

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.

July, 2007

ISSUE 23

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Well, the anticipation is almost over, the 2007 National Show is just around the corner. I know the folks in Ohio have been working hard to make sure that this is a pleasant experience for all. As many of you have already heard there will most likely be a change in our judge as Tom Brown has suffered some major medical challenges. We are certainly saddened by the news of his condition and can only hope and pray that he makes a speedy recovery. I spoke with the Ohio State Fair sheep superintendent yesterday and he informed me that in Tom's absence our judge will once again be Jim Brandt. Those of you that have participated in the State Fair over the past few years will of course be quite familiar with Jim as he has judged the Tunis show there at least a couple of times in the past several years. I hope to see many of you in attendance at our National Show.

This has been a busy spring and early summer with the two largest Tunis sales of the year now in the history books. Both the National Sale and the Tunis Summer Spectacular Sale were quite successful with both sales showing an increase in the number of sheep sold, while maintaining sale averages within just a few dollars of last years sales. I would like to thank all those that chipped in to make both of these sales a success. With that said, I should also remind everyone of the three remaining Tunis sales this year, the New England Sale which will take place this weekend and of course the Keystone Tunis Sale held in conjunction with the Keystone Int'l Livestock Expo, and the New York Bred Ewe and Ewe Lamb Sale which is held as part of the New York Sheep and Wool Festival. Both of these sales are held in October but start thinking about consignments now as those entries will be due shortly. The Keystone Sale will sell yearling ewes and ewe lambs, while the NYS sale will sell yearlings, lambs and of course brood ewes. Neither of these sales allow the sale of rams.

Of course our move to Associated Registries is now complete and things seem to be working out very well. We have also completed the change over to our new Web Host, Debbie Brown and she has now got an "apprentice" in Alex Rock who will be working with Debbie in case there is a need for someone to fill in or help out if our website continues to grow and Debbi needs some assistance. I would like to thank both Debbi and Alex for their service to our Registry and membership.

The board of directors had a productive meeting in Wooster in conjunction with the National Sale and the minutes of that meeting will be included in this newsletter. Please take time to read them and let your director know your feelings or concerns about any of the issues discussed. Also contained in this newsletter is a report from the National Junior Show held in Lansing, Michigan. I would like to congratulate all of the youth that participated, unfortunately I was unable to attend due to a prior commitment (wedding of a very close long-time friend) but from all reports I heard things went very well and some of the show organizers complimented our youth for their organization and promptness at the show.

Finally, I would like to say a special thank you to Barbara Cassell of Mom's Tunis and to the David Rock Family of RQL Farms for donating lambs to raise funds for our junior fund. Both lambs sold well and together raised nearly \$1500 for our youth programs. Thank you as well to all those that supported our efforts with pre-bids and especially the buyers of the two lambs the Rick Whiting Family of Ohio, and B-Bar Stock Farm of New York.

Let me close by saying that it has been great to see so many of you at the recent Tunis events that have taken place and that I hope to see many more of you at some of the upcoming events. Even if you are not showing or selling, come out and support your fellow breeders, and get involved. Remember this is your organization and we welcome your comments, suggestions and ideas. Have a great summer. **BOB**

2007 NAT'L TUNIS SHOW.... OHIO STATE FAIR

Thurs., Aug. 9th 8:00 am

Jr Tunis show!!!!

Sat., Aug. 11th 1:00 pm

National Tunis Sheep Show

OPEN ALL WEEK.....Hospitality Area! **Coffee, cold drinks & snacks!**

Thursday 11:30 am

Pizza party for Jr Show Exhibitors **By Jr OTSA**

Saturday 11-1 pm

Snacks and chats @ the pens....a good chance to

meet the Tunis exhibitors and to talk sheep. Everyone welcome!

2007 Meeting of NTSRI Board of Directors May 25, 2007: Wooster, OH

The 2007 meeting of the Board of Directors of the NTSRI was called to order at 3:05 pm by President Bob Bartholomew on May 25, 2007, at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Wooster, OH. Present were directors Bob Bartholomew, Linda cook, Jeff Norris, Nancy Schmidt, Randy Powley, Sally Barney, and Barbara Cassell. Also present were Bill Kerns with the proxy for Peter Harris and Dale Huhnke with Roy Davis/ proxy. Other interested persons present were Anna Rae Hodgkin, incoming director for Region 6, Jozi Best, alternate and Tunis Spirit editor, Louise Dunham, alternate and Newsletter editor, Debbi Brown, national website web master, and her husband, Bob, David Rock, alternate and Sandra Rock from the Show/Sale Committee.

