

# Tunis Messenger

## NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY DIRECTORS:

### Region 1 -

Nathan Loux, Cummington, MA

### Region 2 -

Justine Bielewicz, Nunda, NY

### Region 3 -

Nettie Ridgeway, Liberytown, MD

### Region 4 -

Dan Erwin, Richwood, OH

### Region 5 -

Dana Gochenour, Woodstock, VA

### Region 6 -

Julie Zeigler, Logansport, IN

### Region 7 -

Kelly Stumpe, Russellville, MO

### Region 8 -

Debbi Brown, Axtell, TX

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

## *The NTRSI's President's Message*

It looks as if spring and nice weather is in-sight, hopefully, that last snow will be small and that those wild spring storms will be mild. I guess most of us will be watching those weather changes as we head out to check our lamb crop. Many of us have the 2023 lamb crop on the ground but some of us have that time ahead of us. Good luck!

Spring brings a lot of opportunities in the Tunis world. There are a number of positive things happening for both the experienced Tunis breeders and the new, young ones.

At the National Sale in Greenville, OH in May, there have been several changes made. One requested change is the availability of diet beverages! (I took some heat about not having that last year.) The complimentary buffet will be available to any Tunis fan that gets their FREE ticket from me or another director. These tickets will also serve as entry for the door prize drawings. And, again this buffet will be served at the fairgrounds... in the same place as last year... the Industrial Arts building. The Thursday night meal time has been changed to 4:00 pm so that the Tunis folks can participate in the Select Sales Used Sheep Equipment Sale at 6 pm on that Thursday night.

Remember any youth old enough to lead a sheep and still under 4-H age can enter the FREE youth buyers' credits drawings... currently, there are 7 credits in the drawing. Any youth can make an entry at the Tunis area either Thursday or by Friday at 10 am. The drawing for this additional money will be held prior to the sale so the families will know if they have extra money to spend.

The spring ewe lamb class always attracts a lot of attention as most of these animals have had a futurity payment made by the consignor so the youth buyers don't pay an extra fee to take part in the NTSRI Ewe Lamb Futurity. Please look for the rules on the website... they are written so that the kids can take these ewes home and show them at shows of their choice and still have a good chance to win additional prize money. Look for those ewe lambs that have a big F on their back.

But regardless of the buyer's age, this National Sale brings the best animals from the farms for your consideration. The quality of animals consigned continues to grow better every year. Whether you need that one strong show animal or a strong ewe to base a growing flock on or even that growthy ram to change the direction of the offspring, you will find it here. Remember the show is on Thursday... followed by the NTSRI meal and then Friday brings complimentary donuts followed by a free lunch of walking tacos provided by the Ohio Tunis Sheep Association along with the chance to get into the pens and handle the sheep. You won't be buying an unknown quality.

As this National Sale continues to grow in number of sheep consigned, the quality of animals also continues to grow. Let's work to make this trend continue.

*Kelly Stumpe, NTSRI President and Region 7 Director*

## **ELECTION UPDATE: Director for Elections – Nathan Loux**

Regions 6 and 7 are voting for their representative to the Board of Directors. Voting will end on March 31st. There was one nomination in each region and they are running unopposed. In region 6, Lloyd Arthur was nominated and in region 7, Kelly Stumpe. The new director will be appointed at the meeting at the National Sale in May. Please email or mail those last minute votes to Nathan Loux.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **2023 NTSRI QUEEN – Madison Feehan writes...**

Hi everyone, it has been a whirlwind since I was crowned and I am starting to get my plans in action. One thing I love is listening to stories or opinions of people from older generations. I am working with Dan Erwin to get something I like to call Old Timers Talk a podcast launched. What are some things you would like to hear about? Is there something specific you would like to hear about? Special Guest? Any questions please email me [mfeeahan11@gmail.com](mailto:mfeeahan11@gmail.com)

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## **NTSRI SCHOLARSHIP RULES:**

NTSRI will award 3 scholarships. The scholarships valued at \$1000.00 will be paid directly to the college after the completion of the first semester. The recipient must submit their first semester grades to the committee with a brief summary of the first semester. A minimum of a 2.5 GPA must be obtained to receive the scholarship.

- The scholarship is available to any member of NTSRI who is seeking post-secondary education in the fall of 2023. Students must begin college in the fall of 2023 to receive the award.
- The recipient may have won the scholarship before, if they present the scholarship committee with proof of grades during the time that they received the scholarship.
- The applicant or their parent must be a current member of NTSRI and have been a member in 2022 and have their 2023 dues paid by the application deadline of April 15, 2023. In addition, a member must have at least 2 sheep registered with the organization both years to be eligible to receive the scholarship.
- A copy of your resume should be included in the application.
- Application deadline is APRIL 15th... more info on website or contact Mark Swihart @ [swihart83@gmail.com](mailto:swihart83@gmail.com).

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## **LET'S TALK ABOUT THE NTSRI EWE LAMB FUTURITY**

This program is to encourage breeders to put quality ewe lambs in sales and encourage youth to buy and show these ewe lambs regardless of where the youth lives! These kids are automatically entered into the NTSRI Ewe Lamb Futurity when they purchase a futurity nominated lamb!

#1 - It starts with consignors to on-site, on-line and consignment sales paying a Futurity nomination fee to the NTSRI prior to the sale for any registered Tunis ewe lamb born after Sept.1, 2022 and including spring born ewe lambs.

#2 - Any youth (having their own buyer's number) buying a futurity nominated ewe lamb at these sales is automatically entered in the NTSRI Futurity contest. Points are earned by the youth showing at any Tunis or AOB show in any part of the USA. Kids remember to pick up the Futurity info packet at the sale.

#3 - The contest lasts until the last Tunis show at NAILE. Show reports must be sent to the NTSRI representative in charge of this program to be recorded.

#4 - The top 5 point getters have a \$1,000 prize prorated among them at the end of the year.

**DETAILS ARE POSTED ON THE NTSRI WEBSITE**

# NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP ASSOCIATION BOD MEETING NOTES

*Kathy Niese, NTSRI Executive Secretary reports....*

## Draft Minutes for the NTSRI BOD meeting 3-20-23

Call to Order President Kelly Stumpe

Roll Call:

Region 1 Nathan Loux      Region 2 Justine Bielewicz      Region 3 Nettie Ridgeway

Region 5 Dana Gochenour      Region 6 Absent      Region 7 Kelly Stumpe

Guests: Matt Maag and Sue Anderson      Executive Secretary - Kathy Niese

Region 4 Dan Erwin

Region 8 Debbi Brown

**Secretary Report:** Kathy Niese

- Approval of Minutes from 1-16-23
- Moved by Dana and 2nd by Nettie Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer Report:** Kathy Niese

- Huntington Bank: \$15,284.81
- Encumbered:

o 1761	All American Junior Show	\$1050.00
o 1760	Romero's Catering	\$200.00
o 1752	Colin Anderson	\$420.00

- Huntington Checkbook balance \$13,614.81
- Bennington Bank: \$8,913.81
- PayPal: \$14,412.15
- Total of all accounts: \$36,940.77

**Approval of Treasurers Report:** Moved by Dan 2nd by Nathan Motion passed unanimously.

**Associated Registry Report:**

January

- Registrations 25
- Transfers 22
- Dues 14
- Memberships 2

February

- Registrations 19
- Transfers 7
- Dues 11
- Memberships 1

**Committee Reports**

**Show and Sale:**

- Sue Anderson said Walter Steely is the new NAILE contact. The voting is going well with ½ of the ballots returned.
- Update on NAILE judge nominations.
- Justine shared from the last Show and Sale committee meeting the calendar for the next 2 years:
  - o 2023 National Show will be at NAILE
  - o 2024 National Show will be at Maryland.
  - o 2025 National show location is undecided, but Dan shared that the Ohio Tunis Sheep Association plans to submit a bid for the show.

**Youth Update:**

- Kathy paid the 23 All American Junior Show Entry \$1050.00
- Matt Maag - the Junior budget will remain the same as last year. Matt asked for anyone who wants to share information on the Junior Facebook Page to send him the information.
- NTSRI is providing Sale Credits: Motion was made to give the same amounts as in 2022 from Justine 2nd by Debbi; the motion passed unanimously.
  - o National Sale 2/\$200.00 buyer credits
  - o Sedalia Sale 2/\$100.00 buyer credits
  - o All other Tunis Sales with a minimum of 15 Tunis consigned will receive 1/\$100.00 buyer credit.

**Newsletter: Louise**

- March 28th new deadline for information
- NTSRI is providing 2-\$200.00 Youth Buyer Credits at the National Sale.

- Schedule for Greenville...
  - Thursday - May 11<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL TUNIS SALE @ GREENVILLE, OH
    - 10:00 am until 10:00 am Friday SIGN UP - FREE YOUTH BUYERS CREDITS
    - Judge - Neal Knapp Tunis follows Katahdins, about 11:30 am - Show
    - 4:00 COMPLIMENTARY MEAL for ALL Tunis Supporters
    - Presentation of Traveling CH Ram & CH Ewe Sale Champion
    - Door Prizes/Provided by the NTSRI
    - General Membership Meeting?
    - 6:00 Used Equipment Sale
    - 9:00pm BOD meeting
  - Friday - May 12<sup>th</sup>
    - DONUTS - 8 am until gone, provided by Darling Tunis
    - OTSA Silent Auction - 8 am until 12 noon
    - DRAWING for Free Youth Buyers credits ends 10 am
    - SALE - National Tunis Sale - approximately 10am In Swine Building
    - WALKING TACOS provided by OTSA
- Louise will bring extra copies of newsletter and will bring 3 folding tables to use for the
- Silent Auction... but she needs an extra table at the front for newsletters, buyers' credits.
- Kathy will bring 3 additional Tables
- Kelly will do tickets and programs again
- Kathy will request Top registrations and Transfers from Associated Registry.
- Dan and

**Futurity:** Follow up continues with Megan Mumm.

**Scholarship Committee:**

- Mark let Kathy know that the Scholarship form is not on the website. She is working to retrieve it from a PDF and put it into a word document.

