Looking Ahead
Sheep and Fiber Shows, Youth Shows,

The Border Leicester National Show

As we look ahead at the rest of the year, from May through November, shows abound. When members receive this issue, many will be preparing for the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival May 7-8. Just a few weeks following, Border Leicester breeders will be convening in Wooster, Ohio, for the National Sale and meeting (more information on page 7-8). Summer brings shows across the country from the Black Sheep Gathering in Oregon in June to the Michigan Fiber Festival in August. Many more follow in the fall such as the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival in Jefferson, Wisconsin, and the New York Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck. Too numerous to name, many sheep and wool festivals can be found on page 23, and even more are listed at fiddleheadfibers.com/festivals. If you haven’t been to a wool/fiber show, find one to attend. Many have workshops for fiber arts, taking care of your sheep, and vendors galore! Even if you do not participate in the shows, so much can be learned watching and listening. Are you wondering about your shearing techniques or preparing fleeces? Do you have questions about breeding? Do you need to find a mill for processing? Or maybe you want to learn how to weave, spin, or knit. Find out by going to a show – make connections with fellow sheep breeders and fiber artists.

Editor’s Note: Jerry and I have enjoyed the Michigan Fiber Festival for many years showing sheep, learning new fiber arts, and meeting wonderful people.

And let’s not forget our youth. We want them as involved as possible. In this issue you will find information about the upcoming AAJS show in Lansing, Michigan, and the North East Youth Sheep Show in West Springfield, MA, both coming up in July.
President’s Message

Hi all!!

It looks like another exciting year for our breed, starting with the National (sheep) Sale and National Fleece Show in Wooster, Ohio; regional shows in the Northwest and Northeast; and finishing the year with the National show at NAILE; and not to forget all the shows, festivals and events in between! The Border Leicester breed is also represented in the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival’s All Breeds Sale and part of their Youth Conservation Program; and come fall, I am sure there will be Border Leicesters in the New York Festival’s Bred Ewe & Ewe Lamb Sale. Our breed is definitely making our presence known around the country – people are taking notice!

I would like to thank Callie Taylor and her parents for donating a ewe lamb consigned in the National Sale, with the proceeds going for the junior activities in our association. Be sure to check out this lamb and help to support our youth.

I would also like to thank Holliday Thomas for all her work in collecting sponsors for the All American Junior Show, and thanks to all of you who donated, our breed will be represented for a second year in a row at the AAJS. Last I heard, the amount collected was $900, plus $75 left over from last year.

The North East Youth Sheep Show also offers a breed show for Border Leicesters. Sarah Jakeman (my daughter), a Border Leicester breeder from New York, is a Co-chair of this event. I clerk the Border Leicester breed show, Sarah’s husband, Jack, and my son, Christopher, are the ‘official’ photographers for the weekend. If anyone would like to help to sponsor this show, please contact me. All sponsors received by June 1st will be listed on a ‘thank you’ banner hung over the show ring, and mention in press releases for this show.

There are many more events around the country that offer Border Leicester breed shows, if you attend one, take some pictures and/or write up a paragraph or two, and/or get the placings of the show – get this information to Dena, our editor, so she can include them in the newsletter. We want to hear about Border Leicester happenings!!

To all those breeders selling to youth and to the youth themselves, I would like to remind you of the ABLA Futurity Contest. Nomination fee is $25 per ewe. Nominations are being accepted now and must be postmarked by July 1, 2016. Youth exhibitors, be sure to turn in your Point Record Forms within ten days of each show. Forms can be found on the ABLA website or contact me and I can mail or email them to you.

I look forward to seeing members at the National Sale and Annual Meeting. If we haven’t met, please come up and introduce yourself to the Board – most of the directors will be in Wooster that weekend. In the meantime, remember…. Start at the Top with Border Leicesters !!!

Polly Hopkins
From Illinois...

I hope everyone had a successful and stress-free lambing season. (Or at least as stress-free as possible!) At least by the time you read this, we should all be finished with spring lambing. We feel in mind that we haven’t seen anyone else’s lambs to compare with them. A former Illinois Ag Director referred to that situation as “being barn blind.” Still, we can compare them in our mind’s eye to what we have watched for the last couple of years, and do a pretty good job of judging how they look.

One of the things the Board is looking at doing is to prepare a video about Border Leicesters that would play on the Association web site. Rather than running around taking pictures and videos, it was suggested that we solicit such from members. We need a good professional photo of a nice BL Ram, ram standing in a pasture, but can’t be too picky. We also need a short video of spinners, and pictures of scarf(s), glove(s), etc. Also, a short video of lambs, both white and colored, crowding around a person to get petted, and photos of juniors showing Borders and receiving champion ribbons. Finally, a video of Border lambs (white and colored) playing. If you have (or make) such photos or videos, please send them to me at jackvida@juno.com or 628N 1150 East Rd, Palmer, IL 62556, or to Jerry Wigglesworth at anguswigg@gmail.com or P.O. Box 6, Dwight, KS 66849.

Jack Price

From Michigan...

SPRING!!! Michigan is the best place to be when our frozen [well not exactly this year, but we’ll take it!] world awakens. I sincerely hope you all had or will have a happy and successful lambing season. It is always a gift to watch our newborns grow and thrive and be an asset to us and others.

