

NTSRI NEWSLETTER...

THE TUNIS MESSENGER



JANUARY 2013

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NTSRI

Board of Directors

Region 1

Bill Kerns

Alt: Troy Staples

Region 2

Robin Swartz

Alt: Loreen Howe

Region 3

Eric Irvine

Alt: Walter Clark

Region 4

Dan Erwin

Alt: John Bruns

Region 5

Paul Cassell

Alt: Georgina Anderson

Region 6

Doug Garey

Alt: Carolyn Hart

Region 7

Tammie Serafin

Alt: Eric Kleman

“What do you mean he don’t eat no meat? Oh, that’s okay. I make lamb!”

-MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

by Bill Kerns

Happy New Year to all Tunis families in the United States and Canada...I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday with family and friends. Sharon and I enjoyed some time off with the company of our children and grandchildren; we had a great time. We are back home now getting the lambing pens ready...a foot of snow last night and very, very cold with high winds. By the time you receive this newsletter, most Tunis breeders will have lambs on the ground. Getting up in the middle of a New England winter night to make the journey to the barn to help an ewe in distress is really enjoyable, right? You have to love it or move on. We really do enjoy it.

With the New Year comes a renewed interest in Tunis Sheep and NTSRI; registrations and transfers are up as are memberships for 2012. I would like to take this time to congratulate all of our Tunis Breeders across North America (320 farms strong) for a great 2012. Our public and private sales continue to be strong with significant interest in our breed and our shows continue to grow. At NAILE last year, the Tunis breed was the third largest show; we are definitely doing something well! Tunis sheep are being sought after as never before, as more and more folks discover that Tunis fleeces spin well and that Tunis is a superb tasting meat.

I would like to thank all of the new volunteers who have stepped forward to take on responsibilities to carry the organization forward. I introduced these folks to you in my last letter to the membership. It is volunteerism that keeps our organization healthy and running well...with new ideas. We are always looking for new volunteers; if you would like further information as to how you can volunteer, please contact your director.

I hope everyone is gearing up for an exciting and fun year. Let's promote those "beautiful red-heads" at every opportunity. Many events are being planned for this year; starting with the National Show & Sale at Wooster, Ohio, the All American Junior Show in July and The National Show at NAILE, just to name a few. Please check for dates & times on the new website for these and all other shows & sales.

We are especially proud of our new web site (www.tunissheep.org). I hope that you will do some surfing and take advantage of the electronic registration and membership payment facilities. We will be publishing the NTSRI 2013 Directory in the Spring; now would be a good time to review your listing in the Directory on the web site and let us know of any updates for the new Directory.

I wish all a successful lambing season and I look forward to seeing everyone at the National Sale in May.

Regards, Bill Kerns, Pres. NTSRI

Committees:

Audit Committee: Walter Clark and Nancy Schmidt

Show and Sale: Georgina Anderson and Eric Irvine

Website: Carol Wise/ Sharon Kerns

Newsletter/ Admin/ Membership: Kathy Niese, Barbara Cassell, Marianne Turcheck

Treasurer: Kristen Swihart

Youth Committee: Trish Blum NTJA, Dan Erwin: Futurity/Leadline, Scholarships

ANNARAE HODGIN AWARDED THE 2013 BRUCE HUNT “SHEPHERD OF THE YEAR”

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE DUNHAM

AnnaRae Hodgin of Ramseur, NC was presented with the 2012 Bruce Hunt Shepherd of the Year Award by the Tunis organization at the 2012 North American International Livestock Expo in Louisville, KY. This award was created to honor the memory of Bruce Hunt as he was noted for his positive and continuous promotion of the Tunis breed in a wide variety of ways. The Bruce Hunt Shepherd of the Year Committee has once again chosen an individual in the Tunis world that actively promotes the Tunis sheep and sheep in general. This individual is AnnaRae Hodgin.

AnnaRae has had Tunis for more than 25 years and still runs approximately 200 Tunis ewes and replacement animals on her North Carolina Century Farm which has been in her family for more than 130 years. AnnaRae served as a Director for the National Tunis Sheep Registry for more than 10 years and, in addition held several positions with the organization. Currently, she serves as historian for the national Tunis organization.

AnnaRae has been active in the American Farm Bureau Federation as a ~~member~~ of an advisory committee for sheep and goats, as a member of the NC Farm Bureau's Commodity Advisory Committee on Specialty Livestock, and in her local Randolph County Farm Bureau by serving as a Director and as chairman of the Scholarship Committee. At one time, AnnaRae served as co-chair of the North Carolina Scrapie Board. She has worked closely with the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy serving as a speaker for Heritage Breeds and as a demonstration farm. Her family and farm have continued to educate the public about Tunis and sheep in general by allowing various ag classes to visit their farm.

The Bruce Hunt Shepherd of the Year Committee wishes to encourage AnnaRae Hodgin to continue in the same, positive manner that she has shown for a number of years. Your efforts are very much appreciated.



AnnaRae Hodgin with the Bruce Hunt Shepherd Award

AnnaRae has had Tunis over 25 years, she is running approx. 200 Tunis, which includes 13 rams, 9 prospective ram lambs, and 12 ewe lambs to be retained, the remainder of her flock are breeding ewes.

Herr NC Century Farm, is recognized by NCDA & CS and NC State Fair. It has been in her family over 100 years and has been farmed by her family for over 130 years, or ever since they gained possession of the land. AnnaRae never tires of promoting Tunis sheep. She has graciously placed her sheep in at least 4 zoos and heritage farms. AnnaRae's sheep could have been seen in these locations.

Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina is a very fancy place w/ lots of statuary, they wanted Tunis sheep because they thought Tunis had been there at one time, but she could find no proof of their being on their grounds.

The Swiss Village Foundation in Newport, Rhode Island, a preservation of heritage animals.

Hattiesburg, Mississippi Zoo wanted a typical animal from the time that Tunis were around there.

The Nature Science Center: Greensboro, North Carolina becoming a Zoo which has really upset of NC Zoo folks...We see them on TV several times a year when they are running ads as a family place to visit.

