

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.

July, 2004

Issue 11

PRESIDENT, DAN SWARTZ, writes....

I would like to thank the membership for their support of the National Tunis Show and Sale in Wooster, Ohio for making it a major success and especially for the support of the Ohio group for their efforts in organization and a wonderful dinner the previous night.

We now have additional directors to better represent the general membership. The direction and future of the association is dependent on the input and support of the entire membership. The directors are elected by their region to support the ideas of their region and foster the advancement of the association.

As the NTSRI continues to grow, when most breed associations are shrinking, it is very important that we work together to optimize our growth in a positive direction. We, as an association, are in the process of a series of changes in hopes of controlling this growth in a positive manner. These new directions include an additional yearly publication (The Tunis Spirit), new association pamphlets, updating of the breed standard, updating of the NTSRI constitution, a new focus and emphasis on our 3 national events (Show and Sale, Show and Junior Show) and many other items. A major component of these changes includes an increased involvement of the general membership. We are going to request more support in the form of ideas, volunteers, and yes, donations. Growth requires an investment before the returns can be counted, it is in this time that participation from the membership will be highly sought.

The shows are in full swing at this time and I wish all much success. This is the time we get to reap our rewards and find out how successful our breeding programs have been. I will make two comments concerning the shows: As a past president and current promoter, Ken Mayes, always stated that the kind of sheep you should raise are the ones that you enjoy looking at each and every day NOT necessarily what someone else likes to look at (you are the one paying the feed bill.) Second, the shows are one of our best means of advertising, let's put our forward our best display of animals and showmanship. We are all proud to be breeders and supporters of Tunis sheep.

Have a great rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing many of you at our National Tunis Show in Springfield, Mass.

Sincerely, Dan Swartz

REMEMBER....The National Show is scheduled for 8:30 AM Saturday, Sept. 25th. There will be Tunis exhibitors in the Lead Line Classes that follow the National Show and the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association will be holding a Silent Auction!

NEWS FLASH....

There were 75 Tunis entered in the National Junior Show in W. Springfield, MA this past weekend...don't have the list of winners yet.

SALES INFO....Champion Ram was an Alanda Farm late spring ram lamb from John Buffington, N. Dighton, MA which sold for \$225. The Reserve Champion Ram was the late spring ram lamb consigned by 1.43 Acres Farm, Joe & Joan Seavey, Canton, NY which sold for \$350. The Champion Ewe was a yearling ewe consigned by Old Glory Farm, The Howe Family, Wayland, NY...she sold for \$500. The Reserve Champion Ewe was the yearling ewe consigned by Jan Smith, J & J Farm, Norton, MA and she sold for \$225.00

The youth buyer's credit for \$50 was won by Emily Gibson of Lee, NH.

NTSRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.....

NATIONAL TUNIS SALE...Wooster, OH

May 29th, 2004

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Swartz, Sally Barney, Bob Bartholomew, Randy Powley, Gary Grenier, Louise Dunham, Royal Unzicker (Proxy for Don Schrider) and Roy Davis (Alternate for Ken Mayes). Judy Harris, Linda Cook, Barbara Cassell, Nancy Schmidt, Jozi Best, Dan Kleman, Peter Harris, Martha Robie, Joe Seavey & Lyle Hotis were in attendance as requested for committee reports or incoming directors along with a large number of interested NTSRI members.

Dan Swartz, Vice President, opened the meeting at 9:10 am in the absence of the president, Ken Mayes (absent because of health problems). Directors reported Tunis happenings, growth and upcoming events in their districts. At this time, Dan discussed the possibility of allowing the two newly elected directors from the two newly created districts to take part officially in the meeting at this time. Louise moved that the two directors from District 9 & 10 be allowed to officially take their position on the NTSRI Board at this time. Bob seconded it and this motion was passed by a vote of 5-3. Linda Cook and Barbara Cassell were asked to give Directors reports at this time.

Secretary's Report: Louise reported that the minutes of the previous Board meeting had been corrected and printed in the newsletter. She also stated that she had a file of secretary's minutes, etc. to pass on to the new secretary.

Treasurer's Report: Sally distributed two handouts showing our financial activity for discussion. She reported that the NTSRI has \$1,006.20 in savings and \$1,810.04 in checking with all bills previously received paid. Bob moved that we accept this report and Linda seconded it. This was passed.

Clerk's Report: Judy distributed her report of activity for the past year. There was a lengthy discussion about accepting faxes to register/transfer animals to reduce time with no decision made because payment of fees is often the cause of a delay. Barbara moved that we accept the report and Royal seconded it and the motion was passed.

News Editor's & Web Site Report: Board members made many positive comments about Patti Brashear's work with the web site. Louise reported that we are getting several inquiries each week for newsletters and other information from the web site. Louise reported that each 5+ page newsletter costs the club approximately \$1.10 per copy and asked the board to consider sending the newsletter via e-mail to cut costs. Louise was asked to create a list of which members are interested in this service and to develop a plan for discussion at the National Show. Gary moved that this report be accepted and Barbara seconded it. Passed.

Youth: Martha Robie, 2004 Youth Representative, updated the board on her Tunis activities. Kathleen Freeman thanks the board for her support with a Tunis display that she was doing at a state park.

Election Results & Bruce Hunt Memorial Award: Lyle Hotis informed the board that he had received one nomination for the Bruce Hunt Memorial Award but would accept any other nominations by July 15th.

Lyle reported that Linda Cook would serve one year as Director for District 10 due to the three year rotational schedule and that Barbara Cassell would serve three years as Director for District 9. There was discussion concerning election security and how to notify districts if there was no vote needed. The board suggested that this statement be placed on the nomination form."Members will not receive a ballot if only one person is nominated and is running unopposed". Because there were several districts with just one person running for the director's position, there are no alternates for that district. Directors from District 6, 9 & 10 were asked to name alternates by the next newsletter as these people will be listed in the newsletter. For clarification, Dan informed us that if there is no alternate named by the director, the president has the right to appoint a proxy/alternate for a national board meeting. Bob moved and Linda seconded that the Board accept Lyle's report. Motion passed. Lyle will serve as election commissioner for 2005.

Brochures: Judy Harris distributed the sample brochures that were provided by Ken Mayes. After a quick review, Louise moved that, with the addition of the web site address on the mailing portion, the board accept the brochures as printed. Royal seconded it and this was passed. Bob questioned the delay as he thought the board was under the impression that these were to be printed in January. The Board thanked the committee: Don Schrider (absent), Julie Jones (present) & Judy Harris (present) for their work.

Show Committee: Dan Kleman, Peter Harris and Roy Davis presented their requests for show sponsorships for this show season. There was a great deal of discussion about the money generated at the North American Livestock show not matching the NTSRI premiums donated for that show. After hearing from those involved, it was reported that not all exhibitors have paid in the past the \$6 per animal entered fee to the NTSRI so the club has not always received all money as entitled. It was decided that the show committee and specifically, the NAILE Tunis Show Superintendent will work with the clerk to match lists and to collect all entry fees owed to the NTSRI. Sally expressed the feeling that we need to do a better job of supporting our NTSRI national open and national youth show. Louise moved and Barbara seconded the motion to accept this report. It was passed.

NTSRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.....

Newsletter & Web Site Committee:

Louise Dunham & Patti Brashears

This committee is asked to come up with pricing for ads on the web site and in the newsletter. Barbara moved and Nancy seconded that the board accept these committee assignments. Motion passed.

To make the transition smoother when officers are changed, Randy moved that we change the NTSRI fiscal year to starting July 1st each year. The outgoing treasurer will serve until June 30th. Bob seconded it and this was passed.

The board discussed the location of upcoming NTSRI shows for the year 2005 and determined that the three major shows/sales should be in three different locations. Discussions centered around timing in regards to possession dates for youth members; money requirements; support of the site, and various other items. Sites considered for the national sale were: Great Lakes Sale, Empire Spring Classic, Breed shows in Springfield, IL and the Midwest Ram sale in Sedalia, MO. Sites considered for the national youth sale were: the New England Show & Sale in July, the Empire Spring Classic, Keystone International in PA and the NAILE Jr Show. Places considered for the national open show were: The Big E in W. Springfield, MA, NAILE in Louisville, and the Ohio State Fair. Bob moved that for 2005 we have the national open class show at NAILE in Louisville, KY; the national youth show at the New England Show & Sale in W. Springfield, MA and the sale at the Great Lakes sale in Wooster, OH. Linda seconded it and this was passed by a vote of 5 in favor, 2 opposed and 1 abstaining.

