

# Tunis Messenger

## NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY DIRECTORS:

### Region 1 -

Nathan Loux, Cummington, MA

### Region 2 -

Justine Bielewicz, Nunda, NY

### Region 3 -

Nettie Ridgeway, Libertytown, MD

### Region 4 -

Dan Erwin, Richwood, OH

### Region 5 -

Dana Gochenour, Woodstock, VA

### Region 6 -

Lloyd Arthur, Greenfield, 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 NTSRI's President's Message

This issue of the NTSRI newsletter contains lots of opportunities for the Tunis breeders to advertise their product. One of the opportunities is the opportunity for members to promote their flock in the new TUNIS TIMES Magazine. The fall issue will have the directory and member ads. Remember this opportunity is happening quickly so don't take too long to contact Associated Registry at 785-456-8500 to place your ad... October 6th will come around quickly.

The 2nd big opportunity for Tunis breeders in 2024 is the new location for the National Open Class Tunis show. The show will be held in Timonium, Maryland in late August/early September at the Maryland State Fairgrounds. I know that many of the Midwest Tunis breeders will make the trip, but the Board also hopes that the East Coast breeders will take advantage of this opportunity. With the early release of the show information, every Tunis breeder will have a chance to make plans.

As we finish out the calendar year, we don't want to forget the last two major shows. The Keystone International Livestock Expo (KILE) will be held soon with NAILE (North American International Livestock Expo) in Louisville. The NAILE Open Class Tunis Show will be our National Open Class Tunis show on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 8 am. Please check for the full schedule of events in Louisville for show times - both junior and open class meetings plus meeting times. The Board will also present the checks to the top 5 kids earning points in the NTSRI Ewe Lamb Futurity Contest... This contest is too close to predict the winners now... the NAILE JR Tunis show will be especially important right now.

The January 2024 issue is a good time to advertise your online sales, important show dates, and other Tunis events... and don't forget to renew your NTSRI membership. Rather you are showing or not, the Board hopes to see you at Louisville in November.

*Kelly Stumpe, NTSRI President and Region 7 Director*

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*The American Lamb Board is offering 250 complimentary copies of their new Home Grown Flavor recipe book and 25 complimentary copies of any other supporting material such as stickers and tattoos. These recipes are very appropriate for farmers markets, fairs, and festivals. Contact the ALB at [americanlamb.com](http://americanlamb.com).*

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## NEW NATIONAL PUBLICATION!

The National Tunis Sheep Association is proud to announce the “Roll Out” of a new publication called **“The Tunis Times” Magazine and Directory**.

Opportunities to advertise have been limited in the last 2 years, especially in the print media.

The NTSRI has committed to offering a platform to promote your flock through **“The Tunis Times”**, a biannual magazine. **“The Tunis Times”** will be a full color breeder-based publication that will be distributed in April and November, by mail.

Extra copies will be printed to hand out at events throughout the year. A digital copy will be available on the updated website. The Associated Registries staff will create **“The Tunis Times”** magazine, and if needed, they have several people on their staff who can help members with ad ideas, layout, and design.

The first edition of the magazine will come out as the National Tunis Sheep Association Directory in November, and the ad deadline for this issue of the magazine is October 6<sup>th</sup>.

For more information or assistance in creating your ad. Please contact,

Associated Registry at 785-456-8500 or one of the committee members listed below:

Dan Erwin	Kelly Stumpe	Lloyd Arthur	Debbi Brown
937-578-8303	636-357-8227	317-696-7705	254-715-6815

### NOVEMBER AD DEADLINE is October 6, 2023

	AD RATES	
	Single Issue	Two Issue Contract
Inside Front Cover	\$450	\$850
Center Page	\$450	\$850
Inside Back Cover	\$450	\$850
Back Cover	\$450	\$850
Full Page	\$350	\$650
2 Page Spread	\$675	\$1300
¾ PG	\$300	\$550
½ PG	\$200	\$350
¼ PG	\$150	\$250

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## FROM THE NATIONAL TUNIS QUEEN - Another “Thank You”!

Hey everyone! I am Madison Feehan in case you didn’t know I am the National Tunis Queen and a college scholarship recipient. I wanted to write and talk about how college is going and what I am doing.

I am enrolled at Bowling Green State University and currently I am taking 5 classes that equal out to 18 credit hours and loving every minute of it. After deciding to major in Special Education, my schedule was remade to include those education classes and I am loving those especially.

The sheep are doing wonderfully and enjoying the pasture expansion for this fall. Most of the day is spent outside with a visit from me at least twice a day. (They love me!)

I am so thankful for the scholarship and the impact it is going to have on my college education making the financial burden less of a worry. It has meant so much to me growing up in this association and all the kind people associated with it. Thank you all!

# NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP ASSOCIATION BOD MEETING NOTES

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

**NTSRI BOD Draft Minutes September 7, 2023**

**Call to Order: President, Kelly Stumpe**

**Roll Call:**

Region 1	Nathan Loux	Region 2	Justine Bielewicz
Region 3	Nettie Ridgeway	Region 4	Dan Erwin
Region 5	Dana Gochenour	Region 6	Absent
Region 7	Kelly Stumpe	Region 8	Debbi Brown
Guests: Matt Maag and Sue Anderson		Executive Secretary – Kathy Niese	

**Secretary Report:** Kathy Niese

- Approval of Minutes from 8-7 2023
- Moved by: Lloyd Arthur 2nd by: Dana Gochenour Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer Report:** Kathy Niese

- Huntington Bank: \$11,379.47
- Expenses Encumbered from August 7, 2023
  - 1783 Louise Dunham (Buckeye Blowout) \$300.00
  - 1793 Associated Registry (July and August) \$1647.97
  - 1794 Kathy Niese (August Stipend) \$200.00
- Huntington Checkbook balance \$9871.29
- Bennington Bank: \$17,350.91
- PayPal: \$7,64.71
- Total of all accounts: \$34,885.91

**Approval of Treasurers Report:** Moved by Dan Erwin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lloyd Motion passed unanimously pending audit.

**Associated Registry Report:** July and August

- Registrations 335
- Transfers 148
- Dues 50
- Memberships 13

**Committee Reports**

**Show and Sale:** Justine reported:

- The Show and Sale Committee was asked to review the judge election SOP for NAILE. After some discussion and review of the current policy and the review of past policies, it was decided that the existing SOP will remain in place.
- The National Show rotation was discussed moving forward.
  - 2024 Maryland
  - 2025 Ohio (It is expected that Ohio will submit a proposal for hosting soon)
  - 2026 NAILE, (however, if our show is scheduled for a Wednesday that year, we may want to schedule differently, it will be discussed at a future meeting.
- **NAILE:** Sue is unable to attend, she shared with Kathy Niese that Kristin Swihart was interested in helping coordinate the Social Activities at NAILE and we could follow up with her on a schedule for that event. Also, if we schedule rooms for meetings, let Kathy or Kelly know and we will share them with Sue. She will call NAILE and schedule the time for each meeting room. We need to know dates, times and number of people who will be attending. Kelly will follow up with Sue.

**Social Media:** Jessica Vandenbroek shared the 2 proposals for rebranding and updating Tunis social media. After the presentation, Dan Erwin moved that we enter contract with Novell Designs to create and implement our new Social Media Package. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dana G. The motion passed unanimously.

**Youth Update:** Matt is working on exhibitor gifts for the NAILE Junior Show

**Futurity:** Louise Dunham

The Futurity points will be a total of each participant's top five set of points, with a total of \$1000.00 being split between the top 5 participants. There is still a lot of time left to earn points and the NAILE show is a double point show!

