

# **NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.**

**OCTOBER, 2004**

**ISSUE 12**

## **Note from the President:**

Hello everyone!! I hope all are healthy and your barns are full of beautiful sheep. We are closing on another year of raising lambs and showing off our years work at the fairs. It is this time of year that we make our final decisions of who to keep for replacements and who to send off to market. Keep two things in mind: always strive for that sheep of perfection and in doing so never lose sight of filling your barn with sheep that you love to look at and work with every day.

We have had a very successful year at the NTSRI. All roads are leading to prosperity for the Tunis breed. We continue to grow when the sheep economy is poor and most of all, we continue to improve our breed. The depth of quality of animals continues to grow in each of our flocks as well as in the show ring. The beautiful color, soundness, quality of structure and down right attractiveness of the Tunis are still attracting new breeders and exciting the old breeders. The association has taken a new path in our pursuit of perfection and growth. We are trying to divert more resources to publicity, advertisement and our national events (Sale, Show and Junior show) while at the same time trying to raise support for our regional and youth activities. I encourage ALL MEMBERS to participate to the extent of their ability. I can not express this enough, this is YOUR association,

We need you to make it something special. Please, if you have any concerns, questions, comments or ideas contact your district director. If you are not satisfied with the help or response then contact any of the association officers. Remember to be patient, kind and persistent and all things will succeed (I'm sure that is a quote from someone important).

Thanks again for a wonderful time and all your support. Note to the wise: When using a hammer, keep all things out from under that are not intended to be the target; hence, I am typing with the use of one less finger. Even I learn something new everyday.

**Daniel Swartz, President NTSRI**

## **NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC....MEMBERSHIP**

	1/1/04	5/29/04	9/25/04
REGION 1 - Barney	26	28	30
REGION 2 - Grenier	22	26	26
REGION 3 - Bartholomew	19	21	25
REGION 4 - Swartz	32	34	35
REGION 5 - Unzicker	30	33	35
REGION 6 - Powley	24	26	30
REGION 7 - Schmidt	31	34	38
REGION 8 - Mayes	25	29	33
REGION 9 - Cassell	26	29	29
REGION 10 - Cook	29	33	34
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>315!</b>

## **HELP!**

**If you have a cheap source for a PDF writer program that Louise can use to send things to Patti....please contact Louise with the information.....937-465-8299 or tunis@bright.net**

## **Mandy Swartz wins Tunis Futurity With Mom's Tunis Ewe!**

Mandy Swartz, Attica, NY. Exhibiting a flashy ewe lamb purchased from Mom's Tunis, Wytheville, VA, was the high point winner of the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association Tunis Futurity. Mandy purchased this lamb at the National Tunis Sale, Wooster, Ohio. Jared LaValle, Belchertown, MA, finished second with a nice ewe purchased through the Empire Spring Classic, Cobleskill, NY from B-Bar Stock Farm, East Chatham, NY. Molly Kleman, Ottawa, Ohio was the third place winner with a ewe lamb purchased from Bruns Tunis, Maria Stein, OH. This lamb was purchased out of the National Tunis Sale, Wooster, OH.

Fourth place winner Justine Swartz, Attica, NY, bought and exhibited a nice ewe lamb she purchased at the National Tunis Sale - Great Lakes Sheep Show and Sale, Wooster, OH. Her entry was the lamb nominated by Triple S Tunis, Edina, MO. Emily Gibson, Lee, NH, had fifth place with a stylish lamb nominated by Alicia Buffington, Alanda Farm, Dighton, MA, at the New England Sale, West Springfield, MA. Sixth place went to Kelsey Nation, Deerfield, NH. Her entry was also purchased at The Empire Spring Classic, Cobleskill, NY. The lamb was nominated by Mom's Tunis, Wytheville, VA.

Winners were announced at the 2004 New York Bred Ewe Sale, Rhinebeck, NY. These young Tunis exhibitors each purchased a nominated ewe from one of three sales; the National Tunis Sale - Great Lakes Sheep Show and Sale, Wooster, OH; the Empire Spring Classic, Cobleskill, NY; and the New England Sale, West Springfield, MA. The youth exhibited their lambs throughout the show season at youth shows, 4-H shows and open shows. Points from each class placing determined the Futurity results. Thank you to all Futurity participants for doing a great job of campaigning your Tunis ewe lambs.

The Northeast Tunis Sheep Association not only congratulates these Futurity winners, but extends a hearty thank you to Tunis breeders across the country that nominated ewe lambs for the Futurity and sold them through one of the three sales where Futurity lambs could be purchased. Tunis breeders nominating ewe lambs for the Futurity include: B-Bar Stock Farm, E. Chatham, NY; Best Tunis, Litchfield, OH; Bruns Tunis, Maria Stein, OH; Alicia Buffington, N. Dighton, MA; Campbell Tunis, Marion, NY; Hickory Grove Acres, N. Stonington, CT; Hotis Scotch Acre Sheep Farm, Gouverneur, NY; Jacci Erwin Tunis, Richwood, OH; Jewel Tunis, Tivoli, NY; Kleman Family Tunis, Ottawa, OH; Lawthea Farm, Middleboro, MA; Mom's Tunis, Wytheville, VA; 1.43 Acres Farm, Canton, NY; R&R Tunis, Forest, OH; Triangle Farms, Muncie, IN; Triple S Tunis, Edina, MO; Dirk Wise, Spring Mills, PA

The Northeast Tunis Sheep Association will be holding the third annual Tunis Futurity in 2005. Futurity lambs will be sold through the same sale venues: National Tunis Sale, Empire Spring Classic and the New England Sale. We will be looking for nominated ewes and eager youth buyers. See you at a Sale in the spring!

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## **THE REDHEADS ARE COMING.....**

The New York Wool Festival will feature the Tunis at their 2005 Show. So all Tunis breeders will have the opportunity to consign that outstanding ewe to the Bred Ewe Sale but will also have the opportunity to bring their show flock for one more big show! This beautiful fairgrounds is big enough for both activities!

To promote this idea....Bob Bartholomew has had t-shirts made up and is selling them to anyone interested. The shirts say "The Redheads are coming" on the back and "Rhinebeck, NY 2005" on the front. They are available in autumn red or blue. The shirts cost \$10 apiece and he can ship them for \$3.00 apiece.

Please call Bob at 518-392-0393 or 518-755-1701 if interested in purchasing your shirt....

So mark your calendar for the 3rd weekend of October...and take those Redheads north! Bob will continue to keep the membership up to date with information.

## **REMEMBER....**

**Classified Ads in the newsletter**

**Classified Ads on the website**

**ASK ABOUT OTHER SIZES!!!**

**\$10 per issue**

**\$10 for 3 months**

## The NTSRI Board of Directors Meeting:

September 25, 2004

The NTSRI Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Dan Swartz, President, at 2:15 pm on 9-25-04 at the New Hampshire building on the Big E Fairgrounds. There were 8 board members present: Sally Barney, Region 1, Treasurer, Gary Grenier, Region 2, Bob Bartholomew, Region 3, Dan Swartz, Region 4, President, Randy Powley, Region 6, Vice President, Nancy Stemmed, Region 7, Barbara Castle, Region 9, Secretary and Linda Cook, Region 10. Also present were Judy Harris, Registry Clerk, committee members with reports for the board, and several visiting NTSRI members.

Dan asked each member to introduce themselves and report on activities in their region. Each director present reported on several positive events that had or would take place in their region.

