

the Tunis Shepherd

Official Publication of the National Tunis Sheep Registry

New feature:
Sheep & Stuff for sale

April 2000

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Message from the Editor

I bet most of you thought there wasn't going to be a Spring Newsletter. Well, I forgot to mention in the January newsletter that the April issue wouldn't go out until the first of May. As an income tax practitioner, there's no way to do anything but taxes in April! Anyway, we're back on track and ready to go.

I hope everyone's lambing season was as successful as mine! This was a great year for Breezy B with no lambs lost, or no lambing difficulties. The only unusual thing was that we had almost all singles, but most of them were ewes.

This newsletter is going to be a little sparse, because I haven't received any information. So come on all you Tunis members and especially Directors, let's get to reporting what's going on. I especially would like to get more information about the foundation breeders and lines and history. Thanks so much for those who do send me information, it is greatly appreciated!

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[A Tunis Interview with Dwight Barney...Louise Darling](#)

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maintained by [Sonshine Design](#)
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email the webmasterr at
pbrashea@icx.net

Dwight brings a lot of experience to his position as Vice President of the NTSRI - Associate Professor of Animal Science Education at UNH, past president of the New Hampshire Sheep Breeders Association, past director of New England Sheep Breeders and the national Oxford Sheep Association, plus 12 years as Town Selectman. Dwight writes "I bring to the Tunis Association, the ability to be a good listener; understand budget and budget preparations; and the ability to deal with issues. After 30+ years as an educator, (Extension Livestock Specialist) and public service, I still have a strong desire to make the 'best organization better' for future breeders."

And his ideas to make the NTSRI better? "I would like to increase the participation of all Tunis members; increase the communication between each and every person," to do this "we need the youth to become more active; they will lead this breed into the future.

New ideas, new involvement can only improve any organization." And he tells me that if this was done, we could double the size of the organization by increasing the new members. Dwight encourages even those sheep people with just a few Tunis to join because it would "increase their exposure to the Tunis and Tunis members...above all, the willingness of Tunis breeders to share their knowledge and experience with each other. Tunis people are outgoing and friendly!"

So now we know more about Dwight's work with the club, let's find out more about Dwight, the person....

The WOOLMARK FARM is located close to Durham, New Hampshire. Dwight and his wife, Sally, have 40 acres of forest and pasture with a 2□ story Colonial barn with a typical stone foundation cellar. Along with raising Tunis, Dwight restores antique tractors, specifically, International Farmalls.

The Barney family have raised a variety of different breeds of sheep since 1955 before finding the Tunis in 1959-60 by purchasing Tunis from Eloise Spraker of New York. When asked about what he would have done differently, Dwight writes, "Started sooner with Tunis sheep instead of other breeds. This is one of the few remaining breeds that is working to maintain breed character as its popularity grows." He was attracted to the Tunis' disposition, mothering ability and milking ability. Currently, Dwight and Sally have 34 brood ewes plus 8 yearling ewes. He linebreeds his ewes with emphasis on conformation, ADG and breed type. His goals include "hobby, show & production...my personal goals are to maintain a small flock of high quality, purebred ewes capable of producing breeding stock and market lambs."

Dwight and Sally have two daughters, Kristen and Lisa and three grandchildren, Christopher, Emily, and Joseph. The importance of family becomes apparent when asked about which people have been the most useful to you - "My father was most instrumental in creating my desire to work with livestock, especially sheep.

My wife and CEO has always been there for ideas, advice and above all having the flock ready for the show/sale (Sally is employed as an Associate program leader with UNH Cooperative Extension. Sheep were very good to

me as a youngster, they paid my way through college and helped my 2 daughters to become better individuals through their experiences of selecting, breeding, showing and working on a hobby farm.”

When asked about advice given to him, Dwight tells of a long time Suffolk breeder, Tubby Hardwick who had the first back to back championships on the same animal at the Chicago International Show, who told Dwight, “It's better to have a few quality ewes than a quantity of ewes-they make you more money.”