Please support our youth members who will be traveling and participating in the ALL AMERICAN JUNIOR SHOW being held this year at our MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY in EAST LANSING. There is a lot to see and do in Lansing, our state capital. Check out the show website at info@allamericanjuniorshow.com. Also, our farm is about one-hour south and east of MSU and we would be happy to welcome you if you would like to come for a visit. Please contact us at 734-747-8112 or by e-mail at lksheepandwool@gmail.com.

We have some super nice lambs for sale as we move into the summer and fall. We will be at the MICHIGAN FIBER FESTIVAL and our MICHIGAN STATE FAIR, both great shows to attend.

Be assured of our help and support to our membership. We plan to continue promoting and teaching about our Border Leicester breed to anyone who will listen!! Please remember Bill is an excellent judge for your shows...we travel for sheep shows!

Through our sheep we have so appreciated the many wonderful people who have become our extended family. You may never know what you have meant to us. While what we do IS about sheep - it is so much more about those who raise them.

I wish each of you a great summer and look forward to seeing many of you at the Great Lakes Show and Sale in Wooster, Ohio.

Peace, Linda

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(Neck of the Woods continued)

Great Times, Great Friends, Great Sheep, GREAT LAKES!

To steal a slogan from the Tunis breed who is also hosting their National Sale in Wooster, Ohio, at the end of May, the slogan pretty well sums up the weekend. Border Leicester breeders everywhere should be proud how our once small breed has expanded and that we have the quality animals, and enough of them, to host a National Sale.

Outstanding genetics representing many of the nation’s finest flocks will sell during the Great Lakes Sale in Wooster, Ohio, May 28 and 29. The inventory of rams and ewes, both white and natural colored, is strong and the quality will be high.

Strong fleece characteristics will be in abundance and you can confidently be assured there will be something there for everyone.

The 2016 National Sale represents a breed that is moving forward and proud to offer their genetics to the public. Take advantage of this annual offering and if you are in need of a good new stud ram or would like to add some ewes to your flock, the Great Lakes Sale is the place to be. If you are unable to attend, provisions can be made, or help is available to assist you in getting animals transported closer to your home following the sale.

The National Border Leicester Sale is one of four breeds hosting National Sales in Wooster. In addition to ours, are the Tunis, Lincoln and Merino breeds’ National Sales. Trucking and transportation is available if you check it out. Opportunity knocks for you to improve your flock at the National Sale. There will be no better chance in 2016 to see so many high quality Border Leicesters, all for sale, and all under one roof.

The winter in Illinois has been mild and was relatively snow-free. As of this time, we are blessed our corn is all planted and soybeans are soon to follow. Our Greek Easter lamb sale was hot for our area and well attended. The Corn Belt area does not typically garner the elite prices as our friends get in the East, but it sure is nice to sell $2 plus lambs weighing 40-80 pounds. It makes you wonder why we grow them out to 120-140 pounds to get $1.20 – $1.40.

There are plenty of upcoming Border Leicester activities and I hope to see you at several of them.

Greg Deakin

Thoughts from Jerry Wigglesworth...

Our April lambing - just a few ewes, we don't sell or eat our lambs, as a rule, because we are in it for wool - our April lambing began in mid-March. A restless ram, a fence not quite stout enough, well, you know the story. One ewe, a four- year old, produced an excellent ewe lamb on a pound and a half of alfalfa a day plus all the prairie hay she could eat, and it is she who is in my mind when I consider Jack Price's program for a video to advertise our breed.

It's a great program: by separating the voice over from the visual display, he relieves us from being actors. We will have a Narrator and the narration will be shaped to the images. The images will focus on certain aspects of our breed's characteristics: its shape, its wool, its mothering abilities, its friendliness. I hope that some of our members will be willing to try their hand at producing footage on these topics so we will have choices and different examples of each, and from different parts of the country. I must say that I am not sure that we want to mention how tasty Border Leicesters can be, but I must concede that the people who buy sheep are people who own sheep already or are getting into the business so they may well be immune to the emotional problems that might be involved in butchering and consuming Daisy.

The topic I’d like to add to Jack’s list is one that is hard to visualize: thriftiness. Border Leicesters don’t require high-dollar food. Is that a quality that anyone else besides me recognizes? Can someone suggest the kind of footage to illustrate it?
Coming this Summer
~New Youth Show~

Hey kids, there is a new youth show: Empire Classic Youth Sheep Show at the Genesee County Fairgrounds in Batavia, New York, July 15 & 16, 2016. Judges will be Steve and Stacy Taylor. Sheep must arrive after 7 pm July 14 and are released on Saturday July 16 at 5pm or at the conclusion of the show. There are 16 breeds offered (Border Leicesters included) along with wether sheep and AOB Meat and Wool. Entries close June 15th. American Border Leicester Association is a proud sponsor of this event. For more information and entries go to: www.gcfair.com go to “fairground events” and you will find the Empire Classic Youth Show information.

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Spring Issue...................April 15
Fall Issue.......................October 20

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A Fleece Primer

By Letty Klein, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Showing a fleece in competition is an excellent and inexpensive form of advertising. Show fleeces often bring premium prices and repeat customers. A show fleece should possess good eye appeal and character, a nice handle or feel, and freshness or bloom. Color, cleanliness, length of staple, and presentation are all an important part of that appeal.

First impression is important when entering a fleece in a wool show. Characteristics that influence the first impression in a fleece show are presentation and brightness. When I show fleeces, I like to pick 5 or 6, prepare them all correctly and put them on a table where I pass by several times a day. The fleeces that I picked to show were the ones that always caught my eye and begged to be touched when I passed by. Brightness is that inherent glow or radiance-of-warmth that a healthy, clean, fresh fleece emits.

