

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.

JANUARY, 2005

ISSUE 13

Note from the President:

We are off and running into a new year, I hope that everyone is full of optimism and looking forward to a successful lambing season. This is the time of year that we reflect upon the past year and mostly think about those things we would like to do better in the coming year, but don't forget to reflect upon those things that were successful.

Last year was a year for change and trying a few new ideas, for if we don't continue to change we get lost in time. Our organization has a reputation for growth when the industry does not and our organization continues to find new and innovative ideas to promote our breed. We have several new people in our organization and we have many long time members performing new rolls. We are implementing new policies and new direction. While we take on a new look, we maintain an old philosophy, we strive to improve and focus on the youth that are involved in our organization.

I would like to thank our director from Pennsylvania, Royal Unzicker, for the time and care he has given our organization. Royal was kind enough to be a director even though his time was short and he no longer owned any Tunis sheep. He has not resigned but only after he was sure that a qualified director was available to replace him. Paul Vezzetti will now be the director from that area and I would like to welcome him aboard. Thanks again to Roy for helping us out when we needed someone with experience and willingness to put forth his time and effort.

As we move forward with changed policy and people who lead us, we find that not all is flawless. I ask all of our members to be patient and respectful as we make changes to benefit the organization. The point I wish to stress is that we are receptive of comments, suggestions and most of all help in the development and structuring of our organization as we move forward. We are urging strong regional support for Tunis events as well as national participation in these events. Let's have pride in our organization and not watch as a bystander but act as a participant as our organization continues to move forward in numbers, quality and pride in our breed.

I wish all a very successful and happy new year!

NTSRI President

Dan Swartz

ABOUT THE NATIONAL TUNIS SALE....

The Banner Sales Management Team will be sending each NTSRI member entry and sale information in the upcoming month. Entry deadline is March 15th...just enter those animals. The interest is high in quality Tunis and our national sale is the place those animals should be displayed and sold.

THE NATIONAL CLUB & OHIO TUNIS SHEEP ASSOCIATION will be offering a youth raffle featuring buyer's credits of \$50 & \$25. There will be a silent auction....and a national meeting.

The Ohio Tunis Sheep Association is looking forward to making sure that everything is in place and everyone has a great time talking Tunis. Watch for details in the April newsletter. But save May 28th & 29th for a fun time!

TUNIS SPIRIT 2005

Do you want the magazine/directory this year? I have only ONE certain ad and a couple of promises so far. Ads and checks for them Must be in to me (JOZI, not Joss) by the First of March this year. We will not be able to extend the deadline like we did last year. It is up to you ... nods, no Tunis Spirit.

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 1/2 page spaces priced as follows: (pricing includes scanning up to 2 photos on a 1/2 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
1/4 page	\$175	1/2 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. The Tunis Spirit looks 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 write a few lines about what travels you will be doing. (especially the person whose e-mail got lost last year!)

Send requests and checks made out to N T S R I to: Jozi Best, Box 292, Elkins, NH. 03233.

E-mail . Although I can receive photos by e-mail for planning your ads, it will be best to send real photos for the actual printing with your check.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO Anna Rae Hodgkin for earning the full USDA Scrapie-Free flock certification

&TO Nancy Schmidt for also completing the same 5 year requirements, which will become official very soon.

Both shepherdesses (and their shepherds) are to be highly commended for patiently sticking to their standards and keeping up with their detailed records in order to achieve this status. I have had our Tunis in the program also, using tattoos instead of tags, and keeping the records as we already had done for years before. However, we have had to stay at year one because of co-mingling Juli and Jeremy's sheep, and a few purchases from flocks not in the program, and now a move that included the brood ewes summer pastured with a few sheep also not signed up.

Nevertheless, we will begin on the bottom rung again, because I strongly believe in participating in this voluntary program. Even without reaching the full certification, it is an excellent management tool, a value-adding credential, and a marketing attraction. It would be nice to see more than the few other flocks already enrolled.

CONFESSIONS/COMMENTS

A. I must admit that I am chagrined about the oral reports coming back from the October and November shows. We did not go to any shows after the Big E because we were moving, except that Matt flew down to Louisville to judge another breed. But we have heard plenty of extremely varied and unpleasant stories, all contradictory. There is nothing wrong with good healthy competition, faith in one's own breeding and production ideals, even disagreeing with judges. But there are acceptable ways of expressing one's opinions. I know that everyone interprets a scene differently. However, I am saddened by the spreading of so much negativity. It made me glad that I hadn't been to those shows, and I am sure many other folks feel the same way. That is certainly not good promotion.

Matt declined to attend the banquet event of the other breed, but he was told by many who attended and he could see in the barn how everyone got along, people were cheerfully generous in their auction to support their activities, dinner was enjoyed, a brief meeting took care of their business, and "a good time was had by all". Not even one person gave a similar description of the Tunis groups at these shows. Too baaaaaad.

B. For years off and on, I have heard of, and even experienced, a problem with the newsletter. Our editors ask for more material in every edition, yet people have submitted letters which do not find their way into print. Short of slandering with names, inappropriate language, extreme length, and perhaps totally irrelevant subjects, I believe each member who makes the effort to contribute has the right to have his opinions and ideas printed. As in all publications, printing opinions does not mean that the ASSOCIATION and/or its board agrees with nor approves of those opinions. Printing only positive stuff is great and it should include positive criticism and positive feedback, but we also need truth to solve problems, not platitudes. It is about time we get real with this if we expect our growing membership to be active, involved, perhaps, hopefully, united, so that we can have fun with our colorful, wonderful Tunis. The sheep are attracting new friends, let's try to build new friendships with openness.

