Our journey with Border Leicester sheep began on a spring day in 2006. A jersey cow being walked in the back yard of a home I pass daily, had my two daughters and I stopping to inquire about raw milk for sale. The cow didn't provide the milk we were hoping to acquire, but our attention was drawn to the bleats of many sheep. Lambing season was under way. We were introduced to a flock of sheep and the opportunity presented itself to own some of these beautiful, charming lambs, so full of happiness and playfulness. After securing a place for them at our home, two bottle fed lambs came to live with us the following day. Three days later a third came to join the other two.

Days after bringing the first two home, whom were named Willie and Daisy, we went back to the farm where they came from to ask questions about behavior and health. The cutest, day-old Border Leicester kept coming over to nibble at my young daughter's shirt. She overheard that it was going to the freezer. My daughter would tug, tug, tug on my shirt, whispering, "Mommy, can we take it home?" This went on for some time, when the owner said, "Well, you know, two is two, but three is a herd." My daughter named that lamb, Woolie. With our two Border Leicester wethers (Willie and Woolie) and a Romney ewe (Daisy), we embarked on a journey that brings great joy, a bit of heartache and some of life's greatest lessons. Our flock has grown with Border Leicester's and Romney's, both of whom have different personalities, but since this is a Border Leicester newsletter, that is what people want to read about. My husband and I are raising two daughters off the electrical grid in Charlotte, Vermont. Solar and wind power our home and we are relieved to have both in a state that has less sun, yet more wind in November and December. With a half-mile long driveway, our home and barn are nestled on a beautiful open piece of land with lovely pastures to our south/east. To the north/west, we are bordered by woods that provide protection from northern snowstorms that have been known to cause drifts that lock us in. We are thoughtful about energy consumption and this has become our way of life.
This works well for our family and we have never regretted living off the grid. At the age of ten, with money she received as gifts over the years, our eldest daughter, Faith Thompson, bought her first Border Leicester, orphaned, ewe lamb for $50. She was going to raise it as a show lamb. She named her Pip. The diapered lamb lived in our house during the cold month of February, and in early March traveled with the family to Connecticut for Easter. In Pip’s first year, my daughter took her to the Northeast Youth Sheep Show and placed first in her showmanship class. The showing journey began. Pip has given our family some beautiful lambs over the years and she remains a very special girl. We know her bleat and she "speaks" to us. Her offspring now attend the shows at the county fairs.

Not only the sheep, but it is other shepherds who have made raising sheep such a joy for our family. Meaningful friendships have developed over the years. Our two daughters look forward to seeing their summer friends at fairs and shows. We all learn to be better shepherds from those who experience living with sheep in both health and illness. It has taken many years to find a good vet who knows these ruminants, but the real learning comes from speaking with others who tend to their own flocks. I value the support that comes when I am in question about behavior. Other shepherds have a wealth of information that is useful to our family. Working together is how this beautiful breed will remain healthy and vibrant.

Those original three lambs have enriched our lives beyond measure. I am convinced that our family has stayed healthier because of the work that is required in all kinds of weather. The past two years, temperatures in February reached -18. Ears of newly born lambs were freezing and icicles formed on the wool before the mama had a chance to clean them off. Living off grid we don’t have the option of using supplemental heat sources. We have gotten creative at tending to those lambs without a great deal of interference. We’re lambing in March this year, though. Sheep can be more human than humans sometimes. They have schedules and rituals. They play and are insatiably curious. They have their friends. They are constantly speaking to my soul. I can choose to ignore their wisdom and classiness, or embrace it. I choose the latter.

In this Issue...

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4 - Neck of the Woods
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President’s Message

Hello fellow ABLA members –

I would like to introduce our newsletter editor, Dena Early. In the months ahead, I hope you all will have a chance to chat with her to pass along interesting articles or place an ad for your flock or wares. Sarah had decided to ‘retire’ as our editor, and Dena had expressed an interest in working on the newsletter previously, so we welcomed her into our flock! Sarah is not leaving the breed just the position. She has guided and worked closely with Dena to get this edition put together. Thanks for all your help, Sarah, and Welcome aboard, Dena!!

As the show season winds down, reflecting on this past summer’s sheep shows and some comments I heard and things I have seen, we, as the Board, would like to remind you all to be familiar with the Border Leicester Breed Standards (found elsewhere in this newsletter). Our breed is a long wool breed and, hence, should be carrying adequate length of fiber to be judged as a long wool sheep. The fiber length should be the same all over the body of the animal to show the consistency of the fleece (or how else to judge it?). Remember: Wool is 40 Points on a Border Leicester. One would wonder what someone was hiding if the fleece was very short on the shoulders and very long on the butt end (obviously a heavy front ended animal with no leg?!?). That is not the type of Border Leicester we want to be raising - for sure! Quoting from our website, “What is a Border Leicester” page:

Showing Border Leicesters

With their stylish heads and curly fleeces, Border Leicesters quickly catch the attention of the general public. Border Leicesters are typically shown with 3-5 months wool growth, so that the judge can accurately evaluate the fleece, one of the most important characteristics of the breed. They are relatively easy to fit for exhibition. They should appear clean and neat but are never shampooped, 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.