Presentation reflects how the exhibitor feels about their fleece, the pride they put into that sheep as it grows the fleece, and then the care and handling involved in skirting and rolling the fleece to show the attributes best. A fleece that is haphazardly thrown into a bag that may be too big or too small doesn’t show much pride, ingenuity or imagination. Remember you are selling your fleece to the judge, but you also want to catch the eye of a potential buyer, that spinner or fiber artist.

So if you want to exhibit a fleece in a wool show, remember presentation counts:

1) Pick a freshly sheared fleece, one that still has brightness and bloom.

2) Pick or shake out as much vegetable matter as you can.

3) Roll it so the best part of the fleece is on the outside.

4) Select a clear plastic bag that fits the fleece, not too big and not too small.

One of the most asked questions is, “How do I keep the vegetable matter out of my fleeces?” Sheep maintained on well-cared for and properly managed pastures stay remarkably clean. It’s when we start feeding hay that the trouble begins, especially when sheep are able to burrow down and bury their heads in the hay looking for those choice tender green leaves. Coating does not work with many breeds, plus having to look at coats in the pasture is something I don’t care about.

There are many so-called hay feeders on the market; finding one that effectively manages the hay is a challenge. Perhaps the simplest is a discarded rubber tire or a cut off barrel. Ground feeding is never recommended because of parasite spread, except on clean snow-covered areas, but the concept is perfect. The secret is to prevent sheep from burrowing in the hay. The easiest way to do this is to feed in small amounts, feed low to the ground, and don’t crowd the sheep. Never throw the hay, but instead try to shut the sheep out of the area of distract them while you distribute the hay.

The above article was printed in the September, 2015 issue of Michigan Shepherd News and was the basis for a program at the Michigan Fiber Festival presented by Letty Klein.
**Wooster Wool Fleece 2016 Show and Sale**

**Location** - Under the Grandstand  
This show is dedicated to quality fleeces for hand spinning.  
**Friday:** Fleece Check-in: 2-6pm Show Fleeces Judging at 7:00  
**Saturday:** Non Show fleeces & Border Leicester Fleeces must be checked in by 9:15am  
Judging: Border Leicester Saturday 9:30am  
Border Leicester fleece sale will begin ½ hour after judging  
**All other Fleece sales begin 10:00 Saturday**  
Method of handling fleeces available to producer:  
1. Fleeces entered in competition only (Show Only)  
2. Fleece entered in competition and consigned for sale (Show & Sale)  
3. Fleeces consigned for sale only (Sale Only)  

**Please designate on entry form**  
All fleeces are to be brought to the Fleece Show area under the Grandstand. One entry form must be completed per exhibitor. Fleeces will NOT be weighed. A fleece that is NOT FOR SALE must be so marked. Checks from sales of fleeces and premium money will be mailed to exhibitors. All unsold and not-for-sale fleeces will be released at 2:00 on Sunday and must be removed by 4:00 pm. Any unclaimed fleeces will be disposed of at the discretion of the committee. Every effort will be made to display and care for entered fleeces, but we assume no responsibility for damaged, lost, stolen or erroneously sold fleeces.  

The entry fee is $2.00 per fleece. The pre-registration form, found in the middle of the booklet or on the website, must be received before May 10. Late entry fee is $7.00 per fleece. There will be a 10% sale commission charged on sold fleeces.  
All fleeces must be from the current wool crop. Each fleece must be clean and free of chaff, burrs, tags and second cuts. They must be skirted and in a clear plastic, untied bag. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to enter fleeces in the proper classes. Judging criteria will be based on suitability for spinning. The judge may choose not to award any premium based on the quality of the submission. The judge will not move fleeces to different classes.  

**FLEECE COMPETITION**  
**DIVISION 1 White Fleeces**  
**DIVISION 2 Natural Colored**  
**CLASSES:** F-fine; M-medium; C-coarse; D-double coated  
Premiums, each class: 1st - $6 2nd - $4 3rd - $2  
Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each of the above categories. All first-place winners will be judged against each other for **BEST OF SHOW.**  
**Special:** **DIVISION 3 White Border Leicester**  
**DIVISION 4 NC Border Leicester**  
**CLASSES:** R-ram; E-ewe  
This is an added show for Border Leicester fleeces only. Premiums paid by the association.

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**Fee Total:** $___________________  

**Make checks payable to:** Great Lakes Fiber Show and send completed form with check to:  
**Linda Reichert, 2474 N. Firestone Rd., Wooster, OH 44691**  
**DIVISION 1 – White Fleeces**  
**DIVISION 2 – Natural Colored Fleeces**  
**CLASSES:** F-fine; M-medium; C-coarse; D-double coated  
**DIVISION 3 – White Border Leicester**  
**DIVISION 4 – NC Border Leicester**  
**CLASSES:** R-ram; E-ewe  
**Status = SH – Show only; SS – Show and Sale; S – Sale**  
**Price = Selling price for whole fleece**  
**Entry Fee $2.00 by May 10; After May 10 - $7.00**  

**Spring 2016**  
**American Border Leicester Association Newsletter**
Great Lakes Show and Sale Weekend Events
May 27, 28, and 29, 2016

Friday Evening, May 27

Join us for our annual casual gathering at the Best Western Motel on Friday evening around 6:00. This is a great time to catch up with what everyone has been up to...lambing, shearing, family stories, etc. We always have plenty of good food to share (bring a dish if you can), including lamb. Hope to see everyone there!