The Futurity standings as of August 27:

- Jayce Coers: 46 pts
- Oliver O'Keefe: 33 pts
- Brook Peterson: 20 pts
- Madison Feehan: 19 pts Wooley Hollow EL
- Madison Feehan 16 pts Stumpe EL
- Autumn Piazza 16 pts
- Emma Chandler 14 pts

**Scholarship Committee:** Mark Swihart: No report currently.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

NTSRI Directory follow-up: Dan Erwin: The Magazine/ Directory committee, presented the name of the NTSRI Magazine will be "**The Tunis Times**". It was moved by Lloyd Arthur and 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Nathan Loux to move forward with the name and begin collecting ads for the magazine. The motion passed unanimously. Dan will write up a promotion flyer and Kathy Niese will email the membership and post on our website, and other social media sites. Ads need to be collected and paid for by October 6, for an October 27 go to print date, and published by November 6.

- The front cover will be a collage of all types of Tunis photos.
- A 5% discount will be applied to advertisers who pay for ads in the 2 issues of the magazine.
- There will be between 32 and 36 pages published at .20cents per page.
- There will be between 250 and 300 copies printed.
- Full page ad in one magazine \$350.00 or both for \$650.00
- ¾ page ad \$300.00 for one, and \$550. 00 in both
- ½ page ad \$200 single issue, and \$350.00 in both
- ¼ page ad \$150.00 single issue, and \$250.00 in both

**Digital Database**, follow-up: Dana presented a proposal to work with Associated Registry and Doug Meyer, who has experience creating Breed Pedigree Link to the NTSRI Website. Doug has a one-time \$600.00 set up fee and then a \$300.00 fee for each year, with a \$40.00 fee per update that will be done quarterly. It was moved by Nathan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan to accept this proposal, and the motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**National Sale:** Dan Erwin reported:

- There were 72 Tunis entered in the National Sale
- 69 Tunis Showed were in the show.
- 68 Tunis Sold
- Sale Average \$822.39 and Averages are trending up, but we were 14 out of 22.
- Tunis were 4th out of the 22 Breeds present at the Sale.
- The Ram rule is no longer in place.
- Floor bids will be raised.
- The 2024 Show will be May 9, and the Sale May 10th.
- Possible Judges for 2024:
  - Cruz Nichols
  - Evan Snyder
  - Alex Wolfe
  - Matt Martin

Next BOD Meeting Date: Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am

The membership meeting will be at 2:00 the same day. The room will be announced later.

Respectfully Submitted, *Kathryn M. Niese, 8777 Rd I 7 Ottawa, Ohio 45875 419-969-0783*

# 2023 "BUCKEYE BLOW OUT" JR TUNIS SHOW

A NTSRI Regional Jr Tunis Show @ Ohio State Fair

74 Tunis Shown by 33 kids from 4 states – 32 kids in Showmanship!!!

## **1 Fitted Yr Ram**

Mattilyn Maag, OH

## **2 Fitted Fall Ram**

Michaela Bugman, NY  
Glade Jolliff, OH

## **1 Slick Fall Ram Lamb**

Meredith Bugman, NY

## **4 Fitted Jan. Ram Lamb**

Avery Brown, OH  
Michaela Bugman, NY

## **6 Feb. & March Ram Lamb**

Meredith Bugman, NY  
Elias Henry, OH

## **5 Slick Spring Ram Lamb**

Mason Johnson, OH  
Kade Joseph, OH

## **CHAMPION RAM – MASON JOHNSON**

### **RESERVE CHAMPION RAM – AVERY BROWN**

### **3RD PLACE CHAMPION RAM – MEREDITH BUGMAN**

### **4TH PLACE CHAMPION RAM – MICHAELA BUGMAN**

### **5TH PLACE CHAMPION RAM – KADE JOSEPH**

## **Slick Shorn Ram Lamb**

### **January Fitted Ram Lamb**

### **February Fitted Ram Lamb**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place January Ram Lamb**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place Slick Shorn Ram**

## **7 Fitted Yr Ewes**

Kassidy Schakel, IN  
Meredith Bugman, NY

## **13 Slick Shorn Yr Ewes**

Morgan Johnson, OH  
Josh Collins, OH

## **6 Fitted Fall Ewe Lambs**

Glade Jolliff, OH  
Megan Hollar, OH

## **1 Slick Shorn Fall Ewe Lamb**

Michaela Bugman, NY

## **5 Fitted January Ewe Lambs**

Michaela Bugman, NY  
Meredith Bugman, NY

## **3 Fitted February Ewes**

Glade Jolliff, OH  
Emalyn Vandenbroek, OH

## **4 Fitted March Ewe Lambs**

Madison Feehan, OH  
Megan Hollar, OH

## **10 Early Spring SS Ewe L**

Parker Smith, OH  
Meredith Bugman, NY

## **6 Late Spring SS Ewe L**

Kade Joseph, OH  
Miles Joseph, OH

## **CHAMPION EWE – KASSIDY SCHAKEL**

### **RESERVE CHAMPION EWE – GLADE JOLLIFF**

### **3RD PLACE CHAMPION EWE – GLADE JOLLIFF**

### **4TH PLACE CHAMPION EWE – MEGAN HOLLAR**

### **5TH PLACE CHAMPION EWE – MEREDITH BUGMAN**

## **Fitted Yearling Ewe**

### **Fitted Fall Ewe Lamb**

### **Fitted February Ewe Lamb**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place Fitted Fall Ewe Lamb**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place Fitted Yearling Ewe**

**EXHIBITORS:** Maddox Antill, Sadie Barnes, Aisleen Boday, Camdyn Boday, Cralyn Boday, Avery Brown, Meredith Bugman, Michaela Bugman, Josh Collins, Mason Dildine, Andrew Feehan, Madison Feehan, Elias Henry, Megan Hollar, Mallory Johnson, Margo Johnson, Mason Johnson, Morgan Johnson, Glade Jolliff, Kade Joseph, Landry Joseph, Miles Joseph, Jacoby Maag, Macie Maag, Makenzie Maag, Mattilyn Maag, Preslee McMillan, Elizabeth Raines, Kassidy Schakel, Parker Smith, Emalyn Vandenbroek, Henrick Vandeenbroek, Hanna Warnecke and Jonas Watkins.

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## **THANKS to these groups/families for making this show possible:**

National Tunis Sheep Registry    Ohio Tunis Sheep Association  
JET Tunis – Dan & Jacci Erwin    Kris Swihart    Creekside Tunis    Darling Tunis  
Shawn & Tasha Dyer Family    Rivenoak – Russ & Molly Johnson  
Colton Lowry of Edward Jones    Hepburn & Hunter Feed    Triangle Farm Tunis  
& Everyone I might have forgotten!

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Any show report in the National's newsletter section  
has been financially sponsored by the NTSRI.