C. On a similar note... The Ohio newsletter recently printed a letter from a new member family. One subject was our presentation as a group at shows. It should not be a new topic to many of us, but it bears regular reminders. In the past, Larry in the old SHEEPBREEDER and Greg in the BANNER and Guy in the SHEPHERD magazines have editorialized our, meaning all sheep exhibitors, appearances at sheep events, and several other writers, including yours truly, have included it in various articles. Yet sheepmen in general still could learn a few pointers from the showmen in other species, notwithstanding the serious obstacles of coming into some show barns(not the Big E) in the "2nd week". like at NAILE.

There was a concern about how judges are selected. This is a legitimate question with enough answers to fill a small book. The most important part of it, I think, is understanding that new people will not know many candidates and it should be left to the more experienced to share info and direct decisions. Very soon the novices will gain more knowledge and then they will naturally have more input.

I hope this letter is also printed in the National newsletter for everyone to see.

(Editor's note...printed directly from Jozi's e-mail.)

BESTUNIS

Our pair of yearling ewes continued a tradition begun when I lived in Vermont. I trailered them and picked up the 2 old guard donkeys from where I worked in the early 90's, so that they could be part of the Christmas pageant for 2 nights and stay most of December in the living Nativity that is part of a stirring lights display most of December at the Joseph Smith Memorial.

As we put up decorations including our first tree together, we began to feel fairly well settled in. Matt did wonders clearing out the antique barn here in NH and arranging pens. We are still moving our green gates around the backyard for the sheep to be out and for them to spread fertilizer and hay seed. Some permanent fence is up. We are not planning to change our signs to 1.2 acre farm, but that is all that we have. Yet another big plus is how the Tunis themselves find other pasture. Old friends remember my easy-to-get-along-with redheads and have offered to have them visit their fields.

Jeremy's sheep have more space in Swanzey, and he has been directing that operation, and lately doing chores by himself. We hope for prayers for Juli who has been sick since Christmas, and will be a while recovering, including possible surgery in the Spring. We are missing not having winter lambs due to the inability to put rams in during the move. But now it seems a blessing with her illness. Heavenly Father is always the wise head shepherd.

EDITOR'S NOTE....Please read Nancy's other article and then return to this one.....sorry sometimes things get moved around because of last minute requests & concerns. I apologize to Nancy.

NANCY CONTINUES....

Along with the theme "new" I decided to have a conversation with "new members and breeders" Rob and Linda Brown. They live in Creston, OH with their children Olivia and Lane, ages 9 & 8. They have previously shown cattle and horses. Rob is currently a landscaper, but used to work on a dairy farm. Linda is a health care professional.

They have been considering sheep for several years, however, Rob liked Suffolks and Linda liked Tunis. Linda finally won Rob over and they attended the National Sale at Wooster, only to come away empty-handed. Soon after they purchased their first Tunis and by November had 6 ewes. Their goal is to raise good breeding stock and do well in the show ring. They have attended several shows throughout the summer and fall ending with NAILE. They were awe-struck by the size of the show. They were surprised that the sheep department in general was lacking in appearance, people didn't seem to care about the presentation of their pens or in the ring. As a "new" exhibitor they were concerned with the process of selecting a judge for next year. Not knowing the nominees suggested, and no background given they felt they had a very un-informed vote. They felt a little left out of the process and feel a different process should be used to select the judge. Competition should be a fair playing field for everyone. All, in all they have enjoyed showing and making many "new" friends.

They are entering their first "new" lambing season--so far they have had some bad luck with the first ewe delivering 2 dead lambs (possibly pre-mature). The next ewe had a birthing problem, but they managed to get 2 healthy lambs from her. The lambs were doing well, only a local dog came for a visit and 1 of the lambs was lost. Thankfully, mother and ewe lamb are doing great. Linda and Rob are looking ahead with positive apprehension to the next lambs due very soon.

They love the Tunis for their attractiveness, personality, and uniqueness. They enjoy the newsletter very much, they feel it is very informative and a good way to promote Tunis. They would like to see more articles from members in it. They readily admit they are learning a lot and have a lot to learn. With this "NEW" attitude, they will go far. GOOD LUCK BROWNS!

AS WRITTEN BY NANCY SCHMIDT

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.....January, 2005

Dan & Lisa Allen, 163 Stanton Rd., Flemington, NJ 08822	Region 3
Kevin Britz, 11354 Depolo Rd., Gambier, OH 43022	Region 7
Brown Family Tunis, 14020 Canaan Ctr Rd., Creston, OH 44217	Region 7
Julia Marie Delpino & Michelle Hartman, 962 Martin Rd., Needmore, PA 17238	Region 5
Clint R. Garey, 1669 2600th St., Atlanta, IL 61723	Region 10
Danielle Gauthier, 1032 Deal Place, Amissville, VA 20106	Region 9
Hunter Gibson, 31 Cartland Rd. Lee, NH 03824	Region 1
Sharon Hodgdon, 3045 Logue Rd., Myakka City, FL 34251	Region 6
Dale Huhnke, 1725 W CR 450N, Muncie, IN 47303	Region 10
Bill & Sharon Kerns, Box 302, 112 Bolton Rd., Harvard, MA	Region 2
Ed & Carol Kratt, RR #1, Box 187, Dayton, PA 16222	Region 5
Lois McConaughy, 6278 RT 210 Hwy, Smicksburg, PA 16256	Region 5
Muffy Seaton, 19566 Foggy Bottom Rd., Bluemont, VA 20135	Region 9
Troy Selhorst, 71 Co Rd 113 E, Rushsylvania, OH 43347	Region 7
Sarah Todd, Box 692, Salem, NY 12865	Region 3
Trio Tunis, Eric Bruns, 1000 W. Powell Rd., Powell, OH 43065	Region 7
Joe & Sharon Vilga, 13430 Constitution Hwy, Orange, VA 22960	Region 9

IMPORTANT DATES.....