After much discussion on the ambiguity of several issues, Sally Barney made the motion that a committee be formed to review and make recommendations for revising the Constitution and By-laws of the NTSRI, including Section 605 and 606. (As the meeting continued several other Sections of specific interest were noted.) The motion carried. Bill Kerns, Paul Cassell, and Bob Bartholomew agreed to work on this committee with further members called for in the next Newsletter.

Bob Bartholomew and Sally Barney then gave the Associated Registries update/report. The transition has been made and operations seem to be going well at this point. \$1500 was the charge for the conversion. At this point, there are approximately 150 paid members of the NTSRI for 2007. Nancy Schmidt distributed a membership list she had compiled from Judy Harris' final list and information she had gathered from Associated Registries as of mid-April.

Randy Powley moved that the minutes as printed in the January Newsletter from the Board meeting held in November, 2007 at NAILE be approved. The motion carried. Jeff Norris moved to approve the minutes as printed in the Newsletter for the December 14, 2006, phone conference meeting of the Board. Barbara read the minutes from the phone conference meeting and they were approved.

Barbara Cassell then shared a letter received from the New York State Department concerning the NTSRI's designated service of process address. Currently, Judy Harris, former Clerk, is listed as the contact person. After much discussion on the proper procedure for this serious matter, Sally Barney and Barbara Cassell were appointed as a committee to investigate the matter and make a recommendation to the Board.

Louise Dunham, Newsletter editor, and Debbi Brown, national webmaster, were approved to remain contact persons for the NTSRI with approval to mail informational materials to interested persons. The director of the region from which new inquiries are received is to be notified of each contact.

Sally Barney, treasurer, then gave her report, referencing a handout. She reported a deficit of \$1285.75, noting this amount is in line with the one-time conversion cost for Associated Registries. She submitted a budget proposal for 2008 using guideline figures from 2005 since two large sales in 2006 caused those figures to be skewed. The proposed budget would leave the NTSRI in the black by \$5043.75, "trusting that membership will remain steady at 281 members." There are presently 150 paid members. Randy Powley moved and the motion carried that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Nancy Schmidt moved that the budget proposal be accepted and the motion carried. Sally reported that the tax exempt status application has been submitted and the last report to her was that it was "in the computer" and by the end of June further information could be expected.

Louise Dunham presented the Newsletter report from a handout. She asked for directions from the Board in continuing pursuit of a non-profit mailing status for the Newsletter. Nancy Schmidt moved to accept Louise's report and instruct her to continue finalizing the application and to go to the non-profit mailing option as of January 1, 2008. The motion carried.

Debbi Brown, new national webmaster, was introduced and welcomed by Bob Bartholomew. She gave her report noting that traffic to the updated site had increased significantly. Debbi also reported that with the move to a new host for the site the cost will drop but that the domain name will still be kept through Lexicon and cost the same.

Jozi Best, editor, then gave the Tunis Spirit report; she also arranged for distribution for Spirits to the Board members and others.

Dale Huhnke presented the 2007 election results; declaring the following directions and alternates:

Region 6--Anna Rae Hodgkin, Director	Sheri Palko, Alternate
Region 7--Nancy Schmidt, Director	Louise Dunham, Alternate
Region 9--Barbara Cassell, Director	Catharine Johnson, Alternate

Jozi Best presented the Youth Committee report referencing a handout from Kelly Stumpe, Committee Chairperson. The new Youth Committee members are Kelly Stumpe, Alexandra Rock, Jeff Norris, and Jozi Best. Nancy Schmidt moved to have the committee go ahead with a youth fund auction at next year's National Sale general membership meeting. The motion carried. Randy Powley moved that the Board approve the concept of a National Futurity sponsored by the NTSRI and let the Youth Committee continue to investigate this function and report at a future dated. The motion carried. Randy moved and the motion carried to table the issue on the funding of the All American Junior Show.

Sandra Rock gave the Show/Sale Committee report referencing a handout. Sally Barney moved that the 2008 NTSRI National Sale be held in Wooster, OH, at the Great Lakes Show and Sale. The motion carried. Dale Huhnke moved that in 2008 at the National Sale 1% be taken out of the Tunis gross sales for the NTSRI. The vote was 4 yes, 4 no, 1 abstain, with the president's vote carrying the motion. Dale Huhnke moved that a contract must be negotiated with the Sale Management Co. for the 2008 National Sale. The motion carried.