So, as with all long wool sheep, we as fitters and showmen must plan ahead for next year’s shows and consider the length of fleece needed to exhibit our Border Leicesters. Figure out when is the best time to shear the show Border Leicesters for the required 3-5 months growth and, of course, keep an eye on the weather as well so your animals won’t get sick.

I look forward to watching the NAILE show on line in November. We ’re hoping for lambs in late January or February, but we will see. It was super hot this past summer and fall here in Rhode Island, so I am not sure the rams were able to do “their jobs” on time. But it is always fun anticipating the lambs, guessing what they will grow into, which ones we will sell, which fleeces to keep to process, and which sheep we will take to the shows.

And remember: keep promoting those lovely Border Leicesters!!

Polly Hopkins, ABLA President
Gee! I wrote my last entry back in June in the throws of one of the wettest June’s on record. We managed to get over 16 inches in 5 weeks. Feast or famine here in northern Vermont; two dry spring months, 5 weeks of rain (garden flooded no less than 6 times and it is on high ground); followed by 2 months of almost no rain; then spotty rain. The grass never really grew back from the two dry months after all the rain was depleted in the soil. Hay has been hard to come by and I am very thankful that my barn is full of nice second cut hay. It is always a good thing to have a great relationship with your hay supplier. Many others have not been so fortunate.

August brought the Addison County Fair and over 200 quality sheep of many breeds and over 30 youth showing them (including many young Border Leicester breeders). During the open show on the second day, the judge, who goes all over America, said this group of sheep, the variety of breeds and their quality was seen very rarely across the United States today and he commended the participants on a job well done. The ABLA sponsored prize money for the supreme colored and white Border Leicesters and photos of them will be shown elsewhere in the newsletter. I want to thank the ABLA board for providing a way to award some of these hard working shepherds of the future.

Speaking of shepherds of the future, and youth showing sheep. I would like to see, in the future, at the larger youth sheep shows, categories that include “Breed by Owner” classes. In my opinion, this would give hard working kids that choose their breeding stock, breed their own sheep; lamb them out and care for them from their conception until show time, the opportunity to be judged against their peers that have done the same thing.

Our pretty leaves turned very quickly here, and after a strong wind this past weekend, we are looking at bare trees and looking forward to many months of little sun, lots of wind; hopefully snow and not rain, and long winter nights by the wood stove. And most of us, by now, have had our rams in with the ewes hoping for a great lambing season 5 months later. I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving season, remembering to give thanks in all circumstances (and you will find some kind of silver lining in not so great situations) and a safe winter. Sue Johnson, Hinesburg, Vermont

Greetings once again from the Great Lakes State!
It has been a busy time with family and special friends. Always beautiful here, while very dry, rains came at the right time for the hay harvest. We are grateful.

Our Michigan Fiber Festival was well attended and fun. Sheep numbers were up with seven breeds, including the Border Leicesters showing. The Michigan State Fair is growing with enthusiasm. Again, sheep numbers are up. The Border Leicesters are always drawing people to “come and see.” The shows were well attended also and the youth scholarships given were in the thousands of dollars. Our Michigan Sheep Breeders are among the best in support of our youngsters.

Michigan looks forward to hosing the All-American Junior Show in 2016. I hope all of you will lend your support in some way for this event.

I welcome your comments, questions, and/or concerns on any topic.
Bill and I wish each of you peace and many blessings this Christmas and holiday season.

Linda Koeppel, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Important Dates to Remember

NAILE – Louisville – Nov. 18
Juniors...Futurity Submissions - Dec. 1
Submissions for Winter Newsletter – Jan. 15
Wooster Show & Sale – May 28-29

Don’t Forget Associated Registries Moved!!

PO Box 231 • 305 Lincoln
Wamego, KS 66547
Phone: 785/456-8500
Fax: 785/456-8599
Hello:

My name is Holliday Thomas, and I am the mother of two Jr. Border Leicester breeders in Bowling Green, Ohio. Again our Board of Directors have agreed to support the 2016 All American Junior Sheep Show to be held at Michigan State University. Now we as breeders have the opportunity to put our junior members into one of the most prestigious shows in the U.S. I would like to ask for your help and support by donating to the 2016 AAJSS Fund. Our goal this year is $800.00, so as you can see we have a lot of work to do. Your generous donations will be very appreciated. More information will be forthcoming in future newsletters and direct mailings. As per Polly’s suggestion please send the attached tear off slip along with your donation made out to ABLA to me Holliday Thomas, I will make copies of all checks and forward to Treasurer Bill Koeppel.

Thank you for supporting our youth.

HOLLIDAY THOMAS
945 W.WOOSTER ST.
BOWLING GREEN, OHIO 43402
419-308-1187
hnthomas55@gmail.com

Yes, I want to donate $___________ to the AAJSS Fund.

