

the Tunis Shepherd

APRIL, 2004

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.

ISSUE 10

PRESIDENT, KEN MAYS, tells us....

It's been a good year with the Tunis. Our lambing season is over and there are a lot of ram lambs here in Missouri. Like many folks, our lambing season was strung out. There has been a lot of interest in the Tunis. We are fortunate to have an unique product that sells itself. But let me give you a word of caution....don't sell sale barn culls to people getting started.....they don't know what's good but you do.

The election is complete and the new board looks great. Please give your support to your director and also support the National Board's functions. The board needs you. I want to welcome Linda Cook, Barbara Cassell, Nancy Schmidt and Royal Unzicker to the board and I'm glad to be working with Randy Powley again.

Look at your sheep today and see where you've gone this year. I've raised Tunis for 25 years and I'm amazed in the improvement in quality especially in the last 10 years. Pick out the super-mom in your flock and build your flock around her. Every flock has one of these females. Yes, a great ram is worth 50% of the total value of the flock...but a super-mom is priceless. I'm sure there will be some super-females for sale at the National Sale in Wooster....if you need to add that component to your flock.

The new board is in place and ready to go to work at Wooster. Because of our growth, two new regions were established to give better representation for our membership. Each member needs to help their director so their wishes can be heard at the national meeting. The board of directors will meet on Saturday morning and the general membership meeting will be on Sunday morning at Wooster. I have asked Dr. Roy Davis to talk with the group about the newest federal identification system in our future.

I hope to see you at Wooster and I do hope you will join us for the Saturday night meal. There are always a lot of interesting things happening when the Tunis people get together....or when there are Tunis sheep involved. I've heard that an East Coast breeder is now housing black bears with his Tunis flock...so the saying "Every day is a great day when there's a redhead in the barn"....doesn't always apply...if there is a bear in the barn, also!

See you in Wooster!

Kenneth Mays

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Think "Professional"; Think "Positive"

Breed associations have constitutions, membership lists, rules and regulations for conduct of all members, and goals and objectives that are the desired results for those who participate in the organization. Breed associations are professional organizations. The members of any breed association should conduct themselves as professionals.

When problems arise that are of concern to an association, they should be dealt with in a professional manner. Hurling accusations, ostracizing selected members of the organization, and fostering absolutes such as all "show people" cheat and no "production people" advertize the breed, only serve to divide and weaken the organization.

Today's members of the NTSRI are fortunate to have a strong, growing organization built by hard work, attention to the changing sheep industry, and dedicated members willing to serve as its officers and board members.

When members needed support to garner venues to show their stock, as an organization we have supported their efforts, realizing that all members of the NTSRI will benefit from the increased exposure and heightened scrutiny of our productive breed. When members needed a forum to display their productivity records and promote the unique genetics of their flock, the NTSRI has provided more complete newsletters, has fostered the creation/updating of its web site where flock information can be listed, and has promoted the creation of a national Tunis directory, realizing that all members will benefit from the publication of more sources for the exchanging of genetics and more events where Tunis can be presented. Increased attention to the activities of young people in our organization has been fostered by us, realizing that all members will benefit from the new energy, new ideals, and new members brought to the NTSRI.

These are but a few of the many ways the NTSRI has committed itself to the positive approach for resolution of concerns articulated by its members. When problems arise, whether they are related to the administration of the NTSRI, problems with reliability and validity of registration papers, or concerns with the direction the Tunis breed as a whole seems to be advancing, resolutions will be reached more quickly and with better results if cooperation is forthcoming from all members of our organization. When treated to positive attention, positive approaches for resolutions for problems, and positive attitudes from fellow breeders, members are encouraged to participate in and support more fully the NTSRI, realizing that all members will benefit from the increased abilities of the NTSRI to meet the needs of the Tunis breed and breeders.

To whatever extent each member can or will participate in our organization, let's applaud their efforts. It will make our organization stronger, more functional, and better able to promote the Tunis breed and thus secure a rightful place in the industry for our beautiful redheads.

BARBARA CASSELL.....Wytheville, VA

TREASURER'S REPORT:

APRIL 5, 2004

Submitted by Sally Barney

INCOME:

Brochures	\$ 2.00
Credit	\$ 4.00
Checking Interest	\$ 0.67
Savings Interest	\$ 2.02
Memberships	\$ 860.00
NAILE Entry Fees	\$ 66.00
Misc.	\$ 21.00
Registrations	\$ 460.00
Transfers	\$ 180.00
Tunis Directory	\$2,170.00

TOTAL INCOME: \$3,765.69

EXPENSES:

Advertizing	\$ 261.00
Bank Debit	\$ 4.00
Clerk Postage	\$ 110.29
Clerk Salary	\$1,00.00
Clerk Supplies	\$ 76.75
Clerk Telephone	\$ 303.69
Election Copying	\$ 37.97
Election Phone Calls	\$ 20.00
Election Postage	\$ 66.00
Newsletter advance	\$ 100.00
Newsletter envelopes	\$ 15.98
Newsletter postage	\$ 181.89
Newsletter printing	\$ 135.00
News editor salary	\$ 75.00
Owes shows & sales	\$ 122.00
Owes NAILE	\$ 394.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,904.17

ASSETS:

Cash & Bank Accounts	
Acc. #1	\$1,004.56
Acc. #2	\$2,832.77

TOTAL: \$3,837.33

ELECTION RESULTS.....