My Tunis Story

by: AnnRae Hodgin

I raised a 7/8 Dorset flock for several years, running 130 ewes. Henry Kuykendall gave me some old ewes to get me started in cleaning up my farm, especially around the barn and other outbuildings. I attended every ovine class I could locate within driving distance. I even attended classes taught by Libby Henson, curator of a conservancy group in England & Scotland. During this time I saw a poster of sheep breeds in North America, which included the TUNIS. I went on a search for anyone in NC with Tunis. I also contacted NTSRI and Leona Fitzpatrick. She provided information and names of persons with Tunis. Thus I met Dr. David R. Lincicome of Midland, VA. Such a beautiful MAN! I paid several visits to him and Peg over the next 3 years, during which time, he convinced me that I MUST join ALBC (American Livestock Breeds Conservancy. The national office is only about 40 miles from home so I visited the group once or twice a month to read and learn. Sadly, ALBC did not have a lot of info, but I did join. I was also put in touch with Katherine Wilmoth. I purchased my very first Tunis from Katherine. (She served as Region 5's director during the change when directors had been appointed.) I bought a young ram lamb, which became UNO. He was 3 months old! Since I put the ram in with the ewes for 2 months, Uno went also. After all he was just a baby! Imagine my surprise & delight when I found the first of 6 red lambs .Uno!! That did it! I HAD to have Tunis. Uno was a Hunter ram. I soon found an ad for a flock of Tunis for sell nearby...only about 50-60 miles away. The couple with the flock had lost their jobs, but secured other employment several hours from the farm they were using. They had to sell. I got there while the feet were being trimmed.....foot rot odor hit me as I got out of my truck. But, I liked the looks of the girls and made an offer. A week later I was the proud owner of 9 HILLIS ewes, and UNO's half-brother. I learned how to trim feet from Kim and as soon as I got the girls home they were headed for a FOOTTRIM! But first I had to ear tag the girls, as they no longer had tags, but names. These ewes came home with paint stick marking up and down their backs, while I had a piece of paper corresponding to the back marks. The couple had taken the original tags out because" it looked like it hurt." Thus began my ewe flock, with Nebula, Natasha, and Harriett. My next purchase was from Dr. Dave, as I have since learned to call him. Again a flock of 9 ewes; with papers from Red Wing, Tulip Tree Farm, Harris, Hunter, Meiser and Fitzpatrick. A ram came also. He became \$600 worth of burger when he produced white lambs that looked like Dorsets. He also produced mottled lambs (all over, not just the head) with 1 black spot on the right side only! ON EVERY LAMB HE sired. Not one lamb was registered that first year!

Uno's ½ brother (Raphael) did not produce the lambs to the quality of Uno, so he also became freezer meat. I used Uno for several years and then sold him to Blue Ridge Institute, located at Ferrum College in Ferrum, VA. I received a call a few years later learning that the farm had suffered a dog attack, losing the ewes they had, except for Uno, and some other rams. I traded about 10 ewe lambs and received three rams in exchange. They all received names and Robert E. Lee was my pick to use as the first breeder. I liked his lambs and used him until he was slaughtered. Jefferson Davis was sold to a commercial breeder. Jeb Stuart was sold to a research supplier and Stephen D. Ramseur died on the farm.

I had my flock base and closed the flock until purchasing the Kirby- Mende flock in 2006. I disposed of that flock over a 2-year period. And just this year sold anything with the Mende lines, lambs kept from the previous breedings. They simply did not fit into the path I had decided to follow.

In the mean time I became active with the Board and ran to replace Dr. Dave, who had resigned. I served out his term, just over 2 years. I was then elected twice to serve my own 3-year terms. In all this time, I only missed 1 board meeting. Randy Powley replaced me for 6 years. I also participated in several ALBC conferences and community college events. I was program speaker (on Tunis) for the national meeting and served on the panel that discussed selling your endangered animal to other breeders. I think there were 9 or 10 on the panel and EACH one stated that they had refused to sell to someone that didn't meet their innate vision of a "good" prospective owner/tender. Most recently I was the speaker for an event that ALBC developed for Veterans. This was a very interesting group, mostly veterans suffering from PTSD. This group consisted of both men & women. The talk was about 1 1/2 hours long. Also included were other breeders with other animals that also spoke for approximately the same amount of time. The next day the group came to the farm and we were able to do some "hands on" type of instruction. The time was from 9-12 noon, but most of the group stayed until 3-4 pm.

We, JC & I; have had as many as 350 Tunis, but have only about 130 ewes now, that should start delivering lambs any day now. My guess is for Christmas day or the next. As many of my friends know, my health has been not the best for the past two years, and in light of that fact; I have made a decision that has caused me many tearful days and nights. So, if anyone would like to add some traditional, fat-tailed, dark-colored animals...Call me. The flock is for sale, except for a few "pets", like Crook Neck (snake bitten which paralyzed her neck); Baby Girl, and Little Bit.

As for receiving the Bruce Hunt Award, this was such a surprise. But to receive it with my friend and pal, Nancy Schmidt made it even more special. Nancy & I were fortunate enough to know Bruce and Sandy. The fact that Sandy established this award in Bruce's honor after he passed was an indication of the esteem he garnered during his time with the Tunis he loved.

Thank you to the persons responsible for the recognition.

A Letter to Members from the Board of Directors

Your non-profit volunteer organization, the National Tunis Sheep Registry Inc. (NTSRI), has been serving your needs since August 21, 1929, thanks to the many volunteers who have stepped forward over the years to serve. We provide many services to our membership and our Youth organization (NTJA). We are proud of our accomplishments over the past eight decades and we plan to continue into the future. This is your organization...please stay involved and voice your opinions to ensure that the NTSRI continues to serve you well.

Sadly, we have recently become aware that a few NTSRI member families are starting their own Tunis Registry. We are trying to understand how to best deal with this as it relates to our Registry, sponsored shows, sales and the Youth organization (NTJA).

While we are assessing this situation, our current policy for participation in NTSRI events remains firm. Although adults or youth do not need to be members of NTSRI to show at our National Sale or our National Show, their sheep must be registered in the NTSRI, at increased cost for non-members, as detailed on our Work Order Form. Youth that participate in NTSRI sponsored and funded youth events must also have their sheep registered by NTSRI.

NTSRI will continue to provide the infrastructure to support our members in the US and Canada and our Youth. Please contact your Director if there are any questions.