Dan called for the Secretary to read the minutes. Bob moved and Sally seconded that the minutes be accepted as published in the Newsletter. The motion passed.

The following committee reports were then presented:

Sally Barney, Treasurer, reported that the NTSRI is doing well financially. She's much happier now with the financial news. Sally reported that our new brochures are already paid for. She distributed a "Cash Flow Comparison" that showed an overall total of \$13.63 more than for the same time period last year. There is a balance of \$4,058.29 with a few distributions yet to be made. Bob moved, Barbara seconded, and the motion carried to accept the report.

Judy Harris, Registry Clerk, gave an updated list of members in their Region to each Director. To get new member names of those not in your region, Judy advised that you can call her. To get information on members of the NTSRI, Judy reminded that all can consult the *Tunis Spirit*. Judy distributed information on registrations and transfers to date, reporting good numbers so far for 2004. Through August 2004, Judy has received \$9862.00 in fees. This is somewhat above last year's receipts. Barbara moved the report be accepted. Sally seconded and the motion passed.

Louise Dunham, Newsletter and Website, reminded all that the deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is October 10. The price for ads for the Newsletter is \$10 per issue and \$10 for 3 months on the Website. Louise reported that the Newsletter will continue to be mailed to all members since there seemed to be little support for sending the Newsletter electronically. The next mailing of the Newsletter will include a brochure with each Newsletter. She also reported that she continues to get interest from the Website. Louise also noted that Patti Brashears, Webmaster, and Louise have discussed the website and Patti's time constraints at home. Patti has asked for some help maintaining the site and keeping it updated. Patti feels she'll either have to have help or will be forced to give up her Webmaster position. Barbara agreed to help as much as she can with the site. Bob will look into getting a PDF writer to help with putting the Newsletter on the site. Also, it was agreed that help in maintaining the site will be sought from the membership. Randy moved and Nancy seconded that the report be accepted. The motion passed.

Dan Kleman (Peter Harris, also present and Roy Davis) reported on the recommendations the Show Committee had developed for the rotation of the 3 NTSRI national events. A show must have separate Tunis classes for 3 years and a petition must be signed by 5 members who exhibit at a show and submitted to the NTSRI to be considered as a National Show. After much discussion, the following schedule was decided:

Barbara moved and Randy seconded that the following schedule be used for the National Show: 2005 NAILE, 2006 Missouri State Fair, 2007 Ohio State Fair.

Nancy moved and Randy seconded that the following schedule be used for the National Junior Show: 2005 New England Youth Show; 2006 All American Youth Show to be held the July 4 weekend at the Big E Fairgrounds, West Springfield, MA. Bob Bartholomew and Sally Barney reported on the invitation from the All American for Tunis young people to be part of this fantastic week. The \$750 cost was a concern. However, Jan Smith of J & J Farm, Norton, MA, has graciously provided the entire amount. Jan had agreed this summer that a memorial fund in memory of James Fitzgibbons, Jan's long time partner, would be used for the youth of NTSRI. When Jan learned of the opportunity of having Tunis young people participate in the All American, she graciously agreed to use the funds collected in the Memorial Fund (\$795) for this show.

As had been previously decided, the National Sale for 2005 will be held at the Great Lakes Show and Sale, Wooster, Ohio. Bob moved and Randy seconded that the report be accepted. The motion passed.

Joss Best has again agreed to take on the task of getting the *Tunis Spirit*, the NTSRI Directory, published. To help her with this task Joss has chosen Nancy Schmidt, Director of Region 7, and Kathy Freeman, a NTSRI member with experience in publication. Joss, having moved to NH (new address: Box 292, Elkins, NH 03233), chose Nancy and Kathy in part because they can be an "on-site" link to the publisher located in Ohio. In order to have the Directory be complete and accurate, **members must get their 2005 dues paid by March 1.** Joss will have prices for ads ready for publicizing in the next Newsletter. Since the *Tunis Spirit* is a self supporting project, be certain to do your part by taking advantage of this advertising opportunity and have your ad mailed to every NTSRI member and to each new member. Ads can be ordered January 1 to March 1, with copies of ads and checks made out to NTSRI going to Joss. Dan, as President, will help Joss, Nancy and Kathy by serving as pre-print reviewer for the 2005 *Tunis Spirit*. Judy then brought to attention that some 2004 *Tunis Spirits* were misprinted. She indicated that 50+ mailings had to be redone because there were missing pages in the Directory and that

some "on-hand" copies may have mistakes. Judy is to get an exact count of the misprints and send a written statement of the number of mistakes to Joss. Joss will then contact the publisher for adjustments on the cost of publishing the 2004 *Spirit*.

Joe Seavey, Youth Committee, reported that Colton Lowry from OH, has been chosen as the 2005 NTSRI Youth Ambassador. Colton will be travelling with Louise and Jim Dunham to several events in 2005 and Colton will be representing Tunis in as many venues as possible. Colton will also be doing some articles for the Newsletter. Joe reported that there were no applications for the scholarship this year. Joe applauded and thanked Martha Robie for the excellent job she did as the 2004 Youth Ambassador. Joe urged all to encourage young people to take advantage of the opportunities afforded thru the NTSRI. Joe asked for all the directors to consider what they can do to encourage young people in their regions to apply for youth activities. Joe will continue to advertise young people with Tunis through the Newsletter and in *The Banner*, noting that Greg Deakin at *The Banner* is always willing to cooperate. It was agreed that the National Tunis Youth association will be "put on the back burner" for now as several issues needed to be addressed before continuing with this project. Sally agreed to look into the constitution and by-laws to determine how the definition of "youth member" needs to be addressed.

Judy Harris and Sally Barney presented their suggestions for fundraising for the NTSRI Youth Fund. It was agreed that Judy and Sally will look into having hats with a Tunis logo (Sally and Judy's judgment on what is appropriate style) made up and will determine how to conduct the sale of hats. Sally reported that the auction of a ewe lamb at the National Sale with proceeds to go to youth activities had received favorable reviews. Sally will also look into several other opportunities for funding.

Lyle Hotis has agreed again to chair the Election Committee. In 2005, Regions 2, 3, and 10 will elect Directors. Gary Grenier, Region 2, cannot run again as he has served 2 terms. Bob Bartholomew, Region 3 and Linda Cook, Region 10 have indicated they will be seeking a second term.

Several other issues were addressed during the meeting: Barbara shared a "thank-you" card for the buying credit she received sent by Emily Gibson. Lyle Hotis called again for nominations for the Bruce Hunt Shepherd Award, noting that Ken Mayes will be presented the award for 2004 and only one other person has been nominated. Bob moved and Linda seconded that the NTSRI not respond to a letter sent to the membership by the ALBC. The motion passed. Discussion led to the conclusion that since it was a matter of public record, nothing could be done about the use of the membership list to send this letter. Judy and others will look into possibilities. Bob asked that a way of indicating embryo transfer sheep on the papers be found. Judy and others will look into possibilities. The NTSRI having some influence on the selection of the New England Youth Show judge will be worked on by Sally and others.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Cassell

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### **ATTENTION PENNSYLVANIA TUNIS BREEDERS....**

The Keystone International Livestock Exposition is in jeopardy of losing its Jr. Tunis Show. The NTSRI decided at its 2004 Spring meeting to ask for donations from Pennsylvania (or any place else) members to cover expenses for this show. President, Dan Swartz realizes this being a transitional year, will ask the directors to cover the \$100 premium bill...this amount was dropped from the \$200 premium schedule last year. Donations are being accepted for the awards given to the youth at this show.

