

MIDWEST TUNIS ASSOCIATION

MIDWEST AND BEYOND

JAN 2022

VOL. # ELEVEN ISSUE #1

LOUISE'S LITTLE BIT

*"I was told to check my attitude... I DID....
It is still there... It's not gone anywhere.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?"*

Even if you haven't met me and only read this newsletter, you can STILL see & feel my attitude! In the newsletter... my attitude is showing in these areas:

#1 – EXHIBITORS LIST! I believe that everyone who spends time and money to enter a sheep at a show deserves a mention in the newsletter... not just the champions!

#2 – EXPLANATION OF PROGRAMS! New breeders need to be introduced to ALL programs/opportunities that are available on an annual basis. Us oldies already know about them!

#3 – VACATION PLANNING! A calendar of upcoming events helps all of us to plan entries and sheep sight-seeing vacations. AND that includes social events! These are important at sheep shows & sales... how else do we get to know each other?

#4 – FREE ADVERTISING for ALL Sales! I don't think most Tunis breeders realize how many people are looking for replacement stock or to start a flock! I just want to help spread the word about the red heads... and sell your sheep!

#5 – UNUSUAL ARTICLES! No one has all the answers... so I will drop something a little bit controversial on you folks... and let you think it thru. I don't believe or support every article in the newsletter... but each article printed makes me think!

#6 – A BROAD VISION OF THE USEFULNESS OF THE TUNIS SHEEP! I try to promote a wide variety of Tunis events & results because I truly believe that the Tunis breed can fulfill all of those needs. A serious sheep breeder can genetically select and use their own management tools to create the red headed sheep of your dreams... wool vs meat, hobby vs show, dry lotted or organic grown, long docked tails vs show docking, etc. All of us have different landscapes & climates, availability of feeds and opportunities to market or not market our product that determine a style of sheep for us & they will meet the standard!

Louise's personal attitude is that these Tunis can fit more than one person's style!

AND if you haven't noticed I love those red heads and want everyone to raise them!

An old man said, 'Erasers are made for those who make mistakes.'

A youth replied, 'Erasers are made for those willing to correct their mistakes.'

ATTITUDE MATTERS!! What's Your Attitude?
(I correct my mistakes! Louise)

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NEXT SUBMISSION & PUBLICATION DATE

March 25, 2022

www.midwesttunis.com

2022 Newsletter Dates

January 1st, April 1st & July 1st

**PLEASE SEND SHOW RESULTS
& INFO ABOUT OTHER TUNIS
ACTIVITIES for publication to
tunis@bright.net**

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Breed Selection:

Tunis and North Country Cheviot, Laurie Maus, Hawk Hill Farm

"I see Social Media posts at least every month where "want to be" shepherds ask what breeds to raise and everyone pipes up with their favourite breed which may or may not be suitable for the poster's situation. I have suggested that sheep producers submit articles on what breeds they raise and why, advantages and disadvantages and if they could change, would they.

Spoiler alert: we raised purebred North Country Cheviots, purebred Tunis and a North Country/Tunis cross created by putting a Tunis ram on Cheviot ewes. The F1 cross ewes were bred to either a Cheviot/Hampshire terminal sire or purebred Tunis. Everything is in past tense as we have retired from breeding sheep.

Breed selection is or should be about research, availability, and suitability. Suitability is all about your existing or planned management system. Management will dictate what breeds are appropriate for your operation. Availability is critical as is access to quality seed stock and knowledgeable mentors.

What was our management system? We bred in December for a May lambing date; we lambd indoors but for the balance of the time the sheep were on pasture and were wintered outside on round bales with access to a run-in shed. We wanted to market heavy lambs that were shipped before the snow flew. We did not want to winter feed or winter house the lambs. Since single lambs did not pay the bills, we wanted twins and, if ewes had triplets, they must be able to raise them. I do not like feeding bottle lambs and strong, vigorous lambs were a must.

While I was doing my research over many years before starting with sheep, I looked at various breeds. My heart was stolen by North Country Cheviots both for their look and their reputation for hardiness and as excellent mothers. I would still recommend them for beginning shepherds with similar goals with a couple of cautions. We started with Cheviots and they lived up to much of their reputation. Cheviot lambs are strong at birth and are up and nursing faster than most breeds. The breed also had superb udders, hooves, and legs. While it is just our experience in the sheep (and horses), the dam seems to have a disproportionate influence on hoof and udder quality. Cheviot crosses seem to inherit the udder and hoof quality from the Cheviot side of the breeding.

Now some of the disadvantages that we found with Cheviots. Their prolificacy was below what we wanted and they were penalized for that in production testing. The lambs grew well to about 80 lbs in the fall and then stalled over the winter, not hitting a heavy lamb until after Christmas. While it may have been the bloodlines we had, the Cheviots developed arthritis and unfortunately threw that condition to their crossbred progeny. The Cheviots were not as heat tolerant as their Tunis flock mates, nor were they as thrifty in feed efficiency. The amount of feed required to keep a Cheviot ewe in good body condition made the Tunis ewes fat. The Cheviot ewes had wool break during lambing causing them to lose most of their fleece. The final deciding factor was financial. Despite that our rams and many of our ewes were testing near the top of the breed, other producers would not pay the price for quality Cheviot breeding stock. Would I breed North Country Cheviots again? A solid yes.

Why did we decide to stay with the Tunis? The breed met many of the requirements of our management system. We could get all our May born lambs to heavy lambs and shipped before November. The meat was superb leading to loyal, repeat customers including those who wanted Tunis mutton. We always had more clients than product for our meat. Unlike the Cheviots, the Tunis tolerated both the heat of our summers and the cold of our winters. They were housed outside except for lambing without any problems. They were good mothers and, through selection, all of our ewes were able to feed the number of lambs they had. While triplets were not common, it was important that a ewe was able to feed their lambs. They are long lived and generally had few health problems. We found the Tunis thrifty to feed. And finally, clean Tunis fleece is a joy to spin and has a tendency not to felt making it suitable for washable wearables.

Like all breeds Tunis sheep have some negative characteristics, some more serious than others. The first negative and it is a serious one - hoof quality. While I assume that the breed originated in dry, harsh, probably stony environments, their hooves do not do well on our soft, lush pasture and, hearing from producers that raise them in confinement, it is also an issue with that management. The hoof wall is thin, fast growing and prone to delaminate at the white line (shelly hooves). While our Cheviots only needed to be trimmed once a

year if that and stayed sound, the Tunis required trimming at least twice a year (even being on pasture year-round) and would have been better being trimmed more often than that.

Next is udder conformation. In my past, I raised dairy cattle and udder conformation can make the difference for a long, healthy, productive life. I look for wide rear and fore udder attachment, level udder floor, correct teat placement with teats that were the right size for lambs nursing and no extra teats. I wanted an udder that almost disappeared in a dry ewe with no hard lumpy tissue. Why are these features so important? If a ewe is to have a long, productive life, be able to feed all her lambs, have few if any nursing problems, not be prone to mastitis or udder injury this is the ideal udder conformation. The Tunis we had did not compare well with our North Country Cheviots' udder conformation. The rear and fore attachment is not as wide, nor is the udder floor as level. Teat placement and size is quite variable and multiple teats are common despite trying to select against them. This is an area where the breed needs improvement. For the most part, the udders did shrink down in dry ewes.

As mentioned, Tunis are easy on the feed bill, but we found they were more sensitive to trace mineral imbalances. We almost dispersed our Tunis flock when our ewes either failed to conceive or if they did conceive, only had one lamb. Our early production was well under one lamb per ewe per lambing. It took us multiple tests, lots of discussion with vets and researchers to find the problem. Our forage was low in copper and high in molybdenum leading to a copper deficiency problem. This problem was not as obvious in our Cheviots. Once we solved the dietary problem, multiple issues disappeared. Prolificacy, wool quality, and parasite resistance all improved. We went from under one lamb per ewe to close to two lambs per ewe.

That brings up the final negative in Tunis. All the breed descriptions talk about the high percentage of twinning in the breed. Yet when you ask for pedigrees, there still is a high percentage of singles. I would estimate that the breed average is closer to 1.5 lambs per ewe. We were able to get higher than that but ewes that consistently gave singles were culled. At our farm, singles did not pay the bills. The focus for the breed needs to be as much on production as on showing. I would love to have the registry "on line" so it is easier to review pedigrees and prolificacy of potential ram and ewe families.

The Tunis/Cheviot F1 cross developed by putting a Tunis ram on a Cheviot ewe was better productively than either of the purebred animals. They also came with some of benefits and faults of the parent stock. They inherited the lovely feet and udders of the Cheviots (Bonus) and the tendency for arthritis from the Cheviots. They raised all their lambs, had very low lamb mortality and when crossed with a terminal sire put out a fast-growing market lamb that dressed out well. If we were to continue, I would have tried breeding the F1s to different terminal sires such as Canadian Arcotts or Charolais.

I had no regrets about raising both these breeds and would do so again. If I had a different management system, I recognize that these breeds might not work.

