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*The American  
Border Leicester Association  
Quarterly Newsletter*

*Winter*

*2010*

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## Lambing in Cold Weather on our Farm By Kit Phelps

Lambing in January and February on the Phelps Farm in Iowa has ranged in temperatures from 70° above 0 to 25° below 0 with a -75° wind-chill. Usually it's a chilly 20°. This year we have only the Border Leicesters and we will lamb with fewer ewes from mid February through March-, easier and warmer we hope.

Lambing preparations begin before breeding season with vaccinations, worming and semen checks. Wool purists may frown upon us, but we use a breeding harness with crayon so we have breeding dates and in turn due dates. At mid-gestation, we give booster shots and about a month before lambing we start lightly graining and we do CDT vaccinations just before lambing.

We lamb in a converted cattle shed that we enclosed into 2 lambing rooms; one with 7 pens and the other with 8. The rest of the building is open to the south and before lambing it is our maternity ward and after lambing it is the nursery. The south side of that area has a clear curtain that rolls down to block the wind, but lets the sunshine in.

Our lambing rooms are partially insulated so that they are not drafty. Before the draftier room was insulated, we lined the walls with bales of straw-2 to 3 high. As lambing season progressed, the "walls" came down for bedding.

When we first converted the cattle shed to our lambing house, our vet told us that ventilation was more important in preventing pneumonia than heat. So we put in vent fans and no furnace. Sigh. Maybe the sheep don't need the heat, but 15 years later, the shepherds could use it! Instead we use an infrared heater. Kerry strung wire cables over each row of pens and then put a chain on the infrared heater with a clip on top attached to the wire. We slide the heater to where it's needed or take it down and easily move it to another row of pens. This is safer than heat lights. The downside is that every hat and sweatshirt hood I own has a burnt stripe from when I have forgotten I'm under the heater!

Each lambing pen includes a creep area for the lambs with a heat lamp and a hard plastic heating pad used in farrowing crates. They were cut in half and each half is large enough for 2 creep areas. We only use them the first day or two so that the lambs undersides stay warmer than if they were on straw on the concrete floor. The heat light bulbs are checked twice a day to make sure they are in tightly. Next year we plan to install a furnace and reduce the use of the heat lights.

Keeping the lambs warm is important, but also it's important to keep the shepherds from freezing. When I'm all bundled up, I feel like Ralphie's brother on Christmas Story who had so many clothes on that when he fell down, he couldn't get up. Maybe this year I won't fall, because I have something new- Yak Trax attached to my boots to keep me from slipping. They're coils instead of cleats or spikes so I can wear them on concrete or inside (just down the basement stairs). I wish I had them 2 years ago, when repeated ice storms kept ice on our farm from December 1st into March.

Hands and feet are the most likely to get cold. One year after working with wet lambs, my hands were so frozen; I couldn't grasp the door knob and had to ring the doorbell for our children to let me in. Now I either wear a thin cotton pair of gloves under my heavy gloves or carry them in my pocket for when I need dexterity. I wear my insulated boots when I know I'll be out for a long time. Otherwise I wear my regular chore boots with 2 pairs of socks (love my Smart Wool socks).

Okay, so our ewes are vaccinated and on grain, the facilities are ready, and we're dressed appropriately. Now we check our due dates. Our Border Leicesters' average gestation is about 147 days. So before 145 days the ewes are moved to the maternity ward where we have 2 barn cameras.

*Continued on page 14...*

From The President

Early Winter Greetings to You & Your Family!

As we embark on a new lambing season, I extend my wishes to you on a successful and healthy new lamb crop. May your problems be minimal and your lambing pens be full of twins!

Before the rush of lambing season takes over, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to renew your membership to ABLA for 2010. You should have recently received a renewal kit, along with a return envelope to mail your dues to our Association Treasurer, Polly Hopkins.

Our annual membership renewals help fund the operating expenses for the year and enables us to promote Border Leicesters in the best and most affordable way we know how. All memberships paid by February 28 will be included in our 2010 Membership Directory. We take these directories to shows and sheep events all over the country, all year long. All these same memberships will go on our ABLA website, enabling prospective Border Leicester breeders an opportunity to contact you and learn more about your flock.

Our 2009 final totals on registrations and transfers once again tallied over 1,000 transactions! We proudly registered 729 head of rams and ewes, the second most ever on record in one year. Last year, 284 Border Leicesters were transferred, our fifth highest total ever recorded.

Your association is alive, well, and financially sound. With an \$11,000 budget to work with in 2009, your board was able to stay within \$400 of our budgeted figures. Our goal in 2010 and the decade ahead is to promote our breed the best we can. We desire to see our memberships increase and in turn our numbers of registrations and transfers continue to grow. We welcome your suggestions in trying to improve our association and included a brief survey for you to answer in your 2010 membership renewal packet.

Thank you for taking the time to renew your membership and again, best of luck in the lambing season ahead.

Greg Deakin  
ALBA President



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<b>Next Deadline: March 15th</b>											

**Editor Notes**  
 Hello! Hope everyone is staying warm, I know I'm trying!!! A big thank you to Kit Phelps for writing a great article for this newsletter!! If you find an interesting article or want to write an article please send it to me! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or just to talk at [newsletter@ablasheep.org](mailto:newsletter@ablasheep.org). Happy Lambing!!!  
 Sarah Hopkins

**Pipestone Sheep Management Education in the Comfort of Your Home**  
**Pipestone Home Study Sheep Course**

This is a 14 lesson course that covers year round sheep management. Each lesson is mailed out for you to read and study. Quizzes, at the end of each lesson, highlight important points of the materials. The answers for each quiz will arrive with your next lesson. Specific questions on your operation will be welcomed at any time and answered as promptly as possible. Listed are the 14 lesson topics:

1. Getting Started in the Sheep Business
2. Your Ewes, Your Rams, Their Health
3. Breeding Strategies
4. Lamb Feeding
5. Using Facilities and Equipment
6. Ewe Flock Economics and Record Keeping
7. Wool
8. Pre-Lambing Management
9. Lambing Time Management, Difficult Births, Baby Lamb Health
10. Orphan or Bonus Lambs, Grafting
11. Creeps and Creep Feeding
12. Weaning and Weaning Methods
13. Fitting and Showing Sheep
14. Raising vs. Buying Replacement Ewes

**On-Line Sheep Management Education Opportunities**

Continuing with providing various delivery methods of educational information, the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program launched five online courses so sheep enthusiasts can keep current in the comfort of their own home or office. These offerings provide fundamental sheep management information designed for any size or type of sheep operation. These topics would be an excellent opportunity for youth and adults to learn more about sheep production.

- Introduction to Sheep Management (LWMP 1001)
- Equipment and Facilities (LWMP 1202)
- Introduction to Sheep Health (LWMP 1300)
- Ewe Ration Formulation (LWMP 1502)
- Wool Characteristics and Properties (LWMP 1701)

The Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program is a sheep management education/consulting program offered by Minnesota West Community and Technical College located at Pipestone, Minnesota. The purpose of the program is to help sheep producers increase income and profit through the production of quality lamb and wool. To maximize the profit per ewe and realize the full potential of all sheep through the use of modern management practices, new technologies and new approaches to marketing of both lamb and wool.

For more information, visit the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program web page [www.pipestonesheep.com](http://www.pipestonesheep.com) or contact one of the Lamb and Wool instructors, Philip Berg, [philip.berg@mnwest.edu](mailto:philip.berg@mnwest.edu), 507/825-6799 or Mike Caskey, [mike.caskey@mnwest.edu](mailto:mike.caskey@mnwest.edu), 507/825-6808.