Fleece Show, Saturday Morning, May 28

Hope you bring some wonderful BL fleeces for our 8th Annual Border Leicester Fleece Show held in conjunction with the Great Lakes Show and Sale. You will find entry information on page 7. Bill and Linda Koeppel are lending a hand in helping out with our fleece show this year.

Saturday Evening, May 28

Our annual ABLA meeting will be held on Saturday evening at Jake’s Steakhouse, 6655 E. Lincoln Way, Wooster, the same restaurant as last year. Social hour will be at 6:00 with a cash bar and the buffet dinner will be served at 7:00. The cost of the dinner will be $24.00 per person. Please let me know as soon as possible how many plan to attend so that I can contact the restaurant with the number of people they can expect. We hope you will join us. The evening is always a lot of fun, especially after a couple of days of trimming and showing sheep.

And don’t forget the Silent Auction! Please consider contributing. The money is used for our youth programs, and it’s always fun to see what people bring related to their home state or farm.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Send me your reservations so that I can give Jake’s a general idea of numbers by May 10.

Dena Early
937-844-3456
earlydena@gmail.com

2016 Annual Meeting Agenda
American Border Leicester Association
May 28, 2016 – Wooster, Ohio

Call to Order

Recognition of Members and Guests – Polly Hopkins
Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting – Sally Barney
Treasurer’s Report – Bill Koeppel
  2015 Year End Treasurer’s Report
  2016 Approved Budget

Board of Director Election Results – Sally Barney

Committee Updates
  -Promotion – Linda Koeppel
  -Breed Promotion Video – Jack Price, Jerry Wigglesworth
  -Newsletter – Dena Early
  -Futurity Program – Polly Hopkins
  -National Sale Report – Greg Deakin
  -National Fleece Show Report – Linda Koeppel
  -National Border Leicester Show (Louisville) open & junior shows – Greg Deakin
  -National Regional (East) – The Big E – Polly Hopkins/Sally Barney
  -National Regional Show (West) – Oregon State Fair – Coleen Smith
  -Illinois State Fair – Border Leicester Show – Jack Price
  -Youth Opportunities – Colin Siegmund

Junior News in The Banner
Buyer’s Credits
Donated Ewe Lamb

All American Junior Show – Holliday Thomas
North East Youth Sheep Show – Sarah Jakeman

Open floor - Membership Discussion

Silent Auction Fundraiser

Call to Adjourn
GREAT LAKES SHOW & SALE

SHOW: MAY 28 8:00 AM SATURDAY
Judge: Larry McDaniel, IN

SHEEP SALE: MAY 29 10:00 AM SUNDAY
Auctioneers: Gary Saylor & Danny Westlake, OH

Featuring
NATIONAL BORDER LEICESTER SALE
and...
NATIONAL TUNIS
NATIONAL LINCOLN SALES
NATIONAL MERINO
PLUS EASTERN REGIONAL
RAMBOUILLET & GREAT LAKES
REGIONAL KATAHDIN SALES
ROMNEY SPECIALTY SALES
& MANY OTHER BREEDS!

Colin Deakin, IL Champion Ram
sold to Marilyn Fogle, OH

ZNK Border Leicesters, OH Champion Natural
Colored Ram sold to Emily Gibson, NH

Callie Taylor, PA Champion Ewe
sold to Meikayla Korf, WI

Cape House Farm, MI Res. Champion Ewe
sold to Tiffany Deakin, IL

Vast Plains, IL Champion Ewe
sold to Emily Gibson, NH

Montana Aerie, MT
Reserve Champion Ram sold to
Callie Taylor, PA

PW Sheep Farm, IL 1st Spring Ram Lamb
sold to Tiffany Deakin, IL

Callie Taylor, PA Reserve Champion Ewe
sold to Jacob Korf, WI

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Tips for Shearing Season


Sure you want a good wool clip. Everybody wants a good clip. But are you willing to put forth the effort needed to make it the best that it can be? Even the best shearers in the world can’t make the most of shearing day without a little help. In some cases, that means making sure you’re on the same page with your shearer and his crew long before they arrive on site. The larger the flock, the more planning and communication is key to making the day successful.

ASI Wool Consultant Ron Cole, who regularly conducts wool classing schools for the association and works with shearing schools offers some things to think about as you prepare for one of the most labor-intensive days of the entire season.

• Have facilities ready and prepared for the shearing crew. This includes adequate pen space, working facilities, extra labor to move and sort sheep prior to shearing, as well as processing sheep after shearing. You might need to provide help and assistance moving wool bales or bags away from the shearing site to a storage facility.

Sort different wool types prior to shearing to reduce cross contamination. The preferred shearing order remains white face, crossbreds, black face and, lastly, hair sheep or hair sheep crosses.

• Sheep should be held off feed and water overnight prior to shearing. This eliminates fecal and urine contamination on the shearing floor and helps keep wool as clean as possible. It’s also easier for shearers to handle the sheep during shearing when this rule is followed.

• Visit with your shearer or shearing crew manager prior to shearing to determine what is to be accomplished at the shearing site: bellies out only, will wool be classed, perhaps skirted? Who is providing the packaging for the wool?

What type of packaging is needed? Burlap, film and nylon packs are all approved packaging materials in the U.S. Who will label the bales and keep the wool press record?

• Provide a trash bin on site for disposal of hair type fleeces, bloody wool, skin pieces, heavy tags or contamination items.

• If using a shearing crew, the producer should try to provide electrical outlets for campers, water, restrooms and showers for the crew.