Bob Bartholomew reported on the NTSRI property transfer from former clerk, Judy Harris to Associated Registries and Bob will send a copy of the inventory to the Secretary for filing.

Barbara Cassell gave the Website Guidelines report from a handout. The Board recommended two additional guidelines and the amended report was accepted. Barbara then presented the Youth Committee guidelines report, referencing a handout. After much discussion on several points, the report was accepted.

Dale Huhnke and Jozi Best were approved as a committee to look into updating the look of the ad in the BANNER and to explore other options for advertising.

After much discussion, Sally Barney moved that a member will be considered a junior member up to the age of 21. The motion carried. Bill Kerns moved to reduce the junior membership fee to \$10, effective January 1, 2008. The motion carried.

Sally Barney and Anna Rae Hodgkin will look into obtaining liability insurance for the Board and NTSRI and report either by email or at the next meeting.

Sally Barney recommended and it was confirmed by the Board that as a thank you for her work on the website Debbi and Bob Brown's banquet tickets would be paid for by the NTSRI.

Elections for the Officers of the Board were then held. The officers are:

President: Bob Bartholomew Vice President: Nancy Schmidt
Treasurer: Sally Barney Secretary: Barbara Cassell

Sally Barney asked for a schedule for all meetings to be announced as soon as possible. Bob Bartholomew tentatively set the fall meeting of the Board for October in Harrisburg at the KILE Show. It was approved for Jozi Best to do a Tunis Spirit in 2008 as before, as a self supporting project.

Dale Huhnke moved to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 pm.
Barbara Cassell, Secretary

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Thomas & Kathie Adams, 26316 State Line Rd., Springboro, PA 16435	Region 5
Derek & Nathaniel Bennett, 2390 Rix Mills Rd, New Concord, OH 43762	Region 7
Jarrett Brown, 21 Judes Way, Westport, MA 02790	Region 2
Dianne Button, 2150 W. Main St., Stanley, NY 14561	Region 3
Kayla Carlisle, 3583 Buck Fever Rd., Bridgeville, DE 19933	Region 4
Sara Carr, 15 Railroad Ave., Crown Point, NY 12928	Region 3
Cody Coutts, 26 French Dr., Chelsea, ME 04330	Region 1
Christopher Crider, 32377 E 750 N Rd., Arrowsmith, IL 61722	Region 10
Charles Currer, 14291 Odell Rd., Magnolia, TX 77354	Region 8
Kyle & Kevin Hensley, 1218 New Midway Rd., Kingston, TN 37763	Region 6
Terry & Virginia Holland, 8234 N. Watson Rd., Scales Mound, IL 61075	Region 10
Alexandra & Ian Kilmer, 2823 East River Rd., Walton, NY 13856	Region 3
Beverly McKee, 402 Keowee Trail, Seneca, SC 29672	Region 9
Alysha Michaud, 17 Duke Lane, Lyman, ME 04002	Region 10
Luke, Travis & Linda Overfield, 5200 N. Leicister Dr., Muncie, IN 47304	Region 10
Mark Owens, 3743 Oxford Rd., New Hartford, NY 13413	Region 3

July 17, 2007 NTSRI Treasurer's Report....Sally Barney

INCOME: 4/17/07-7/17/07

Advertising - Newsletter	\$ 30.00
Advertising - Web	\$ 20.00
Associated Registries Income	\$6,805.25
Brochure Sales	\$ 20.00
Interest - checking	\$.45
Interest - savings	\$ 1.26
T-Shirts	\$ 76.00
Tunis Youth Fund	\$ 750.00
Tunis Spirit	\$4,060.00
<u>TOTAL INCOME:</u>	\$11,762.96

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF 7/17/07

NTSRI Savings Account \$2,017.74
NSTRI Checking Account \$5,684.02
NTSRI Youth Fund \$1,913.96
TUNIS SPIRIT \$ 991.89

TOTAL CASH & ACCOUNTS:

EXPENSES: 4/17/07 - 7/17/07

Advertising	\$ 261.00
Tax Exempt Application Fee	\$ 750.00
Bank Fee	\$ 30.00
Domain Hosting	\$ 80.55
Dues - AR Fee	\$ 142.50
Dupl Cert AR Fee	\$ 25.65
Membership AR Fee	\$ 19.95
Newsletter	\$ 449.58
Overnight Post - AR	\$ 55.85
Registration AR Fee	\$2,151.75
Rush Fee AR	\$ 151.05
Transfer Donated Ewe	\$ 5.00
Transfer Fees - AR	\$ 815.10
Tunis Spirit Printing	\$3,541.20
Youth Scholarships	\$ 750.00
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES:</u>	\$9,229.18

