



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

July 1999

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From the Editor...

The show season has started and things are hopping! I hope everyone had a good crop of lambs and have sold many Tunis across the country. I am still getting excellent responses from our web site, with over 600 visitors to date. Everyone wants to know MORE about the Tunis. This is an excellent opportunity to promote our breed and create a base for selling our stock.

I made my first trip to New York in May when I attended the Empire Spring Classic. I met a lot of Tunis people whose names I knew, but had never met. We held a board meeting, and a general membership meeting, with a wonderful meal furnished by Judy Harris. I had an enjoyable time, look forward to meeting more of the membership in the future. I hope that we can continue to include a member profile in each issue. Please feel free to send a profile of your farm and family to Louise Darling, or email her at tunis@bright.net, if you don't--she'll contact you!

There are special contest activities planned for the Bicentennial Show in September, including craft items, photography, etc. (at publication, I didn't have any more information, but will send out a

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supplement as soon as I get the info) This is an opportunity for all the membership to participate and win a beautiful throw with the Tunis logo on it!

For the youth its that time of the year again to submit applications for scholarships and to serve as president of the youth association. Check out the youth section on Page 4 for information on how and when to apply.

I received an interesting note from the guest book on our web site, and feel someone in the Tunis association may have an answer for the writer. Linda Hutchinson wrote: "I am studying cheesemaking and someday hope to raise my own sheep and goats. I know that East Freisans are the "Holsteins" of the sheep world, but I'm looking for quality, not quantity in sheep milk, and I think that Tunis may be the "Jerseys" that I'm looking for. A couple of questions: 1) Is there any history of milking Tunis? 2) Do the ewes usually have twins or triplets? 3) Can Tunis take extreme temps?" I can answer #2 and #3, but does anyone have any information on milking Tunis? Please contact me at the address, email or fax at left, or contact Linda at whitesageh@aol.com. I think this would make an interesting article for a future issue--anyone care to help on this!

Welcome our new Treasurer and Director of Region 2 - Gary Grenier!

1999 Bicentennial Tunis Show & Sale

Greg Deakin of Banner Sales Management Service is pleased to have the privilege of managing and promoting this once in a lifetime sale. This will provide a great opportunity for promoting the Tunis nationally. Promotional advertisements will appear in their magazine to help promote the show and sale. The entry fee is \$15 per head and provides you many benefits, such as national advertisement of your sheep.

The show will be held on Saturday, September 25th at 2:00pm at the Eastern States Exposition Center in West Springfield, MA. The Judge will be Max Woolever from Illinois. Ram and ewe classes will be offered as follows: Yearlings, Senior lambs (9/1/98 - 12/21/98), January born lambs, February born lambs, and March 1st and after lambs.

The sale will be held at 7:00pm on Saturday the 25th, with Billy MacCauley from Pennsylvania as the auctioneer. Exhibitors can enter 1 ram for every two ewes entered.

Many other activities are planned including the Annual Tunis Meeting and Banquet on Friday evening at B'Shares Restaurant (please contact Judy Harris and let her know how many will be in your party).

Deadline for entry is August 15, 1999!

All sheep entered in the sale must be entered in the Big E, no exceptions. ***They do not go by a postmark for entry deadline--it MUST be in their office by mail or fax on August 15th!*** Please contact Eastern States Exposition, Attn: Agricultural Department, 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089; fax (413) 787-0144, phone (413) 787-0124, or email at agr@thebige.com.

Sale entries forms must be postmarked by 8/15/99. Please contact Banner Publications, P.O. Box 5000, Cuba, IL 61427; or call (309) 785-5058 for entry forms.

A Visit with Leona Fitzpatrick - Louise Darling

Whenever you join the Tunis world, you hear mention of the Fitzpatrick family immediately. Since I've been given the opportunity to write for the national newsletter, I knew that one of the first people interviewed should be Leona Fitzpatrick! So let's find out more about the Fitzpatrick family of Wayland, New York.

 Leona Fitzpatrick

When asked about what part the Tunis play in their life, Leona writes "I could never call it a hobby. There is too much work involved and so much love for the animals. A hobby should be a pleasure thing only." And, obviously, the whole family subscribes to that theory. All 4 of the sons and the 3 daughters raised on the Shamrock Farm showed sheep when growing up. In fact, 6 of the 7 Fitzpatrick children still have sheep today with their children also raising Tunis along with Grandma and Grandpa Fitzpatrick.

The Shamrock Farm consists of 160 acres with a pole barn that houses the 30 head of Tunis sheep. Although the Fitzpatrick Family have raised Tunis for 33 years, they also have raised Corriedales and Hampshires in the past and still have some Suffolks now.

The family's goal remains to provide "physical therapy for Grandma!" and obviously, it brings the family closer together. Leona credits other breeders and her local veterinarian with being the most help to her in the past. Advice? "If you show, start with the best. There is no fun at the end of the line." And she would have advertised her flock more if she could have done things differently. Leona's final statement probably says it the best...."Tunis are more docile than many breeds, easier to shear, easy keepers, tough at lambing time and pretty."

Sounds like a family that just loves the Tunis....with no bone to pick....and who has given the Tunis world a lot of positive public relations. And we thank the Fitzpatrick Family for that service. Good

luck to the grandkids!