Regards,

BOD



ATTENTION NTSRI MEMBERS EXCITING CHANGE TO NTSRI SCHOLARSHIPS

**REMINDER...The National Tunis Youth Scholarship Application
is Due March 31, 2013**



The NTSRI Board of Directors has made 3 scholarships, of \$1,000 each, available for 2013. These scholarships will be available to any member seeking post secondary education who has not previously received a NTSRI scholarship. The updated scholarship forms are due March 31, 2013, and may be obtained on the NTSRI website at www.tunisheep.org.

Questions may be directed to Dan Erwin or Doug Garey.

**Complete all required information and mail to Dan Erwin, Youth Committee
14101 Boundary Rd. Richwood OH 43344.**

***Marianne says: Make plans to enter the
7th Annual NTSRI Tunis Wool Contest!***

Great Lakes Wool Festival & National Tunis Sale Wooster, Ohio - May 24-26, 2013

SCHEDULE

Friday – Fleeces accepted after 12 noon and before 8 am on Saturday.

Saturday – Judging of fleeces 8-9 am near the Show Arena. Fleeces will be on display after 9 am Saturday through Sunday at 3 pm at Rostraver Farm's booth, Building 13 - spaces 1 &2.

COMPETITION & PRIZES

There are two classes, "Tunis Ram Fleece" & "Tunis Ewe Fleece," with prizes awarded for each.

- o 1st Place – Ribbon & \$15
- o 2nd Place – Ribbon & \$10
- o 3rd Place – Ribbon & \$5
- o Champion – Ribbon & \$15
- o Reserve Champion – Ribbon & \$10

RULES & GUIDELINES

Fleeces must be from a registered Tunis sheep - registration numbers are required on the entry card. Exhibitors need not be members of the NTSRI.

The fleeces must be shorn within the past 12 months of the show date.

The fleeces must be displayed in clear plastic bags and not be tied.

The fleeces should be skirted and free of chaff, burrs, tags & second cuts.

The judge has the right to disqualify any fleece that contains an excessive amount of foreign material.

JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS

- a. The quality of the fleece must be typical of the Tunis breed.
- b. Evenness of quality throughout the fleece is very important.
- c. An appropriate length and strength of staple is required.
- d. Condition and cleanliness of the fleece.
- e. Crimp and color of the fleece.
- f. The estimated clean weight of the fleece.

TO ENTER

Put the following information on a 3 x 5 index card inside an envelope accompanying each fleece entry:

- Owner name, farm name, address, email address, phone number, and \$3 entry fee.
- Ram or Ewe Class, with animal's age and registration number.
- Weight of the fleece and how many months growth represented.
- Disposal Information - Fleeces should be marked whether they are to be sold through a "Private Treaty Sale" at the festival (please price your fleece,) picked up in person, returned to the exhibitor via mail (please include return postage funds,) or if other arrangements have been made.

To ensure adequate display space, please let us know how many entries you will be bringing to the show in person. Fleeces may also be shipped to Marianne Turcheck, 1574 Rostraver Road, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 and **must** be received by **Friday, May 17th**. Please include a phone number or email address so Marianne can confirm your entries were received.

WOOL SHOW COMMITTEE

Marianne Turcheck, Chairman (marianne@rostraverfarm.com),
Debbi Brown (texastunis@yahoo.com) Kim Day (redropfarm@yahoo.com)
Louise Dunham (tunis@bright.net).

Happy New Year from Region 1!

It is a great day in New England and Eastern Canada....New England area has almost two feet of snow since Christmas and this week a January thaw with 40 degrees. Most important is that the Patriots are in the running for the Super Bowl...one more game to win!

Many activities are in the planning process for Region1:

- The Northeast Youth Sheep Show and New England Sale at the Big E on July 19 - 21.
- Big E Show is September 19th - 25th.
- The Regional Tunis Show is scheduled for Saturday, September 21st approximately 2:00 PM at the Big E.

4th Annual Fiber Festival of New England will be November 2nd - 3rd.

Last year, at the Fiber Festival, more than 150 New England exhibitors showcased their products including clothing, quilts, blankets, rugs, looms, spinning wheels and more....as well as vendors offering educational components for visitors to learn how animals contribute to the fiber industry through live displays of llamas, alpacas, sheep, rabbits and goats.

Other activities included a fleece sale, Fiber Fashion Show, featuring handmade clothing and items made from natural fibers, including the "Make It With Wool Competition" for the New England Region.

Congratulations go to Brianna Taylor and Anna Charest. Brianna, 16 years old, of Shirley, MA and Anna, 22 years old, of Brimfield, MA are the 2012 New England winners for the "Make It With Wool Competition" which was held during The Fiber Festival of New England at the Big E in November. Both ladies will be representing the New England Region "Make It Wool National Competition" in San Antonio, TX, January 23rd - 26th in conjunction with The American Sheep Industry Association 2013 Annual Convention. Region 1 wish both Brianna and Anna the best of luck and bring home the gold!

The 2013 Tunis Yearling Ewe Jackpot Show at NAILE is well underway with 47 ewes entered from 11 farms across the US. The next payment is due April 1, 2013.

Bill Kerns Director – Region 1

2013 Calendar of Tunis Events

- May 25th – 26th National Tunis Sale, Wooster, OH
- June 15th Midwest Junior Preview Show, Sedalia, MO
- June 24th – 29th Midwest Stud Ram Sale, Sedalia, MO
- July 4th – 7th All American Junior Sheep Show, East Lansing, MI (National Youth Show)
- July 19th – 21st Northeast Youth Sheep Show and New England Sale, West Springfield, MA
- September 28th – October 6th KILE Open and Youth Shows, Harrisburg, PA
- October 18th – 19th New York Bred Ewe Sale
- November 8th – 15th National Tunis Show and Tunis Youth Show at NAILE, Louisville, KY

Treasurer's Report

January 12, 2013

NTSRI Savings: \$3556.82

NTSRI Checking: \$16,549.28

NTJA Junior Checking: \$1609.00

Total \$21,715.00

As of this date, all outstanding invoices for 2012 have been paid. An audit of 2012 will be conducted soon by Walter Clark in Region 3. The Budget for 2013 was reviewed at NAILE and will be discussed again at the next BOD meeting and approved.

OHIO TUNIS SHEEP ASSOCIATION GEARING UP FOR 2013 SHOW AND SALE SEASON

Members of the Ohio Tunis Sheep Association are busy planning for this years shows and sales. We are always proud to host the National Tunis Sheep Show and Sale, at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Wooster, Ohio over Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26, 2013, held in conjunction with The Great Lakes Show and Sale.