To enroll in one of the Pipestone programs, contact Sue Lovell at 507/847-7929, [sue.lovell@mnwest.edu](mailto:sue.lovell@mnwest.edu) or register online at [www.mnwest.edu/formmail/formdl.htm](http://www.mnwest.edu/formmail/formdl.htm).



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## **National Scrapie Eradication Program Update**

By Becky Talley, Sheep Industry News Associate Editor

The United States is well on its way to eradicating scrapie and meeting the World Organization for Animal Health scrapie-free standards. Hard work by producers, the states and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have yielded impressive numbers. This cooperative effort has resulted in substantial decreases in the percent of black-face cull sheep sampled at slaughter that have tested positive and in the number of scrapie cases and new infected flocks.

### **Program Update**

The number of new infected and source flocks identified during the fiscal year (FY) dropped from 43 for FY 2008 to 29 for FY 2009, as of July 31 of each year. As of July 31, there were 34,193 slaughter surveillance samples collected for FY 2009. Thirty-one of these sheep were confirmed positive for scrapie by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories. Except for three of these sheep, which were mottle-faced, the rest of these sheep were black-faced. The percent of black-faced sheep found positive at slaughter has decreased by 80 percent since the initiation of slaughter surveillance in FY 2003.

Participation in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) continues to be a positive for the industry. According to information from USDA, as of July 31, 2009, there were 1,830 flocks participating in the SFCP. Of these, 543 were certified flocks, 1,241 were complete monitored flocks, 41 were export monitored flocks and five were selective monitored flocks. In addition, only one case of scrapie has been confirmed in a goat in FY 2009 as of July 31. The positive goat case was a pet animal quarantined as part of an FY 2008 investigation. No additional animals were exposed.

Producers are reminded that at this point in the eradication process, it is more crucial than ever to be aware of the signs of scrapie, regularly monitor their flocks, make sure breeding stock are properly identified with official tags when moved and promptly report any suspected case of the disease to their state veterinarians or veterinary services area offices. Reporting is the right thing to do to protect the national flock. Suspect animals can be reported by calling toll free at 1-866-873-2824. The best way to prevent scrapie is to maintain a flock/herd closed to female additions unless they are genetically resistant or come from certified scrapie-free flocks/herds. Seed stock producers should consider enrolling their own flocks in the SFCP.

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## **USDA to Conduct 2010 Sheep & Goat Survey**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is gearing up for the Sheep and Goat Inventory Survey. Conducted each year in January and July, this survey provides critical inventory and production information for all states and the nation. "During the first two weeks in January, producers will be contacted to participate in the Sheep and Goat Inventory Survey," said Carol House, deputy administrator of NASS. "This survey will provide the latest information on conditions and trends in the U.S. sheep and goat industry for 2010. Accurate data on sheep and goat inventory and production allow USDA and the industry to be more responsive to the American and international public, increase consumer understanding and awareness and establish an appreciation for the benefits of U.S. sheep and goats and their products." When contacted by a NASS field office representative, producers will be asked to provide information on the number of breeding and market sheep and goats, lambs and kids born during the previous year, as well as mohair production, wool production and prices. For convenience, producers will have the option of responding to the survey by telephone, mail, during a personal interview or online. "The NASS survey data are widely used by government and industry alike," commented Glen Fisher, president of the American Sheep Industry Association. "I encourage everyone who is contacted to take the time to respond as accurately as possible." House noted that, as is the case with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all survey responses ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. Results will be published in the Sheep and Goat report, scheduled for release on Jan. 29, 2010.

# Youth News Corner

## THE FIRST FUTURITY CONTEST IS A SUCCESS

The ABLA Futurity has announced the 2009 Division winners. In the Natural Colored Purchased Division, the winner is Hunter Gibson, with a ewe lamb purchased from Tiffany Deakin, with a cash award of \$42. In the Natural Colored Home-Raised Division, the first place winner is Tiffany Deakin with a cash award of \$42. Second place in the same division is Emma Morton with a cash award of \$41.

The ABLA Board is again proud to announce the continuation of the Futurity Contest for the year 2010. There will again be the same four ewe lamb divisions available to enter: Natural Colored Purchased, Natural Colored Home-raised, White Purchased and White Home-raised.

This year the Futurity Contest has been expanded to include yearling ewes - also in all four above-named divisions. The 2009 ewe lambs who participated are eligible for re-nominated as yearlings for an entry fee of \$25. In addition, other yearling ewes may be nominated for \$25, even if they did not participate as ewe lambs. These yearling ewes may be home-raised or purchased at sales or privately.

The ABLA is excited to continue this program to further support the youth within our organization. Further information may be obtained at the official ABLA website or by calling any of the Board of Directors. Your support of this program is greatly appreciated whether financially through nomination fees, donations toward this program, or simply by encouraging our youth members in their efforts.

### Congrats to a new Border Leicester Breeder!!

Rebecca had a great show season with the BL ewe lambs - - the first picture is from the Lebanon fair. At the Windham County 4H fair, Rebecca won the sheep competition with the Border Leicesters to qualify for the premiere showmanship. She won the premier showmanship competition which included showing a rabbit, a chicken, a dairy cow, a beef cow, a goat, and of course a sheep. An interesting side note, several of the young competitors at the 4H fair were overheard commenting how much harder it was to show a sheep than they had imagined! Rebecca also participated in leadline competition wearing a light wool dress with circular yoke and the Border Leicester lamb, named Daisy wore a matching green hat.



### Congrats to the Best Fleece Winner in the Natural Colored Junior Show at NAILE!!!

Congrats to Tiffany Deakin for winning the Best Fleece award at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) this year. The Border Leicester Junior exhibitors competed in the Natural Colored sheep division; Against all different shapes, sizes, and fleece types Tiffany won with her Natural Colored Border Leicester! As we say, "Start at the top with Border Leicesters", Great Job Tiffany!!



Anyone interested in running for a **Director** please note **Biographies** need to be sent to the **Newsletter Editor** by **March 5, 2010**.

Voting will be done by mail with the results being announced at the Annual meeting to be held Saturday night (placed to be announced) during the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival in May.

The Wisconsin State Fair announces that in 2010 Border Leicesters will be a recognized breed show. Additional updates for the 2010 Fair can be found on the Wisconsin State Fair website at [www.wistatefair.com](http://www.wistatefair.com). The 2010 Wisconsin State Fair Rules and Regulations will be available online in early January.

#### **Need to Register a Border Leicester???**

Fill out any ABLA application for registration you may already have or if you do not have a form, please visit the "**Registering Sheep**" page on the website ([www.ablasheep.org](http://www.ablasheep.org)) to download an application for registration form.

#### **Send all forms for registering your sheep to:**

Associated Sheep Registry  
15603 - 173rd Avenue  
Milo, Iowa 50166  
Telephone: 641-942-6402  
Fax: 641-942-6502

E-mail: [kclaghorn@earthlink.net](mailto:kclaghorn@earthlink.net)

#### **Fees for registering:**

Registration: \$5.00 for members  
\$10.00 for non-members  
Transfers: \$5.00 for members &  
non-members

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.

Interested in a Shearing School???  
Here are some places and dates!