March 15th	ENTRY DEADLINE for National Tunis Sale....Contact "The Banner"
May 28th & 29th	National Tunis Sale @ Wooster, OH
July 15th & 16th	National Tunis Youth Show @ W. Springfield, MA
Aug. 5th -9th	Ohio State Fair....Lead Line classes, Jr Show & Tunis Open Class Show
Sept. 3rd	Region 7 Tunis Show @ Geauga County
Oct. 21st & 22nd	New York Bred Ewe Sale & Tunis Specialty Show @ Rhinebeck, NY
Nov. 13th	North American Livestock Show @ Louisville, KY Jr Tunis Show
Nov. 14th - 18th	North American Livestock Show @ Louisville, KY National Tunis Show

DON'T YOU HAVE A FAIR/SHOW/SALE DATE TO ADD? Send it to Louise!

NANCY SCHMIDT, Region 7 Director, writes...

Happy New Year!

The key word here is "NEW". "NEW" can be many things - just a few are attitude, ideas, cycles, and appearances. All of these apply to us as sheep breeders, members of any organization and in our daily lives.

In our sheep we have NEW lambs, NEW sheep we buy, NEW buyers, NEW methods for feeding, worming, treating problems, etc. You name it we are always looking for NEW ideas. We are always in NEW cycles with our sheep. Pre-breeding, post-breeding, pregnancy, pre-weaning, post-weaning, etc. etc. and the NEW cycle just goes on----- We strive for a better NEW appearance with our sheep.

In our organization we look for NEW members and NEW ideas. We have NEW directors, NEW officers, and a NEW cycle every year. Which, of course, naturally leads to a NEW appearance of our organization.

Most importantly, to accomplish this we need to have NEW attitudes. Try a NEW attitude--you'll enjoy it! It always amazes me that the people in this country are always willing to be the first to help anyone, anywhere, but we do not speak to our next door neighbor. NEW attitudes, like NEW ideas, NEW cycles, and NEW appearances can be passed on! Did you ever notice that if you come in contact with a bad attitude person you come away feeling out-of-sorts? Likewise, contact with a NEW attitude person you get a feeling of well-being?

NEW ATTITUDE?????

PASS IT ON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

BARBARA CASSELL, Director of Region 9, writes...

FAVORITES AND TRADITIONS ENCOURAGE REPEAT BUYERS

I love the Christmas Season. As I arrange the decorations, I enjoy the mental video of how my family will react to this year's placement of old favorites and how they will look for and assimilate the "new favorites." When all of the "away" members of our family finally arrive and the season's activities are in full swing, I truly appreciate the return of favorite activities; the shopping and present wrapping with all the secrets and giggling, the big meal with favorite foods and teasing, the opening of presents with the fun, embarrassing, and traditional gifts, the walks and talks that seem extra special this time of the year--in short, the "just being together time" that builds memories and encourages everyone to look forward to next year's "repeat performance". I even enjoy the bustle of the ending of the season--the packing of cars for traveling to the "other" homes, the final meal of leftovers with nostalgic conversation, the phone calls indicating all are home safely, the careful storing of Christmas decorations and the return of "everyday" things. I appreciate, also, the quiet time for reflection and re-energizing before the "real world" takes over again.

Part of the reflection phase includes, "What will I do with my sheep this year?" Of course, the immediate thought is, "I will do better." Better at.....

lambing--more ewes will lamb with more lambs raised successfully.

feeding--the cost of feeding will be lower with every sheep still receiving the best nutrition possible.

showing--the placings this year will be at least as high or higher as last year's for at least one show.

record keeping--lambs will be registered properly and in a timely fashion, health problems will be noted where I can find the notes and use them for culling or special attention.

sales--all sales will be recorded in an orderly fashion so addresses, phone numbers, sheep sold and scrapie numbers can be easily found.

And with the thought of sales for next year, I again think of "tradition and favorites". It is my tradition to feel each time a sheep is sold, it is to the benefit of both buyer and seller. A good price should be paid for a good sheep. With our Horned Dorset numbers (+500 breeding ewes), there are many repeat buyers--buyers who traditionally choose our stock when purchasing replacement ewes or a new ram. With my Tunis numbers increasing and therefore my numbers of animals available for sale, I'm beginning to see some repeat buyers for Tunis as well. These repeat sales help to validate my efforts of traditionally selling good sheep.

I truly do not see how successful sheep farming can be done without repeat buyers. But I have known breeders who maintain a "buyer beware" attitude when selling their sheep. I've been to farms where the sheep for sale are obviously the culls of this year's crop, and I've seen sheep sold when the breeder knew there were problems with the soundness of the stock sold. These breeders, the ones who often sell sheep of less than sound quality, are not likely to have any repeat buyers, and therefore, in my opinion, will always find their sales lagging and their programs less than profitable.

I hope that as the numbers of sheep I have for sale continues to increase, my stock will be "favorites" for more buyers. I pledge to continue the tradition of selling only good quality, sound sheep that I'd be willing to keep myself.

It will be of value to the individual breeders and to our Tunis Breed as a whole is all Tunis breeders will let it be a tradition to sell only high quality, sound sheep. The buyers will return repeatedly.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SALE.....May 28 & 29...Wooster, OH

Show on Saturday..... Social Gathering.....6:00 pm Saturday at the Amish Door Restaurant with entertainment & guest speaker, Dr. Henry Zerby.

National Tunis membership meeting on Sunday morning.....followed by a used sheep equipment auction and the National Tunis Sale.....

Make your plans now to attend....you don't have to buy sheep...you just need to enjoy sheep activities!

