed, but Border Leicesters should not be combed, carded, or blocked, which would disturb the natural lock formation and detract from the character of the fleece.

A ram at maturity should weigh 225-325 pounds and stand about 32 inches at the shoulder. He should have a wide, level back. Ewes usually weigh 175-275 pounds.
Advertising Rates

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**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

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**Classified Ads**

**Per Issue**
- Up to 50 words ------$10.00
- Up to 75 words ------$15.00
- Up to 100 words ------$20.00

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**Deadlines for Submission**

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

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**Send Ads to:**

Sarah Hopkins
P.O. Box 3144
Albany, NY 12203

or Email:
newsletter@ABLAsheep.org

Tips from Pipestone:

**Injection Tips**

- 1 mL is the same as 1 cc.
- We routinely give 1 mL of long acting penicillin S.Q. when docking and castrating lambs and repeat in 7 days.
  All injections should be given Subcutaneous (S.Q., under the skin)
- One ounce = 30mL.
- A subcutaneous (S.Q. under the skin) injection is given by pulling up a little pinch of skin to make a “tent”. Using a 5/8 inch needle (so you don’t go in one side of the tent and out the other) go into the side of the “tent” and inject the medication/vaccine.
- Normal sheep rectal temperature is 102°F.

**Foot Rot**

- Koppertox is used for topical treatment of foot rot, foot scald, and open sores on feet.
- Shear Magic Hoof Shears: This is the easiest hoof shears to handle, especially for shepherds with smaller hands.
- Zinc Sulfate - for use in footbaths to prevent and treat foot rot. Mix 8 # of zinc sulfate to 10 gallons of water in footbath. Add one cup liquid laundry detergent.

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Raising Sheep & Goats Organically

by Susan Schoenian
Sheep & Goat Specialist
Western Maryland Research & Education Center
University of Maryland Cooperative Extension

Organic food sales grew more than 20 percent in the 1990’s. Maryland consumers purchased more than $160 million worth of organic products in 2002. As consumer demand for organic food (and fiber) continues to grow, more producers will likely convert to organic production. USDA standards for organic food were implemented in October 2002. States administer the program. In 2001, there were 4,207 certified organic sheep farms in the U.S. The number of organic goat farms is not known.

While there are many reasons why a producer may choose to produce sheep and goats organically, the decision should not be taken lightly. Organically produced lamb and goat is not the same as all-natural, free-range, or grass-fed. Pastures must be certified organic and be maintained without the use of pesticides, herbicides, chemical fertilizers, or other restricted materials. Anything fed (hay, grain, pellets, milk replacer) to ewes, does, lambs, and kids must be certified organic. Organically grown feed cannot contain hormones, antibiotics, coccidiostats (Bovatec®, Rumensin®, or Decox®), urea, or other restricted materials. Even bedding, which may be consumed by animals, must be certified organic.

Animals intended for slaughter cannot be treated with antibiotics, anthelmintics, or other prohibited materials. Breeding stock can be dewormed only with Ivermectin® on the basis of fecal egg counts, but not on a routine or preventative basis and not during the last third of gestation or during lactation. Animals which must be treated with prohibited materials cannot be represented as organic. Vaccinations are acceptable. Records must be maintained on feed and health care. Identification of animals is required throughout the life cycle.

The standards specify living conditions for organically raised livestock. Ruminants generally must have access to pasture, though temporary confinement is allowed if it can be justified on the basis of inclement weather, the animals’ stage of production, or situations where the animals’ health and safety is in jeopardy. During processing, organic meat cannot come into contact with non-organic meat. No synthetic materials can be used during processing (e.g. preservatives, flavoring, etc.).

It is generally more expensive to produce lambs, goats, fiber and milk organically. Organic feeds are much more expensive. More land is generally needed (or fewer animals must be raised) since stocking rates will probably need to be lower to aid in the control of internal parasites (worms). Internal parasites cannot necessarily be satisfactorily controlled in sheep and goats without the use of anthelmintics and coccidiostats.