Could someone from Pennsylvania, please step forward to organize and collect funds for this show so that it can continue in the future? Thank you....National Tunis Show Committee

### **NAILE 2004 SCHEDULE:**

**Louisville, KY**

L

**1st Ever Tunis Junior Show**

**Sunday, Nov. 14, 2004**

**Tunis Open Show**

**Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2004**

**2:30 pm**

**Exhibitor's Meeting....15 minutes after conclusion of Open Show to pick 2005**

**National Show Judge**

**SOCIAL GATHERING....Everyone Invited**

**Wednesday evening...7:00 pm Fifth Quarter**

### **SPECIAL THANKS....NAILE JR TUNIS SHOW SPONSORS:**

Rod & Linda Brown, Dr. Roy Davis, Jim and Louise Dunham, Kleman Family Tunis, Ken and Darlene Mayes, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Schambow...The Ostermeyer's from Kansas will be donating embroidered prizes for the Grand and Reserve Grand Champions. Thanks for your support!

# CERTIFIED

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ON  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2004

ACHIEVED USDA  
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NOVEMBER 1, 2004

# Cash Flow Comparison

7/1/2003 Through 9/21/2004

9/21/2004

Page 1

Category Description	7/1/2003- 9/21/2003	7/1/2004- 9/21/2004	Amount Difference
<b>INFLOWS</b>			
Brochure Sales	0.00	65.00	65.00
Conference Call Reimbursement	61.12	0.00	-61.12
Credit	97.00	3.00	-94.00
Interest - Checking	1.01	0.36	-0.65
Interest - Savings	1.36	0.75	-0.61
James Fitzgibbons Memorial Fund	0.00	100.00	100.00
Memberships	440.00	390.00	-50.00
NAILE Jr Show Fund	0.00	345.00	345.00
Owed	181.00	0.00	-181.00
Paid	0.00	283.00	283.00
Pedigree	44.00	14.00	-30.00
Postage	0.00	18.00	18.00
Registrations	1,852.00	2,208.00	356.00
Rush Fees	612.00	324.00	-288.00
Transfers	1,092.00	1,232.00	140.00
Tunis Directory	0.00	257.00	257.00
Tunis Youth Fund	0.00	5.00	5.00
Web Ad	5.00	0.00	-5.00
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>4,386.49</b>	<b>5,245.11</b>	<b>858.62</b>
<b>OUTFLOWS</b>			
Advertising	171.00	85.50	85.50
Brochure Printing	0.00	1,383.73	-1,383.73
Clerk Expenses			
Clerk Postage	127.14	205.41	-78.27
Clerk Printing	0.00	219.00	-219.00
Clerk Salary	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Clerk Supplies	1.48	68.23	-66.75
Clerk Telephone	234.25	237.37	-3.12
<b>TOTAL Clerk Expenses</b>	<b>2,362.87</b>	<b>1,730.01</b>	<b>632.86</b>
Domain Renewal	25.00	84.85	-59.85
Newsletter			
Newsletter Postage	156.00	186.00	-30.00
Newsletter Printing	135.00	158.00	-23.00
Newsletter Salary	75.00	46.00	29.00
<b>TOTAL Newsletter</b>	<b>366.00</b>	<b>390.00</b>	<b>-24.00</b>
NSF - Tunis Directory	0.00	132.00	-132.00
Owes	461.00	245.00	216.00
Shows and Sales			
Keystone - Youth	0.00	100.00	-100.00
National Youth Show	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Regional - District 3	38.88	0.00	38.88
Regional - District 7	100.00	0.00	100.00
Regional - Northeast	100.00	0.00	100.00
<b>TOTAL Shows and Sales</b>	<b>238.88</b>	<b>300.00</b>	<b>-61.12</b>
Tunis Directory Printing	0.00	90.65	-90.65
Used Credit	43.00	21.00	22.00
Youth			
Buyers credit	50.00	100.00	-50.00
<b>TOTAL Youth</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>-50.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>3,717.75</b>	<b>4,562.74</b>	<b>-844.99</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>668.74</b>	<b>682.37</b>	<b>13.63</b>

## TREASURER'S REPORT....The Bottom Line!

National Tunis Sheep Registry	\$1,006.95
NTSRI	<u>\$3,051.34</u>
TOTAL:	\$4,058.29

Plus \$186.50 made at the Silent Auction @ the General Membership Meeting  
TO BE ADDED TO THE YOUTH FUND!!!!

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## UNOFFICIAL SALES RESULTS....NY BRED EWE SALE....Oct. 16th, 2004!

**CHAMPION EWE**...Brood Ewe owned by Blue Ridge Farm, S. Royalton, VT...Suzle Benolt

Purchased for \$900 by B-Bar Stock Farm

**RES. CHAMP EWE**...Yearling Ewe owned by J & J Farm, Norton, MA...Jan Smith

Purchased for \$425 by Heidi Myers

### YEARLING EWES...CONSIGNED BY

Lawthea Farm, Middleboro, MA	\$225	Jim & Louise Dunham, Zanesfield, OH	\$525
RQL Farms, Hillsborough, NJ	\$225	Jim & Louise Dunham, Zanesfield, OH	\$475

### BROOD EWES....CONSIGNED BY

Cambell Tunis, Marion, NY	\$225	Lawthea Farm, Middleboro, MA	\$225
Half Pint Farm, Brandon Taylor, MA	\$350	Alanda Farms, N. Dighton, MA	\$500
Lawthea Farm, Middleboro, MA	\$250	RQL Farms, Hillsborough, NJ	\$225
Campbell Tunis, Marion, NY	\$200		

### FALL EWE LAMB.....

### SPRING EWE LAMBS

Campbell Tunis, Marion, NY	\$175	Jewel Tunis, Tivoli, NY	\$225
B-Bar Stock Farm, E. Chatham, NY	\$175	B-Bar Stock Farm, E. Chatham, NY	\$450
		B-Bar Stock Farm, E. Chatham, NY	\$300
		Lawthea Farm, Middleboro, MA	\$150

**18 Tunis averaged...\$333.33**

**Brood Ewes averaged...\$359.38**

**Yearling Ewes averaged....\$375.00**

**Spring Ewe Lambs averaged...\$250.00**

## Tunis Spirit 2005

As our new super brochure says "Not everything in the sheep business is black and white!" Accordingly, by popular request of your directors and fellow members, we are offering color space in the 2005 Tunis Spirit on the covers, inside and back outside(the front will be generic color as last year) plus 4 inside pages as full pages or divided into ½ page spaces priced as follows: (pricing includes scanning up to 2 photos on a ½ page and 4 photos on a full page)

Back cover	\$850	Inside cover	\$825
Full page	\$800	1/2 page	\$450

That means we have available ONLY 7 Full or 14 Half pages for Color. Hurry!

Other promotion space will cost the same as last year- accented with Tunis red:

Business card	\$35	1/9 page	\$90
¼ page	\$175	½ page	\$275
full page	\$275		

My vision and goal is to continue the friendly tone. Please save your straight/formal show photos for other venues. For Spirit I am looking through a warm lens that presents Tunis in a light that is attractive to everyone, for all kinds of purposes.