OTSA will implement an **EXCITING** new program for breeders who purchase Tunis Sheep at the 2013 Great Lakes Show and Sale. Beginning at the 2013 Ohio State Fair, any Tunis breeder who purchases a Tunis sheep from the sale, ram or ewe, may compete for added prize money at The Ohio State Fair Open Tunis Sheep Show. If the sheep you purchase wins its class then it will win an additional \$25.00, and if that sheep wins Champion Ewe or Champion Ram the purchaser will receive an additional \$50.00, which could mean an additional premium of up to \$75.00!

SO SAVE THE DATE for the Great Lakes Wool and Fiber Show and your National Tunis Show and Sale to purchase your future show ring Champions!

REGION 3 MESSAGE

Happy Holidays to all. I Hope you are enjoying the new year, with great success in the lambing barn. Here in Region 3, we are having our typical rain, ice, snow, hot, then cold winter.

I have just returned from the PA State Farm Show, I want to congratulate Kyle MacCauley, on his Champion ewe in the open and junior show, and Mike Finklea on his Res. Champion Ram in the open and junior show, as well as Res. Champion ewe in the open show. I want to commend all the Tunis exhibitors for a job well done. At this point Tunis have been showing in the AOB(all other breeds) but we have had enough sheep to qualify for our own show for 4 years now. So I ask any of you in PA or on the board to please help with this by sending letters to Mr. Jim Sharp at Farm Show requesting a Tunis show.

I would also like to Congratulate every one who showed at N.A.I.L.E., Great job. Cant wait to see everyone this spring at Wooster. If you have any thoughts, concerns, or suggestions please feel free to contact me.

Happy Lambing

Greetings from Region 6 Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan!

Well, as most of you know I am new to this position as Region 6 Director, but I am dedicated to representing NTSRI Region 6 members in a positive manner. Carolyn Hart, Marietta, Illinois has agreed to replace me as alternate for our region. Many of you know Carolyn; she has been very active in Tunis Leadline competitions and in the show ring as well.

It was good to see so many members from the region in the show ring in Louisville. I always enjoy seeing so many friends there and catching up on what everyone has been doing since last year! Region 6 members represented their region well at NAILE in 2012. **Congratulations** to the Munsey's, Triple M Farm, Lafayette, IN for their Grand Champion Ram, and **Congratulations** to Sara Fuhrman, Roachdale, IN on her Reserve Champion Ewe. Kaleb Schakel, son of Chris and Dawn Schakel, Oxford, IN, was the winner of the 2012 Tunis Ewe Jackpot Show!

2012 was a pretty good year. I turned fifty years old and my wife Brenda, and sons Clint and Caleb along with other family members surprised me with a party! When they opened the barn door and I saw Tunis friends standing there yelling **SURPRISE!!!** I just about fell over! It really meant a lot to me that so many friends made the effort to travel to Illinois to share my birthday with me. Other good news, my son Clint got engaged, and we will have a new daughter-in-law soon.

In closing, I want you to know that I will do my best as this region's director, and will work with the other regional directors in our association to promote Tunis sheep. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call me. I will be happy to talk to you.

Good Luck lambing!
Doug Garey

BY: ERIC IRVINE

Update from Midwest Tunis Association...

Hope this finds everyone enjoying their new year and getting rested up from the holidays. Here in Missouri it's been an ever changing mixture of cold, snowy weather and warm, almost 50 degree days. As I write this they are calling for a potential high of 60 degrees in a few days!

Just a few reminders for everyone – our group is dedicated to promoting the breed on a local and regional level, in Missouri, the Midwest and beyond (more specifically the west)! A lot of our members come to us because they have no regional or local associations – **in fact some members are the only Tunis breeders in their state!!** So if you are interested in joining, please visit our website for more information at www.midwesttunis.com.

In light of all the recent happenings, we would like to clarify we strive to work in conjunction with NTSRI, and complement the work they do. We are NOT registering sheep or interested in pursuing registrations – that is a job that belongs with NTSRI.

With that being said, some upcoming dates to remember from our neck of the woods for the upcoming year... **June 15, in Sedalia, Missouri** is the 4th annual **Midwest Junior Preview Show**. This event is open to all breeds and junior members from all states. Last year there was almost \$10,000 in award money paid out the day of the show. Emily Stumpe is the Tunis breed director. For more information see the website at www.midwestjuniorpreviewshow.com. The show will also be hosting a feeding clinic this year on Friday night.

June 24 – 29th is the Midwest Stud Ram Sale. Tunis will show on Monday and sell on Wednesday. As always, the auction will be presented online for bidders who cannot attend. This sale is the largest purebred sheep sale in the world and is really worth the trip!

Hope lambing goes great for everyone. A great sheep producer once told me something I'd thought I'd leave with everyone.

“Every year, 10 National Champions are born. Two never make it out of the lambing barn. Two will be lost during their first year. Two of them will never be recognized as good enough by their breeders, and three of them won’t be fed right to reach their maximum potential.” So here’s to hoping one of the 10 lands at your house this year!

PROMOTIONAL MONEY AVAILABLE FOR NEW TUNIS PROJECTS:

The Midwest & Beyond Tunis Association is trying to do their part. A fund of \$250.00 to be spent annually, has been established to promote NEW Tunis activities. Individual members or groups can apply for amounts ranging from \$25 to \$100 towards the establishment of a new activity or promotion of the Tunis breed. Some suggestions have been: to order Tunis brochures for a breed display at a petting zoo or fair, add a special Tunis wool class at a Fiberfest or show, provide class money for an additional Tunis class at your local or state fair...slick shorn ewe lamb, offer special premiums for leading a Tunis in a wool lead line event, purchase art supplies for a Tunis breed display at a 4-H or FFA event, place an ad in a newspaper, purchase photo supplies, the 1st bid on a Tunis wether at the 4-H sale. Any of these ideas would be acceptable...what else do you have to suggest? Guidelines: must be a MW&BTA member to apply. (So for a \$20 membership fee...you could get \$100 in return! And there are several benefits to being a MW & BTA member!) No formal application needs to be filled out, just send a simple description of your event and amount that you need. The application needs to be submitted by February 15th, 2013. If your NEW Tunis activity is selected, you will be asked to write a short notice about the event for the newsletter before the event, and a short notice about the success of the event afterward. Each winning project will receive money only one year, as the idea is to try as many NEW promotional ideas to promote Tunis as possible. A committee will notify the award recipients, and the money will be sent to the winners, and those who don't receive an award will be notified by Feb. 25th. Money will be awarded at this time until the entire fund is given out. The yearly \$250 is guaranteed for the next two years and then the program will be revisited by the board before being continued or discontinued.