Name ________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________

City, State, Zip ___________________________________________

Please make checks payable to ABLA and send to Holliday Thomas.
Pacific NW Regional Border Leicester Show

What a great time was had by all Border Leicester breeders who on August 28th met and competed at the 150th Oregon State Fair show, in the 1st (and not last) Pacific NW Regional Show. Four Oregon breeders brought in 25 white Border Leicester Sheep and 4 Natural Colored Border Leicester.

Champion Ram and Best Fleeced Ram-
Mist O Morn
Reserve Champion Ram and Best Headed Ram
Distracted Acres
Champion Ewe and Best fleece
Blessed Creations
Reserve Champion Ewe
Mist O Morn
Best Headed Ewe
Distracted Acres
Young Flock and Best Fleeced Young Flock
Mist O Morn
Get of Sire and Best Fleece Get of Sire
Mist O Morn
Flock and Best Pair
Mist O Morn

A special award was present in Di Waibel’s memory for our Jr. Breeder, Jessie Thompson. Di who passed away on December 22nd, 2013 maybe gone from us but is not forgotten, she had a deep love for the American Border Leicester, served on the Board of Directors in many capacities and she is dearly missed. And thanks to ABLA we were able to present an award to the Get of Sire –best fleece for all wool breeds in memory of Di. The 2015 first presentation of this award was won by Mist O Morn Farms, Jill and Jessie Thompson. We cannot wait to do this again next year and hope that the number of exhibitors will expand.

Blessings, Coleen Smith

**************************************************************************

Have a lamb recipe you want to share? We are looking for more recipes for upcoming newsletters. Send them to newsletter@ablasheep.org

SIMPLE LAMB CHOP MEAL (Serves 4)
Submitted by Jack Price
Put 8 Border Leicester Lamb Chops into a zip-lock bag, pour in ½ bottle of Cardini’s Light Greek Vinagrette dressing, seal bag and place in fridge for at least 3 hours.
Cut 8 washed fingerling potatoes into quarters length-ways, put in glass bowl. Toss with 2 tablespoons of olive oil and one teaspoon of Mrs Dash Garlic & Herb seasoning blend. Refrigerate for at least ½ hour.
When ready to cook, heat oven to 400 degrees, put potatoes on cookie sheet skin side down and bake for 35 minutes. (Oven heat may vary, so check the taters at about 25 minutes. Should be brown and slightly crispy when done.)
Grill lamb chops to desired doneness. (on my grill, 4-5 minutes per side results in medium-rare) Serve with salad and green beans.
Dessert of your choice (Although for the adults out there, a semi-sweet red wine does clear the palate nicely!)

The ABLA Newsletter is published three times a year. It is a compilation of submissions from members. We value your contributions.
The submission deadline for the next issue is January 15.
Please send you news to newsletter@ablasheep.org
Editor: Dena Early
earlydena@gmail.com
937-4658124
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**Grand Champion White Ewe**
Colin Siegmund C Siegmund C Siegmund 1514
### Natural Colored Yearling Ram
1. Emily Gibson, Gibson 158
2. Tiffany Deakin, T Deakin 1956 RR
3. Jerry & Dena Early, Walnut Ridge 0475QR

### Natural Colored Senior Ram Lamb
1. Emily Gibson, Gibson 161
2. Jenna Bilyeu, Bilyeu 1505 Show Me the Money
3. Sarah Jakeman, Jakeman 15-14
4. Jerry & Dena Early, Early ZNK 0153QR
5. Emily Gibson, Gibson 163
6. Jerry & Dena Early, Early ZNK 0154 QR

### Natural Colored Junior Ram Lamb
1. Emily Gibson, Vast Plains 415
2. Sarah Jakeman
3. Jerry & Dena Early, Early ZNK 0152 QR
4. Tiffany Deakin, T Deakin 2010
5. Sarah Jakeman, Jakeman 15-50

### Natural Colored Pair of Ram Lambs
1. Emily Gibson
2. Sarah Jakeman
3. Jerry & Dena Early

#### Grand Champion Natural Colored Ram
Emily Gibson, Gibson 158

#### Reserve Grand Champion Natural Colored Ram
Tiffany Deakin, T Deakin 1956 RR

### Natural Colored Best Headed Ram
Sarah Jakeman, Jakeman 15-30

### Natural Colored Yearling Ewe Group - 1
1. Emily Gibson, Early ZNK 0138 QR
2. Sarah Jakeman, Jakeman 14-3
3. Jerry & Dena Early, Early ZNK 0132
4. Sarah Jakeman, Bear Hollow 82
5. Barbara Thompson, Thompson SSF 1404
6. Tiffany Deakin, Koeppel 502
7. Jerry & Dena Early, Early ZNK 0129 RR

### Natural Colored Yearling Ewe Group - 2
1. Tiffany Deakin, AJs Flock 151
2. Barbara Thompson, Thompson SSF 1414
3. Emily Gibson, Vast Plains 1214
4. Jenna Bilyeu, Gibson 159
5. Sarah Jakeman, Jakeman 14-22
6. Sarah Jakeman, Allen-Dale 1072 Tessa
7. Terence Blake, Koeppel 506
8. Terence Blake, Early ZNK 0143