Bob encouraged tunis breeders to use the New York Sheep & Wool web site at www.sheepandwool.com to promote our product and to take advantage of their promotional advertising items. This site will also promote the New York Bred Ewe and Ewe Lamb Sale. Barb moved that we sell the additional directories for \$1 apiece in lots of 5 with no more than 5 to a breeder. Bob seconded it. And this was passed. They may be obtained from the clerk, Judy Harris.

Louise was excused from the meeting and her performance was evaluated as news editor. After discussion, the board would like for Louise to continue in this position.

Elections for officers were then held. Dan Swartz was elected president; Randy Powley was elected vice president; Barbara Cassell was named as secretary and Sally Barney will continue as treasurer. Dan thanked everyone for their efforts. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

BOB BARTHOLOMEW, DIRECTOR OF REGION 3, WRITES...

Exciting news!!! In case you haven't already heard Tunis will be the featured breed at next year's (2005) New York State Sheep and Wool Festival and the New York Bred Ewe and Ewe Lamb Sale. The dates will be October 14-16, 2005 (always the third weekend in October.) If you have not had the opportunity to get to our Festival, it is one of the best and we now have MORE vendors than that other festival that gets lots of press. Along with the wool festival and commercial exhibits and all of the other activities that go along with that, we also host the NY Bred Ewe and Ewe Lamb Sale and very competitive dog trials. The Dutchess County Fairgrounds in historic Rhinebeck is one of the nicest in the country. (I am not just saying that because I am a member of the fair society, but I have judged shows at countless fairgrounds all over the country and have only seen a small handful that are nicer.) Also, mid October is right around the peak of fall colors here in our area, so its a nice time to visit the Hudson Valley.

As the featured breed, all of the Festival merchandise will feature Tunis, that includes the shirts, tote bags, hats and anything else they have printed to promote the festival. We will also be featured on a new calendar which will be available in August (next month) that will include management tips as well as festival dates and photos of Tunis and other breeds of sheep and fiber species. We will be provided the opportunity to have a regional show on Friday, with prize money sponsored by the Sheep and Wool Festival. Sheep shown in this regional show WILL NOT BE SOLD. There will be separate sale classes as usual for brood ewes, yearlings, and ewe lambs. The sale will be on Saturday morning and all show and sale sheep will be released at the conclusion of the sale on Saturday. This is an excellent chance to showcase our sheep at one of the premier festivals in the country. There will be much more information to follow. I realize that it is 15 months away but we wanted folks to know way ahead of time so they can make plans to attend. Watch the newsletter for further details.

By the way, this year's festival will be October 15-17 and the featured breed is Rambouillet. Visit the website for more information and any questions you may have or to take advantage of our excellent advertising program....www.sheepandwool.com. If you need to talk to someone, you can contact me at 518-392-0393 home or 518-755-1701 cell phone or Julie Jones at 845-756-4100.

Hope to see you all in Rhinebeck for a great weekend in 2005!

NTSRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.....

Tunis Directory Report: Jozi Best reported that the "Tunis Spirit" had been mailed to the membership. She and Sally reported that the Directory had been self supporting and that only problem had been that our club had been charged sales tax (but this problem is being worked on at this time.) Jozi reported that the 510 copies had cost us \$3,318.00 and had generated \$3,500.00 in ads. After the board thanked Jozi for her efforts and commented on the high quality of this product, discussion centered around several issues: how do we distribute the extra copies?; should we include the brochure in the directory?; does this publication belong to the NTSRI?; can the placement of the ads be rotated or how will the placement be selected in the future?; the need to list ad prices for all placements including the inside front cover.; and the NTSRI Board's need for articles from a variety of members. The Board asked Jozi to do this directory again and asked that she select a NTSRI board member to work on her committee to maintain communication. Dan strongly supported the statement that this "Tunis Spirit" was a National Tunis Sheep Registry, INC. publication and that we needed to provide more organized support for this effort.

Youth Report: Joe Seavey encouraged youth members to apply for youth representatives and for NTSRI scholarships. He reminded us that we need as a board to support our youth. It was suggested that we allow/encourage our members to send a donation to the youth fund along with their membership dues. The editor will add these spaces to the membership blank in the newsletter. Randy moved and Barbara seconded this motion. It was passed.

Old Business: The Board members serving on the board in December, 2003 signed the new constitution. The secretary will send this document to the two directors not in attendance.

New Business: At this time, Nancy Schmidt, who replaces Louise Dunham, as director of Region 7 and Royal Unzicker, who replaces Don Schrider, as director of Region 5, were asked to take their places officially on the board. Louise was asked to continue to take the minutes of the meeting.

Judy Harris told the board that it would cost \$761 to print 1,000 brochures; \$905 to print 2,500 copies or \$1,138 to print 5,000. After discussing several distribution issues with the new brochure, Randy moved that we purchase 5,000 copies of the new brochure with one copy sent free of charge to anyone inquiring about Tunis and selling 20 copies of the brochure for \$5 to anyone wanting to use them to promote their breed. Royal seconded it. And this was passed.

After a lengthy discussion, this budget was passed on a motion made by Barbara and seconded by Nancy:

INCOME:

Memberships	\$2,300
Pedigrees	\$ 100
Registrations	\$5,300
T-shirts	\$ 50
Transfers	\$2,900
Interest	\$ 15
Web Ads	\$ 35
Transfer from Savings	\$ 738
TOTAL:	\$11,438

EXPENSES:

Advertising	\$ 800
Clerk Expenses	\$1,800
Clerk Stipend	\$3,500
Domain Renewal	\$ 25
Election Expense	\$ 175
Internet Service	\$ 600
Newsletter	\$1,500
Printing	\$ 450
Sales & Service	\$ 800
Youth Ambassador	\$ 200
Youth Scholarship	\$ 250
Youth Buyers Credit	\$ 200
Brochures	\$1,138
TOTAL:	\$11,438

This motion was passed. The meeting was recessed at 12:50 PM for the show & sale.

When the meeting was resumed at 4:00 PM, these committees were appointed:

Show Committee: Peter Harris, Dan Kleman, & Roy Davis

This committee was asked to present at the September meeting, guidelines & criteria for selecting sites for the national shows & sale starting in 2006. The committee is to consider length of time for a site to host a show/sale; where it rotates and when ; and the procedure for applying.

Election Committee: Lyle Hotis

Youth Committee: Joe Seavey

Tunis Directory: Jozi Best

And Jozi is asked to outline the support needed from the board and to make a list of potential committee members including a NTSRI board member. This needs to be reported at the September meeting.

Youth Fund Committee: Sally Barney & Judy Haas

This committee will be in charge of coming up with suggestions to raise money for youth activities.

Constitution and By-laws Committee: ??

MINUTES FROM THE 2004 NTSRI General Membership Meeting

Sunday, May 30th Wooster

The 2004 General Membership Meeting of the NTSRI was called to order by Dan Swartz, President, at 9:37 am on Sunday, May 20, 2004 at the Great Lakes Show and Sale in Wooster, OH. Dan thanked the Ohio association for their hard work and great results in hosting the National Sale and wished everyone "a good sale today." Dan then gave a summary of the Board of Directors Meeting held the day before. He introduced the ten directors for 2004 and the officers of the board (Dan Swartz, President; Randy Powley, Vice President; Sally Barney, Treasurer; Barbara Cassell, Secretary) and the committee chairpersons, and Judy Harris, Clerk, and Martha Robie, the 2004 NTSRI Youth Representative. Dan then summarized the reports given at the Directors' Meeting.