**Rebrand Committee:** Dan

- Information from Associated Registries on magazine options.
  1. They have several people who can help design and layout ads.
  2. Magazine can be all color or combo of color and black/white.
  3. Content is up to us. ie: advertisement only to newsletter and advertisement
  4. We get to set ad rates and we collect and keep the ad money.
  5. We would pay AR for magazine layout (estimated \$30 per page) plus printing and postage. The last 2 costs would fluctuate with number of pages and color options

Ad schedule for new Suffolk assn. All color and offered 2 issues per year.

2 page =575 or 2 issues at 1100

Full page =300 or 2/550

½ page =200 or 2/350

¼ page = 150 or 2/250

6. It was discussed that 2 issues a year would be beneficial, 1 with all ads and one that would include more Tunis information that will be gathered as needed for the directory issue.
7. Potential suggestions and problems to develop the magazine were discussed, and possible solutions on how to handle them.

According to Jeff it is best to send as first class mail.

**Promotion:** Kathy

- Recreation of the Brochure will be done and brought to Greenville.
- Website: I haven't received suggestions from anyone yet on improvements to the website.

**Old Business**

- Dana will be added as a co-signer to the NTSRI Checkbook

**Election Update:** Nathan

1. Election ballots were sent out and the results will be announced once all the ballots are returned.
2. The New England Youth Sheep Show is once again requesting \$250.00 sponsorship for their show. It was moved by Nathan and 2nd by Justine; the motion passed unanimously. NTSRI will send \$250.00.

**New Business:**

- The BOD will continue to brainstorm how to increase sale numbers at the National Tunis Sale.

Motion to adjourn was made by Dan, 2nd by Nathan. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, *Kathryn M. Niese, 8777 Rd 17 Ottawa, Ohio 45875 419-969-0783*

## Region 1 Report: Nathan Loux, Director

We had our last Tunis lamb born on 3/16. We have now entered mud season in New England. We are turning our attention to watching the lambs grow, making sales/purchases, and gearing up for show season. NEYSS is the main youth event in region one. Watch for more information for the annual show, held July 14-16 at the Big E fairgrounds in West Springfield, MA.

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## Region 2 Report: Justine Bielewicz, Director

This has been a crazy winter here in western NY. We have had a record number of spring lambs from 3 different breeds, with 111 on the ground and still 6 more ewes to lamb. Our biggest issue this year was the number of bottle lambs we ended up with, due to a few ewes rejecting one lamb when I was not able to pen them together fast enough, leaving me to bottle them. We now know what we have to change for next year to make for a smoother lambing season.

The 2023 Empire Classic will be held at the Genesee County fairgrounds again this year on July 22nd. You can either arrive the 21st or come in at 8am the 22nd and leave when the show is over. The show is for any youth old enough to lead a sheep to the age of 21, and every exhibitor gets a T-shirt. You can find entry forms on [gcfair.com](http://gcfair.com) as we get closer to the show and follow Empire Classic Youth Sheep Show for updates. Out of state exhibitors are welcome just keep in mind New York State required rabies vaccinations.

We are getting excited as we get closer to the online sale season, watch Facebook for updates for the online sales that are approaching quickly. The Western NY Online sale will be held on April 17th and transportation to the Ohio Showcase sale will be provided. The 2022 Futurity winner was sold last year to Colin Anderson in this sale. This online sale will be full of high quality Tunis.

We can not wait to see many friends at the 2023 National Tunis sale at the Ohio Showcase Sale. This is one of our favorite places to go. With some great quality Tunis.

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## Region 3 Report: Nettie Ridgeway, Director

We were lucky in our area to have a mild winter that didn't see much snow if any this year. We hope everyone had a great lambing season as we have wrapped ours up this month. Mark your calendars for these events:

- May 6-7 - Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival
- August 30 - September 4 - Maryland State Fair
- September 30 - October 8 - Keystone International Livestock Expo

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## Region 5 Report: Dana Gochenour, Director

Hello from Region 5! I hope you have had a successful lambing season and are excited about your lamb crop. I also hope you are making plans to attend the National Tunis Sale in May!

Even if you don't show your Tunis, the sale provides a great opportunity to meet other Tunis enthusiasts from across the country. Join us for dinner, or donuts and coffee, and spend time looking over some really good sheep and meeting the even better people behind them.

It's also a great way to get sheep moved from place to place- there will be trailers going every direction. If you need help finding transportation for sheep you have bought or sold, reach out to your region's director. Even if we can't haul for you, we might know someone who could. I hope to see you in Greenville!

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## Region 6 Report: Julie Zeigler, Retiring Director

Lambing is almost over for us with just one or two more to go. This has been an exciting lambing season as we added a new buck last summer so it is intriguing to see if he will mesh with our ewe flock. So far lambs look straight topped and thick which are our main goals.

A little disappointed our lambs are later this year but not surprising since he was just a buck lamb and had about 25 ewes to cover. For us, we had a vast majority of ewe lambs and mainly twins. How did your lambing go? Any patterns or problems?

Spring is in the air and won't be long until weaning season! Until next time, stay warm and healthy!

## Upcoming Region 6 Director - Lloyd Arthur

My name is Lloyd Arthur from Greenfield, Indiana. My fiance, Kelly, and I have five boys ranging from 20 to 11, Jarrod, Evan, Evan, Nash and Grant. We have about 15 brood ewes that started with our first purchase in 2018 from the Schakel crew. With five boys, and the younger three weren't big enough to deal with a Suffolk or an Oxford, we felt like the Tunis were worth a shot to try. Our ewe base goes back to Schambow, Schakel, and Stumpe genetics.

One thing over the last five years that I have noticed about the Tunis breed, is the Tunis Association's ability to support all aspects of the breed. No matter if it is a fitted or slick sheared show sheep, a heritage breed niche market, farm to table lamb, or Junior participation, the Tunis association supports it all!

I am one of the initial organizers of the Youth Sheep Expo that is held in Greenfield the last weekend of July since 2020. One of the reasons I am involved in the sheep industry is because of my days being a member of the Suffolk junior association. The Tunis association is a tremendous supporter of the Juniors, which is one of the many reasons why our boys continue to run the red heads!

Call, text or email any time that I can help you out! It's a pleasure to serve on this board!

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## Region 8 Report: Debbi Brown, Director

Spring has definitely sprung here in Texas. The bluebonnets are blooming and the grass is growing. We had a great lambing, with all but one pregnant (and she might still surprise us). A nice group of 24 lambs, now to keep them safe from the coyotes! We are receiving lots of inquiries for breeding stock, hopefully I can keep some replacement ewe lambs and let some of my older ewes go to start new flocks. I kept back five 2022 ewe lambs to build my flock back up. The coyotes took quite a toll early last summer.

I hope everyone else is having a good spring with lots of red lambs! Be sure to send in reports of how your lambing went!

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## APRIL 16TH - INTEGRITY LIVESTOCK SALES



5 Yearling Ewes, 3 Fall Ewe Lambs  
1 Yearling Ram, 1 Fall Ram Lamb

Delivery to the National Sale in Greenville, OH &  
Tunis Summer Spectacular Sale in Springfield, IL  
Contact Arlan for additional delivery options.

# CALENDAR OF TUNIS EVENTS - 2023

## WOOL FESTIVALS

May 6-7<sup>th</sup>  
May 27 - 28<sup>th</sup>  
Sept. 8 - 10<sup>th</sup>

Maryland Wool Festival  
Great Lakes Wool Festival  
Wisconsin Wool Festival

W Friendship, MD  
Wooster, OH  
W Allis, WI

## STATE FAIR & MAJOR TUNIS SHOWS

Jan. 7 - 14<sup>th</sup>  
July 20 - 29<sup>th</sup>  
July 27 - August 6<sup>th</sup>  
July 28 - August 20<sup>th</sup>  
August 3 - 13<sup>th</sup>  
August 10 - 20<sup>th</sup>  
August 10 - 20<sup>th</sup>  
August 10 - 20<sup>th</sup>  
August 17 - 26<sup>th</sup>  
August 17 - 27<sup>th</sup>  
August 23 - Sept 4<sup>th</sup>  
August 24 - Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>  
August 31 - Sept 4<sup>th</sup>  
August 31 - Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sept. 22 - October 1<sup>st</sup>  
Sept. 30 - October 9<sup>th</sup>  
Sept. 15 - Oct 1<sup>st</sup>  
Oct. 30 - Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>  
Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>

Pennsylvania Farm Show  
Delaware State Fair  
Ohio State Fair  
Indiana State Fair  
Wisconsin State Fair  
Illinois State Fair  
Missouri State Fair  
Iowa State Fair  
Tennessee State Fair  
Kentucky State Fair  
New York State Fair  
Minnesota State Fair  
South Dakota State Fair  
Maryland State Fair  
Virginia State Fair  
Keystone International  
The Big E  
NAILE Tunis Show  
NTSRI's National Open Class Tunis Show @ NAILE

Harrisburg, PA  
Harrington, DE  
Columbus, OH  
Indianapolis, IN  
W Allis, WI  
Springfield, IL  
Sedalia, MO  
Des Moines, IA  
Nashville, TN  
Louisville, KY  
Syracuse, NY  
St. Paul, MN  
Huron, SD  
Timonium, MD  
Dowell, VA  
Harrisburg, PA  
W. Springfield, MA  
Louisville, KY



**Dana Gochenour  
Woodstock, VA**

**(540) 335-2210 dgochen@vt.edu**

**Online Sale April 23rd on Integrity Livestock Sales!**

**Yearling Ewes, Ram Lambs, and Futurity Nominated Ewe Lambs**



These yearling  
ewes sell  
April 23rd!