\$10,607.61

2007 NTSRI National General Membership Meeting

The 2007 General Membership Meeting of the NTSRI was called to order by President, Bob Bartholomew at 7:25 pm on Saturday, May 26, at the Amish Door Restaurant in Wooster, Ohio. Bob welcomed all to the dinner meeting and introduced the Directors present, the Newsletter Editor and the Webmaster. Nancy Schmidt, Director from Ohio, welcomed all on the behalf of the of the Ohio Tunis Association.

Sally Barney, Treasurer, gave a brief report, noting a balance of \$6788.10 in all accounts. She then presented a Tunis mug to special guests: Dan Swartz of S & T Tunis for being the "oldest" Tunis breeder present (37 years), Debbi Brown for traveling the farthest, and the Brown Family for being the closest to the Wooster meeting.

Pat Myers, representative of Banner Sale Management, thanked all for a good show, reminded sellers and buyers of several rules for the Sale, and wished everyone well for the Sale on Sunday. She reminded all that the Ohio State Fair is the 2007 National Show and that entries are due June 20. Judy Moore, judge for the National Show & Sale, declared she was very impressed with the quality and depth of all classes. She wished all well for a good Sale on Sunday.

Louise Dunham, Newsletter Editor, gave a brief report reminding all that July 15 is the deadline for information for the next Newsletter. Louise also asked that any new people send their names to her to get several informational items sent to them; she also reminded all that she and Debbi Brown, Webmaster, have been approved by the Board to distribute information and literature to anyone wishing to know about Tunis. Louise also reminded that, if they wished, the Newsletter could be sent electronically; contact Louise or Debbi Brown, Webmaster.

Debbi Brown, new National Webmaster, gave a brief report commenting on the wonderful welcome she and her husband, Bob, had received. She also encouraged all to send information to her for the National Website.

Jozi Best, Editor of the *Tunis Spirit*, gave a report on the 2007 *Spirit*. She announced that the 2007 *Spirits* were available at the Show/Sale and that each member would be receiving a copy in the mail.

Sally Barney announced that there were 15 ewe lambs nominated for the Futurity in Sunday's Sale. Also announced was that three \$50 buyers credits would be given to young people buying sheep in Sunday's Sale. It was announced that the Junior membership fee would be \$10 beginning January 1, 2008 and that the new age for junior members will be up to 21 years old. The annual silent auction supporting the Ohio Tunis Association was to be held from 10 am to 12 noon Sunday.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Barbara Cassell, Secretary

REGION 7 DIRECTOR....Nancy Schmidt writes....

Things are in full-swing here in OH with the many fairs and activities for sheep. In between, we are getting ready for the National Tunis Show to be held on August 11, 2007 at 1 pm at the Ohio State Fair in Columbus, OH. Everyone is looking forward to seeing lots of great sheep, friends, and generally preparing to have a great time. Come, converse, look, and enjoy yourself.

The only sad note to this is that it does not look like Tom Brown will be our judge. For those, who do not know, he suffered a major heart attack in June and is still hospitalized. Please remember him in your prayers. Jim Brandt has been chosen to judge in his place.

In July the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association held their sheep day at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster. Many informative sessions were held throughout the day. One that particularly interested me was "Managing A Sheep Flock Utilizing the FAMACHA system." Why?

1. This is the system I use to worm my sheep
2. Any NEW information I can collect helps make decisions.
3. Parasites are resistant to the anthelmintics used on almost ALL farms. (It was stated that they feel that there is not a farm in the state of OH which doesn't have parasite resistance.)
4. Cydectin is the LAST CHOICE.
5. CHOICES made using breeding stock with a parasite resistance CAN BE DONE.

If you are interested in this subject at all I recommend reading: "Internal Parasites of sheep and their control - now and in the future. (Background information for farmers)" by Dr. Clive Patton 3rd edition published by Reward Publishing. This book is user friendly, less than 50 pages and full of information. It can be purchased online www.lifestyleblock.co.nz. Cost of book + shipping less than \$40. Well worth it.