Before other producers criticize what I have said this article is based on our experience with the animals we bought. We bought the best quality sheep we could from what was available from breeders that had many of the same goals as us though not necessarily the same management. We bred, selected, and tested for the characteristics that we wanted. Others will have different experiences even with the same breeds. It is important not to become barn blind to the pros and cons of the sheep you have."

Editor's Note: *One of the problems with Covid is that borders are closed and it is harder (and longer) to travel places. Laurie's place in Canada was on my list before Covid. Not only did she raise Tunis... she had solid figures about health issues with her sheep. Too many breeders describe their flocks by terms like..."pretty heads, long tails and easy to manage"... not necessarily things that have monetary value!*

DID YOU KNOW THAT SHEEP EQUIPMENT either has a useful life of 7 years or a really long time... I have Townsend equipment that is 30 years old... and it still strong! Some sheep people give up the industry after their kids finish 4-H or their mistakes catch up with them... some people are with us for lots of years as they use data to make decisions and erasers to correct their mistakes.

I will always value Laurie's informed opinion on sheep! THANKS!

Small Ruminant Imports: Friend or Foe?

Dr. Reid Redden, Associate Professor and Extension Sheep and Goat Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (Reid's Ram-blings: November 2021)

"By now you know that I am a strong proponent of eating and promoting the consumption of lamb and goat meat. Bottom line, it is delicious, but the reasons to include lamb or goat in your meal rotation do not end there. It is nutritious and versatile in the ways it can be prepared. And as producers I believe it is important for us to be advocates of our own products.

When we cook and eat lamb and goat ourselves, we also become better advocates for it. I can't count the number of times, I've heard 'I only like lamb when Reid cooks it.' Over time, the fear of something different and we gain another advocate. Be Patient!

As a routine customer, I'm always inquiring about the origin of the product. Often, they are sourced from another country. Imported lamb is perceived by many consumers as exclusive and superior products. In reality, most imported products are purchased by American restaurants or grocers because of price and availability. Currently, domestic products are sold by wholesalers at roughly double the price of imported products.

Over the last decade, half the lamb and a third of the goat meat consumed in the US are imported. So far in 2021, lamb imports are nearly double US production. The top two countries that provide most of the lamb and goat meat are Australia and New Zealand, but that might be about to change.

In September of 2020, the Biden administration lifted a 30-year-old ban on British lamb and mutton from being imported into the US. The ban was originally created in response to the first outbreaks of BSE, commonly known as mad cow disease. With U.S. markets off the table until now, most of their exports were going to Europe. While it is unclear how this will affect American producers, one silver lining is that lifting of the ban also allows for the import of United Kingdom (UK) sheep genetics, such as semen and embryos.

The UK is the third largest exporter of sheep meats globally, behind Australia and New Zealand. I had the privilege of touring the UK sheep industry in the fall of 2019. During this tour, we learned that the British export roughly half of their lamb during peak production and import a similar equivalent of lamb from New Zealand during the off season. This "trade off" seems to work given that the UK and New Zealand have similar production systems but are located in different hemispheres.

I'd anticipate that British lamb will likely be marketed at similar value to other imported lamb products. In theory, more supply will bring down lamb prices at the food counter and inevitably reduce value of lambs at the farm gate. But I've come to realize that the US lamb market is complex and difficult to project.

The US lamb industry grossly undersupplies the demand and it is unlikely that we will grow to a level to meet this demand any time in the near future. While I'd like to see our industry expand, it is more likely that we will see a further reduction in overall lamb and goat production. Both from farmers exiting the industry and operations that reduce flock or herd size. Furthermore, the rapidly growing non-traditional market prefers to harvest lambs at 25%-50% lighter weights than conventional markets. Harvesting lighter lambs results in even lower volume of domestic lamb production. To keep a supply of lamb for the growing American appetite for lamb, we are likely going to need more imports.

In my opinion, the negative impact of imports are due to a discrepancy in value. Imports tend to be cheaper for a variety of reasons. First, emerging domestic demand has driven up the market for lambs and goats above global prices. This is good for sheep farmers but it also creates opportunity

for imports to gain a stronger foothold in traditional channels. Second, the imports tend to have lower costs of production due to limited predation, access to more animal health products, economy of scale, government support programs, etc.

The goat market isn't as affected by imports as they lack a sizable volume of goat meat for export. Goat meat imports also come from Australia and New Zealand; however, their goats tend to be feral or very extensively managed. Based on my impression, export demand has impacted their national herd size and further long-term exports appears to be unsustainable. As an example, I have a friend in Australia that is proud to have successfully exterminated goats from their farm, as if they were pests.

In summary, the US lamb and goat industry is very much influenced by global trade. We need imported product to satisfy US demand and continue to grow the American appetite for lamb and goat meat. However, imports have a competitive advantage due a lower cost of production than US sheep and goat producers. I will be very interested to see how the markets react to future imports. What is still in our control though, is how we can be better advocates for lamb and goat meat. We'll just have to take a page from Blue Bell's playbook and 'eat all we can and sell the rest.!'"



Sonja Pyne's....Tunis Sheep Survey Results

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Tunis Sheep Survey published in the last newsletter. Jan Kamrath of Kamrath Bay, Oregon was the winner of the drawing for the prepared Tunis fiber. She chose yarn, and plans to use it to help evaluate what she wants to do with the fleeces of her own flock and was happy for the chance to sample what the fiber can do. Thanks, Jan, for participating.

Even though the yarn prize has been awarded, don't hesitate to send suggestions or any other further survey results – all input gratefully accepted. This newsletter has only a single simple survey question for you:

What happens to the wool you shear from your sheep?

Please email responses to: woolhallatunis@gmail.com

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS? Compiling information from surveys such as these is a way to let the National Association board members know what's important about the breed to shepherds in the field – folks who might not interact with the National Association in traditional ways.

AND IF you have questions about Tunis fleece and fiber, I would be glad to act as a sounding board and offer some suggestions that might answer your questions. It's a shame to focus on only a single purpose when these sheep are a true triple-purpose breed!



The Associated Registry by the Numbers -

This is the registry that the National Tunis uses!!!!

NUMBER OF REGISTRIES -

35 Sheep

2 Cattle

1 Swine

1 Goat

NUMBER OF ANIMALS REGISTERED EACH YEAR -

35,400 in 2020

39,700 in 2019

NUMBER OF ANIMALS REGISTERED EACH DAY (during busy season)

Up to 1,000 with 5 employees doing registry work

THE SMALLEST REGISTRY – Cormo Breeders Coalition, Inc.

THE LAST REGISTRY TO JOIN – Scottish Blackface Breeders Union in 2021

KEYSTONE INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPO – 2021

69 Head of Tunis shown by 15 exhibitors – 6 states

3 YR RAMS	3 FALL RL	9 EARLY SP RL	8 LATE SP RL
Dana Gochenour, VA Victoria Fuller, DE Autumn Piazza, DE	Dana Gochenour, VA Marshall Kerper, PA Kalie Harrison, NY	DJ Kyle, NY Marshall Kerper, PA Kyle MacCauley, PA	DJ Kyle, NY Drew Ridgeway, MD Drew Ridgeway, MD
1 SLICK RL	12 YR EWES	4 SLICK SH YR EWE	5 SLICK SH FALL EL
Marshall Kerper, PA	DJ Kyle, NY Kyle MacCauley, PA Drew Ridgeway, MD	DJ Kyle, NY Kyle MacCauley, PA Victoria Fuller, DE	Kyle MacCauley, PA Drew Ridgeway, MD DJ Kyle, NY
12 EARLY SP EL	9 LATE SP EL	3 SLICK SH EL	6 EXHIBITORS FLOCK
DJ Kyle, NY Drew Ridgeway, MD Kyle MacCauley, PA	Drew Ridgeway, MD Marshall Kerper, PA Dana Gochenour, VA	DJ Kyle, NY Marshall Kerper, PA Marshall Kerper, PA	DJ Kyle, NY Kyle MacCauley, PA Drew Ridgeway, MD

CHAMPION RAM – DJ Kyle **Early Spring Ram Lamb**
RES CHAMPION RAM – DJ Kyle **Late Spring Ram Lamb**
CHAMPION EWE – DJ Kyle **Yearling Ewe**
RES CHAMPION EWE – Kyle MacCauley **2nd Place Yearling Ewe**
PREMIER EXHIBITOR & PREMIER BREEDER – DJ Kyle
CHAMPION SALE EWE – Marshall Kerper **Spring Ewe Lamb**

EXHIBITORS: Makayla Bradley, DE; Benjamin Clark, PA; Nathan Everhart, IN; Victoria Fuller, DE; Mackenzie Gill, MD; Dana Gochenour, VA; Kalie Harrison, NY; Howe Family, NY; Marshall Kerper, PA; DJ Kyle, NY; Kyle MacCauley, PA; Autumn Piazza, DE; Drew Ridgeway, MD; Ferah Seren, MD, and Dirk Wise, PA.