**Follow Woolly Hollow Farm for Online Sale  
and National Tunis Sale updates!**

# MIDWEST TUNIS ASSOCIATION

## MIDWEST AND BEYOND

Apr 2023

VOL. # TWELVE ISSUE #2

### LOUISE'S LITTLE BIT

From Thomas Thaves' cartoon... Frank and Ernst...

*As the two men are standing and looking at an open door... One of them says...*

*"In or Out? I guess it depends upon your point of view!"*

And your point of view determines how you look at your Tunis flock!

One of the first things I learned as editor of this newsletter was that not everyone has the same goals for their registered Tunis flock... even though Tunis are described as "a medium sized breed that can be used for meat or wool"..."THEY LIED!"

#### DEPENDNG UPON YOUR POINT OF VIEW... TUNIS CAN BE USED FOR:

Grass Management	Wool Production	Commercial Animal Genetic Change Agents
4-H Market Lamb Projects	National Level Competitors	Livestock Conservancy Animals
Petting Zoo Animals	Solar Array Grazing	Farmers' Market Production Units
CAUV Tax Reduction Agents	4-H Breeding Sheep Projects	Lead Line Animals
Wool Craft Items	Feeder Lamb Production	Research Animals
Ethnic Holiday Markets	Therapy	Farm Advertisers

And so the list goes on... SO WHAT DOES THIS LIST MEAN????

It means that when advertising, selling or buying a Tunis... you need to use more ADJECTIVES!

FOR SALE: "three year old Tunis ram has produced nice lambs"... just doesn't work!

Regardless of your sheep's purpose and what you want to see out in the pasture... why add more Tunis that don't fit your vision---even if the sheep are simply to keep you from mowing the pasture? If that is your purpose, then a 5 or 6 year old ram may do the job... if you are raising for meat... maybe that ram bred for slick shorn purposes may be the best buy. It may take extra height on your sheep to win a major show... that is fine but you don't want to visit 20 farms to look for those extra inches when an accurately described animal can be found by reading a farm promotional blurb or ad!

So why is Louise yakking about this???? Because the ads here or on Tunis Facebook are free... you aren't charged by the word... WRITE MORE DESCRIPTIVE ADS! I hear about people not happy about their recent ram purchase or the new ewes are too big... WE NEED CLEARER ADS! because the buyers don't know where to go to find what they are looking for... DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE FOR YOUR SHEEP!

So maybe that ad should read...

FOR SALE: "Three-year-old registered Tunis ram... a proven stud from a farm that selects for medium sized, meaty animals that will show well in slick shorn classes. We value production. Contact..."

So knowing some background information helps everyone to make better purchases... A good place to meet these people is at the National Sale in Greenville, OH. Bring a lawn chair... enjoy some of the complimentary food and talk Tunis!

### MidWest Tunis & Beyond

#### Midwest Tunis Newsletter Support Staff

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#### AD PRICES -

Full Page color or black and white - \$100 for one insertion, 4 times = \$350

Half Page color or black and white - \$75 for one insertion, 4 times = \$250

Free 4 line ad/no pictures with Full Membership

Placement of all ads is determined by availability of space

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#### NEXT SUBMISSION & PUBLICATION DATE

**July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

[www.midwesttunis.com](http://www.midwesttunis.com)

**PLEASE SEND SHOW RESULTS & INFO ABOUT OTHER TUNIS ACTIVITIES for publication to**  
[tunis@bright.net](mailto:tunis@bright.net)

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A friend shared with me the website of an internet auction site with a pickup address just 25 minutes from me... The site has 15 three day auctions a week with each auction consisting of 100 items returned/unclaimed or overstock from major retailers... and looking thru these auctions keeps me from getting bored. So this week, the best auction had a new IV pole, an indoor rabbit cage on wheels, small furniture, an inflatable hot tub, a twelve man tent and a heated stripper's pole! (It went for \$40 but I didn't buy it!)

I just wish the auction would describe their offerings better... that would make my wild spending easier!  
Just Louise



## **MY LITTLE FARM... from a kid's point of view**

"Farm work doesn't make you stronger. It doesn't make you anything. It reveals you.

There's gym strong and then there's farm strong. They're mutually exclusive. The toughest kids you'll ever meet spend their day on a farm.

They know more uses for baling twine than you can possibly imagine. They know you can tie up a hole in the fence, fashion a strap for a blanket and use twine for a belt.

'Well, that certainly didn't go as planned' is one thing they say quite a bit of the time.

Control is a mere illusion. The thought that you have any, at any given time, is utterly false.

Sometimes sleep is a luxury. So are lunch and dinner. And brushing your hair.

If you have never felt your oblique muscles contract, then you've never tried stopping a mature ram from going thru the gate. Trust me, you'll find muscles that you never knew existed on the human skeleton to prevent this from happening.

When one of the animals is sick, you'll go to heroic lengths to minimize their discomfort. Their needs comes first... in summer heat and the coldest winter days. Clean water, clean bed, and plenty of feed. Before you have your first meal, they all eat.

When you lose one of them, even though you know that day is coming, you will still feel sadness, angst and emotional pain from the top of your head to the tips of your toes. And it's a heaviness that lingers even though you must regroup and press on.

You'll cry a lot. But you will never live more fully. You'll remain present no matter what because you must. There is no other option. You'll ask for so many miracles and hold out hope until the very last. You will, at least once, face plant in the manure pile. You'll find yourself saying things like... 'we have maybe twenty minutes of daylight left to git 'er done' whilst gazing up at a non- specific place in the sky. You'll become weirdly obsessive about the weather.

You'll go out in public wearing filthy clothes and smelling of dirt, sweat, and poop. People will look at you sideways and krinkle their noses but you won't care.

Your entire day can derail within ten seconds of the rising sun.

You can wash your jeans. They won't look any cleaner, but they will smell much nicer.

Farm work is difficult in its simplicity.

You'll always notice just how beautiful sunrises and sunsets really are.

Should you ever have the opportunity to work on a farm... **TAKE THE CHANCE!**

You will never do anything more satisfying in your entire life!"

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## **Do you have problems with DRONES with your flock?**

In IOWA recently, legislators are asking for a law to prevent drones flying and possibly falling in the areas of barns and pastures and causing harm to livestock.

I think this is just like a self cleaning water bottle... I just don't understand!

*PLEASE EXPLAIN IT TO ME????*





M&M Bugman

### Western NY Online Tunis Sale

There will be a number of champion blood lines available. There will be Rams and Ewes, yearlings, fall born, and spring lambs. Complete your show flocks, get your next stud ram, and make sure you don't miss out on a FUTURITY nominated ewe lamb!

*Sale will be held on  
[integritylivestocksales.com](http://integritylivestocksales.com) on  
 April 17th.*



S&T Tunis



Red Barn Farm



Old Glory Farm



Premier Tunis

## TUNIS JR SHOWS

June 28 – July 2<sup>nd</sup>

JR ALL AMERICAN Sheep Show @ Madison, WI  
 NTSRI sponsored JR Show

July 14 - 16<sup>th</sup>

NEYSS show @ W. Springfield, Ma

July 22 - 23<sup>rd</sup>

Empire Classic Show @ Batavia, NY

July 28 - 30<sup>th</sup>

Youth Expo Sheep Show @ Greenfield, IN

Watch Facebook for entry info.

August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Buckeye Blowout Show @ Columbus, OH

Nov. 11 - 12<sup>th</sup>

NAILE JR Livestock Show @ Louisville, KY



## WHEN TO START GRAZING IN THE SPRING?

*Mid-Missouri Goat & Sheep Solutions Lincoln University*

There are different criteria to start your grazing. One of the primary considerations is to have in mind that the first grazing will impact the rest of the year pasture performance. Grasses are dry during winter, but they use nutrients reserves at the yellow stems and roots to start regrowth in Spring. However, before harvesting those new growths, you must allow the plants to restore some of those reserves nutrients to the bank (roots) where they were taken. So, you will find criteria to start grazing when you get a minimum height (8-18") in your pasture, which will depend on which grasses species are present. But a Rule of Thumb is to start grazing until you find the 3dr leaf stage in cool-season grasses. For warm-season grasses would need to wait until the 4th leaf stage before starting to graze your small ruminant.

## **VIEWPOINT OF AN YOUTH...**

"Dear Mister and Misses,

I don't know your name or who you are but I want to say thank you. I didn't know back then when you helped me, but now I look back and I wish I could have gotten your names. I remember it clearly, I was fitting at the All-American Jr. Show in Indiana at 1 am, it was the night before the sheep show. I and my mom had no idea what we were doing. It was only my 3rd year fitting, and I was the only one in my family doing this. You walked over and said hello and asked how we were doing. You then said that for my age I was doing very well and that you were proud of me for doing this. You said that fitting was a dying art and that you were happy to see an 8-year-old trying their best to fit.