Region 5 - Royal Unzicker

Region 7 - Nancy Schmidt

Region 10 - Linda Cook

Region 6 - Pandy Powley

Region 9 - Barbara Cassell

I would like to thank and congratulate all of the participants in this year's election for Director in the NTSRI. We had very good participation. Thirteen (13) different people were nominated in twenty five (25) separate nominations. Particular congratulations to the members in Region 7 where there was a very close contest between Louise Dunham and Nancy Schmidt. There were 16 ballots cast in that election where 31 were eligible to vote. The new Directors will take office in May at Wooster. At that time all letters of nomination and all ballots will be available for inspection should anyone so desire.

Sincerely,

Lyle Hotis, New York

.....

THE NEW DIRECTOR FROM REGION 9....Barbara Cassell

Mom's Tunis

Barbara Cassell and Leon, too

2317 Peppers Ferry Road Wytheville, VA 24382

276 228 2862

barbaracassell@hotmail.com

Beginning in 1998 with the purchase of 3 ewes from S & T Tunis, my flock has grown to include ± 35 ewes. My foundation ewes have come from some of the top Tunis flocks of the nation: Barthlomew, Seavey, J & J, S & T, Hotis, and Mayes. I am proud now to say that many of my good flock ewes are "my own breeding"; I now have enough ewe lambs to keep replacements ewes. In 1999 I bought the National Champion Ram at the sale in Syracuse. I now use a son of the 1998 Champion Ram, MTP 3 "Eric", and RQL Farms 1016, "BB", the 2003 National Reserve Champion Ram, as my main herd sires. BB's lambs look really great. He has truly enhanced the wonderful Tunis qualities of my flock. I look forward to seeing the lambs that will carry BB's and Eric's genetics. I feel that my flock will contribute well to future Tunis breeding.

With the support of my family: husband Leon, now retired from the public school system and so spending even more time as the shepherd of our flocks (± 35 Tunis ewes and ± 450 Horned Dorset ewes), daughters Mary Ann, CARD managing therapist, and Diana, accountant, great supporters of all things sheep, and son Paul, attorney, advisor and finder of terrific sheep, I plan to continue the improvement of my Tunis flock. Through diligence to breed character and overall quality of my sheep, I expect to add to the genetic pool of our excellent Tunis breed. I show my Tunis to help create interest in the breed and foster diversity of the gene pool. Tunis should be nourished as production animals, and so my "girls" will have to lamb easy, be good mothers, and be easy keepers.

Many Tunis breeders have helped me with genetics, advice, and paper work. Some of the most accessible have been the officers, clerk, and directors of the NTSRI. That is why, when the opportunity arose, I decided to try to become a director for our association. I'm glad now, as Director for Region 9, to have the opportunity to work on the board of the NTSRI. With the steady hands of our officers at the helm and the dedicated hearts of our directors driving forward, the future of NTSRI looks brighter than ever. Tunis breeders, whether full time shepherds of large flocks or part time shepherds of just a few Tunis, can appreciate the opportunity to network with other breeders, have the historical references for the genetics of their flocks preserved, and profit from the exposure afforded Tunis breeders by the NTSRI.

PLEASE VISIT THE NEWLY REVISED TUNIS WEBSITE.....Patti Brashears has been very busy with this project...and it shows! There is a calendar section...and FREE ADS until June 1st.....www.tunissheep.org

2004 TUNIS FUTURITY

Northeast Tunis Sheep Association

The 2004 Tunis Futurity has been developed to encourage and support youth interest in Tunis sheep. Youth have the opportunity to purchase quality ewe lambs and breeders have the opportunity to promote their breeding, showcase their best and to encourage youth interest in Tunis sheep. Sponsored by the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association, the Futurity is open to all consignors and youth purchasers.

Futurity lambs may be purchased at these designated sales:

National Tunis Show & Sale - May 29 & 30, 2004

Wooster, OH

Empire Spring Classic - June 5, 2004

Cobleskill, NY

New England Sale - July 17 & 18, 2004

West Springfield, MA

CONSIGNOR RULES:

1. Entries are limited to spring ewe lambs born January 1, 2004 and later.
2. Nomination fee is \$25.00 per ewe and payable to: Northeast Tunis Sheep Association. Ewes must be nominated and the nomination fees must have been paid prior to the ewe entering the sale ring; ewes may not be pre-sold but must go through the sale ring at a designated sale. Nomination fees are non-refundable; all nomination fees will go directly to youth participating in the Tunis Futurity.
3. Lambs will be tagged for Futurity purposes after the sale of each sheep. Ewes not tagged on the day of the sale will not be eligible for the Futurity.
4. Ewes must be consigned to one of three designated sales: National Tunis Sale - Great Lakes Sale, Wooster, OH; the Empire Spring Classic, Cobleskill, NY; and the New England Sale, West Springfield, MA.

EXHIBITOR/PURCHASER RULES:

1. Exhibitor must be a junior who has not reached their 21st birthday by January 1, 2004. There is no minimum age limit, but the junior must be capable of showing their own sheep.
2. Only Futurity nominated ewes purchased through the National Tunis Sale - Great Lakes Sale; the Empire Spring Classic; or the New England Sale qualify for the futurity.
3. The exhibitor/purchaser must physically show their Futurity lamb to qualify for points at each show. If the exhibitor has two Futurity lambs in one class, another junior may show the second animal.
4. Ewe lambs must be registered in the individual exhibitor's name only. No farm, family, sibling, partnership, 4-H club or FFA Chapter names accepted.
5. Ewe lambs and points earned in the Futurity are not transferable to any other persons, nor are points earned in the Futurity transferable from one lamb to another.
6. A Futurity entrant may participate with as many Futurity nominated lambs as they desire, but will receive the year end placing for the ewe with the highest cumulative point total. Each junior may win only one award.
7. Ewes must be shown in their proper age class.
8. Prizes will be distributed to the top 7 different participants as follows: first \$200; second \$150; third \$100; fourth \$75; fifth \$50; sixth \$50 and seventh \$25. If more than \$650 in nominations is received the total received will be distributed and the number of youth receiving prizes will increase up to a maximum of 10.
9. Lambs will be tagged for Futurity purposes at the sale after purchase. Lambs must be tagged at the sale or they will be ineligible for the Futurity. Futurity packets will be given to the participants at the time of tagging.
10. A point card must be completed at each show and the original (no copies) mailed to the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association within 14 days of the show. The card must be signed by the show Superintendent certifying that the junior exhibited the Futurity animal; the card must also include class entered, class size, and the placing of the lamb. Point cards are included in the Futurity packet received at tagging.
11. At each show the animal may earn Futurity points from either the open or junior division but not both.
12. No show placings may be submitted for shows occurring before the National Tunis Show - Great Lakes Sale, Wooster, OH.

NATIONAL TUNIS SALE INFO.....

13. Ewe lambs may compete at an unlimited number of shows with only their top 5 point award shows being recorded for the Futurity point total. Ties will be broken by awarding the higher prize to the lamb exhibited at the greater number of shows.

14. Futurity awards will be announced in October at the New York Bred Ewe Sale, Rhinebeck, NY.

15. The sliding scale from which Futurity points will be awarded is as follows:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16+
NUMBER IN CLASS:																
(1-5)	5	4	3	2	1											
(6-10)	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1						
(11-15)		15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

(16+) first place receives points equal to number of ewes in class; rest of class receives the sliding scale of points consistent with last place receiving one point.

2004 Northeast Tunis Sheep Association Futurity Nomination Form

Ewe Lamb Name: _____ Birthdate: _____
 Registration Number: _____

Sire Name: _____ Reg. Number: _____
 Dam Name: _____ Reg. Number: _____

Nominated By: _____ Designated Sale: _____
 Address: _____ Wooster, OH
 _____ Cobleskill, NY
 Phone: _____ W Springfield, MA

Send with \$25 nomination fee to:
 Northeast Tunis Sheep Association
 c/o Jeanne Grenier
 PO Box 304
 North Stonington, CT 06359

Make checks payable to: Northeast Tunis Sheep Association

For Office Use Only

F# _____
 Date Applied: _____
 Applied By: _____
 Purchased By: _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....

FREE ADS (concerning Tunis sheep or sheep equipment) ON THE TUNIS WEB SITE UNTIL JUNE 1ST....Contact
 Patti Brashears at pbrashears@att.net or 865-376-4815 or Louise Dunham at tunis@bright.net or 937-465-8299

FOR SALE: Registered Tunis flock consisting of 17 brood ewes and 3 breeding rams all 3 years old or less. This year's lamb crop consists of 21 lambs which are also for sale. Will sell as a flock or by individuals. This flock is located in Plainfield, NH. Sheep equipment also for sale. Contact Bob Jordan at 603-675-6581

FOR SALE: S & T 1241 "Butch" semen. In just 3 lamb crops, Butch has sired or grandsired Champions & Reserve Champions at all major shows and sales. He is codon tested QR. We will help with AI arrangements & semen transfer. Call Dan or Jacci Erwin at 740-943-3792 or dcerwin@aol.com.

FOR SALE: 2 year old Tunis ram...have two lamb crops from him. Half brother to John Bruns' "Charlie" ram. Will add height and length & has great breed character! Has been successful in the show ring and the breeding pen. Contact: Louise & Jim Dunham at 937-465-8299 or tunis@bright.net. Tests RR. Would deliver to Wooster.

GREETINGS FROM REGION 5.....Don Schrider writes...

I have some very exciting news - I have recently been offered a job with the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy. This means a move to North Carolina for me and it also means that I will not be serving another term as your Regional Director from Pennsylvania. I would like to thank all of you for your support in the last 3 years; it was a pleasure serving as your representative to the Board. I would also like to thank those of you that nominated me for another term of office. It felt good that several of you wanted me to continue.

Things are looking good for our breed. The brochure is finished and contains photos of Tunis from a number of flocks. The breed standard update is complete. The breed scorecard update will soon be accomplished. The constitution and by-laws have been updated. Thanks in part to increased registration and transfer fees the club is sound financially. Interest is ever increasing in these wonderful sheep.

I have read a number of opinions lately in our newsletter and would like to make a few comments of my own. Two newsletters back, Louise published our "Breed Standard in Brief". In this we (I say "we" because I chaired the breed standard revision committee) tried to come up with short descriptions of the most important traits, common, but acceptable faults, and outright disqualification's. Martha Robie is correct that a number of Tunis have been show and even sold that had what I consider foreign color in the red section - black hairs. I do NOT necessarily believe that indicated any recent cross breeding, but rather a failure on the breeders' parts to cull otherwise excellent sheep.

There should be no question in your mind that Tunis today have a colorful and mixed background. It is common knowledge that the original pair was crossed with locally available sheep and it is more than just likely some of these crosses ended up in the gene pool when a formal registry was established. We also know that other breeds were introduced, like the Southdown, along the way to improve meat or wool characteristics.