#### **March 6-7, 2010**

Cornell University Shearing School  
Contact: Doug Rathke (320)587-6094  
Registration Fee: \$150  
Student Limit: 20  
Register by February 12, 2010

#### **March 13-15, 2010**

Montana State University (Beginner)  
Contact: Peggy Kelley (406)994-3415  
Email: [Kelley@montana.edu](mailto:Kelley@montana.edu)  
Registration Fee: \$125

#### **March 16-19, 2010**

Montana State University (Advanced)  
Contact: Peggy Kelley (406)994-3415  
Email: [Kelley@montana.edu](mailto:Kelley@montana.edu)  
Registration Fee: \$125

#### **March 20, 2010**

Maine Shearing School (Beginner)  
Held at Sunrise Acres, Cumberland, ME  
Contact: Richard Brzozowski (207)780-4205  
Registration Fee: \$30

#### **April 5-10, 2010**

Washington State Shearing School  
Basics & Advanced Classes  
Parker Sheep Ranch, Moses Lake, WA  
Contact: Sarah Smith, Extension Agent  
(509)754-2011 ext. 413  
Registration Fee: \$135 (members)  
\$185 (non-members)  
Register by: March 15<sup>th</sup>

#### **April 16-17, 2010**

Illinois Shearing School – Western Illinois University  
Contact: Richard Cobb (217)333-7351  
Registration Fee: \$50  
Student Limit: 20  
Register by: March 24, 2010

#### **April 16-18, 2010**

Minnesota held at Liberty Land & Livestock Farm  
Contact: Doug Rathke (320)587-6094  
Registration Fee: \$375

## **Getting ready for lambing and kidding**

Wirtten by Susan Schoenian  
University of Maryland Sheep & Goat Specialist

### **What's happening during the last 4 to 6 weeks of pregnancy?**

Seventy (70) percent of fetal growth occurs during the last 4 to 6 weeks of pregnancy. Most of the female's mammary (udder) growth is occurring during this period. At the same time, rumen capacity is decreasing. The result is the need for increased nutrition, usually a more nutrient-dense diet.

Extra nutrition is needed to support fetal growth, especially if the female is carrying multiple fetuses. Extra feed is needed to support mammary development and ensure a plentiful milk supply. Proper nutrition will help to prevent the occurrence of pregnancy toxemia (ketosis) and milk fever. It will ensure the birth of strong, healthy offspring of moderate birth weight.

Birth weight is highly correlated to lamb and kid survival, with low and high birth weight offspring usually experiencing the highest mortality.

### **Nutrition during late gestation**

During late gestation, energy is the nutrient most likely to be deficient. The level of nutrients required will depend upon the age and weight of the pregnant female and her expected level of production, i.e. singles, twins, or triplets.

To meet the increased energy needs during this period, it is usually necessary to feed concentrates (grain). In addition, if forage quality is low, it will be necessary to provide a supplemental source of protein and calcium.

### **Feeding during late gestation**

Examples of late gestation feed rations are:

- 3.5 to 4 lbs. of medium to good quality hay plus 1.25 to 1.5 lbs. of concentrate.
- 4 to 5 lbs. of medium quality hay or pasture equivalent plus 0.5 to 1 lb. of concentrate .
- Limit the roughage intake of ewe lambs and doe kids and mature females carrying 3 or more fetuses and feed 1 lb. of grain per fetus.

It is important not to underfeed or overfeed pregnant females. Inadequate nutrition may result in pregnancy toxemia, small and weak lambs/kids, higher lamb/kid mortality, reduced colostrum quality and quantity, poor milk yield, and reduced wool production (in the offspring) via fewer secondary follicles.

Fat females are more prone to pregnancy toxemia. They experience more dystocia (birthing difficulties). Overfeeding can result in oversized fetuses that the female cannot deliver on her own. It costs extra money to make ewes and does fat.

### **Feed bunk management**

In addition to feeding the right ration, you must also practice good feed bunk management. All ewes and does should be able to eat at once. If there is inadequate feeder space, some animals, especially the small, young, old, and timid ones, will not get enough to eat.

Pregnant ewe lambs and doe kids should be fed separately from mature females. Their nutritional requirements are higher because in addition to being pregnant, they are still growing. They may also have trouble competing for feeder space. You should never feed pregnant ewes or does on the ground. This is how diseases, especially abortions, are spread.

## **Selenium and Vitamin E**

Selenium and vitamin E are critical nutrients during the late gestation period. Low levels of selenium (Se) have been associated with poor reproductive performance and retained placentas. Selenium is passed from the placenta to the fetus(es) during late gestation. Selenium supplementation will aid in the prevention of white muscle disease.

Free choice mineral mixes usually provide adequate selenium to pregnant ewes and does. Be sure to feed mineral mixes that have been specifically formulated for sheep and/or goats. Flocks/herds with a history of selenium deficiency should add selenium to the grain mix.

Free choice minerals do not always ensure adequate intake. Selenium may be provided via injections, but supplementation is cheaper and safer. There is a narrow range between selenium requirements and toxic levels.

## **Calcium Intake**

You need to monitor the intake of calcium (Ca) during late gestation. The female's requirements for calcium virtually double during late gestation. Milk fever is caused by a low blood calcium level, which can be the result of inadequate intake of calcium or failure to immobilize calcium reserves.

Excessive intake of calcium can also be a problem. It is recommended that you save your "best" hay for lactation, and feed a mixed (legume-grass) hay during late gestation.

Grains, such as corn, barley, and oats, are poor sources of calcium. Forages are generally higher in calcium, especially legumes (alfalfa, clovers, lespedeza). Supplemental calcium can be provided through complete grain mixes or mineral supplements (dicalcium phosphate, bonemeal, and limestone).

If low quality forage is fed, calcium should be supplemented through the grain ration. Free choice minerals do not always ensure adequate intake.

## **Vaccination for CD-T**

Pregnant ewes and does should be vaccinated for clostridial diseases (usually *clostridium perfringens* type C & D and tetanus) approximately one month prior parturition. Vaccinated females will pass antibodies in their colostrum to their newborn lambs/kids. Females that have never been vaccinated or whose vaccination status is unknown will require two vaccinations at least 2 weeks apart. Males should be vaccinated at the same time, so they are not forgotten.

## **Worm control**

The most important time to evaluate the need to deworm a ewe or doe is prior to parturition. This is because pregnant and lactating ewes/does suffer a temporary loss in immunity (as a result of hormonal changes) that results in a "periparturient rise" in worm eggs.

Deworming with an effective anthelmintic will help the ewe/doe expel the worms and will reduce the exposure of newborn lambs and kids to worm larvae. It will reduce the worm burden when the ewes/does are turned out to pasture in the spring.

Deworming can be done at the same time as CD-T vaccinations. An alternative to deworming the flock is to increase the level of protein in the diet. Protein supplementation has been shown to decrease fecal egg counts in peri-parturient ewes.

***Valbazen® should not be given to ewes during the first trimester of pregnancy.***

# Mastitis in ewes and does

Written by Susan Schoenian  
University of Maryland Sheep & Goat Specialist

Mastitis is one of the more common health problems affecting sheep and goats. Severe cases can result in death of the ewe, but more often it takes its toll in the form of treatment costs, premature culling, and reduced performance of lambs and kids.

Mastitis is an inflammation of the mammary gland (udder). It can be caused by physical injury or stress or by bacteria which invade the mammary gland. The bacteria which are known to cause mastitis in cows, sheep and goats are *Streptococcus sp.*, *Staphylococcus sp.*, *Pasteurella sp.*, and coliforms, such as *E. coli*.