The "You're Going Where" column will continue - I hope to see more participation there, please (especially the person whose e-mail got lost last year!)

First come-First Served begins 1st November. Send requests and checks made out to N T S R I -- Jozi Best, Box 292, Elkins, NH. 03233. E-mail jozibest@aol.com.

REMEMBER....this is the one time each year that you can take advantage of this advertizing offer.

## **BARBARA CASSELL....Region 9 Director....writes...**

At the 2004 State Fair of Virginia the competition in the Tunis classes were fierce. Seven breeders brought exemplary representatives of the beautiful redheads to the Fair.

Mom's Tunis from VA (That's me.) earned first place in the Junior Ram lamb and Senior Ewe Lamb Classes and took the Second Place Flock ribbon. Louise Hindle from MD and the Rock Family, RQL Farms, from NJ brought excellent flocks down from New England, doing well with their east coast redheads. From the north, Bob Bartholomew from NY brought his flock and placed extremely well, earning Premier Exhibitor honors. From the Mid-West, Linda Cook sent two ewe lambs and earned first place ribbons with both. And midwestern exhibitors gathered all the Champion ribbons, with the Bruns Family from OH receiving Champion Ram award on their yearling ram and the first place Flock ribbon. The Kleman Family captured the Champion and Reserve Champion Ewe placings on their yearling ewes and Reserve Champion Ram on their ram lamb.

It was an extraordinary show, with the judge, Dick Kuzemchak from Penn State University, giving high praise to all the entries and remarking several times during and after the show that the quality ran deep in every class. The yearling ewe class was arguably the best example of the quality and depth of the show. Twelve yearling ewes were exhibited, with the Champion Ewe and Reserve Champion Ewe both coming from the class. The judge praised each entry and commented that, "This is the best class I've judged all day and one of the best I've placed at any show in quite a while." Since this is my home State Fair, my ego inflated considerably as I listened to the judge, other Tunis exhibitors, and exhibitors of other breeds praise our beautiful redheads and the wonderful show happening at this year's Fair.

As always, since the honors have been bestowed, it's time for the "Thank You's":

\*Thank You to all the staff and crew at the Fair for getting and keeping the facilities ready, the personnel in place, and the schedule moving. A special great big Thank You to Martha May for all her hard work in fixing schedules and providing materials and being the warm, generous, diligent, and constructive person that she is. The Show would have been much less than it was without all of Martha's hard work.

\*Thank You to all those "non-owners" who helped show Tunis sheep so that the show could continue in a smooth and timely fashion. Thank You to all the "extra" family members who came to the Fair and helped with all the work.

\*Thank You to all the exhibitors for making the extra effort to have the Tunis Show at the 2004 State Fair of Virginia be such a grand success.

All of us here in the South appreciate all of you and hope your experiences were such that we will see you often in the years to come. Y'all Come Back Now, Hear!

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## **SANDRA ROCK writes....about the Keystone International Show!**

Greetings from the Northeast! Since I have been "volunteered" to become the KILE representative/correspondent, I guess it falls to me to report the news from KILE. According to KILE officials, this year's Tunis Show and Tunis Youth Show were the largest in KILE history. In the open show on Friday there were 6 flocks plus 7 other exhibitors representing 5 states. Six of the young exhibitors went on to participate in Sunday's youth show.

Joshua Howe's yearling ram, Howe 3-06, generated a lot of excitement, taking Champion Ram honors in both the open show and the youth show. Reserve Champion ram in the open show went to John and Irene Bruns on their yearling ram, Bruns 8. Reserve Champion ram honors in the youth show belonged to Eric Kleman on his spring ram lamb, Kleman 2065. Our Tunis youth really showed their bright futures with their outstanding performance in the open show. Mandy Swartz collected some major Futurity points by winning Champion Ewe in the open show with her early spring ewe lamb, Mom's Tunis MTP 61. Joshua Howe followed her with Reserve Champion ewe on his late spring ewe lamb, Howe 167. B-Bar Stock Farm collected the Premier Exhibitor award.

In the Youth Show, Eric Kleman took Champion Ewe with his yearling ewe, HGA 314 (a great showing for last year's Futurity winner!). Justine Swartz's spring ewe lamb, Triple S 403, won Reserve Champion Ewe honors. Youth show winners were rewarded with very attractive embroidered chairs donated by Kleman Family Tunis, B-Bar Stock Farm, Triangle Farms Tunis, RQL Farms, S&T Tunis and Old Glory Farm.

The KILE show ring housed a lot of awesome redheads and the excitement wasn't limited to the show ring! Compliments of a cattle exhibitor and some overheated aerosol cans, some of us wondered if we were under attack and Eric Kleman thought it might be aimed at him since he happened to be walking by the cans when they exploded. Fortunately there were no injuries aside from a few increased heart rates. Eighteen Tunis exhibitors gathered at the local 'Outback' for some good food, better company, and hearty laughs. And all of us learned a very valuable lesson – never let Dan Kleman close to your sheep with any kind of shearing instruments! Dan is much better at supervision than practice. Ask him, he'll tell you.

Come join us at next year's KILE. Wouldn't it be great to bring another record year of beautiful redheads into Harrisburg? We can reserve the whole 'Outback'!



General Membership Meeting of NTSRI  
B'Shara's Restaurant

September 25, 2004  
West Springfield, MA

Dan Swartz, President, called the fall NTSRI General Membership Meeting to order at 8:10 pm on September 25. Dan welcomed everyone and praised the good show, the 2004 National Show, held earlier in the day. Introductions were then made and comments taken from those present.

Dan asked for summaries from the Directors and Committee Reports given during the Board of Directors meeting held earlier. Some key points of particular interest were as follows:

Sally Barney reported that the NTSRI is doing well financially. Judy reported that "everything" is up from last year. The new brochures have been paid for and the Directory has been well received.

Louise also reminded members of the October 10 deadline for information for the next Newsletter. Also, Louise reminded the members that ads for the Newsletter can be purchased for \$10 and for the Website, ads run for 3 months are \$10.

Dan Kleman reported on the scheduled rotation for the National Show (2005 NAILE, 2006 Missouri State Fair, and 2007 Ohio State Fair), the National Junior Show (2005 New England Youth Show, and 2006 All American Junior Show to be held at the Big E Fairgrounds), and the National Sale (2005 Great Lakes Show and Sale, Wooster, OH). Dan also reported on Jan Smith's generosity in providing the funds for the All American (\$750).

Dan Swartz gave the report for Jozi on the *Tunis Spirit*. Dan thanked Jozi for the excellent job on the 2004 *Spirit* and applauded her for agreeing to do the job again in 2005. Dan reminded everyone that to meet the deadlines, dues must be paid by March 1 and ads need to be ordered by March 1.

Joe Seavey reported that Colton Lowry from OH will be the 2005 Youth Ambassador. Joe thanked Martha Robie for her excellent work last year as Ambassador. Joe urged everyone to push our young people to complete applications for the NTSRI scholarship. There were no applications for 2004. Sally reported that fundraising efforts for youth programs will include selling hats, newsletter auctions, donations, perhaps an e-bay auction and auctioning a ewe lamb at the National Sale.

Sandy Hunt-Hamel then connected by phone to Ken Mayes in Missouri, and using the speaker phone presented Ken with the 2004 Bruce Hunt Shepherd Award. Ken was very pleased to be presented with the award and to be a part of the meeting even though he could not travel to West Springfield. Sandy will mail Ken the plaque commemorating this award. Lyle Hotis then called for more nominations for the award noting that again he had only one nominee for 2005. Joe Seavey told of how much receiving the award in 2003 meant to him.