2004 DELAWARE STATE FAIR RESULTS:

2 YR RAMS	1. Melissa Tarantino	2. Ronald Terry
1 EARLY JR RAM LAMB	1. Ronald Terry	
2 LATE JR RAM LAMBS	1. Jaimie Terry	2. Ronald Terry
1 PAIR RAM LAMBS	1. Ronald Terry	
CHAMPION RAM - Melissa Tarantino RES. CHAMPION RAM - Jaimie Terry		
3 YR EWES	1. Tammy Lookerman	2. Ronald Terry 3. Jaimie Terry
1 PAIR YR EWES	1. Ronald Terry	
2 EARLY JR EWE LAMBS	1. Ronald Terry	2. Melissa Tarantino
4 LATE JR EWE LAMB	1. Tammy Lookerman	2. Ronald Terry 3. Kaitie Terry 4. Bobby Strain
1 PAIR EWE LAMB	1. Ronald Terry	
CHAMPION EWE - Tammy Lookerman RES. CHAMPION EWE - Tammy Lookerman		

2004 NEW YORK BRED EWE SALE

Oct. 16th Rhinebeck, NY

TUNIS YR EWES:	PRICE	PURCHASED BY
J & J Farm, MA RES. CHAMPION	\$425	Heidi Myers, Millbrook, NY
Lawthea Farms, MA	\$225	S & T Tunis, Attica, NY
Darling Tunis, OH	\$525	Heidi Myers, Millbrook, NY
RQL Farms, NJ	\$225	Joseph & Joan Seavey, Canton, NY
Darling Tunis, OH	\$475	Country Club Tunis, Gouverneur, NY

TUNIS BROOD EWES	PRICE	PURCHASED BY
Blue Ridge Farm, VT GRAND CHAMPION	\$900	Bob Bartholomew, E. Chatham, NY
Campbell Tunis, NY	\$225	Pilbin Jones Enterprises, Norfolk, CT
Lawthea Farm, MA	\$225	Hotis Scotch Acres, Gouverneur, NY
Half Pint Farm, CT	\$350	Kerry Snyder, Centre Hall, PA
Alanda Farm, MA	\$500	Woolmark Farms, NH
Lawthea Farm, MA	\$250	Morris York Jr, Marlborough, CT
RQL Farms, NJ	\$225	Julie Jones, NY
Campbell Tunis, NY	\$200	Tampa Tunis, E. Chatham, NY

TUNIS SPRING EWE LAMBS	PRICE	PURCHASED BY
B-Bar Stock Farm, NY	\$450	Kerry Snyder, Centre Hall, PA
Campbell Tunis, NY	\$175	Valley Acre Farm, Tunbridge, VT
B-Bar Stock Farm, NY	\$300	RQL Farms, Hillsborough, NJ
B-Bar Stock Farm, NY	\$175	Tampa Tunis, E. Chatham, NY
Lawthea Farm, MA	\$150	Morris York, Jr, Marlborough, CT

18 HEAD OF TUNIS AVERAGED \$333.33

A FELLOW TUNIS BREEDER WRITES.....

Bob & Francis Finley of New Plymouth, ID writes....

"My name is Frances Finley. I live in New Plymouth, Idaho. Our Tunis arrived in Idaho on Sept. 16, 2003. We bought 6 head from a lady in Moab, Utah. In the winter, two of them were eaten by coyotes. But we still have 2 ewes and 2 rams. As best as we can tell, there are and never have been Tunis this far west in the USA. We really enjoy them. But there doesn't seem to be a market for them here. We plan on keeping them and trying to get the herd to grow. Our first lamb crop will be the spring of 2005."

Francis Finley, 5120 SE 1st Ave., New Plymouth, Idaho 83655 Phone 208-278-3516
E-mail-finleysaussies@netzero.com Web site -www.finleysaussies.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - April 15th.....

Got lambs to sell? \$10 for a classified ad!

THE NTSRI YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE writes.....

What a GREAT year at Louisville. Not only was I pleased with my show placings, but the highlight was being introduced as the new 2005 National Tunis Youth Representative. A big Thank You to the Tunis Association for my jacket. I will wear it with pride!

I had the honor of passing out ribbons and talking with the judge and announcer. This was definitely a lot less stressful on this side of the show ring.

This was our first year at N.A.I.L.E. to have our own Jr. Tunis show and I thought it went very well. There were 12 exhibitors showing 27 Tunis from 5 different states. Congratulations to everyone and good luck to all with their lambing season.

Happy Holidays!

Colton Lowry, West Liberty, OH

P.S. Louise writes.... Colton passed his first test as NTSRI youth rep....since the Tunis club didn't have a queen to pass out the ribbons at Louisville...we asked Colton to do it. And he took all of the kidding about being "queen" in a positive manner...he just seemed to enjoy being able to be a part of the inside action! Just one more thing you learn as Tunis Youth Ambassador....how to act in difficult situations!

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.

Cash Flow

Oct. 1st—Jan. 16th

INCOME:

Advertizing - Newsletter	\$50.00
Credit	\$19.00
Interest - Checking	\$ 1.39
Interest - Savings	\$ 1.52
J. Fitzgibbons Memorial Fund	\$50.00
Memberships	\$40.00
NAILE Entry Fees	\$474.00
Paid	\$76.00
Postage	\$ 5.00
Registrations	\$676.00
Rush Fees	\$ 8.00
September Cash	\$13.00
Transfers	\$680.00
Youth Fund - Silent Auction	\$186.50

EXPENSES:

Advertizing	\$125.50
Clerk Postage	\$100.25
Clerk Salary	\$500.00
Clerk Telephone	\$308.23
Internet Service	\$ 59.85
Newsletter labels	\$ 28.00
Newsletter postage	\$195.00
Newsletter printing	\$ 85.00
Newsletter salary	\$ 75.00
Owes	\$ 30.00
Rush Fees Paid Clerk	\$432.00
NAILE - Open	\$371.00
NAILE - Jr	\$253.00
NAILE - Judges Lodging	\$ 90.03
Youth Ambassador	\$175.00

TOTAL: \$2,780.41

TOTAL: \$2,828.16 (-47.75)

BALANCE SHEET:

NTSRI SAVINGS ACCOUNT: \$1,008.47

NTSRI CHECKING ACCOUNT: \$2,725.53

TOTAL:

\$3,734.00

LOUISE'S LITTLE BIT... Cartoon characters "Frank & Ernest" say... "On the highway of life, I can't maintain the minimum speed!" And I agree... 4 days of being shut in with 20 inches of snow... 3 weeks later we had 1 week of no electric or phone & now with below zero temperatures... I'm stopped on that highway! But at least, I'm ahead of you... I get to read the newsletter first! Jim and I have had several good serious talks (by candle light in front of the fire place) about the opinions & info expressed here... hope it generates that type of conversation at your house. Time to think... not always to change... sometimes just to confirm your ideas.