On the light-hearted side, another book I think you should read is "Three Bags Full" a SHEEP DETECTIVE story. A flock of sheep set out to find out who murdered their shepherd. Told by the sheep. Wonderful insight by author, Leoni Swann published by Doubleday Flying Dolphin Press. (I could not put it down.)

Congratulations to Jacci Erwin for winning the Ohio FFA Association Sheep Proficiency Award for District 6, and 2nd in the state. This is a great honor and she is well-deserved. Keep it up!!!

Congratulations to Olivia and Lane Brown, Eric and Molly Kleman, Jacci Erwin for having the Champions and Reserves at the Junior All - American Show. Congratulations to Jacci Erwin for the Supreme Champion Ram at the Marion County Fair.

NEXT NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 15TH!!!!

FALL EWE LAMBS:

RQL Farms - David Rock Family, NJ	\$ 425	Alexis Mueller, Columbia, IL
RQL Farms - David Rock Family, NJ	\$ 450	Joseph & Joan Seavey, Canton, NY

2 Head Averaged \$450

LAMB DONATED FOR NTSRI YOUTH FUND:

Mom's Tunis - Barb Cassell, VA	\$ 425	Ryan Whiting, Martinsville, OH
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\$300 in pre-bids were received & a free NE Ewe Lamb Futurity Nomination was presented!

A Total of \$725 was received by the NTSRI Youth Fund!

JANUARY EWE LAMBS:

Mom's Tunis - Barb Cassell, VA	\$ 325	Eli J. Miller, Navarre, OH
Stumpe Tunis, IL	\$ 450	Scarlet & Gray Farm, Kenton, OH
Darling Tunis - J & L Dunham, OH	\$ 525	Emily Gibson, Lee, NH
Mom's Tunis - Barb Cassell, VA	\$ 500	Kaitlin Whiting, Martinsville, OH
Kleman Family Tunis, OH	\$ 350	Elizabeth Kron, Alden, NY
Brown Family Tunis, OH	\$ 350	Sonshine Acres, Meadville, PA
Kleman Family Tunis, OH	\$ 325	Elizabeth Kron, Alden, NY
Jewel Tunis - Julie Jones, NY	\$ 375	Sean Bryant, Fredericktown, OH
Square M Sheep - Elden Myers, IL	\$ 450	Kayla Barkley, Manns Choice, PA
Kleman Family Tunis, OH	\$ 350	Richard J. Briggs, Jr, Fultonville, NY
Kleman Family Tunis, OH	\$ 300	B Bar Stock Farm, East Chatham, NY
Big Time Tunis - Mike Niese, OH	\$ 350	BWB Farms Inc., Martinsville, OH
Randy Powley, TN	\$ 375	Mandy Swartz, Attica, NY
NBS Tunis - Nancy Schmidt, OH	\$ 150	Eli J. Miller, Navarre, OH
Triangle Farm Tunis - Linda Cook, IN	\$ 225	Eli J. Miller, Navarre, OH

15 Head Averaged \$360.00

JUNIOR EWE LAMBS

Campbells Tunis, NY	\$ 375	Henry Zerby, Marengo, OH
Mom's Tunis - Barb Cassell, VA	\$ 450	Mandy Swartz, Attica, NY
Stumpe Tunis, IL	\$ 275	David & Sally Rademacher Family, Lester Prairie, MN
Square M Sheep - Elden Myers, IL	\$ 400	Tammie Serafin, Albany, OR
Mom's Tunis - Barb Cassell, VA	\$ 575	Sean Bryant, Fredericktown, OH
B-Bar Stock Farm - Bartholomew, NY	\$ 275	Nicole Berry, Wooster, OH
Jewel Tunis	\$ 375	Scarlet & Gray Farm, Kenton, OH
Hotis Scotch Acres - Lyle Hotis, NY	\$ 300	BWB Farms Inc., Martinsville, OH
Brown Family Tunis, OH	\$ 425	Big Oaks Tunis, Hebron, IN
Darling Tunis - J & L Dunham, OH	\$ 400	David & Rachel Joseph, Circleville, OH
Big Time Tunis - Mike Niese, OH	\$ 325	David & Rachel Joseph, Circleville, OH
Big Time Tunis - Mike Niese, OH	\$ 200	Big Oaks Tunis, Hebron, IN
Triangle Farm Tunis - Linda Cook, IN	\$ 150	Eli J. Miller, Navarre, OH
MJM Farm - Matt Maag, OH	\$ 150	Emily & Elizabeth Stumpe, Tuscola, IL

14 Head Averaged \$333.93

LATE JUNIOR EWE LAMBS

Stumpe Tunis, IL	\$ 400	RQL Farms, Hillsborough, NJ
Bruns Tunis, OH	\$ 425	Justine Swartz, Attica, NY
Bruns Tunis, OH	\$ 425	RQL Farms, Hillsborough, NJ
Garey's Tunis, IL	\$ 250	Michael & Cathy Bush, Havana, KS
Big Time Tunis - Mike Niese, OH	\$ 300	Teresa A. Briggs, Fultonville, NY

5 Head Averaged \$360.00

73 Head Averaged \$398.29

WOOSTER HIGH LIGHTS.....