A few key points mentioned were as follows:

- #1) Sally Barney, Treasurer, reported a "tight" budget with the probability of the necessity of dipping into the Savings Account for payment for the new brochures. All members will receive a copy of the brochure, new members will be sent a copy, and additional copies may be purchased by ordering from Judy in lots of twenty (20) brochures for \$5.
- #2) Louise Dunham, News Editor, reminded everyone of the July 15 deadline for the next Newsletter and urged everyone to visit the NTSRI Website at www.tunisheep.org.
- #3) Peter Harris and Dan lead the discussion of the Show Committee Report with the major consideration being that after all previous commitments are met, the NTSRI will monetarily support only the three national events: the National Show, the National Junior Show, and the National Sale. For 2005, the National Show will be at NAILE, the National Junior Show will be at the New England Junior Show, and the National Sale will be back at the Great Lakes Show and Sale.
- #4) Dan thanked Jozi Best for her hard work on the Directory, noting that the Directory was self-supporting. Dan also noted that all members will receive a copy of the Directory in the immediate future and additional copies may be ordered for \$1 each with no more than five (5) ordered at one time.
- #5) Sally Barney noted that she is chairperson for the new fund raising committee, primarily directed to youth activities and that she will be calling for support!
- #6) Bob Bartholomew noted that in 2005, Tunis will be the featured breed at the New York Sheep and Wool Festival at Rhinebeck, NY (Bred Ewe Sale). Bob also spoke of advertising opportunities associated with this event and directed members to the website for future information. www.sheepandwool.com
- #7) Sally Barney reported that all spring ewe lambs in the sale were Futurity nominated.
- #8) Lyle Hotis asked everyone to consider nominees for the Bruce Hunt Shepherd Award. He noted that one (1) person has been nominated but more nominees can be considered for future years. Joe Seavey then spoke enthusiastically about how much his selection in 2003 meant to him.
- #9) Linda Cook asked Dan to remind everyone with e-mail to consider receiving the Newsletter electronically to save printing and mailing costs.
- #10) Dan thanked Dan Kleman and the Ohio Association for the outstanding dinner enjoyed the night before.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 am.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Cassell, Secretary

2004 NTSRI MEMBERSHIP BLANK

NAME _____

INDIVIDUAL _____

FARM NAME _____

FARM _____

ST. ADDRESS _____

FAMILY _____

CITY, STATE, & ZIP _____

BUSINESS _____

PHONE # _____

YOUTH _____

E-MAIL _____

Dues

\$10.00

Youth Fund Donation

\$ _____

Apply Payment to:

Youth Scholarship Program

Youth Ambassador Program

Youth Show Fund

Buyers' Credit Program

Undesignated

TOTAL REMITTED \$ _____

PLEASE MAIL (and any donations) to: Judy Harris, 819 Lyons St., Ludlow, MA 01056

TUNIS GET TOGETHER...after the National Show....

**All are invited to a Dutch Treat Dinner at B'Shara's Restaurant
7:00 pm on Saturday, Sept. 25th**

The Directors Meeting will be held in the Trustees Room in the New Hampshire Building on the Avenue of States starting at 2:00 pm. All Directors and alternates in attendance are reminded that they need to be there!

TREASURER'S REPORT....As of 7/18/2004

INCOME:	Cash Flow...May 1st-July 18th	EXPENSES:	
Credit	\$ 8.00	Advertising	\$ 175.50
Checking Interest	\$ 1.67	Clerk Expenses	\$ 943.41
Fitzgibbons Memorial	\$ 695.00	Clerk Stipend	\$1,000.00
Memberships	\$ 400.00	Domain Renewal	\$ 59.85
Paid	\$ 195.00	Internet Service	\$ 245.00
Postage	\$ 6.00	Newsletter	\$ 390.00
Registrations	\$1,884.00	Owes.	\$ 91.00
Rush Fees	\$ 100.00	Nat'l Youth Show	\$ 200.00
Transfers	\$ 280.00	Ohio State Fair	\$ 200.00
Tunis Directory	\$1,221.00	Tunis Directory Printing	\$3,318.00
Tunis Youth Fund	\$ 300.00	Youth Buyers Credit	\$ 150.00
TOTAL:\$,5090.67		Check Return Fee	\$ 7.00
		TOTAL: \$6779.76	(-\$1,689.09)
Checking Balance as of 7/18/04	\$1,908.80		
Savings Balance	\$1,006.20		

A ROAST TO KEN MAYES.....BIG BAD KEN!

AS PERFORMED at the National Tunis Sale Dinner Meeting by Jim Dunham and the Yearling Rams (Randy Powley, Dan Swartz & Sam Wiford) with speaking parts by Dwight Barney, John Bruns and Roy Davis. Thank you, Gentlemen! May, 2004

(Sung to the tune of "Big, Bad John")

"Every day on the farm, you could see him arrive, he stood 5 foot eight and weighed 165...
Kind of broad in the shoulders and narrow in the hips, but everybody knew you didn't give no lip to Big Ken.
Big Ken, Big Ken, Big Baaaaaaed Ken!"

Now everybody know where Ken calls home, he's out there in Missouri in another time zone.
He doesn't say much, kind of quiet and shy...now that's a lie, if you know our guy, Big Ken.

Big Ken, Big Ken, Big Baaaaaaed Ken!

Now I've often wondered how the story goes, how Ken came to call his ewes "Yeowes", so I took time to contemplate, now let's see if I got the story straight...

When his first lamb hit the ground, Ken turned to Darlene and said, "Honey, its a ewe!" Yea, that's what he said..but wait , he took a double take and didn't hesitate. "Yeowe, its another one just like the other one!" And it's been "Yeowes" to this very day for Big Ken. Big Ken, Big Ken, Big Baaaaaaed Ken!

Then came that day on the farm when a coyote came to do some harm. Those sheep were shaking, their hearts beat fast and everyone thought they'd breathed their last 'cept Ken, Big Ken. Big Ken, Big Ken, Big Baaaaaaed Ken!
Through the smoke and dust of the lamb-made hell-walked a giant of a shepherd the sheep knew well, he grabbed his auctioneer's gavel, gave out a groan, and like a giant oak tree, he just stood there alone...Big Ken.

Big Ken, Big Ken, Big Baaaaaaed Ken!

Then with all his strength, he gave a mighty swing, then Doc Davis yelled, "Ken, you didn't hit a darn thing!" But it must have been a terrible sight 'cause that coyote, well, he died of fright from Big Ken.

Big Ken, Big Ken, Big Baaaaaaed Ken!

We all know Ken's had a lot of sheep, some to sell and some to keep, but if you ask him now, he'll tell you true, his number one keeper isn't even a ewe. Big Ken. Big Ken, Big Baaaaaaed Ken!"

Now join me now and I'll show you how we'll end this roast with a friendly toast to Big Ken. To Big Ken...health, happiness and friendship for many years to come. Thank you, Mr. Mayes. Cheers!

FOR SALE.....

FOR SALE.....

Bob Jordan of Plainfield, NH has 2 registered Tunis rams for sale: One 2 year old ram born in Feb. 2002 for \$250 and a Grand Champion Ram born Feb. 2003 for \$350. If interested, please call 603-675-6581.

FOR SALE.....

John Bruns of Bruns Tunis of Maria Stein, OH has 2 ram lambs for sale. They are out of S & T ewes and sired by his ram "Charlie" which sired the 2003 Nat'l Champion Sale Ram and the 2004 Nat'l Res. Champion Sale ram. John also has several brood ewes for sale. Contact John at 419-925-4712

FOR SALE.....

Boyd Hastings of Brookville, OH is having a flock reduction sale & will sell a small starter flock consisting of 4 brood ewes from very good bloodlines & a ram. Boyd also has ewe lambs for sale. Call 937-837-3913 if interested.

FOR SALE.....

The FARM Institute of Edgartown, MA has their Tunis flock for sale. It consists of 12 ewes 2-3 years of age, a 2 year old ram, 11 ewe lambs and 4 ram lambs. They are a truly forage based flock. Call John Curelli at 508-627-7007.

FOR SALE.....

OLD ORCHARD at Stockdale Farm in Claysville, PA currently has 6 ewe lambs (all twins) available for sale. These lambs were born in April and are grass raised. The lambs have excellent type, color and fleeces. \$150 each. This flock has been established for 20 years. Call Jessica Read at 724-663-5832.

FREE ADS ON THE TUNIS WEBSITE UNTIL OCTOBER 1ST. Contact Louise at tunis@bright.net or Patti at the tunissheep.org to place the ad. WATCH FOR NEW PRICING FOR ADS IN THE NEWSLETTER & THE WEBSITE!

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RANDY POWLEY, REGION 6 DIRECTOR WRITES.....