### Natural Colored Pair of Yearling Ewes
1. Emily Gibson
2. Barbara Thompson
3. Tiffany Deakin
4. Sarah Jakeman
5. Jerry & Dena Early
6. Terence Blake

### Natural Colored Senior Ewe Lamb
1. Emily Gibson, Gibson 165
2. Sarah Jakeman, Jakeman 15-17
4. Tiffany Deakin, T Deakin 1987 RR
5. Jerry & Dena Early, Early ZNK 0155 RR
6. Jerry & Dena Early, Early ZNK 0152 QR

### Natural Colored Junior Ewe Lamb Group - 1
1. Jenna Bilyeu, Bilyeu 1506 Penny
2. Sarah Jakeman, Jakeman 15-21
3. Sarah Jakeman, Jakeman 15-25
4. Jerry & Dena Early, Early ZNK 0158 QR
5. Tiffany Deakin, PW 230
6. Terence Blake, Blake 07

### Natural Colored Junior Ewe Lamb Group - 2
1. Barbara Thompson, Thompson SSF 1547
2. Emily Gibson, Gibson 167
3. Barbara Thompson, Thompson SSF 1546
4. Emily Gibson, Gibson 169
5. Lydia Smith, Smith Family 1516 Yttrium
6. Terence Blake, Blake 08

### Natural Colored Pair of Ewe Lambs
1. Barbara Thompson
2. Emily Gibson
3. Sarah Jakeman
4. Jerry & Dena Early, Early ZNK 0158
5. Tiffany Deakin
6. Terence Blake

### Natural Colored Best Headed Ewe
Sarah Jakeman, Jakeman 15-30

#### Grand Champion Natural Colored Ewe
Tiffany Deakin, AJs Flock 151

#### Reserve Grand Champion Natural Colored Ewe
Barbara Thompson, Thompson SSF 1547

### Natural Colored Best Headed Ewe
Jerry & Dena Early, Early ZNK 0132

### Natural Colored Exhibitor's Flock
1. Emily Gibson
2. Sarah Jakeman
3. Tiffany Deakin
4. Jerry & Dena Early

### Natural Colored Breeder's Flock
1. Sarah Jakeman
2. Jerry & Dena Early

### Natural Colored Get of Sire
1. Emily Gibson
2. Sarah Jakeman
3. Jerry & Dena Early

### Natural Colored Best Fleeced Sheep
Tiffany Deakin

### Natural Colored Premier Exhibitor
1. Sarah Jakeman

### Natural Colored Premier Breeder
1. Emily Gibson
Natiional Border Leicester Junior Show
Eastern States Exposition September 26, 2015
Judge: Doris Powell

White Yearling Ram
1 Samantha Patti Greene, RI
2 Colin Sieg mund N Grosvenor, CT

White Senior Ram Lambs
1 Terence Blake Ludlow, MA

White Intermediate Ram Lamb
1 Colin Sieg mund N Grosvenor, CT

White Junior Ram Lamb
1 Samantha Patti Greene, RI
2 Terence Blake Ludlow, MA

White Junior Show Champion Ram
Colin Sieg mund N Grosvenor, CT

White Junior Show Reserve Champion Ram
Samantha Patti Greene, RI

White Yearling Ewes
1 Colin Sieg mund N Grosvenor, CT

White Intermediate Ewe Lamb
1 Colin Sieg mund N Grosvenor, CT
2 Colin Sieg mund N Grosvenor, CT
3 Catherine Joyce Fultonville, NY
4 Terence Blake Ludlow, MA

White Junior Ewe Lamb – Group 1
1 Samantha Patti Greene, RI
2 Catherine Joyce Fultonville, NY
3 Samantha Patti Greene, RI

White Junior Ewe Lamb – Group 2
1 Colin Sieg mund N Grosvenor, CT
2 Colin Sieg mund N Grosvenor, CT

White Junior Show Champion Ewe
Colin Sieg mund N Grosvenor, CT

White Junior Show Reserve Champion Ewe
Colin Deakin Cuba IL

Natural Colored Yearling Ram
Emily Gibson Lee, NH

Natural Colored Senior Ram Lamb
1 Emily Gibson Lee, NH
2 Emily Gibson Lee, NH

Natural Colored Junior Show Ram Lamb
Emily Gibson Lee, NH

Natural Colored Senior Ewe Lamb
Emily Gibson Lee, NH

Natural Colored Junior Reserve Champion Ewe
Emily Gibson Lee, NH

Natural Colored Yearling Ewes – Group 1
Emily Gibson Lee, NH

Natural Colored Yearling Ewes – Group 2
1 Emily Gibson Lee, NH
2 Terence Blake Ludlow, MA
3 Terence Blake Ludlow, MA

Natural Colored Senior Ewe Lamb
Emily Gibson Lee, NH

Natural Colored Junior Ewe Lamb – Group 1
Emily Gibson Lee, NH

Natural Colored Junior Ewe Lamb – Group 2
1 Emily Gibson Lee, NH
2 Emily Gibson Lee, NH
3 Lydia Smith Charlotte, VT
4 Terence Blake Ludlow, MA

Natural Colored Junior Show Champion Ewe
Emily Gibson Lee, NH

Natural Colored Junior Show Reserve Champion Ewe
Emily Gibson Lee, NH

Congratulations to Emily Gibson for her outstanding achievements at the Big E! Emily not only won Premier Breeder in the open show, Champion and Reserve Champion Ram and Ewe in the Junior show, but she also won top honors in the Lead Line.