Mastitis is usually observed shortly after lambing until the post-weaning period. It can take on several forms. Clinical mastitis (chronic or acute) involves physical changes in the udder. The udder becomes swollen and warm, sometimes painful to the touch.

In severe cases, blood supply to the udder is affected and a blue discoloration may result, hence the name "blue bag." Ewes affected with mastitis become feverish, go off feed and become depressed. They may hold their rear foot up, as if they are lame, and refuse to allow their lambs to nurse.

Ewes with sub-clinical mastitis usually appear quite healthy, but there is a reduction in their milk supply and development of lumps (scar tissue) in their udders, hence the name "hard bag." This is probably the most "serious" form of mastitis to the producer, since it often goes undetected. Keen observation is necessary to pick out these cases and prevent the potential damage.

Ewes which show signs of mastitis should be separated from the rest of the flock and treated with antibiotics. It may be necessary to bottle feed their lambs. Treatment usually involves intramammary infusions of antibiotics and systemic antibiotics. It is helpful to collect milk samples from affected ewes to determine the main bacteria involved and the correct medication to use. Treatment should be continued for several days until the clinical signs have gone away.

The udders of ewes should be examined after weaning and before breeding. Ewes with hard lumps in the udders should be culled, as these ewes will become increasingly poor producers of milk. Ewes that can only nurse one lamb should be culled from the flock. There is some evidence as to a genetic component to mastitis.

Mastitis can be controlled with good management and sanitation. Bedding in drop pens, mixing pens and lambing jugs should be clean and dry. There should be good drainage around the barn and lots. Animals should not be overcrowded. The incidence of mastitis is greater in closely confined flocks.

Preventing respiratory disease in lambs may help to prevent mastitis, as *Pasteurella hemolytica*, the bacteria that causes baby lamb pneumonia is a major cause of ewe mastitis. Sore mouth is another contributing factor, as lambs with mouth lesions can infect their dams and any other ewe they may nurse. The OPP (ovine progressive pneumonia) virus may be involved in cases where both halves of the udder are affected.

Weaning lambs from ewes whose milk production has not declined sufficiently puts severe stress on the udder; therefore proper management at weaning is also necessary to prevent mastitis. After weaning, it is advisable to restrict the feed and water of ewes for 1 to 2 days to rapidly decrease their milk production.

Some producers will reduce water and all feed 1 to 2 days before weaning. Others will remove grain from the ration 3 to 7 days before weaning. Delaying weaning until after milk production has decreased sufficiently will lessen the occurrence of mastitis.



## Your Neck of the Woods...



From Way Out West

As I watch the weather reports across the United States I feel the West Coast as a whole is doing well. We have had some very cold spells but nothing like I see happening in the Midwest and the East Coast as a whole.

We will not start lambing here at our farm until the middle of March so we slide right through the 12 and 13 degree weather we had. Just keeping the water tanks open and feed for the sheep was enough. One certainly didn't spend much time out in the barns.

A friend who raises sheep started lambing in the extreme cold....lost the first set of twins born due to the cold winds that came in from the Columbia River Basin. She spent the next three weeks living in the barn making sure the lambs were warm enough to survive. That is very unusual for this part of the country. We just don't get that cold. Last year was bad but this year was much worse and lasted longer.

I wanted to thank Judy Lewman for her article in the last newsletter about our beloved Border Leicester sheep. I too worry about where we are going with this breed since I too want to maintain the dual purpose of these sheep and keep their size in accordance with the original animals brought in. Judy and her husband have worked hard to keep these beautiful sheep from sliding down the slippery slope to please the show judges who seem to want huge animals with very little thought for the wool they should be producing. There is a good market for the wool through handspinners so I hope we can stay focused.

I hope everyone has a good lambing. I am certainly keeping my fingers crossed that we will have warmer weather by mid March and some grass growing by then.

From Canby, Oregon Di Waibel

.....  
From My Neck of The Woods.....

Wow! What a harvest season, but it is finally done! We were truly blessed with a bountiful yield on both the corn and soybeans. We fought the rains to get started, then wetter than normal beans that either had to be dried in bins or wait for the weather to do it naturally. We chose to wait, but it really tried my patience. Once we got rolling, we made pretty good progress. Then came the corn..... we fought with wetter than normal corn, so it took longer to dry in the bins. Then came the LP gas shortages, which thankfully, barely slowed us down. Then came the wait for semis to haul it from the bins to the main grain elevator. But because the corn in our area was wetter than normal, the main elevator in town was slower in moving others' wet corn through their system, which in turn slowed down our progress. Then we managed to stick three semis in two days in our grain bin area at home, but with a bit of persuasion from our John Deere tractor, we managed to get them back up on the gravel base in front of the grain bins where they were supposed to be!

We finally finished December 4<sup>th</sup>. That's the latest we've ever wrapped it up. But there are still some isolated corn fields in our area that are yet to be combined.

The shocking part of all this, is that there a lot of other areas in the U.S. that had it a lot tougher than we did. Pray for those farmers. Then came winter, we've missed some of the most severe weather so far, but we did have an ice storm that took out our power for most of the day. Thankfully we have a tractor pto generator that is capable of powering up our whole farm if necessary. We learned our lesson a couple of years ago when we lost power for 7 days, right in the middle of lambing. My wife generously agreed that indeed a generator was a worthwhile investment.

We are anxiously awaiting the first Border Leicester babies, starting about the 10<sup>th</sup> of February. We purposely backed off our lambing dates this year to give us a better chance of nicer weather. With the long delayed harvest completion, I'm glad we waited as it gives us a bit more of a break to get everything up to speed for the babies that will soon be here.

We bred our ewes to two of our best ram lambs from 2009. Both are RR by tissue sample, both were in the top of the production records for weight per day of age, both are twins and both are powerful as well as beautiful. They are structurally sound with a lot of meat in the right places, correct breed type (including wool) and are from two of our most prominent maternal lines. Should be good!

We all hope you and yours had a nice Christmas spent with family and friends and that you will all have a successful and happy new year.

We've all got so much to be thankful for.....let's not forget that when we get bogged down in the day-to-day trials.

Take care and if you ever want to just talk sheep, give us a call.

Kerry Phelps  
ABLA Board Member

From my neck of the woods...

Hello from "Little Old Rhody" and Happy New Year! It sure has been cold and snowy around here, and I hear the weather has been very different from the norm across country! I encourage you to bundle up and go out to enjoy looking at those Border Leicesters in their nice warm coats! What a breed!! This month is rather quiet for us (except for lots of meetings) until the lambing starts. It gives me a chance to think back over the past year and reminisce about the friends we have made and the activities we enjoyed thru ABLA. The National Sale was a success in the new location in Ohio, and we look forward to another well-attended sale this year. The membership attending our Annual Meeting held in Maryland continues to grow, and that is a great sign for our association. The National Show held at the Eastern States Exposition in Massachusetts was one of the largest Border Leicester shows in the country! The show included both youth and open premiums in both white and colored categories, pen display contest, fleece show, lead line classes and a delicious dinner at the historic Storrowton Tavern right on the fairgrounds. As you look ahead, plan to include some ABLA activities in your 2010 calendar, think about setting up a display to promote our breed (display board is available to members), promote Border Leicesters to youth thru the Futurity Program (questions – talk with Kerry Phelps), enter sheep in the National Sale, or plan to attend and show your Border Leicesters at a local fair. Some special shows that coming about this year are: Northeast Regional Show at the Woodstock Fair in Woodstock, Connecticut Sunday of Labor Day Weekend, the National-Regional Show at Eastern States Exposition in September, and National Show at NAILE in November, and because of the great showing they've had, the Wisconsin Fair is sponsoring its first Border Leicester show this year in August! Please let the Board know of other Border Leicester happenings in your neighborhood so that they might highlight them as well. Happy Lambing, and I hope to meet some more fellow Border Leicester breeders this coming year!