Mister, you then came over and gave me tips and encouragement to continue what I was doing. You asked if I could trim with my left hand, I of course said I couldn't, but you asked me to try. So I tried and you said "I thought you couldn't trim with that hand! You're doing great practice with both hands so you can switch hands when one gets tired." You helped me with the edges and gave me a tip for fluffing. You told us how your son was getting out of Suffolk's and getting into slicked Hampshire's. You said you were sad that not many kids were doing fitting, and how you loved doing it. You told me to keep up the hard work and not give up.

I want to thank you now because I did not realize how much I needed that encouragement until now. I wanted to thank you for the tips, I wanted to thank you for the help and the smile you gave me. I want to meet you again and learn your names and who you are. Thank you for mentoring me for that little time because I didn't get any after that night. I have been learning on my own without anyone showing me. I have watched people around me get a mentor and I was stuck struggling on my own. I didn't realize it back then when I started and I didn't think about this for years, but I want to thank you for what you did for me that night.

On another late night as I was fitting my sheep for about the 18th time this season my Granny and I were remembering your help many years ago. She told me to say a prayer for you and say my Thank You through what she calls "knee mail". We wondered where you were and what sheep you had now. This night happened to be when I finally "got it"!! I made the shears cut the wool fluffy pieces that made my ewe have a smooth finish. The judge must have agreed with me because I took First Place age 12-13 year-olds show and then Grand for all the ages in fitting.

So I wanted to let you know I can fluff with both hands now and I can trim with my left hand at least a little bit. I impressed my lamb camp teacher when I used the electric clippers with both hands. I hope you are proud of me. I have always tried to use the tips and things you told me to try and get better each year. I wish you could see me fit and tell me what I could improve on. One day I would like to know your name so I don't just call you Mister and Misses anymore but I will always say Thank You for the help you gave me that no one else ever has. I want to let you know that the 15 minutes you spent with me that night changed my life and gave me the courage to try something no one else around me knew anything about! THANK YOU!"

*From the Nut House Farm and the Fuller/Piazza Family*



### **A Breeder's Question?**

Do you know if there are Tunis-specific traits that judges look for?

When I'm listening to judges, it seems like they are talking about general things like leg conformation, how the sheep moves, straight topline, etc. I sometimes wonder if the Tunis sheep could be swapped for another breed, and the judge would say the same things.

SO?.....

We've been on Cloud Nine  
with our recent successes!

Look for our consignments at Greenville, OH  
The Kerper Family,  
Richard, Rachel, Marshall & Wyatt  
Call us! 484-769-5967



## KEYSTONE INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPO TUNIS SHOW RESULTS

Jan. 14, 2023 Harrisburg, PA

CHAMPION RAM – Richard Kerper

CHAMPION EWE – Richard Kerper

• • • • • • • • • •

## 2023 TUNIS SPECTACULAR SHOW & SALE

June 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Illinois State Fairgrounds

Judging - June 9<sup>th</sup> – approximately 10 am Billy Wade, Judge

Sale – June 10<sup>th</sup> Approx....10:30 Billy MacCauley, Act.

Entry Deadline – April 25

Catalog @[www.cheviots.org](http://www.cheviots.org)

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## NEW OPEN CLASS SHEEP SHOW – One Day Show

ALL BREEDS including Tunis @ Kenton, OH Hardin County Fair

Sep. 8<sup>th</sup> – 2 pm

Contact Tasha Dyer @[dreamvelvet95@gmail.com](mailto:dreamvelvet95@gmail.com) for info

# STUMPE GENETICS



**STUMPE 911-OR**

1st place Late Yearling Ewe at the 2022 NAILE Show for the Garey Family of IL



**STUMPE 668**

1st place Early Yearling Ewe at the 2021 NAILE Show for the Arthur Family of IN

**THANKS TO THESE FAMILIES FOR THEIR PRIVATE PURCHASES AND CONGRATULATIONS ON THEIR SUCCESS WITH STUMPE GENETICS!**

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR BUYERS!  
STUMPE GENETICS WAS SOLD INTO 13 STATES IN 2022!**

Spring Lambs sired by:

- Stumpe 917-OR ( Garey 771 x Stumpe 603-OR)
- Stumpe 941-OR (Stumpe 729-OR x Stumpe 815-OR)

-Garey 771 (Spilde 2846 x Stumpe 529)

-Stumpe 688 (Garey 771 x Stumpe 0643)

-Stumpe 944-OR (Stumpe 729-OR x Stumpe 723-OR)

**WATCH FOR OUR CONSIGNMENTS AT THE NATIONAL TUNIS SALE IN OHIO AND THE MIDWEST STUD RAM SALE! WE WILL POST PICTURES TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGES CLOSER TO SALE DAY. BREEDING STOCK ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE FARM.**

**Stumpe Farms**

**Keith Stumpe**

**573-473-1814**

**Mexico, MO**

**Stumpe Tunis**

**Kelly Stumpe**

**636-357-8227**

**Russellville, MO**

Paid Advertisement



**Grand Champion Ram**

1st January Ram Lamb  
from Mum Tunis  
sold to Matt Zeigler, IN at \$300

*The One and Only*  
**MIDWEST**  
**STUD RAM SALE**

NORTH AMERICA'S GREATEST SHEEP SALE...

**Don't miss the  
Tunis Action!**

**ENTRIES DUE  
MAY 1**

**TUNIS SHOW**  
Wednesday, June 14, 2023

**TUNIS SALE**  
Friday, June 16, 2023

**VIEW THE NEW SCHEDULE ONLINE**  
   
[www.midwestsale.com](http://www.midwestsale.com)

**June 12-17, 2023**

**SEDALIA**  
MISSOURI STATE FAIRGROUNDS

Follow us:  **Midwest Stud Ram Sale**

All Shows & Sales Live Streamed on [www.dvauction.com](http://www.dvauction.com)



**Grand Champion Ewe**  
1st Fall Ewe Lamb  
from Spilde Farms  
sold to McLayn Musick, at \$2,200

**www.midwestsale.com**

(515) 442-0950 - [midweststudramsale@gmail.com](mailto:midweststudramsale@gmail.com)

**Heartland**  
LIVESTOCK SERVICES, LLC

## **MIDWEST STUD RAM SALE... Sedalia, MO**

WEDNESDAY - June 14th

Late morning - TUNIS SHOW - Rick Klampe, Judge

SIGN up for FREE Youth Buyers Credits starts

FRIDAY - June 16th

8:00 am - donuts provided by Darling Tunis

8 am until 12 pm - Silent Auction by Midwest Tunis Sheep Association

10 am - Drawing for Free Youth Buyers Credits

SALE - late morning

SNACKS & DRINKS... all day at the Tunis' pens

• • • • • • • •

## **BUCKEYE BLOWOUT**

### **BUCKEYE BLOWOUT SHOW – A Regional Junior Tunis Show**

**Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Pull in, Show & Leave

Enter Day of Show

**\$5 entry fee per head**

Tunis Market lamb class + ALL fitted & slick shorn classes

Yearling Rams, too! NO group classes

Registrations in kid's name or family farm name accepted.

Top 5 ewes + top 5 rams selected in Championship Drive

**EACH EXHIBITOR receives a backpack of gifts!**

**FUNDED BY ... NTSRI, OSTA & Silent Auction Proceeds**

**@ Ohio State Fair**

OR Stay for OSF Shows

OR Send entry to Louise

**Showmanship FREE**

**ages 2 to 21**

**OTHER Ohio State Fair Tunis Shows – entry deadline June 20th**

**Ohio Jr 4-H & FFA show – Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Open Class Tunis Show – Friday, August 4**

• • • • • • • •

## **ONLINE TUNIS SALES**

April 16<sup>th</sup>

Spilde's Tunis Online Sale

@ Integrity Sales

April 17<sup>th</sup>

Western New York Tunis Online Sale

@ Integrity Sales

April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Wooly Hollow Production Sale

@ Integrity Sales

## **ON SITE SALES**

May 11 - 13<sup>th</sup>

National Tunis Sale @ Greenville, OH

Ohio Showcase Sales

June 12 - 17<sup>th</sup>

Midwest Stud Ram Sale @ Sedalia, MO

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## **Snapshot of the Sheep Industry in Australia**

*The SHEPHERD MAGAZINE... March, 2023*

Australia's sheep flock is forecast to reach 78.75 million this year. Meat and Livestock Australia's predictions in its latest update puts the national flock at its highest level in 15 years in 2023, rising to 79.5 million in 2024 before falling in 2025.

'Internationally, the demise of the New Zealand flock due to enterprise competition with dairy presents Australia a unique long-term opportunity to capitalize and increase its market position as the world's largest exporter of sheep meat.' MLA said."

**HEARD AT THE GAS STATION...** having coffee with the old guys... as they discussed their commercial breeding bulls after the breeding season... AND I think it applies to sheep, also.

1. Watch their weight...they need to gain some weight back but not too much.
2. Watch their gait...they need to have good, healthy feet under them to work.
3. Watch what they leave behind. Are their genetics moving you forward?

### **And similarly.... BORROWED FROM A BEEF CATTLE CHAT ROOM...**

but it makes sense to me concerning when it is time to consider a new ram for your flock....

**"Watch the gait...** does the stud have good feet under him? Feet problems?

**Watch the weight...** is the stud too heavy to do the job? Does the stud have a difficult time regaining his weight after breeding season? A hard keeper?

**Watch his offspring...** with similar females... do the calves all look alike? Stamina?  
Better calves than last year? Are you moving forward?"



