BORDER LEECSTERS SHINE AT THE ADDISON COUNTY FAIR

By Sue Johnson

There are a great group of 4-H leaders in the Champlain Valley of Vermont. As well as meetings, they hold a “sheep camp” weekend in June. This is held at the same fairgrounds as the show in August. Everyone brings a sheep and spends the night. It is a time for youth in Vermont to meet new friends and have reunions with old ones. It is a time for fellowship and a time of learning. The organizers bring in sheep experts teaching things like sheep health as well as how to trim and show their sheep.

Every August, many of these same youth descend on the Addison County Fair and Field Days to show their sheep. This year, 30 youths brought over 170 sheep with over 20 breeds represented for the youth show. There were many Border Leicesters; both colored and white, enough to have their own show, often having 8 sheep or more in a class. The American Border Leicester Association donated $100 toward premiums. The Sheep Superintendent decided the awards should go to the supreme ram and ewes in both black and white categories. Lydia Smith won both colored categories, and Faith Thompson (ewe) and Riley Ochs (ram) won the white category with their white yearlings. The quality of the animals was top notch as was the professionalism of the showmen/women.

And during the open show the next day, that included over 200 sheep, the supreme ram for all the breeds was won by Riley Ochs with her handsome yearling white Border Leicester ram.

Editor’s Note: This article was inadvertently left out of the previous newsletter, and I felt it important enough to highlight in this issue since our emphasis is on our Youth. They need to be applauded for their hard work and dedication to the breed and encouraged to continue to be involved with Border Leicesters.
President's Message

Hello Border Leicester breeders:

Lambing season is upon us - hope you are all ready for it!!??? Since I recently sent you all a letter to join ABLA, I won’t take up space here, but want to mention a couple of things. The Board regretfully accepted Sue Johnson’s resignation as Director in December. I would like to thank her for all the time, effort and knowledge she has given this group over the years and all the promoting she has done for our breed. I know she is not going far, still has her lovely flock of Border Leicesters, and I am sure she will be seen in northern New England at the Border Leicester shows and festivals this year. Pursuant to the Bylaws, the Board of Directors appointed Jack Price of Illinois, to fill the empty seat until the upcoming election. Welcome aboard, Jack! BE on the lookout for exciting Border Leicester activities this coming year. You may also note that there is a line item in the budget labeled ‘grant money’. These funds are available to help run events that promote Border Leicesters. To apply, send a request explaining the event to me or one of the Directors. Requests will be accepted all year long, but it is best to apply earlier rather than later. Planning ahead, I hope to see many of you in Wooster, Ohio, at our Annual Meeting and our National Sale. Remember, this is also where our National Fleece show is held. Check out information in this newsletter for more details.

Happy Lambing! Polly Hopkins, President

In This Issue...

2… President’s Message
3-5… Neck of the Woods
6… Focus on Youth… AAJSS Letter
7… Lamb Stew Recipe
8… ABLA 2016 Budget
9… 20 Things… Wool
11-14… Lambing Tips
14… Great Lakes Show & Sale
15… Treasurer’s Report
16-17… Future Results
18-20… NAILE Results
24… Membership Application

Mark Your Calendars!

✔ National Border Leicester Show and Sale
Entries due March 15

✔ Bios for Director Positions due April 1

✔ Maryland Sheep & Wool Show Entries
post by April 1

✔ Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival May 7-8

✔ Great Lakes National Show & Sale May
18-29
Happy New Year! What an interesting year we just finished. Looking back over this past year, we faced some big challenges with our weather: drought, then way too much rain, then drought again; a winter last soring that didn’t want to let go of its cold and windy tentacles; and then a wonderful (for Vermont) fall that never ended until nearly New Years. The sheep were still grazing and chickens still scratching on the grass until after Christmas.

A sheep highlight of last year: last summer I sold man of my ram lambs to a (dairy) farmer who raises a few for himself and some for his friends, mainly on grass with a pound plus of grain a day. Most were triplets, and they dressed out between 65 and 75 pounds at under 7 months of age. Not bad for Border Leicesters, eh? And he also got a wool clip from them before they were slaughtered. He has raised feeder lambs for many years and said they were the nicest he has ever raised and loves their mild flavor.

(Another roundabout highlight) I got my first Border Leicester ram in 1988 to sire my Romney and Corrièdale ewes and quickly fell in love with what he could produce for offspring. By the early 1990’s, all of my ewes were at least half BL, and they were big ewes with beautiful fleeces and nearly always had multiple births. I still had a Romney ram and found that the lambs sired by him wold need much more assistance than those sired by the Border Leicester ram and generally did not gain as much weight either. I bought a few registered BL ewes and began to only use Border Leicester sires, and by the mid-90’s, had only Border Leicesters in my flock. In 1990 I became a vendor at the NY Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck. Twenty-five years later, I am still there; same building, same spot…and have watched it grow from a small fair to the biggest fiber festival in America. The booth is filled with Border Leicester products: raw colored and white fleeces, washed fleeces, dyed fleeces (curly locks), natural and dyed roving for spinners, quilt batting, natural and colored commercially spun yarn, hand-spun yarn, sheep skins….all value-added products that not many other sheep breed owners can utilize from their sheep as we do. This festival has really helped to boost my bottom line all these years. And it also provides an opportunity to share with people what a great breed of sheep we have!

I have been reading an interesting book: The Shepherd’s Life, a Tale of the Lake District by James Rebanks. James is a sheep farmer who can trace his family’s heritage in NW England for over 600 years. He shares his experiences from a small child until the present as a farmer, and I can closely relate with much of what is in the book. I would like to share a small portion of what I read the other evening (p. 108-109):

“Improving a flock of sheep is, in theory simple. You need to buy a tup (ram) that brings better genetics to your flock: choose his well and he makes your sheep better quality, more beautiful, and ultimately worth more. The flock of ewes is your core asset, it rolls ever onwards, fixed to your farm, but half of the genetic package each autumn is the tup you buy to match them…

There is a kind of genius to this, in spotting from the hundreds available the one that will match your flock. It matters deeply. The value of your sheep and their reputation can rise or decline rapidly depending on these decisions. A great flock has a particular style and character that reflects the hundreds of judgements that went into creating it, sometimes going back many decades, or even centuries. It is not just the sheep that are handed down through the generations, but often the philosophy too: ideas about which characteristics to focus on as to retain the character of the flock. Fashions change over time, and flocks sometimes go out of fashion. Then the shepherds have to choose whether to change their approach or hold tight and wait for their favourite traits to come back into vogue.”