*-Polly Hopkins-*

.....

Greetings all,

It is a typical Virginian winter here with some snow, some rain, some cold, some warmth. Personally, I like the rain/warmth combination best. After reading the article about English Border Leicesters in the last newsletter and how terrible their fleeces had gotten, I have to report that I have seen the same thing happening over here. I know of several breeders that are using the English stock to improve their ears and increase the bone on their animals, but at the expense of the uniquely characteristic Border Leicester fleece. I asked them about it and their reply was, "fleeces are highly heritable, so I will use a good-fleeced ram on my ewes and get it all back in one generation." Wow, I wish my fleeces were that easy to come by. Anyway, the point is that the American Border Leicester has a set standard, that includes specifics about fleece and size, and some breeders seem to be using it more as a guideline vs a standard. I got into this breed because I loved their personality, those crazy upright ears, and that beautiful curly fleece. The English Borders have upright ears, but those ears are so big and ugly that it detracts from the rest of their lovely faces. I know that I don't have the scientific or factual information to discuss this like some others do, I just know what I like and dislike and I dislike the English Borders tremendously.

I have interested breeders talk to me all the time about the Border Leicester breed. As usual, I puff up my chest, put a big smile on my face, and set about explaining the virtues of owning such a wonderful breed of sheep. When I explain to them about fleeces and ears, they ask me why that is important. I am not a handspinner, but again, I know what I like and dislike and I like a lustrous, curly Border Leicester fleece. I think that we all need to get back to what attracted us to the breed in the first place. If there is something missing like bone density, ear placement, or fleece in your sheep, then work on that area with a good American Border Leicester ram from a good American Border Leicester breeder.

I think there are some breeders out there that are doing a tremendous job with their sheep and breeding animals that are functional, beautiful, and characteristically American Border Leicesters. I would encourage old breeders and new ones to look for those breeders when they are buying sheep and support them.

I would like to congratulate Ashley Greene of Tennessee for winning the Junior Achievement Award this year. She did an outstanding job and really promoted the Border Leicesters in 2009!

Hope everyone stays warm and the lambs are plentiful,  
Jennifer Bierhuizen

Greetings from cold and snowy Vermont! New Year's weekend proved to be an exciting one, with over 33 inches of beautiful and very fluffy snow falling in less than 30 hours in our area of the Green Mountain State. Burlington Airport recorded the all time record for any snowstorm since records began over 120 years ago. We live 10 miles south of the airport and got over 30 inches, yet 7 miles to the west of us, along Lake Champlain got only 2 inches and the big ski areas got less than 10. Going to the barn that snowy morning, I walked through a snowdrift that was up to my chest like it was hardly there; that's how fluffy and light it was. My big rams didn't let it bother them either, and they were making paths in the snow as they "swam" through it.

Fall was a challenging time here in Vermont, just like the spring, and summer proved to be. Weather extremes, with too much rain for months, and then no rain for 2 months and then 2 more months of rain were very trying. I had to bring the ewes in the barn to feed them from late October on as there was no where they could go to eat or lay down without being on muddy sloppy ground. Livestock in general has suffered in Vermont these past two years. So much rain has made edible hay a rare commodity and the edible hay has little nutritional value. This compounded by very wet fields and grass that grew too fast, filled with water caused grass-fed lambs to not reach their finish weights usually seen here. The worm loads were also tremendous and many farmers lost animals to the parasites.

For me, personally, being a vendor at the New York Sheep and Wools Festival was very successful this past October. It is a great festival; the largest in the US I believe, currently having more vendors and activities than Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. I would encourage you readers to come check it out next October. It is always the third weekend of October. You won't be disappointed.

I have raised sheep for 30 years, and Border Leicesters for 20, and decided not to breed sheep this year; giving myself, my ewes, and my fields a break after two very difficult years. It will be strange not going out to the barn at 3 in the morning listening for a little newborn lamb calling for its mom, or watching the pack of lambs run in waves around the barn and barnyard. I still have 25 breeding ewes and plan to breed again next fall. I would like to thank all the people that bought lambs and ewes from me this past year, and I hope they are all doing well for you.

As a member of the ABLA board for the past 8 years, I would like to encourage you to consider running for one of two positions that will be up for a vote this spring. We try hard to steer the organization in a good direction, make good decisions for how to spend your membership fees, and are always welcome to your comments and suggestions. I encourage you to get involved on some level.

I hope you all have a great lambing season, with lots of cute bright eyed and eared healthy babies and that you will have the time to enjoy them and all their frolicking antics.

Sue Johnson  
Vermont

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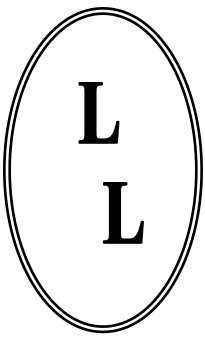
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*A small flock on the move....*

This is a Neck of the Woods is from the Fall, in which it wasn't printed...

### My Neck of the Woods—Vermont Fall 2009

They say in Vermont, "If you don't like the weather, wait a few minutes and it will change..." This year in Vermont has been the year of extremes. In February and March, when we are supposed to get lots of snow and rain, we had little. Then April and May was NO rain. Then June and July, nothing but RAIN and cold dreary days. Then August and September, NO rain, Then September RAIN and cold. Now it's October and it has been snowing off and off since the beginning of the month. Thankfully it has not stayed on the ground where I live. Today, Oct 16th, I had to take off over a half inch of ice off the outside water tanks. Brrrr!!! Extremes! So I am waiting and maybe next week it will warm up to at least normal? In Northern New England, farmers didn't get first cut hay baled until mid to late August. Any earlier, the hay molded because the ground was so wet even though the air was warm and dry. The box stores brought in tomatoes plants for sale that had late blight on them (what caused the Irish Potato Famine) and nearly every farmer in northern New England lost all their tomatoes and many of their potatoes which are big cash crops for many. So, in my case, no tomatoes were canned this fall... With all the cool weather and rain, internal parasites in livestock had a huge continual picnic. In the last newsletter, I shared my experience with Dr. Don Bliss, Parasitologist, from Wisconsin, and how Safeguard/Panacure was the best overall wormer to use on sheep. Well, I found out, that at least on my farm, Safeguard only works for Tapeworms and I needed to use Tramisol (which has been taken off the market at least in bolus form) to keep a handle on the round worms and other intestinal worms or Ivermectin. It is always important to do routine fecal exams to be sure worms are not taking over in your animals. I am heading off to Rhinebeck, NY this morning to be part of the New York Sheep and Wool Festival, which has become the largest fiber festival in America. It's always a great weekend, especially to have a chance to visit with many of my sheep-related friends who live in different parts of the country that attend. And guess what? The forecast is snow.... But sheep people are tough, and I'm sure the fairgrounds will be packed like always. I hope all of you Border Leicester breeders a successful breeding season and a good winter.