• A hot meal at noon – provided by the grower – is sincerely appreciated by the shearing crew and makes a significant difference in the afternoon work performance of the crew.

Mid-shift snacks at break time are also much appreciated by the crew and strengthens the relationship between the producer his crew.

• Respect for the producer and mutual respect for the shearing crew has to be gained by performance. It continues to be a team effort to make shearing day a positive experience for all involved.

• With fewer shearing crews available, as well as fewer shearers, both domestic and foreign, producers will find it beneficial to do everything possible to complete shearing day with minimal stress on the sheep, working help and shearing crew.

• Shearsers also recommend that producers use plastic ear tags and place them in the sheep’s left ear, toward the outside edge approximately half way between the base and the tip. Metal ear tags are especially dangerous during shearing.

Remember, investing in the quality of your wool clip should pay for itself in the long run. “Having a quality wool clip invites multiple buyers, and increased competition results in increased prices,” says ASI Wool Marketing Director Rita Kourlis Samuelson. “High prices for quality wool are out there. There are many high-quality, long-lasting, high-performance apparel products that need ‘white gold’ or quality wool. Better quality wools are less expensive to process and produce a better yarn and textile product.”
Another way to enhance wool quality is proper harvesting techniques on shearing day. Proper preparation is always viewed with the processor in mind. The goal is to provide the processor with the most uniform product possible.

Effective sorting and classing methods and appropriate packing of wool are important components of the harvesting process. The industry is making progress in these areas, which includes pulling bellies and keeping contamination out of the clip. What has been key in this development is producers participating in educational programs offered by ASI. The association’s U.S. Certified Wool Programs for producers and shearers offers a set of standards for a self-regulatory approach to wool clip preparation for either a ranch or farm flock operation. In addition, certified classing and wool handling schools have been developed to help educate producers and wool handlers in areas that are vital to producing a quality wool clip.

When preparing for shearing day, at a minimum, consider the following first three steps below to optimize effectiveness and financial return. With a fine, white-face wool operation, the last two steps should additionally be considered.

- Minimize wool contamination.
- Sort sheep before shearing and package different types of wool separately.
- Remove belly wool and tags during shearing and package separately.
- Some wools benefit from table skirting to remove inferior wool.
- Class wool in like groups for commercial marketing purposes.

Taking precautions to produce a quality clip opens a plethora of marketing options for producers. In a softer market, buyers have the ability to be pickier with their purchases and will buy better prepared clips first.

So, if shearing day is on the horizon, now is the time to prepare for your best clip yet.

Above, Bill Koeppel demonstrates his shearing technique on the trim stand.
The 2016 All-American Junior Sheep Show is going to be held at the Michigan State University Livestock Pavilion, East Lansing, MI from July 1-3, 2016. The All-American is the premier junior breeding sheep show in the country. The breeds participating this year are: Polled Dorsets, Horned Dorsets, Dorset Advantage, Hampshires, Southdowns, Border Leicesters, Cheviots, Cotswolds, Shropshires, Oxfords, Montadales, Romneys, Shetlands, Lincolns, Natural Coloreds, Tunis, Dorpers, Columbias and Corriedales. Several meat breeds will feature slick shorn classes once again this year at the All-American and several wool breeds will be highlighted once again this year. Judges for this year’s event will be Mike Bishop, Rio, WI, Gary Saylor, Belle Center, OH and Lacie Hoffman, Zell, SD. The National Junior Southdown Show and National Junior Tunis Show will be held in conjunction with the All American Junior show this year.

If you have never attended an All-American Junior Show please make plans to attend this very special event! It is much more than just a sheep show, as there are several activities for the whole family. The show features a lamb camp for the young sheep owners, a 3-on-3 basketball tourney for the exhibitors, a sheep skil-a-thon competition, a sheep judging contest, free pizza and BBQ dinners for exhibitors and their families, free show morning breakfasts and an ice cream and pie social, a team showmanship competition, wool show, promotional contests for exhibitors once again featuring a power point presentation category and an adult photography category, a college scholarship program for older exhibitors, and much more! When we go to Michigan, one of the highlights, besides the great show facility, is the Cherry and Apple Pie Ice Cream social held on Friday afternoon.

On Saturday night there will be a free BBQ for all of our show’s attendees along with some fun activities. Also, later on Saturday evening an Adult Showmanship Challenge is going to be conducted for the purpose of raising funds for the participating breeds’ Junior Associations. This will include individual and team showmanship divisions for adults. Nominations and buyouts will take place all day Saturday with the actual classes taking place that night. Come join in on the fun and raise money for your breed’s junior association! If your breed does not have a separate junior association then the money will go towards the AAJS Scholarship program.

Honor Show Chows has become a major show sponsor and will be back with us in Michigan. Sydell has generously donated the trimming stand for the All American Raffle fundraiser. Weaver Leather is also a major show sponsor including providing embroidered wether blankets for the champion and reserve champions market lambs. Banner Publications, Kalmbach Feeds and Novel Designs along with other companies are donating high ticket items to be sold at the Big Ohio May Sales and Midwest Stud Ram Sale for the special All American Benefit auctions.

Featured this year at the Michigan All American will be the Friday Pie & Ice Cream Social sponsored by the MSU Animal Science Dept., Michigan Cherry Institute & Grand Traverse Pie Co.; the Morning Exhibitor Breakfasts sponsored by the Michigan Sheep Breeders, Jiffy Mix & Pioneer Sugar; and a Saturday night BBQ sponsored by MSU Vet Clinic, Willowcreek Farm Dorpers & Wolverine Packing. The Friday night pizza party will be sponsored by Carbon Bio-Green Energy. Tractor Supply will be providing prizes for the ever popular exhibitor thank-you booth and the American Lamb Board will be donating some of the thank-you notes. A BIG THANK-YOU to all of these sponsors as without their assistance this show would not be possible!