When asked for advice for new breeders, Dwight writes, “All breeds of sheep seem to have a popularity cycle of 10 years (+ or -). Tunis are currently experiencing a great deal of popularity. Tunis can remain on top in popularity if new breeders join veteran breeders in promoting the breed and supporting those working with the breed. We are all in this together.”

Well, from my viewpoint, that will be a much easier job with Dwight Barney in a leadership position! Thank you, Dwight...we need to hear more of your ideas to reach this goal!

Upcoming Events at the Empire Spring Classic May 19-20

I have received information from President, Kenneth Mayes that there will be a Board of Directors meeting and general membership meeting at the Empire Classic in Syracuse, New York again this year. The Board of Directors will meet on the 19th in the Senior Adult Room at the new York State Fairgrounds at 1:00pm. The general membership meeting will meet that evening after the show at the fairgrounds. Everyone is invited to gather together at a restaurant, which will be chosen, to fellowship after the meeting. If you have any issues you feel need to be brought up at the meeting, please contact your director before that time - their names and addresses are noted on the front page.

Schedule of Events for the 2-day event include:

Friday, May 19th at 4:00 -Show with Judge Alan “Hoop” Peterson; Open to All Breeds

Friday, May 19th at 3:00 - Youth Fitting and Showmanship Clinic

Saturday, May 20th at 9:00 - Youth Fitting and Showmanship Clinic

Saturday, May 20th at 10:00 - Sale with auctioneer Billy MacCauley

Sheep Quiz Bowl - following the Junior Show

Saturday, immediately following sale - Scotch Auction with many great items - sheep equipment, gift certificates from ag businesses, woolen items, sheep prints and other articles too numerous to list - but something for everyone. If you would like to donate items, please contact Melanie Campbell, 5257 Steel Point Road, Marion, NY 14505 (315) 926-5422.

Saturday, May 20th 6:00am Sheepman’s Breakfast - the breakfast buffet will offer homemade pastries, donuts,

coffee cake, muffins, bagels, etc. There will be coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and juice for the kids. To donate breakfast items, please contact Jean Walsh, 2464 Jordanville Road, Jordanville, NY 13361, (315) 858-6042.

All proceeds from the scotch auction and donations from the breakfast buffet, will go to support the activities of the New York State Sheep Improvement Project, as well as youth activities.

Conservation Program - Leah Sipe

The Landis Valley Museum seeks the donation of unrelated ewes and a ram to begin a conservation program featuring the Tunis breed. Our goal is to involve youth in the preservation of our agricultural heritage.

We offer excellent care for the animals and would welcome an opportunity to promote this wonderful breed. Located in Lancaster, PA, Landis Valley is a living history museum that interprets and presents traditional Pennsylvania German rural life and farm practices.

If you can help us or would like additional information, please call Leah Sipe, Farm Volunteer at 717-292-0940.

Wanted - Registered Top Quality Tunis

Must be super gentle, calm, mellow and easy to handle, be able to trust all when in the pasture with them - even the ram during breeding season. I am looking for 2 ewe lambs, totally unrelated to each other and 1 ram lamb totally unrelated to the ewe lambs. I am looking for an honest breeder in good standing with the registry. Please contact Autumn Haus Farm & Fibre, P.O. Box 717, Burley, WA 98322 or email at autumnhaus@aol.com.

A Note of Condolences

I have received a note from AnnaRae Hodgin that one of our South Carolina members, Bruce Murray's wife, Diane passed away on February 9th after a brief bout with lung cancer. Diane is survived by her husband Bruce, daughter Heather (14) and son Roy (15). The family lives in Sumter, SC where they are active in the state's sheep circles. Bruce has served as president of the state's organization, as well as on the ASI's Scrapie Committee. As you may remember in last quarter's issue - Bruce and Heather have done their part to promote the Tunis breed in their home state as well as, North Carolina, Florida and Georgia. In addition to all the sheep activities, Bruce is owner of a florist.

Tunis Breed 2nd in Increased Registrations

According to a chart published in the April issue of "The Hampshire Heartbeat" Tunis ranked second in new registrations showing a 33% increase from 1999! The top increase was experienced by the Finn Sheep at 276%.