I have been part of the ABLA since the early ‘90’s. I was fortunate to purchase my first ewes and rams from breeders that were concerned with only selling sheep that conformed to the Association’s breed standards. I remember my first visit to a Massachusetts farm and seeing a field with many beautiful ewes with stylish features, pretty ears, and white curly lustrous fleec on substantial bodies. I was hooked. One of the ewes I purchased that day lived to be 18 , and at 16 fave me a beautiful ewe whose genetics are still an important part of my flock today. I have tried to always improve my flock and can relate to what Rebanks is saying above. I believe the ABLA has well-laid out breed standards that are published in every newsletter and on its website. I feel it is very important that we as breeders only register and sell breeding stock that conforms to the standards, and that judges are given copies of these standards and told to “please judge these sheep according to these standards” so the special qualities of the Border Leicesters is not lost to “bigget is best.” And that sheep are shown with a few inches of wool on them showing the wool’s luster and the unique “pearled” (curly) tip on their fleece…one characteristic that separates them from Montadales and North Country Cheviots. I hope that the American Border Leicester sheep does not succumb to the “fashion” of the day helped along by the whims of judges and unsuspecting buyers new to the breed.

This will be my last “Neck of the Woods.” After much hard consideration, I decided I needed to resign from the Board and not finish my term. I will continue to promote this wonderful breed and be willing to help out anyone who needs assistance with sheep raising and management. I have met many wonderful people through this organization, many who I call my friends today. If you come to Rhinebeck in the future, look me up at my booth. I hope you all have a good winter and a healthy and fruitful lambing season.

Sue Johnson
Neck of the woods continued…from Kansas…

We all know and use something we call a "creep gate". In my neck of the prairie we're trying to use something I can only call a "leap gate".

Here's the situation: three dogs - Great Pyrenees - and three night pens, one for open ewes and wethers, one for bred ewes and a few lambs from last Spring, and one for bucks. The bucks' pen is adjacent to the bred ewe/ewe lamb pen, but not the open ewe pen, and the bred ewe/ewe lamb pen is adjacent to the open ewe/wether pen.

We'd like the dogs to be able to go from pen to pen at night to face down coyotes who may appear on the outside edge of any of the three, to concentrate their forces as they think necessary; they are savvy dogs, but they tend to leave one of the pens dog-free at night because they like each others' company. So typically one dog is with the bucks night and day and the other two are with the open ewes night and day.

There are sufficient reasons for the two dogs to stay together because their flock goes farther out of sight during the day, behind windbreaks, behind trees, down a draw.

And of course we do not want to make it easy for a randy buck to jump into a pen in which there may be open ewes or, worse, ewe lambs. We want to lamb starting April 1 and, of course, we want to decide the match ups, not leave them to the critters.

We learned two years ago that the two dogs - spayed females - that hang out together do not like to be separated. We had them apart and either one would climb a vertical cattle panel to get to the other, just for company. But it made us nervous to see a 90 pound dog teetering back and forth four feet up in the air.

So I consulted Kyle at Sydell and he made up a gate - bright blue, of course - five by five feet with horizontal bars six inches apart running up to three feet off the ground and then a horizontal piece running across at the top. Does it work? Too soon to say. Too dark and cold at night to go out and observe what goes on. No coyotes in yet. I think maybe the next model will have a moveable cross piece, with cotter pins to secure it, if necessary.

Stay tuned… Jerry Wigglesworth
More Neck of the Woods…

WINTER - Here in Michigan it is usually cold and snowy, but this year seems, and is, warm, with silver skies. At this time of year we must look forward. While many challenges face us every day, gratitude is always in my heart. For each of you who love and work so hard for our beautiful Border Leicesters, I wish you PEACE in your hearts, FAITH and LOVE in your families, HOPE for our future, and a barn full of strong, happy and beautiful lambs!

Please remember to support our Juniors in 2016 who will be showing their sheep at the All American Junior Show in Lansing, MICHIGAN!

My best to each of you. Linda Koeppel

And from Illinois…

Hello from your newest Board member. Here in Illinois we have missed most of the bad stuff, only have 3 inches of snow on the ground and am sooo glad right now that we don’t live in the Northeast. Had everything from 0 to 50 for temps so far this year, but nothing REALLY bad. Lambs look good, and so far the girls have been very considerate – lambing between 9 am and 9 pm, no 3 am stuff (yet). We have a little break now until next week, so Vida and I will sleep all night for awhile instead of checking the barn cameras every 2 hours. Our son got the barn cameras for us last year, and I highly recommend them. We have saved some lambs we otherwise probably would have lost, and Vida says it sure is nice just to click on the TV in the bedroom to see what is going on out in the barn instead of getting up, putting on 40 pounds of clothes and wading snow to the barn just to find out everybody is quietly chewing their cuds!

May your lambing go well, and the weather not be too bad. See you in the spring. Jack Price

Jack Price

Have an article to share?? Have a recipe to share?? Want to advertise?
Email it to Dena Early, Editor earlydena@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

Flock Reduction Sale – Contact Us for Special Pricing!!

ABLAs Positions Available!

We have positions on the Board of Directors opening up in 2016. If you’d like to be involved with a dedicated group of Border Leicester breeders, let us know. This year we will elect two persons for a three-year term and one person for a one-year term (to complete Sue Johnson’s term). If interested, send a brief bio to Sally Barney at 52 Cartland Rd., Lee, NH 03861 or via email to woolmark@live.com by April 1. Ballots and bios will be sent out April 15 and need to be returned by May 1. Announcements of new directors will be announced at the annual meeting in Wooster over Memorial Day Weekend.
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.

Callie Taylor Wins in Pennsylvania!

Callie is shown below with her Supreme Champion Ewe in the Wool show at the 2016 Pennsylvania Farm Show held in January in Harrisburg. Congratulations!

Helping Our Junior Exhibitors

Hello:
My name is Holliday Thomas and I am the mother of two Jr. Border Leicester breeders in Bowling Green, OH. 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, 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 Bill Koeppel. Thank you for supporting our youth.

Holliday Thomas
945 W. Wooster St.
Bowling Green, OH 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 (see address above)
IRISH STEW
Submitted by Jack Price

3 POUNDS OF CUBED LAMB
½ CUP FLOUR
3 LARGE POTATOS, CUBED
3 LARGE CARROTS, SLICED
6 STALKS CELERY, CUT INTO ½ INCH SLICES
2 LARGE YELLOW ONIONS, DICED
3-4 CLOVES OF GARLIC, MINCED
2 TABLESPOONS CHOPPED FRESH PARSLEY
2 QUARTS LAMB (OR BEEF) STOCK
12 OZ. GUINESS BEER (I DON’T LIKE THE BITTERNESS OF GUINESS, SO I USE MICHELOB AMBER BOCH)
1 CUP PEARL BARLEY (OPTIONAL, BUT ORIGINAL. COOK IN 3 CUPS STOCK FOR 20 MINUTES, RETURN WITH MEAT.)
2 TEASPOONS CORN STARCH
SALT & PEPPER TO TASTE