Youth News Wanted!
Do you know of a hard-working youth who deserves recognition? Send a paragraph and/or pictures to newsletter@ablasheep.org
The Leading Source of Elite Quality
Border Leicester Genetics

NATIONAL GRAND CHAMPION RAM
The Big E; Champion Ram
Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, Wisconsin State Fair, Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival, Illinois State Fair

NATIONAL GRAND CHAMPION EWE
The Big E; Best Fleece Winner & Top 4 Supreme Champion Fleeces All Breeds, The Big E

Best Fleece Winner & Sandy Russell Memorial Plaque Winner, Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival
S: “Majestic” unbeaten in class wherever shown, 1st Fall Ewe Lamb

National Reserve Grand Champion Ram
The Big E; Champion Ram, Illinois State Fair & Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival

Supreme Champion Ewe
Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival

National Champion White Best-Fleece Winner, Reserve Grand Champion, Big E Junior Show, Reserve Grand Wisconsin State Fair; Twin sister to Deakin 1969 our National Sale Grand Champion Ram sold to Fogle’s of Ohio

Thanks To All Our Buyers In 2015!
Stop at Our Pens & See Our Flock in Louisville!

PREMIER EXHIBITOR OR BREEDER
Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival
Wisconsin State Fair
Illinois State Fair

Deakin Family Farms
11191 E. Cameron Rd.
Cuba, IL 61827
309/785-5115

Fall 2015 American Border Leicester Association Newsletter Page 13
Twist of Fate Spinnery, llp

Custom processing, lots as small as 2 pounds

194 Rose Hill Road
Portland, Connecticut 06480

Jeremiah Squier
860/759-9335

Richard Trojanoski
860/759-9334

Email: info@twistoffatespinnery.com

P-W Sheep Farm

Thanks to all our buyers from the National Sale!
Claire Hume, WA
Tiffany Deakin, IL
Willow Hill Farm, OH

JACK & VIDA PRICE
628N 1150 EAST RD.
PALMER, IL 62556
217/710-6888

DAVE, BRANDY, BEN & ABBY
WAMSLEY
2324 WHITE OAKS DRIVE
TAYLORVILLE, IL 62568
217/824-0419

Marilyn’s Border Leicesters

www.springcreekleicesters.com
952.472.4524  lewman@frontier.com
Thank you to all our buyers and supporters at the sales and off the farm!!

Supreme Champion Ram Overall 2015 KILE
2014 NAILE National Champion Ram
2014 NAILE 1st Late Ram Lamb & Member of 2014
1st Pair of Ram Lambs
Congratulations and Thank you to Nancy Weik & Family, VA on this purchase!

2015 Supreme Champion Ram Overall KILE Junior Show
2015 Champion Ram KILE Junior Show
2015 Reserve Champion Ram KILE Open Show
Thank you to Travis Johnson, OH on his purchase!!

Congratulations to Marcia Haggie on her success at the Maryland State Fair with sheep purchased from us!!

2015 Reserve Champion Ewe All-American Junior Show
2015 1st Senior Ewe Lamb All-American Junior Show
Congratulations to Devon Schneider, NJ
Devon also showed the 1st place Senior Ram lamb at the 2015 All-American Junior show with a sheep purchased from us.

Congratulations and Thank you to Heidi Barkley for purchasing our 2015 National Champion Sale Ewe. Heidi also won Reserve Champion Ewe honors at the 2015 KILE Open Show with this ewe.

**Special Offering!!! 20 top end Ewe Lambs For Sale! Bred just like these Winners!! Call or email for more details.**

Callie Taylor
1467 Ringgold Timblin Road
Timblin, PA 15778
814-360-1202
stctylr@aol.com

Congratulations to Jenna Blythe on her 2015 Reserve Champion Ram at the All-American Junior Show
She has showed the 1st place Junior Ewe Lamb at the All-American and National Show at the Big E, both lambs were sired by one of our rams!!
FLYSTRIKE By Sue Johnson

Flystrike is one of every shepherd’s worst nightmares! (I guess there are some other ones, like dog attacks and prolapsed uterus’s and abortions too...). Flystrike is something every animal owner (dogs and cats and chickens can have it too) needs to watch out for especially in late Spring and Summer months and especially if the weather is rainy and/or humid. Even lush grass sheep lounge on can bring it on.