### **APPROPRIATIONS...**

*The Shepherd Magazine....February, 2023 issue*

"The \$1.7 trillion year-end spending bill to fund the government through Fiscal Year 2023 included many provisions important to the American Sheep Industry Association. Below are a few provisions of note:

The Wildlife Damage Management program assists agricultural producers by protecting livestock from predators, managing invasive species such as feral swine and beaver damage, conducting a national rabies management program, and managing wildlife species and diseases. The program was funded at \$121,957,000 for FY223.

The Wildlife Services Methods Development program provides scientific information to support the development and implementation of methods for managing wildlife damage. The Wildlife Service Methods Development program was funded at \$26, 244,000 for FY23.

Surveillance for scrapie in the United States is conducted through the National Scrapie Eradication Program, which provides surveillance for scrapie within the US and is a cooperative state-federal-industry program. NSEPs funded through USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service under the Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health line item. This line item was funded at \$35,319,000 for FY 23."

### **BUT NO Scrapie cases detected in the US in 2022...**

**\$35,319,000 allocated in 2023 for Scrapie programs... Why?**

*"Sheep Industry News" March 2023*

"Diane Sutton, DVM of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Veterinary Service's provided an update on the National Scrapie Eradication Program, noting that the nation must be free of scrapie for seven years to be officially declared scrapie free, and must demonstrate it has an adequate surveillance program in place.

With the surveillance program in place and the last scrapie case detected in January, 2021, Sutton said, the United States has another 5 years to go before the eradication program can be declared a success!"



*Ed. Note:*

*"I'm really glad that this →  
isn't part of the Tunis world"*

GENETIC ABBREVIATIONS			
<b>SCRAPIE</b>		<b>HEREDITARY CHONDRODYSPLASIA (SPIDER LAMB)</b>	
RR	Resistant	NN	Non-Carrier
QR	Less Resistant	NS	Carrier
QQ	Susceptible	SS	Spider
<b>ECTODERMAL DYSPLASIA (HAIRY LAMB)</b>		<b>OVINE DWARFISM</b>	
EDF	Free Non-Carrier	FF	Free Non-Carrier
EDC	Carrier	FD	Carrier
EDA	Hairy Lamb	DD	Dwarf

# AMERICAN LAMB: THE SUSTAINABLE PROTEIN SOURCE

A PROMOTIONAL AD from a Sheep magazine...

American lamb is a family endeavor. More than 80,000 family farmers and ranchers responsibly and sustainably raise lamb in every state of the country. That alone makes American lamb a sustainable option for American consumers. But farmers, ranchers and sheep do much more to ensure the American Lamb industry positively contributes to the health of our ecosystem.

- **Soil Health:** Sheep improve the quality of the land they graze by cycling nutrients back into the soil, minimizing erosion and encouraging native plant growth.
- **Grazing:** Sheep are suited to graze almost any environment, including beneath solar panels and in vineyards. By simply grazing, they sustainably improve the condition of the land.
- **Diet:** Although growth hormones are legal to use, American Lamb farmers and ranchers choose not to. It's a sustainable decision and a source of pride for the entire American Lamb industry.

**Choose American lamb for its flavor and nutritional value, and also because it's a sustainable protein source.**

**American Lamb**  
Cuts & How To Cook Them

**Leg**

**Rack**

**Loin**

**Shoulder**

**Foreshank & Breast**

**Other Cuts**

**AMERICAN LAMB BOARD**  
[www.americanlamb.com](http://www.americanlamb.com)

# BEFORE BUYING LIVESTOCK, CONSIDER

by Melanie Barkley, Pennstate Extension

"When buying livestock, there are a number of things you should consider before you make the commitment to purchase. Here are a few things to take a closer look at...

**DISEASE RISKS** - Even though a herd or flock looks healthy, they could potentially be carrying organisms that could cause disease. If your current herd or flock has been exposed to these diseases, you could very quickly have a disease outbreak that could make animals sick or even cause them to die. When animals are trucked to a new location, the traveling and new environment causes these animals to become stressed. This stress can then show up in the form of disease in the new animals or they may be more likely to shed the organisms that cause the disease at their new location.

Vaccination is a great way to prevent disease not only in the new animals, but also in your current herd or flock. Animals should be vaccinated when they are healthy and, at least, several weeks prior to moving to a new location. Be sure to follow the same vaccination protocol for the existing herd or flock and for the new animals.

**BIOSECURITY** - There are a few other very simple things that livestock producers can do to prevent spreading diseases on their farm. Anytime a producer visits another barn he or she should be careful not to carry diseases home. Change footwear and clothing prior to entering your own barn. Be sure to disinfect any footwear that was worn in another barn prior to wearing them in your own barn.

New animals should be isolated from their new herd or flock mates for three or four weeks after they arrive at their new location. Also, once new animals have arrived on your farm, be sure to feed them last so that diseases aren't spread to the existing herd or flock by caretakers.

**CLEAN TRUCK or TRAILER** - Always haul new animals in a clean truck or trailer. Disease organisms can live in the bedding of dirty trucks or trailers and can possibly infect new animals. For further insurance, disinfect the truck or trailer prior to hauling any other animals.

**PRE-PURCHASE TESTING** - Where possible, test newly purchased animals two to four weeks prior to their new home. Known disease carriers can then be removed before transporting the animals and their disease to your farm.

Once the animals arrive, a very important task is to spend 5 to 10 minutes each time you feed just observing the animals. This will help identify any disease problems very quickly and before the disease spreads through the rest of the newly acquired animals.

**Following these few simple tips can make purchasing new animals a good experience rather than a lasting nightmare."**

?.!-?.!-?.!-?.!-?.!-?.!-?.!-?.!-?

## Q: What causes coccidiosis in sheep and goats?

A: coccidiosis is one of the most common diseases in sheep and goats, particularly young lambs and kids. It's caused by parasitic protozoa that damage the animal's intestinal tract, so food is not absorbed well.

Common conditions that may increase susceptibility include:

- Extreme weather changes
- Unclean environment
- Stressful events (transportation, nutrition deficiencies, feed changes, weaning, illness, parasites, lactation, etc.)

*From the Purina Feed website*

# THE BEST WAY TO ESTABLISH A RETURN ON INVESTMENT FROM YOUR SHEEP OPERATION?

Start with strong, healthy replacement ewes. But choosing and developing the right replacement females isn't an easy task – there are a lot of factors to consider that could impact the future productivity of your flock.

Set your flock up for long-term success with this advice for selecting and raising replacements:

## Choosing the right replacements

Most operations begin selecting replacements at weaning. Weaning times may be different for different flocks, but keep in mind that the more time you give animals to develop, the easier it will be to spot a good replacement.

Consider these factors when selecting your replacements:

- ✓ Ewe and ram's pedigree and history
- ✓ Overall health and condition
- ✓ Easy-keeping animals
- ✓ Body structure (level top, level dock, sound mouth, correct set of feet and legs)
- ✓ Teat quality
- ✓ Weaning weights

Also consider your operation goals and where you want your flock to be in the future. Evaluate traits for both performance and profitability and consider any adjustments based on market demand.

## Feeding replacement ewe lambs

If you're going to invest money in supplemental nutrition for one area of your flock, we recommend focusing on replacements – they are the future of your flock. Following weaning, separate replacements from those going to market and implement a replacement feeding program designed to develop them into ideal breeding stock.

You want to provide enough energy and protein to keep them growing without getting over-conditioned. Feed a high-fiber, 16% protein diet to support lamb growth, maintain efficient feed conversion and body condition and avoid developing fat in the udders.

## Preparing for breeding

Yearlings are often kept on a replacement feeding program until about ten months of age before turning back out to pasture and bred at around a year or year and a half. These animals are more accustomed to forage conditions, have reached nearly their mature size and are easier to breed. Continue offering free-choice mineral while on pasture to prepare animals for breeding.

For ewe lambs, timelines are much shorter. Ideally, ewe lambs would receive a few months on a replacement feeding program before moving back out to pasture to get bred at around 6-7 months of age. For those keeping ewe lambs on pasture at all times, provide additional supplementation a few times a day to prepare them for carrying lambs.

Body condition and overall size should be considered when identifying when ewe lambs are ready for breeding. If animals lack maturity, they won't cycle, and breeding may be delayed. Replacement ewe lambs should be 40% of their mature body weight at breeding.

## Management basics

Replacement ewes are set up to perform when implementing proper management practices. Remember the following when developing replacements:

- ✓ Follow a flock health plan under the guidance of a veterinarian.
- ✓ Adhere to label requirements for the proper timing of vaccinations and dewormers.
- ✓ Cover the basics, like shearing, trimming hooves and providing shelter against the heat and other inclement weather conditions.
- ✓ Keep a close eye on the flock and be ready to intervene if they show any signs of common diseases.

If purchasing replacements, make sure you know the health and management history.

Quarantine new flock members for a minimum 7 days to avoid spreading disease.

Selecting replacements is a make-or-break moment for the future of your flock. But with a combination of sound selection practices, quality nutrition and proper management, your flock will be set up for long-term success."

*REPRINTED FROM THE PURINA NUTRITION WEBSITE*

# TIPS FOR MARKETING FIBER

*"From the National Center for Appropriate Technology & THE SHEPHERD - January, 2023*

Wooled sheep, Angora goats and cashmere goats offer another 'crop' in addition to meat. The natural fibers produced by these animals can be used in a variety of ways to add income to the sheep or goat enterprise. Natural fibers are a renewable resource, long-lasting, durable, comfortable, and beautiful.