SEASON THE MEAT WITH SALT AND BROWN IN A LITTLE OIL. REMOVE AND RESERVE, SPRINKLE WITH A LITTLE FLOUR. ADD ONIONS, GARLIC, CARROTS AND CELERY TO PAN, STIR A COUPLE TIMES, THEN ADD BEER. SCRAPE THE PAN (DEGLAZE) TO GET ANY CARMELIZED MEAT JUICES INTO MIX. ADD THE POTATOS AND RETURN THE MEAT TO THE POT. (PUT THE BARLEY IN NOW IF YOU ARE USING IT.) ADD ENOUGH STOCK TO BARELY COVER INGREDIENTS, COVER, BRING TO A BOIL, THEN REDUCE HEAT TO A SLOW SIMMER FOR 2-3 HOURS UNTIL MEAT IS TENDER, STIRRING ONCE IN A WHILE. ADD SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE, REMOVE FROM HEAT, ADD PARSLEY. MIX THE CORNSTARCH WITH 4 TEASPOONS WATER AND STIR IN. COOK OVER LOW HEAT 3-5 MINUTES TO THICKEN. SERVE WITH SODA BREAD AND BEER (OR TEA, IF YOU PREFER). Serves 6.

PW Sheep Farm

Ben and Abby Wamsley 2015 NAILE Jr. Show with Hopkins 14-23
2015 Champion White Long Wool Michigan State Fair and 5th place Border Leicester Yearling Show at NAILE Show

Jack & Vida Price
628 N. 1150 E.Road
Palmer, IL 64556
Ph. 217-710-6888
jackvida@juno.com

Dave, Brandy, Ben & Abby Wamsley
2324 White Oaks Dr.
Taylorville, IL 62568
Ph. 217-824-0419
www.pwsheep.com
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
734-747-8112
bkoeppe22@gmail.com
4808 Warren Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
lksheepandwool@gmail.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registrations/transfers</td>
<td>$ 7,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
<td>$ 4,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wooster Fundraiser</td>
<td>$ 450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Advertising</td>
<td>$ 1,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Ads</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Sale Commission</td>
<td>$ 200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising (sale E.L. @ Sale)</td>
<td>$ 300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL INCOME**
$14,250.00

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associated Registries</td>
<td>$ 3,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Hosing</td>
<td>$ 40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>$ 1,700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>$ 2,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Fees</td>
<td>$ 60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer Supplies</td>
<td>$ 40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>$ 500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballot Mailing expenses</td>
<td>$ 75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPP Society Dues (every 2 yrs)</td>
<td>$ 25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President's Member Drive Letter</td>
<td>$ 300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep shows/festivals/etc:</td>
<td>$ 3,790.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL EXPENSES**
$12,830.00

*breakdown of show/festivals/etc

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wooster-National Fleece Show</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Sale Ribbons</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Sale Buyer credits</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North East Youth Sheep Show</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big E National/Regional show</td>
<td>$225.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big E Lead Line</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keystone Premiums (Jr/op)</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keystone LEAD Line</td>
<td>$ 75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All American Junior Show</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAILE/National Open show</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAILE/Jr. show</td>
<td>$490.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon State Fair</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont show (Adision)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois State Fair</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empire Classic Youth Show (NY)</td>
<td>$ 75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Money</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approved by ABLA Board 1/20/16
20 Things You Didn't Know About...Wool

By Margaret Shakespeare | Thursday, October 01, 2015

1. Many of us associate wool with sheep, but other mammals — including alpacas, camels and goats — also produce fibers that can be twisted into yarn and then textiles.

2. It’s possible humans started making wool after noticing that, as the fibrous hairs were scraped from the hide of an animal, they twisted together easily into lengths.

3. Wool fibers — made mostly of alpha-keratin, which is found in all mammalian hair as well as horns and claws — stick together easily. The cells of their outer layer, or cuticle, have evolved to overlap like tiny shingles, creating spots for one fiber to catch on another as they are twisted.

4. Clothing and other items made of wool have been found throughout much of the ancient world, from 3,400-year-old Egyptian yarn to fragmentary textiles unearthed in Siberian graves dating from the first century B.C.

5. The process of making wool fabric from fibers was rough going at first — literally. Wild and early domesticated sheep have a bristly overcoat called the kemp and a fine undercoat of wool called the fleece. Over time, animals were selected for more fleece, with finer fibers, and less kemp. The more than 200 domesticated sheep breeds today are mostly kemp-free.

6. Modern wool fibers range from a fine 16 microns in diameter, from merinos, to 40 microns.

7. That itch from your warm winter woolies? Most likely it’s sensitivity to thicker (and coarser) fiber diameter or fiber ends, not a wool allergy, which is practically unknown.

8. Less lush pastures — such as in a drought — can produce finer fibers, with smaller diameters.

9. Wool has been a valuable commodity across cultures and centuries. When Richard I (the Lionhearted) was captured in 1192, Cistercian monks paid their part of the ransom to the Holy Roman emperor in 50,000 sacks of wool (a year’s clip).

10. Wool has stood in for even more precious fabrics: In 18th-century Norway, when the king forbade the wearing of silk by commoners, farmers opted for imported worsted wool fabric, which had a similar sheen.

11. Besides clothing, wool has quite a few industrial uses, from piano dampers to absorbent pads for those baaaaad oil spills.

12. Out on some Montana roadsides, woolen silt fences and erosion-control blankets are cropping up, according to Rob Ament of the Western Transportation Institute, which adapted the practice from New Zealand colleagues.

13. Wool has the right properties for the job because it’s a lightweight ground covering that allows seedlings to grow right through it.

14. Wool is also biodegradable. It breaks down slowly, fertilizing the plants with a generous nitrogen content of a whopping 17 percent compared with the 6 percent nitrogen in commercial turf products. And it is water-retentive.

15. In a seeming paradox, wool can absorb and repel water simultaneously.

16. The outer surface of wool fiber is made up of fatty acid proteins and does not absorb liquid. However, structural features in the fiber’s interior, called salt linkages, can sop up copious amounts of moisture in vapor form.

17. In short, wool hates liquid but loves vapor.

18. But wait, there’s more: With a high natural ignition point of about 1,382 degrees Fahrenheit, wool is fire-resistant. And unlike nylon and polyester, wool does not drip or melt when it does catch fire.

19. These qualities recently attracted the interest of the U.S. Army, which is researching wool’s potential in clothing designed to protect combat troops from explosive blasts.

20. We can thank wool for a different kind of explosion — one we actually want. Inside most baseballs, including those used in Major League Baseball, you’ll find layers of tightly wound wool yarn: Each ball contains about 370 yards of the wool windings, which provide resilience to withstand the crushing impact of a batter’s hit off high-velocity pitches.

"Reprinted courtesy of Discover magazine, DiscoverMagazine.com."
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

Want to Place an Ad in the Next Newsletter???

Email it to the ABLA Newsletter editor for the next newsletter!!