"I live in my own little world... but it's okay. They know me here!" That little world can be safe or confining... why don't you venture out and try something new... write an article/opinion for the newsletter, attend an informative sheep meeting (what do you think about the new sheep ID system?), or attend a Tunis event? It just might change you or those around you... come on... participate in life! Hope to hear from you soon... I want this newsletter to be back up to 8-10 pages in April!!!!

Good luck lambing, Louise

NOTES FROM GREEN LANE FARM - by Val Ames

Oops! I see I left myself wide open to a major misinterpretation in my last "Notes" - I am of course referring to the tail docking issue. My comments were in reply to Mel Smith's letter in the January (Issue 9) Tunis Shepherd where he was commenting on the EXTREME docking, most noticeable in, though not exclusive, to, the show ring. I do of course dock tails but leave at least enough to cover the vulva. Now that's cleared up, how about my idea for a Breed Association ban on extreme docking?

Before the animal rights people head my way, I would also like to correct a typo. My lambing pens are a minimum of THREE feet by 5' or 6', not two - where would all those lovely Tunis twins fit?

I have had sheep for nineteen years now, starting with Dorsets and Suffolks, so it is inevitable that I have a few old ewes in the flock now. Like Nancy Schmidt, I saw my first Tunis on the cover of The Shepherd (March, 1991) and after sourcing a good flock, had my very own that year! I still have one from that first importation (2.4 annual lambing average over 11 years) but in addition, I have numerous, mostly Dorset x Tunis ewes from those early days. Some of them are almost ten years old so this year, prior to lambing, they will be getting up to ¾ pound of grain a day - something I have not done before. I discovered very early that grainng my ewes before lambing produced too much milk in the first few days and Engorged udders. For new shepherds encountering firm, Engorged udders for the first time, try 1 ¼ cc of Oxytocin, IM: it is a natural produce, produced by ewes to aid milk let-down, amongst other things. If the udder doesn't soften in 5 minutes MAX., then you have a different problem. It is important to purchase a new supply each year because, despite the "best before" date, the efficacy drops dramatically the longer the quantity remaining in the bottle is exposed to air.

Rather than fit creep panels to existing feeders so that only lambs can eat there, I set up large, lighted areas that only lambs can access. I made 4 or 8 foot hemlock gate sections with one or two roughly 14"H x 14"W holes with particle board guillotine gates to close the area when necessary. These prove very useful at market time - fill the feeders with fresh creep, lock all the lambs in when they come to feed, then sort them for market without the ewes in the way. My creep areas always have direct access to a passageway so I can sort and weigh outside the pen (and so I can fill the creep feeders without having to run the gauntlet through the ewes!). For the creep feeders I purchased several used gravity feed hog feeders - at \$20 each! - and for the ease of handling I cut down the storage part, as I prefer to feed creep daily. Before these, we made creep feeders from used 45 gal. plastic drums (the ones for bulk juice, etc.) with small holes cut around the side at the bottom, and bolted to a base larger than the barrel bottom, with a small lip. The unit was raised off the floor with 6"x6" legs.

Let's hope not too many of our ewes lamb outside this winter (for those of you in snowy cold regions of course!) but if you get a newborn that needs warming up, put it in a garbage bag and slowly lower it in a bucket of quite warm water with just the top of the bag folded over the bucket rim. The heat gets to all parts of the lamb's body much faster and safer than a heat lam - and they do seem to love it!

My favourite sheep 'gadget' is a plastic carpenter's carry-all - divided open top with a divided drawer in the bottom. The one I use for lambing contains the injectable Vit E/Selenium, a supply of disposable insulin syringes (very accurate for does under 1 c.c.) and needles, an aerosol powdered wound dressing (I use an electric tail docker), a supply of thin, sterile disposable gloves and a bottle of mineral oil for lubrication when arming a ewe. I also carry a few sheets of that yellow felt-looking viscose material that's so good for mopping up big spills; it's also VERY GOOD for drying lambs off fast! I have a separate carry-all for tagging and tattooing.

Another favourite 'gadget' is the (bovine) teat dipper that I distribute around the barns that will be used during lambing. These are filled with iodine for dipping umbilical cords as I round up new born lambs. Only use those that return the liquid to the storage cup - iodine is too expensive for the non-return cup.

Many years ago we raised and bred Quarter horses. If an animal was registered that didn't meet the registry requirements/code of ethics, the registrant was struck off the membership list FOR LIFE. I have seen at a show and heard first-hand of registered Tunis with a black/grey cast over the body or face (while they naturally went for meat, I had them in my flock one year, too.) These animals should have gone to the meat market, or at least, not sold as purebreds into the breeding stock sector. While I recognize some colour defects don't appear until the animal is sometimes a year old and has been sold already (in which case, it should be de-registered without penalty to the registrant) I believe in all other cases, after nullifying the registration, the registrant should be removed from membership in the NTSRI for life. Hopefully, after a few years, there will be fewer Tunis around that throw black or white cast or spotted offspring.

On that controversial note, I would like to wish you all a successful lambing and a happy New Year.

IN OUR TUNIS INTERVIEW..... LET'S LEARN ABOUT THE LAWTHEA FARM.....