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## YOUTH SHEEP EXPO @ GREENFIELD, IN

Financially Sponsored (in part) by the NTSRI

19 Head of Tunis by 6 Exhibitors from 3 states

### 2 YR Ram

Nathan Everhart  
Nathan Everhart

### 1 Fall Ram Lamb

Beau Mumm

### 2 Spring Ram Lambs

Beau Mumm  
Nash Arthur

**CHAMPION RAM – Beau Mumm**

**RES CHAMPION RAM – Beau Mumm**

**Fall Ram Lamb**

**Spring Ram Lamb**

### 7 YR Ewes

Kylie Schakel  
Nash Arthur

### 2 Fall Ewe Lamb

Nathan Everhart  
Maddie Huntsman

### 5 Spring Ewe Lambs

Beau Mumm  
Nash Arthur

**CHAMPION EWE – Kylie Schakel**

**RES CHAMPION EWE – Nash Arthur**

**Yearling Ewe**

**2nd Place Yearling Ewe**

**EXHIBITORS:** Nash Arthur, Emma Chandler, Nathan Everhart, Maddie Huntsman. Beau Mumm and Kylie Schakel.

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## NORTHEAST YOUTH SHEEP SHOW @ W SPRINGFIELD, MA

30 Head of Tunis by 8 Exhibitors from 4 states

### 1 Yearling Ram

Amanda Willard, MA

### 7 Jr Ram Lamb

Colin Anderson, NY  
Lea Bielewicz, NY

### 10 Fitted Yearling Ewe

Colin Anderson, NY  
Peter Priest, MA

### 2 Slick Shorn Yr Ewe

Lea Bielewicz, NY  
Victoria Fuller, DE

### 1 Sr Ewe Lamb

Autumn Piazza DE

### 9 Jr Ewe Lamb

Colin Anderson, NY  
Lea Bielewicz, NY

**CHAMPION RAM – Colin Anderson**

**RES CHAMPION RAM – Lea Bielewicz**

**BEST HEADED RAM – Amanda Willard**

**CHAMPION EWE – Colin Anderson**

**RES CHAMPION EWE – Lea Bielewicz**

**BEST HEADED EWE – Peter Priest**

**Jr Ram Lamb**

**2nd Place Jr Ram Lamb**

**Jr Ewe Lamb**

**Slick Shorn Yearling Ewe**

**EXHIBITORS:** Colin Anderson, Lea Bielewicz, Issac Epe, Victoria Fuller, Oliver O'Keefe, Autumn Piazza, Peter Priest, and Amanda Willard.

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## NTSRI 2023 Ewe Lamb Futurity

The current standings as of September 25<sup>th</sup> for the NTSRI 2023 Ewe Lamb Futurity Contest are as follows:

Jayce Coers, IL	Premier #2320	46 pts
Oliver O'Keefe, DE	Mumm #603	38 pts
Brook Peterson, WI	Red Barn 0376	20 pts
Madison Feehan, OH	Wooly Hollow 438	19 pts
Autumn Piazza, DE	MB 2211	17 pts
Madison Feehan, OH	Stumpe 0745	16 pts
Emma Chandler	Wooly Hollow 440	14 pts

Remember the final points show is at NAILE... if any one of these animals are shown in the JR Show... they earn double points. Checks will be presented at the conclusion of the Jr Show to the top 5 placing kids and their nominated ewe lambs.

*PS – I will have extra point forms for you to fill out & turn in!*



## PROUD MOMENTS IN THE TUNIS WORLD!

**Marty Van Roekel writes...** The Reserve Champion Ewe in the AOMB show at the Iowa State Fair was VR 2201, shown by the Van Roekel Family of Wellman, IA.

The AOMB show is fairly new and getting a little bigger every year. Until this year, we were the only exhibitors with Tunis. There were two farms with Tunis this year, and we'd like to see more folks add this show to their schedule!

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**Pine Run Tunis Farm** is located in Pennsylvania. They offer registered Tunis breeding stock, Tunis fiber in various forms, naturally tanned pelts, Lamb retail meat cuts and a variety of Tunis related merchandise. Visit their website at [PineRunTunisFarm.com](http://PineRunTunisFarm.com) for a great array of pictures.

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### CONGRATULATIONS to the Voelker Family of Edgewood, IL

1st Time Tunis Shown at the local Fair!

Grand Champion Purebred - Jr & 4-H Show - aged Tunis Ewe  
& Reserve Champion Ewe with a ewe lamb

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**2023 Supreme Over All Champion Ram Lamb**

**Exhibited by Aisleen Boday of Lima, Ohio -**

**Allen County Fair**

**2023 All Other Breeds Champion Ram Lamb**

A big shout out to the Swihart family for allowing us to purchase this awesome boy and for all of the help and advice you have given us; we would not be in this position without it. A big thank you to my Uncle Chris for supporting and buying me my first set of Tunis lambs. I love showing these red lambs.

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**1st Open Class Tunis Show at The Hardin County Fair in Kenton, Ohio**



**Great Future with All Juniors Showing!**

**David Arwood writes...**" This is my grandson, Carson Ford, and his yearling Tunis ewe, Maribelle. They won Grand Champion Ewe and he also had Premier Exhibitor at the Appalachian Fair in Gray, TN. He shows sheep under our family's Black Sheep Farm.



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**MORE JR ALL AMERICAN RESULTS – The NTSRI's National JR Show!**

- Top Gun** – Gregory Loper (Most Total Points)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Senior Judging – Morgan Johnson
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place** – Intermediate Video Production – Gregory Loper
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Senior AD Lay-out – Chloe Heidelbaugh
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place** – Beginners Essay – Meredith Bugman
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place** – Intermediate T-Shirt Design – Glade Joliff
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Place** – Senior Skillathon – Morgan Johnson
  - 15<sup>th</sup> Place** – Intermediate Skillathon – Glade Joliff
  - 26<sup>th</sup> Place** – Intermediate Skillathon – Colin Anderson
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Place** – Junior Skillathon – Arabella Knuth
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Place** – Beginners Skillathon – Jacoby Maag
- More than 200 Participants  
Again a lot of participants

Great Numbers!  
Every kid this age possible

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**SHOW/MEETING & SOCIAL SCHEDULE FOR NAILE!**  
**Everyone Welcome! No Membership Required!**  
**Look For Our TUNIS Meeting Spot!**

Friday, Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Junior Breeding Sheep Showmanship	South Wing A
Saturday, Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Junior Breeding Sheep Show-- 1 <sup>st</sup> Horned Dorset,	
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Dorset Advantage, 3 <sup>rd</sup> <b>TUNIS</b>	South Wing A Ring 1
Sunday, Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	NTSRI Board Meeting	
	2:00 pm	NTSRI Membership Meeting	
Tuesday, Nov.14 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 am	Complimentary Donuts by Darling Tunis	
	8:00 am	Open Class <b>Tunis</b>	South Wing A Ring 2



## **Region 1 Report: Nathan Loux, Director**

The Northeast Regional Tunis Show was held Sunday, September 24th at 8:30 am. There were 79 Tunis exhibited by 16 exhibitors from 7 states. The show was held at the BIG E in W. Springfield, MA.

Thanks, Nate, for doing this extra work for me! Louise

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## **Region 2 Report: Justine Bielewicz, Director**

It has been a crazy summer for us in western New York with multiple New York shows. Our Premier ram "Naughty Frank" took Supreme Ram at the New York State Fair.

Our next stop is the Big E - one of our favorite places. We will be going to KILE next before having our Swartz & Talley bred ewe sale. It will be Sunday October 22nd. We will be offering some outstanding ewes exposed to our National Champion Ram in 2021, S&T 2110, and more including ewe lambs.

We are excited to see everyone at the National down in NAILE this year.

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## **Region 3 Report: Nettie Ridgeway, Director**

Fair season is in full swing with many county fairs going on weekly in our area. Even though we won't be at our county fair, we are excited to be heading to The Big E for the first time this year!

It was great to see many familiar faces at the Maryland State Fair Tunis show during Labor Day weekend. We were excited to see another increase this year in the number shown. There was quite a bit of buzz around the barn about the National Show heading to Maryland next year. We hope to see many of you make plans to come to Maryland, especially with an opportunity to exhibit your other breeds over the weekend too.

Next up for our area will be the Keystone International Livestock Expo with the Tunis show on Friday, October 6th. There is also an opportunity for junior exhibitors to show October 28-29th at the Jack-O-Lantern Jamboree at the Maryland State Fair. More information can be found on their Facebook page and entry deadline is October 10th.

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## **Region 4 Report: Dan Erwin, Director**

Greetings from region 4! Fall is in the air here as the trees have just started to turn color. The year's final cutting of hay is in the barn, silage is chopped, and harvest is starting. Cool weather and shorter day length have increased ram activity with more ewes showing marks daily.