Deadline for the next newsletter is April 15.

Wanted

Who loves Border Leicester wool as much as we do? Weavers, spinners, knitters, felters are always looking for beautiful fleeces...they are our biggest fans. Let’s focus on Fiber Arts and promote our product. The season of 2016 Fiber Shows across the country is upon us and will continue throughout the year. Send in articles about the early festivals, ads for upcoming festivals, and articles about fiber artists who love our Border Leicester wool. Some people may not have discovered the wonderful properties of our fleeces so let’s get the word out.
"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair…”

Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities

For seasoned shepherds, what quote could better describe the manic time of year which is lambing season? After 15 years, my sheep still teach me. I want to share some of the things I’ve learned that make spring lambing less hectic for us and additionally, some items I keep around to make the shepherd’s life easier during what is a very busy time of year.

To breed or not to breed?

Maiden Ewes

Every fall I agonize over whether or not to put young ewes with a ram. “one winter” ewes, who lamb unassisted their first spring, usually go on to be my best ewes; productivity and mothering are heritable traits. Conversely, most seasoned shepherds will admit to at least one horror story with a young ewe’s first lambing season. Most difficulties are due to a single lamb that is too big for her to deliver unassisted. A good rule of thumb is to not breed her until she weighs at least 90-100 lbs.

I strongly suggest that first time shepherds get copies of the following two books: 1) Storey’s Barn Guide to Sheep, which has great illustrations and is designed to keep right in the barn as a “flip” book; and 2) Laura Lawson’s book Managing Your Ewe and Her Newborn Lamb.

I also highly suggest that inexperienced shepherd NOT breed ewe lambs their first season. Wait for them to grow out to save yourself the aggravation and worry, and the ewe the physical stress.

Twins or triplets from first time moms need special monitoring to make sure the ewe is letting all lambs nurse, and that she’s producing enough colostrum and milk. Multiple lambs of young ewes get an extra boost at birth using supplemental colostrum, and may need supplemental milk or grain as they grow.

Sometimes we don’t see the lamb nurse and we fret and worry that it’s not getting enough to eat. Full lambs will do a leisurely stretch when they stand up. This is a good thing. You can check to see if their mouth is warm by putting your finger into the mouth of the lamb: “warm” equals “has been nursing!” You’ll also feel a nice full, rounded belly if it has been nursing well.

Geriatric Ewes

I treasure my old ewes, especially those born here on the farm. These nine, ten, eleven and twelve-year-olds are the ones that are parasite and disease resistant; they’re the ones that produce lambs unassisted and raise healthy, hardy lambs every season; they’re the ones smart enough not to kill themselves through stupidity. Theirs are the lambs I want to keep – and should be the lambs the customers want to buy – because they have a proven history.

As ewes age, their milk production goes down. I found this out the hard way when two of my 11-year-old ewes had twins. There was enough milk for both lambs at the beginning, but by the time they were about three weeks old, the ewes couldn’t keep up with the demand. It is wise to supplement these lambs with a bottle from birth onward, but letting them stay with their dams. It’s actually quite fun to be “snuggled in” with an old friend and her new lambs and to be able to cuddle and hold newborns, offering one a bottle while the other nurses.

If it seems you are pulling too many lambs because the lambs are oversized, then it’s likely that the ewes are overfed, especially in the last 4-6 weeks of gestation.

Here are a few techniques I’ve used to pull lambs (this applies to lambs already in the birth canal) when you don’t have somebody else to help you:

1) Put the ewe up over the short side of a bale of hay or straw with her legs dangling over the front and back. This anchors her so she can’t run away, and gives you the force of gravity in pulling the lamb.

2) If I have to pull lambs and the ewe won’t lie down, I get her into a pen or corner and straddle her, while facing her hind quarters; I then lean over her rump and pull the lamb in a downward motion. This only works if the lamb is at least presenting hooves – giving you something to pull on.

3) Another trick is to have the ewe lying on her side and to lift her hind legs into what I call the “diaper position.” By rotating her hips and hind legs upward like that, sometimes it rotates the lamb enough that there gives a bit more space for release from the birth canal.
Lamb Rejection

For the ewe, the worst part is of course, being delivered of the lamb. But for the shepherd, sometimes the worst part is after her delivery, if the new mama refuses to be a mother. This can happen with first time mamas or even experienced ewes. They can act “unmotherly” because they are just plain exhausted, after what may have been a long and stressful labor, this can even result in the ewe going into shock. After making sure the lamb is alive and gets its colostrum (see notation later, regarding the product Nursemate ASAP®) I make sure the ewe has access to warm molasses water (do not serve cold water to ewes right after they have lambed) and also to good fresh hay, preferably with some alfalfa or clover mixed in.

This is a good time to give the ewe a boost of energy with some CMPK gel (see notes on products later in this article). Gatorade is another thing to keep in the house for lambing time, as you can administer it orally to a ewe that’s tired out, giving her quick electrolytes. Be sure to have the large 60cc syringes around for times like this, especially if a ewe is refusing to drink on her own.

A difficult delivery can result in a ewe rejecting her lamb(s). If anything or anyone interferes with the new family bonding, a ewe may decide she doesn’t want to accept her offspring. You may notice the ewe will keep circling and she won’t let the lamb latch on. If this happens, you’ll have to hold the ewe’s head while the lamb nurses. I remember one ewe who was not taking to, nor was she sniffing or licking her lamb, and she would not let the lamb nurse. While holding the ewe’s head, I turned it back toward the lamb’s rear and made her smell the rear end of the lamb the entire time the lamb was suckling. I did this repeatedly over a several-hour period. Finally the ewe started to lick the lamb’s rear and this helped her to bond to the newborn. The next time I went into the pen, the ewe stomped her feet at me; the lamb was happily nursing. Mission accomplished!

Another time when I could not get a ewe to bond with her lamb, I brought one of my Icelandic sheepdogs into the pen with me. As soon as the ewe saw the dog, her instinct of protection kicked in and she put herself between the dog and the lamb, stomping her feet at the dog. Just that nudge into defensiveness caused her to want to protect and then bond with that new lamb.

Helpful Lambing Products

Vaccines

First item on the agenda is Clostridium perfringens, type D and C tetani (CD/T) vaccinations. We make a point of administering the yearly boosters (2cc) to each sheep on the farm in March (or at least two weeks before the first lambs are expected). This also includes vaccinating any llamas, alpacas or goats.

Another suggestion – if you have brought in ewes from different farms or if you’ve had a season of some stillborn lambs, or weak lambs that don’t survive – is to consider vaccinating with an anti-abortion vaccine in the fall prior to putting the ewes with the ram. Or, you can vaccinate 30 days after the ram is removed, and repeat 30 days later, prior to lambing commencing. Contact Pipestone (pipevet.com) for more information if you are not familiar with these vaccines.