NAILE JR TUNIS SHOW – 2021

58 Head of Tunis shown by 21 exhibitors from 6 states!

1 Fitted Fall RL	1 SS Fall RL	4 Jan. Ram Lambs	1 Feb. Ram Lambs
Claire Spilde, WI	Morgan Johnson, OH	Beau Mumm, IL Hanna Warnecke, OH Emma & Brooke Kyle, NY Jacoby Maag, OH	Nash Arthur, IN
3 Slick Shorn RL	4 Early Yr Ewes	8 Late Yr Ewes	6 Slick Shorn Yr Ewes
Jacoby Maag, OH Mason Johnson, OH Hanna Warnecke, OH	Nash Arthur, IN Beau Mumm, IL Madison Feehan, OH Jacoby Maag, OH	Claire Spilde, WI Claire Spilde, WI McLayn Musick, IL Makenna Garey, IL	Jenna Loper, NY Hanna Warnecke, OH Emma & Brooke Kyle, NY Hannah Swanson, IN
4 Fall Ewe Lambs	6 Jan. Ewe Lambs	5 Feb. Ewe Lambs	5 March Ewe Lambs
Claire Spilde, WI Beau Mumm, IL Madison Feehan, OH Andrew Feehan, OH	Claire Spilde, WI Claire Spilde, WI Beau Mumm, IL Kaitlyn Schakel, IN	Jenna Loper, NY Emma & Brooke Kyle, NY Mackenzie Gill, MD Hanna Warnecke, OH	Beau Mumm, IL Kaitlyn Schakel, IN Emma & Brooke Kyle, NY Macie Maag, OH
8 Slick Shorn Ewe Lambs	4 Young Flock	*****2 Slick Shorn Fall Ewe Lambs	
Jacoby Maag, OH Emma & Brooke Kyle, NY Morgan Johnson, OH Hanna Warnecke, OH	Claire Spilde, WI Beau Mumm, IL Hanna Warrnecke, OH Jacoby Maag, OH	Nathan Everhart, IN Morgan Johnson, OH	

GRAND CHAMPION RAM – Claire Spilde – Fitted Fall Ram Lamb – Spilde 562
RES GR CH RAM – Beau Mumm – January Ram Lamb – Mumm 2103
SR CHAMPION EWE – Claire Spilde – Late Yearling Ewe – Spilde 534
RES SR CH EWE – Nash Arthur – Early Yearling Ewe – Stumpe 668
JR CHAMPION EWE – Claire Spilde – January Ewe Lamb – Spilde 581
RES JR CH EWE – Beau Mumm – March Ewe Lamb – Mumm 2161
GRAND CHAMPION EWE – Claire Spilde – Late Yearling Ewe – Spilde 534
RES GR CH EWE – Claire Spilde – January Ewe Lamb – Spilde 581

EXHIBITORS: Nash Arthur, IN; Nathan Everhart, IN; Andrew Feehan, OH; Madison Feehan, OH; Makenna Garey, IL; Mackenzie Gill, MD; Mason Johnson, OH; Morgan Johnson, OH; Emma & Brooke Kyle, NY; Jenna Loper, NY; Jacoby Maag, OH; Macie Maag, OH; Mackenzie Maag, OH; Mattilyn Maag, OH; Beau Mumm, IL; McLayn Musick, IL; Kaitlyn Schakel, IN; Claire Spilde, WI; Hannah Swanson, IN; Alex Taylor, IN and Hanna Warnecke, OH.

NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPO – 2021

111 Head of Tunis shown by 26 exhibitors from 11 states!

3 YR RAMS	2 SL SH YR RAMS	1 FALL RAM LAMB	4 JAN. RAM LAMBS
S & T Tunis, NY J & N Vandenbroek, OH Jacoby Maag, OH	Hanna Warnecke, OH D & R Joseph, OH	Claire Spilde, WI	S & T Tunis, NY Emma & Brooke Kyle, NY Jacoby Maag, OH Anne Champdelaine, MA
7 FEB RAM L	2 MARCH RL	5 SLICK SHORN RL	5 PAIRS RAM LAMBS
D, T & R Schambow, WI Nash Arthur, IN Mitch Schmidt, MO D, T & R Schambow, WI	Drew Ridgeway, MD Anne Chapdelaine, MA	Hanna Warnecke, OH S & T Tunis, NY Jacoby Maag, OH Linda Cook, IN	D, T & R Schambow, WI S & T Tunis, NY Hanna Warnecke, OH Jacoby Maag, OH
6 EARLY YR E	7 INT YR EWES	5 LATE YR EWES	7 SL SH YR EWES
Nash Arthur, IN Mitch Schmidt, MO Mitch Schmidt, NY S & T Tunis, NY	The Odlands, MN Claire Spilde, WI Emma & Brooke Kyle, NY D, T & R Schambow, WI	Makenna Garey, IL Kyle MacCauley, PA S & T Tunis, NY Kaitlyn Schakel, IN	Emma & Brooke Kyle, NY Jacoby Maag, OH Linda Cook, IN D, T, & R Schambow, WI
6 FALL EWE L	13 JAN. EWE L	8 EARLY FEB. EL	8 LATE FEB. EL
Claire Spilde, WI The Odlands, MN Drew Ridgeway, MD Kyle MacCauley, PA	Claire Spilde, WI Claire Spilde, WI D, T & R Schambow, WI Mitch Schmidt, MO	D, T & R Schambow, WI D, T & R Schambow, WI Mitch Schmidt, MO Mitch Schmidt, MO	D, T & R Schambow, WI The Odlands, MN Richard Schambow, WI Clint Garey, IL
11 MARCH EL	8 EARLY SS EL	8 LATE SS EL	10 PAIRS EWE LAMBS
Emma & Brooke Kyle, NY Lynn Murry, MO Clint Garey, IL Kaitlyn Schakel, IN	Mitch Schmidt, MO Nathan Everhart, IN Hanna Warnecke, OH Emma & Brooke Kyle, NY	Troy Staples, ME Linda Cook, IN Emma & Brooke Kyle, NY Jacoby Maag, OH	Claire Spilde, WI D, T & R Schambow, WI Mitch Schmidt, MO S & T Tunis, NY
3 GET OF SIRE	7 FLOCKS	*****Pairs YR EWES	
Mitch Schmidt, MO S & T Tunis, NY Anne Chapdelaine, MA	D, T & R Schambow, WI Claire Spilde, WI Mitch Schmidt, MO S & T Tunis, NY	Mitch Schmidt, MO Claire Spilde, WI S & T Tunis, NY Hanna Warnecke, OH	

JR CHAMPION RAM – D, T & R Schambow – Feb. Ram Lamb – Schambow 2061

RES JR CH RAM – Nash Arthur - 2nd Place Feb. Ram Lamb - Schambow 637

SR CHAMPION RAM – S & T Tunis – Yearling Ram – S & T 2110

RES SR CH RAM – Claire Spilde – Fall Ram Lamb – Spilde 562

SLICK SHORN CH RAM – Hanna Warnecke – Slick Shorn Ram Lamb – MJM 2116

RES SS CH RAM – S & T Tunis - 2nd Place Slick Shorn Ram Lamb – Woolly Hollow 0317

GRAND CHAMPION OVERALL RAM – S & T Tunis – Yearling Ram – S & T 2110

RES GR CH OVERALL Ram – D, T & R Schambow – Feb. Ram Lamb – Schambow 2061

BEST HEADED RAM – S & T Tunis – Yearling Ram – S & T 2110

SR CHAMPION EWE – Cornsilk Hollow – The Odlands – Int. Yearling Ewe – Schambow 2056

RES SR CH EWE – Makenna Garey – Late Yearling Ewe – Garey 654

JR CHAMPION EWE – Claire Spilde – Janaury Ewe Lamb – Spilde 580

RES JR CH EWE – D, T & R Schambow – Early Feb. Ewe Lamb – Schambow 638

SLICK SHORN CH EWE – Emma & Brooke Kyle – SS Yearling Ewe – Kyle 2012

SLICK SHORN RES CH EWE – Mitch Schmidt – SS Early Yearling Ewe – Schmidt 2113

GRAND CHAMPION OVERALL EWE – Cornsilk Hollow – The Odlands – INT YR EWE – Schambow 2056

RES GR CH OVERALL EWE – Makenna Garey – Late YR EWE – Garey 654

BEST HEADED EWE – Claire Spilde – Spilde 581

PREMIER EXHIBITOR – David, Tom & Rachel Schambow

EXHIBITORS: Nash Arthur, IN; Anne Chapdelaine (Small Fry Farm), MA; Linda Cook (Triangle Farms) IN; Nathan Everhart, IN; Clint Garey, IL; Makenna Garey, IL; Dave & Rachel Joseph (Creekside Tunis), OH; Emma & Brooke Kyle, NY; Jacoby Maag, OH; Macie Maag, OH; Makenzie Maag, OH; Mattilyn Maag, OH; Kyle MacCauley, PA; Lynn Murry, MO; Scott & Becky Odland, MN; Drew Ridgeway, MD; S & T Tunis (Bielewicz), NY; Kaitlyn Schakel, IN; David, Tom & Rachel Schambow, WI; Richard Schambow; Mitch Schmidt, MO; Claire Spilde, WI; Troy Staples (Boulder Creek Tunis) ME; Kristen Swihart, OH; Jesssica & Nathan Vandenbroek, OH; and Hanna Warnecke, OH.