Our Michigan host committee is being organized by Karen Scovill and Judy Moore. A big thank-you also goes to all of the Michigan sheep families involved in the local planning committee. Several local sheep breeders and youth supporters have stepped up to the plate to organize events and volunteer to help out. It is thanks to all of you that this show will be a special All American for our junior sheep exhibitors and their families.
Camping is available at the Michigan State Livestock Pavilion grounds across the parking lot, $20.00 per night for electric. Water sources available to fill tanks and 2 dump stations. 14 new sites have both electric and water. Room blocks have been reserved at the following area hotels: Fairfield Inn-East, 2335 Woodlake Dr., Okemos, MI 48864, Phone:517-347-1000, $91.00 per night plus taxes; Candlewood Suites, 3545 Forest Rd., Lansing, MI 48910, Phone:517-351-8181, $89.00 per night plus tax; and Holiday Inn Express, 2209 University Park Dr., Okemos, MI 48864, Phone: 517-349-8700, $109.00 per night plus tax.

Entries close: MAY 25th, 2016. There will be a higher entry fee for any late entries submitted after the deadline date and post entries at the show. Check out the All-American Website: www.allamericanjuniorshow.com for entry and further information.

The All-American Junior Show Committee has three major fundraising activities that are held to help raise funding for this special junior show. Following is information on these activities and the show would certainly appreciate your support in these fundraising efforts:

**ALL-AMERICAN GIFT BASKET SILENT AUCTION**

Gift Baskets will be on display during the duration of the All-American Show for bidding. Bidding will close on Sunday, July 3rd at noon. Basket donations would be greatly appreciated. Just bring them to the show in East Lansing or contact Sarina Rinker at rinckersouthdowns@hotmail.com .

**ALL-AMERICAN JUNIOR SHOW RAFFLE TICKETS**

Cost $5.00 each or 5 for $20.00

1st Prize: $1000 Cash Prize
2nd Prize Sydell Hydraulic Trimming Stand ($530 value)
3rd Prize: Kindle HD Fire 7 ($130 value)

Tickets are available at the Continental Dorset Club Office, P.O. Box 506, North Scituate, RI 02857. Many sponsoring breeds mail out raffle tickets with their office work and annual dues notices so when you see them PLEASE lend your support! Final drawing will take place on Sunday, July 3rd. Need not to be present to win.

**ALL-AMERICAN JUNIOR SHOW FUNDRAISER AUCTIONS**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2016**

(During the Midwest Stud Ram Sale Supreme Champion Show)

**EVENING, SWINE BARN**

**MISSOURI STATE FAIRGROUNDS, SEDALIA, MO**

**BIG OHIO MAY SALES, MAY 14, 2016**

**PREBLE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, EATON, OH**

More information to come!
Marilyn’s Border Leicesters

Champion Ewe at NAILE 2014 & 2015

Marilyn & Carroll Fogle
22321 Raymond Road
937-246-0265

gfogle@embarqmail.com
Raw Wool ~ Breeding Sheep For Sale

ZNK BORDER LEICESTERS
Jerry and Dena Early
1338 State Route 507
West Liberty, OH 43357

Ph: 937-465-8124; C:937-844-8632
znkborderleicesters@gmail.com
Natural-Colored Flock for sale

American Border Leicester Association Annual Meeting

May 28, 2016
Jake’s Steakhouse
6655 Lincoln Way
Wooster, OH

The Annual Meeting will follow dinner.

Reservations can be made by contacting Dena Early at earlydena@gmail.com

Hope to see you there!
Marsh Creek Crossing

Border Leicesters

Delivering OPP test negative ewe and ram lambs from the Midwest to the Northeast in mid August.

Ray and Margo Hanson
Twin Valley, MN 56584
218 261-0380
www.marshcreekcrossing.com

Canadian + New Zealand Genetics = Hardy Stock, Fast Growing Lambs & Thicker Traditional Fleece

Cape House Farm

We had a small, but great, 2016 Lamb Crop
White & Colored Rams & Ewes with Super Fleeces

See You at Michigan Fiber Festival &
Michigan State Fair
With Our Downsizing, These Are the Last
Koeppel Lambs That Will Be Breed
Our Old Ewes Will Stay to be Fed and Shorn

Linda and Bill Koeppel
(734)747-8112; bkoeppe22@gmail.com

Welcome New ABLA Members

Jessica & Jacob Feindt
8388 Green Rd.
Fenton, MI 48430

Richard Kammer
Kammer-Paulus Farms
228 Misty Way
Grayling, MI 49738

Dwight & Sharon VanGundy
Van Gundy Sheep Farm
3568 Mason Rd.
Caledonia, OH 43314

Erin Weisgarber
Weisgarber Farm
13871 Millersburg Rd. SW
Massilon, OH 44687

Sasha Diederich
Serene Acres
4499 Rte. 49 1
Knoxville, PA 16298

Shannon Piermont
Hidden Brook Acres
14 Mill Rd.
Hope Valley, RI 02832

Eric & Erica Araneta
Morning Glory Farm
E 4308 Dodson Hollow Rd.
Chaseburg, WI 54621