It is usually caused by a few varieties of flies that like to hang around farm animals. They are often Bluebottle Flies or Greenbottle Flies, but any flies can lay eggs and cause the same damage if given the opportunity.

I am thankful that over my many years of raising sheep, I have never had it occur on our farm, although this August, I did care for someone else’s sheep that had it. Much of this article is from my experience and from my reading on the Internet. It can happen for many reasons: a dirty back end soiled with manure or wet urine’ a wet spell when the sheep are not able to get dry, lying in a lush field with 6-inch grass and a heavy dew on otherwise totally “clean” sheep are a few of them. I know of a number of people near me that have found this on their sheep. One was a family that buys feeder lambs. They called me after seeing the back end and back legs of some of their lambs looking “wet” but did not have manure on them; one was from a woman that had her old favorite ewe that liked to lie in the grass (they laid eggs on her wet thighs); another farmer left their lambs in a pasture after a rainy spell and didn’t have the opportunity to look them over closely every day; and another had Scottish Blackface sheep that liked to lie along a barn under the eaves where water dripped onto their backs. The first family was able to save theirs after much attention. The latter three lost their sheep as the maggots had already penetrated too far into the sheep (eating the muscles from the outside in) to save them.

Flies provide a needed service in this world of ours. By their profuse laying of eggs in dead animals, the carcass is quickly dissolved “cleaning up” after the dead animal. In the past maggots have been used by doctors (under supervision) to clean out bad skin infections/wounds in humans. In the case of live sheep and lambs, if gone undetected, the animals will die a miserable death.

If you see a sheep with a soiled rear end or a “wet or dark patch” somewhere on its body—often above the tail or hip or along the back on a “clean” sheep, check them very closely for flystrike. Once the flies lay their eggs on this area, they become maggots and begin to burrow and feed on the sheep. When examining the wool, it will look dirty and you will see tiny white rice looking larva. The sheep in early stages looks irritated and may be constantly twitching its tail and getting up and down or otherwise not demonstrating normal behavior. If you let this condition go untreated for several days and the maggots are at work, it will debilitate the sheep and become extremely difficult to treat.

Treatment begins by carefully shearing the infected area until you have a margin of about an inch of normal skin around the damaged area. And you may have to keep looking for “trails” of maggots far away from where you first discovered the “wet” wool. Electric shears are the best, hand shears next best, and scissors can work if that is all you have. Just be sure if you use hand shears or scissors, that you cut the wool off at a 90 (or at least 45) degree angle to the skin or you could cut the sheep and further injure it. It is important to collect all the wool you take off to prevent the maggots going onto another animal. Putting the clipped wool into a black garbage bag and sealing it tightly and leaving it in the sun for a few days will kill them. Then give the sheep a topical treatment such as a screw worm aerosol multi-purpose insecticide spray (primary ingredient is Permethrin), well-coating the clipped area to kill the remaining maggots the clipping did not take away. Do this for a few days. It is a good idea to bring the affected sheep to a containment area (barn, etc) so you can keep an eye on them for further infection. It is important to take their temperature (helps gauge how sick they are from the strike) —around 102 degrees is normal for a healthy sheep. The animal should also receive penicillin injections (or LA 200) and be fed special until it regains its strength and its temperature is back to normal. Some people spray “Bluecoat” onto the affected area; some just leave it to dry in the air (some like antibiotic ointment but flies can be attracted to this). Some like to saturate the area with 3% hydrogen peroxide (this may damage more of the skin/wool area around the wounds) to further clean it. For days after the ones I worked with, I cleaned the wounded area with a solution of Betadine and water soaked into paper towels, gently patting the area. It was amazing how many hundreds of tiny dead larva were still on the sheep.

Cont. on page 15...
Cape House Farm
Beautiful Sheep - Beautiful Wool

Stella - Yearling - Champion Ewe
2015 Michigan State Fair

Grand Champion Fleece
2015 Michigan State Fair

We expect a great crop of 2016 lambs
After a wonderful 26 years this will be our last group of lambs
We plan a great retirement for both our remaining flock and ourselves.

Linda and Bill Koeppel
4808 Warren Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

734-747-8112
bkoeppe22@gmail.com
lksheepandwool@gmail.com

Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival – Judge: Rodger High, Richwood, OH

White Border Leicester
Yearling Ram –
1) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL
Fall Ram Lamb –
1) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL
Winter Ram Lamb –
1) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL

Spring Ram Lamb –
1) Auretta Wittkopf, Pewaukee, WI;
2) Abbie Wiese;
3) Kevin Kitchen, August, WI

Grand Champion Ram –
Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL (Yearling Ram)
Reserve Champion Ram –
Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL (Fall Ram Lamb)

Yearling Ewe –
1) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL;
2) Colin Deakin, Cuba, IL
3) Auretta Wittkopf, Pewaukee, WI
4) Abbie Wiese;
5) Morgan Pelanek