HEY PARENTS... DO ANY OF THESE DESCRIBE YOUR SHOW STOCK PERSONALITY???

Although... they feature men's names... I bet these descriptions fit the ladies also!

DAVID: Years of show experience but knows zero about animals. However, he can fix an entire electrical system on your fancy trailer using only a plastic spoon and a rubber band. Carries 3 pocket knives.

MARK: Was on a judging team since age 8. Knows every major breeder in the USA. Breathes motivational quotes like a dragon breathe fire.

DONALD: Stays at the barn half the night *'watching the stock.'* Then gets up three other times in the other half of the night to feed, water, or give the sheep more hay.

RUSSELL: Do NOT speak to him until 9 am. He is a terror for the first 4 hours of the day because he is so grumpy. But he can pack 40 tons of tack into a 18 ft trailer.

CLINT: Worse than any other 'dance mom' you have ever saw. Paces. Sweats profusely. Rethinks every move until the class is over.

RICK: Did a stint on Kirk Stierwalt's fitting crew in the '80s. Still wears Wranglers. Thinks *'these new guys don't have a clue.'*

MATT: Runs his show crew like a prison. You better not ask for a bathroom break on the trip or be playing on your cell phone. Will leave you at the hotel if you're 3 minutes late for the departure time.

KARL: The strategist. Developed secret coaching hand signals for his kids that rival any NFL team play calling. Precisely calculates optimal arrival and departure time to avoid the trailer line and get the best stalls.

CHRIS: Has his phone stuck to his ear 24/7. Missed his kid's class while outside making a big deal but knows the best steakhouse in town for the after-show celebration. Brings breakfast for the crew every morning.

GENE: The nicest guy at the show. Helps everyone unload, clean stalls, fit and will adopt any new person at the show and *'show them the ropes.'*

KEVIN: The show stock stealth. Doesn't talk to anyone. Never leaves his stalls. This guy's stock is 12 o'clock high ready at every show and the only time he'll make eye contact is when his kids just smoked you in the show ring!

And after watching the North American Jr Show... I would like to add this one!

CLAY: He just enjoys the show and watches his child do the work with pride... because he knows that the work done at home (selection, feeding and training) will stand up to any competition! He doesn't have to do anything extra here... he has provided the advice at home!

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LET'S WORK TOGETHER!!!!!!

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS: Tunis organizations will be holding Silent Auctions at the Sales in Greenville, OH and Sedalia, MO... would you consider bringing an item for the auction or a little bit extra money to buy something?? I assure you that all money is used for good Tunis activities (like the Midwest Tunis newsletter expenses or youth activities).

YOUTH BUYERS; CREDITS: I know that the Ohio Tunis Sheep Association, the National Tunis Sheep Registry and Darling Tunis-Louise Dunham will be giving away free youth buyers' credits at the various on-site sales. No entry fees for the kids or membership requirements. Just put your name in the box before the sale. ANYONE ELSE want to give one to a sale? A good way to remember someone or to simply help... but please tell me before the next newsletter so I can advertise it... it helps parents to know where they are going to buy sheep! Send the info to Louise at darlingtunis@gmail.com.

THE BUCKEYE BLOWOUT SHOW is back on the schedule! This ALL youth Tunis show held at the Ohio State Fair is back and in full strength! Although youth can stay and show at the Open class Tunis show or the all Ohio Jr show... kids can come in and show and go home that DAY! And it is open to any kid from any state!

The organizers of this show have continued to have Silent auctions and had some money left in our care... so the financial need is a little bit less than in past years... SO

WE NEED JUST SPONSORS FOR THE CHAMPION AND RESERVE CHAMPION BANNERS!

For \$50...we will publicize your donation at every opportunity!

WHICH OF THE 4 BANNERS DO YOU WANT TO SPONSOR?

Just tell Louise or Russ Johnson ASAP!!

I don't know who wrote it ...and I know it has been published before...but it still makes sense to me.....

"Tonight I was judging sheep at a county fair. A young man, that I don't recall ever judging before, wins Overall Champion Showman then proceeds to win 2 of the breeding ewe classes and Grand Overall Ewe. Later I find out his brother was Reserve Overall Ewe.

We move into the Market sheep show. Those 2 boys continue to win multiple classes. As they continue to dominate, the eye rolls, dirty looks, grunts and groans start increasing from certain groups in the stands. I am beginning to get angry that these are the reactions I can see as I explain my reasons to the crowd in each class,

I could care less what anyone thinks about me but to act that way over a kid having great success or about the same child winning was wearing on my nerves!

When the young man wins his class with what would become the Grand Champion Market Lamb, I stated on the mic that it was very obvious that some of y'all are tired of this kid winning as much as he has but that I JUDGE ANIMALS NOT KIDS! Then I turned to the young man and told him that if he kept dragging in sheep that were stout, great looking, super sound and handled impeccably, he wouldn't leave the first hole all night long!

The point of this story is if you are one of those people at the show tonight or at any show that wants to bitch, moan, complain and act a fool when someone else has tremendous success, let me give you a piece of advice... ***pick up those eyes that rolled out of your head and pop them back in your skull... march your ass back to your show barn and work harder and smarter the next year and try to get some success of your own but don't diminish another kid's moment in the spotlight with your poor attitude!!!***"

• • • • •

GT **GAREY'S TUNIS**

Garey's Tunis Online Sale!
April 3rd 2022

AREIL'S FULL SISTER SELLS!!!

- YEARLING EWES
- YEARLING RAM
- FALL LAMBS
- SPRING LAMBS

TOP QUALITY TUNIS WILL SELL!!!
DON'T MISS OUT!!!

"AREIL" GAREY'S 654

Grand Champion Ewe
All American Junior Show
Grand Champion Ewe
Illinois State Fair

Reserve Grand
Champion Ewe
NAILE

Bill Shultz... a long time sheep breeder who lives close to me... wrote in May, 2021 Banner Sheep Magazine... when asked about advice for new sheep breeders.....

"BE PATIENT! I have learned over the years that I can change the way a sheep looks in a few months with a feed bucket. Changing genetics takes a much longer time even with the tools of quantitative and molecular analysis. Have a vision and get going!"

Amen Brother!!! Louise

Another one of Louise's "adventures" from the past... Dec. 2013

"Hey Sheep Friends... I pulled a **"Kenny Mayes"** today! Kenny was the premier Tunis breeder in the 1980s & 1990s from Shelbina, MO. Whenever he brought his sheep into a sale or a show... he would just put a halter on one of them and let the others follow him thru the barn to the pens... they never strayed or wandered... and people were in awe as this group of 10 or more sheep would be with him.

So today I needed to move the 20 brood ewes from the north barn to the main barn for ease of feeding... I put a halter on the ram and opened the gate and away we went. We made it safely and in one bunch!

Wonder what other trick of Kenny's I will learn in my old age?"

PS. I never saw Kenny or his wife, Darlene – always with her pearls, in anything other than dress clothes... never barn clothes! I haven't mastered that trick yet... wherever I sit down in the sheep barn... I always find sheep manure!!

DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS STATEMENT?

At the 2020 Buckeye Shepherd's Symposium, Dr. Fluharty of the University of Georgia spoke on topics of feed processing, digestive upsets and other observations during feeding.

Dr. Fluharty noted that in his 30 years of research, he has yet been able to show that feeding any type of processed corn is more efficient than feeding whole shelled corn. When it comes to grains - 'the thought that animals cannot eat a whole grain diet is simply wrong.' Whether you are buying or making your own rations, processing grains increases the cost of your diet. Removing this step will result in a decreased cost of your ration as well as an increase in feed efficiency.'

Sheep Death Loss 2020 report highlights...

From the "American Sheep Industry" Weekly Report – December 3, 2021

- Approximately 5.2 million sheep and lambs were raised on 99,364 operations
- Approximately 607,000 sheep and lambs – valuing at 121.6 million were lost in 2019
- In 2019, predation accounted for 32.6 % of adult sheep losses and 40.1 % of lamb losses
- The leading known non-predator causes of loss for adult sheep were old age, internal parasites and lambing problems. For lambs, the leading known non-predator causes of loss were weather related causes, internal parasites, and lambing problems.
- The main predators causing loss of adult sheep were coyotes, dogs and bears. The main predators causing loss of lambs were coyotes, dogs and mountain lions.
- Approximately \$51.4 million was spent by 77.1 % of operators who used non-lethal predator damage management methods. The use of these methods has been trending upward since 2004. Methods used included fencing, night penning and the use of lamb sheds.
- Approximately \$4.7 million was spent by the 13.4% of operator who used lethal predator damage management methods.