CMPK Gel

I keep this on hand now year-round, having found it to be a lifesaver or ewes at risk of pregnancy toxemia or ketosis. It’s also very good for any ewe having gone through a difficult delivery, especially if she is “shocky.” The CMPK is a dairy cattle product that has concentrated calcium, magnesium, phosphorus and potassium. I give the ewe 20 to 40cc orally and repeat this every few hours depending on her condition. This is much easier on shepherd and ewe than administering propylene glycol. Two years ago I found one of my older ewes (10 years old that year) lying down and not getting up when I approached her; I tried to make her stand and she couldn’t. I suspected pregnancy toxemia and immediately gave her CMPK gel. I also got her some warm molasses water and put her in a pen to keep her quiet and easily accessible. She refused to stand that whole day, so I went out every three to four hours to give her about 30cc of CMPK gel and also 60 to 120cc of warm molasses water, as I couldn’t get her to drink on her own. I also gave her injections of B complex and vitamins A, D and E. I left good alfalfa hay in her stall but she did not show any interest in eating that entire day. The next morning when I went out to check on her, she was not in her stall (I hadn’t closed the gate because she was so weak). I found her at the hay feeder eating along with the other ewes. She went on to have triplets for me two weeks later. She had tripled the year before and had twins the following year at age 11. She twinned again at 12, singled at 13 and died of old age the following winter. I order CMPK gel, from Jeffers, Valley Vet, or Sheepman Supply.

Beer

Yes, beer! Beer has lots of good stuff in it and I wrote about our success in using beer in an article published in sheep! magazine. A shepherdess in England emailed me to say that after reading my article on beer, she gave some to a ewe that was down due to pregnancy toxemia, refusing to eat or drink, and had not responded to the traditional treatments that the veterinarian had administered (propylene glycol). After giving the ewe 12 oz. of beer, twice a day, the ewe started to eat again. She soon rejoined the flock and went on the deliver healthy twins. Additionally, beer will relax the ewe and if she is not letting her milk down, can assist with this issue as well.

Iodine

I have iodine on hand for sterilizing and drying up the umbilical cord. I don’t “strip” the cord or cut it, as some recommend. Whatever is there I leave on. Iodine can relax the ewe and if she is not letting her milk down, can assist with this issue as well.

Nursemate ASAP®

This is a tube of concentrated colostrum which can be stored at room temperature. I always keep a tube in my jacket pocket during lambing season. When a lamb is born weak and is not able to get up and nurse right away on its own, you can very easily insert the tip of the tube into the corner of the lamb’s mouth and slowly give the lamb the gel orally, on the back of the tongue. (Always use latex gloves when touching newborn lambs!) I usually stroke the neck of the lamb as well, to make sure it is swallowing. This is much quicker and easier than running into the house to get frozen colostrum thawed and much less invasive than tubing the lamb. It allows the lamb the time it needs to gain its strength on its own without losing more body heat. I give a lamb a half-tube to begin with and finish the tube after about 30-45 minutes if the lamb is still weak and not nursing on its own. I order this from Pipestone (www.pipevet.com).
We have saved several lambs’ lives by using a method outlined in Laura Lawson’s book Managing Your Ewe and her Newborn Lamb, pp. 270-273. It is easier to do if there are two of you - one to do the injection and one to hold the lamb. The technique is called “Intraperitoneal Injection” and involves injecting dextrose (sugar water) directly into the abdominal cavity of the lamb. It requires reading and understanding the procedure and careful preparation of the solution.

One thing about Lawson’s books is that while they are full of very important information, they are not reader friendly when you are in crisis mode. So I outline the key points of any technique or instructions for administering treatments on sticky notes in a “1, 2, 3” fashion. It’s just too hard to absorb all of her information when you are in the midst of trying to save an animal’s life.

**BoSE**
All of our lambs receive 1/2 cc injections of BoSE (selenium and vitamin E) the day they are born. Unfortunately you do have to purchase this product from a veterinarian, but we believe it is very crucial to raising healthy lambs. We also give them a second injection of 1cc at 6 weeks of age when they receive their first of two CD/T vaccinations.

**Lamb Milk Replacer**
Sheep milk or goats milk are better for lambs than any formula mixed up in a laboratory. If you do not have access to a supply of either (never use cow’s milk!) for bottle lambs, I think the best milk replacer is the Shepherd’s Choice brand, which I buy from Pipestone Veterinary Supply. I keep a 25 lb. bag of this on hand “just in case.” The lambs grow out well, and don’t get a distended belly, which I often see on bottle lambs on other farms.

**Pritchard Teat Nipples**
I like the Pritchard Teat nipples because it’s easy for small lambs to nurse from them. Even better: They screw onto a plastic pop bottle. We’ve found that it needs a bottle with at least three threads in order to be secure without leaking. Not all brands of pop bottles have enough threads, so be sure to check this. As the nipples don’t come with a hole, don’t forget to cut off the tip!

**Lamb Bar**
They make buckets that can hang on a fence or gate in which you can put the milk replacer so that it frees you up from having to go out 3-4 or more times a day to feed bottle lambs. I highly suggest you purchase one of these systems, and get the lambs trained to drinking from these buckets as soon as possible. I really like the system from Premier ([premier1supplies.com](http://premier1supplies.com)) and they have a video on line to show how to set up the buckets.

Speaking of bottle feeding lambs, I long ago posted on my website a recipe for dealing with “Frothy Bloat” which can affect bottle lambs. I’ve heard many times over the years, and from as far away as Wales and France, from shepherds who tell me that this information saved a lamb’s life. So I will share it here as well.

**Remedy for Frothy Bloat**
Mix 1/2 teaspoon of ground ginger in two tablespoons of water: Shoot this mixture down the back of the throat, over the tongue of the lamb with a syringe (minus the needle).

To prevent bloat in bottle-fed (using milk replacer) lambs, one veterinarian recommends putting 0.5 ml of penicillin in the milk bottle, especially around the four-weeks-of-age stage, when it seems to occur most. He says to put it in the first bottle of the day only, but does not say how many days to do this.

Also -- the veterinarians at Pipestone now recommend giving bottle lambs CD/T shots early and to give them a series of 3 injections within the first 8 weeks.

**Molasses**
In Laura Lawson’s book Managing Your Ewe, page 120 reads, “Offer warm molasses water to the ewe after delivery of each lamb. Ewes who have difficult deliveries appreciate this quick energy. It helps give an energy boost and replaces some of the energy lost during the birth process. It also seems to help in quicker expulsion of the placenta. Many only drink it after all lambs have been delivered. To make molasses water, add about 1/4 cup molasses to 2 gallons of warm water.”