Fall Ewe Lamb –
1) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL

Winter Ewe Lamb –
1) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL

Spring Ewe Lamb –
1) Auretta Wittkopf, Pewaukee, WI;
2) Abbie Wiese

Grand Champion Ewe –
Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL (Yearling Ewe)
Reserve Champion Ewe –
Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL (Fall Ewe Lamb)
Flock – 1) Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL;
2) Abbie Wiese
Best Fleece –
Deakin Family Farms, Cuba, IL

Natural Colored Border Leicester
Yearling Ram –
1) Tiffany Deakin, Cuba, IL
Fall Ram Lamb –
1) Auretta Wittkopf, Pewaukee, WI

Spring Ram Lamb –
1) Tiffany Deakin, Cuba, IL;
2) & 3) PW Sheep Farm, Palmer, IL;
4) Kevin Kitchen

Grand Champion Ram –
Auretta Wittkopf, Pewaukee, WI (Fall Ram Lamb)
Reserve Champion Ram –
Tiffany Deakin, Cuba, IL (Yearling Ram)

Yearling Ewe –
1) Tiffany Deakin, Cuba, IL;
2) Kevin Kitchen;
3) Colby Hasheider

Winter Ewe Lamb –
1) Tiffany Deakin, Cuba, IL

Spring Ewe Lamb – 1) Kevin Kitchen;
2) & 3) PW Sheep Farm, Palmer, IL

Grand Champion Ewe –
Tiffany Deakin, Cuba, IL (Yearling Ewe)
Reserve Champion Ewe –
Kevin Kitchen (Yearling Ewe)
Flock –
1) Tiffany Deakin, Cuba, IL;
Flystrike continued from page 12

It is a good idea to continue to use the screw worm spray around the area of the strike (shielding the infected area around the wound(s) as this spray is really painful to the sheep where they were eaten) until everything has dried up, maybe a week or so. This will keep additional flies away from the area until it becomes a dry scar. Watch for more infection under the scar, and if you see some, clip a part of the scar with sterilized scissors or knife and drain the pus. A cardboard scab will form over the wounds and the wool around it, and eventually, the whole affected area will peel off. It looks pretty gross, but there will already be new skin under it and baby wool strands already beginning to grow. If large pieces begin to peel at once, it is a good idea to take a pair of scissors and cut off the loose “cardboard” so if the sheep tries to rub it off, it will not rip off areas not yet ready to be shed.

Don’t be surprised if when on a colored sheep, the wool that grows back will be a different color than it was previously. After a week or so of treatment (depending on the severity), the injured sheep will be ready to rejoin the flock.

To avoid this happening to your sheep, here are a few suggestions: Do a once over check of your sheep every day.... Always a good idea anyway in case any are limping/looking out of sorts etc. And if something looks amiss check it out. If lambs or ewes have loose poops and have soiled their behinds even a little bit, it is a good idea to clean/cut off the manured area. I have a trimming stand I leave in the barnyard and if I have a messy “butt”, I put them right onto the stand (or have someone hold them for me) and I hose the dirty area down and/or clip messy tags off. I think back to when I wormed them last, and often I will worm the lamb/ewe with the dirty back end as an insurance plan. Generally this takes care of the loose stools (and I consider whether I need to worm all the lambs if a few have dirty behinds). An ounce of prevention is worth many pounds of cure with our animals.

A few good websites I found are:
-- www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ux_e7hGxFVY  (visual shearing of, and treating flystrike)
--Pipestone Sheep and Wool’s archives on the subject
--The Woolpit Flock of Jacob Sheep “Spotting and Treating Flystrike”
  http://www.jacobsheep.co.uk/index.htm?oc=rel&di=desc&subj=hints

Flystrike continued from page 12

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Keystone Junior Border Leicester Show
Judge – Eric Bruns

**Spring Ram Lamb**
1 & 3 Callie Taylor
2 & 5 Travis Johnson
4 & 7 Heidi Barkley
6 Devon Schneider

**Champion Ram**
Callie Taylor

**Reserve Champion Ram**
Travis Johnson

**Yearling Ewe**
1 & 5 Callie Taylor
2 & 3 Heidi Barkley
4 & 6 Travis Johnson
7 Devon Schneider

**Fall Ewe Lamb**
1 Heidi Barkley

**Early Spring Ewe Lamb**
1 & 4 Callie Taylor
2 Madalynn Veit
3 Heidi Barkley
5 & 6 Devon Schneider

**Late Spring Ewe Lamb**
1 & 3 Callie Taylor
2 Madalynn Veit
4 & 5 Travis Johnson

**Champion Ewe**
Callie Taylor

**Reserve Champion Ewe**
Heidi Barkley

**Pair of Lambs**
1 Callie Taylor
2 Madalynn Veit
3 Travis Johnson
4 Heidi Barkley
5 Devon Schneider

**Best Young Flock**
1 Callie Taylor
2 Travis Johnson
3 Heidi Barkley
4 Devon Schneider

**REGISTERING SHEEP**
Fill out any ABLA application for registration you may already have or if you do not have the form, please visit the “Registering Sheep” page on the website at www.ablasheep.org and download an Application for Registration Form. Send all forms for registering your sheep to:

American Border Leicester Association
PO Box 231, 305 Lincoln
Wamego, KS 66547
Phone: 785/456-8500
Fax: 785/456-8599

REGISTRATION FEES
Members ..........................$7.00
Non-Members ......................$14.00

Be sure to include all the necessary and correct information on the forms in order to register your sheep. Applications that are incomplete, incorrect, or lacking fees will be returned to the sender with an explanation of the problem. Applications will not be accepted unless an ABLA Application for Registration Form is filled out for all animals to be registered by the breeder/owner.
Bischof Farms
BORDER LEICESTERS
The West’s Largest Flock!