REMEMBER... not everyone has 2 acres of pasture with 10 brood ewes and worries more about what the non-sheep neighbors throw over the fence into our pasture than predators!

The Sheep Breeder's Bone of Contention:

Gordon Levitt, May 29, 2018

OPINION: Should bone be a selection factor, or be ignored for playing no part in sheep productivity? Or should we seek to reduce the bone component in order to increase meat yield, and thereby increase profitability?

However, before we advance this discussion, allow me to emphasize what all livestock breeders know. That is, the longer we breed for a desirable trait the more repeatable and dominant it will become. Conversely, the longer we ignore an undesirable trait, the more entrenched it will become.

This is particularly the case when dominant "survival of the species" genes are involved.

- Hair in the fleece, which in nature was the dominant primary fibre, designed to protect and keep dry the shorter secondary fibre, wool, which in turn protected the body from temperature extremes.

- Evolved to have a lightly boned sinewy body, similar to feral goats, to ensure maximum agility and mobility, to evade predators.

- To have horns to fight off small predators, and also to establish ascendancy over other males for mating rights.

Please note that a light bone structure is one of these powerful survival traits. However, early animal breeders considered a light bone structure to be undesirable. They realised that farming large numbers of sheep at higher concentration levels to produce more meat and quality wool required a more robust animal. Under these conditions they found that animals with a lighter bone structure generally lacked constitution and longevity.

If there is no selection for a strong bone structure, by observing the size of the cannon bone – the foreleg bone beneath the knee - sheep will, over generations, generally lose bone structure as genetic forces are programmed to return them to their origins.

Since the advent of a national performance programme 50 years ago, ram breeders and farmers in general, were advised by consultants and scientists that only measurable production figures should be used in selection. All other physical and quality traits should be ignored as they would slow the progress made in the important production areas.

I immediately joined the National Recording Scheme as I considered performance recording as an essential component of sheep breeding. However, my experience and observations as a sheep breeder did not allow me to accept that using a high index sheep with physical faults was a good idea.

Indeed, I considered that to use any sheep regardless of index that had serious faults like black fibre, faulty feet, crooked legs, faulty jaws or very light bone, to be a very bad idea.

However, many breeders did follow this advice of selecting on figures alone. After all, this was promoted by scientists and advisers who were seen as leading figures in sheep breeding.

Over the past decade or so I have noted that the cannon bone in flocks where selection by figures alone is practiced, has become lighter. This light bone is generally associated with smaller feet and lighter body structure and less muscling. It is often also associated with a weaker constitution. But this is not always the case.

Virtually anything can be achieved in a species using genetics. Two examples will suffice. Turkeys in the US have been bred to carry so much meat their legs cannot support them. The second example is a New Zealand one. Here, a composite meat breed has been bred to carry more meat without attention being paid to the bone structure to support the extra weight. The result, I have been reliably informed, is 80kg ewes unable to walk any significant distance, and legs being broken in the normal course of shearing. Special techniques need to be followed to tip sheep over to avoid injury. In more than 70 years of observing sheep handling – including shearing – I have never seen a broken bone.

As I stated earlier, anything can be achieved using genetics, including fragile sheep to suffer stress and injury. Now, I am not suggesting that the reduced bone structure that I see is, at this stage, having a negative effect on productivity or longevity. What I am saying is that lighter bone is a trend that if allowed to continue will become a problem in the future.

Genetic changes in traits, be they negative or positive, are slow to start, but will accelerate and gain momentum, and become dominant over a

number of generations. For instance, the data I have in my programmes to breed sheep that are resistant to worms indicates that more progress has been made in the last six years than in the previous 24 years. It is my belief that this trend towards weaker bone will follow a similar pattern and become the problem that our forebears recognised.

Today we are seeing the dominance of structural and wool faults in flocks where figures alone have been the only selection factor. Fleece faults like black fibre, hair, canary yellowing, weak shoulder wool and physical faults in jaws, teeth, feet and legs are now becoming more common and of considerable concern.

One senior stock agent has told me that over the past few years they are seeing increasing numbers of ewes with short jaws. They are now "mouthing" all ewes and removing sheep with this fault and selling them separately. Now, the fact that ewes with this highly inheritable fault were not culled earlier raises the question as to whether the owners involved are negligent, or were not aware that this is a very serious and highly inheritable fault.

All these faults that have become commonplace in some flocks have developed because the "symptoms" or "early signs" were ignored because the long-term consequences were unknown. However some cases like black fibre, were tolerated in an effort to make more progress

in a particular trait like FE tolerance.

This is tempting, as I well know. When I find my top-ranking ram for worm resistance has an undesirable fault, a tough decision has to be made. Invariably, I choose a sheep that ticks many boxes.

The strength of bone structure in animals is, in my opinion, similar to the foundations and skeletal structure of a building, or the steel in concrete. One does not add a second storey to a building designed for one storey.

Animal breeding is all about balance and compromise. One has to balance strengths against weaknesses. Sometimes we have to make compromises on one trait to strengthen another. To ensure productivity, constitution and longevity, breeders need to strike a balance between productivity, structural soundness and health traits.

I am well aware that some may disagree with my opinions. However if it results in thinking about the issues raised, I will be well rewarded. Ultimately the marketplace will determine winners and losers."

Gordon Levet is a life-long Romney breeder renowned for developing a worm-resistant strain of sheep. He received the Royal Agricultural Award in 2008 and the Sheep Industry Innovation Award in the 2016 Sheep Industry Awards



Breeding Ram Management Tips... *just pieces pulled from the internet...*

1. Sheep salt mineral mixtures for sheep are designed for ewes... not rams.
2. A good commercial sheep trace mineral salt (with zinc, selenium and vitamin E) will satisfy the requirements for rams and improve fertility.
3. Facilities planned for housing rams can reduce injury (both human and animal). Strong, high fence between rams? Or rams crowded into small spaces with no chance of butting into each other hard? And rams can be fed without humans entering the rams' pens?
4. Mature rams require less protein than ram lambs.
5. Sheath rot often associated with high protein rations.
6. When more than 25% grain offered for long periods...
 - Reduces fiber digestion
 - Increases risk of off-feed conditions (acidosis)
 - Negative impact on rumen function
 - Increases risk of water belly
7. Ram Lambs and mature rams should not be wintered over together as they have different nutritional needs.
 - Mature rams need more forage and less grain
 - Ram lambs need to add muscle and bone
 - Mature rams will simply add fat cover.



American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control

DEWORMER CHART: SHEEP

Important -----Please read notes below before using this chart

1 ml = 1cc	Valbazen (albendazole) <u>ORALLY</u>	Ivomec® Sheep Drench (ivermectin) <u>ORALLY</u>	Prohibit® (levamisole) <u>ORALLY</u>	Cydetin® Sheep Drench (moxidectin) <u>ORALLY</u>
Weight Pounds (lbs.)	7.5 mg/kg 0.75 ml/ 25 lb.	0.2 mg/kg 2.9 ml/ 25 lb.	8 mg/kg 2 ml/ 25 lb.	0.2 mg/kg 2.3 ml/25 lb.
20	0.6	2.3	1.6	1.8
25	0.8	2.9	2.0	2.3
30	0.9	3.5	2.4	2.8
35	1.1	4.1	2.8	3.2
40	1.2	4.6	3.2	3.7
45	1.4	5.2	3.6	4.1
50	1.5	5.8	4.0	4.6
55	1.7	6.4	4.4	5.1
60	1.8	7.0	4.8	5.5
65	2.0	7.5	5.2	6.0
70	2.1	8.1	5.6	6.4
75	2.3	8.7	6.0	6.9
80	2.4	9.3	6.4	7.4
85	2.6	9.9	6.8	7.8
90	2.7	10.4	7.2	8.3
95	2.9	11.0	7.6	8.7
100	3.0	11.6	8.0	9.2
110	3.3	12.8	8.8	10.1
120	3.6	13.9	9.6	11.0
130	3.9	15.1	10.4	12.0
140	4.2	16.2	11.2	12.9
150	4.5	17.4	12.0	13.8
160	4.8	18.6	12.8	14.7
170	5.1	19.7	13.6	15.6
180	5.4	20.9	14.4	16.6
190	5.7	22.0	15.2	17.5
200	6.0	23.2	16.0	18.4
225	6.8	26.1	18.0	20.7
250	7.5	29.0	20.0	23.0
275	8.3	31.9	22.0	25.3
300	9.0	34.8	24.0	27.6

Meat withdrawal periods

Valbazen® Suspension (11.36 % or 113.6 mg/ml): 7.5 mg/kg orally; approved in sheep with meat withdrawal time of 7 days. Do NOT use in pregnant ewes in the first trimester (45 days) of pregnancy or 45 days after removal of ram(s).

Ivomec® Drench for Sheep (0.08% or 0.8 mg/ml): 0.2 mg/kg orally; approved in sheep with meat withdrawal time of 11 days. Protect from light when storing. Avoid giving injectable products made for cattle and pigs orally.