A number of Sales were mentioned for members to take note of: Top of Ohio Bred Ewe Sale, Marysville, OH to be held Oct. 30, 2004; the 2004 Bred Ewe Sale in Rhinebeck, NY will have several Tunis entries and the 2005 Rhinebeck show will have Tunis as the featured breed. More information will be forthcoming in the Newsletter.

Gary Grenier reported on the 4-H Sheep Camp experience. Jeremy Etzler then commended the NTSRI on their National Youth Shows, mentioning that from a judge's viewpoint, the New England Show and the All American were the best two youth shows he had observed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Cassell, Secretary

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**FOR SALE: Tunis yearling ram...**placed 3rd at the Missouri State Fair. His bloodlines include Dr. Davis' & Ken Mayes' line. Can be delivered to Louisville. Contact Aimee Ostermeyer at 913-369-9100. Kansas

**FOR SALE: 100 Registered Tunis Brood Ewes....**Would like to sell as one group...different ages...but all very productive. Contact Dan & Robin Swartz at 585-591-1410 Western New York

**FOR SALE: Registered Tunis ram lamb....**straight from our show flock! Would make a great clean up ram for this fall. Central Ohio. Call Dan Erwin @ 740-943-3792

**FOR SALE: Registered Tunis ewe lambs...**Sired by an older registered ram (that adds length and muscling). Ram for sale also at this time. Central Ohio. Mark Cox @ 937-376-4423

## **NOTES FROM GREEN LANE FARM by Val Ames...our Canadian Contributor!**

Well, it's been eight months since I put 'pen to paper' as they say, and what a roller coaster ride!! Lambing had some surprises, including my first experience with grafting lambs onto Tunis. In 13 years with Tunis I have never had this opportunity but this year had not one but three chances! Each ewe had lost her single or both twins ( my fault for not researching purchased rams). Three lambs from three sets of triplets were penned individually with a ewe. I only had to collar and leash one ewe and by the end of the week all three couples were let out of their pens, having totally accepted the new lambs! Not quite the same story with the other breeds \* - \* reminder to add this to my promotional material!

Talking of which, I note Catharine's pleas is for more promo stuff so she can "promote the breed here at home". Many of us can identify a niche market in our own area and this can be promoted far better on a personal level than a National level. While my Tunis have never seen a show ring, they have attended Rare Breed displays and just plain Sheep Breed displays. I go fully equipped with business cards (don't forget a hanging pocket for them on the pens), an album of Tunis pictures and posters listing why one should have Tunis.

Way to go Mel on the tail docking issue! I also agree that it is cruel, unhealthy and a disgrace to our industry. While some States have banned this practice, might I suggest that we go one better and ban it as a Breed Association? If for no other reason, it does give these fat tail relatives somewhere to put the fat! With severe droughts likely to become the norm, you are going to be glad your Tunis have somewhere to put any extra green feedstuff.

I like the Christmas lights in the barn, Louise! We have low wattage lights on three sides of the barns so that we too can see what is going on in the yard at night but also so the sheep on nearby pastures (or in the yard in winter) can camp within sight of 'home'. Yes, my sheep like night lights! When they are further from home, they get a solar powered night light (available anywhere low wattage garden lights are sold). One pasture is very close to a coyote corridor so I feel it provides some indication of habitation to passing coyotes and is usually very effective in getting the sheep there to camp together by the light.

I also agree with Louise's moveable pen arrangements in the barn. A portion of our main barn was already set up with permanent hardwood stanchions every six feet, and six feet long. While many sheep producers up here were known to gut these types of interior walls, we kept ours and apart from providing miles more wall for sheep to sleep against, they are protected against draughts and with three gates each section, they became two lambing pens, each 2' x 5' or 6'.

Practical tips/ideas - here's a couple. 1/ Wide profile tires suspended from trees (pasture time) or beams (winter in the barn or yard) for salt and minerals - keeps most of the weather out, is unbreakable and won't hurt them. 2/The 7" or 8 " diameter green, white or blue plastic pipe used for drains/sewers in new housing projects makes WONDERFUL grain feeders! Cut in half and in about 10 foot lengths with a circular saw - any longer makes it awkward and heavy to haul around. Make 'legs' out of 10" wide lumber with a crescent cut to seat the half pipe and a plywood end plate: ours are built to just take the pipe about 4" off the ground. They are easy to clean, totally weatherproof, virtually unbreakable, and the curved surface is easy for the sheep to clean up. We found leftovers on sites and the builders asked \$25 for each section. Note here - it would cost over \$200 a section at full price!!!

Maxine asks about the specific dietary requirements of the Tunis. That's what I like about this breed - they are such easy keepers/feeders - no special needs. With temporary electric fencing I rotate the sheep through roughly two acre sections of pasture - increasing the stocking rate in the Spring and Fall when there is more of it. Each time the grasses head out I go round with the rotary mower - this puts them back in the growing 'mood' and does as good a job as the second (summer) application of fertilizer. I do not flush before breeding starts in July and do not feed grain until they have lambs. I feed free choice, round bale mostly grass hay, under cover outside in the winter - hay that is taken in within two days of baling - and free choice salt and minerals in those tires. Ewes with twins get 1 ½ pounds of mixed grain a day in two feeds till just before the lambs are weaned at around 55 days. Most ewes with singles don't get any grain. Lambs get creep feed. Those years of poor pasture (drought) and/or poor hay (never stops raining!) I supplement with about 2 ozs/head of pelleted soybean meal, NOT more grain or corn. I have the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture sheep ration software and the best way to balance a ration with poor hay is to feed high protein soy. See Maxine how easy it is?

I loved the first issue of the Tunis Spirit but could have done with less (?no) show results and more breed info. Talking of which, while the show people might strive for that level rump, I like it sloped, especially in the ewes as it makes for easy lambing. Do you need to get out those steel toed shoes that Mel suggested now?!!

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**Next newsletter deadline----- January 15, 2005!!!!**

**NATIONAL TUNIS SHOW.....Sept. 25, 2004****John Mrozinski, Judge****6 YR RAMS**

James Cameron, MA  
 John & Irene Bruns, OH  
 J & J Seavey, NY  
 Wendy Cameron, MA  
 Lyle Hotis, NY  
 R & L Feasley, NY

**1 FALL RAM**

Swartz & Talley, NY

**8 JAN. RAM LAMB**

Jozi Best, NH  
 Kleman Family, OH  
 Woolmark Farm, NH  
 J & J Seavey, NY  
 J & J Seavey, NY  
 Woolmark Farm, NH  
 Jared LaValle, MA  
 Lyle Hotis, NY

**8 FEB. RAM LAMB**

James Cameron, MA  
 Swartz & Talley, NY  
 J. J-Chickering, NH  
 Wendy Cameron, MA  
 Anna Charest, MA  
 Hickory Grove, CT  
 Lyle Hotis, NY  
 Honey-Lamb, MA

**6 MARCH RL**

Swartz & Talley, NY  
 Kleman Family, OH  
 J & J Seavey, NY  
 Wendy Cameron, MA  
 Travis Whitcomb, VT  
 Wendy Cameron, MA