Wendy Cameron of Middleboro, MA writes....

Here's the story of Lawthea Farm which is now owned by Wendy (Hanson) Cameron and James. In 1980, my grandfather (G. Lawson Clark) wanted to get his granddaughters into a hobby. We tried different avenues, but sheep were it. We started in 4-H with Montadales. My sister & I showed Montadales for the next 4-6 years. My grandfather then found a rare breed (at that time) of the fabulous red heads. He bought his first Tunis ewe from Stephanie Neborsky and Joan Higgins in approximately 1985. At that time, we went to approximately 13-14 shows throughout the season. The Tunis were on the back burner because they were always in the All Other Purebred class. The Montadales were the love of my grandfather...I, personally, had come to like the Tunis better. From 1984-86, my now husband and I were boy friend and girl friend in high school. This relationship didn't last long, because he didn't have any interest in the sheep (He wasn't willing to help.)

In 1992, my grandfather passed away and things went for a real tail spin. My grandmother had to sell all of the animals (100 sheep, kennel full of dogs, and 100's of chickens) and the farm to pay bills that were left. Well, at this point in time, I swore I would stay in sheep (because it was my grandfather's love). I sold the Montadales and kept the Tunis (they were the better breed.) I had to move the sheep to my parents property. The tables had turned...I was the only one to do the chores and pay the bills. There were rough times but I am truly glad I have been through it. I learned about independence, responsibilities and economics. My grandfather was the type to say Wendy, you can do anything you set your mind to! So through the years things went well and my parents supported everything I was doing.

During these years, I graduated from high school (1986) and moved away from home to obtain an Associates Degree in Culinary Arts from Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island. While I was in college, I worked a full time job supporting the sheep and went to the shows in the summers. In 1997, I was surprisingly back in contact with my old friend, James Cameron. We then started to date and ended up getting married on August 12, 2000. He has done a total 360 degree turn, he now loves the animals just as much as I do. We then went on a search for a farm or a piece of property so that we could have the sheep with us. It took some time, but an excellent piece of property went on the market and we were fortunate enough to get it. We now have 8 1/2 acres with a great colonial house and a barn that is 30' x 40' that we built in 2001. We are now adding to the property with a new 20' x 40' pole barn. Jimmy wants a place for the young sheep and a couple of Hereford heifers in the spring.

James & I both have very busy schedules. James works at Massasoit Community College as a HVAC person. He also has a degree in Culinary Arts. Jimmy also works at the slaughter house after he gets done at the college. I work as the head chef at a housing for the elderly complex. I work at the slaughter house also but usually at the opposite time of Jim.

We sometimes put the sheep on the back burner, but we do really enjoy raising and showing them. In the spring, I also go around the countryside and shear sheep for people. We generally have between 20-40 Tunis with these numbers representing young and old and male and females. We also wanted to promote another less common breed so we have started a flock of Lincolns 3 years ago. We now have 10-15 Lincolns. On top of all of this, we have 2 male donkeys and 1 female donkey that just had a baby on Nov. 19th. We must add that the rest of the family consists of 2 Black Labradors and 5 cats.

My goal for the Tunis are to show people that there is a place for them within the sheep industry. I also think that the Tunis breed of sheep need a score card so that judges know how to place them within a show...there are too many loop holes without it (such as tan - auburn red). My husband and I would like to make it to the top periodically, but mostly would like to be able to sell good, sound quality animals.

Now Lawthea Farms goes to only 7 fairs during the year. We travel with Linda & Fred Schauwecker who have Orion Acres' Cheviots and Cotswolds. They help us out tremendously. Our flock has done very well the past 4 years. The first time in Louisville in 2000, we were in the top 5 places. In 2002, we had the Reserve Champion Ram at Eastern States. In 2004, we had Reserve Champion Ram at the Regional Tunis Show at the Woodstock Fair. This year, we received Champion Senior Ram, 1st Place February Ram Lamb and Reserve Grand Champion Ewe at the National Tunis Show at the Big E. This goes to show that you don't have to have a lot of sheep...just few good ones that can give the big breeders a run for their money."

And Wendy's story goes to show you that hard work and dedication will pay off in the long run. Congratulations on your successes...we will be watching out for you in the future!

WANTED TO BUY....need sheep shearing equipment & ultrasound unit.

A beginning sheepman...will attend sheep shearing school this spring...but needs equipment to start a business of shearing & pregnancy testing sheep.

Please call Rob Brown at 330-435-1313

ALL 2005 NTSRI MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE!

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

INDIVIDUAL _____
 FARM _____
 FAMILY _____
 BUSINESS _____
 YOUTH _____

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

SALLY BARNEY, Director of Region 1, writes....

THE REAL JOY IN RAISING TUNIS SHEEP.....

In thinking about our experience as a family raising Tunis sheep, the first thing I think about are the friends we have made. We have had the opportunity to enjoy our sheep in the company of folks who also enjoy sheep. We have built strong friends here at home and across the country through our mutual interest in Tunis...or any sheep for that matter. For Dwight and I, the friendships have always been and will always be more important than the ribbons or honors that might have come our way; or slipped away. I can't remember the awards we won with Tunis in 1977, 1981, 1992, or even 2002, but I do remember and maintain a friendship with judges who helped us and our 4-H daughters along the way...local "sheep fold" like Gerry Smith and Bill Weston.

Shows are fun and we strive to do well, but we have been in it long enough to know in looking at a class where we stand. We enjoy it when we place where we should and grump when we get overlooked, but we remember best the night time chats at pen side when we debate Tunis color, worming methods and fitting techniques. We had fun at the National Sale and bought two rams and are eagerly waiting to see what they produce; but I know I will remember longer the "Big Bad Ken" tribute to Ken Mayes, the gift of a plastic Ohio State Buckeyes ballpoint pen from Jim Dunham, and riding in an Amish buggy with Peter and Judy Harris.