For a membership application or for more information, please contact Louise Dunham,
MW & BTA Promotions Chairman at tunis@bright.net or by calling 937-465-8299.

Remember the application deadline is February 15th!

GOOD NEWS FROM REGION 5

SUBMITTED BY BARBARA CASSELL

Omar Wahdan from Bealeton, VA, is 17 and is home schooled. He graduated by taking the GED and has been taking online college classes from the John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth. He is a Vice-President of the Fauquier Feather Friends Four-H Club in Warrenton, Virginia which specializes in chickens and poultry. Omar's mother likes spinning and weaving so Omar took her to the Maryland Sheep and Wool Show in 2010. There he met with a member of the Youth Conservation Program, Mrs. Elaine Ashcraft, who told him of an annual contest where you write an essay to have a chance to win a rare sheep. In 2011 Omar's essay won him a Karakul ewe, but the lamb was not at the Sheep and Wool show. He needed to pick up his lamb at the Ohio Great Lakes Show and sale. While at the show he won a drawing for a discount bid on a Tunis ewe lamb from the NTSRI (Those buyers' credits do pay off!). He had his ewes bred by registered rams of their breed (Thanks to Mom's Tunis of Virginia for "Big Red"!).

Omar found sheep he liked, and that sheep like him. Mrs. Brigit, his 4-H leader, supported him with his 4 legged "chicken" project. He attended the BANBURY'S Lamb camp in Danville, Ohio to learn more about showing sheep. In May 2012, he showed his first Tunis in the breed showcase and he also showed his Karakul lambs. From there he had a busy summer, He attended but did not show in the Ohio Great Lakes Sale (He did not want to sell any of his babies). Omar wrote an article on the Karakul breed for the Banner Magazine. He attended and showed in the Mid- West Junior Pre-view in Sedalia, MO. His Tunis ram lambs placed 5th and 6th and his Tunis ewes 3rd and 4th places. Two weeks later he was at the Junior All American; here he met with many of the NTSRI members and learned more about preparing lambs for show. He found that he needed more help to show all the lambs he brought but still did well with 3rd and 4th place March ram lambs and 1st place ram fleece. Last, he attended the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY. He met with his friends at the show and learned more on fitting and the skill-a-thon and what the fashionable sheep and owner can wear.

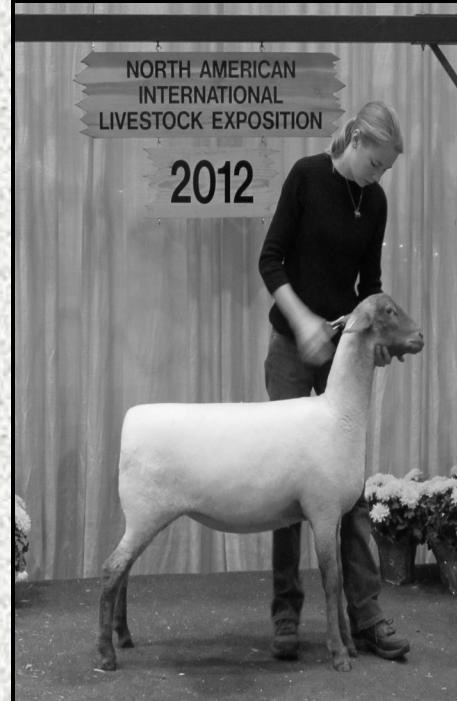
Omar now owns 20 Tunis and 15 Karakul sheep and is well into lambing (5 karakuls and 3 Tunis born so far.) and he is preparing to see you all this summer. (He would be happy to offer your newsletter articles to help other new junior members learn about what is needed to get into shows, prepare for the show and the related items at shows -fashion show, breed displays, farm advertisements, and fleece. Just let him know what you need.)
omarwahdan@hotmail.com

I was introduced to Tunis sheep somewhere around 2001, when my Aunt and Uncle took me to see the newborn red lambs at their neighbors, the Cassell's. I didn't know sheep came in any color but black or white, so these lambs were *way* cooler than the Hampshires I had at home and I knew I had to have one! Mrs. Cassell didn't have any extra lambs to sell that year, so I had to wait. I think my parents secretly hoped I would forget about them, but I got my first Tunis ewe lamb in 2003. I am very grateful for the entire Cassell family and the advice, encouragement, and friendship that they have given me over the years.

Ten years later, a teenager's 4-H project is an adult's small business. I manage a 30 ewe flock, half Tunis and half Hampshire, with the help of my parents, Gerald and Debbie. Their support allowed me to keep the sheep while I completed a Bachelor's Degree in Dairy Science at Virginia Tech, graduating in 2011.

At Virginia Tech I was active in the Dairy Club, Block & Bridle Club and was a member of the Dairy Cattle Judging Team. Since graduating I have returned home to the family dairy farm, where I milk cows in addition to working with the sheep. I also cover local agricultural events and news as a freelance writer for the Southern Edition of Lancaster Farming Newspaper.

I only attend a limited number of sheep shows each season, but always look forward to seeing great sheep and visiting with other breeders. Tunis people are the best! Respectfully, Dana



Dana Gochenour, NYSRI Region 5



“WOMEN OF TUNIS”

A Social/Service Organization

“Women of Tunis”

Meeting was held at the North American Livestock Expo

The organizational meeting for the “Women of Tunis” was held on November 10, at the North American International Livestock Expo, in Louisville, Kentucky. The meeting was attended by 12 women from seven states.

During the meeting, it was determined that there was enough interest among the ladies present to form the group, “The Women of Tunis”. Our group will operate as a social/service, philanthropic organization. If you would like to meet and develop relationships with other Tunis ladies from all over the country, work on fundraising projects to help Tunis families in hardship, and provide supplemental Scholarship dollars for continuing education opportunities, then we would love to have you join the group. Any woman age 21 and over is invited to join. Please complete the membership form on this page mail it in or bring your form to Kathy Niese at the Spring meeting.