**6 PAIR RAM LAMBS**

Swartz & Talley, NY  
 Kleman Family, OH  
 J & J Seavey, NY  
 Woolmark Farms, NH  
 Wendy Cameron, MA  
 Lyle Hotis, NY

**7 EXHIBITOR'S FLOCK**

Wendy Cameron, MA  
 John & Irene Bruns, OH  
 Swartz & Talley, NY  
 Woolmark Farms, NH  
 J & J Seavey, NY  
 Hickory Grove, CT  
 Lyle Hotis, NY

**5 BREEDER'S FLOCK**

Wendy Cameron, MA  
 Woolmark Farms, NH  
 J & J Seavey, NY  
 Hickory Grove, CT  
 Lyle Hotis, NY

**13 SR YR EWES-Group 1**

Woolmark Farms, NH  
 J.J. Chickering, NH  
 Kleman Family, OH  
 Kleman Family, OH  
 John & Irene Bruns, OH  
 Wendy Cameron, MA  
 Woolmark Farms, MA  
 Hickory Grove, CT  
 John & Irene Bruns, OH  
 Jasmine Seavey, NY  
 Devon Newton, RI  
 J & J Seavey, NY  
 J & J Seavey, NY

**12 SR YR EWES-Group 2**

Wendy Cameron, MA  
 Swartz & Talley, NY  
 J.J. Chickering, NH  
 Hickory Grove, CT  
 Swartz & Talley, NY  
 Lyle Hotis, NY  
 R & L Feasley, NY  
 Suzanne Benoit, VT  
 James Cameron, MA  
 Lyle Hotis, NY  
 Honey Lamb Farm, MA  
 Honey Lamb Farm, MA

**10 PAIRS YR EWES**

J.J. Chickering, NH  
 Kleman Family, OH  
 Swartz & Talley, NY  
 Wendy Cameron, OH  
 Hickory Grove, CT  
 Woolmark Farm, NH  
 John & Irene Bruns, OH  
 J & J Seavey, NY  
 Lyle Hotis, NY  
 Honey Lamb Farm, MA

**2 SR EWE LAMBS**

Swartz & Talley, NY  
 Travis Whitcomb, VT

**2 GET OF SIRE**

Swartz & Talley, NY  
 J & J Seavey, NY

**15 JAN. EWE LAMBS**

Jozi Best, NH  
 Triangle Farms, IN  
 J & J Seavey, NY  
 Woolmark Farms, NH  
 Jozi Best, NH  
 Mandy Swartz, NY  
 J & J Seavey, NY  
 Jared LaValle, MA  
 John & Irene Bruns, OH  
 Jackie Lewis, CT  
 Jasmine Seavey, NY  
 Lyle Hotis, NY  
 R & L Feasley, NY  
 Dillon Harris, MA  
 Lyle Hotis, NY

**10 FEB. EWE LAMBS**

John & Irene Bruns, OH  
 Kleman Family, OH  
 Triangle Farms, IN  
 Jared LaValle, MA  
 Justine Swartz, NY  
 Woolmark Farms, NH  
 Dillon Harris, MA  
 Honey Lamb Farms, MA  
 Anna Charest, MA  
 R & L Feasley, NY

**13 MARCH EWE LAMBS**

J. J. Chickering, NH  
 Emily Gibson, NH  
 J & J Seavey  
 Wendy Cameron, MA  
 Hickory Grove, CT  
 Hickory Grove, CT  
 Wendy Cameron, NY  
 Daniel Swartz, NY  
 Swartz & Talley, NY  
 J & J Seavey, NY  
 Anna Charest, MA  
 James Cameron, MA  
 James Cameron, MA

**14 PAIRS EWE LAMB**

Jozi Best, NH  
 J & J Seavey, NY  
 Triangle Farms, IN  
 John & Irene Bruns, OH  
 Jared LaValle, MA  
 Woolmark Farms, NH  
 Swartz & Talley, NY  
 Wendy Cameron, MA  
 Hickory Grove, CT  
 James Cameron, MA  
 Dillon Harris, MA  
 Anna Charest, MA  
 Lyle Hotis, NY  
 R & L Feasley, NY

**SR CHAMPION RAM - James Cameron, MA****Res. SR CHAMP RAM - John & Irene Bruns, OH****JR CHAMPION RAM - Swartz & Talley, NY****Res. JR CHAMP RAM - Jozi Best, NH****GRAND CHAMPION RAM - Swartz & Talley, NY****Res. CHAMP RAM - Jozi Best, NH****PREMIER EXHIBITOR - Joe & Joan Seavey, NY****SR CHAMPION EWE - Wendy Cameron, MA****Res. SR CHAMP EWE - Woolmark Farms, NH****JR CHAMPION EWE - Jozi Best, NH****Res. JR CHAMP EWE - Triangle Farms, IN****GRAND CHAMPION EWE - Jozi Best, NH****Res. CHAMP EWE - Wendy Cameron, MA****PREMIER BREEDER - Swartz & Talley, NY**

**OHIO STATE FAIR....AUG. 8TH****JEFF NEAL, Judge****5 Yr Rams**

Triple S, MO  
J & L Dunham, OH  
Triple S, MO  
Butterfly Acres, OH  
Chris Harrington, OH

**3 Fall Ram Lambs**

Triple S, MO  
Nancy Schmidt, OH  
Nancy Schmidt, OH

**8 Early Spring RL**

Eric Kleman, OH  
Triple S, MO  
Henry Zerby, OH  
J & L Dunham, OH  
Keiser Farms, OH  
Jacci Erwin, OH

**5 Late Spring RL**

Triple S, MO  
Mom's Tunis, VA  
Mom's Tunis, OH  
Bruns Tunis, OH  
Bruns Tunis, OH

**5 PAIRS RL**

Triple S, MO  
Mom's Tunis, VA  
Bruns Tunis, OH  
R & R Tunis, OH  
Nancy Schmidt, OH

**CH. RAM - YR RAM****Triple S - MO****CH RAM - Early Sp****Eric Kleman - OH****13 EARLY YR EWES**

Eric Kleman, OH  
Bruns Tunis, OH  
Triple S, MO  
Eric Kleman, OH  
Bruns Tunis, OH  
J & L Dunham, OH  
Colton Lowry, OH

**6 LATE YR EWES**

Mom's Tunis, VA  
Mom's Tunis, VA  
Martha Winner, OH  
J & L Dunham, OH  
R & R Tunis, OH  
Jacci Erwin, OH

**8 SLICK SHORN**

Triple S, MO  
Mom's Tunis, VA  
Mom's Tunis, VA

**9 PAIRS YR EWES**

Eric Kleman, OH  
Bruns Tunis, OH  
Triple S, MO  
Mom's Tunis, VA  
J & L Dunham, OH  
Tom Lowry Family, OH  
Jacci Erwin, OH

**5 FALL EWE LAMBS**

Colton Lowry, OH  
Mom's Tunis, VA  
Triple S, MO  
Nancy Schmidt, OH

**18 EARLY SPRING EWE**

Barnes Farms, OH  
Triangle Farms, IN  
J & L Dunham, OH  
Bruns Tunis, OH  
J & L Dunham, OH  
Bruns Tunis, OH

**10 LATE SPRING**

Barnes Farms, OH  
Triple S, MO  
Martha Winner, OH  
Henry Zerby, OH  
R & R Tunis, OH  
Triangle Farms, IN