Fiber-producing animals are crowd-pleasers and participating in fairs and festivals can draw attention to your farm and increase sales of items.

There are several possibilities for marketing wool:

- In bulk; ask your shearer for some of the possibilities in your location, which may include selling your wool to a wool pool, warehouse, mill or wool buyer.
- Wool pool: producers organize to assemble a large lot of wool, enabling them to have it sorted, graded, and marketed for a better price.
- Warehouse: the MidStates Wool Grower Cooperative ([www.midstateswoolgrowers.com](http://www.midstateswoolgrowers.com)) is one example of a group operating this way.
- Mills: if you have a mill operating locally, they might be interested in purchasing fleeces. They might need a specific type of wool or a large quantity, however.
- Direct to hand spinners: either sell the whole, unwashed fleece or remove the dirty locks and wash the fleece to add value.
- Further processed: send the fleece to a cottage mill and have the fleece made into yarn only, or made into yarn and then a finished item such as (woven, knitted or felted) socks, hats, scarves, toys or blankets.
- Processed by the farmer into any of the items listed above and sold through: CSAs, farm stands or farmers, market, online venues, craft fairs or local shops.

Learn about fiber and what your customers want. Characteristics important to customers may include fineness, strength, color, cleanliness, and staple length.

Skirt fleeces well. This means to remove any dirty locks from the edges.

Market the fiber with energy and enthusiasm. Your animals have produced a locally grown, natural resource that will appeal to modern-day consumers who want eco-friendly fibers. Sell not only the item but also lessons in spinning, knitting and felting.

## You can find potential customers in many places:

- Join a spinning or knitting guild.
- Take classes at a yarn shop.
- Contact groups involved in historical reenactment: socks, hats, and blankets will be in demand.
- Investigate state park gift shops to see if they would offer natural fiber products.
- Participate in fiber festivals.
- Network with hikers or runners who value natural fiber socks and hats.
- Participate in local food groups to meet people who value locally grown products.
- Consider your state programs for locally grown produce and list your farm and products.
- Visit 'natural baby' stores to offer natural fiber items useful for small children.
- Market blankets as wedding or baby gifts, or as gifts to college students in school colors.
- Market wool socks to those who work outdoors and to the elderly."



# **"Suffolk, Tunis, Dorset; A Spinner's Ode to Meat Sheep"**

By Devin Helmen in SpinOff – December, 2022

"When I was first becoming part of the spinning community nearly two decades ago, I heard a lot of dismissive comments about wool from "meat sheep." At the time, there was an emphasis in the community on fineness and softness as superior characteristics. Merino and Bluefaced Leicester were in high demand. However, breeds I loved spinning—Suffolk, Tunis, Dorset—with their buoyant, hardwearing fleeces were dismissed as only useful for meat production rather than wool production.

Before I started connecting with other spinners, I spent 10 years spinning whatever I could get my hands on. Often this was fleece from small-scale 4H producers or hobby farms; so much of what I could access was from 'meat sheep.' The breeds that first come to mind are Suffolk and American Tunis, two of my favorite breeds to spin. I can add more British breeds, such as Dorset and Hampshire, and arguably some of the feral/rare breeds, such as Hog Island and Gulf Coast Native.

## **Fleece Characteristics**

The majority of these breeds have fleece that I find to have similar characteristics: a staple length usually between 2 and 4 inches; locks are often chunky and square; and a sponginess to the staples, which spins into a satisfyingly round yarn. I have found most of these breeds fleeces have a creamy color rather than a clear bright white, and (as they are usually raised without a spinner in mind) tend to have a little more vegetable matter than fleeces raised specifically for handspinning.

## **Preparation**

These fleeces are easy to wash. I have found the fleece and resulting yarn difficult to felt by accident and often difficult to felt even intentionally. Once washed and dried, they are easy to prepare for spinning when carded. Handcards, drumcarders, and flick cards are all great options depending on the particular fleece. I rarely comb any of these breeds.

## **Wool at Work**

The short to medium staple length of these fleeces and crimpy bounce are perfect for spinning with a long draw. I love working with these wools on drop spindles, spinning wheels, and e-spinners. This is my comfort spinning.

The complaints I would hear about wool from "meat sheep" was that it was coarse and scratchy. I have never found it so, though it is different from finewools. I actually find Tunis easier to spin than Merino, and I love wearing my finished garments. I have never encountered a fleece that I have processed myself from a Suffolk or Dorset or Tunis sheep that felt harsh in the lock or yarn.

I particularly like using these fleeces to make socks and everyday sweaters; garments that will take a lot of wear and tear, standing up to hard use. When I make a garment, I want it to last as long as possible and look good while doing so.

Thankfully, fashions change, and through the effort of many teachers and shepherds, wool enthusiasts, and sheep organizations, spinners can learn about the fiber from many more sheep breeds than ever before. Programs such as Shave 'Em to Save 'Em by the Livestock Conservancy have done a fantastic job of connecting shepherds and fiber producers to spinners. I highly encourage you to try as many breeds of wool as you can and see if you develop a new favorite.

*THANKS DEVIN & JANAE FOSS!*

---

## **This barn sits on my parents' farm...**

It houses sheep, farm cats, and a couple of ducks. In the walls of this barn. I saw baby animals born and watched some of the fight for their lives, only to not make it. In the walls of this barn, I carried more bales of hay and straw than I can count. In the walls of this barn, I learned the importance of patience while I tried to halter break my first 4-H lamb for the fair. In the walls of this barn, I learned from my mistakes by pitching out pens after forgetting to turn off the hydrant and flooding the barn. This barn taught me how to work hard, be empathetic, and what really matters in life. This is the barn that built me.

*The last step of meeting the new government regulations about the purchase of certain antibiotics...*

## **FIGHTING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE**

by Rosie Busch, DVM reprinted from the March, 2023 issue of *SHEEP INDUSTRY NEWS*

"....Chances are you already know that by this June - in about 4 months--- antibiotics that we now get over the counter at our local feed store or in the farm supply catalogs will require a prescription from your vet.

You might even know why this change is coming, but if not, reach out to me and we can talk about it. There are many different sides to this problem. Put simply, just as you are primarily responsible for the health and well being of your sheep, the Food and Drug Administration has made veterinarians the primary stewards of these life saving drugs. Transitioning to using a veterinarian as a partner in your flock health program - rather than only when things go wrong in emergency situations - might have benefits beyond keeping antibiotics working for many years to come.

I have not been to one farm or ranch that is identical to another. Not once. That is really fun part of my job as a veterinarian. When it comes to addressing the health of your flock, there are many different ways we can adjust management to control or prevent diseases within an operation that limits the need for antibiotics. One size definitely does not fit all.

That is why it is so important that your vet becomes familiar with your operation in order to be able to give you the best advice for you and your animals. Additionally, establishing the veterinarian-client-patient relationship is required by state and federal law for your vet to provide a diagnosis and make treatment recommendations. Maintaining their veterinary practice license - aka their livelihood - depends on following this law.

### **DON'T HAVE A VET IN YOUR AREA?**

The American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners has a directory of members that can help you find a vet who has experience working with sheep and goats. This is by no means a complete list. There might be vets in your area that work with your neighbors or other producers in the region. Start talking to fellow producers about how they work with their vet. I have several colleagues that have an extremely wide practice radius and drive many hours - or even fly - to farms and ranches that recognize the value of their services for annual flock health checks.

### **WHY PAY FOR A VET TO COME OUT WHEN YOU DON'T NEED THEM AT A TIME?**

Chances are your vet is a busy person. While it might be difficult for you to find a vet in your area, this means vets that are working with livestock are booked and traveling that much further to serve clients. If you have a good relationship with your vet and they are familiar with your farm or ranch, they usually can get you the help you need faster than if you are a new client or haven't talked with your vet in several years.

### **WHERE DO YOU START IF YOU DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM?**

Develop a flock health plan. Have the vet out for a routine service like scanning for pregnant ewes or evaluating breeding soundness of rams. Resources like ASI's Sheep Care Guide are available on the website, or herd health and treatment plan templates like the ones developed by the University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine can help make sure you are prepared to discuss your operation with your veterinarian and the conditions that might affect your sheep in the coming year. Revisit these plans with your vet annually. Most operations experience changes from year to year; be it weather, forage resources, animal numbers, etc. Describe what has worked and what hasn't and adjust your plans as necessary.

Being a livestock veterinarian is hard work and extremely fulfilling, especially since we get to work with great people. Remember, we are all people, working to provide premium, safe and wholesome product for our friends and families."

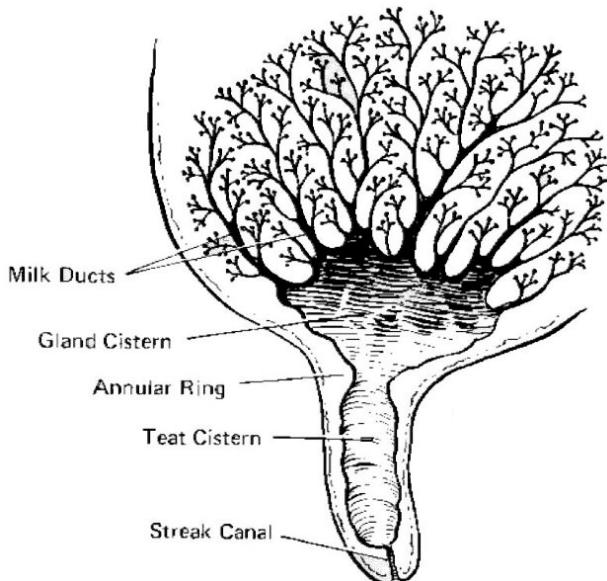
## From NATURE magazine... Feb. 6, 2023 issue...