Joanne McBay
#507-3110 Shepherd Ave. E
Scarborough, ON

MIT 318
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

Transport To The Midwest Is Available!
AMERICAN BORDER LEICESTER ASSOCIATION

** 2016 FUTURITY CONTEST **

CONTEST RULES

1. All Jr. members 21 years as of December 31st of current year and younger with paid membership are eligible.
2. All ewes must be registered and nominated by breeder and fee of $25 per ewe paid by same; unless re-entering as a yearling ewe, then the current youth-owner will pay the fee.
   Nominations must be postmarked by July 1st.
3. Divisions offered are:
   A. White owned yearling ewes
   B. Natural Colored owned yearling ewes
   C. White home-raised* yearling ewes
   D. Natural Colored home-raised* yearling ewes
   E. White owned ewe lambs
   F. Natural Colored owned ewe lambs
   G. White home-raised* ewe lambs
   H. Natural Colored home-raised* ewe lambs
   * “home-raised” shall be defined as when the dam is owned by youth member when futurity nominated ewe was born.
4. “Owned” futurity ewe lambs or yearlings may be purchased through sales or privately.
5. Ewes must be solely and individually owned by the youth member.
6. Points are not transferable to any other ewe or person.
7. Futurity nominated ewes must be exhibited by the youth-owner to receive futurity points. If a youth has two futurity ewes entered in the same class, the second ewe must be exhibited by another youth.
8. Futurity point scale:

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9. Point Record Form must be completed and signed by the Superintendent or Secretary of the show and forwarded by the youth exhibitor to Polly Hopkins, 494 Evans Road, Chepachet, Rhode Island 02814 within 10 days of the show. This is youth exhibitor’s responsibility.
10. A futurity ewe may earn points from both open and junior shows at the same fair when a different judge is involved or the shows are held on different days.
11. The futurity ewe may compete in an unlimited number of shows and youth should send in all Point Record Forms from all shows; however, only the top 5 point cards will be used for each futurity ewe to determine the final score for the placings in the contest. It is encouraged that youth send in all Point Record Forms from all shows attended. In case of a tie, the sixth highest scoring Point Record Form may be counted.
12. Futurity entry fees and monetary donations towards this contest will be pro-rated between all divisions based on total number of entries.
13. When a futurity ewe lamb becomes a yearling, she may be re-nominated by the junior member-owner as a futurity nominated yearling ewe. The fee is $25 per head with the same divisions as the ewe lambs. (See #3 above)

Questions? Contact Polly Hopkins, 494 Evans Road, Chepachet, RI 02814 401-949-4619  khop4811@aol.com
2016
ABLA FUTURITY CONTEST
NOMINATION FORM

**ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JULY 1, 2016 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS YEAR’S FUTURITY CONTEST.**

FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO NOMINATE A BORDER LEICESTER EWE LAMB OR YEARLING EWE IN THIS YEAR’S FUTURITY CONTEST.

Check appropriate line: ___ White owned yearling ewe
___ Natural Colored owned yearling ewe
___ White home-raised* yearling ewe
___ Natural Colored home-raised* yearling ewe
___ White owned ewe lamb
___ Natural Colored owned ewe lamb
___ White home-raised* ewe lamb
___ Natural Colored home-raised* ewe lamb

* “Home-raised” shall be defined as when the dam is owned by a youth member when futurity nominated ewe was born.

Breeder Name: ___________________________ Tel.No.: ___________________________

Animal Farm Tag #: ___________________________ ABLA Registration #: ___________________________

Animal birth date of animal: _________________

Youth Name: ___________________________ Tel. No.: ___________________________

Youth Address: ___________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Nominating person’s signature: ___________________________

Please make sure all above information is complete and correct, and this form is signed.

___ X Enclosed is the $25.00 nomination fee (make check payable to “ABLA”)

Mail to Nomination From and check to: Polly Hopkins
494 Evans Road
Chepachet, RI 02814

If you have questions contact Polly at Telephone No.: 401-949-4619 or email: khop4811@aol.com.
It is the youth-exhibitor’s responsibility to have the following information filled out by Show Superintendent or Show Secretary. The youth-exhibitor is responsible for mailing the signed form to Polly Hopkins within 10 days after the show.

________________________________________, as the owner, exhibited the Border Leicester Ewe: Farm Tag No.________________ and ABLA Registration No.________________ at the __________________________________________________. This Futurity Nominated Ewe was shown in the ____________________________class and placed ____________ in a class of _____________________________. This show took place on ______________________, and the official Judge for this event was: _____________________________________________.

I have fill in the above information and do hereby verify the above to be true and correct:

Secretary of Superintendent of Show: ____________________________________________

(Signature of show official)

Title: ________________________________________________________________

Telephone No: ___________________________ Date signed: ________________________

This completed form should be mailed by youth exhibitor within 10 days of the show, to:

Polly A. Hopkins
494 Evans Road
Chepachet, RI 02814
The 32nd annual North East Youth Sheep Show will be held July 14 - 17, 2016, at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, West Springfield, Massachusetts, in the Mallary Complex. This youth show is open to all kids 21 years old and younger as of January 1st, and is sponsored by the New England Sheep & Wool Growers, along with Eastern States Exposition and the Massachusetts Cooperative Extension. All breeds of sheep are invited, there are 16 breed shows shown along with AOB (All Other Breeds) shows for meat breeds and wool breeds not otherwise offered, along with a Market Lamb show and a Fleece Competition. The sheep and exhibitors arrive by 11:00 p.m. Thursday. Activities actually begin on Thursday afternoon with a Quiz Bowl Contest, and this year there will be a Cloverbud Quiz Bowl for the youngest interested participants! Friday morning will be Exhibitor Check-in, Orientation (where all exhibitors receive their NEYSS T-shirts), following by the Skillaton, Fleece Competition judging, various educational clinics, and the Market Lamb Show. New this year, will be “Friday Night Fun Night”, with a pizza party, an ice cream social, awarding of the Skillaton and Quiz Bowl winners, and New England Sheep & Wool Growers will award their Scholarships and Youth Awards. The highlight of the evening, of course, will be the water slide and obstacle course!! On Saturday, New England Sheep & Wool Growers hosts their Private Treaty Sheep Sale (open to all) from 9:00 to 2:00 and the ever-popular Used Equipment Auction starts at 10:00. This is a great place to sell or purchase useful sheep related items. Approximately one-half hour after the conclusion of the Equipment Auction, the Fitting and Showmanship Classes begin. Classes are divided into four age groups an shown by breeds in three rings, with a Supreme Showman chosen in each age group. Saturday night will be the judging of the AOB Wool, AOB Meat, Cotswold, Shropshire and Oxford shows. Sunday morning starts at 8:00 with the judging of the remaining breeds and ending late afternoon with the finale of choosing the Supreme Champions. The judges for the weekend will be Tim Fleener, John ‘Speedy’ Fogt and Nick Miniter. Funds for this event are raised all year long. T-shirt sponsors of $25 are collected up to May 1st with all sponsors listed on the back of the NEYSS T-shirts. New this year, also, is the “Exhibitor Challenge”, where we are challenging kids to help raise sponsors for this show. The youths collecting (i) the most money in donations or (ii) donations from the most number of people/entities, will receive a NEYSS item of their choice! The Fiber Nook at The Big E also helps to raise funds, with sheep or wool related items being sold to fairgoers. All funds raised go back to the kids and the show. These Committee members are all volunteers, many using vacation time to come run this event. Border Leisters, of course, are a listed breed and participating breed, with classes offered for both white and colored Border Leisters. One of the Co-Chairmen of this event is Border Leicester breeder from New York, Sarah Jakeman. She actually showed in the very first North East Youth Sheep Show 32 years ago with her (back then famous) bottle raised Hampshire Market Lamb called “Annie Freckles” - who won Reserve Champion Market Lamb! Yes, Sarah was only 3 yrs old, and Annie Freckles attend the NEYSS for many years sometimes being shown (aged ewe) and sometimes as a companion. 😊 Now Sarah has convinced her husband and brother to come for the weekend and continue to be involved! If you have a chance to talk with Sarah, she will encourage all the youth to come join the weekend – it is a great family event.
I run the Border Leicester breed show, and am always looking for donations for our breed show. In the past, I have received enough to purchase useful items for our own exhibitors (such as sheep health books, buckets & brushes, hand shear covers, and the like). If you would like to donate to this show, feel free to contact me. For more information on the show or to enter, visit the website: www.nesheep.org (entry information will be posted on the website in May) or email me. Your support is greatly appreciated.

- Polly Hopkins

Support Our Youth

Our 2016 Stud Prospects Are Bright!

Call For Details
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):
SHOULDERS: Well rounded
LEG: 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
LEG: 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 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 175-300 pounds and stand about 32 inches at the shoulder. He should have a wide, level back. Ewes usually weigh 150-225 pounds.
REGISTRATION 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.

Don’t Forget Associated Registries Moved!!

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

Mark Your Calendars for

2016 Fiber Festivals

May 7-8 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, West Friendship, Maryland
May 28-29 Great Lakes Fiber Festival and BL National Show and Sale, Wooster, OH
June 11-12 Estes Park Wool Market, Colorado
June 24-26 Black Sheep Gathering, Eugene, OR
August 17-21 Michigan Fiber Festival, Allegan, MI
Sept. 8-11 Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival, Jefferson, WI
Sept. 17-18 A Wool Gathering, Yellow Springs, OH
Oct. 1-2 Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival, Tunbridge, VT
Oct. 15-16 New York Sheep & Wool Festival, Rhinebeck, NY
Oct. 28-30 Southeastern Fiber Fair (SAFF), Fletcher, NC
Nov. 5-6 Fiber Festival of New England, West Springfield, MA

This is a list of only a few Fiber Festivals around the country. Let us know of others in your “neck of the woods.”

See you in Wooster!

Don’t forget to make your reservation for Saturday night at Jake’s!
AMERICAN BORDER LEICESTER ASSOCIATION
2016 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.

To better serve you, your board would like you to answer these five questions on your renewal form. Thank you!

1) What are your primary interests in raising Border Leicesters?

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2) Would you consider yourself:   A) a business operation   B) a hobby farmer   C) Other (please specify) ______________________

3) Would you be interested in receiving your newsletter via the internet instead of in the mail?     Yes ______     No ______

4) Website or Newsletter suggestions: ____________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________

5) How would you like your membership fees spent? (1-most important, 5-least important)

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Helpful information, but not included in the directory:

Total flock size: ______________

Number of white Border Leicesters ........ Ewes: _______ Rams: _______

Number of colored Border Leicesters ...... Ewes: _______ Rams: _______

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

William Koeppel
4808 Warren Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Questions?
Contact Bill: 734/747-8112
koeppels@peoplepc.com

New Member
Renewal
Annual Membership $30.00
   Individual or family
Junior Membership $20.00
   21 years and under