Before making the decision to go organic, producers should evaluate the demand for organic sheep and goat products. There is disagreement as to whether certified organic food is any healthier than conventionally produced food or that organic practices, in general, result in healthier food products. Producers need to determine whether the increased costs of organic production can be offset by higher product prices. They need to determine the availability of organic feedstuffs and processing facilities. They need to evaluate their ability to control internal parasites in lambs and goats without the use of anthelmintics and coccidiostats.

In my opinion, the National Organic Standards can compromise the health and welfare of sheep and goats by not allowing the targeted use of anthelmintics and coccidiostats. While worms may not be as severe a problem in cattle, swine, and poultry, they are the biggest health problem faced by sheep and goat producers. Organic standards in Europe and the United Kingdom generally allow deworming of small ruminants because they recognize that totally natural internal parasite control, while a realistic goal, is still difficult to achieve and generally compromises the welfare of lambs and goats. For most sheep and goat producers, the goal should be to reduce anthelmintic use, but not necessarily eliminate anthelmintics from their control program.

Note: The National Organic Standards certainly do not advocate withholding anthelmintic treatment from a severely parasitized lamb or kid that is at risk of dying, but once a slaughter animal has been treated, it can no longer be sold as organic.

Information about the National Organic Program can be found on the web at http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/.


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**MAYBE TOMORROW FARM**

**GOOD FLEECES + GOOD BODIES = GOOD BUYES**

Look for our Entries at the National Sale!

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

We also raise Natural Colored (med/fine wool)  
and a few Southdowns and Cheviots.

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**New Zealand Shearer Set New Woman's World Record**

A young New Zealand shearer smashed the women’s world lamb shearing record by shearing 648 sheep in nine hours at Waikaretu, New Zealand.

Emily Welch, 27, sheared 107 more than the previous record, 541, set in 1989 by another New Zealander, Jills Angus Burney.

Expert judges confirmed there were no short cuts in the shearing, and in a country where 40 million sheep outnumber the humans by 10-to-1, it was a major item on local evening news bulletins. Welch was the only female shearer in her gang. She competed alongside men around the show circuit throughout New Zealand and more recently Australia.

Her husband, Sam, also competed at the Golden Shears in the open category where he placed 29th out of 90. Welch has been training for the high-endurance record attempt for six months. She has been shearing professionally for six years.

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**Reminder entries for the National Sale in Springfield, IL are Due April 7th!!!**

**Sell a sheep to a non member of ABLA???</p>

Hand them the membership form on page 23!
NOTES FROM VERMONT

It’s March 22 and we are still in the throws of winter….Spring is trying hard to take over and red winged blackbirds and even some kill-deer are looking for grass to light on. The wild turkeys have come out to look for food where the snow and ice is receding and I was happy yesterday to see a little flock of about a dozen that made it through our hard winter. We have had ICE and snow and rain and sleet for the past month or so, and we have rivers of ice flowing under the snow looking for a low spot in the yard or field to make a frozen lake. Getting to the barn, and getting feed to the rams who stay in a field in front of our house has been a challenge to maneuver over the flows for weeks now.

Lambing for me began the second week in March…6 ewes lambed in three days….and then a lull until the other night….when 6 more ewes went in 30 hours, mainly in the middle of two nights… I had to scramble to find enough pens to house them all at once; since I only have 20 ewes lambing this year and didn’t expect them to come in such bunches. March, in Vermont, is defined as the most violent month of the year, with the weather patterns changing; not being able to make up its mind if it is seriously winter, or balmy spring. The temperature fluctuations are difficult for new babies and even 14 and 15 pound day old twins have not been very happy with the very cold strong winds these past two days blowing through cracks in the barn.

Having been a board member for the past 6 years, I have decided to run again. I think it is a great time to be part of this association. More and more people are learning about Border Leicesters and a comment from a friend who has a mixed flock of Romney and Border Leicester cross sheep said, “I can’t believe the difference between the Romney lambs and the Border Leicester cross lambs…the Borders are up sucking in a matter of minutes and the Romneys just get born and lay there waiting for help! I will never use a Romney ram again! Border Leicesters are the best!” And after having them for nearly 20 years, I totally agree.

I hope all of you have had a great lambing season, that your lambs are strong and healthy and that you continue to let others know about what a great breed of sheep they are.

Sue Johnson

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER….