The lambs have been weaned for several months, the first cutting of hay has been mowed and put up, there has been five weeks without a drop of rain, and now two weeks of nothing but rain. It must be time for the sheep shows to begin. The 2004 Smoky Mountain 4-H District Livestock Exposition was this past week and Tunis were well represented.

It has not been that long ago that Tunis were a novelty in this area and people could not believe their eyes. They had never seen a fat tailed sheep, much less a red headed sheep. Though the mystic has faded, the interest has grown. No longer are just one or two local breeders represented. There has been a migration of Northern ladies and gentlemen moving south. (Of course I've never met a Tunis ram that was not a gentleman, which is more than I can say about some of those uncouth...oops, I almost called them by name.)

In this show were seen ewes bearing such names as Jewell, Straut, Darling, Bartholomew, Moms Tunis, BBB & POW. Examining the sires and dams of these ewes were found the names of Mayes, Fingerlakes, Harris, S & T, Bradshaw; the list goes on. The Tunis breeders in the South, or at least East Tennessee have indeed benefited from this infusion of bloodlines. Every lamb within the Smoky Mountain District show was an animal of which to be proud.

The 2004 Smoky Mountain 4-H District Livestock Exposition:

March Junior Ewe

Kevin Hensley
Greer Goddard

February Junior Ewe

Kevin Hensley
Kyle Hensley
Erin Straut

January Junior Ewe

Erin Straut

Senior Ewe

Kevin Hensley

Junior Yearling Ewe

Kevin Hensley
Erin Straut
Erin Straut
Greer Goddard
Erin Straut
Casey Straut

Senior Yearling Ewe

Ryan Hensley
Kyle Hensley
Casey Straut
Erin Straut
Greer Goddard

CHAMPION - Kevin Hensley Junior Yearling
CH. BRED BY - Kevin Hensley Senior Lamb

RES. CHAMPION - Kevin Hensley Senior Lamb
RES CH. BRED BY - Kevin Hensley March Lamb

NANCY SCHMIDT, DIRECTOR OF REGION 7, WRITES...

First, I want thank everyone for voting. Our region is definitely the most active in the NTSRI organization. And rightly so, as we have an extremely great bunch of people in this region. And all of us want the Tunis to move forward. Remember Louise Dunham is the alternate and either she or I will help in anyway we can.

As we all know Region 7 again, hosted the National Tunis Sale in Wooster, OH at the Great Lakes Sheep and Wool Festival. It was a great weekend for everyone. Whether you meet new friends or visit with old ones. It is also, a good place to view many Tunis from different breeders from all over. All the sheep were very good looking and everyone could have fit in someone's flock somewhere. The show was terrific with many entries. The sale was tremendous and prices very good. I know there was a few unhappy people who left because they did not get to buy anything.

The directors meeting was extremely well-attended and the general membership meeting had a lot of interest with many people. This shows me the interest is there, we just have to keep it going.

The dinner on Saturday evening had over 60 people. We had lots of fun playing "Flock games". Jim and Louise Dunham had a wonderful and cute skit for Ken Mayes who was not there due to health. It was a good time for everyone!!

The Ohio Tunis Sheep Association held a Silent Auction which did very well. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED. The Ohio Youth held a 50/50 raffle which did well for them.

As everyone we here are getting ready for the fairs and shows. Good Luck!

A final thought..... Support those who show

Support those who don't

Remember there's a head and tail on every sheep!!

OUR 2ND BRUCE HUNT SHEPHERD NOMINATION IS.....

I'd like to nominate the following person for consideration for the Bruce Hunt Shepherd Award. This person has been an active Tunis breeder, showman, and promoter for many years, without any thought of self gain. Since the 1970's, this person has shown, exhibited, and "talked up" the many benefits of being a Tunis breeder. She was an initial exhibitor at the Big E in 1984. She was responsible for a picture of the Tunis breed being listed on the American Sheep Industry poster of American Sheep. She represented Tunis at three World Sheep Congress and I remember the NTSRI Board passing a motion to reimburse her for paying for Tunis to be recognized as an official breed. This payment was based on the number of registered Tunis. This would probably have been around the 1992 World Congress in South America. I think the amount we voted was less than \$50.00. We then know that she was instrumental in securing an offer for Tunis sheep to participate in NAILE. I was a board member when this happened and can still remember Ken Mayes urging anyone who could, to go to Louisville and promote the breed. I also remember the joy, or relief; when there were enough breeders/animals to be remove from probationary status. Having been a Board Member, without sheep to show, I had time to visit with different showmen and their families. I trust that I have established lasting friendships with many of you. Some of the people I spent time with were Joe and Joan Seavey; and I was truly excited to read of his selection as the first recipient of the award. One of the others I spent time with was JOZI JOCHUMS, as I knew her for years. Her latest labor of love for this breed is not in the hands of the members. I am speaking of the Tunis Spirit. I can only hope that Jozi will be told how much the she is appreciated for this gargantuan effort. It is with pleasure to nominate JOZI BEST for the Bruce Hunt Shepherd Award.

AnnaRae Hodgin, Ramseur, NC

DON SCHRIDER WRITES.....

Hello there! I'm in the middle of trying to get settled at the new place and find time is in short supply. But one topic keeps coming up in my mind and that is breeding. Knowing how to practice good breeding is probably the hardest thing to learn, even if the principles are easy to understand. Let me condense the basic principles for you.

Offsetting faults. This is the first and most important principle in breeding any form of livestock - simply mate animals together so as to offset each other's faults. When you mate two animals together that have the same faults, you strengthen this fault. Or in other words, more of the offspring will have this fault.

Intensifying good traits. The second principle of good breeding is to intensify good traits by mating together animals that share these same traits. This is really similar to the first principle but you are focusing on good traits instead of faults. By mating animals that share the same good traits more of the offspring are likely to retain these traits.

Principle number three, select breeders for expression of vigor. The health of your stock and the future of your bloodline depend largely on the health of the animals you choose as breeders. Disease resistance, longevity, fertility, activity and virility are all expressions of vigor. By making vigor a prime consideration on choosing breeders, you will be giving your bloodline the health necessary to survive well into the future. And you are giving your line the health necessary to withstand the rigors of inbreeding.

DON SCHRIDER CONTINUES.....

The next three principles are about proving the quality of a breeder. They are the pedigree, sib and progeny tests. The Pedigree test simply is choosing your breeders with their ancestry in mind. What was the quality of the sire or the dam? What was the quality of the grandparents? A ram will likely produce daughters similar to his mother. A ewe will likely produce sons similar to her sire. An exceptional sheep from an average or poor line will not usually reproduce its like in quality. Breeders usually recommend using an average specimen from an outstanding line before an exceptional specimen from a mediocre line for this reason.

The sib test simply means that you consider what the brothers or sisters of a sheep look like. A ewe will likely produce sons similar to her brother. A ram will likely produce daughters that are similar to his sisters. A sheep with poor quality siblings will likely not be a good producer.

Progeny testing is the proof of the actual breeding quality. Looking at the offspring will tell you what the sheep in question actually produces. When bred to several different mates, but producing consistent results, the true breeding quality of the individual is known. No breeder sheep stay ins in the breeding program unless it passes this test.

Breeding is usually done with a mind to creating either a male line or a female line. While both have their advantages, focusing on creating a superior female line will yield the biggest dividends. Consider that the ewe must give birth, successfully raise one or more lambs each year, must cycle to be bred out-of-season, and must be healthy. Keeping in mind a shape that gives the ewe room to carry lambs during pregnancy, allows for lung space so she can breath well, gives depth of spiral (or twist) so she can have room and muscles to push the lambs out, and good udder attachment and size with nipples angled for easy access by lambs, is breeding for a trouble-free sheep. Sure, that giant, well-muscled ram is the best I have ever seen. But his 17 pound birth weight, large-masculine head, wide shoulders and narrow spiral all spell disaster for his daughters' ability to birth. Let's not forget that his mother never produces enough milk, always need help birthing, doesn't want to raise her lambs, and never has more than one lamb. By breeding your line to be sure the female traits are of primary concern, you will be creating productive sheep that are relatively trouble free.