Our concern should be to take what we have and cull our flocks closely to an idealized standard to improve the overall quality and consistency in our breed. The dark hairs Martha wrote about are certainly a large concern for me because the use of such sheep is breeding away from the desired red color that is the hallmark of this breed. I would much rather use a Tunis with a white blaze down its nose than one with black hairs on its face - but use of either will slow the achievement of developing deep true red color (even though sheep with dark hairs on face and legs appear darker at a distance, they are not as close to the ideal as sheep with a lighter color free of any hint of black.) Let me again remind you that our breed is genetically a black-faced sheep with a modifier gene that suppresses the black and causes it to appear red. When this gene is weak, black hairs show up. This is important because this gene gives our breed its identity and using animals with a weak version of it will cause loss of the primary breed characteristic.

One of the breeders that showed one of the lambs that Martha saw should really know better. But this breeder is not totally to blame as some of the foundation sheep they used are from a line that consistently produces occasional sheep with a gray appearance (because of the black hairs intermixed with the red.) And I have seen examples of this in many flocks over the years. In almost every case, the animals could be traced back to one flock of origin (though it may have been 30 years previous). The other breeder could be as excused as the breed standard update had not been formed yet and they may have simply missed the importance of the fault.

I have also heard of a fairly new breeder proclaiming the superiority of Tunis with some black hairs in face and legs as being darker and thus better - especially for show (as judges are looking for darker red). Well, they are not. A few judges that know nothing of the breed and its genetic makeup may say things along this line, but be assured, following their advice will ruin the true red color.

In short, when the new brochure, or national directory, comes out be sure to read the breed standard and the breed standard in brief and apply these ideas to your flock. Not every ewe is a keeper! We should be learning to breed a richer red color on our sheep but it must be red and not black hairs that give us the richer color.

Now on to Mel Smith's article. Mel made some good points and I, especially, like his ideas about tail docking. But, Mel, you are not being taxed by the show people. The cost of registering a sheep increases the value of that sheep from \$100 - 150 (as a grade mixed breed would bring) to \$250-290. So what if you have 50 ewes and I have 2. Should I be taxed to add value to your sheep? The Board of Directors debated this point and I think the clearest point came from a big breeder out in the Midwest that said, "I think those that benefit most should pay their share." We had to increase either membership fees or registrations/transfers. If you spend too much money registering your sheep to be able to fetch purebred prices, register fewer sheep. Those of us with fewer sheep shouldn't have to bear a bigger percentage - that would be taxing the little guy.

Perhaps Mel also felt that money spent on shows was the cause of the rate increase. Well, it was not. But we must also understand that money spent promoting showing our breed brings it in front of people who do not know it exists and that is the best form of breed promotion. Miki and I saw our first Tunis at a show and we do not show our sheep. We may have gone with a different breed if not for that promotion. I do agree that we should not only advertise our sheep in show publications, and Randy Powley is working on that. The Registry is in the business of breed promotion and showing is one aspect that is economically viable and conducive to breed promotion. This coming from a non-showman!

Perhaps those that feel show-based promotions are costing the club unnecessary expense can offer some thoughts on non-show-based promotion. Without breed promotion none of us will be selling many sheep. Even fewer will be able to charge a fair purebred price. What we need to do is to work together to promote our breed and we need to disseminate information on how we can improve our sheep.

BEST WISHES

Don Schrider

JOZI BEST, a NTSRI Member writes....

Remember please to remind people coming from the north east, Michigan, and even ones coming east on 80 or 90 who could be then coming down route 71 about the detour on route 83 off 71 at Lodi. They should stay on 71 south past Lodi/83 exit and the next exit will be marked for the detour to Wooster.

The magazine will be out in early May. Thanks to all who supported it.

Having the National sale list in the Banner is a real step up for our breed into more mainstream activity. However, the way to ensure a good sale remains for each consigner to do homework beforehand, doing one's own PR work contacting and lining up buyers before the big weekend.

I'd like to repeat my thoughts on expanding The National sale activities over a longer time period so that we could plan a bigger national annual event, so that we would not have to have a meeting on The Sabbath morning, so that there would be more time for the silent auction, so that there could be fun plans for the youth, etc. It should be up to the 'host' group to plan so that it can take best advantage of the local 'color' wherever it is held, so that each year we can look forward to different, new fun and more members will be enticed to join in so that we can all become better acquainted.

About the election. I hope that all the new directors who ran unopposed will come to Wooster with definite choices for alternates and that all directors will work with their alternates so that there will always be a backup who is up-to-date on all the issues at all times. Two heads really are better than one as policies are debated and business is planned. Even then, it is not a guarantee. Last fall's controversy over proxies was never completely reported. Bob did plan with his alternate, but she couldn't come. Then he thought he probably would make it, but wanted me to cover in case he didn't. He could not find a member in his region who was sure to be there AND was informed about all the business to come up AND would vote how he felt his region wanted him to vote. He planned to put it in writing, but circumstances prevented that at the time. Furthermore, there were several precedents when a proxy had stood in while not residing in the region he represented at the meeting.

Finally, we really need to have a written standard operating procedure for conducting elections in order that the election person does not have to invent the wheel every time. Please no offense to Lyle, it is a thankless job. But there are ways to send and receive ballots with a checkoff list to be sure they are from legal members while also maintaining the anonymity of the actual votes. It has been done previously and prevents any doubts about accuracy.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE WILL BE JULY 15TH...

It will contain:

The National Tunis Sale results!

Minutes of the National Board Meeting at Wooster

Letter from our Tunis friend, Don Schrider, from the ALBC

Tunis Interviews from Royal Unzicker & Nancy Schmidt...NTSRI directors

& any other information that the membership sends to me!

Including show & event dates.....