Prohibit® Soluble Drench Powder (Sheep): (Note that this drug is also sold as Leva-Med®) 8 mg/kg ORAL dose. Approved for use in sheep with meat withdrawal of 3 days. The drench solution is prepared by dissolving a 52 gram packet in 1 quart (943 ml) of water. This yields a solution with 49.6 mg/ml. Always make sure to follow directions on packet when preparing. If dosing lambs, it is safer to dilute further (1 packet in 2 quarts of water), and then administer twice the amount listed on the chart. The larger volume administered will provide a wider margin for safety if there are small errors in dosing.

Cydetin Sheep drench (1 mg/ml): 0.2 mg/kg orally; approved in sheep with meat withdrawal time of 7 days. NOTE that the cattle pour-on should not be administered to sheep orally – this is not permissible under the extra-label drug use law. ALWAYS use the sheep oral drench.

Note that there are no milk withholds provided due to the fact that uniform milk withholds have not been established in sheep.

Comments

In order to deliver effective treatments to their animals, it is recommended that producers learn which dewormers still work on their farms by doing fecal egg count reduction tests (FECRT, comparing before and after fecal egg counts) or having a DrenchRite® larval development assay (LDA) done. Several land grant universities now offer low cost (\$5/sample) fecal egg counting for this purpose. For more information, go to <https://www.wormx.info/lowcostfec>. For information about the cost and availability of the DrenchRite test, send an email to avatta2@lsu.edu.

To improve the effectiveness of deworming treatments, it is now recommended that sheep be given combination treatments. A combination treatment is when you give drugs from different classes to the same animal at the same time. It is important not to mix the different drugs together as they are not chemically compatible. They should be given separately, but can all be given at the same time, one right after the other. It is always recommended to treat sheep selectively given their individual need for treatment based on FAMACHA© score and/or the Five Point Check©. Sometimes performance (ADG, milk production, litter size) is used as a criterion for deworming. This recommendation is even more important when using drugs in combination. If all animals in the flock are treated, resistance to the dewormers will develop rapidly, and if using a combination there will be nothing left to use when this happens.

Go to wormx.info for more information on drug choice and drug resistance.

This chart was originally developed by Ray M. Kaplan, DVM, PhD and Lisa Williamson, DVM, MS (University of Georgia). It was last updated October 2021 by Michael Pesato DVM DABVP (Mississippi State University).

CALENDAR OF TUNIS EVENTS

Louise writes... *"I would like to make this a regular feature... will you send me fair/festival/sale dates and where they will be. With at least 20 Tunis and is open to the public! Send info to darlingtunis@gmail.com."*
Information on all shows can be found online!"

ONLINE TUNIS SALES:

April 3	Clint Garey Tunis Online Sale	Integrity Livestock Sales
April 14	Midwest Genetic Movement Sale	Willoughby Livestock Sales
	Cass Hollow Tunis – David Schambow	
April 17	Spilde Tunis Online Sale	Integrity Livestock Sales
April 18	Western New York Tunis Online Sale	Integrity Livestock Sales
April 24	Kyle MacCauley w/MacCauley Suffolk	Willoughby Livestock Sales
May 1	Wooly Hollow Tunis Online Sale	Integrity Livestock Sales

ON-SITE SALES:

May 12-14 th	National Tunis Sale @ Ohio Showcase Sale - Greenville, OH
May 28-29	Red Hot Tunis Sale @ Great Lakes Show & Sale - Wooster, OH
June	Illinois Sale - Joliet, IL
June 13-18 th	Midwest Stud Ram Sale - Sedalia, MO

JUNIOR TUNIS SHOWS:

July 1-4 th	W Springfield, MA - All American Jr Sheep show – National Jr Tunis show Sheep can be housed here until the NEYSS... and you can travel!
July 8- 10 th	NEYSS @ W Springfield, MA
July 23 rd	Empire St Spring Classic Youth Show – Batavia, NY
July 26 th	Buckeye Blowout Show @ Ohio State Fair in Columbus Pull in & pull out to show... Open to all youth... then you can head to Indiana!
July 29-31 st	Indiana Youth Expo – Tentatively @ Greenfield, IN

WOOL FESTIVALS:

May 7-8 th	Maryland Wool Festival	W Friendship, MD
May 28-29 th	Great Lakes Wool Show	Wooster, OH
Sept. 9-11 th	Wisconsin Wool Festival	W Allis, WI

MAJOR SHOWS:

January 8-15	Pennsylvania Farm Show (Tunis show 14 th)	Harrisburg, PA
July 21 - 28 th	Delaware State Fair	Harrington, DE
July 27 - August 7 th	Ohio State Fair	Columbus, OH
July 29 - August 21	Indiana State Fair	Indianapolis, IN
August 4 - 14 th	Wisconsin State Fair	W Allis, WI
August 11 - 21 st	Illinois State Fair	Springfield, IL
August 11 - 21 st	Missouri State Fair	Sedalia, MO
August 25 – Sept. 5 th	Minnesota State Fair	St. Paul, MN
August 18 - 27 th	Tennessee State Fair	Nashville, TN
August 18 - 28 th	Kentucky State Fair	Louisville, KY
Sept. 1 - 5 th	South Dakota State Fair	Huron, SD
Sept. 2 - 5 th	Maryland State Fair	Timonium, MD
Sept. 9 – Oct. 2 nd	Virginia State Fair	Doswell, VA
Sept. 16 – Oct. 2nd`	The Big E	W Springfield, MA
	North American International Livestock Expo	



TUNIS FOR SALE:

MARYLAND: Registered Tunis for sale as we make room for spring lambs. Tall, handsome, registered, coming 2 year old, proven breeding ram. Handled daily and shown by 8 year old at last summer's county fair (breeding/wool divisions). Also, have beautiful, friendly registered Tunis ewes available as well. Contact Anne at 301-651-7438 or amh0220@gmail.com

OHIO: Registered Tunis ewes for sale... located in western Ohio. Will sell one or all. Contact Chrissy at kittench@hotmail.com or text 513-309-8617.

UTAH: Cunnington Farms, Moab, Utah, 25 years with Tunis. Bred ewes, proven rams, lambs in the spring, and if you pick them up, a visit to beautiful Moab. Overnight accommodations for buyers, and inside information on great places to visit. 435-260-0361 or samsheep@frontiernet.net

WANTED TO BUY:

IOWA: Want to buy 2-3 commercial based Tunis ewes breed to lamb in late April-May, 2022. Potentially interested in a mature ram as well. Located in NC Iowa but willing to travel to surrounding areas to pick up the ewes once they are confirmed bred. Phil Kramer @ c515-290-8636 or philipkramer24@gmail.com.

TEXAS: Want to buy a Tunis ram for fall 2022 breeding season. Sound, good breed type and color, easy to handle, not huge. No scurs. Debby Brown, Unicorner Farm 254-715-6815 or texastunis@yahoo.com.

WYOMING: A Tunis ram with good fleece for the 2022 breeding season. I am located in Lander, WY and willing to drive up to 10 hours for pick up. Please email Alea Spent at aleejoy7@gmail.com

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MT HOPE LIVESTOCK AUCTION		Dec. 15, 2021	Mt. Hope, OH
		TOTAL Head of Sheep	2,804
Bucks & Ewes	\$120.00-185.00		660 hd
Lambs -			
Prime: 40# - 60#	\$440.00-487.00		238 hd
Choice: 40# - 60#	\$370.00-437.50		310 hd
40# - 60#	\$272.50-367.50		263 hd
Choice 60# - 80#	\$330.00-417.50		363 hd
60# - 80#	\$255.00-327.50		489 hd
80# - 100#	\$225.00-330.00		295 hd
100# -130#	\$205.00-295.00		99 hd
130# & Up	\$180.00-250.00		87 hd

The Ethnic market really helps our prices!!!

Tunis Messenger

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY DIRECTORS:

Region 1 -

Nathan Loux, Cummington, MA

Region 2 -

Justine Bielewicz, Nunda, NY

Region 3 -

Nettie Ridgeway, Libertytown, MD

Region 4 -

Dan Erwin, Richwood, OH

Region 5 -

Peyton Fair, Burlison, TN

Region 6 -

Julie Zeigler, Logansport, IN

Region 7 -

Kelly Stumpe, Russellville, MO

Region 8 -

Debbi Brown, Axtell, TX

In this issue:

- President's Report
- NTSRI Board Meeting Notes
- NTSRI Job Openings
- Regional Director Reports
- Queen/ Ambassador Application
- Scholarship Application Time
- 2021 Ewe Lamb Futurity
- 2022 NTSRI Show Dates
- NTSRI Director Nominations
- NTSRI Sale And Show Committee Report
- NTSRI Work Order

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

THE NTSRI'S PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello and Seasons Greetings from all the NTSRI directors and staff.

As we move into the new year please take note that our fee schedule has been changed and membership cost has been reduced. The new membership directory should be arriving in your mailbox very soon.