Average quality is the next principle you should consider. While it is important to use sheep that produce those few superior offspring, it is equally important in making progress with your bloodline to use those sheep whose average quality is very high. You see, some sheep will produce a few offspring of exceptional quality and the rest will be of lower quality. But sheep that produce a high average quality of offspring will allow you to make progress with your breeding program. The ideal breeder is that rare animal that produces some superior offspring and has a high average quality for the rest.

Now to contradict myself, and these principles, a little. I would like to suggest that most real advances in breeding come from those exceptional animals from poor bloodlines. If we think of any one bloodline and consider where it started and where it is today, we can ask ourselves how did those poor quality sheep transform into this wonderful bloodline? The answer is that the genes from the occasional exceptional offspring brought up the quality level over a period of years. But putting this into practice requires patience to stick with a breeding program over many decades. So I say use those exceptional sheep, but do not expect them to make sudden improvements for you, rather go back to the first seven principles I listed above.

Reducing the gene pool. Almost all breeding for improvement or consistency is about reducing the number of variables in the bloodline. The fewer possible gene combinations the more consistent the results. Inbreeding and line-breeding are two methods that produce indisputable results by reducing the pool of genes to favor select individuals. You can use this idea to help make better use of those occasional superior sheep from poor bloodlines - simply line-breed them to multiply the likelihood of maintaining their traits.

Another principle to remember is that traits sometimes skip one or more generations. Sometimes a sheep will produce offspring like one of its grandparents or great grandparents. That is why it is so important to know the pedigree of your breeders. Knowing what they have behind them will help you to produce offspring of a certain quality every few years. It will also help you to understand that even though a superior sheep did not produce offspring at the quality level you expected, the traits you want may still be in the "pool of genes" and may yet again surface - do not add more genes to the pool by bringing in new stock, simply keep mating the line pure using the principles outlined at the beginning of the article.

Yet another principle that I find of the highest value is that you should look over the breeder and consider, "What would you be like if you were of the opposite sex?" Maternal qualities like mothering, milking ability, ease of birthing, and rate of twinning are hard to see in a young ram. Here is where you must go back to the three tests (pedigree, sib, progeny) since a ram is carrying his mother's and sisters' traits. However, you can look at a ram, or a ewe and note subtle things - thickness of bone, number of teats, these will give you some indication of the quality of their offspring.

The final principle I will offer is that you should learn to look carefully at your sheep and understand the small, subtle differences. I mention this now because we all have young animals growing and can now start the process of evaluating both these and their parents. You can also start looking at the principles I have outlined so that you can start to understand how to apply them to your breeding program. You never know what you might see till you look!

Special thanks to everyone that sent in photos and comments for the new NTSRI brochure. It seems that the board was well pleased with the final product. I am very pleased to be able to say that if you sent in any photos, at least one was used in the brochure. I hope you like it!

**Ideas and comments always appreciated. Best wishes....Don Schrider,
Communication Director, American Livestock Breeds Conservancy,
P.O. Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27344 (919) 542-5704 editor@albc-usa.org.rg**

NTSRI Member, Jozi Best writes....

A reminder and encouragement to Indiana folks: I hope you all get on the band wagon with the new director, Linda Cook, and reorganize an Indiana State Tunis Association that I started with Bob Calhan (then region 7 director). Texels will have their own show at Indiana State Fair this year. It could have been Tunis getting a new show. You need to have some on "exhibit" for a year or two and I already did that, back before 1995. Then if you have a state association in place, you can ask to have regular classes. Usually, you have to fund your own show the first year to show you can bring numbers. Back in the 20's & 30's, there were many Tunis in the state show.

I want to thank all who worked to make the Great Lakes sale successful. Because of the long meeting Saturday, I did not even get to the other buildings, and thank goodness for Matt being there to handle the numbering, all the barn details for us. I hope that next year we can plan for more than 2 days. We at least need some meetings on Friday afternoon like we used to have at Cobleskil, but also we could do more for the youth, in addition to not having it so hectic for everyone Saturday and Sunday. This year over half of the national directors did not have sheep entered, but those who did and members who did bring sheep and wanted to participate in the board meeting were very hard pressed on Saturday. I believe we can do better. Many from other states arrived Friday in time to tour and/or go to dinner together anyway. More later about the national.

Jozi Best, Litchfield, OH

EMPIRE SPRING CLASS SALES RESULTS: Cobleskill, NY

CHAMPION RAM--Yr Ram	James Cameron, MA	\$150	Jen Torrone
RES. CHAMP RAM--Lamb	Bob Bartholomew, NY	\$250	Terri Borst, NY
Yearling Ram	Jennifer Bissing, NY	\$150	Jenny Bissing, NY
Yearling Rams consigned by S & L Farm & Hill-Billie Hobbie Farms.....No sale			
Junior Ram Lamb	Wendy Cameron, MA	\$150	RQL Farms, NJ
Junior Ram Lamb	Mom's Tunis, VA	\$275	Laureen Howe, NY
Junior Ram Lamb	Kim Bulger	No sale	
CHAMPION EWE--Lamb	Alicia Buffington	\$750	David Brown Farm
RES. CHAMP EWE--Yr Ewe	J & J Farm	\$350	David Brown Farm
Yearling Ewe	Gary & Jeanne Grenier, CT	\$275	Teresa Briggs
Yearling Ewe	Bob Bartholomew, NY	\$375	Tampa Tunis, NY
Yearling Ewe	J & J Farm	\$150	Teresa Briggs
Junior Ewe Lamb	Bob Bartholomew	\$350	James LaValle
Junior Ewe Lamb	J & J Farm	\$275	Doug Dutcher
Junior Ewe Lamb	Mom's Tunis, VA	\$375	Pamela Nation
Junior Ewe Lamb	Dave & Melanie Campbell	\$225	David Brown Farm
Junior Ewe Lamb	Wendy Cameron, MA	\$375	Bob Bartholomew
Junior Ewe Lamb	J & J Farm	\$350	Richard Feasley
Junior Ewe Lamb	Gary & Jeanne Grenier, CT	\$350	Laureen Howe
Junior Ewe Lamb	Bob Bartholomew	\$225	Jen Torrone
Junior Ewe Lamb	Dave & Melanie Campbell	\$250	Teresa Briggs

THE WINNER OF THE NTSRI YOUTH BUYER'S CREDIT WAS.....Joshua Howe

MORE FAIR INFORMATION....Walter Clark of Pennsylvania writes..."We have a rather large sheep show at the Great Crawford County Fair in Meadville, PA. There are usually over 300 sheep shown at this fair, including Tunis (ours and occasionally another breeder). We would love to see more.

www.co.crawford.pa.us

TOP OF OHIO BRED EWE SALE...

Saturday, Oct. 30th **Marysville, OH**

All Breeds accepted including ewe lambs, Yearlings, 2, 3 & 4 year olds...Consignment deadline...Sept. 1st.

A BEAR STORY....by AnnaRae Hodgin of Ramseur, NC.....

"I'm not sure if Ken's comment (about a bear in a barn) was prompted by knowledge of my troubles last summer or not....but JC and I took our delayed 'trip to Scotland', but instead we went to Australia and New Zealand. We left on June 7, 2003. We left our flock with my son & his wife. They live across the way, on another road, but still on the farm. Imagine our shock and concern when we returned July 10th and found that we had lost 35 animals. We soon learned (via the State Biologist, State Wildlife Officers, and our investigation) that we had experienced not one but three-four different animal attacks. The sheep that were killed in the bottom pasture were killed during the day and were killed by a BLACK BEAR, traveling the river. The animals that died at night while penned in the barn lot suffered from at least two different attackers: bobcats and coyotes. They are not sure what carried ½ of a grown ewe across the fence, and returned for the other ½ before my son could bury the carcass. We had had sightings in the area (within 1-2 miles) of a rather large orange animal with pointed ears, and a long tail. Just the past two weeks of this year, there have been pictures taken by a local animal activist. Our state ZOO is located about 5-6 miles away and they are trying to id the pictures. My daughter-in-law saw the pictures and said that was the animal she saw in the barnlot. Our Highland cow was standing guard over one of our ewe lambs the morning we got home. The lamb survived a pack of coyotes, thanks to Dewdrops Roma. She was totally messed up, gnashed everywhere. She laid around in the barn for about 5 days before she was able to stand on her own...but she did survive and this year delivered a live lamb. One adult did not fare as well, and all that remained of her was a very bloated stomach and some bones and sinew.