Show season has ended for us here at JET Tunis and fall lambs are arriving. The junior, regional, and open shows at the Ohio State Fair were well attended with deep quality throughout. Thank you to all who made these shows run smoothly and successful.

I am pleased to say that our last board meeting was the most productive in my tenure on the board. We will be offering a print platform in which members may advertise their flocks. The TUNIS TIMES will be published twice per year in November and April. We also authorized a redesign of our website which will include a digital database. This will allow members immediate access to data on pedigrees and much more. Look for more information on this as the year progresses.

The Ohio Tunis Assn. fall meeting will be held October 22 at Louise Dunham's house. We look forward to seeing you all there!

In closing I wish you a successful breeding season, and a safe harvest. Don't forget to take time to enjoy nature's color and beauty.

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## **Region 8 Report: Debbi Brown, Director**

What a hot, dry summer here in Texas. I believe most of those in Region 8 had intense weather to deal with as well. Thankfully, the Tunis breed seems to not be as bothered as us humans. Can you believe we have already circled around to fall breeding season again. At Unicorner Farm we try to breed for Jan-Feb lambs if it has cooled off enough in late August to put the rams in. What works best in your area?

# National Tunis Show at the Maryland State Fair – September 2024

1. **Name of state/regional association, person(s), and organizations to host the show.**
  - a. Nettie Ridgeway would be the representative to host the show.
2. **Date and time of the proposed show**
  - a. The Maryland State Fair sheep show is held Labor Day Weekend. Tunis typically have shown on Monday. It could be requested for the National Show to be highlighted on Sunday evening.
  - b. Sheep typically need to be penned by Friday by noon and checked in with the superintendent by 1pm. However, pens do open at 3pm on that Wednesday.
  - c. Sheep are released on Monday (Labor Day). The premium book states 8pm, but sheep are normally released at the conclusion of the supreme champion drive and exhibitor meeting. Sheep are released by those that live the furthest away first.
3. **Location information (name of fairgrounds and city that it resides)**
  - a. Maryland State Fair – 220 York Road Timonium, Maryland 21093
4. **Hotel information and restaurant information (just to make sure that there are plenty) provide list, phone, etc.**
  - a. There are around 15 hotels within 5 miles of the fairgrounds. The number dramatically increases within a 10-mile radius of the fairgrounds. There are lots of choices depending on budgets for families.
  - b. There are a lot of restaurant options near the Maryland State Fairgrounds from fast food and chain restaurants to lots of choices that are specific to Maryland. Of course, lots of restaurants carry seafood options, specifically Maryland Blue Crabs.
  - c. Local Areas to Visit –
    - i. Baltimore Inner Harbor is 15 miles from the fairgrounds (lots of restaurants and places to visit)
    - ii. Annapolis (Maryland's State Capitol) is less than an hour from the fairgrounds and is home to the Naval Academy
    - iii. Gettysburg, PA – Home to the Gettysburg Battlefields and field with rich history is just a little more than an hour from the fairgrounds
    - iv. Washington D.C. – Is about an hour and a half from the fairgrounds
5. **How many years has Tunis show been established at the particular fair/festival (a minimum of two years before an association can host).**
  - a. Tunis have steadily grown at the Maryland State Fair and have had their own show for at least 5 years now. Since Tunis have had their own show, there have been around 50 or over in each year. However, Tunis have been represented for over 30 years at the fair.
6. **Other information to know about potentially holding the National Tunis Show at the Maryland State Fair.**
  - b. The sheep superintendent, Denise Zeigler is on board for holding a National Show at the Maryland State Fair.
    - i. Denise is also great with keeping exhibitors in the loop through the Maryland State Fair Open Sheep Show Facebook page.
    - ii. Penning request are taken and she works hard to meet all of those requests. If exhibitors have other breeds to show, specifically wool sheep they are given the option to pen in the sheep barn (meat barn) or in the cow palace (wool show takes place there), which is adjacent to the sheep barn.
    - iii. She is also open to working with the Tunis Show in adding the additional classes, like slicked classes into the show. Along, with knowing that senior and junior champion divisions would have to be added for the national show.

- c. Additional Classes offered by Maryland State Fair –
  - i. Multiple group classes (pair of yearlings – both sexes, pair of senior ewe lambs, pair of lambs – both sexes, pen of 4 lambs, exhibitors young flock)
  - ii. A junior premier exhibitor award is also given
- d. Entry Fee – Entry fees are \$5/head. There are no charges for group classes. The fair also provides one bale of straw per pen. Entries are typically due by July 31 st of each year.
- e. Payouts – The Maryland State Fair treats their exhibitors very well when it comes to premiums. All individual classes pay 1 st place - \$30 with all other places receiving \$20. Group Classes pay the top 5 starting with \$40 and scaling down.
- f. Other Breed Shows – With the entire Maryland State Fair Sheep Show being held over Labor Day weekend breeders would have the opportunity to show their other breeds, which include; White Border Leicester, Black Border Leicester, Black Lincoln, While Lincoln, Natural Colored – Fine/Medium, Natural Colored – Long, All Other Wool – Fine/Medium, All Other Wool – Long, Dorper, Suffolk, Southdown, Shropshire, Cheviot, Hampshire, Dorset and All Other Meat Breeds.
- g. New Pens – The Maryland State Fair replaced the majority of their sheep pens in 2022.
- h. Exhibitors from other states – Currently the Tunis Show has exhibitors from 4 states. However, sheep exhibitors for other breeds come from Illinois, Wisconsin and New Hampshire to name a few.
- i. Health Papers – All animals go through an animal check point as they enter the fairgrounds, so health papers are required.

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## National Tunis Sheep Registry Inc.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

\_\_\_\_\_ \$12 - Jr Membership (under 22 yrs)      \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 - Sr Membership

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE (if under 22 years) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

STATE & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Farm \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

WEBSITE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

Send to : NTSRI  
PO BOX 231  
Wamego, KS 66547

# MIDWEST TUNIS ASSOCIATION

MIDWEST AND BEYOND

Apr 2023

VOL. # TWELVE ISSUE #2

## LOUISE'S LITTLE BIT

***"I don't have a train of thought... I have 7 trains on 4 different tracks that narrowly avoid each other when their paths cross and all of the conductors are screaming!"***

YES, I am screaming... I don't know if it is my advancing age, my declining mental abilities or **you folks**... but I am always confused when it comes to which articles to publish...

Which group of readers should I have in mind when choosing articles for the newsletter?

Those breeders who believe that show results are very important

**OR** those breeders who wouldn't go into a show ring dead or alive?

Those who have raised sheep forever?

**OR** those who are just thinking of buying their first sheep ever?

Those Tunis breeders who see the wool as another source of income?

**OR** those using the wool as garden mulch?

Those who never feed grain?

**OR** those who can recite their best grain ration for you?

Shots? Tail docking? Regular worming? Solar grazing?

Selling processed meat at Farmers Market? Ethnic market opportunities?

Hobby farm? Producers of seed stock? Just grass eaters?

**OR** even register their Tunis?

***YES, we are a diverse group of people who simply raise some type of red-headed sheep!***

But there are a couple of things that I'm not confused about....

#1 - Show reports (and shows themselves) are very educational for everyone... Show reports indicate where there are lots of Tunis, lots of different genetics to compare and people who will talk sheep!

#2 - Shows/wool festivals/breed meetings are great places to talk Tunis, sheep problems, etc.