Reports on shows and special Tunis events

LETTERS from our membership!

REMEMBERmy job. as editor, isn't to create the news...but to print it! I need the memberships' help!

THE BREED STANDARD IN BRIEF....List of Faults & Ideal Characteristics

IDEAL CHARACTERISTICS

Calm Disposition
Pink nose & tongue (spots or dark acceptable but not ideal)
Pink skin
Slender face, wider at muzzle
Muzzle deeper than it is wide
Long pendulous ears which droop.... forward at rest: pointed forward when alert
Tan to red face
Silky lustrous hair on face & legs
Hind saddle more than ½ of back length
Rear legs wider than front quarters
Height of the pins equal to or lower than the withers
Straight, resilient pasterns
Hooves dark brown or stripped with beige and brown
Fore flank and hind flank free of wool covered with hair similiar in color to face and legs
Cheeks free of wool
White on crown of head (poll) & tip of tail
Fat tail
Twinning
Out of season lambing

FAULTS

Excessively wide brisket
Prominent brisket
Stiff or weak pasterns
White or black hooves
Cow-hocked or bow-legged
Black or brown spots on... face, legs or in wool.
Scurs ¾" or less in rams
Wedge shaped head
Brown or grey/brown face... & leg color lacking a red hue
Mottled face
Ears other than long & pendulous
Wool on face (except crown)
Wool on ears
Red fiber in wool
Heavy wool below the ... knees and hocks
Dew laps, wrinkles or ioose skin

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Undershot or overshot jaw
Rams with scurs over ¾"
Ewes with any horn
White blaze on face below eye ridges
White or black face
Mottling or white socks on any leg
Spinal deformities (swayback, ridge-back, or lateral curvature.)
One or no testicles
Split scrotum

Undersized or too fine boned.... (reasonable limits of the breed standard to be considered.)
Oversized or coarseness.... (reasonable limits of the breed standard to be considered.)

DO YOUR 2004 LAMBS MEET THESE CRITERIA?

NATIONAL TUNIS SALE CONSIGNORS...at this time...there will be additional entries! If you don't receive your catalog by May 1st...call The Banner!

Bruns Tunis, OH...1 Yr Ram, 1 Yr Ewe, & 3 Spring Ewe Lambs
Kleman Family Tunis, OH...1 Spring Ram Lamb and 2 Spring Ewe Lambs
Fingerlakes Farm, NY...2 Yr Rams, 2 Yr Ewes, and 1 Fall Ewe Lamb
Rocky Road Farm, NH...2 Spring Ewe Lambs
RQL Farms, NJ...1 Yr Ram & 1 Yr Ewe
David Brown Farm, MA...1 Yr Ewe
BesTunis, OH...1 Yr Ram & 2 Spring Ewe Lambs
Meadow Crest Farm, OH...1 Spring Ewe Lamb
Jewel Tunis, NY...2 Spring Ewe Lambs
Busy Corner Farm, MA...1 Yr Ram & 1 Spring Ram Lamb
Sonshine Acres, PA...3 Yr Ewes
R & R Tunis, OH...1 Fall Ram Lamb, 1 Yr Ewe, 1 Fall Ewe Lamb & 1 Spring Ewe Lamb
Hotis Scotch Farm, NY...1 Yr Ram & 1 Yr Ewe
Jacci Erwin Tunis, OH...2 Spring Ewe Lambs
NBS Tunis, OH...1 Fall Ram Lamb, 2 Fall Ewe Lambs & 1 Spring Ewe Lamb
Triangle Farms, IN...2 Spring Ewe Lambs
B-Bar Stock Farm, NY...1 Yr Ram, 1 Ram Lamb, 1 Yr Ewe, & 2 Spring Ewe Lambs
Triple S, MO...1 Yr Ram, 2 Ram Lambs, 2 Yr Ewes & 2 Spring Ewe Lambs
Mom's Tunis, VA...1 Spring Ram Lamb, 1 Yr Ewe, & 1 Spring Ewe Lamb
Dirk Wise, PA...1 Ram Lamb, 1 Yr Ewe, and 1 Spring Ewe Lamb
Larry Coleman, OH...2 Yr Rams
Mayes Tunis, MO...2 Yr Ewes
S & T Tunis, NY...1 Yr Ewe

TO MAKE A NOMINATION FOR THE BRUCE HUNT SHEPHERD AWARD

FOR 2004.....you can nominate any individual that has given outstanding service to the breed and to its members by simply sending a letter of nomination to the secretary for publication in the next newsletter....the Board will then choose the winner and the presentation and plaque will be made at a major show in the fall.... Please nominate them by July 15, 2004!

Isn't there someone you know that deserves this honor? Our 1st nomination is... I would like to nominate Kenneth Mayes for the Bruce Hunt Memorial Award. Most every one knows who Ken is, our current President of the NTSRI, and many of you have had the pleasure to speak with him at one time or another. Robin and I have known Ken and Darlene for a dozen or more years. We were recently reminiscing with Ken and Darlene about how we first got to know one another, the story is a bit foggy, we're not sure who got who involved in what BUT we do know that our friendship that resulted was well worth it.

Ken is a Tunis breeder who is much more than just a breeder of Tunis sheep. He has promoted Tunis to new heights in new ways. Ken would talk to any one who would listen, even if they had never seen a sheep. When Ken would come to the northeast or anywhere across the country to hang with Tunis breeders and watch a show, Ken's Missouri accent was the first thing that people would notice (or not) then they would notice his passion and sincerity when promoting Tunis or just having good ole conversation.