We sit home most of the time enjoying our sheep, but then we might get a visit from old Tunis friends like Joe and Joan Seavey or new friends like John & Irene Bruns who stopped over one night on their summer Northeast Tunis Tour. Our children remain very friendly with the kids they met through the 4-H Sheep Project and we remain close to their parents as many of them, like us, have continued to show sheep after the children moved on. The cycle continues; our granddaughter Emily had the fun of showing at the Big E with Harris's grandson Dillon....weren't we proud grandparents! I can't remember the ribbon, but I remember the look of joy on the kid's faces and the fun of watching from the sidelines with good friends.

We didn't have the Champion Ewe at Louisville this year, but I felt like I did because my friend, Jan Smith, accomplished her dream in what had to be one of the most devastating years of her life when she lost her partner, James "Fitzzy" Fitzgibbons. I cried when I heard "Fitzzy" had passed away and I cried when I heard she had won the Champion Ewe honors in Louisville; she is a friend. The Louisville news came via the telephone tree when sheep friends in the Northeast called one another to enjoy and embrace Jan's accomplishment.

We may never have another Champion...or we might. But one thing is sure, we will continue to enjoy Tunis Sheep, Tunis Sales, Tunis Shows and Tunis Meetings because of the friends we have made and the friends we will make in the future.

NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK SHOW - JR SHOW

November 14th, 2004

Louisville, KY

3 Sr Ram Lambs
Eric Kleman, OH
Jared Lavallo, MA
Sara Settlemire, OH

2 Jr Ram Lambs
Eric Kleman, OH
Tom & Rachel Schambow, WI

GRAND CHAMPION RAM - Eric Kleman

RES. CHAMPION RAM - Eric Kleman

6 Yr Ewes
T & R Schambow, WI
Eric Kleman, OH
Justine Swartz, NY
Jacob Ostermeyer, KS
Jacob Ostermeyer, KS
Aimee Ostermeyer, KS

2 Slick Shorn Yr Ewes
Eric Kleman, OH
Jacci Erwin, OH

5 Sr Ewe Lambs
Colton Lowry, OH
Mandy Swartz, NY
Jared LaValle, MA
Jacci Erwin, OH
Jacci Erwin, OH

9 Jr Ewe Lambs
Colton Lowry, OH
Molly Kleman, OH
T & R Schambow
T & R Schambow,
Justine Swartz, NY
Anna Charest, MA
Jacob Ostermeyer
Aimee Ostermeyer
Jared Lavallo, MA

GRAND CHAMPION EWE - Tom & Rachel Schambow, WI

RES. CHAMPION EWE - Eric Kleman, OH

BREEDER'S FLOCK

1st - Eric Kleman, OH

2nd - Jared LaValle, MA

JR. TUNIS SHOWMANSHIP - Molly Kleman, OH

SR. TUNIS SHOWMANSHIP - Aimee Ostermeyer, KS

SPECIAL THANKS...NAILE JR TUNIS SHOW SPONSORS:

Bob Bartholomew, 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 donated embroidered prizes for the Grand and Reserve Grand Champions. Thanks for your support

LEAD LINE WINNERS AT NAILE:

<u>Ages 8-10</u>	<u>1st Place Rita Winner of Degraff, OH</u>	<u>Leading a Tunis ewe lamb!</u>
<u>Ages 11-13</u>	<u>4th Place Jacob Ostermeyer of Kansas</u>	<u>Leading a Tunis ewe!</u>
<u>Ages 14-16</u>	<u>12th Place Anna Charest of MA</u>	<u>Leading a Tunis ewe</u>

Thanks to everyone who took part in the this national Lead Line Contest....I know that I missed some of the other participants and I apologize for that....I THINK IT IS TIME THAT WE TUNIS BREEDERS START TO FINANCIALLY REWARD THOSE LEAD LINE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE PROMOTING OUR BREED!

The National Tunis Show Committee reports:

NAILE's first Jr. Tunis was well attended with youth from Massachusetts to Kansas represented. It was a late night since we showed last but remember we are in the rotation now and should move to the top next year. A huge Thank You goes out to the Ostermeyer's Family from Kansas for donating beautiful embroidered duffel bags to the Champions. We will continue to make improvements in both the Jr. and Open Tunis shows. With the opening of the new south wing addition we should no longer have to pen Jr. sheep in the Horse barn. Hopefully the penning problem will be eased. We will look into revising the premium list as money allows.

It has been suggested that we change the way we select judges for the NAILE Open show. Next year we would like to send out a ballot in January to all NAILE Tunis exhibitors. All exhibitors will have a vote whether they are with their Tunis at the show or not. The National Tunis Board will decide how we do this.

As we head into the 2005 show please continue to support and lend your helping hand to those organizing the shows. We would like once again to thank Sandra Rock for offering her time and talents to create more interests at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition. Sandra has many great ideas and please support her in growing this great show.

Thank you once again to all those who supported the breed and the shows.

NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION.....

