



*New feature:*  
**Sheep & Stuff for  
 sale**

## January 1999

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**From the Editor...** Hope everyone welcomed in the New Year with family and good health. I can't say that I'm sorry to see 1998 leave--it was a very bad year all the way around. It started out with multiple lambing problems, even from my faithful Tunis ewes I lost 2 lambs and a ewes. Ours wasn't the only farm, and sheep weren't the only casualties in the East Tennessee area. Our local veterinarians attributed it to El Nino. Our unseasonably warm weather promoted growth of new grass making estrogen levels high, which caused the ewes not to dilate. Lambs died in the birth canal, before there were any signs of lambing. I would be interested in hearing from others in different areas who may have had similar or other unexplained problems, and what cause was given. Well from that point on 1998 went crashing downhill, but its over and I'm looking forward to a quieter 1999.

Happy New  
year

I hope everyone's ewes are growing fat and sassy, ready to deliver nice healthy lambs. It looks like I will be having some early January lambs, so hopefully they will schedule their deliveries on warm days--but we all know that's not going to happen!

I also want to thank all those wonderful, encouraging notes I received from readers welcoming me to the job--they were greatly appreciated. I look forward to making some good friends through this work. Please feel free to write, fax, or email me with any comments, and especially ARTICLES!

**MERTA Tunis Trade Day Successful--AGAIN!** - I received an email from [Louise Darling](#) that a wonderful time was had by all at the 1998 MERTA Tunis Trade Day. She reports that they had 47 sheep, and 51 people from 8 states attend this years' event at her farm. The weather was beautiful, the sheep looked good and everyone stayed for an afternoon of sheep



education and trading; and of course, shepherds' fellowship. Sheep were offered by private treaty with prices ranging from \$125 to \$300. Deborah Hunter presented an educational program on how to use the card grading system on individual sheep. Plans were made for next year's Trade Day to be at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Gilead, Ohio on the Saturday following Labor Day. We will keep you updated when plans are finalized, or contact MERTA for more information. I think Louise and MERTA have done an excellent job promoting Tunis through these informal gatherings. It would be wonderful if more regions offered such an opportunity--there would be Tunis everywhere! Let's get to work on that...

**Tunis Fleece Featured** - Yvonne Hursh dropped me a note to let me know about a new contest announced by *Spin Off* magazine (a magazine for handspinners). The "**Save the Sheep**" contest requires contestants to enter handspun yarn, and/or knitted or crocheted samples from rare or endangered breeds--one of which is the Tunis. Winning projects will be showcased in *Spin-Off* and may tour craft galleries and museums across North America.  
[http://web.archive.org/web/20001217203100/http://interweave.com/iwpsite/spin\\_off/sheepcontest.html](http://web.archive.org/web/20001217203100/http://interweave.com/iwpsite/spin_off/sheepcontest.html)

This is a wonderful opportunity to promote the spinning quality of our Tunis fleeces. Since spinning fleeces bring more per pound than selling in a wool pool, it is also an excellent way to add more profit to your operation. I have already sent 4 fleeces to buyers who visited my web site. It is **very** important that when offering fleece for sale, that it be well skirted and clean. I have sent raw fleece, as well as fleece I have had processed commercially into roving. If you have fleeces available for handspinning, please let me know so I can put together a list (*please include pricing*). I will contact *Spin Off* and place a small ad inviting spinners to contact me for producers with fleeces for sale. If you are interested in entering the contest, please contact:

Interweave Press  
 201 E. Fourth St., Loveland  
 CO 80537-5655  
 (800) 645-3675, or (970) 669-7672

[http://web.archive.org/web/20001217203100/http://interweave.com/iwpsite/spin\\_off/sotoc.html](http://web.archive.org/web/20001217203100/http://interweave.com/iwpsite/spin_off/sotoc.html)

Yvonne noted that caps knitted of Tunis yarn can be washed in an automatic washer and dried in the dryer--this is an important quality of our Tunis fleece.

**Virginia Tunis Sale?** - We need to know if there are any interested Tunis breeders in trying to get the Tunis entered in the Staunton, Virginia Ram and Bred Ewe Sale. We need several farms to show an interest before AnnaRae can approach the sale managers. This could be a good opportunity for our breeders, as they will promote and advertise this sale nationally. Please contact AnnaRae Hodgin if you are interested--she has no way of knowing unless you call her. The best time to get her is in the evening, except on Tuesday. She also has an answering machine, so you can leave a message.