Tunis Ladies shown: Front Row, left to right: Ann Marie Chapdelaine, Kris Swihart, Linda Cook, Dana Gochenour, Debbie Gochenour, Sharon Kerns. Back Row, left to right: Kathy Niese, Kris Mann, Linda Whitenack. Hope Mann kneeling.



This Tunis Barn Sign, this will be the first fundraising project for “The Women of Tunis”.

These signs will identify Tunis Breeders all over the barn at 2013 Shows and Sales!

If anyone has a contact who could create and produce these signs let Kathy Niese know.

“SHOWBARN CROCKPOT SHOWDOWN RESULTS”

The first project hosted by the “Women of Tunis” was The Show Barn, Crockpot Showdown held on Tuesday, November 13, four women made five recipes and \$78.00 was donated to get our fund started. Kristen Swihart won the contest with her Chicken Stuffing recipe, Kathy Niese was second with her dish, Pineapple Chicken, and Brenda Garey, was third with Crockpot Lasagna. We served lots of people that day as everyone took a break from fitting, and enjoyed one or more of the Crockpot dishes entered. Let’s see if we can double our entries next year!

The winning recipe: CHICKEN STUFFING

Ingredients: 2 boxes Stovetop Stuffing, 2 cans (10 oz) chicken, 1 can corn (drained), 1 can cream of chicken soup, 1 can chicken broth.

Instructions: Pour 1 box stuffing in a crock-pot, top with 1 can chicken and ½ can corn, then add second box of stuffing, the other can of chicken and remaining corn. Combine the soup and the broth, pour over everything. Cook on low 3-4 hours, stir and serve.

“WOMEN OF TUNIS” MEMBERSHIP FORM

Ladies, if you would like to become a member of the “Women of Tunis”, Please complete the membership form below:

Membership dues will be \$10.00 per year.

Adults age 21 and over are eligible for membership.

Complete the form and return it to:

Kathy Niese, 8777 Rd I-7 Ottawa, Ohio 45875

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Region: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Fall 2012 Tunis Show Results

New York Bred Ewe and Ewe Lamb Sale

Champion Ewe	1.43 Acre Farm	\$400
Reserve Champion Ewe	Kelkenberg Family Farm	\$300
Sale Gross		\$2,275
Sale Average		\$379
Total Head		6
Stars of Louisville Sale		
Champion Ewe	Windsong Farm	\$950
Reserve Champion Ewe	Small Fry Farm	\$700
Sale Gross		\$7,100
Sale Average		\$507
Total Head		14

2012 Tunis Yearling Ewe Jackpot Show

1st Place	Kaleb Schakel
2nd Place	Tom & Rachel Schambow
3rd Place	Tom & Rachel Schambow
4th Place	Brown Family
5th Place	Garey Tunis

This year's Jackpot (\$1,548.00) was distributed to the top 5 in the class. First - \$774.00; Second \$309.60; Third \$232.20, Fourth \$154.80 and Fifth \$77.40. Ten percent of the monies collected from the Jackpot (\$172.00) go toward the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association (NETSA) for youth activities.

2012 North American International Livestock Exposition

Youth Tunis Show

Grand Champion Ram	Rachel Schambow, Janesville, WI
Reserve Grand Champion Ram	Kaleb Schakel, Oxford, IN
Grand Champion Ewe	Sara Fuhrman, Roachdale, IN
Reserve Grand Champion Ewe	Sara Fuhrman, Roachdale, IN
First Place Flock	Rachel Schambow, Janesville, WI

2012 North American International Livestock Exposition

Open Tunis Show

Grand Champion Ram	Triple M Ranch, Lafayette, IN
Reserve Grand Champion Ram	Rachel Schambow, Janesville, WI
Grand Champion Ewe	Rachel Schambow, Janesville, WI
Reserve Grand Champion Ewe	Sara Fuhrman, Roachdale, IN
First Place Flock	Rachel Schambow, Janesville, WI

Greetings from the Pacific Northwest!

Congratulations to region 7 members on a great NAILE! Rachel Schambow of Wisconsin cleaned house in both the Junior show and Open show. Matt and Kate Lambert of Missouri had several class winners. Junior member Trinity Serafin of Oregon had a 2nd place in a class. Triple T of Oregon finished with many seconds. So if you are looking for great Tunis sheep you've got them right here in your own region.

Uptown farms of Missouri is planning an online production sale in April. Keep your eyes peeled for more information coming soon.

I have a couple of breeders interested in getting Tunis sold at the Nugget Sale in Reno. So far we have a starter flock consigned. This would be an excellent chance for anyone wanting to buy or sell Tunis in the Western part of the US. Any Tunis ewe lamb sold in this sale will be eligible for the NTSRI futurity. Trucks come to that sale from every western state and beyond. I can help with pictures and getting names of trucks for anyone wanting to buy sheep. This sale offers a little of everything for everyone, consign today. Give Greg Deacon or myself a call for more information on that sale.

The Browns of New Mexico will be traveling I5 to Oregon with their sheep trailer at the end of January. If anyone needs sheep moved give them a call.

A couple of breeders are talking about having a Tunis showing at the Arizona National in Phoenix in January. Weather is usually great and it's a FUN show! Would anyone else be interested in getting together?? Give me a call!

Oregon State fair will have an Open and Junior Tunis show this year. Come check this show out!

Good luck to all in the lambing barn! As always give me a shout if you have any questions! Tammie 831-809-3751 or trail2win@msn.com

2013 TUNIS MESSENGER AD RATE CHART

Get your website advertising for **FREE!** MEMBERS WHO PLACE A 1/4 PAGE AD OR LARGER WILL RECEIVE A **FREE** AD ON THE NTSRI WEBSITE!
CONTACT KATHY NIESE AT KATHY.NIESE@GMAIL.COM.

DISPLAY ADS Black and White

Ad	Per	4 Issues
Size	Issue	Prepaid
1 page	\$75	\$275
1/2 page	\$45	\$160
1/4 page	\$25	\$90
Business Card	\$15	\$50

DISPLAY ADS Color (will only available on the website)

Ad	Per	4 Issues
Size	Issue	Prepaid
1 page	\$150	\$550
1/2 page	\$90	\$320
1/4 page	\$50	\$180
Business Card	\$15	\$100

WEBSITE CLASSIFIED ADS

Ads will run for 60 days, and can be renewed by resubmitting.