November 17th

Louisville, KY

Jesse Peters of Metamora, IN - Judge

6 Yr Rams

Bruns Tunis, OH
Jim & Louise Dunham, OH
Bob Bartholomew, NY
Triple S, MO
Wendy Cameron, MA
J & J Seavey, NY

1 Fall Ram Lamb

Triple S, MO

8 Early Spring Ram Lambs

Eric Kleman, OH
Jim & Louise Dunham, OH
Bob Bartholomew, NY
J & J Seavey, NY
Triple S, MO
James Cameron, MA
Sara Settlemire, OH
Tom & Rachel Schambow, WI

8 Late Spring Ram Lambs

Eric Kleman, OH
Bob Bartholomew, NY
Bruns Tunis, OH
J & J Seavey, NY
Bruns Tunis, OH
Triple S, MO
Mom's Tunis, VA
Mom's Tunis, VA

5 Pair Ram Lambs

Eric Kleman, OH
Bob Bartholomew, NY
Bruns Tunis, OH
J & J Seavey, NY
Mom's Tunis, VA

GRAND CHAMPION RAM - Yr Ram
Bruns Tunis, OH

RES. CHAMPION RAM - Yr Ram
Jim & Louise Dunham, OH

11 Early Yr Ewes

Eric Kleman, OH
Triple S, MO
Bruns Tunis, OH
Lane Brown, OH
Tom & Rachel Schambow, WI
Wendy Cameron, MA
Bob Bartholomew, NY
Bruns Tunis, OH
J & J Seavey, NY
Jasmine Seavey, NY
J & J Seavey, NY

5 Late Yr Ewes

Mom's Tunis, VA
Mom's Tunis, VA
Triple S, MO
Bob Bartholomew, NY
Wendy Cameron, MA

7 Slick Shorn Yr Ewe

Eric Kleman, OH
Triangle Farms, IN
Mom's Tunis, VA
Triple S, MO
Mom's Tunis, VA
Bob Bartholomew, NY
Danielle Westbrook, OH

7 Pairs Yr Ewes

Eric Kleman, OH
Triple S, MO
Mom's Tunis, VA
Bruns Tunis, OH
Bob Bartholomew, NY
Wendy Cameron, MA
J & J Seavey, NY

4 Fall Ewe Lambs

Colton Lowry, OH
Bob Bartholomew, NY
Mom's Tunis, VA
Triple S, MO

16 Early Ewe Lambs

J & J Farm, MA
Bruns Tunis, OH
Bob Bartholomew, NY
J & L Dunham, OH
Triangle Farms, IN
Bruns Tunis, OH
J & L Dunham, OH
Colton Lowry, OH
Bob Bartholomew, NY
Molly Kleman, OH
Triple S, MO
Mom's Tunis, VA
Triangle Farms, IN
Mom's Tunis, VA
J & J Seavey, NY
J & J Seavey, NY

12 Late Ewe Lambs

Triple S, MO
Wendy Cameron, MA
Wendy Cameron, MA
Triangle Farms, IN
Bob Bartholomew, NY
T & R Schambow, WI
Triangle Farms, IN
J & J Seavey, NY
Olivia Brown, OH
T & R Schambow, WI
J & J Seavey, NY
Mom's Tunis, VA

9 Pairs Ewe Lambs

Colton Lowry, OH
Bruns Tunis, OH
J & L Dunham, OH
Bob Bartholomew, NY
Wendy Cameron, MA
Triangle Farms, IN
T & R Schambow, WI
Mom's Tunis, VA
J & J Seavey, NY

5 FLOCKS

Bruns Tunis, OH
Bartholomew, NY
Wendy Cameron, MA
Mom's Tunis, VA
J & J Seavey, NY

GRAND CHAMPION EWE - J & J Farms, MA

RES. GRAND CHAMPION - Eric Kleman, OH

PREMIER EXHIBITOR - Triple S, MO

REGION 1	Sally Barney, Treasurer, 52 Cartland Rd., Lee, NH 03824	603-659-5857
ALT.	Julie Jochums, 400 Sawyer Crossing Rd., Swanzey, NH 03446	
REGION 2	Gary Grenler, Box 304, N. Stonington, CT 06359	860-535-2489
ALT.	Sandie Hamel, 426 Lovewell St., Grander, MA 01440	
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ALT.	Julie Jones, Box 215, Tivoli, NY 12583	
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REGION 7	Nancy Schmidt, 3812 Townsend-Angling Rd., Collins, OH 44826	419-668-6118
ALT.	Louise Dunham, 8566 Co Rd 28, Zanesfield, OH 43360	
REGION 8	Ken Mayes, Box 3, Shelbina, MO 63468	573-588-7660
ALT.	Dr. Roy Davis, RR 3, Box 47A, Edina, MO 63537	
REGION 9	Barbara Cassell, Sec'y, 2317 Peppers Ferry Rd., Wytheville, VA 24382	276-228-2862
ALT.	Catharine Johnson, 251 Southwood Dr., Kearneysville, WV 25430	
REGION 10	Linda Cook, 1725 W. CR 450N, Muncie, IN 47303	765-288-7829
	CLERK.....JUDY HARRIS, 819 LYONS ST., LUDLOW, MA 01056	413-589-9653
	HISTORIAN....ANNARAE HODGIN, 5977 BUFFALO FORD RD., RAMSEUR, NC 27316	
	NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE...LOUISE DUNHAM, 8566 CO RD 28, ZANESFIELD, OH 43360	

www.tunissheep.org

SOUTHEAST TUNIS FIELD DAY.....

The exact date has yet not been set but the Fourth Annual Southeast Tunis Field Day will be held in early May, 2005. This year, the Field Day will return to the farm of Barbara and Leon Cassell in Wytheville, VA. As in the years past, the feature event of the trade day will be the treaty sale. But, it is also a time to meet and visit with other Tunis breeders.

One of the main purposes of the Field Day is to make available lambs to 4-H kids, for this reason, ewe lambs and yearling ewes are what we are most interested in for sale. Therefore, we ask that you bring at least two ewes for each ram you bring. This is not a show so there is no need to fit your sheep but remember that a clean sheep will bring a better price.

Each sheep brought must be registered with NTSRI and have health papers. Also, scrapie tags will be required. The fee for the sale is \$5.00 per sheep.

Watch for a brochure in the mail giving the exact date. For more information, contact Randy Powley at (865) 408-9214 or at musicman@esper.com or Barbara Cassell at (276) 228-2862. Once updated, the information will also be posted at the NTSRI web page <http://www.tunissheep.org> and the Southeast Tunis Breeders web page <http://ezroane.com/ntsri>.