**9 PAIRS EWE LAMBS**

Barnes Farms, OH  
Bruns Tunis, OH  
Triple S, OH  
J & L Dunham, OH  
Olivia Brown, OH  
Triangle Farms, IN  
Jacci Erwin, OH

**6 YOUNG FLOCK**

Triple S, MO  
Bruns Tunis, OH  
J & L Dunham, OH  
Mom's Tunis, VA  
Jacci Erwin, OH

**4 GET OF SIRE**

J & L Dunham, OH  
Bruns Tunis, OH  
Triangle Farms, IN

**CH. EWE - YR EWE****Eric Kleman, OH****RES. CH. EWE - LATE SPRING****Barnes Farms, OH**

4 HEAD OHIO BRED &amp; OWNED....3 shown

MOST CHARACTERISTIC RAM...5 shown

MOST CHARACTERISTIC EWE...6 shown

Jim &amp; Louise Dunham

Mom's Tunis, VA

Molly Kleman, OH

**PREMIER EXHIBITOR - TRIPLE S FARMS, DR. ROY DAVIS, MO**

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**2004 NTSRI MEMBERSHIP BLANK**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL \_\_\_\_\_

FARM NAME \_\_\_\_\_

FARM \_\_\_\_\_

ST. ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, &amp; 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 DUES (and any donations) to: Judy Harris, 819 Lyons St., Ludlow, MA 01056

## **REGION 7 REPORT....Nancy Schmidt, Director**

Our region has been extremely active this summer. More and more county fairs are opening Tunis classes. Breeders have supported by taking their sheep. Even fairs where Tunis have to show in AOB classes breeders are there. No matter AOB or Tunis classes the Tunis did well placing high and in some cases going on to be Supreme Champion Ram, Ewe or Flock. The regional show held in Mercer County had a great showing of Tunis. Mercer County does not give out ribbons so Louise and Jim Dunham donated ribbons for the Tunis show (thank you) which they offered me to pass them out to the winners which was a great experience. Mercer also, has an adult showmanship class (for those of us over 4-H age) for both men and women, something that I had never seen before but, great idea. Dan Kleman was the best for the men and other Tunis breeders in the top 4. In the womens area Irene Bruns was 3rd.

While some were busy with the fairs, other breeders were busy doing Agricultural displays, Fiber Shows and/or Festivals, Educational Programs. All in all Tunis were everywhere! Thankfully, we here in Ohio have many diverse flocks to handle any situation.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!!**

Hopefully, we will see all types of these sheep at the Bred Ewe Sale on Oct. 30th in Marysville, OH. Look to see you there. (For more information contact Roger Hunker @419-483-8233....supposedly 20+ bred Tunis ewes are entered!)

It takes all of us working together to promote our breed. Remember.....

Support those who show

Support those who don't

Every sheep has a head and tail

And it takes both ends to make a whole!

A BIG CONGRATULATIONS to Colton Lowry. Colton has been appointed by National to be our youth representative. National could not have picked a better young man to represent us. This gentleman (and I mean this term in the highest respect) impressed me from my first meeting with him. He always finds time (no matter how busy) to come and chat or offer his help. He is always very positive of everyone's sheep (a practice we adults could learn from). I feel Colton will do a terrific job as youth representative.

Best Wishes go to Jozi & Matt Best who have recently moved from OH to NH. We are sorry to lose you as you have done a tremendous job of helping get the Ohio Tunis Sheep Association up and running, Tunis classes at the Ohio State Fair, representing OH at the Sheep and Wool Congress, doing education seminars, and promoting Tunis in everyway, everywhere!

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## **THE NATIONAL TUNIS YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE IS.....Colton Lowry!**

Colton lives at 2944 St. Rt. 287, West Liberty, Ohio with his parents, Tom and Anne Lowry and younger brother, Ross. Colton, who is 13 years old, is currently an 8th grade student at West Liberty Salem and plays on a community soccer team. Five years ago, Colton and his parents purchased 5 Tunis feeder ram lambs for pasture management but they soon discovered that it would take more sheep than that to keep the 17 acres of woodland and 5 acres of pasture eaten down. Currently, the Lowry Tunis Farm has 15 Registered Tunis ewes with Darling and Mayes backgrounds housed in their 2 barns. Colton credits Ken & Darlene Mayes & Jim and Louise Dunham for giving him a good start and Sam and Pat Wiford for all of their advice with showing.

Although this year, Colton showed at the Logan County Fair, the Ohio State Fair, and the Kentucky State Fair (and plans to show at NAILE in November), in the future, he would like to attend more shows, enter more showmanship classes and to have some breeding stock for sale in the future. He indicated that he will bring a "professional attitude and an open mind" to this position in the NTSRI.

When asked what would be your biggest dream for the NTSRI, Colton says, "That all of the politics were out of this. I don't think this can happen but life will go on." In this same line of thinking, Colton would "change the politics in judging so it was fair and equal for all." He encourages both youth and adults who breed Tunis sheep to join the NTSRI because "everyone should count."

Good luck, Colton, in this awesome position for 2005....and let's hope that you have more than 1 ewe lamb born this year (everything else was a ram!).....so you can reach more of your goals!

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**Ken Mayes would like to express his appreciation for being given the 2004 BRUCE HUNT SHEPHERD AWARD. Ken wants to voice his pleasure at receiving this honor and the way it was presented! Sandy's phone call from the meeting was a special delight!**

**Ken invites the membership to stop in Shelbina, MO anytime and visit his sheep office to see this plaque! He assures us that it will be hung in a place of honor!**

## **7TH WORLD SHEEP & WOOL CONGRESS.... July 17-25, 2004**

**by AnnaRae Hodgkin**

I have just returned from Quebec City, Canada, the host country and city for the 7th World Sheep and Wool Congress. I was allowed to represent North Carolina at this meeting, and was privileged to be the ONLY North Carolinian attending. My most ardent supporter of this trip was my husband, J.C. Loflin, Jr., who stayed at home and tended the sheep flock, fed my chickens, got the calf up when one of the Highland cows delivered, kept the guard donkeys where they needed to be, and took care of MY Doberman Pinschers. If not for his devotion to our menagerie, this trip would not have been possible.

Upon my arrival about midnight, only 8 hours late; I was ready for bed. Sunday was spent registering and meeting fellow delegates. Sunday night there was a big opening "Soiree". The Opening Ceremony included the presentation of the flags of those countries represented - 15 different nations. We were also fortunate to have the opportunity to watch native Canadian Indians doing a dance and ritual on the bear. While this congress was geared to the world sheep industry, there were some scheduled events and discussion & seminar topics that could have pertained to ANY livestock operation, while others were solely ovine related.