All 10 of our rams had black spots on their back, minus lots of wool. On closer exam, it was easily determined that something had been on their backs, and the black spots were in fact, dried blood. The rams had been 'protected' by our young donkey, born here on the farm. We did not lose a ram.

We had talked about flock reduction prior to our trip and the need to cut back drastically when we returned. Little did we know that we were going to have 'Help'. We went from 256 to 221 in a matter of a few days. So the reduction continued, but mostly it was the few ram lambs that remained and a few old ewes. Some of my really old bloodlines were almost killed off, but I have been able to save most of them.

We have finally finished lambing this season, May 11 or May 12th. As a result of all of the trauma, our ewes would not breed when we put the rams in. They finally did breed in a really short time, except for a few stragglers."

P.S. AnnaRae writes that ..."I have just been appointed to the NC State Scrapie Certification Board, in conjunction with the regulations of USDA. I am one of two enrolled, flock producers. The person heading this up is a federal vet." And..."I was invited to speak at the 1st Listening Session held by USDA on the National Animal Identification System. It is in Phase 1 now. I was the only producer that spoke or was there, for that matter. The others speaking were reps of Smithfield Foods, NC Turkey Federation/NC Poultry Producers/Goldsboro Milling, Global Trac, and NCDA Emergency Management. ...I received a call yesterday from the transcriber seeking permission to print my remarks on the USDA web site. I had the opportunity to meet USDA Under-Secretary Hawk and the Federal vet in charge of the NAIS, Dr. Valerie Reagan."

P.S.S....AnnaRae writes...."It is official...I will be attending the World Sheep & Wool Congress beginning July 17th in Quebec City, Canada. I will be a delegate from North Carolina and I will be representing NC Farm Bureau; Specialty Livestock, NCDA; International Marketing Division, NC Sheep Producers Association (I am a director) and another group or two."

Thanks, AnnaRae...please write us a report of your trip!

WANTED....Please send me a name of someone in your area that has made a big difference to the Tunis sheep in your area. Let's have the membership read about them...by doing a Tunis Interview with them....So please send me suggestions!
Louise Dunham, 8566 Co Rd 28, Zanesfield OH 43360 937-465-8299

2004 NATIONAL TUNIS SALE.....

WOOSTER, OHIO May 29 & 30

CHAMPION RAM...YR RAM....BESTUNIS

RESERVE CHAMPION RAM...YR RAM....BRUNS TUNIS

Lot #	Seller	Buyer	Price
19	CH RAM	BesTunis	\$525.00
1	RES CH RAM	Brun's Tunis	\$300.00
45	Yr Ram	B-Bar Stock (Bartholomew)	\$500.00
34	Yr Ram	Hotis Scotch Farm	\$200.00
10	Yr Ram	Fingerlakes Farms (Johns)	\$400.00
9	Yr Ram	Fingerlakes Farm (Johns)	\$275.00
25	Yr Ram	Busy Corner Farm (Lou)	No Bid
16	Yr Ram	RQL Farms (Rock)	\$200.00

7 YEARLING RAMS AVERAGED \$343.00

39	Fall Ram	NBS Tunis (Schmidt)	No Bid
30	Fall Ram	R & R Tunis (Powell)	\$150.00

1 FALL RAM LAMB AVERAGED \$150.00

60	Ram Lamb	Dirk Wise	\$800.00
57	Ram Lamb	Mom's Tunis (Cassell)	\$250.00
46	Ram Lamb	B-Bar Stock (Bartholomew)	\$275.00
51	Ram Lamb	Triple S (Davis)	\$200.00
26	Ram Lamb	Busy Corner Farm	\$150.00
52	Ram Lamb	Triple S (Davis)	No Bid

5 SPRING RAM LAMBS AVERAGED \$330.00

13 TUNIS RAMS AVERAGED \$323.00

CHAMPION EWE...YEARLING EWE...MOM'S TUNIS

RESERVE CHAMPION EWE...SPRING EWE LAMB....BESTUNIS

58	CH EWE	Mom's Tunis (Cassell)	\$1,025.00
20	RES CH EWE-Lamb	BesTunis	\$ 825.00
47	Yr Ewe	B-Bar Stock (Bartholomew)	\$1,200.00
65	Yr Ewe	Mayes Tunis	\$ 550.00
61	Yr Ewe	Dirk Wise	\$ 625.00
12	Yr Ewe	Fingerlakes Farms (Johns)	\$ 600.00
35	Yr Ewe	Hotis Scotch Acres	\$ 700.00
11	Yr Ewe	Fingerlakes Farms (Johns)	\$ 625.00
28	Yr Ewe	Sonshine Acres (Clark)	\$ 500.00
17	Yr Ewe	RQL Farms (Rock)	\$ 600.00
54	Yr Ewe	Triple S (Davis)	\$ 400.00
2	Yr Ewe	Brun's Tunis	\$ 700.00
66	Yr Ewe	Mayes Tunis	\$ 300.00
27	Yr Ewe	Sonshine Acres (Clark)	\$ 400.00
68	Yr Ewe	Triple S (Davis)	\$ 375.00

14 YEARLING EWES AVERAGED \$614.00

13	Fall Ewe	Fingerlakes Farms (Johns)	\$850.00
32	Fall Ewe	R & R Tunis (Powell)	\$475.00
40	Fall Ewe	NBS Tunis (Schmidt)	\$300.00
41	Fall Ewe	NBS Tunis (Schmidt)	\$275.00

4 FALL EWE LAMBS AVERAGED \$475.00

21	Ewe Lamb	BesTunis	Eric Myers, NY	\$900.00
36	Ewe Lamb	Hotis Scotch Acres	LHH Tunis	\$400.00
7	Ewe Lamb	Kleman Family Tunis	Linda Cook, IN	\$800.00
48	Ewe Lamb	B-Bar Stock (Bartholomew)	David Settemire, OH	\$575.00
59	Ewe Lamb	Mom's Tunis (Cassell)	Mandy Swartz, NY	\$575.00
62	Ewe Lamb	Dirk Wise	RQL Farms, NJ	\$525.00
49	Ewe Lamb	B-Bar Stock (Bartholomew)	Erin O'Flaherty, OH	\$700.00
4	Ewe Lamb	Bruns Tunis	Molly Kleman, OH	\$425.00
31	Ewe Lamb	R & R Tunis (Powell)	Old Glory Farm, NY	\$425.00
24	Ewe Lamb	Jewel Tunis (Jones)	Meadow Crest Farm, OH	\$400.00
33	Ewe Lamb	R & R Tunis (Powell)	Old Glory Farm, NY	\$375.00
8	Ewe Lamb	Kleman Family Tunis	Richard Schambow Family, WI	\$500.00
23	Ewe Lamb	Jewel Tunis (Jones)	Meadow Crest Farm, OH	\$400.00
56	Ewe Lamb	Triple S (Davis)	Kevin Britz, OH	\$300.00
55	Ewe Lamb	Triple S (Davis)	Justine Swartz, NY	\$350.00
45	Ewe Lamb	Triangle Farms (Cook)	Butterfly Acres, OH	\$325.00
3	Ewe Lamb	Bruns Tunis	Jacob Riggins, KY	\$425.00
43	Ewe Lamb	Triangle Farms (Cook)	Kevin Britz, OH	\$250.00
37	Ewe Lamb	Jacci Erwin Tunis	Beginners' Luck, IL	\$375.00
5	Ewe Lamb	Bruns Tunis	Butterfly Acres, OH	\$425.00

21 EWE LAMBS AVERAGED \$489.00

39 TUNIS EWES AVERAGED \$532.00

19 YOUTH FROM 5 DIFFERENT STATES entered this Sales Credit raffle:

NATIONAL TUNIS YOUTH BUYERS CREDIT...\$50 Joshua Howe, NY

OTSA TUNIS YOUTH BUYERS CREDIT...\$25 Erik Myers, NY

OTSA TUNIS YOUTH BUYERS CREDIT...\$25 Martha Robie, NH

BARBARA CASSELL, DIRECTOR OF REGION 9, WRITES....

The 2004 National Tunis Show and Sale was terrific! The camaraderie was fierce. The quality of the sheep ran deep. And the buyers were generous. As I was reviewing the sale and counting my blessings, the words "Thank You" kept treading through my thoughts.