Text with one photo.....\$10.00

Text with two photos\$15.00

Please contact the webmaster, Sharon Kerns

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Winter IssueJanuary 15

Spring Issue.....March 15

Summer Issue.....June 15

Fall Issue.....October 5

2012 Tunis Yearling Ewe Jackpot Winners – NAILE

Sponsored by: Northeast Tunis Sheep Association (NETSA)

Judges: Travis Hoffman, Chuck Ream & Mike Wright

There were 25 yearling ewes, 16 breeders who participated in the show this year.

Thanks to the following breeders:

Westwind Farm – The Anderson Family – Hustonville, KY

Shadybrook Farm – Todd & Dianna Brisco – Brookville, OH

Brown Family Farm – Olivia & Lane Brown – Creston, OH

Bruns Tunis – John & Irene Bruns – Maria Stein, OH

Small Fry Farm Cont – Anna Charest – Brimfield, MA

Triangle Farms Tunis – Linda Cook & Dale Huhnke – Muncie, IN

Darling Tunis – Jim & Louise Dunham – Zanesfield, OH

Garey Tunis – Clint Garey – Atlanta, IL

MJM Family Farm – Matt & Jennifer Maag – Ottawa, OH

Triple M Ranch – Jeff, Julie & Morgan Munsey – Lafayette, IN

Big Time Tunis – Mike & Kathy Niese – Ottawa, OH

RQL – David & Sandra Rock – Hillsborough, NJ

KS Tunis – Kaleb Schakel – Oxford, IN

Schambow Tunis – Tom & Rachael Schambow – Evansville, WI

Swiharts Moonlight Tunis – Jessica Swihart – Perrysburg, OH

WindSong Farms – Bill & Sharon Kerns – Harvard, MA

Happy New Year to all Tunis breeders! I am especially excited for 2013 to continue expanding the membership and activities of the National Tunis Junior Association.

Most exciting and new to the NTJA is our new checking account and financial system. This year we will implement a financial system in which the NTJA will have a separate checking account from the NTSRI. Our treasurer, Jessica Swihart, and the Board of Directors will be using this to manage our activities and fundraisers at shows throughout the year. All funds raised by us will be directly deposited into this account, as well as additional funds from the NTSRI for specific shows throughout the year.

The NTJA's main focus this year will be on expanding our membership and activities along with continuing fundraisers. We will be hosting activities at six specific shows annually starting this year, including the National Show & Sale at Wooster, the Midwest Junior Preview, the New England Show, All-American, KILE, and NAILE. We would like to encourage all junior Tunis breeders to get involved in NTJA activities and meet other members.

Our fundraising projects this year will include selling T-shirts and apparel at select shows, auction baskets, and the addition of a year-long raffle. We are currently looking into prizes and cannot wait to start selling tickets this summer. We are focusing our funds on creating a NTJA display board that can travel to shows and T-shirts for every junior exhibitor at NAILE. We are always looking for donations or sponsors for these activities, and we would like to thank everyone who has helped us so far!

As we start the lambing season, I hope each and every one of you is reenergized and excited about all the possibilities that 2013 holds. I know I sure am!

Wishing you all a Happy New Year,

Rachel Schambow

NTJA President

LAMBCHOP CHATTER

BY: MICHAEL NIESE

DID YOU KNOW...

MATT AND JENNIFER MAAG LOST THEIR BARN IN THE BAD STORMS THAT BLEW THROUGH INDIANA AND OHIO LAST YEAR! HIS SHEEP WERE ALL SAFE UNDER THE RAFTERS WHEN THEY FELL ON THE FEEDERS!

DID YOU KNOW...

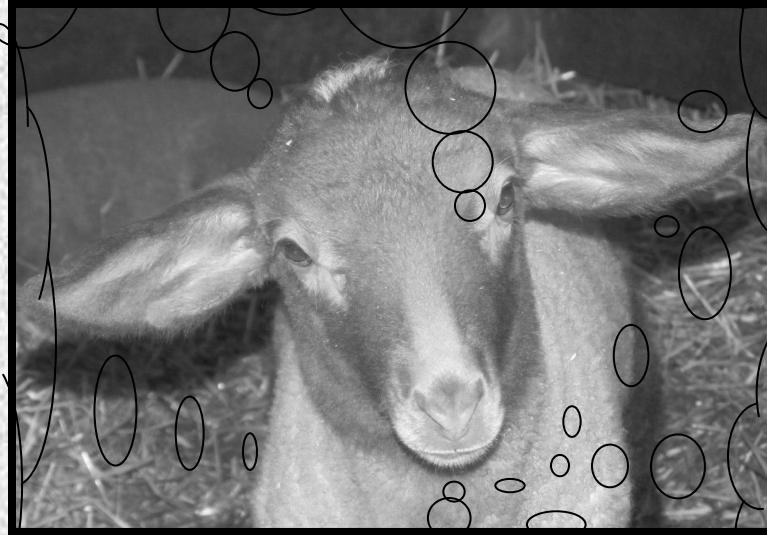
THAT KATE LAMBERT HAS BEEN HAVING A REOCCURRING NIGHTMARE THAT SHE DID NOT START LAMBING UNTIL MARCH 15? THANK HEAVEN IT WASN'T TRUE, LOOKS LIKE YOU WILL BE ON TRACK FOR YOUR FIRST TIME EVER ON-LINE TUNIS SALE!

DID YOU KNOW...

THAT DAN KLEMAN SUBMITTED THIS NAME FOR THE NEWSLETTER, BUT I STOLE IT FOR THIS ARTICLE? WELCOME TO LAMBCHOP CHATTER!

DID YOU KNOW...

THAT JACCI ERWIN GOT MARRIED JULY 27, TO DUSTY SMITH? HE LOVES RED ANGUS CATTLE, BOY THEY REALLY LIKE THE RED HEADS!



DID YOU KNOW...

THAT LINDA COOK IS A POLICE WOMAN...SHE CAN FRISK ME ANYTIME!

DID YOU KNOW...

THAT DEBBIE BROWN ALSO RAISES CHAMPION MINIATURE HORSES AND EXOTIC CHICKENS?

DID YOU KNOW...

THAT DAVID SCHAMBOW COMPETES IN TRIATHALONS?

DID YOU KNOW...

JOHN BRUNS IS A COMMISSIONER IN HIS COUNTY?

DID YOU KNOW...

THAT THERE IS A TUNIS GROUP ON FACEBOOK?

DID YOU KNOW..