In person events returned in 2021 and saw Tunis offered in several sales for the first time in this format. Our breed was also featured in those long established venues as "in person" sales. The All American Junior Show once again hosted our national junior show. It saw a large group of exhibitors presenting an excellent group of sheep!! Our national show was held in Springfield Ma. at the BIG E. Another group of outstanding sheep and enthusiastic exhibitors participated in this special event. Thank You to the New England Tunis group for all your work and hospitality. The North American Livestock Expo in Louisville presented a great show and one last chance in 2021 for Tunis friends to gather.

The demand for Tunis has been and remains good, with much interest in both rams and ewes. I continue to see shepherds looking for sheep as well as sheep for sale on several internet sites. Our segment of the meat industry is experiencing record prices and incomes. We need to continue to sell the positives that Tunis bring to the table!

Events to mark down for the new year include the National Sale in May at Greenville OH with the Ohio Showcase Sale. Your directors are working on ideas to make this a special event. Our National Jr Show will be held in Springfield MA at the All American Jr Show in July. This also presents an opportunity for those exhibitors to stay and show the next week in the North East youth Show. This may present vacation opportunities to many families. Watch for more information as arrangements are in process to make it happen! The National Show will be at the Illinois State Fair in early August. Multiple online sales and in person sales will continue to offer and promote Tunis.

On a personal note it is exceptionally warm and wet here in Ohio. The last 3 weeks have been a whirlwind for us but the ewes have all been preg checked and sheared. The barns have all been cleaned and winterized with lamb pens set up and ready for use. I always look forward to the new lamb crop and the extra time in the barn! There is no place on earth as peaceful and inspiring than the lambing barn in the evening!

We at JET Tunis wish ALL a happy and prosperous new year and a joyous lambing season!!

Dan Erwin, NTSRI President Danerwin.54@gmail.com

NTSRI BOD MEETING Notes - NAILE NOVEMBER 13, 2021

President Dan Erwin opened the meeting from 10:00 to 10:30 for a member's session to share comments and concerns. No members were present to bring issues. The meeting was then called to order.

Roll Call: Directors present: Dan Erwin, Kelly Stumpe, and Justine Bielewicz, and Nettie Ridgeway were in attendance. Sue Anderson from NAILE Superintendent was also in attendance. On the phone were: Nathan Loux, Debbi Brown, and Kathy Niese Executive Secretary. Region 5 and 6 Directors were not present.

- Kelly Stumpe moved to approve the minutes from the August 31, 2021 BOD and the motion was 2nd by Nathan Loux. The motion passed.
- The Treasurer Report was also moved by Kelly Stumpe and 2nd by Justine Bielewicz. The motion passed.

Committee Reports

- **Show and Sale committee** announced the National Tunis Show will be held at the Illinois State Fair in August 2022. This will be their inaugural year, after the meeting the year requirement to host a National Show. The 2023 National Show will be at the North American Livestock Expo.
- **NJTA - Youth**
 - We want to welcome Matt Maag as the new youth director. Clint Garey has also stated he will help with the youth as well. We are excited to have a dedicated person to lead the youth moving forward in 2022. The youth are our future, and both Matt and Clint have young showman entering the ring, so we know they will be busy creating opportunities for all the youth showing Tunis in years to come!
 - Thanks to Megan Mumm for managing the Tunis Futurity program in 2021. \$1000.00 was paid out to the winners. We are looking forward to the 2022 nominations from breeders to support this program. The winners were:
 - 1st place: Beau Mumm
 - 2nd place: Hannah Warneke
 - 3rd place: Jayce Coers
 - 4th place: Colin Anderson
 - 5th place: Grant Neumeister
- **All American Junior Show Meeting Up-Dates**
 - The committee anticipates much larger entries next year because the New England Youth Show is the weekend following the All-American, so families can enter two shows back-to-back.
 - Planning to send Raffle tickets out with entry info again, can take advantage of early sales to sell tickets.
 - Looking for a "Semen" for auction.
 - Still need a silent auction item, it doesn't need to be a basket, can be an item.
 - They need more volunteers for the Skillathon.
 - We need a ring steward and a Tunis representative to check in Tunis papers and to help in the office.
 - Proposal was agreed upon that the minimum age of an exhibitor will be 4 years old by January 1st. Breed representative must enforce this in the ring. The child must be physically able to control the sheep.

- Youth under 4 can show in the showmanship class in lamb camp.
- There will be a Supreme Ram and Ewe drive while final tabulations are completed.
- The budget was approved for 2022
- The 2023 show will be held in Madison, WI.
- 2024 Show possibly in Michigan if space is large enough and 2025 in Ohio or Tennessee.

Old Business

- Newsletter options: We are still in need of a newsletter editor. In the meantime the BOD of Directors have accepted Louse Dunham's proposal to share the Midwest and Beyond newsletter for the NTSRI news.
- Nathan reported that the National Show at the Big E was successful. There were 117 head of Tunis shown by 25 exhibitors.

New Business

- Nathan Loux has agreed to serve as election officer in 2022. Region 4, 5, and 8 will be electing new Directors. In Region 4, Dan Erwin is eligible to be elected again. In Region 5, Peyton Fair, has served two terms and is not eligible to run again. In Region 8, Debbi Brown is eligible to be elected again. Kathy will forward Nathan the Election SOP, past templates for the ballot and nomination forms, for this election.

Items for Discussion

- **Membership**
- **Transfer and Registration numbers for 2020 and through 10-25-2021.**
 - 2020 Registrations - 1230
 - 2020 Transfers - 742
 - 2021 Registrations - 1402
 - 2021 Transfers - 650
 - Registrations were up 172 in 2021
 - Transfers were down 92 in 2021
- **Directory** – Was given to Dan Erwin and he will pass out as many as possible in Louisville, then we will meet to get them mailed to all members the first of the year.
- **Budget** – Committees should plan to present their budget request at the next BOD meeting which will be held 7:00 EST January 12th, 2022.
- **Adjourn:** it was moved by Nettie and 2nd by Kelly to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously!

NTSRI Job Openings

NTSRI is in need of a Newsletter Editor. If you have interest in reporting on Tunis activities and the ability to use the computer, please submit a sample newsletter page to kathy.niese@yahoo.com for the BOD to review.

The Tunis Messenger Editor position offers a small stipend because of the number of hour required to create the newsletter. Three copies are created each year, sent by email and on social media with updates posted as needed. A small number of newsletters are sent through snail mail to those members who do not have internet or prefer to have their copy in hand.

Contact Kathy Niese if you would be interested in this position, 419-969-0783

NTSRI REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Region 1 Update - Nathan Loux

After a very successful National Show in September 2021, we now look ahead to 2022. The All American Junior show returns to New England. It will be held from June 30-July 3 at the Big E fairgrounds in West Springfield, Ma. The Basketball Hall of Fame has been reserved for the famous 3v3 basketball tournament.

Exhibitors are encouraged and allowed to stay for the Northeast Youth Sheep Show the following weekend. There will be day trips and activities planned for those who would like to stay. More details will be coming in the near future.

Region 4 Update - Dan Erwin

I need to begin this update by spotlighting the outstanding youth of our region. A huge Thank You goes out to Hanna Warnecke for serving as our Tunis Queen the last 2 years. This young lady attended many activities and took it upon herself to organize many activities at these shows. She has done us all proud as our breed representative.

Another star from region 4 is Morgan Johnson, who received a scholarship from NTSRI. She plans to continue her education at Ohio State's ATI campus in Wooster. Congratulations and good luck as you enter this new chapter of life. We also had many youth from our region represent us at the All American, Indiana Youth Expo, Ohio LEAD program, Ohio State Fair, and NAILE. Our region was also well represented in many open show events in 2021.

Looking toward THE FUTURE IN 2022. The Tunis National Sale will be in our region. The Ohio Tunis Assn is planning a lunch on sale day. We look forward to hosting all of you in May at Greenville. Sale credits will be offered and the silent auction will be back. Any donation of items for the sale will be welcomed and appreciated. The Ohio State Fair is planning a "normal" fair for 2022. This means open shows with out of state exhibitors. There will be some schedule changes in order to allow all the junior exhibitors to be in the barn at the same time. Keep watching for future updates!!

The LEAD program will once again offer opportunities for our juniors. There will be 6 Breeding Sheep shows offered during the season. These offer a chance to meet and make friends as you earn points toward awards. See the Ohio Sheep Improvement website and the LEAD Facebook page for the schedule and updates.

Lastly the Ohio Tunis Assn spring meeting is scheduled for March 12. Creekside Tunis in Circleville will be hosting this meeting. We look forward to seeing everyone then! For more information on this contact Jessica Vandenbroek at 419-277-2067 & watch the Ohio Tunis Facebook page.

Region 8 Update - Debbi Brown

Tunis interest from our region continues to expand as more people learn about the breed. We now have a very good market for meat lambs with the influx of mideastern families into the metroplex areas. The Hispanic market has grown as well with sellers seeing many repeat buyers.

Still not many shows available for Tunis exhibitors west of the Mississippi. With such a large geographic region it is hard to feel a part of a close group. But I know that the Tunis breeders in my immediate area (Texas) do work together and help each other find buyers and sellers. Please join the Region 8 NTSRI Facebook page and stay in touch!