Because the water container for ewes with new lambs should be tall enough to prevent lambs from falling in, I use the 5-gallon buckets with handles. I take an empty bucket into the house and put 1/2 cup molasses in the bottom. Then I run very hot water on top of the molasses to dissolve it, and I fill the bucket about 1/2 full of hot water. I take the bucket out to the barn and finish topping it off there. I have “tennis elbow” after so many years of lugging heavy water buckets, so I now carry the less full buckets as far as I can before I fill them up. The cold water from the hydrant then cools down the hot water from the house tap. So with a 5-gallon bucket, I use 1/2 cup of molasses, and about 4 gallons of water, since I don’t fill the bucket completely full.

**Latex Gloves**
We keep a box of latex gloves in the barn and a pair or two in our pockets. Always put them on when handling any newborn lamb, or when assisting in any births. We believe it’s very important not to imprint other scents on the lamb while handling it, as not to confuse the new mom. Ewes learn the identity of their own lambs through smell, sight and sound. Be sure to dispose of these gloves after use.

**Deworm The Ewe**
While I let my ewes choose their own spot to give birth to their lambs, after the lambs are up and nursing, I move mom and newborns into a pen in the barn. This allows me to observe the new family to make sure lambs are nursing well and to also be sure that the ewe has passed the placenta. This is also when I deworm the ewe. Labor and delivery cause dormant internal parasites to reactivate and it’s better that she drop those parasites in a bedding of straw in the barn than out on pastures. Be sure to really watch yearling ewes with lambs at their side for parasites that spring and summer. They are still growing themselves, while feeding one or two lambs, so their immune systems may be compromised and they may need to be dewormed more often than older ewes.
Weigh The Lambs
I long ago invested in a hanging scale and sling for weighing newborn lambs. I keep a notebook handy either in the barn, or in my pocket, and always weigh newborn lambs after they are safely on their feet and have had their first mom’s milk. I don’t like to interfere with that first bonding or first suckling, but after mom and lambs are settled down, I weigh each lamb and record their weight that first day.
Also, if I have triplets, I weigh them again a few days later or within a week of birth to monitor how well they’re doing. It’s more effective to intervene early if a lamb starts to lag behind its siblings than to wait until it’s older before realizing it’s not gaining as well as the others.
We reweigh our lambs at 6 weeks of age and again at 12 weeks. The 6-week weigh-in tells me how well the lambs are gaining on their dam’s milk and the 12th week weigh-in tells me how well the lamb is gaining as it is weaning off milk and beginning to graze more. It’s not unusual to see the daily rate of gain drop from six to 12 weeks of age as the lamb begins to convert its food through rumination.

Trust Yourself; Learn From Your Sheep
We all make mistakes. The key is to learn from those mistakes and to listen to what the sheep teach us. Each difficult birth, or lost lamb is a lesson that helps us to save a future lamb. Each bad experience we go through, no matter the outcome, makes us better shepherds and makes our flock healthier and stronger.
This lambing season, and every future lambing season on your farm and mine, I wish for us all that we’ll only find healthy ewes and lambs greeting us at each new sunrise, so that we can say that “it was the best of times.”

This is an edited and updated version of a piece titled "Lambing Time Success Tips" which was published in Sheep! magazine, pages 50-53, March/April 2012.

Mark Your Calendar and Save the Date for the Great Lakes Show & Sale
It’s that time of year to think about the National Border Leicester Sale over Memorial Day weekend in Wooster. Join us for a great show and sale, but also for fun and friendship! The show will take place on May 28 at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Wooster, Ohio. There is also a fleece show on the 28th, so bring those beautiful Border Leicester fleeces you’ve accumulated. The sale is Sunday, the 29th. Entry deadline is March 15.
Entries are available online at the Banner website: www.bannersheepmagazine.com.

There is a block of rooms at the Best Western waiting for you. Just tell them “sheep sale” when you make your reservation. On Friday evening we will meet at the Best Western for catching up, drinks and food (feel free to bring your favorite side dish or appetizer). The more, the merrier!

On Saturday, we will have a banquet at Jake’s Steakhouse (same as last year), another chance to catch up with our Border Leicester friends. We will have a silent auction to earn some $$$ for our youth programs/shows. Bring something you’d like to donate for a wonderful cause. If you’re interested in attending, let Dena Early know how many by May 10th. You can email her at earlydena@gmail.com. More information on menus will be in the next newsletter.
ABLAA Treasurer Transition

As many of you may know I underwent triple by-pass surgery in March 2015. I am very happy with my recovery as confirmed by testing my cardiologist had performed in January. Nevertheless, the whole experience has caused both Linda and me to re-examine how a pair of early-70’s “geezers” want to spend their future years. (Note from Linda – “I am NOT a ‘geezer’ ”). Our first step has been to accelerate what had been a slow reduction in the size of our flock over the past 5-6 years. We have found homes for our younger breeding-age sheep. This is the last year we will have lambs born. We have great breeding pairs and expect outstanding offspring. We will maintain a flock of older ewes for our wool business and we will continue to be involved in the Border Leicester world to maintain our ability to socialize with our friends and to support our young breeders. For myself, I look forward to devoting a lot more time to my photography, sheep show judging, reading, travel and maintaining the grounds here.

I took the Treasurer job a few years ago without much of transition. I have told the Board of Directors that I am willing to spend whatever time is needed in the coming months to insure a smooth transition from me to my successor. I will continue in place at least through the membership renewal rush in the Spring. At this time, it looks as if the transition will occur sometime in May, probably coordinated with the annual meeting in Wooster over Memorial Day.

Bill Koeppel

The report of 2015 ABLA income and expenses versus budget is shown below. In keeping accounts and preparing these statements I used the “cash” method of accounting - income is recorded when money is received and expenses are recorded when a bill is paid. The three footnotes attempt to answer questions you may have. Bill Koeppel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 Income and Expenses vs. Budget (note 1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wooster Fundraiser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Ad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Ads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nat’l Sale Comm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Raising Comm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated Registries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webmaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Hosting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer Supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballot Mailing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPP Society Dues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Drive Letter $250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep Shows &amp; Premiums (see details below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2015 TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deficit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$13,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$-1,030</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. The ABLA also holds in our bank account funds raised independently for the futurity program and the All American Junior show. In 2015, $950 that had been raised in 2014 was dispersed in futurity awards. In 2016, $1000 was contributed by Border Leicester sellers to support awards to juniors showing sheep that had been sold. These funds are to be dispensed in early 2016. Both futurity and All American Junior funds are tracked separately and are thus not included among the ABLA accounts shown above.
2. Actual expenses shown are for the 2014 NAILE Junior and Open shows that were billed and paid in 2015. The 2015 NAILE shows to be billed in 2016 will be budgeted in 2016.
3. The actual expenses “overrun” show include costs of the Di Walbel award that were approved and budgeted in 2014, but was not spent until 2015.
This year’s Futurity Contest was another success. We had 40 ewes nominated, which gave the ‘futurity pot’ $1,000 for awards. The majority of the nominations were taken in at the National Sale in May while most of the other ewes were nominated prior to show season. I would like to thank the following consignors at the National Sale and those breeders who sold nominated ewes privately: PW Sheep Farm (V&J Price), Cape House Farm (B&L Keoppel), Colin Siegmund, Tiffany Deakin, Richard & Maryann Johnson, Walnut Ridge (D. Freds), Callie Taylor, Vast Plains (K. Young), Someday Soon Farm (S&J Jakeman), Maybe Tomorrow Farm (P&K Hopkins), ZNK Border Leicesters (J&D Early), and Fairy Dust Farm (E. Gibson). I was happy to also see kids re-nominate yearling ewes, and/or nominate their bred and own ewe lambs! I am pleased to report that this year there were seven youth participating by turning in points from their shows, giving a total of 14 head of Border Leicesters competing in the various classes of the Futurity Contest. The premiums were paid out as follows: 1st-$80, 2nd-$70, 3rd-$55, 4th-$45, 5th-$35, and 6th-$25. The placings in each category are as follows:

White Owned (purchased) Yearling Ewes:
1st - Travis Johnson, of Ohio, (28 points) Hopkins #14-16 (re-nominated)
2nd - Ben Wamsley, of Illinois, (22 points) Hopkins #13-23 (re-nominated)

Colored Owned (purchased) Yearling Ewes:
1st - Emily Gibson, of New Hampshire (29 points) Vast Plain #1214 (purchased @ 2015 National Sale)
2nd - Terence Blake, of Massachusetts (21 points) Koepel #506 (purchased privately)
3rd – Emily Gibson, of New Hampshire (17 points) Early/ZNK #0138 (purchased @ 2014 National Sale and re-nominated)
4th – Mae Chiesa, of New Hampshire (15 points) Gibson #160 (purchased privately)
5th – Tiffany Deakin of Illinois (13 points) Staskel #151 (purchased privately)
6th – Terence Blake, of Massachusetts (4 points) Early/ZNK #0143 (purchased privately)

White Raised Yearling Ewes:
1st - Colin Deakin, of Illinois (36 points) Deakin #1970
2nd - Travis Johnson of Ohio (17 points) Johnson #013
3rd - Ben Wamsley, of Illinois (8 points) PW #202 “Butterfly”

White Raised Ewe Lambs:
1st – Travis Johnson of Ohio (31 points) Johnson #027
2nd – Travis Johnson of Ohio (19 points) Johnson #026

Colored Raised Ewe Lamb:
1st – Emily Gibson of New Hampshire (12 points) Gibson #165

Colored Raised Yearling Ewes: none
White Owned (purchased) Ewe Lambs: none
Colored Owned (purchased) Ewe Lambs: none

As lambing begins and we all start to plan ahead for the spring and summer activities, I would encourage breeders to nominate ewes (lambs or yearlings) when selling privately to a youth buyer or when consigning to the National Sale in Wooster. I would also encourage our youth showmen to nominate their best ewes (bred & owned - lamb or yearling) or re-nominate a ewe shown as a lamb last year. Premiums are awarded to all who participate! Questions? Contact me at khop4811@aol.com or (evenings) 401-949-4619. Thanks again to all who nominated, showed, donated, or helped in any way with this contest, and I look forward to watching for the 2016 Futurity Contest.
Travis Johnson – 1st Ewe Lamb (Bred & Owned)

Terence Blake – 2nd Yearling Ewe (Koeppel)

Colin Deakin – 1st Yearling Ewe (Bred & Owned)

Ben Wamsley – 2nd Yearling Ewe (Hopkins)

Emily Gibson – 1st Yearling Ewe (Vast Plains)

Tiffany Deakin – 5th Yearling Ewe (Staskel)

Emily Gibson – 3rd Yearling Ewe (Staskel/ZNK)

Emily Gibson – 3rd Yearling Ewe (Early/ZNK)
Connor and Paige Vincent – Top Placing Lead Line Contestants with Border Leicesters

Alli Knecht, Jeffersonville, Ohio, placed 3rd in the Decorator Class with a Border Leicester.

Rose Stoltman, Kentucky, Champion Natural Colored Ram

Jenna Bilyeu, Pennsylvania, Champion Natural Colored Ewe

Colin Deakin, Illinois, with his Grand Champion Ewe and Best Fleece Winner

Tiffany Deakin with her Natural Colored Best Fleece
Border Leicesters at NAILE –Louisville, November - 2015

White Yearling Rams
1. 14079 1270 - 19337F - 3/20/2014 - Overlook Manor Farm - Warrenton, VA
2. Deakin 1965 - 19096 - 2/20/2014 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL

White Fall Ram Lambs
1. Deakin 1974 - 19456 - 10/1/2014 - Deakin Family - Farms - Cuba, IL

White Early Ram Lambs
1. Taylor 15022 - 20132F - 1/24/2015 - Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
2. Fogle 1024 - 19433 - 1/30/2015 - Fogle, Marilyn & Carroll - Raymond, OH
3. Taylor 15033 - 20133F - 2/1/2015 - Taylor, Callie - State College, PA

White Intermediate Ram Lambs
1. Taylor 15059 - 20179F - 2/24/2015 - Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
2. Taylor 15047 - 20134F - 2/18/2015 - Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
3. Fogle 1031 - 19515 - 2/16/2015 - Fogle, Marilyn & Carroll - Raymond, OH

White Late Ram Lambs
1. Taylor 15086 - 20181 - 3/25/2015 - Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
5. C. Deakin 2018RR - 19999 - 3/20/2015 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL

Pair of Ram Lambs
1. Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
2. Fogle, Marilyn & Carroll - Raymond, OH
3. Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
4. Vincent, Connor - Laurel, DE

White Grand Champion Ram
14079 1270 - 19337F - 3/20/2014 - Overlook Manor Farm - Warrenton, VA

White Reserve Champion Ram
Deakin 1965 - 19096 - 2/20/2014 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL

White Best Headed Ram
14079 1270 - 19337F - 3/20/2014 - Overlook Manor Farm - Warrenton, VA

White Yearling Ewes (Early)
2. Taylor 13214 - 19337F - 11/7/2013 - Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
3. Fogle 1002 - 18698 - 1/24/2014 - Fogle, Marilyn & Carroll - Raymond, OH

White Yearling Ewes (Late)

White Pair of Yearling Ewes
1. Fogle, Marilyn & Carroll - Raymond, OH
2. Barkley, Heidi - Manns Choice, PA
3. Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
4. Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
5. Vincent, Connor - Laurel, DE

White Fall Ewe Lambs
1. Deakin 1975 - 19457 - 10/1/2014 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL

White Early Ewe Lambs
1. Taylor 15014 - 20136F - 1/13/2105 - Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
2. Taylor 15042 - 20140F - 2/10/2015 - Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
3. Taylor 15021 - 19628F - 1/24/2015 - Wolf Brothers Livestock, Alex - Upper Sandusky, OH
5. HY 501 - 19448 - 1/22/2015 - Fogle, Marilyn & Carroll - Raymond, OH