I want to thank everyone who sent their dues in early this year. Although it came at a busy time of year for me with lambing and the usual winter stuff, it is great to have the membership list done and available to hand out at the upcoming fairs and festivals. Be sure to contact Joanne Tuncy if you want promotional flyers and/or membership lists to hand out. The Board welcomes comments and suggestions, so don’t be afraid to contact any of us with ideas. As you may know, thru the ABLA Sheep discussion group online, Cathy Shiff has been collecting pictures from many of you for a new promotional pamphlet. She will be meeting with the Board members in Maryland to further work on this project. Also, the Annual Meeting of our association will be at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival. I hope to see many of you there, and meet the new members who have indicated they would be in attendance. It will be a great weekend to talk sheep and wool with other breeders and to see the Border Leicester show as well! Remember to look over your flock for entries for the National Sale – deadline is April 7th. Or, if you have nothing to sell, plan a trip to Springfield, Illinois to purchase some Border Leicesters with different pedigrees to increase and improve your flock! We hear the National Dorset Sale in Ohio last week was a huge success for both the buyers and sellers. Let’s hope that the successful sales continue thru the spring and summer months. And, one last reminder – send information on various shows or festivals, or articles of Border Leicester interest to our Editor. The newsletter is a great tool to tell others of the events in your area. The Board doesn’t know all the Border Leicester events (big or small) across the country, so please be sure to keep us informed. See you in Maryland,

Jennifer Bierhuizen,
Board member and Junior Coordinator

From Virginia:

Well, it got a bit colder this past week, but the ewes and lambs seem to be doing fine. I have a flock of Suffolk, commercial and Border Leicesters. Most of my Suffolk and commercial ewes are done, and a few of the Border Leicesters. We are running about a 160% lamb crop so far. I sure wish that these Border Leicesters would breed a bit earlier, but I think that the hot summer and long drought last summer and fall didn't help.

I am currently working on the ABLA annual meeting to be held at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival in May. I hope that everyone who lives nearby (or far away) can try to attend. If there are concerns or comments that you wish to have brought up, please let me know. You can contact me through my email or my phone (daedalus6@hotmail.com and 540.829.0806). Ms. Ruth Barish has generously volunteered to donate funds for our annual meeting (again), so we are very appreciative of her continued support. I am currently working hard to see if I can get her to come and join in the festivities. She is a marvelous woman, with lots of interesting stories, and I hope that I can get her there so we can thank her formally. Hurray. Thank goodness spring is just around the corner,

Jennifer Bierhuizen,
Board member and Junior Coordinator
Udder Management

Management of the ewes' udder can sometimes be a complex situation. A post-parturient ewe without a functional udder represents an unprofitable situation. I will try to cover several areas that are of concern in udder management that I will attempt to discuss in detail.

First, one must understand the anatomy of the udder and its function. The udder is a secretory gland that derives its nutritional supply from a very generous blood supply and is controlled by a complex hormone system. In the sheep much of the time it is inactive and nonfunctional. When ewe approaches lambing the blood supply increases, the gland enlarges and becomes functional. As the lactation process diminishes the reverse is true. In treatment and diagnosis of udder disease and abnormalities one must understand normal udder anatomy and function.

Udder management during the dry period should consist of palpation of the udder. A normal nonfunctional udder will be soft and pliable and sometimes almost nonexistent. Palpation may reveal hard spots of various sizes and involvement. These spots indicate abscesses and induration of the udder that generally do not respond to treatment and depending on their size, seriously reduce or eliminate udder function. Some udders will remain pendulant even when dry and if they are free of hard areas they generally are functional. This is a good time to remove troublesome extra teats. They can be removed by simply snipping them off with a sharp scissors. Teats may also be palpated for cores which indicate the teat would not function even if the udder is sound. Very little can be done during this period other than removing the extra teats. Occasionally abscesses may be opened but generally culling should be considered because generally the lambs born from these ewes will become lamb bar candidates.

Management at lambing time is an important factor in prolonging the life of the udder. Ewes that are heavy milkers or have single lambs should be fed less grain, particularly the first week or ten days after lambing. It is extremely important to milk out extra milk in large udders until the lamb or lambs can keep up with it. Stretching and enlarging of teats is a result of pressure building up in the udder. Sometimes the teats need to be milked out so the lambs may nurse. Occasionally prior to lambing the udder will become swollen and edematous, fluid in the tissues. This may be treated with Naquasone boluses or injectable diuretics.