"The use of antibiotics in animal farming---a major contributor to anti-microbial resistance---is expected to grow by 8% between 2020 and 2030 despite ongoing efforts to curtail their use, according to an analysis.

Overuse of antibiotics in agriculture is thought to be a major driver of the rise in humans of bacterial infections that cannot be treated with antibiotics. Although antibiotics can be necessary to treat infections in livestock, they are often used to speed up animal growth and prevent diseases among animals in crowded, unsanitary conditions.

Many governments have struggled to make or enforce rules to decrease antibiotic usage. For instance, although a number of countries, including the United States and much of Europe, ban the use of antibiotics that promote growth, manufacturers can just say they are marketing the drugs to prevent disease."

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### Did You Know?

"The location of the lump in the udder determines if the ewe still produces milk! A lump in the cistern just means a larger, lop sided udder that still produces milk!"

• ☰ ☰ • ☰ ☰ • ☰ ☰ • ☰ ☰ • ☰ ☰ • ☰ ☰

## FROM THE INTERNET... Judge for yourself...

**Homemade Nutri-Drench** -- remember this is a high calorie assist - limited amount to be fed

1 cup corn oil      1 pint molasses      1 pint Karo syrup

**Homemade Electrolyte Solution**

2 tsp Baking Soda      2 tsp salt      1/4 cup molasses or raw honey  
in 4 quarts warm water

**Homemade "Colostrum" recipe**

3 cups milk      1 egg      1 tbsp sugar/honey or corn syrup

• ☰ ☰ • ☰ ☰ • ☰ ☰ • ☰ ☰ • ☰ ☰ • ☰ ☰

## SHEEP/WOOL EQUIPMENT FOR SALE:

**MISSOURI:** Handmade Wool combs with holder available for shipping. The Ozark Heritage Products raises Heritage Tunis sheep and work the fibers to make several different products. Saw a need and developed this product. "Our goal is to make a product that is affordable and makes the work easier. Video available – call 417-241-1868 or Facebook @Ozark Heritage Products, mogreenacres20@gmail.com.

*Louise writes... how times change... in the 1970's, we were advised to feed weak lambs— cheap whiskey with sugar in it... my Suffolks liked my Crown Royal... whiskey isn't even mentioned here!*

## **NATURAL AND HOME REMEDIES FOR SHEEP/GOATS, A-Z**

*by Susan Schoenian, University of Maryland Extension Maryland Small Ruminant Program, Feb. 2023*

"There are numerous natural and home remedies --things on your kitchen shelf, in your medicine cabinet, or readily available at Walmart--that are often used to treat disease conditions or provide supportive therapy to sheep/goats. While benefits may be largely anecdotal, and research is usually lacking, they are frequently used - and might actually help.

**ACTIVATED CHARCOAL** - Activated charcoal is a powder comprised of wood, bamboo, coal or coconut shells that have been burned at a very high temperature. It is a proven supplement that benefits the healthy gut of animals. It is used in animal feeds as an antidote for poisoning and to control diarrhea. Activated charcoal can be given to individual animals who have consumed toxins or to help control their diarrhea.

**ASPIRIN** - Aspirin (or ibuprofen) can be an option for those who don't have prescription pain meds/anti-inflammatory drugs on-hand. Aspirin is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug used to treat pain, fever, and inflammation. It can be given to sheep/goats for the same reason. Some producers opt for baby aspirin, especially for smaller animals... while oral aspirin has not been found to be an effective pain reliever when administered immediately after application of rubber rings (for docking/castration), its use may warrant further investigation.

**ANTACIDS** - Over-the-counter antacids, such as Mylanta and Tums, can help to neutralize acid in the gut. They can be used to treat bloat, acidosis, and other digestive upsets in sheep/goats.

**APPLE CIDER VINEGAR** - While all sorts of claims have been made about apple cider vinegar, few have been substantiated. Regardless, apple cider vinegar (raw, unfiltered) is a source of nutrients, including probiotics, that can be given to animals that are off-feed or require a nutritional boost.

**BAKING SODA** - Baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) helps to neutralize acid in the gut. As such, it is a common treatment for bloat, acidosis, and other digestive upsets. It is the recommended treatment for floppy kid syndrome and 'big and dumb' syndrome, both of which are characterized by a build-up of lactic acid in young kids/lambs.

**BEER** - Beer (especially dark) has a long history of being used for livestock. Beer is usually given to animals that are off-feed. It is a source of fluids, energy, vitamins, and minerals. The yeast in beer may help to restart the rumen. Beer is sometimes given to a sow after she's finished birthing her pigs... supposedly, the beer helps the sow relax and let her milk down.

**BENADRYL** - Benadryl is an-over-the-counter antihistamine used to relieve symptoms of allergy, hay fever, and the common cold. It is sometimes used to treat allergic reactions in sheep/goats. for sheep

**CASTOR OIL** - Castor oil is a vegetable oil pressed from castor beans. Besides being an energy source, castor oil can be used to treat various metabolic problems in sheep/goats, including acidosis, bloat, and constipation (in young lambs/kids). It is often included in homemade 'colostrum' recipes for its nutritional value and laxative effect.

**COD LIVER OIL** - Cod liver oil is a dietary supplement derived from cod fish. It is a source of omega-3 fatty acids and vitamins A and D and E. It has been used as a nutritional supplement for animals. It is sometimes added to homemade colostrum' recipes

**CORN OIL** - Corn oil is a dietary source of fat. It can be added to the ration to increase energy intake. It can also be given to animals that are off-feed or require an energy boost. If propylene glycol is not available, corn oil can be given to ewes/does in the initial stages of pregnancy toxemia (ketosis). Corn oil is commonly included in recipes for homemade nutri-drench.

**CORN SYRUP** - Corn syrup is different from corn oil. It is a sweetener. It consists of half fructose and half dextrose (chemically identical to glucose). It can be given to ewes/does in the early stages of pregnancy toxemia (ketosis). Corn syrups commonly included in recipes for homemade nutri-drench.

**ENSURE** (or similar nutritional drinks) - Ensure provides nutrition in a tasty 'shake' It is often recommended for older people or those who need to gain weight. Ensurer can provide a similar nutritional benefit for sheep/goats. Generic brands are cheaper than Ensure and probably just as good.

**ESSENTIAL OILS** - Essential oils are compounds extracted from plants. They have many potential benefits. Peppermint oil is recommended for mastitis therapy. Tea tree oil has been used to treat hoof disease.

Oregano oil is being evaluated for its potential to prevent scoliosis. Some essential oils are 'hot' and need to be diluted with carrier oils or water before they can be used. Be sure to do research before using essential oils.

**GATORADE** - Gatorade is an electrolyte-restoring liquid (a 'sports drink') It can be used to rehydrate sheep/goats. It is commonly given to stressed animals. In fact, Penn State research showed that offering livestock Gatorade helped to reduce weight loss during transportation. Gatorade is an option when commercial electrolyte solutions are not on hand.

**HONEY** - Honey is a sweet feed substance made by bees. It is an energy source for sheep/goats. It can be given to animals that are off-feed or require an energy boost.

**JELL-O** – Jello (gelatin) is a sometime treatment for diarrhea (scours). It can also make bitter-tasting medicines more palatable.

**KAOPECTATE** - Kaopectate is an over-the-counter treatment for mild diarrhea. It is commonly used to treat non-infectious causes of diarrhea (scours) in sheep/goats.

**KEFIR** - Kefir is a fermented milk drink, especially popular in the Middle East. Kefir contains more probiotics than yogurt. Kefir is most commonly given to stressed animals to improve gut health. It may be most beneficial for livestock still on milk diets or transitioning off milk. Research is currently underway to determine the potential benefits for Kefir.

**MILK OF MAGNESIA** - Milk of Magnesia is an-over-the-counter antacid and laxative. It is used to treat various metabolic problems in sheep/goats, including bloat, acidosis, and constipation (in young lambs/kids).

**MINERAL OIL** - Mineral Oil is a must-have on the sheep/goat farm. It is a tasteless, odorless oil that can be used to treat various metabolic problems, including bloat, acidosis, and constipation. It can also help to clear intestinal impaction or obstruction. Mineral oil is a laxative that lubricates the intestinal tract. When administering mineral oil, care must be taken to avoid aspiration into the lungs. Larger quantities of mineral oil should be administered using a stomach tube.

**MOLASSES** - Molasses is a common feed ingredient (wet or dry). It is usually added to rations to increase the palatability and remove dust. Molasses is an energy source that can be given to animals that are off-feed or in need of an energy boost. It can be used to treat early stage pregnancy toxemia (ketosis).

**PEDIALYTE** - Pedialyte is an electrolyte drink for children. It can be used to rehydrate sheep/goats especially young ones. Lambs/kids with scours often become dehydrated, regardless of the cause of diarrhea, and need fluid replenishment. Pedialyte is an option when commercial electrolyte solutions are not on hand. Plus, it is available in smaller amounts, more suitable for sheep/goats.

**PEPTO BISMOL** - Pepto-Bismol (bismuth subsalicylate) is commonly used to treat non-infectious causes of diarrhea (scours) in sheep/goats.