- Sue Johnson, Vermont -

I was against the idea of barn cams because of the cost and thought the baby monitors we used for sound were enough. The first day we had the new cameras I decided they were worth every penny. It was such a relief not to have to put on all of our heavy clothing every 2 hours to check on sheep; Now we just go to the room upstairs (where we have line of sight with the wireless TV transmitter) and turn on the TV. The cameras are not perfect- sometimes you don't see lambs and sometimes you see straw that looks like it could be a lamb and you run out there and find nothing. We have 2 cameras so that more area is covered. Rope lights strung from the rafters provide enough light for us during outside checks and enough for the cameras for the inside checks.

We admit to being more labor intensive than many. That's because we are both home during lambing and we really hate losing lambs. We check on the sheep throughout the day and each of us checks the cameras or goes outside once during the night. If it's super cold, then we might even check more times during the night to prevent frozen lambs.

When we have a birth, we grab our lambing tote on the way out the door. In the tote are OB gloves, OB gel, a nasal bulb syringe-works great for clearing out mouths and noses- towels, scissors for cutting umbilical cords, iodine, and Baby Lamb Strength Oral (from Pipestone) and the all important cell phone in case we need help.

If we have to move lambs, we pick them up with a towel to keep us from getting wet. Then we use another towel to dry them off. If a lamb is too cold, I slip on a jacket made from the sleeve of an old sweatshirt. The cuff goes around the neck and two holes are cut for the front legs. Every lamb gets a dose of Baby Lamb Strength Oral and its naval iodized. Then I usually stay until they nurse on their own. A good thing about Border Leicesters is that the lambs usually nurse quickly. If they do need help, sitting on an old 3-legged milking stool keeps my knees dry and saves them from wear and tear.

Not in the tote, but readily available in the house are a feeding tube and an E-Z Milker. We don't take those out unless we know we'll need them so that they don't freeze. The feeding tube is an invaluable tool, one I wish I had learned to use long before I did. When it's in the middle of the night and below 0° and a ewe just had triplets and the littlest one is dumber than a piece of rope, 8 ounces of colostrum in a feeding tube is the fastest way to help it survive and for me to get back to bed. I have a tricky time doing it by myself, but it can be done. The tube and syringes are cheap (I like Premier's), and I get a new syringe every year because they get hard to operate even with applying vegetable oil around the rubber part.

The E-Z Milker is another great tool, but more expensive. The ewes are easier to milk those first few hours after lambing, and we now have a wonderful supply of frozen colostrum. We also use the milker at weaning time on the udders that are too full for too long.

To help prevent mastitis, barn lime is spread in all the pens before bedding. We (meaning mostly Kerry) try to clean our pens between ewes. Also, we (meaning mostly me) check udders twice a day.

Last year our lambing percentage was 200%, so we had several sets of triplets. Usually we pull off the smallest male. If we have just a few lambs to feed, we use baby bottles, but if there are several, the bucket is less work. But bottle babies are another whole article.

Lambing records are kept including birth weights and our rating of the ewes on ease of lambing and maternal instincts. We also weigh lambs at 60 and 120 days. Then we know which ewes need to be culled or put on "probation" for the next year.

I keep a small notebook by our medicines and record all shots and treatments. Later I enter the information into the computer so I can pull up what I did last year for a certain ailment.

Lambing can be intense and tiring. Tempers can get short with short nights and hard work. Discouragement comes when things go wrong. But it's fun to see what our ewes and rams are producing and to pick our "keeper" lambs. And we always marvel at the miracle of birth.

*Continued from page 8...*

## **Feed a Coccidiostat**

It is generally a good idea to feed a coccidiostat (Bovatec®, Rumensin®, or Deccox®) to ewes and/or does during late gestation. All sheep and goats have coccidia in their digestive systems. Feeding a coccidiostat will reduce the number of coccidia being shed into the lambing and kidding environment.

You should continue feeding the coccidiostat through weaning. In addition, there is evidence to suggest that feeding a rumensin during late gestation will aid in the prevention of abortions caused by *Toxoplasma gondii*, which is a coccidia organism harbored by domestic cats.

***Coccidiostats, especially rumensin, can be fatal to equines (horses, donkeys, mules).***

## **Antibiotics**

The use of antibiotics may aid in the prevention of abortions caused by *Chlamydia* (Enzootic/EAE) or *Campylobacter* (vibrio). Chlorotetracycline (aureomycin®) has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to feed to pregnant ewes at a rate of 80 mg per head per day to help prevent abortions. Alternatively, injections of antibiotics (e.g. LA-200) every 2 weeks during late gestation may help to prevent abortions.

## **Shearing**

It is a good idea to shear fiber-producing ewes and does about a month before lambing and kidding. An alternative to shearing is crotching. Crotching is when you remove the wool around the udder and vulva.

There are numerous advantages to shearing prior to lambing and kidding. Shorn ewes put less moisture into the air. Shorn ewes are less likely to lay on their lambs. Shearing results in a cleaner, drier environment for newborn lambs/kids. They are more likely to seek shelter in inclement weather. Shorn ewes take up less space in the barn and around feeders.

Shearing before parturition results in much cleaner fleeces. However, shorn ewes/does will require more feed to compensate for heat loss due to shearing, especially during cold weather. They require adequate shelter.

## **Getting your supplies and equipment ready**

Two weeks before your first ewes and/or does are due to lamb/kid, you should organize your supplies and set up your facilities. While the general rule of thumb is to have one lambing pen per ten females, you may need more if your lambing and kidding is tightly spaced. A lambing pen, also called a "jug," is a enclosure (4 x 5 ft. or 5 by 5 ft) where you put the dam and her offspring together for 1 to 3 days to encourage bonding and for close observation. Even with pasture lambing/kidding, you will want a few pens in case you have some problems.

At least 14 days ahead of time, you should bring your ewes or does to the location where they will be lambing or kidding. This will enable them to manufacture antibodies specific to the environment in which their offspring will be born. Lambing and kidding can occur in a well-bedded barn or on a clean pasture. The area should be dry and protected from drafts.

Here are some suggested supplies to have on hand prior to lambing and kidding:

- Halter
- Propylene glycol or molasses (for treating pregnancy toxemia)
- Calcium borogluconate (for treating milk fever)
- 50% dextrose
- Syringes and needles
- Bearing retainer (spoon) or prolapse harness
- Rubber gloves, protective sleeves, or latex gloves
- OB lubrication
- Nylon rope, snare, or leg puller
- OB S-curve needle
- Towels and rags
- Heat lamp or warming box
- Antibiotics
- Thermometer
- Gentle iodine (or other disinfectant)
- Frozen colostrum (ewe, doe, or cow)
- Lamb/kid feeding tube
- Lamb/kid milk replacer
- Nipples
- Scale and sling
- Ear tags
- Pocket record keeping book

**North American International Livestock Exposition**  
**Louisville, Kentucky**  
**Open Border Leicester Show**  
**Judge: Tor Sorensen, Tuscon, AZ**

**White Yearling Rams**

1. Deakin 08 1380 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
2. Fogle 802 - Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH
3. Deakin 08 1372 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
4. Apple Ridge 825 - Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH



Champion White Ram

**White Fall Ram Lambs**

Deakin 09 1390 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL

**White Early Ram Lambs**

1. Deakin 09 1437 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
2. Deakin 09 1433 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
3. P Hopkins 923 - Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH



Reserve Champion White Ram

**White Intermediate Ram Lambs**

1. Deakin 09 1462 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
2. Deakin 09 1449 Big Guy - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
3. Fogle 842 - Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH
4. Key 1580 RR - Key, Thomas - Great Falls, MT
5. Key 1551 RR - Key, Thomas - Great Falls, MT



Champion White Ewe & Best Head Ewe

**White Late Ram Lambs**

1. Deakin 1492 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
2. Anson 394 - Anson, Diana - Shelbyville, KY
3. Deakin 09 1508 - Korf, Jacob - Delavan, WI
4. Deakin 09 1506 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
5. Anson 396 - Anson, Diana - Shelbyville, KY

**White Pair of Ram Lambs**

1. Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
2. Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH
3. Anson, Diana - Shelbyville, KY

**White Grand Champion Ram**

Deakin 09 1462 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL

**White Reserve Grand Champion Ram**

Deakin 09 1437 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL

**White Best Headed Ram**

Fogle 802 - Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH

**White Early Yearling Ewes**

1. P Hopkins 828 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
2. Fogle 801 - Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH
3. Deakin 08 1344 - Korf, Jacob - Delavan, WI
4. Deakin 08 1324 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL



Reserve Champion White Ewe

**White Late Yearling Ewes**

1. Deakin 08 1359 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
2. Fogle 8 15 - Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH
3. Deakin 08 1371 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
4. Fogle 817 - Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH
5. Deakin 08 1377 - Korf, Jacob - Delavan, WI



Champion Natural Colored Ram & NC Best Fleece

**White Pair of Yearling Ewes**

1. Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
2. Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH
3. Korf, Jacob - Delavan, WI



Reserve Champion NC Ram

**White Fall Ewe Lambs**

1. Deakin 09 1392 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
2. Deakin 09 1391 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL

**White Early Ewe Lambs**

1. Fogle 828 - Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH
2. Deakin 09 1411 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
3. Deakin 09 1439 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL



Champion Natural Colored Ewe

**White Intermediate Ewe Lambs**

1. Deakin 09 1452 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
2. Deakin 09 1454 - Korf, Jacob - Delavan, WI
3. Deakin 09 1444 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
4. Fogle 841 - Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH
5. Deakin 09-1451 - Korf, Jacob - Delavan, WI
6. Fogle 847 - Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH
7. EarlyZNK0036 - Early, Jerry - West Liberty, OH
8. Key 1552 RR - Key, Thomas - Great Falls, MT
9. Key 1567 QR - Key, Thomas - Great Falls, MT



Reserve Champion NC Ewe

**White Late Ewe Lambs**

1. Fogle 852 - Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH
2. Anson 425 - Anson, Diana - Shelbyville, KY
3. Deakin 1507 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
4. Rabbit Creek 926 - Whiteside, Kriston - Spring Creek, NV
5. Anson 415 - Anson, Diana - Shelbyville, KY
6. Fogle 855 - Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH
7. Deakin 1491 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL

**White Pair of Ewe Lambs**

1. Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
2. Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH
3. Korf, Jacob - Delavan, WI
4. Anson, Diana - Shelbyville, KY

**White Grand Champion Ewe**

Deakin 09 1452 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL

**White Reserve Grand Champion Ewe**

Deakin 08 1359 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL

**Best Headed Ewe - White**

Deakin 09 1452 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL

**Best White Fleece**

1. Fogle 8 15 - Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH
2. Deakin 09 1454 - Korf, Jacob - Delavan, WI
3. Deakin 09 1462 - Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL

**White Get of Sire**

1. Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
2. Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH
3. Korf, Jacob - Delavan, WI

**White Flock**

1. Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL
2. Fogle, Marilyn & Gilbert - Raymond, OH
3. Korf, Jacob - Delavan, WI

**White Premier Exhibitor**

Deakin Family Farms - Cuba, IL

**Natural Colored Yearling Rams**

1. BairY1245 - Early, Jerry - West Liberty, OH
2. Tiffany Deakin 08-1366 - Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

**Natural Colored Ram Lambs**

1. Tiffany Deakin 09-1398RR Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

**Natural Colored Grand Champion Ram**

BairY1245 - Early, Jerry - West Liberty, OH

**Natural Colored Reserve Grand Champion Ram**

Tiffany Deakin 09-1398RR - Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

**Natural Colored Yearling Ewes**

1. Tiffany Deakin 08-1365 - Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL
2. Tiffany Deakin 08-1347 - Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

**Natural Colored Pair of Yearling Ewes**

1. Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

**Natural Colored Ewe Lambs**

1. Tiffany Deakin 09-1419 - Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL
2. Tiffany Deakin 09-1403 - Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

**Natural Colored Pair of Ewe Lambs**

1. Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

**Natural Colored Grand Champion Ewe**

Tiffany Deakin 08-1365 - Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

**Natural Colored Reserve Grand Champion Ewe**

Tiffany Deakin 09-1419 - Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

**Best Natural Colored Fleece**

1. BairY1245 - Early, Jerry - West Liberty, OH
2. Tiffany Deakin 09-1403 - Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

**Natural Colored Flock**

1. Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

**Natural Colored Premier Exhibitor**

Deakin, Tiffany - Cuba, IL

2009 New York State Fair Results  
August 27 - September 7, 2009  
Syracuse, New York

Judge: Phil Kin, Upper Sandusky, OH

Border Leicester Show -

- Yearling Ram - 1) Kevin Kron, Alden, NY
- Intermediate Ram Lamb - 1) & 2) Kevin Kron, Alden, NY
- Pair of Ram Lambs - 1) Kevin Kron, Alden, NY
- Grand Champion Ram - Kevin Kron, Alden, NY
- Reserve Champion Ram - Kevin Kron, Alden, NY
- Junior Yearling Ewe - 1) & 2) Kevin Kron, Alden, NY
- Pair of Yearling Ewes - 1) Kevin Kron, Alden, NY
- Junior Ewe Lamb - 1) Kevin Kron, Alden, NY
- Grand Champion Ewe - Kevin Kron, Alden, NY
- Reserve Champion Ewe - Kevin Kron, Alden, NY
- Mixed Pair - 1) Kevin Kron, Alden, NY
- Best Fleece - 1) Kevin Kron, Alden, NY

2009 New Jersey State Fair Results  
August 1 - 10, 2009  
Frankfort, New Jersey

All Other Wool Breeds -

- Junior Ram Lamb
  - 1) Rachael Zeberl, Montague
- Champion Ram
  - Rachael Zeberl
- Yearling Ewe
  - 1) Rachael Zeberl, Montague, NJ
- Junior Ewe Lambs
  - 1) Travis Hirkler, Sussex, NJ
  - 2) Travis Hirkler, Sussex, NJ
- Champion Ewe -
  - Rachael Zeberl, Montague, NJ
- Reserve Champion Ewe
  - Travis Hirkler, Sussex