The phrase "let's talk turkey" took on new meaning when Ken got involved in Tunis. Now, all you seem to hear is "let's talk Tunis". There is nothing more important to Ken than family. He has a way of making everyone part of his family. All who know Ken and Darlene already know this but, for those who do not I urge you to lend this man an ear, you won't be sorry that you did.

I am not going to mention the many accomplishments and contributions that Ken has been apart of because that's not what this award is about. I knew Bruce Hunt for many years, as did many of you. He was a man of generosity, sincerity, and loved to live each day to the fullest. I feel that Ken is a man with that same conviction and even though he's from Missouri he is worthy of this recognition.

It is a pleasure to know Ken and most of all to be in his circle of friends (that is one big circle) as well to nominate him for such a meaningful award.

Robin and Dan Swartz
Swartz and Talley Tunis

2004 MEMBERSHIP BLANK...NTSRI.

NAME _____	Individual _____
FARM NAME _____	Farm _____
ST. ADDRESS _____	Family _____
CITY, STATE & ZIP _____	Business _____
PHONE # _____	
E-MAIL _____	

REMEMBER ALL DUES ARE \$10.....Please send to:

Judy Harris, 819 Lyons St., Ludlow, MA 01056

REMEMBER.....3rd Annual Southeast Tunis Breeders Field Day!
Saturday, May 1st Lenoir City, TN

Paul Cassell....speaking about the Embryo Transplant Program
Joe Hall...speaking on Small Animal Nutrition
& Private Treaty trading & sales of quality Tunis animals.
CONTACT: Patti Brashears @ pbrashears@att.net for details

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS....

Emily Boulet, 7227 Hyde Park Rd., Whitehall, MI 49461
Mike & Cheryl Daro, 12898 Sni-a-bar Rd., Wellington, MO 64097
Max Garmon, 13023 Twp Rd 80, Kenton, OH 43326
Dana N. Gochenour, 971 Patmos Rd., Woodstock, VA 22664
Mike & Ruth Harper, 65 Honey Pot Rd., Southwick, MA 01077
Dillon Harris, 819 Lyons St., Ludlow, MA 01056
Sabina Markall, Rt #16, Site #11, Box 46, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada P7B6B3
Judith Minor-Roberts, Rt #7, Box 267B, So. Charleston, WV 25309
Kim & Jeanine Radel, E6067 Hwy W C, Spring Green, WI 53588
Jerry Schwartz & Chantal Sigelman, 168 State Line Rd., Vesta, NY 13850
Dave Settlemire & Family, 6250 Madden Rd., Lima, OH 45806
Matt & Lisa Soden, 8940 Snowdell Rd., French Village, MO 63036
Troy Staples, RR #1, Box 1345, Penobscot, ME 04476
Erin Straut, 135 Gray Lane, Jacksboro, TN 37757



Judy Harris, NTSRI Clerk writes....

Here's a few instructions when filling out your registration form and transfers:

#1 The registration forms have to be filled out for new registrations only. If you are registering older ewes with the new lamb crop....please put them on the form starting with the oldest first.

#2 When doing transfers, no form is necessary. Just fill out the back of the official registration and send it to me. It is very important that the transfer is signed by the seller and dated with the date you bought the sheep. Please make sure that the new owner is listed exactly how you want it to appear on the registrations.

#3 If you buy a bred ewe, you are listed as the owner of the new lambs on the registration form, but not the breeder. The breeder is the person you bought the bred ewe from.

#4 If you have already sold the lamb before you register it, you can register and transfer that lamb at the same time. It has to be treated like a regular registration. You are the breeder and the owner. In the column on the far right of the registration form, put who you sold the sheep to and the date of the sale. The date of the sale is very important. The price for this process is \$8. (\$4 for the registration and \$4 for the transfer.)

#5 Remember the Board of Directors voted as of February of 2003 to increase the amount of registrations and transfers to \$4 each. The membership fee remains the same at \$10. The price increase was due to the increase in the postal rates. We still have lower fees than most of the other breeds. Hopefully, we can stay at these fees for a while. Our increase in 2003 was our first since 1992.

#6 Filling out the registration form. Please be very careful to fill in all the appropriate columns. Flock Name - must be filled out and be only 12 spaces.

Number - This is the tattoo or ear tag number given to each sheep.

Sex - ram or ewe.

Date Born - Very important...make sure and give the year, too.

Type - Single, put S; Twin, put TW; Triplet, put TR.

Sire - Name and Flock Number and the NTSRI number - this number is very important, please double check that number.

Dam - Name and Flock Number and the NTSRI number.

Ownership Transfer - to be filled out only if the animal is sold. Please take extra time and double check all your information to make sure it is correct. If you have any questions when filling out this form, don't hesitate to call

#7 Rush Work and Routine Work - Please put rush work and routine work in separate envelopes. Mark Rush on the outside of the envelope. Rush work is usually 7 to 10 days. Routine work is 21 days. Please allow deliver time. It usually takes 3 or 4 days for me to receive your envelope and then another 3 to 4 days in the mail again.

#8 If you have any questions, please call me.

Sincerely, Your Registry Clerk Judy Harris

NATIONAL TUNIS SALE INFO.....

WAYNE CO. FAIRGROUNDS...WOOSTER, OHIO - May 29th & 30th!

SATURDAY, MAY 29TH

8:00 AM All sheep are in the barn
9:00 AM NTSRI Directors meeting at the fairgrounds
1:00 PM SHOW....Tunis are first!
6:30 PM SUPPER INFORMATION....Everyone is invited!