***The next Ohio Tunis meeting is Sunday, Oct. 22nd at MY HOUSE!!!! Carry in lunch at 1 pm -- I'm providing sandwiches, drinks & table service.***

***No membership required to attend... no sales pitch... come early!***

***Three different sets of ewes are visiting my ram... let's talk differences!***

***30 minutes NW of Columbus... 9048 Co Rd 153, East Liberty***

***Let's talk sheep! Everyone is welcome to attend!***

#3 - Many breeders see their very first Tunis at shows & wool festivals. This is advertisement for the breed... where do you advertise your sheep????

#4 - The Tunis breed is growing in interest and number... every style of Tunis and for every purpose is growing in every direction.

There is something for everyone in the Tunis world!

My parting thought...

***"I came, I saw, I forgot what I was doing....***

***retraced my steps and got distracted on my way back.***

***I have no idea what's going on but now I have to pee!"***

LOUISE, the Editor

PS. But somethings aren't confusing but simply reassuring... I was up early the other morning... and I heard the two breeding rams "sweet talking" to individual ewes... the world is still spinning properly!!!!

## MidWest Tunis & Beyond

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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

***December 30<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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**OHIO STATE FAIR JR TUNIS SHOW @ Ohio State Fair – Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**  
**41 Head of Tunis by 16 exhibitors from Ohio!**

<b>1 YR Ram</b>	<b>1 Fall Ram Lamb</b>	<b>2 Winter Ram Lamb</b>	<b>7 Spring Ram L</b>
Mattilyn Maag	Glade Jolliff	Mason Johnson Avery Brown	Mattilyn Maag Mattilyn Maag

**CHAMPION RAM – Mason Johnson**  
**RES CHAMPION RAM – Mattilyn Maag**

<b><u>11 YR Ewes</u></b>	<b><u>4 Fall Ewe Lamb</u></b>	<b><u>6 Winter Ewe Lamb</u></b>	<b><u>9 Spring Ewe L</u></b>
Jake Wagner	Glade Jolliff	Madison Feehan	Glade Jolliff
Glade Jolliff	Megan Hollar	Marqo Johnson	Glade Jolliff

**CHAMPION EWE – Jake Wagner**  
**RES CHAMPION EWE – Glade Jolliff**

**EXHIBITORS:** Maddox Antill, Sadie Barnes, Avery Brown, Josh Collins, Andrew Feehan, Madison Feehan, Elias Henry, Megan Hollar, Mallory Johnson, Margo Johnson, Mason Johnson, Glade Joliff, Jacoby Maag, Mattilyn Maag, Jake Wagner, and Hanna Warnecke



## AN INTERESTING STATISTIC...

*4-Hers are 2.3 times more likely to be physically active, are nearly two times more likely to plan to go to college (or trade school) and are 3.4 times more likely to contribute to their communities when compared with youth who do not take part in 4-H!*

[illegible]

**OHIO STATE FAIR – OPEN CLASS** **August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**94 Head of Tunis shown by 26 exhibitors from 4 states**

<b>2 Fitted Yr Ram</b>	<b>2 Fitted Fall Ram</b>	<b>5 Fitted Jan. RL</b>	<b>4 Fitted Feb. RL</b>
Kristen Swihart, OH	Glade Jolliff, OH	M & M Bugman, NY	Jacci Smith, OH
Mattilyn Maag, OH	M & M Bugman, NY	Todd Brisco, OH	Dana Gochenour, VA
<b>3 Fitted March</b>	<b>5 Slick Shorn RL</b>	<b>7 Early Fitted Yr E</b>	<b>7 Late Fitted Yr E</b>
Kaitlyn Schakel, IN	Mason Johnson, OH	Glade Jolliff, OH	Kaitlyn Schakel, IN
M & M Bugman, NY	Dana Gochenour, VA	M & M Bugman, NY	M & M Bugman, NY
<b>13 Slick Yr E</b>	<b>8 Fitted Fall EL</b>	<b>7 Fitted Jan. Ewe</b>	<b>8 Fitted Feb. Ewe</b>
Morgan Johnson, OH	M & M Bugman, NY	M & M Bugman, NY	Glade Jolliff, OH
Jacci Smith, OH	Glade Jolliff, OH	Kristen Swihart, OH	Jacci Smith, OH
<b>9 Fitted March EL</b>	<b>14 Slick Shorn EL</b>	<b>6 Flocks</b>	<b>3 Get of Sire</b>
Glade Jolliff, OH	Kristen Swihart, OH	M & M Bugman, NY	M & M Bugman, NY
Kaitlyn Schakel, IN	Glade Jolliff, OH	Glade Jolliff, OH	Kristen Swihart, OH

**GRAND CHAMPION RAM – Kaitlyn Schakel**  
**RES GRAND CHAMPION – Jacci Smith**  
**GRAND CHAMPION – Michaela & Merdith Bugman**  
**RES GRAND CHAMPION – Kaitlyn Schakel**  
**PREMIER EXHIBITOR – Glade Jolliff**

**Fitted March Ram Lamb**  
**Fitted February Ram Lamb**  
**Fitted Fall Ewe Lamb**  
**Late Fitted Yearling Ewe**

**EXHIBITORS:** Maddox Antill, Sadie Barnes, Jeremy Barth, Todd Brisco, Avery Brown, M & M Bugman, Josh Collins, Louise Dunham, Andrew Feehan, Madison Feehan, David Gerfen, Dana Gochenour, Elias Henry, Megan Hollar, Margo Johnson, Mason Johnson, Morgan Johnson, Glade Jolliff, Jacoby Maag, Mattilyn Maag, Elizabeth Raines, Kaitlyn Schakel, Jacci Smith, Kristen Swihart, Jessica Vandenbroek, and Hanna Warnecke



## WISCONSIN State Fair – Open Class

August 2023

27 Head of Tunis shown by 5 exhibitors from WI

### 1 Fall Ram

Claire Spilde

### 4 Feb Ram Lambs

Arabella Knuth  
Holmland Farms

### 1 March RL

Arabella Knuth  
Arabella Knuth

### 4 Early Yearling Ewe

Claire Spilde  
Brook Peterson

### 3 Late Yr Ewes

Claire Spilde  
Brook Peterson

### 3 Fall Ewe Lambs

Claire Spilde  
Brook Peterson

### 4 Jan Ewe L

Claire Spilde  
Elizabeth Hasheider

### 4 Feb Ewe Lambs

Arabella Knuth  
Elizabeth Hasheider

### 3 March Ewe Lambs

1<sup>st</sup> – Claire Spilde

2<sup>nd</sup> – Brook Peterson

**GRAND CHAMPION RAM– Arabella Knuth**

**RESERVE CHAMPION RAM – Arabella Knuth**

**GRAND CHAMPION EWE – Claire Spilde**

**RESERVE CHAMPION EWE – Claire Spilde**

**EXHIBITORS** – Elizabeth Hasheider, Holmland Farms, Arabella Knuth, Brook Peterson and Claire Spilde.

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## HAVE YOU HEARD THIS?

## Found on Facebook

To get ready to go to a sheep show...

### MOM

Packs her stuff

Packs the kids' stuff

Packs her husband's stuff

Makes hotel arrangements

Emails the kids' teachers

Runs to the Bank

Grabs some groceries for the stay

Finishes the laundry and packs more clothes

Gathers the kids' show clothes

Packs the snacks & the cooler

Grabs paperwork for the show

And worries if she forgot anything

### DAD

Grabs a cup of coffee

Loads the show animals and feed

Yells from the truck..."Let's go, I am ready!"