Mastitis, simply defined, is an inflammation of the udder and is of concern because mastitis limits or severely restricts the productive life of the ewe. Many types of mastitis occur, but little research has been done. Sometimes it is chronic with just induration and reduced milk supply; this type, generally caused by strep bacteria, needs research and is poorly understood. The more acute type will be discussed here.

Acute ovine mastitis is characterized by cessation of appetite, depression, swollen inflamed udder, usually one-sided, and lameness of a rear leg or legs. Prompt treatment is very essential if there is to be any hope of salvaging the udder. Quite often the best that can be hoped for is the life of the ewe and salvage of the uninfected side. Immediate injection of broad spectrum antibiotics is essential and occasionally one injection of dexamethasone to stimulate appetite is necessary. Three or four day treatment is generally necessary. The udder should be infused with lactating cow antibiotic mastitis tube.

Weaning the lambs is an important consideration in udder management. How effective reducing water and feed intake at weaning time, in reducing mastitis, is dependent on several variables. The most drastic method consists of withholding water for 24 hours prior to weaning and 24 hours afterward plus reducing protein level and feed consumption one week prior to weaning. Present recommendations do not include withholding water but do include reducing feed consumption, grass hay only, the last week prior to weaning. Ewes that have a history of mastitis that has been successfully treated should be infused with dry cow tubes at weaning time. Some producers use Albon in the drinking water prior to weaning, with some success.

The condition of the ewes also must be considered. Thin ewes, older ewes and poor milking ewes need not be subjected to restricted nutrition. Also it takes the presence of mastitis bacteria to cause mastitis. A tight udder of milk alone is not serious other than the fact that it may cause structural damage to the udder by enlarging teats and breaking down suspensory attachments.

It should be remembered that allowing lambs to nurse too long is hard on udders; 5 to 8 weeks is ideal -over 10 weeks is too long.

International SheepLetter

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NORTH EAST YOUTH SHEEP SHOW
JULY 17-20, 2008

Plans are underway for the 2008 North East Youth Sheep Show. This show is sponsored by the New England Sheep & Wool Growers along with many national breed associations, and the local Northeast and New England breed associations, as well as many private donations received from sheep raisers and businesses. This Junior show runs the same weekend and in the same place as the 66th New England Sale, in the Livestock Complex at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield, Massachusetts. The event starts Thursday night, July 17th and run thru Sunday afternoon, July 20th, and is open to all youths under the age of 21 years with all breeds of sheep being invited. The exhibitors must solely own or lease his/her sheep or co-own his sheep in a youth partnership. The sheep and exhibitors should arrive by Thursday, July 19th, with animals being penned by 11:00 p.m. The activities begin on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. with the annual Quiz Bowl Contests held in three age divisions with awards and refreshments offered to all participants. Activities on Friday include a Skillathon which runs from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the Dorset Breed Standard Workshop, and the Orientation Meeting for all exhibitors and parents, followed by the Market Lamb Show (shown by breed followed by the selection the Supreme Market Lamb). Exhibitors and their families are invited to attend the New England Sheep & Wool Growers Annual Meeting and Family Barbeque (reservations needed) on Friday night. At 8:00 p.m., the junior exhibitors are encouraged to watch the selection of the Supreme Champions of the New England Sale at 8:00 p.m., the awarding of the NESWG Scholarships and Youth Awards, and enjoy a delicious dessert at the Ice Cream Social. On Saturday the youth show activities start approximately one-half hour at the conclusion of the New England Sale with the Fitting and Showmanship classes will be judged by breed in four age groups, and followed by a supreme drive in each group. The judging of all the breed classes begins on Sunday at 8:00 a.m. in three rings. The day concludes with the selection of the Supreme Champion Ram and Ewe of the show. The official judges for the weekend’s events are Ed Julian, Steve Taylor and Stacy Taylor. For pictures of the winners from last year’s show, check out the website: www.nesheep.org. For more information and entry forms for the 2008 show, check back with the website after May 15, 2008. The entry deadline is July 11, 2008.