I am looking forward to the new directory and am very excited about the new marketing identity being worked on. It has been a pleasure working on the board and I hope to continue seeing great progress in our National Association.

2021/2022 National Tunis Sheep Queen/Regional Ambassador Application

The position of Tunis Queen is to promote Tunis sheep at major Tunis Shows across the country. The Queen and Ambassadors should attend as many shows as possible each year, meet Tunis breeders and exhibitors at each show that they attend and pass out awards at these shows and fairs.

If you are interested in becoming the Tunis Queen or Regional Ambassador, please complete the following application and return it to: Kathy Niese, 8777 Road I 7, Ottawa, Ohio 45875 or email the application to Kathy.niese@yahoo.com The deadline to apply is March 1, 2022.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Birthday: _____

Parent's Names: _____

Farm Name: _____

Official Rules of the National Tunis Sheep Association

- Applicants must be between the ages of 15-21.
- Applicant MUST be present at the 2021 North American International Livestock Exposition Junior Tunis Show, for an interview with the selection committee. The interview will be held Saturday, before the Junior Tunis Show. The winner will be announced after all candidates have been interviewed.
- The Tunis Queen/ Ambassador are expected to dress professional and always look presentable when in crown and sash.
- The Tunis Queen/ Ambassador should be at as many shows as possible.
- The Tunis Queen/ Ambassador should be someone social who can communicate to people if approached by fair goers or other Tunis breeders.

This form is to be received no later than March 1, 2022.

Please answer all of the questions on the following page to the best of your ability. If you need more space than what is provided, you may use additional pages. You will receive an email for further instructions once your application has been received. Crowning of Queen and Princess will be held before the Junior Show at NAILE.

If chosen as National Tunis Queen, I understand I am expected to represent and promote the Tunis breed as a positive role model during my reign. If chosen; I agree to attend as many shows and sales as possible to support Tunis and the NTJA.

During my reign, I agree to refrain from any use of illegal drugs, alcohol and will not be convicted of any crime.

Name (Print) _____ Date _____

Signature: _____ Date _____

National Tunis Sheep Queen Application

(Please type your answers)

1. Why would you like to be the National Tunis Queen?

2. List all Extracurricular Activities and Positions (if applicable)

3. Mark all the Shows you will be able to attend in 2022.

- ❖ _____ National Show and Sale
- ❖ _____ National Show
- ❖ _____ All American Junior Sheep Show
- ❖ _____ New England Youth Show (West Springfield, Massachusetts)
- ❖ _____ Keystone International Livestock Exposition (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania)
- ❖ _____ North American International Livestock Exposition (Louisville, Kentucky)

4. What has been the greatest challenge of Tunis Sheep for you/ your family?

5. Essay Question, Maximum 250 Words: Tunis Sheep have?

Parent Approval: I have read and approve all the guidelines required for my son/ daughter if selected the 2021-2022 Tunis Sheep Queen or Ambassador.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

NTSRI Scholarship Application Time!

Submitted by Mark Swihart, Chairman

- 3 - \$1,000 Scholarships available for 2022!
- High School Senior or current college student eligible!
- Applicant or parent must be a current NTSRI member!
- FULL rules & application available on the NTSRI website!

Application Deadline is April 15th!!!!

2021 NTSRI EWE LAMB FUTURITY!

PL	EXHIBITOR - CITY/STATE	EAR TAG	BREEDER	TOTAL PTS
1 st	Beau Mumm - White Heath, IL	Stumpe 904	Stumpe Farms, MO	65
2 nd	Hanna Warnecke -Col Grove, OH	JET 20059	JET Tunis, OH	57
3 rd	Jayce Coers - New Holland, IL	S & T 2174	S & T Tunis, NY	40
4 th	Colin Anderson - W Charlton, NY	S & T 2177	S & T Tunis, NY	34
5 th	Grant Neumeister - Greenfield, IN	Wooly Hollow 377	Wooly Hollow, VA	31
6 th	Alex Taylor - Frankfort, IN	RQL 2103	RQL Farms, MO	28
7 th	Grant Neumeister -Greenfield, IN	Wooly Hollow 383	Wooly Hollow, VA	26
8 th	Hanna Warnecke - Col Grove, OH	RQL 2102	RQL Farms, MO	22
9 th	Mattiyn Maag - Ottawa, OH	Old Maple 0063	Old Maple Farm, OH	11
10 th	Jacoby Maag - Ottawa, OH	Triangle Fms 21201	Triangle Farms, IN	10

The NTSRI offers \$1,000 to be split among the top 5 placing individuals. This yearly contest starts with on site and online sales with the consignors paying a \$25 fee to nominate their fall & spring ewe lambs for this contest. When the futurity nominated ewe lambs is bought by a NTSRI youth member and shown at any show during the year IN ANY STATE... the ewe lamb wins points and the kid could win money!

Please read the complete rules on the NTSRI website... but this program rewards our youth members for showing their Tunis lambs! CONGRATULATIONS!!!

2022 NTSRI SHOW DATES:

May 11-12 - OHIO Showcase Sale & National Tunis Sale - Greenville, OH

July 1-4 - JR All American Sheep Show - National JR Tunis Show - W. Springfield, MA

August 11-21 - National Open Class Tunis Show - Illinois State Fair

NTSRI Director Nominations

This winter/spring we will be voting on new directors for regions 4,5, and 8. If you live in one of those three regions, look for ballots and information from Nathan Loux this winter. We will want the new directors in place for the May meeting in Greenville, OH.

NTSRI Sale & Show Committee Report!

The NTSRI Show & Sale Committee sponsored these Tunis activities for 2021:

- \$100 Youth Buyers' Credits at any Tunis on-site consignment sales that offered at least 20 Tunis for sale.
 - Ohio Showcase Sale in Ohio
 - Tunis Summer Spectacular Sale in Illinois
 - National Tunis Sale @ Midwest Stud Ram Sale in Missouri
- Added money to support these open class Tunis shows
 - National Tunis Show in Massachusetts
 - North American International Livestock Expo in Kentucky
- Added money to support these youth Tunis shows
 - Northeast Youth Sheep Show in Massachusetts
 - All American Jr Sheep Show in Michigan
 - North American International Livestock Expo in Kentucky

Any public Tunis show or sale - both youth or open - may request supporting funds from the NTSRI Show & Sale committee for the use at that event. All requests will be considered. Requests must be made to Kelly Stumpe, Chairman at 636-357-8227 or stumpesheep@yahoo.com

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC

WORK ORDER AND FEE SCHEDULE

Phone: 785-456-8500 • PO Box 231, 420A Lincoln - Wamego, KS 66547 • Fax: 785-456-8599



Name _____ Membership # _____

Address _____ Website _____

City, State, Zip _____ Date _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____ E-mail _____

Check one of the following:

☐

Senior Member

☐

Junior Member
(until age 22)

☐

Non-Member

☐

New Member Applying

A. MEMBERSHIPS

1. New Senior Member _____
2. New Junior Member (date of birth ____/____/____) _____
3. Annual Senior Dues _____
4. Annual Junior Dues (date of birth ____/____/____) _____

B. REGISTRATIONS

C. TRANSFERS

D. EXTENDED PEDIGREE (if not already provided on paper)

1. Four Generation _____
2. Five Generation _____

D. CHRISTENING FEE (must pay to name any animal)

(Already registered animal can be named by returning the registration paper with fee, at that time the name will be added and a new paper will be provided)

(New registrations, include christened name on registration application and it will be included on paper)

E. DUPLICATE CERTIFICATE

F. RUSH FEE (per each registration & transfer)

G. EMERGENCY FAXES/EMAILING DOCUMENTS (per page)

H. SPECIAL HANDLING

1. UPS Overnight Delivery _____
2. Postal Overnight, USPS (two-three day delivery) _____
3. Priority Mail, USPS (four-five day delivery) _____

J. OTHER FEES

Quantity	Member Price	Non-Member Price	Total Cost
	25.00	xxx	
	12.00	xxx	
	25.00	xxx	
	12.00	xxx	
	7.00	14.00	
	7.00	10.00	
	30.00	60.00	
	60.00	90.00	
	25.00	xxx	
	6.00	10.00	
	5.00	30.00	
	3.00	same	
	26.00	same	
	8.00	same	

TOTAL FEES FROM ABOVE.....\$ _____

Previous Balance Due (please return invoice).....\$ _____

Previous Credit Due (please return invoice).....\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.....\$ _____

PAYMENT BY CHECK # _____ OR CREDIT CARD # _____

EXPIRATION DATE ON CARD _____ THREE DIGIT CODE ON BACK OF CARD _____

ZIP CODE OF BILLING ADDRESS _____ SIGNATURE OF CARDHOLDER _____

All credit card transactions will be charged a 15 cent transaction fee and a 3.5% convenience fee on the total amount.

• **ALL WORK requested MUST HAVE accompanying PAYMENT TO PROCESS** •