Please make plans to eat supper with us at the Amish Door Restaurant....5 miles east on St. Rt. 30. The group will have a private dining room with a two meat family style meal with noodles, dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, dessert & drinks....all for one price. PLEASE get your tickets at the show on Saturday or pay OTSA that night. \$14.00 for adults...includes tax and tip and \$7.00 for those under 12. OTSA will write one check to the restaurant. Casual dress....The meal will be served at 7:00 pm

SUNDAY, MAY 30th

9-10:00 AM Rolls & Coffee....Tunis pen area
9:30 AM NTSRI Membership meeting in the show room.....
Everyone is encouraged to attend & see the NTSRI Board in action!
11:00 AM Used sheep equipment auction
1:00 PM SALE.....same order as the show **TUNIS FIRST!**

ALSO.....a 50-50% cash raffle on Sunday morning to benefit the OTSA Jr Member Association & a SILENT AUCTION from 9-12 Sunday!

MOTELS IN WOOSTER...Headquarters...Amerihost Inn North....330-345-1500 @\$63.00 for 2 double beds.

Also...Best Western...330-264-7750

Super 8...330-264-6211

Econo-Lodge...330-264-8883

Hampton Inn...330-345-4424

or AmeriHost #2...330-262-5008

DETOUR.....DETOUR.....THERE IS A MAJOR DETOUR INTO WOOSTER IF YOU ARE COMING FROM THE NORTH ON ST. RT 83!

IF YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER, you will be receiving a **National Sales Catalog** by the end of April from the Banner Sales Management or you may go on line to view the catalog at www.bannersheepmagazine.com.

\$100....SALES CREDITS FOR ANY YOUTH

PURCHASING A TUNIS @ WOOSTER!

Remember the National Tunis Sheep Registry will give one \$50 sales credit at the National Sale in Wooster on May 30th. The Ohio Tunis Sheep Association will give two \$25 sales credits at the National Sale also so

3 different youth will win!

Need not be NTSRI members to enter or win!
Youth ages 21 and under!

Youth need not be present but must have a separate buyer's number in the youth's name to qualify.

SEE YOUR NTSRI DIRECTOR AT WOOSTER FOR AN ENTRY BLANK!

THE NEW DIRECTOR FROM REGION 10....Linda Cook

Linda Cook, 1725 W. CR 450N, Muncie, IN 47303 765-288-7829

Linda Cook of Triangle Farms Tunis lives in Muncie, Indiana. Although she previously raised Montadale sheep, Linda currently has 30 head of adult sheep including Tunis, registered Suffolk and commercial suffolk on her 15 acre farm. Her Tunis flock consists of 8 breeding ewes with her current lamb crop sired by "Vern", the Bruns Tunis ram that was the 2003 National Tunis Sale Champion ram at Wooster.

Linda says that she acquired her first Tunis at a sale in Illinois from S & T Tunis and Mayes Tunis about 6 or 7 years ago. She was attracted to their unique color and disposition. Hopefully, she would like to increase the number of breeding ewes and improve the quality of her show flock because she loves to show the Tunis sheep and wool fleeces.

When asked about what advice she would give to new breeders, Linda says "Acquire sheep that suit your goal....and sheep that adhere to the breed characteristics." And when asked what perfect answer she still needs for her Tunis...she jokingly responds "How can I win the big shows?" Even though Linda is an 18 year veteran police officer with the Muncie, IN Police Department serving as a supervisor of the investigative unit investigating crimes against children....she still displays a great sense of humor. Her husband, Jerry, works as an investigator with the Delaware County Prosecutor's office.

When asked about personal traits that she brings to the NTSRI, Linda says that she is organized, professional in her conduct, a good communicator and listener besides loving to travel and show my sheep. (And I agree!) Linda would like to continue to promote the Tunis breed and to establish a show at the Indiana State Fair. She would like to get more people interested in raising Tunis and attending shows to promote their flock.

When asked why a person who has just 4 Tunis should join the NTSRI, Linda writes, "Because it would keep them up on the Tunis news, shows and sales.....would keep them up to date on the breed characteristics, and would keep them in the know of where the breed is heading." The club is definitely heading in the right direction with Linda as one of their directors! Good luck, Linda!

LOUISE'S LITTLE BIT.....

"Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming---WOW---what a ride!!!!" This motto really sums up Jim and my attitude about life...we're going to work very hard to live life to the fullest and to do the things we love to do...so we are adding to our flock! We had a great group of ewe lambs born this winter...so we are keeping them! And to give us more breeding age females.....we're going to Wooster (& Cobleskill the following week) with an empty truck and a full checkbook! So we may not have any ewes to sell this year...but check us out next year...we'll have lots of lambs to sell if we get enough brood ewes to fill the new barn!

I want to congratulate Nancy Schmidt on winning the election for Region 7. Since Nancy has been involved for many years with the Tunis breed, she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. It was amazing that more than 50% of the Ohio membership voted and that still meant only 16 ballots! So you can see that it is true...every vote counts! Thanks for taking the time to express your opinion. Thank you for your support over the years. I leave this position with lots of good experiences and good friends....Good luck, Nancy.

And so life goes on....as Jim has been building shelters in each of our pastures, he has had me fertilizing and seeding new areas...by hand, of course. He says that it is a cheap exercise program for me but maybe it is just one more way to totally use up this old body as I slide thru life...with a red head in tow. See you at Wooster.

NEXT NEWSLETTER....JULY 15TH

CATHARINE JOHNSON OF KEARNEYSVILLE, WV...writes in an e-mail to Jozi Best....