"Thank You". Those words aren't heard as often as they should be. I know I don't use them as much as I should. So, I'm going to take this opportunity and say "Thank You".

"Thank You" to all the families for your support and hard work in helping to make this "Tunis adventure" a success.

"Thank You" to all the breeders for your contributions in keeping our Tunis a viable, growing breed.

"Thank You" to the directors, officers, and committee members of the NTSRI for helping us to keep our records straight, promoting our Tunis breed, and providing a platform for interaction.

"Thank You" to all the volunteers at all the sales and shows for helping to make it possible for us to showcase our animals.

"Thank You" to all the judges for helping us to find the changes needed in our breed and for applauding the good already found in our Tunis.

"Thank You" to all the sale managers and auctioneers for promoting our breed and for providing a forum for the buying and selling of Tunis.

"Thank You" to all the buyers for helping to make the continued success of our Tunis financially feasible.

Finally, "Thank You" to all those who I've missed naming above for your contributions, large and small, loud and quiet, to keeping our breed, our industry and our community together, growing, and thriving.

NEXT NEWSLETTER.....OCTOBER 15TH!

Please send show results, promotional ideas, good Tunis stories, and answers to questions or concerns to Louise!

A TUNIS INTERVIEW....Nancy Schmidt, Region 7 Director

Nancy and her husband, Pat, have raised Tunis since 1990 on their farm in Collins, OH which is just 12 miles south of Lake Erie. Although they had raised Suffolks and Dorsets before the Tunis, they simply have 100 (more or less) Tunis now on their 60 acre farm. Pat works in a maintenance department at a local GM plant and Nancy is a part-time vet assistant so the sheep, a flock of geese, and 3 donkeys keep them busy in the evenings. And Pat farms another 300 acres of corn, soybeans & wheat, also! The sheep are on pasture almost all year with grain being given in late gestation until the lambs are weaned. Nancy sells most of her ram lambs to another farmer to raise out for meat. And since the flock is enrolled in the Certified Scrapie Program and can't bring in ewes easily, she keeps a percentage of her ewe lambs each year to add to her flock.

In 1990, after seeing a picture of Tunis on the front cover of The Shepherd Magazine, Pat and Nancy visited several Tunis flocks and finally bought some ewes from Bob Bartholomew, NY, as no one in Ohio at that time had Tunis. They also visited the Keystone Sale and added several other animals to their flock. Nancy writes, "My main goal with my Tunis is to raise a nice eating lamb. We sell a lot of lambs primarily for eating. Some of my customers like grass fed only so it works with my program."

When asked about the people who have been the most help to her over the years, she writes, "...an old sheep farmer (who is now deceased) that I met at the fair. He was a commercial producer, but did have a small flock of purebred Dorsets. He was very good at looking at both sides of the coin. The important thing he taught me was to ENJOY my sheep." Nancy would advise those people just starting with Tunis "to visit as many flocks as you can, look at the whole picture, ask a lot of questions and listen to all breeders' advice...and then decide what you want to do with your Tunis and what will fit with that goal. Just remember they are addicting and you can't have just one."

When asked about what personal traits she brings to the organization, Nancy says..."The ability to look at all sides of an issue, listen to all opinions and make decisions on what is best for the organization and its' members." She hopes that more people will voice their opinions and ideas in the newsletters and to help reach that goal, she is asking a question in this newsletter about worming procedures. But when she is asked about what one perfect answer she needs for her flock...she asks...."how do you keep a lamb from finding the smallest mouse hole to squeeze through the fence to get to mama after being penned separately (and out of sight and hearing from her) for a week?" Can you help her?

Thanks, Nancy

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING TUNIS EVENTS.....

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.		
Sept. 28-Oct. 4th	KEYSTONE INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPO....Harrisburg, PA		
	JR Show!!!! Contact kile@state.pa.us		
Oct. 15th-17th	NEW YORK BRED EWE & EWE LAMB SALE....Rhinebeck, NY		
	Contact The Banner for sales information or www.sheepandwool.com		
Nov. 14th	NAILE JR TUNIS SHOW.... Louisville, KY		
	www.livestockexpo.org for more information		Entry deadline Oct. 1st
Nov. 17th	NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXHIBITION...Louisville, KY		
	www.livestockexpo.org	Entry deadline	Oct. 1st

WHAT DATES DO YOU HAVE TO ADD TO OUR CALENDAR?

NATIONAL JR TUNIS SHOW....July 18, 2004**W. Springfield, Massachusetts****4 YEARLING RAMS**

Kelsey Nation, NH
Jared LaValle, MA
Martha Robie, NH
Beth Townley, MA

5 EARLY RAM LAMBS

Jasmine Seavey, NY
Jasmine Seavey, NY
Devon Newton, RI
Jared LaValle, MA
Justine Swartz, NY

6 LATE RAM LAMBS

Mandy Swartz, NY
Travis Whitcomb, VT
Anna Charest, MA
Beth Townley, MA
Martha Robie, NH
Martha Robie, NH

2 PAIR LAMBS

Jasmine Seavey
Martha Robie, NH

CHAMPION -EARLY RAM LAMB - JASMINE SEAVEY
RES. CHAMP. LATE RAM LAMB - MANDY SWARTZ

10 EARLY YR EWES

Jasmine Seavey, NY
Brandon Taylor, MA
Jasmine Seavey, NY
Kelsey Nation, NH
Susie Benoit, VT
Beth Townley, MA
Devon Newton, RI
Devon Newton, RI
Jared LaValle, MA
Brandon Taylor, MA

10 LATE YR EWES

Kelsey Nation, NH
Emily Boulet, MI
Mandy Swartz, NY
Jackie Lewis, CT
Jared LaValle, MA
Martha Robie, NH
Martha Robie, NH
Justine Swartz, NY
Sean Harper, MA
Sean Harper, MA

7 PAIRS YR EWES

Jasmine Seavey, NY
Kelsey Nation, NH
Jared LaValle, MA
Brandon Taylor, MA
Devon Newton, RI
Martha Robie, NH
Sean Harper, MA

9 BREEDERS' FLOCK

Jasmine Seavey
Justine Swartz
Kelsey Nation
Mandy Swartz
Jared LaValle
Beth Townley
Martha Robie
Anna Charest
Devon Newton

14 EARLY EWE LAMBS

Jasmine Seavey, NY
Jared LaValle, MA
Jackie Lewis, CT
Jasmine Seavey, NY
Mandy Swartz, NY
Susie Benoit, VT
Brandon Taylor, MA
Megan Whitcomb, VT
Kelsey Nation, NH
Travis Whitcomb, VT
Devon Newton, RI
Beth Townley, MA
Dylan Harris, MA
Devon Newton, MA

14 LATE EWE LAMBS

Justine Swartz, NY
Jared LaValle, MA
Brandon Taylor, MA
Brianna Taylor, MA
Emily Boulet, MI
Martha Robie, NH
Martha Robie, NH
Anna Charest, MA
Anna Charest, MA
Kelsey Nation, NH
Georgianna Doepper, NY
Melanie Townley, MA
Sean Harper, MA
Sean Harper, MA

8 PAIRS EWE LAMBS

Jared LaValle, MA
Jasmine Seavey, NY
Martha Robie, NH
Devon Newton, RI
Anna Charest, MA
Brandon Taylor, MA
Kelsey Nation, NH
Sean Harper, MA

Champion Market Lamb - Emily Boulet
Res. Champ ML - Zachary Henry

CHAMPION EWE -LATE EWE LAMB - JUSTINE SWARTZ (Purchased at the National Sale!)
RES. CHAMPION EWE - EARLY YR EWE - JASMINE SEAVEY

The **Bruce Hunt Memorial Fund** contributed 50% of the camp expenses for 5 Tunis youth members to attend the New London County 4-H Camp in Franklin, CT. This camp was held July 4th thru the 9th with 2 hours a day spent working in the sheep camp learning more about fitting and showing Tunis, nutrition, etc. These educational sheep sessions were presented by Gary & Jeanne Grenier. The kids ranged in age from 7 to 15 years old. They made "Sheepeoples" t-shirts and presented demonstrations to the other campers. A great time was had by all! **Just one more way to support our youth members!**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Anna Monique Charest, 1176 Dunhamtown-Brimfield Rd., Brimfield, MA 01010
Cherie Hodge, 6596 N. Farm Rd. 105, Willard, MO 65781
Mattea Kauffman, 164 Mt. Lane, McVeytown, PA 17051
Deborah Mitchell, 1310 Little Baltimore Rd., Hockessin, DE 19707
Jerry & Darlene Taylor, 90 Benjamin Rd., Shirley, MA 01464-2600
Alan Winner Family, 7330 St. Rt. 47E, Degraff, OH 43318

Louise's Little Bit...