Breeding Stock For Sale!

DON & DEBRA BISCHOF
503/806-7536

Jake Riester • Flock Consultant & Sales • 360/835-3676 or 360/601-3245
11495 SW Tooze Road • Wilsonville, OR 97070 • d.dbischof@gmail.com
Thistlewood Border Leicesters

Old World Character – New World Fleece Quality

Sheep bred for outstanding fleeces, great production, and the classic Border Leicester look.

David and Carol Ray
S1939 County Highway V
Hillsboro, WI 54634
(608) 489-2329
Email: thistlewoodfarm@gmail.com
www.thistlewoodborderleicester.com
Our flock is test negative for OPP and SFCP enrolled
Export monitored status

We had a great day at the Big E!

2015 National Champion Ewe
“Hannah” P Hopkins 14-2
Maybe Tomorrow Farm
Polly, Kevin & Chris Hopkins
494 Evans Road
Chepachet, RI 02814
401-949-4619
Khop4811@aol.com

Someday Soon Farm
Sarah & Jack Jakeman
137 Kingsboro Ave
Gloversville, NY 12078
401-787-8316
Cheviot99@gmail.com

ABLTA Treasurer’s Report
Bill Koeppel – October 25, 2015

The balance in our checking account is $6280.23 as of this date (about $925 of that is in the 2015 Futurity and $75 in the All American Junior sub-accounts). Petty cash is $65.82.
Financial activity since my September 10th report has been:
Income:
Deposits by Associated Registries in September - $375.00
Deposits by Associated Registries in October (to date) - $236.00
(Year to date- Registrations & Transfers $6365 vs. budgeted $6950)
Treasurer’s Deposits (dues) in October - $0.00
(Year to date-Dues $2665 vs. budgeted $2900)
Dues received by Treasurer not yet deposited - $35.00
Expenses:
American Hampshire Assn. (Registry services)
$177.60
(Year to date-Registry Expense $3702 vs. $4050 budgeted)
Keystone International Junior Premium Support: $200
(versus $275 budgeted)
Big E Lead Line: $50
(versus $100 budgeted)
Note the YTD registry expense of $3702 is for services through September. It is likely that billings for the final three months of the year will put us over the budgeted amount. The Budget did not take into account Associated Registries’ fee increase at the beginning of the year. Also, many of these numbers are first time tabulations subject to verification.

Have you paid your dues yet??

Fill out the form on the last page of this newsletter and send it to
Bill Koeppel, Treasurer
4808 Warren Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Border Leicesters Pass The Test & Stand With The Best!

Border Leicesters are unmatched for • Ease of lambing • Ease of the lambs in the lambing barn • Correcting teage and grain into fast gaining lambs • Wool quality • Hard winter’s top choice for wool quality, feel & spinning performance • Easily maintained throughout the year

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

Applies to both white and natural colored Border Leicesters

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):
SHOULDER: 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
THIGH: 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, 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):
Locks with purled tips ending in a curl, High luster, Minimum of kemp hair, Uniform fleece and belly wool; no black spots in white wool, 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%. The stable length of the fleece ranges from 5-10 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 months 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. Stay 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 175-300 pounds and stand about 32 inches at the shoulder. He should have a wide, level back. Ewes usually weigh 150-225 pounds.
The American Border Leicester Association was founded in 1973 to promote and register Border Leicester sheep in the United States and Canada. Both white and natural colored Border Leicesters are eligible for registry with the ABLA. Our association is experiencing some exciting growth, both in membership and numbers of sheep registered. We invite you to join us! We provide the opportunity for our members to promote themselves and their farm products through our Member Directory. Please provide the information that you’d like included with your listing. Our membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st. For more information about Border Leicesters and the American Border Leicester Association, visit our website: www.ablasheep.org.

Name: ____________________________

Farm/Ranch Name: ____________________________

Street Address: ____________________________

Mailing address (if different): ____________________________

City/State/Zip code: ____________________________

Phone: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________

Website Address: ____________________________

What products from your farm would you like in the directory? ____________________________

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

Helpful information for the Board and Editor (will not be included in the directory):

Total flock size: __________

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

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

Articles and/or topics you would like to see in the newsletter? ____________________________

_____ I would be interested in writing or supplying information for an upcoming newsletter (Editor will contact you).

Topics you would like to Board of Directors to discuss/or comments to your Board: ____________________________

Please send this form with check payable to “ABLA” to:
William Koeppel
4808 Warren Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105