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## MISSOURI STATE FAIR – Open Class

August 2023

31 Head of Tunis shown by 4 Exhibitors

**Grand Champion Ram – Stumpe Farms**

**Reserve Champion Ram – Schmidt Brothers Farm**

**Grand Champion Ewe – Murry Farms**

**Reserve Champion Ewe – Schmidt Brothers Farm**

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## DELAWARE STATE FAIR - August 2023

20 Head of Tunis by 7 Exhibitors

### 3 Yr Rams

Victoria Fuller  
Victoria Fuller

### 3 Late Ram Lambs

Autumn Piazza  
Joshua Menard

### 6 Yr Ewes

Autumn Piazza  
Victoria Fuller

### 1 Sr Ewe Lamb

Autumn Piazza

### 6 Early Ewe Lambs

Autumn Piazza  
Autumn Piazza

### 1 Late Ewe Lamb

Josh Menard

**GRAND CHAMPION RAM – Autumn Piazza**

**RESERVE CHAMPION RAM – Victoria Fuller**

**GRAND CHAMPION EWE – Autumn Piazza**

**RESERVE CHAMPION EWE – Autumn Piazza**

**EXHIBITORS:** Deborah Fuller, Victoria Fuller, Ava Gallo, Joshua Menard, Autumn Piazza, Aria Terry, & Zoe Woodward

# FEEDING ROUND BALES???????

## MANAGE FEED COSTS BY EVALUATING HAY WASTE - PennState Extension

"Sheep and goat operations all experience some amount of hay waste during winter feeding. Now is a good time to look back and evaluate how much hay was wasted.

The largest input for any livestock enterprise is feed costs. In forage dependent operations, most of these feed costs occur during the winter when feeding hay. This is a great time to assess hay feeding areas and consider how much hay sheep or goats waste over the winter.

Is there a large amount of wasted hay lying next to the hay feeders? Did pens inside the barn require minimal bedding last year due to the amount of hay waste? A YES answer to either of these questions should inspire producers to look more closely at feed quality and feeder design. Using feeders should be an obvious means to help reduce waste. Less obvious perhaps is the concept that feeders can also help to promote animal health. This occurs by preventing fecal or soil contamination that can lead to problems such as internal parasites, coccidia, or listeriosis. Hay losses can range from 2% from 60% and results from trampling, forage quality or maturity issues, and fecal contamination. This results in sheep or goats refusing to eat what's left at the bottom of the hay pile, which is typically decomposed and contaminated. Selecting an appropriate feeder can help to manage hay waste.

Not all feeders are designed the same nor is forage quality the same and both can make major differences in the amount of hay wasted by the sheep or goats. Kishel et al 2019 studied the effect of round-bale feeder design and roughage type on feed wastage in sheep feeding. The study used four different feeders to examine changes in hay waste with varying hay quality and feeder design: a round feeder with vertical bars, a round feeder with slanted bars, a six-sided feeder with movable panels, and a feeder that held the round bale in a basket over top of a separate platform 18" off the ground.

In the feed quality part of the research, they found that poor quality forage - defined as forage harvested at a late maturity - resulted in about 1.88 kg of wasted dry matter per ewe per day, or little over 4 lbs. With better quality forage they found that just 0.48 kg of dry matter got wasted per ewe each day, or about one lb. They also noted that most of the waste occurred on the first day the round bale was placed into the feeder compared to four days after the round bale was placed into the feeder.

When comparing feeder design, data confirmed the least amount of hay wasted occurred when using a feeder that held the round bale in a basket. The platform captured hay dropped by the sheep as they ate, which allowed the sheep to consume the forage before it became trampled. Ewes fed in this basket/platform feeder design wasted 0.9 kg of dry matter per ewe each day, or about 2 lbs. Ewes fed in the six-sided feeder with movable panels wasted 1.0 kg of dry matter per ewe or about 2.2 lbs, while ewes fed in the round feeder with diagonal bars wasted 1.1 kg (2.4 lbs), and the round feeder with vertical bars wasted 1.3 kg (2.9 lbs) per ewe per day.

Using this research, producers can evaluate feeders based on the difference in feeder design. Choose feeders that either capture dropped forage or that have panels that move inward as the sheep or goats consume a bale. When assessing feeders currently in use that waste a large amount of hay, producers can consider adaptations to prevent waste. Is there a way to prevent excess forage from being pulled out onto the ground? Is there a way to add a device under the feeder to prevent forage from falling on the ground where it becomes soiled?

In addition to feeder design, producers should consider forage quality. Always assess forage visually and have forage analyzed by a certified laboratory. A forage analysis allows producers to look more closely at forage quality. However, producers can move towards better quality forage by visually selecting forages free of mature stems and molds, and that contain little weed contamination as all these factors decrease forage quality. Sheep and goats often sort through the forage, consuming higher quality leaves and wasting the stemmy portions. As forage quality declines, sheep and goats often refuse intake of the forage and the forage gets wasted.

Now is the time for producers to look back at the amount of forage wasted by their sheep or goats last winter and consider how this was impacted by feeder design and forage quality. Take steps throughout the upcoming months to adapt feeders to reduce waste. Producers should also have this year's forages analyzed to assess feed value and to help balance rations for the winter. Producers who harvest their own forages can consider methods to improve forage quality while producers who purchase forages can purchase based on forage quality as well as cost. Even a well-designed feeder can result in sheep wasting a large amount of forage if forage quality is poor."

*Louise's Notes... when my neighbor man does chores... he throws out any hay that wasn't eaten overnight regardless of quality... yes, the manure pile is high!*

## Swartz & Talley Tunis Online Bred Ewe Sale



**Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**  
**INTEGRITY LIVESTOCK SALES**

We will be offering Ewes exposed to S&T 2110 the 2021 National Champion pictured above, S&T 2227, and other top sires from our flock. We will also be offering ewe lambs. Delivery to NAILE will be available and we will work with all buyers.

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## INDIANA STATE OPEN SHOW

**29 Head of Tunis Shown by 6 Exhibitors from 2 states**

<b>3 Yr Rams</b>	<b>2 Early Spring RL</b>	<b>3 Late Spring RL</b>	<b>1 Slick Shorn RL</b>
Nathan Everhart, IN	Todd Brisco, OH	Schakel Family, IN	Linda Cook, IN
Nathan Everhart, IN	Linda Cook, IN	Linda Cook, IN	
<b>3 Early Yr Ewes</b>	<b>4 Late Yr Ewes</b>	<b>3 Slick Shorn Yr E</b>	<b>2 Fall Ewe Lambs</b>
Nathan Everhart, IN	Schakel Family, IN	Madeline Huntsman, IN	Nathan Everhart, IN
Nathan Everhart, IN	Nash Arthur, IN	Linda Cook, IN	Todd Brisco, OH
<b>4 Early Spring EL</b>	<b>3 Late Spring EL</b>	<b>1 Slick Shorn EL</b>	<b>3 FLOCKS</b>
Nathan Everhart, IN	Schakel Family, IN	Linda Cook, IN	Nathan Everhart
Linda Cook, IN	Todd Brisco. OH		Todd Brisco

**GRAND CHAMPION RAM – Nathan Everhart**

**RESERVE CHAMPION RAM - Kylie, Kassidy & Kaitlyn Schakel**

**GRAND CHAMPION EWE – Schakel Family**

**RESERVE CHAMPION EWE – Nash Arthur**

**PREMIER EXHIBITOR – Nathan Everhart**

**INDIANA PREMIER EXHIBITOR – Linda Cook**

**EXHIBITORS – Nash Arthur, Todd Brisco, Linda Cook, Nathan Everhart, Madeline Huntsman, Kylie, Kassidy and Kaitlyn Schakel.**

# THE TOWLINE HAT - TUNIS WOOL FOR BOUNCY CABLES

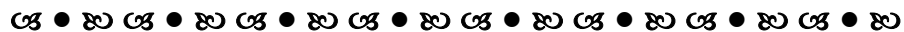
*by Kerry Bullock-Ozkan*

"Cables aren't necessarily the first thing that comes to mind when thinking of projects for woolen-spun yarns. Smooth, round worsted-spun yarns are usually recommended for making cables pop. But after sampling this Tunis lambswool from Tarheelbilly Farm (Charis Walker of Ohio), I immediately thought of knitting a hat with squishy cables similar to the Aran wool hats my mother and I once wore.