I applaud the National Tunis directory, the newsletters, and the articles showing up all around. I want more information about Tunis.

I am responding to your request for information about where we are planning to exhibit Tunis. I think the article is much needed. Only a small portion of the members names are showing up in the newsletter as participating in the show ring. There are a lot of reasons for this and all need to be recognized. The lack of attending national shows should not be viewed as a negative for our breed. There is a place for all of us. How many members attend the national shows and meetings without their sheep? I think the members ARE showing their sheep locally and need an avenue to tell about it.

I find that local exposure is the best for Southwood Farm Forge. We hold a studio tour/farm day the 2nd weekend of November each year at our farm with an attendance of 500 cars. We host several workshops during the year. Our farm is also the home of a Blacksmith shop. We promote heritage tourism, conservation genetics, American heritage rare breeds, conservation agriculture, American history, and education. Our sheep are Tunis.

Your request for this directory has intrigued some thoughts. Communication and education are keys to the strength of the NTSRI organization and the breed. I find the member contributions to the newsletter to be very helpful. Sometimes I do not understand the information in the newsletter because I have not attended a Tunis show or meeting. I am confident that this will improve with time. It is good to hear about each others methods, trials, and successes. The folks that purchase breeding sheep need this information. A survey of new buyers would probably show that some are new at farming. Farms are disappearing by the thousands and a few good hearted people are holding on by a thread....

Future topics that I would like to see discussed more are genetic information, Tunis history, where were the flocks 10 years ago? 20 years ago? Parasite control and marketing data. How many Tunis are sold each year as breeders? How many are sold as market lambs? What are the flock sizes? How do we rate on the Scrapie Flock statistics? Do we carry the Scrapie gene in our genetics? Is anyone having trouble with processing and marketing the meat or wool? These are just a few of my curiosities.

Our family schedule and budget does not lend itself to traveling and showing sheep away from home. My plea to the NTSRI is more promotional materials, brochures, posters, and pertinent items that can be used to promote the breed here at our home. The newsletters' financial report showed income but did not note expenses of the organization. I support the competition shows, however, with 264 members I suspect that we all could benefit from promotional materials. Some of the show money could help my local show by providing promotional items. A PDF file of the logo would be a good start. This directory will go a ways to help, too.

To summarize this email, Communication and information transfer is key to this organization. Promotional materials, pedigree/registry information, the newsletters, magazine articles, internet, and membership support are the most important tools that NTSRI has to offer. I think the competition shows are important, however, my farm and my customers benefit more from the communication and local promoting. I suppose MA and OH started as a small local concept and then geographical enhanced with the location of the National Shows. Once more of us become great at local promoting, we could host a National show in our region.

Catharine asks that anyone having a comment on her ideas/article to respond to her at swoodfarmforge@outdrs.net. She also writes..."I do not think that the directors should be doing all of the work for the organization. I have some skills in the area of designing posters, brochures, etc. and would be willing to help." ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP? Please let Catharine know of your interest.

NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXHIBITION

in Louisville, KY **SHOW DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO.....**

Wednesday, Nov. 17th at 2:00 pm! That's a move up!

YOUTH MEMBERS.....You asked for it...now you got it.....

NAILE JUNIOR TUNIS SHOW FOR 2004! The club needs to have at least 6 exhibitors to show at least 25 sheep to keep this show! Let's make a big impression at the 1st NAILE JR Show with 50 head (we need to set the goal high!)...Let's take NAILE by storm. More details later as they are finalized. The NTSRI Show Committee...Dan Kleman, Roy Davis & Peter Harris

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.

Louise Dunham, Editor

8566 Co Rd 28

Zanesfield, OH 43360

tunis@bright.net

FIRST CLASS:

www.tunissheep.org

NTSRI CALENDAR:

APRIL, 2004

May 1st	SE Tunis Breeders Field Day.....Lenior City, TN Contact: Patti Brashears @ pbrashears@att.net
May 9th	NORTHEAST TUNIS SHEEP ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING Held in conjunction with the NH Sheep & Wool Festival...Hopkinton Fairgrounds, Contoocook, NH Coffee at 10:00 am Meeting starts at 10:30 am Contact: Sally Barney@comcast.net
May 29th & 30th	NATIONAL TUNIS SALE.....Wooster, OH
June 5th	EMPIRE SPRING CLASS SHOW & SALE Cobleskill, NY Contact Jim & Lois Goblet...518-295-7188 or www.empirespringclassic.org
July 16th & 17th	NEW ENGLAND SALE....Eastern States Exposition Grounds....W. Springfield, MA Contact Becky Peterson 413-624-5562
July 15th & 18th	NATIONAL TUNIS YOUTH SHOW....@ New England Sale Youth Show...W. Springfield, MA Contact Jeannie Grenier 860-535-2489
Aug. 6th-10th	OHIO STATE FAIR...Fairgrounds Columbus, OH Judging Aug. 8th Contact Louise Dunham or www.ohiostatefair.com
Aug. 14th	GREAT LAKES REGIONAL TUNIS SHOW...Mercer Co. Fair, Celina, OH Contact John Bruns @ 419-925-4712
Sept. 5th	NORTHEAST REGIONAL TUNIS SHOW...Woodstock Fair, Woodstock, CT Contact www.woodstockfair.com
Sept. 25th	NATIONAL TUNIS SHOW...Eastern States Exposition...8:30 am W. Springfield, MA Contact www.thebige.com/agriculture.html after May 15th.
Nov. 17th	NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXHIBITION...Louisville, KY