The 1st day's general session dealt with the animal identification program or system, which is so very necessary. It simply MUST be worldwide, to ensure a safe (clean & healthy) food supply for all people. While geared to the sheep disease, SCRAPIE, it was equally applicable to Hoof & Mouth Disease, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and other reportable outbreaks. We have all heard, via newsprint or television, how quickly Canada was able to identify that BSE cow located in the United States in December, 2003. Canada was quickly able to tell the public the farm from which it originated and also identified other bovines that had contact with that infected animal. Canada is moving in the fast lane on this topic. All animals must participate, must use the same tags, and must do it now! There is no phase-in period, like the US is proposing in their Animal Identification program. The USDA is proposing a phase in, over several years to implement the US AIS. All Canadian animals now have 2 ear tags since January, 2004; previously there was only one. These tags, and the use of them, are mandated by the National Government. Both tags have printed information on them. One tag appears to be a regular "Allflex"-type tag. It can be read by an individual or a bar code scanner. The other tag is a small, round button-type (similar to the US VOLUNTARY Scrapie button tags, not the Eradication tags currently being used by many producers), but it has an electronic chip (component) inside with all the pertinent information necessary for tracking. I may have misunderstood, but I think that goes only as far as the full carcass goes in the processing chain. At that time, other traceable applications are put in place. These are Allflex tags, in fact, but manufactured in Canada. These are all areas of concern for every livestock producer. Canada is certainly ahead of the US, but they are continuing to upgrade their system, just as adding the "micro-chipped tag" after the December, 2003 BSE find. Our own Guy Flora, from Ohio and The Shepherd Magazine; spoke as President of the American Sheep Industry. Guy pulls no punches in stating how dire the situation is for sheep producers worldwide. His speech dealt with the International Sheep Industry, not just the United States. His speech is reprinted in the ASI news report.

These were some of the break-out topics presented during the Congress:

- Use of Genetics, Nutrition, & Management to produce High Quality Wool
- Meat Quality & the Callipyge Gene; Consumer Acceptance and Final Product
- Dead Stock Disposal: Problems & Strategies
- Effects of External Parasites
- Mineral Nutrition in Sheep
- Can We Improve Maternal Behavior Lamb Rearing Performance in High Fecund Sheep?
- Use of Genetic Markers in Ovine Production
- Mastitis in Ewes
- Control Strategies for Maedi-Visna (Johnes Disease) & Control by Vaccination
- Using Melatonin in Ovine Production
- Use of the Ram Effect to Insure Out-Of-Season Breeding

Day 3 of the Congress had the morning devoted to Reports from Representatives of the World Committee member countries. The afternoon was free to visit the local sheep farm or the research center. I spent the afternoon touring the La Pocatiere (CEPOQ), the research center for ovine studies. Bio-security as very strict. Every livestock producer in the US could learn a few tips from the staff. As soon as the individual exited the bus, he was handed a pair of booties, which covered the shoes and lower leg. I know that I have been laughed at, or worse, for requiring visitors going onto my flock grounds to wear these booties. After the booties were on, one received their "haz-mat" outfit, XXXL! These were a woven, synthetic fiber, white coverall. A "real" fashion statement. Someone said we all were cousins of the Pillsbury Dough Boy! After pictures were made (for blackmail, no doubt), we were allowed to enter the barn/research area. We were instructed to LOOK ONLY! We were not allowed to touch any animals or equipment being used. This was a unique facility, but most of the animals (sheep and lambs) never went outside onto pasture. Those on pasture, or allowed access

## **WORLD CONGRESS CONTINUED.....**

to pasture, were part of another test. This research involved natural versus artificial light to stimulate estrus. There was one section testing the use of kelp (seaweed) as food. We were told that the sheep did not, or were not responding very well. However, we do know there are sheep in Scotland that thrive on kelp and other seaweeds.

Days 4, 5 and 6 were spent at the Expo-Cite, which is a marvelous stock/meeting facility about 7 miles outside Quebec City. There were 2 days of sheep judging in one area, while sponsors and shearers were set up in another area of the facility. I watched part of the shearing contests, but filmed the finals on Day 6. This type of shearing does not compare to how I want my sheep sheared, or handled, for that matter. There were several Americans in the contests, but only one, Rocky Anderson, was in the finals. An interesting aside was the fact that almost every shearer, except 2 or 3, were over 50 years old. This points out a problem existing worldwide, the lack of qualified shearers. Australia has completed a study and learned that the movements of a shearer is equivalent to a runner competing in either 5 or 6 marathons of 26 miles each. These people are truly athletes. Thursday evening was the official closing ceremony at the Quebec City Convention Centre, back in town. This was a meal with entertainment following. It was announced that Mexico would host the Congress in 2007. I was fortunate to have been in several seminars with the Mexican delegates as well as Mr. Benjamin Watts, the Aussie whose fleece was named Grand Champion of the Congress.

Saturday, Day 6 was the shearing final. The winner was a Canadian (50+ years old), 2nd place was won by the winner's "baby" brother, who was 16 years younger, 3rd place went to Rocky Anderson, while 4th went to a French-Canadian. He was a crowd favorite, but even sitting in the stands, one could see he really did a poor job of removing wool in an even manner. Plus, he nicked the sheep, some badly. All of this was taken into consideration, along with speed. That evening, all the delegates and their guests were treated to a huge lamb banquet. I learned a great deal from this trip, and hopefully made some new friends. I had hoped to see an e-mail friend, Val Ames from Ontario, Canada, but I met her shearer instead. John Ferrel shears Val's Tunis sheep (Yes, there are a few Tunis in Canada.) John was one of the judges for the shearing contest.

I was able to meet many "sheep" people, but the highlight for me was when the artist, Michel Des Marais, painted a picture of sheep and included Tunis in the painting. Mr. Des Marais' work was commissioned for the Congress. The original artwork, an acrylic painting, was made into prints, which were signed and numbered by the artist. These prints were given to seminar presenters and other speakers. The original piece was auctioned at the Thursday night gala, and was purchased by the Minister of Agriculture for Canada. Mr. Des Marais was painting in the Expo-Cite hall and was stationed across from the booth that I helped man, which included the ONLY American sheep breed association information. The NTRSI had a display board, brochures and other information. Other breeds from the US were represented only by brochures available in ASI booth. I noticed that he kept coming to look at the board, and finally I went to see what he was painting. He was painting another sheep scene, but he was including two Tunis. I even discussed the color of the wool with him. I purchased the painting, entitled "The First Tunis" and brought it home to North Carolina. Mr. Des Marais also presented me with 2 signed and numbered prints - the same prints the speakers received (only mine were not framed.) This artist has already been commissioned to do the artwork for the Congress in Mexico, if my information is correct.

Not claiming any credit, but the National Tunis Sheep Registry, Inc. was well represented at this World Congress. Jozi Best brought the foldout display board and the new brochures. She also brought a table and green material, printed with sheep, on which to place the board. She brought a few other sheep items, for added decoration, but make no mistake, this was a TUNIS display. She arranged the display at both locales, the Convention Center and the Expo-Cite. I did help do some unpacking and packing at both sites. I stayed in the booth to answer questions several times. At times, Jozi or myself was the only person in any of the US booths. So, given the opportunity, we talked TUNIS! We also handed out brochures on Dorset sheep or whatever breed was asked about, for ASI when that booth was not manned. It was amazing to see several Kiwis (New Zealanders) come up to Jozi and say they remembered her from the first Congress.

This was truly a one-of-a-kind educational experience. I just hope that I will be able to attend the 2007 Congress in Mexico. We are already implementing some procedures at the farm that I learned more about at this event. There is also some training that I want to attend, which is provided through the University of Georgia and the Southern Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control - Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) group, on alternative methods of worming. One thing I did learn, was that I was one of a few sheep producers who routinely used DNA testing for ram selection. Again, Thank You, JC for allowing me this opportunity!

**THANK YOU, ANNARAE!**

**If you want to see the pictures...contact AnnaRae at AHODGIN@RTMC.NET...and she'll e-mail you some pictures of the Congress...including that awesome Tunis picture!**

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**OCTOBER, 2004****NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC  
DIRECTORS & OFFICERS!****ISSUE 12**

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