White Intermediate Ewe Lambs
1. Taylor 15063 - 20141F - 3/15/2015 - Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
2. Taylor 15051 - 20138F - 2/20/2015 - Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
3. C Siegmund 1514 - 20101F - 3/15/2015 - Siegmund Family Farm - North Grosvenordale, CT
4. C. Siegmund 1505 - 19728F - 2/22/2015 - Siegmund Family Farm - North Grosvenordale, CT

White Late Ewe Lambs
1. Taylor 15079 - 20143 - 3/22/2015 - Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
5. Fogle 1031 - 19520 - 3/31/2015 - Fogle, Marilyn & Carroll - Raymond, OH
6. Taylor 15074 - 20142F - 3/20/2015 - Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
7. Stoltman 156 - 20122 - 2/20/2015 - Stoltman, Eli - Stanford, KY
8. Weik OMF 5234 - 19902 - 2/10/2015 - Boston, Gail - Medina, OH

White Pair Ewe Lambs
1. Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
2. Sizgmond Family Farm - North Grosvenordale, CT
3. Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
4. Vincent, Connor - Laurel, DE
5. Fogle, Marilyn & Carroll - Raymond, OH

White Grand Champion Ewe
Fogle 1005 - 18697 - 1/25/2014 - Fogle, Marilyn & Carroll - Raymond, OH

White Reserve Grand Champion Ewe
Taylor 15014 - 20136F - 1/13/2105 - Taylor, Callie - State College, PA

White Best Headed Ewe
C. Siegmund 1514 - 20101F - 3/15/2015 - Siegmund Family Farm - North Grosvenordale, CT

Best White Fleece
2. Taylor 15053 - 20139F - 2/20/2015 - Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
3. 14079 1270 - 19337F - 3/20/2014 - Overlook Manor Farm - Warrenton, VA
4. C. Siegmund 1514 - 20101F - 3/15/2015 - Siegmund Family Farm - North Grosvenordale, CT

White Get of Sire
1. Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
2015 NAILE cont...

White Flock
1. Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
2. Taylor, Callie - State College, PA
3. Fogle, Marilyn & Carroll - Raymond, OH

White Premier Exhibitor  Taylor, Callie - State College, PA

Natural Colored Yearling Rams
1. T Deakin 1956 RR - 19094B - 1/6/2014 - Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL
2. 4461 - 19207B - 2/22/2014 - Overlook Manor Farm - Warrenton, VA

Natural Colored Ram Lambs
1. T Deakin 1956 RR - 19094B - 1/6/2014 - Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL
2. 4461 - 19207B - 2/22/2014 - Overlook Manor Farm - Warrenton, VA

Natural Colored Yearling Ewes
1. AJ's Flock 151 - 19376B - 3/7/2014 - Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

Pair of Yearling Ewes
1. Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

Natural Colored Early Ewe Lambs
1. T Deakin 1987 RR - 20029B - 1/1/2015 - Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

Natural Colored Late Ewe Lambs
1. Bilyeu 1506 Penny - 19799 - 2/17/2015 - Bilyeu, Jenna - State College, PA
2. PW 230 - 19550B - 2/18/2015 - Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

Natural Colored Ewe Lamb
1. Stoltman 159 - 20119 - 1/6/2014 - Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

Natural Colored Grand Champion Ewe
1. AJ's Flock 151 - 19376B - 3/7/2014 - Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

Junior Show

Early Ram Lambs
1. Vincent Farms 1527 - 19981 F - Paige Vincent, Laurel, DE
2. Vincent Farms 1528 - 19982 F - Paige Vincent, Laurel, DE
3. C Siegeung 1505 - 19728 F - Colin Siegeung, North Grosvenordale, CN
4. H Barkley 15090 - 19614 - Heidi Barkley, Manns Choice, PA
5. C Siegeung 1514 - 20101 F - Colin Siegeung, North Grosvenordale, CN
6. Stoltman 156 - 20122 - El Stoltman, Stanford, KY

Grand Champion Ewe
Colin Deakin 1970RR – 19135 – Colin Deakin, Cuba, IL

Reserve Grand Champion Ewe
Vincent Farms 1527 – 19981 F – Paige Vincent, Laurel, DE

Best Fleece
Colin Deakin 1970RR – 19135 – Colin Deakin, Cuba, IL
The Leading Source of Elite Border Leicester Genetics

Win BIG at NAILE!

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

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

A select set of ram lambs are available now at the farm!

Deakin 1965 QR

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION RAM

Deakin 1956 RR

Staskel 151 RR

GRAND CHAMPION EWE, NAILE
National Grand Champion Ewe, The Big E; Best Fleece Winner & Top 4 Supreme Champion Fleeces All Breeds, The Big E

C.Deakin 1970 RR

GRAND CHAMPION EWE, NAILE

JUNIOR SHOW & BEST FLEECE
1st Class II Yearling Open Show

Koepel 502

CHAMPION FLEECE, NAILE
JUNIOR SHOW
3rd Open Show. Thanks to Vincent Farms, of DE on her purchase after the show!

Win BIG at NAILE!

1st Place Flock
We also won Premier Exhibitor or Breeder at Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, Wisconsin State Fair • Illinois State Fair

Designed by Banner Publications

1st Place Natural Colored Flock & Premier Exhibitor 10 Consecutive Years

Thanks To All Our Buyers In 2015!

DEAKIN FAMILY FARMS
11191 E. Cameron Rd.
Cuba, IL 61427
509/783-5115

Email: greg-deakin@hotmail.com

We Have A Top Set of Fall Lambs Out of Him!
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!
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

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 April 15.

Please send you news to earlydena@gmail.com

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
LEGS: Straight, wide apart, no wool below knees

BODY (15 Points)
CHEST: Deep and wide, but not fat
RIBS: Well-sprung, long, showing no signs of excess fat
BACK: Broad, long and level, somewhat narrower in front than rear, hindquarters should be 1/3 or less in proportion
WOOL COVER: Belly and armpits well-covered with wool (minimum of skin) and consistent with balance of fleece

HINDQUARTERS (10 Points)
HIPS: Level, smooth and wide apart
THIGHS: Deep and full
LEGS: Straight, wide apart, free of wool below hocks, no evidence of low pasterns; black hooves
UDDER & SCROTUM: Ewes – Udder should show evidence of two good teats
Rams – Testicles well-developed, 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.
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:________________________________________

Mailing Address: _____________________________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip:______________________________________________ Phone: ___________________________________________

E-mail:______________________________________________ Web Address: ___________________________________________

What farm products would you like listed in the Directory? ___________________________________________________________

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion/Advertising</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show Premiums / Awards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Renew by February 29 & you will be included in the Membership Directory!