**TRIPLE ANTIBIOTIC OINTMENT** - Triple antibiotic is an over-the-counter antibiotic that can be used to heal and treat wounds and infections, including pink eye. It contains three antibiotics (neomycin + polymyxin + bacitracin); hence its name. It comes in a tube and is relatively inexpensive.

**VEGETABLE OIL** - Besides being a dietary source of fat (energy), vegetable oils are used to treat metabolic problems in sheep/goats, including bloat and acidosis.

**VITAMIN C** - While some producers use vitamin C (aka ascorbic acid) as an alternative treatment for the early stages of urinary calculi, there is no proof that it helps. The idea is that vitamin C may help to acidify the urine and dissolve the stones. The vitamin C is usually delivered via fresh fruit or vitamin C tablets or powder. Sheep/goats do not have a dietary requirement for vitamin C because they manufacture it a part of their normal metabolism.

**WD-40** - There is some evidence that WD-40 (a 'penetrating' oil) may hasten the healing of lesions caused by soremouth (orf). The ether may break down the lipid in the virus. While sore mouth is a self-limiting disease, it can cause production losses and prevent timely sale and exhibition of animals. Sheep/goat owners that have sore mouth on their farms should consider timely vaccination.

**YOGURT** - Yogurt is a food produced by the bacterial fermentation of milk. It is a source of probiotics. Yogurt (plain) is commonly given to stressed animals. It helps to stimulate appetite and restore gut health. Many producers give it to animals with diarrhea (scours). Yogurt is often added to milk replacers to reduce the risk of abomasal bloat. When adding yogurt to milk, it is important not to feed the milk right away, as the bacteria needs time to multiply.

NOTE: It is likely that future research will determine more precisely the role of probiotics (including yogurt and kefir) in animal health and nutrition, as animal industries look for 'replacements' for antibiotics."

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*"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."*

*Albert Einstein*

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# WHAT DO YOU USE FOR YOUR BOTTLE LAMBS?

Isn't ALL milk the same?????

## WHY DO COW'S MILK, GOAT'S MILK AND SHEEP'S MILK TASTE DIFFERENTLY?

From the Culture Website... May 18, 2015

"As anyone who has tried the cheese from different kinds of animal milk will know, there's a big difference between eating cheddar from fresh chevre. There is a flavor in goat cheese that most people can only describe as 'goaty'. Why is that? What do the cheeses and milk of cow, goat, and sheep taste like and why do they taste differently in the first place?

The answer is, it depends. The differences have to do with diet: age of the cheese; breed of cow, goat or sheep; and the production process of the cheese. In the interest of saving time, we'll do a quick and general breakdown of the differences between cows, goats, and sheep and how it contributes to these differences.

**COWS:** For anyone in the U.S., cows are the default source of our milk and cheese. Cows typically eat ground cover grasses and sometimes take up soil with the grass, which can lead to their cheese having an earthier flavor. Of course, that earthy flavor will vary depending on the nature of the soil. Cows also digest differently than goats and sheep. The fat molecules in cow's milk are larger, which makes cow's milk cheese harder for people to digest than cheese from goats and sheep. For this reason, you probably want to steer clear from cow's milk if you are lactose intolerant. Cow's milk and goat's milk have about the same levels of protein, goat's milk have about the same levels of protein and fat, but because of the differences in the structure of the fat, cow's milk cheese feels heavier in the mouth than goat cheese.

Cow's milk is versatile and can be made into a lot of different cheeses. I like to think of cow's milk as a sort of magician, able to put on many masks but often disguising its true flavor behind the flavor and intent of the cheese. Unlike goat and sheep cheeses, which can put off or be considered an 'acquired taste' cow's milk cheeses don't have a distinctive or off-putting tang.

**GOATS:** Goats have strong stomachs and like to eat plants that cows avoid, like brambles and thorny grasses. Their milk picks up these acrid flavors, which will transfer to their cheese. Other important factors that can affect the taste of goat's milk is the nanny goat's hormone levels. If she is kept near the male bucks, her hormone level will rises, which can give the milk, a barnyard taste. The goat's age is also important--the fresher the better. AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN explains why:

Producers either milk their own goats or source the milk from nearby farms and use it within a few days of milking. Freezing the milk is not a desirable option. The sharp drop and then spike in temperature when the milk is defrosted damages the membrane protecting the milk fat from the lipase enzyme, which in turn releases three fatty acids: capric, caproic, and caprylic. While a moderate amount of these fatty acids is desirable--they give goat cheese, its characteristic tangy flavor--too much is a bad thing.

The fat molecules in goat's milk are small and the curds produced from it are smaller and softer than curds from cow's milk or sheep's milk, so goat's milk cheese is the easiest to digest of the three. Goat cheese should taste bright and somewhat acidic with a signature tang. Goat's milk cheese is also lighter in the mouth and less sweet than cow's milk cheese. As goat cheese ages, the tanginess gives way more creamy and earthy flavors.

**SHEEP:** Sheep's milk is significantly higher in fat and protein than cow or goat's milk. On the average, sheep's milk is 7.4 percent butterfat as opposed to the 3.7 percent for cows and 3.6 percent for goats. These higher levels of fat and protein mean that sheep's milk has the most solid content, so it takes less sheep's milk to make cheese than either cow's or goat's milk.

The high butterfat content in sheep's milk means sheep's milk cheese is buttery and rich. Other typical flavors of sheep's milk cheese are nutty and (in younger cheeses) gamy. It seems counter intuitive that sheep's milk has the highest fat content but it is not the hardest to digest---it's the size of fat molecules that really matters."

*Gee... I guess it isn't all the same!!!!*

## **TUNIS FOR SALE:**

**DELAWARE:** Registered Tunis ram lambs available upon weaning at the end of April. Sire is a MacCauley ram, dams vary. Willing to work with buyer on shipping, located in Harrington, Delaware. For more information call or text Oliver Menard 302-222-4870

**MARYLAND:** Three February born ram lambs. All registerable and very red. A single and a set of twins. Sired by a ram from the "JET" bloodline. Available after weaning. Contact – James & Sara Noto @ jsnoto@gmail.com - Dunkirk, MD

**MARYLAND:** Ram and Ewe lambs available. More information and pictures can be found on Backyard Tunis Facebook page. Located in Libertytown, MD. Contact Nettie Ridgeway at 301-639-2375.

**MICHIGAN:** Tunis ewe and ram lambs available. Contact Andy at Bethlehem Farm: hello@bethlehem.farm or 816-332-2193

**MISSOURI:** I started with Tunis five years ago, growing my herd from six to 32. Last year, the week after shearing, my herd was attacked by the neighbors dogs. It is time for me to sell my herd, although I will greatly miss them. They are not registered, but some have been sired by Rambo, and some sired by a wonderful Stumpe ram. Wonderful fiber producers. There is a mix of ewes, from one foundation 2016 ewe, to one year olds, and some great newly born lambs. SW Missouri. 12 ewes, 1 yr ram, 6 lambs. Call 281-455-1313

**OHIO:** Several early March born lambs – mostly twins – from a flock specializing in medium sized Tunis with lots of meat qualities... ready to show slick shorn or produce Farmers' Market products. Too young to go to national sale... priced to move... contact Louise Dunham of Darling Tunis @ darlingtunis@gmail.com or 937 407 4062... can deliver to Sedalia. In Central Ohio.

**OHIO:** Small starter flock, or buy them separately. 1. Ewe lamb sired by Neo, Schambow 2061, champion ram lamb and reserve champion ram 2022 NAILE. 2. Shadybrook 148 Yearling ewe sired by Duke, BWL 1912, champion ram at the Indiana State Fair. 3. Shadybrook 108, brood ewe sired by Red Baron. We also a ram lamb that will be ready for fall breeding. [Www.shadybrookfarm.us](http://www.shadybrookfarm.us) 937.248.3130

**OHIO:** Ewe lambs for sale! This spring we had an abundance of ewe lambs and we can't keep them all. They are all February ewe lambs and the two sires are our S&T stud buck 'Super Mario' and our Swihart ram lamb out of our Brown stud buck. These ewe lambs are true to their type, have great structure in their hips and legs and their color is what you want! If you are interested in checking them out please call Jessica Vandenbroek at 419-277-2067 and you can set up a time to see all the lambs. They won't stick around long so get your hands on some amazing ewe lambs.

**OKLAHOMA:** Redbud Tunis will have registered Tunis lambs available in May. Call 918-399-0516 for more information.

## **WANTED TO BUY:**

**MICHIGAN:** Tunis market lambs/wethers for pasture maintenance and to determine Tunis growth rates... Located in Ann Arbor, MI... Will travel some distance if the price is right. Contact Peter Stephens @ email @ Peter.stephens01@gmail.com

## **LOUISE'S LAST LITTLE BIT...**

Sorry to be so sentimental about barns and farm work... I just finished lambing season in my barn and, as you sit on the hay waiting for things to happen... you think and feel. I use my barn time as therapy (you know a 75 year old woman... twice widowed... walking with a brace needs something) and the opportunity to teach life to my 4-H kids.

My 17 year old girl that is working with me... helped to deliver a lamb and when it hit the ground... the spark of life kicked in... and she had tears in her eyes. Then as we dried the lamb, we talked about life... no, we don't let human babies hit the ground... yes, the mothering instinct is either bred into the female or it isn't there... and a healthy baby (prenatal care) is ready to look for Mom and food.

And my female Boxer, Sadie, caught a live pigeon in the barn... strutted out of the barn with it... held it down with one paw and pulled all of the feathers off of it... and brought the naked but alive pigeon back to me... lots of things happen in my barn....

I love my barn... and the animals in it!