According to **The Fleece and Fiber Sourcebook**, American Tunis is a dual purpose breed with an interesting history. Tunis lambs have a reddish color to their wool when born, which fades to a creamy white over time. The fiber was soft and bouncy, with a warm cream color and medium staple length, and it fluffed up pleasantly when finished.

## SPINNING NOTES

I spun the sample from roving with minimal preparation, only shaking the fiber out a bit to loosen it up. I chose to make a woolen-spun three-ply for several reasons. I think the bounce and crimp of the fiber paired with the loft resulting from the woolen spinning helped to make up for the loss of stitch definition due to the slightly fuzzy surface of the woolen yarn. The three-ply yarn structure also gives a nice roundness and height to the cables." *Thanks KAREN PAGE*



# ASI OFFERS ONLINE WOOL MILL DIRECTORY

Looking for a small wool mill near you? The American Sheep Industry Association has recently completed an update of the Small and Midsize Mills Directory on its website.

The directory provides information for anyone looking for processing services from scouring to weaving to dyeing and even processing wool into fertilizer pellets.

Services and products included in the directory are:

*Scouring	*Carding	*Pindrafting/Gilling	*Combing	*Yarn Spinning
*Dyeing	*Knitting	*Weaving	*Felting	*Fertilizer Pelletting

"We hope that both producers and fiber enthusiasts will find the directory to be a valuable resource as they look for opportunities to sell or buy wool in the future," said ASI Wool Marketing Director Rita Samuelson. "These small and midsize mills play a vital role in the American sheep industry while working on a mostly local and regional level."

CONTACT the ASI if you're a mill owner or operator and would like to be listed in the director.



# FEEDING FOR FIBER

While genotype determines a sheep or goat's capacity for fiber production, its ability to express its genetic potential can be modified by several factors, including nutrition.

The nutritional status of the ewe during gestation can influence wool production of her offspring, by influencing follicle development in fetuses.

Pasture and/or browse should be the main source of nutrition for fiber-producing animals. When pasture is not available, hay should be the main part of the diet. Supplementing with some grain can be a good way to increase nutrient density. This practice can be especially beneficial during times of drought or poor pasture quality.

There is a direct relationship between fiber growth and feed intake. The more feed (calories) an animal consumes, the more fiber it will produce in a given period. This increased rate of fiber production is associated with an increase in both fiber length and diameter.

Poorer nutrition, on the other hand, leads to finer fiber, but at the cost of lower yield, poor health, and poor fertility. Poor nutrition, even for a short period of time, can also cause tenderness or 'breaks' in the fibers; thereby, reducing value. 'Medium' feeding is best for fiber production."

*by Susan Schoenian, University of Maryland Extension.*

## JUST A THOUGHT...

In today's world, most of us worry about young folks talking over ranches and farms, carrying on the love of agriculture that we were either born to, or always yearned to be part of. So when the majority of my buyers are young, eager, and even some of them have already contacted Louise and gotten a Tunis newsletter sent to them so that they will be ready to be responsible owners of our Redheads - it makes my heart sing!

In the past, I have had a smattering of young people come to my farm to purchase Tunis, who saved faithfully for a small farm, or joined in with other young people to have a community-type ranch, and each and every time I have been heartened that the lure of being in agriculture has taken hold of them.

But recently, these young folks have really done their homework. They question me closely about feed, breeding, lamb care, fencing---you name it. Their questions are detailed and knowledgeable, and most either take notes or record what I am telling them. Sure, we all still worry about the future of sheep, and particularly our amazing Tunis. But it seems there is a bright light at the end of this tunnel!!!

- Sam Cunningham, Moab, Utah



## ASI News Roundup... RECORD KEEPING

From **The Shepherd Magazine** - September 2023 issue

"University of Wisconsin-Madison Sheep Unit Research Program Manager Todd Taylor joined the American Sheep Industry Association Research Update podcast recently to discuss **Record Keeping** with host *Jake Thorne of Texas A & M AgriLife*.

***'If you take a little bit of time to keep a little better track of issues that are created from day to day and look back at those records, you can get rid of problems quickly and not create more,'*** said Taylor, who has worked with university flocks in Wyoming, Texas and Wisconsin.

Taylor admitted there's a bigger emphasis on record keeping on university flocks than there might be with the average commercial flock.

'Everything from vaccination protocols and programs to keeping track of any animal that was sick, specifically what we gave them, how much we gave them, keeping a better track of withdraw dates than what maybe we even do,' Taylor said. **'Some of us get a little complacent in our personal flocks. We treat an animal, we try to remember that we treated it, but maybe it doesn't always get written down or get recorded in a database or anything like that. With university systems, you're more required to do those things on a day-to-day basis.'**

Generally, Taylor keeps records in two areas – health and performance – and both are used in decision making for the flock.

'We're still doing most of our selection criteria in terms of replacement ewe lambs and buck lambs that we want to keep and grow out based on performance records for the most part and maybe some pedigree, Taylor said. 'As far as the health things, that's what we use as probably ewe culling criteria.'"



## JUST AN UPDATE...

"Forty four of the fifty states have been scrapie-free for seven years or more, according to the National Scrapie Eradication Program Progress Report released by the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary Services. Every state must be scrapie free for seven years before the United States can claim to be completely scrapie free.

In 2002-2003, one in 379 sheep sampled at slaughter was positive for the disease. But thanks to efforts of the American sheep industry and the national eradication campaign, only one in 50,000 sampled in 2021 was positive for the disease."

- *Sheep Industry Magazine*



## JUST A THOUGHT...

Kurt Vonnegut wrote: "When I was 15, I spent a month working on an archaeological dig. I was talking to one of the archaeologists one day during our lunch break and he asked those kinds of 'getting to know you questions' you ask young people. Do you play sports? What's your favorite subject? And, I told him, 'no, I don't play any sports. I do theater. I'm in choir. I play the violin and piano. I used to take art classes'.

And he went WOW. That's amazing!

And I said, ' **Oh, no, but I'm not good at ANY of them.**'

And he said something then that I will never forget and which absolutely blew my mind because no one had ever said anything like it to me before: 'I don't think being good at things is the point of doing them. I think you've got all these wonderful experiences with different skills, and that all teaches you things and makes you an interesting person, no matter how well you do them.'

And that honestly changed my life. Because I went from a failure, someone who hadn't been talented enough at anything to excel, to someone who did things because I enjoyed them. I had been raised in such an achievement-oriented environment, so inundated with the myth of Talent, that I thought it was only worth doing things if you win at it."

**Artist Quote of the Day - Facebook.**

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*WHEN LOOKING FOR ARTICLES, I use the Maryland Small Ruminant Page, The Ohio State Sheep Blog page and the American Sheep Industry Association page & several sheep magazine for starters. A couple of articles that I considered were about "Gene Editing Could Rid Sheep of Problematic Long Tails" and the full article on "Colostrum: 'Liquid Gold'."*

## MARYLAND SMALL RUMINANT PAGE..."Colostrum: 'Liquid Gold'"

### Sources of Colostrum Pluses & Minuses

Dam	Best source
Another female in flock	Best substitute
Female in another flock	Next best
Ewe from another farm	OPP?CAE risk
Cow	Lower in fat - Johnes risk
Commercial colostrum replacement	Contains IgG
Commercial colostrum supplement	No antibodies
Milk replacer	No antibodies
Homemade colostrum	No antibodies

### NOTES FROM ARTICLE

- Antibodies are the important extra ingredient in a ewe's colostrum
- By placing the ewe in the area where she will lamb the last 14 days before lambing... the ewe will grow needed antibodies for that area.
- Orphan lambs that did not get enough colostrum are more likely to develop diarrhea and pneumonia...watch for it!
- Milk out the extra colostrum from an ewe that delivered a single and freeze it!
- A first time ewe will produce less colostrum.
- Nutrition prior to lambing determines the quantity and quality of colostrum produced.
- Frozen colostrum is good for 12 months. It should be thawed slowly in a warm water bath but never refrozen.
- A 10 lb. lamb needs 10% or 1 pound of colostrum in the first 24 hours."

# WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO BUY SHEEP?"

We often get asked WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO BUY SHEEP? A lot depends on your goals and what you'll use the sheep for, but one thing is pretty much certain: Don't buy sheep from the sale barn! Below are some of the more common sales venues with some of the pros and cons listed.

## **VENUE - On the Farm**

### ***PROS –***

Often lowest cost option  
Least chance of biosecurity issues  
Least stress for animals  
Ability to inspect the whole flock & observe management  
Potentially more choices of one farm's genetics  
More flexibility on sale dates  
May allow better opportunity to develop relationship with seller, especially important looking for a mentor.

### ***CONS –***

Limited to only that farm's genetics  
Location – potentially far  
If out-of-state, veterinary transport certificate may require additional time/expenses  
Seller may require cash-only payment

## **VENUE - In-person Breed Auctions**

### ***PROS -***

Wider range of options and genetics available in one location  
Animals sell quickly by sales order  
Ability to physically examine and compare animals  
Consignors usually bring their best to sell  
Seller usually available on site to answer questions  
On-site veterinarian for transport certificates  
Most forms of payment typically accepted  
Chance to meet a lot of new breeders!!!!

### ***CONS -***

Mingling with other animals at sale increases bio security risks  
Additional stress for animal - transport to sale, and at sale  
Competitive pricing  
Consecutive bidding means you can't go back and bid on an earlier animal if you get outbid later in the sale

## **VENUE - Online Auctions**

### ***PROS***

Potentially wider range of options and genetics  
Consignors usually offer their best to sell  
Simultaneous bidding allows you to bid on other animals if outbid on first choice  
Length of sales allows time to plan bidding.

### ***CONS***

Competitive pricing  
Electronic payment usually preferred  
Unable to handle or visually inspect animal  
Seller may be difficult to reach for questions

## **VENUE - Combination Auction - LIKE the National Tunis Sale! Online Bidding with animals at one location for inspection.**

### ***PROS***

Wider range of options & genetics  
Ability to physically examine & compare animals  
Consignors usually offer their best to sell  
Simultaneous bidding allows you to bid on other animals if outbid on 1<sup>st</sup> choice  
Length of sale allow time to plan bidding  
Sellers usually available onsite to answer questions  
On-site Veterinarian available to provide transport certificates

### ***CONS***

Mingling with other animals increases bio-security risks  
Additional stress for animal – transport to sale, and at sale  
Competitive pricing  
If buyer isn't present – transportation must be arranged  
Acceptable forms of payment vary by sale

Regardless of where you choose to purchase sheep, keep in mind the basics. First, identify your goals for your flock and farm, and develop a plan to reach those goals. Set a budget (and stick to it). Identify what specific traits you want to improve and/or downplay. Do your research –talk to breeders, understand how their sheep are managed and their goals for their flock. Study individual animals offered for sale and remember – **there is no perfect animal."**

- Written by Braden Campbell – Ohio State Sheep Blog



# THE BIG E – W SPRINGFIELD, MA

September 24<sup>th</sup>

79 Head of Tunis Shown by 16 Exhibitors – 7 States

<b>Yearling Rams</b>	<b>S S Yr Rams</b>	<b>Fall Ram Lambs</b>	<b>Jan. Ram Lambs</b>
S & T Tunis, NY Aaron Loux, MA	S & T Tunis, NY	S & T Tunis, NY Aaron Loux, MA	Drew Ridgeway, MD Lea Bielewicz, NY
<b>Feb. Ram Lamb</b>	<b>March Ram L</b>	<b>Slick Shorn Ram Lamb</b>	
Colin Anderson, NY S & T Tunis, NY	Troy Staples, ME Autumn Piazza, DE	Aaron Loux, MA Kyle Harris, MA	
<b>SR CHAMPION RAM– S &amp; T Tunis</b>		<b>RES SR CHAMPION RAM– Aaron Loux</b>	
<b>JR CHAMPION RAM– Drew Ridgeway</b>		<b>RES JR CHAMPION RAM– Lea Bielewicz</b>	
<b>GRAND CHAMPION RAM – S &amp; T Tunis</b>		<b>Yearling Ram</b>	
<b>RES GRAND CHAMPION RAM– Aaron Loux</b>		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Yearling Ram</b>	
<b>Best Headed Ram – Lea Bielewicz</b>		<b>Jan. Ram Lamb</b>	
<b>Yr Ewe #1</b>	<b>Yr Ewe #2</b>	<b>Slick Shorn Yr Ewe</b>	<b>Fall Ewe Lambs</b>
Drew Ridgeway, MD Colin Anderson, NY	Amanda Willard, MA` S & T Tunis, NY	S & T Tunis, NY Aaron Loux, MA	S & T Tunis, NY Drew Ridgeway, MD
<b>Jan. Ewe Lamb</b>	<b>Feb. Ewe Lamb</b>	<b>March Ewe Lamb</b>	<b>Slick Shorn EL</b>
Aaron Loux, MA S & T Tunis, NY	Colin Anderson, NY S & T Tunis, NY	Troy Staples, ME Troy Staples, ME	S & T Tunis, NY Aaron Loux, MA
<b>SR CHAMPION EWE – Drew Ridgeway</b>		<b>RES SR CHAMPION EWE– S &amp; T Tunis</b>	
<b>JR CHAMPION EWE– Colin Anderson</b>		<b>RES JR CHAMPION EWE – S &amp; T Tunis</b>	
<b>GRAND CHAMPION EWE– Colin Anderson</b>		<b>Feb. Ewe Lamb</b>	
<b>RES GRAND CHAMPION EWE – S &amp; T Tunis</b>		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Ewe Lamb</b>	
<b>Best Headed Ewe – Aaron Loux</b>		<b>January Ewe Lamb</b>	
<b>FLOCK</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> – S &amp; T Tunis</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> – Drew Ridgeway</b>	
<b>BREEDERS FLOCK</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> – S &amp; T Tunis</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> – Aaron Loux</b>	
<b>GET OF SIRE</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> – S &amp; T Tunis</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> – Aaron Loux</b>	

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## Louise's Final Thought...

### "ODE TO THE FERAL WOMEN"

"My soul is not set fire by being the best home maker but by growing flowers and plants, shoveling dirt, snow or manure, breathing the cold fresh air, letting the sun beat on my face, and tending animals.

It is not that I can not cook and clean. It's that I desire to be elsewhere.

I've struggled with the fact that I am well me. I am a feral woman. As much as I wish I could be the sweet and clean home maker, I am not.

I finally made peace with this when I saw a quote circulating around that said, "the term domestic house wife implies there must be a feral one." It's me and other women I know. I am and we are feral women.

We may not have perfect houses but we still make them a home. We may not clean the dishes right after every meal but we can sure cook a good meal. The laundry is lagging but at the end of the day everyone has something clean to wear. We may not be domesticated but it does not make us less.

If anything our strength is found as we carry feed sacks across our shoulders, as we till up dirt to plant gardens, as we end a life to provide food for our families all while we still carry the softness of a woman.

Here is to the feral women. May we be them, may we know them, may we raise them."

Author unknown, but clearly a bloody marvelous woman.

***I am definitely not a domesticated woman... How about you?***