**Director's Meeting** - President Ken Mayes reports that there was no fall director's meeting due to attendance. Plans are being made to hold the meeting by conference call to ease the travel burden for everyone. He will contact everyone when plans are finalized. If you have any items for discussion, please contact your director. This is your organization, we need your input!

This site was last updated  
 05/06/99

This site developed and  
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## Post-It Notes...

- Email Address Change - Deb Hunter's new email address is [deborahyhunter@hotmail.com](mailto:deborahyhunter@hotmail.com)
- Tunis Shirts - Polo shirts are still available for \$20.00, contact Judy Harris. This is a great promotion for the breed and also a big fund raising effort.

**Flock Data Still Needed** - If you haven't sent Bill Mende or Deborah Hunter your flock production data, please remember to do so. If you need another form (included in last newsletter), please contact me.

***Please submit information to:***

Bill Mende  
4575 Shippen Dam Road,  
Elizabethville, PA 17023  
[hkirby@aol.com](mailto:hkirby@aol.com)  
or  
[Deborah Hunter](mailto:Deborah.Hunter@msn.com)  
10341 Springport Road,  
Springport, MI 49284  
[deborahyhunter@hotmail.com](mailto:deborahyhunter@hotmail.com)



I need [photos](#) of Tunis activities - flocks, lambs, grooming, showing, youth, etc. Please send those to me and I promise I will return them.

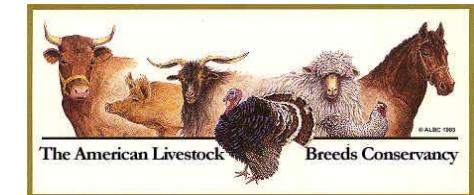
**Memberships Dues** - Its that time of year again--NTSRI membership dues. Remember that this fee is separate from your registrations. Please complete and mail an application ([click link to download](#)) along with \$10.00 to Judy Harris. To help Judy out, please don't mail these with your registrations. Send them in a separate envelope and the mark outside "membership". Your membership allows the NTSRI to promote the breed through ads, brochures and even this newsletter--so send that in today!

**NAILE Exhibitor's Meeting** - Jozi Best called a brief meeting of the NAILE exhibitors to nominate judges for the 1999 show. Nominations included Debbie Holmquist, Helen Swartz, Vicki Coutts Matherson, Phil Kin, Tom Brown, Bud Martin, and Dave Cook. The vote was taken with Debbie Holmquist first choice and Tom Brown as alternate. Jozi will contact Debbie for confirmation. If you have any information or requests for the NAILE show, please contact Jozi before March.

Also discussed was an addition of a slick sheared class. This could be helpful for those just learning to groom for show, or those who feel strongly about show fitting. Most breeds are offering these classes, or have gone totally to slick shearing. The

decision was deferred to the board of directors for discussion at the next meeting. If you want your voice heard, please contact your regional director with your input.

[American Livestock Breeds Conservancy](#) - The ALBC is a nonprofit membership organization working to protect nearly 100 breeds of livestock from extinction. The Tunis is one of the featured breeds on their rare list. This organization is a great supporter of the Tunis Breed. They have run numerous articles on the Tunis breed of yesterday and today. They also offer excellent reference materials for the breeding and breed conservation. If you want more information, or want to join this organization in support of our breed, please contact them at:



American Livestock Breeds Conservancy  
P.O. Box 477  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
919/542-5704; [albc@albc-usa.org](mailto:albc@albc-usa.org)  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20001217203100/http://www.albc-usa.org/>

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I Spy a Tunis... I have had several reports from Tunis breeders, family and friends that they have seen Tunis featured at various zoos and parks: Sandra Hunt wrote and mentioned she had sold Tunis to the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, RI. David Brashears (my son) from Memphis, TN reported that during a trip to New Orleans, he saw Tunis at their Zoo. And Adam Hensley from Lenoir City, TN, said that on his summer vacation to Disney World, that Tunis were the breed featured in the new Animal Kingdom. Let me know where you have spotted Tunis!