There is really a lot of different types of articles/information in this newsletter...something for everyone. I've got lots of different types of "Pearls of Wisdom" also...something for everyone.

"I would like to live life in the fast lane...but I'm married to a speed bump!" That has nothing to do with raising sheep or my husband, Jim. How about...."I don't do skinny dipping but I love to do chunky dunking!" I know that describes me but still hasn't anything to do with sheep.

"If's it's not fatal...it's just a detail." This applies to life in general but also to raising sheep. As I have come into contact with several beginners this summer, I try hard to help them sort out what is important in developing their flock and what is just a "detail." Weak pasterns...don't add them to your flock...sheep have to walk. Extra flesh under the throat...a detail at this point. A white blaze down the length of the face...fatal! So what do you consider fatal in the sheep barn at your farm? So don't sell that animal to another breeder...just sell those with minor "details." At the recent Ohio Sheep Day, the keynote speaker said that any animal that requires extra time on a daily basis is a no-no. So you take those animals that need extra attention at feeding (that ewe that requires her own feeder because she won't push into the line) or have chronic problems (such as foot rot) and you eliminate them. He was speaking about commercial producers but he understands the fatal vs detail debate.

"Even on a straight piece of highway, you have to turn the steering wheel a little." If you have had success with your flock...are you just maintaining status quo or are you planning on "turning the steering wheel" a little bit? How long do you use a productive ram.....when do you add that new bloodline into your flock? Do you make a change only when the judges/buyers tell you that your product doesn't quite compare with the other Tunis out there any more or have you got the plan made already? Do you have on-going goals? And then...do you have a plan to reach those goals? No matter how big or small your flock is...you need to know where you are going...if you are to continue to make progress & money! Since Jim has started developing our own feed formula...we have made progress in two areas...faster growing lambs (which means the buyers at the stock yards likes them better and we're getting top prices for those extra ram lambs at an earlier age) and the ability to control the weight gain on the show lambs easier. One little turn of that steering wheel...and we're still headed in the direction we want to go. Where are you headed?

"If I've confused you and upset you....my work is done!" I hope I haven't upset you...I want to give you something to think about as you lean over the fence and look at your lamb crop....and make plans for the breeding season..... which is here! What "fatal traits" do you need to eliminate? What "details" can you live with? Does your flock health plan need tweaked? Did the lambs grow out as you would like...different feed? Things to think about.

Well, I better get to work...our local fair is this week and then we go to three other fairs in 3 weeks...so there are sheep to wash, etc. You know....fun things...and not I'm not going chunky dunking!! Louise

DID YOU KNOW THAT EACH NEWSLETTER MAILED COSTS THE CLUB \$1.30 APIECE SO THAT OVER THE YEAR'S TIME, A MEMBER RECEIVES 4 X \$1.30 = \$5.20 WORTH OF PRINTED BENEFITS....

In order to reduce these costs & to avoid raising dues, the Board is looking into sending the newsletter by electronic mail...e-mail. Advantages? A member would receive it earlier...and we could include pictures easier....and save money that the club could use to promote our product.

IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS....Please send me your e-mail address along with your snail mail address so that I have a list of interested people to take to the Board meeting with me in September so that the Board can discuss this possibility. IT WOULD NOT START UNTIL THE JANUARY ISSUE....we just need to know if anyone is interested!

tunis@bright.net.....that's Louise's email address!

YOUTH NEWS.....

MARTHA ROBIE, NYTR writes...

As a No-name breeder, NYTR, I went to the National Tunis show in Wooster, Ohio and was welcomed with friendly faces and "could you do this?" Needless to say, I loved it. The directors' meeting was, sometimes, interesting and the banquet was amazing!

I definitely encourage Tunis youth to apply to be the next National Tunis Youth Representative. The deadline for applications is August 31st. I know myself I thought I would never get it because of the fact, very few breeders knew who I was. But I was chosen because of my devotion to promote our breed and improving the quality of my flock. It may be true that there isn't much interest in Tunis where you are, but your Tunis just being at a show gets attention. So take my advice, apply, and see what happens. Maybe it will be you that's in the Tunis limelight next year? Also for the youth entering college this fall, or are in college already, you can apply for the National Tunis Sheep Registry Scholarship, the deadline for applications is August 31st. To get details or an application, contact Joseph A. Seavey, 529 Pollock Rd., Canton, NY 13617. Phone number: 315-386-3363.

My first show is at the North East Regional Show and Sale being held at the Big E fairgrounds from July 15th-18th. After that I will be showing at fairs all over New England. I would love to bump into you at one of them.

MARTHA ROBIE, NYTR

337 Plain Rd., Bath, NH

GREETINGS MY TUNIS FRIENDS!

Things are going great here in Kansas! School is finally out and I survived (I think). I had a successful lambing season with 22 lambs from 17 ewes. Most of them were rams, but some terrific rams at that. Our show season is upon us with our first show scheduled for June 19th. I hope I can continue my successes from last year's show season after having won Champion Ewe at the Kansas State Fair.

Opportunities to promote our beautiful breed of sheep have been abundant so far in 2004. In March, I had 3 lambs appear in 12 performances of an Easter play in Overland Park, KS. Nearly 3,000 people attended these performances! I also took one lamb to an Easter festival in Leavenworth, KS where nearly 150 kids had the opportunity to get up close and personal with a Tunis. Another popular promotion was Leavenworth County's "FFA Day at the Farm" where 300 elementary aged students also got to learn about Tunis. I am in the process of putting together a "Tunis" display which will include photos and facts about the Tunis sheep. I will take this display to all of my upcoming shows and just to get the word out a little more.

Hope all of you are doing well and I look forward to seeing everyone soon. I heard a rumor that there will be a youth show in Louisville so I know that I'll be there then! Have a great summer!

Aimee Ostermeyer--Tunis Youth Rep for 2000 Tonganoxie, KS

ATTENTION: All Tunis Youth! Applications are available to apply to be The National Tunis Youth Representative for 2004-2005 and for the National Tunis Youth Scholarship. Applications may be requested from Joseph A. Seavey, 529 Pollock Rd., Canton, N.Y. 13617 Telephone 315-386-3363 or Contact the Director for your region. Applications must be postmarked by September 1, 2004 and must be sent to Mr. Seavey. This is a neat way to get a lot of recognition, meet new people, promote your breed, and have lots of fun as well as the National Tunis Youth Representative. The scholarship comes in handy for book money, towards tuition, etc. as well as gets you National recognition.

NAILE JR TUNIS SHOW.....The Jr show sponsors are Ken Mayes, The Darling Farm, Bar B Stock Farm, BesTunis, and Kleman Family Tunis. We still need \$65.00 more in sponsorships. Anyone willing to support the 1st Junior Tunis show at the North American International Livestock Exhibition should contact Dan Kleman at 419-538-6383. All the above sponsors and anyone else willing to help should send their money to Dan Kleman by August. 1st. Thanks to all. **ENTRY DEADLINE.....OCTOBER 1ST**

KEYSTONE INTERNATIONAL JR TUNIS SHOW....Dirk Wise from Pennsylvania is heading up the fundraising for the 2004 Jr Show at the Keystone International show. Please support him so this youth show can continue. Please send any donations to Dirk Wise, 405 Beaver Dam Rd., Spring Mills, PA 16875 or call 814-422-8452 **ENTRY DEADLINE..AUGUST 31ST**

QUESTION FOR THE MEMBERSHIP.....

What are your worming procedures? With what? How often? Problems to your area?

You don't have to send your name but, we'd appreciate state or area of country.
Send responses to Nancy Schmidt, 3812 Townsend Angling Rd., Collins, OH 44826
burdette@hmcltd.net

JULY, 2004**NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC
DIRECTORS & OFFICERS!****ISSUE 11**

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