

American Border Leicester Association
Sally Barney, Recording Secretary
April 2011 Mtg Notes

Spring is finally in the air here in New England; and what a spring we are having across the country as we face a record number of devastating tornadoes and floods. We hope all of you are okay.

The election is over and I can tell you that you voted in record numbers for the candidates seeking the position of ABLA Director. What great interest there is in the organization; thank you for adding your voice to this vote. Your three newly elected Directors are Barb Hintzsche, Rochelle, IL; Mark Korf, WI; and Jerry Wigglesworth, Dwight, KS. We say thank you to three very hardworking Directors who are going off the Board; Kerry Phelps, IA; JoAnne Tuncy, NY and Susan Johnson, VT.

By now you have all received your newsletter from Adam Watkins; thank you Adam for taking on the responsibility as newsletter editor. I received my newsletter electronically by e-mail; your Directors are encouraging ABLA members to try electronic delivery as it will save precious dollars for publicity and promotion of Border Leicester sheep. Call Adam and have him put your name on the e-mail delivery list.

The National Border Leicester Sale Catalog is ready and should be in your mailbox now, or very soon. A great number of Border Leicesters have been consigned and some of the best known breeders in the country are bringing them. If you are looking to expand your genetic base you might want to consider a purchase from the sale. Last year's sale sheep went on to win many awards for the members that bought them; give the sale a try. The National Fleece Show will be held in conjunction with the sale. This year there will be a special division for youth who enter white and/or natural colored fleeces. Marilyn Fogle, Raymond, OH is in charge; give her a call to arrange shipment of your fleeces or bring them with you to Wooster, Ohio. Save the dates: May 28 & 29th, Great Lakes Show and Sale, Wooster, Ohio.

Juniors, have you purchased any ewe lambs or yearling ewes this spring? Did you ask the breeder if they would consider nominating that ewe or lamb for the Futurity? Have you nominated your homegrown lambs? The Futurity is a wonderful event that enables youth to showcase their sheep and receive monetary awards for a job well done. Breeders, nominate the ewes you sell to our youth and watch them proudly campaign those ewes in the shows they attend.

In our area of the country the Sheep & Wool Festivals are in full swing from the prestigious Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival to some excellent more local festivals. These are a great venue for border Leicester producers as fleeces, roving, yarn, felting, and other woolen goods are highly sought by the buying public. If you are not part of a wool festival you might want to try marketing your products in this way.