Recognition goes to the following for their support: Telescope Furniture who donates the NEYSS Directors Chairs for the four Supreme Fitting & Showmanship winners; Claudette Choma who hand-crafts the Supreme Ram, Ewe and Market Lamb banners, Marcus Thompson & Barbara Thompson who offer $50.00 for the Supreme Ram and Supreme Ewe winners, and Maybe Tomorrow Farm/Polly & Kevin Hopkins who gives $50.00 to the Supreme Market Lamb. The three supreme awards are in memory of three important founding members of the Youth Show Committee: Ernie & Phyllis Flebotte and Ed Peckham. Nancy & John Miniter run the food booth during the weekend’s event, the net proceeds of which go to the premium funds for the show. Cheryl Marchand continues to support this event by returning to New England from Florida each September to run the Fiber Nook at the Big E fair, where items are sold and funds raised towards this show. Of course, any one wishing to make a monetary donation to the North East Youth Show should make their check to “NES&WG” and send it to Scott Poitras, Treasurer, 95 Hollow Rd., Brimfield, MA 01010, with a notation on the check that it is for a specific breed show or for the general youth show account. Not to be forgotten are all the New England and Northeast breed associations and their members who have contributed time and money over the many years to make this event the major Youth Sheep Show of the Eastern United States.

An annual fundraiser as well as a form of publicity for the supporters, is the NEYSS T-shirts. Each youth exhibitor is given a youth show t-shirt commemorating the event. For $25.00 a farm, individual or business can have their name listed on the back of the t-shirt as an official supporter of the 2008 North East Youth Sheep Show. The goal each year is to cover the costs of the T-shirts – and so far we have met always met our goal! If you are interested in having your name on the back of the NEYSS T-shirt with all the other supporters, send your $25.00 (made payable to “NES&WG”) to Deb Hopkins, 1125 Danielson Pike, North Scituate, Rhode Island 02857. Sign up form may be obtained on-line at www.nesheep.org. Deadline for this is May 15th.

**Of special interest** to Border Leicester Breeders: there have been high quality Border Leicesters entered in the New England Sale, and the Border Leicester breed has their own breed show in the North East Youth Sheep Show. We want to thank the American Border Leicester Association for supporting the Border Leicester Junior show. Last year there were 10 youths exhibiting 23 Border Leicesters, an increase over the year before!! Both White and Natural Colored Border Leicesters were exhibited. Anyone wishing to donate towards prizes and premiums for this Junior Border Leicester show, send your check to Polly Hopkins, 494 Evans Road, Chepachet, RI 02814, made payable to “NES&WG”. If you want to help out during the weekend or help to clerk in the ring, contact Polly at khop4811@aol.com or Sarah at cheviot99@aol.com.
**Ginlip Farm**
Suffolks
White & Natural Colored Border Leicesters
Phil & Noreen Atkins
Groton, NY
607-898-4814
ginlipfarm@yahoo.com

**Twist of Fate Spinnery, llc**
194 Rose Hill Road
Portland, CT 06480

Custom processing, lots as small as 2 pounds

E-mail: info@twistoffatespinnery.com

Jeremiah Squier
(860) 759-9335

Richard Trojanowski
(860) 759-9334

**Mistwood Farm**
Border Leicesters
Irene Nebiker
28 Grange Road
North Smithfield, RI 02896
401-767-2677

A small flock on the move...

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308-882-3949
lamarleicester@chase3000.com

**Seldom Seen Farm**
Barbara Thompson
Border Leicesters
406 Evans Road, Chepachet, RI
401-949-4619
nthompson5@cox.net

**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

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Contact Sarah for a spot in the next newsletter at newsletter@ABLASheep.org

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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.

New Member

Renewal

Annual membership $20.00

Individual or family

Junior Membership $15.00

18 years and under

Name: ____________________________________________

Farm/Ranch Name: ____________________________________________

Street Address: ____________________________________________

City/State/Zip code: ____________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________

Website Address: ____________________________________________

What farm products would you like in the directory? ____________________________________________

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

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

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

Helpful but not included in the directory:

Total flock size:

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

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

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

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

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