2009 South Dakota State Fair Results  
September 3 - 7, 2009  
Huron, South Dakota

Border Leicester Show

- Yearling Ram
  - 1) Lindy Krogman, Winner, SD
  - 2) Jesse Brunmeier, Winner, SD
- Junior Ram Lamb
  - 1) Lindy Krogman, Winner, SD
  - 2) Jesse Brunmeier, Winner, SD
- Yearling Ewe
  - 1) Lindy Krogman, Winner, SD
  - 2) Jesse Brunmeier, Winner, SD
  - 3) Jesse Brunmeier, Winner, SD
  - 4) Lindy Krogman, Winner, SD
- Pair of Yearling Ewes
  - 1) Lindy Krogman, Winner, SD
  - 2) Jesse Brunmeier, Winner, SD
- Junior Ewe lamb
  - 1) Lindy Krogman, Winner, SD
  - 2) Lindy Krogman, Winner, SD
  - 3) Jesse Brunmeier, Winner, SD
  - 4) Jesse Brunmeier, Winner, SD
- Pair of Ewe lambs
  - 1) Lindy Krogman, Winner, SD
  - 2) Jesse Brunmeier, Winner, SD
- Pair of Lambs
  - 1) Lindy Krogman, Winner, SD
  - 2) Jesse Brunmeier, Winner, SD
- Young Flock
  - 1) Lindy Krogman, Winner, SD
  - 2) Jesse Brunmeier, Winner, SD
- Breeders Flock
  - 1) Lindy Krogman, Winner, SD
  - 2) Jesse Brunmeier, Winner, SD

5th Annual **National** Plan Now To Attend!  
**Border Leicester**  
**Sale**

SHOW: SATURDAY 9:00 am  
**MAY 29**

SALE: SUNDAY 11:00 am  
**MAY 30**

Judge: Travis Hoffman, Fort Collins, Colorado

Held in conjunction with the  
**GREAT LAKES SALE**  
WAYNE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

**WOOSTER, OHIO**

Auctioneers:  
Gary Saylor & Roger Hunker, OH



2009 National Sale Champion Ewe was bred by Deakin Family Farms, IL & sold to Jacob Korf, WI. She later won Res. Grand Champion Ewe at the Wisconsin State Fair!



Grand Champion Natural Colored Border Leicester Ram was bred by Cape House Farm, MI & sold to Hunter Gibson, NH.

**ALSO FEATURING THE NATIONAL TUNIS SALE**

- plus offering...
- Suffolks • Natural Colored • Corriedales
  - Targhees • Columbias • Rambouillets • Cheviots
  - Merinos • Polled Dorsets • Hampshires
  - Shropshires • Southdowns • Montadales
  - Polypays • Romneys • Icelandics
  - Finnshoop • Crossbreds • Boer Goats
  - Plus Wool & Crafts!

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**American Border Leicester Association  
Board of Directors - Meeting Synopsis  
December 7, 2009**

**Present:** Greg Deakin, Kerry Phelps, Jennifer Bierhuizen, Sue Johnson, JoAnne Tuncy, Sally Barney

The meeting was called to order by President, Greg Deakin. The October minutes, as sent to Directors, were amended and approved with the amendment. The Treasurer's report was discussed and accepted as presented. Greg reported that to date in 2009 ABLA has recorded 689 registrations and 273 transfers. There are 152 paid members for 2009.

**Member Questionnaire:** The Directors unanimously agreed to include a member questionnaire in the renewal packet as a means of gathering member input. It was agreed that the mailing would include a By-Laws ballot as well.

**Newsletter:** It was noted that there is not a good job description for the position of newsletter editor and that a job description is needed. It was moved by Jennifer, seconded by Kerry and voted positively by the Board that Greg and Sue would develop a job description for the position of newsletter editor.

**By-Laws Update:** Sally reported that 66 votes have been cast with regard to the By-Laws amendments; another ballot will go out with the renewal packet.

**Website:** JoAnn asked the Board if they would like her to develop a calendar for the renewal packet like the calendar she developed for 2009. The Board unanimously agreed to have JoAnn develop the calendar and to include it in the membership renewal packet.

**Futurity:** Kerry reported that the period for submitting a show record for the 2009 ABLA Futurity will end on December 31. Kerry will be announcing the results in January.

**Junior Program:** Jennifer reported that Ashley Greene, TN had successfully completed the work and has earned the ABLA Junior Achievement Award.

**NAILE Border Leicester Show:** Greg reported that 80 Border Leicester sheep were exhibited at the North American International Livestock Exposition by 12 different exhibitors. He also shared that in the future the Premier Exhibitor award at NAILE would be calculated on the top 8 placing individuals using the NAILE standard calculating scorecard ... 1<sup>st</sup> -10 points; 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9 points, etc. A tie will be determined by the exhibitor placing higher in the flock class. The exhibitors nominated the following to judge the 2010 National Border Leicester Show at NAILE: 1. Jake Reister, WA, 2. Larry McDaniel, IN, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sam Wiford, OH.

**Maryland Ad Approval:** Greg asked the Board if they would approve the ad for the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival Catalog that had been sent to the Board prior to the meeting. Board members expressed an interest in having adult sheep, rather than lambs, in the ad. Greg agreed to redo the ad and submit the revised ad to the Directors for approval.

**Big E Thank-you:** Sally read a letter from the Agriculture and Education staff at Eastern States Exposition thanking the American Border Leicester Association for holding their National Show at ESE in 2009.

**Confirmation of Sale Location:** Greg confirmed that the National Border Leicester Sale would be held in Wooster, Ohio, over Memorial Day weekend in conjunction with the Great Lakes Sale. Dates are May 29 – 30, 2010.

**Membership Renewal:** Membership renewal will take place in the same time frame as in prior years. The renewal forms, calendar, member questionnaire and By-Laws ballot will be sent by the end of January.

**Board of Director Openings:** It was confirmed that in 2010 Directors Polly Hopkins and Di Waibel will have completed their current terms and voting will take place to fill those positions. Outgoing Directors are eligible to run for these positions.

**ABLA Fleece Show:** It was agreed to once again hold a Fleece Show in conjunction with the National Border Leicester Sale in Wooster, OH. It was suggested that Marilyn and Gilbert Fogle, Raymond, OH. be asked to coordinate that event.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned.

This is a brief summary of the meeting; a complete set of meeting minutes can be found on the ABLA website at [www.ablasheep.org](http://www.ablasheep.org)

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Barney – Recording Secretary



# AMERICAN BORDER LEICESTER ASSOCIATION

## Membership Application

The American Border Leicester Association was founded in 1973 to promote and register Border Leicester sheep in the United States and Canada. Both white and natural colored Border Leicesters are eligible for registry with the ABLA. Our association is experiencing some exciting growth, both in membership and numbers of sheep registered. We invite you to join us!

We provide the opportunity for our members to promote themselves and their farm products through our Member Directory. Please provide the information that you'd like included with your listing. Our membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st.

For more information about Border Leicesters and the American Border Leicester Association, visit our website: [www.ablasheep.org](http://www.ablasheep.org).

New Member

Renewal

Annual Membership \$20.00  
Individual or family

Junior Membership \$15.00  
18 years and under

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Farm/Ranch Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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)

Newsletter	1	2	3	4	5
Promotion/Advertising	1	2	3	4	5
Show Premiums / Awards	1	2	3	4	5
Other (please specify) _____					

Helpful information, but not included in the directory:

Total flock size: \_\_\_\_\_

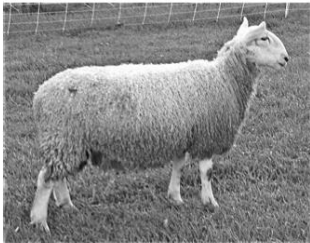
Number of white Border Leicesters ..... Ewes: \_\_\_\_\_ Rams: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of colored Border Leicesters ..... Ewes: \_\_\_\_\_ Rams: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Questions?  
 Contact Polly Hopkins  
 401/949-4619  
 Khop4811@aol.com



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Ram (above @ 5 months) — EWE (below @ 8 months)

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