BRYAN BARKLEY MAKES THE BEST "LAMB STICKS" IN THE WORLD? (According to me)!

CONGRATULATIONS GOES TO VALERIE AMES OF GREEN LANE FARMS, ONTARIO, CANADA FOR SUBMITTING THE WINNING NAME IN THE NAME THE TUNIS NEWSLETTER CONTEST!

“THE TUNIS MESSENGER”

THANK YOU TO ALL THE BREEDERS WHO SUBMITTED ENTRIES, ALL OF YOUR SUGGESTIONS ARE LISTED BELOW!

Gary Sojka, Bend In The Creek Farm

Tunis Times
Tunis Tribune
Red Head Herald
Red Reader

Dan Kleman

Lamb Chop Chatter
Wool Whining
Leg Of Lamb Logic
The Tunis Trauma
Baa's And Banter

John Mcdonough

The Tunis Experience
Chronicle Of The Tunis Experience
The Chronicles Of The Tunis Experience

Eric Kleman

Tunis Times .

Val Ames

Tunis Today
Tunis Talk
Tunis Twitter
The Red Head Herald
Tunis Tribune
Tunis Times
Tunis Messenger

Debbie Powers, Shet-Tu Sheep Farm

Tunis, Tunis, Tunis
The Tunis Newsletter
The Tunis Gazette
The Tunis Post
The Tunis News
Sheep Dip
The Tunis Scoop
Tunis Poop
Tunis Stuff

Tom and Kris Mann, Wild Hoof Acres

The Red Letter
Tunis Times
Tunis Happenings
The Red Sheep News

Maryanne Mcdonough

50 Shades Of Redheads

Randy Elsbernd, Elsbernd Farm

Tunis Times

Ashley Burke

Tunis Times

Maxine Howell, Zunitunis

The Tunis Ruminator

Amy Crow, Earthways Farm

The Tunis Times

Kate Lambert, Uptown Farms

The Red Release – An NTSRI Publication
The Red Reader – An NTSRI Publication

Brian Willsey, Rockin' W Alpaca Ranch

Redheaded Step-Child Quarterly

Pat Wiford

Red Head Tales
Tunis Tales
The Red Record
Tunis Journa
Crimson Chronicle
The Red Ledger

Linda Dee

The Read-Header
The Red-Header
Red Head Lines
Tunis Tune Up
Tunis Times
Tunis Head Lines
Heebaa Sheebaa (Kinda Silly, Yes? This Is What I Call My Sheep. The Rams Are "Heebaas" And The Ewes Are "Sheebaas)
Baa Baa Buzz (Another Silly.... But Why Not Have Fun?)
Bleat Beat



The 2013 Tunis Yearling Ewe Jackpot is off and running. Eleven farms have entered 47 Tunis ewe lambs (now yearlings) as of November 1, 2012. The next entry fee of \$10.00/head is due April 1, 2013.

If you did not get involved this past year, but would like to participate in the upcoming year or learn more about the show; please e-mail or call me and I will be happy to send you the information. The Jackpot Show is open to both junior and senior NTSRI members.

Good luck and let's plan for another showcase event in 2013 at NAILE!

Sharon Kerns, Harvard, MA

978.456.1240

sharonkerns@charter.net

Ground Lamb Lentil Soup



1 lb. ground lamb
1 c. dried lentils, picked over and rinsed
1 c. chopped celery
1 c. chopped cabbage
1 Tablespoon chopped green pepper
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. pepper
1 bay leaf
2 chicken or vegetable bouillon cubes
1 (46 oz.) can tomato or V8 juice
4 c. water

1 c. chopped carrots
1 c. chopped onion

Brown ground lamb in large soup pot. Remove any rendered fat. Stir in lentils, chopped veggies, salt, pepper, bay leaf, bouillon cubes, juice and water. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to low, cover, and cook for a couple of hours, stirring occasionally. Remove bay leaf before serving; garnish with freshly grated sharp Cheddar cheese.

TUNIS PRIDE PHOTO CONTEST

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS NOW!



The Tunis Pride Photo Contest is continuing with monthly winners for the Web Site. To qualify for each month you need to send the photo by the 10th of the month to be judged by the committee. At the end of the month, NTSRI will announce the monthly winner by posting the photos. Photos ideally should reflect the month in which it is nominated. As agreed with the BOD at their last meeting, winners will receive a free advertisement on the web site and posting of their photos in the Photo Gallery.

If you send an entry, you will need to sign a photo release form. That form is on the NTSRI website www.tunisheep.org. Please e-mail your entries to John McDonough davidbrownfarm@comcast.net Troy Staples bouldercreekunis@yahoo.com or Sharon Kerns sharonkerns@charter.net.

NOW GO OUT AND TAKE THOSE WONDERFUL PHOTOS OF YOUR BEAUTIFUL "RED HEADS"!



December Winner.....Congratulation goes to Valerie Ames, Green Lane Farms, Williamsford, Ontario Canada for her "winter wonderland photo". Check it out on the website under Photo Gallery.

*** NOTICE TO MEMBERS! IF YOU CURRENTLY HAVE A VALID EMAIL ON FILE WITH NTSRI, THEN THIS WILL BE THE LAST PAPER COPY OF "THE TUNIS MESSENGER" THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE.**

Printing the newsletter is very expensive; it has been decided by the BOD to publish the color version of the newsletter on the NTSRI website, and to email the newsletter to all members who have a valid email address listed in the membership directory. Members who do not have email will receive a black and white copy of the newsletter in the mail as usual. If you have email, but would still like to have a paper copy of the newsletter contact Kathy Niese at kathy.niese@gmail.com and it will be sent to you.

January 2013

NTSRI NEWSLETTER
THE TUNIS MESSENGER

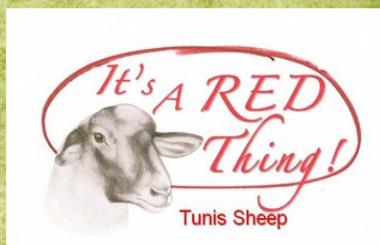
NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY



**Not everything in the sheep industry is
black & white!
Pick a "Red Head!"**

VOL. # 1 ISSUE # 35

NTSRI Newsletter, The Tunis Messenger
Kathy Niese BOD Secretary Liaison
8777 Rd I -7
Ottawa, Ohio 45875



WWW.TUNISSHEEP.COM