NTSRI PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!

	"Tunis & People"	
1st - Emily Gibson, Lee, NH	2nd - Julie Jones, Tivoli, NY	3rd - Louise Dunham, Zanesfield, OH
	"Only One Tunis"	
1st - Brown Family, Lodi, OH	2nd - Brown Family, Lodi, OH	3rd - Sally Barney, Lee, NH
	"Tunis Scenes"	
1st - Debbi Brown, Axtell, TX	2nd - Dale Huhnke, Muncie, IN	3rd - Jerry White, South Vienna, OH

NTSRI SALES CREDIT WINNERS!

\$50 Credit donated by NTSRI	Clara Reed of Hebron, IN	6 years old
\$50 Credit donated by Tim & Deb Barnes	Lane Brown, Lodi, OH	10 years old
\$50 Credit donated by Pat & Sam Wiford	Emily Gibson, Lee, NH	8 years old

Thanks to all kids who signed up and a big thank you for those donating the sales credits!



TUNIS NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN LIVESTOCK BREEDS CONSERVANCY'S POINT OF VIEW

Through the efforts of the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, Slow Food USA has added Tunis sheep to their Ark of Taste. Ark of Taste distinction recognizes this as a uniquely American breed, gives the breed some promotion, and opens possible culinary markets for the breed. Tunis sheep have a long history of being recognized for the wonderful qualities of the meat they produce, so it is good that this tradition will continue on. For those breeds that wish to market Tunis lamb as gourmet quality lamb, mentioning that the breed is on Slow Food USA's Ark of Taste may be useful. Seeing how we all produce more ram lambs than we need, the new markets this distinction opens should be more welcome indeed.

I'd also like to address the comment in the last newsletter that suggested opening the registry to grade-ups. I found the comment disturbing. Tunis are more than the genes that change black-faced to red (this is caused by a combinations of genes - not just one - which can be broken up for less than perfect results). Qualities like the medium fat tail add to the breed's ability to browse (not only graze) on marginal land, to excel where other sheep breeds would starve, and to raise triplets without being pulled down. The unique qualities like that friendly Tunis personality or flavor of the meat also would quickly be diluted as well.

When one considers how many good Tunis are out there, one has to wonder how such a move benefits the breed. True numbers could grow quickly, but at what cost? Dilution of the breed? Dilution of the value of the breed? If I add water to my coffee it can fill more cups, but will that coffee be as good?

It is true that breeders in the past did cross in a number of breeds to broaden the genetic breadth of this breed. The effects of that crossing and dilution have only been rectified within living memory of Tunis breeders of today. There is no need for an outcross today as the breed has a robust population. So I would caution all breeders that in growing this wonderful breed, there is no need for any outcross.

Don Schrider, Communication Director.....The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy

2007 Southeast Tunis Breeders Field Day

On May 12, 2007, over 30 people from 7 states (VA, OH, TN, NC, GA, MD, and WV) gathered on the Cassell Farm in Wytheville, VA, for good food, good fellowship, and trading of good Tunis sheep. The 2007 Southeast Tunis Breeders Field Day was by all accounts a success for all who participated.

Informative talks by Don Schrider and Paul Cassell lead the way for discussions on marketing Tunis in standard and innovative ways. Paul's and Don's presentations were supplemented with information from their audiences with excellent discussions on wool, crafts, sheep diaries, and sheep health issues.

Over a dozen head of ewe lambs, ram lambs, and yearling ewes were sold into 7 states, with 2 of the 4 breeders selling all they had to offer.

In 2008 the Southeast Tunis Breeders will again sponsor a Trade Day during the first or second weekend of May. More information will be given in the Newsletter and on the website: www.tunissheep.org, as plans are finalized closer to May. If you enjoy good fellowship and selling and buying good Tunis in a relaxed non-show atmosphere, plan to join us. We're always glad to welcome new faces to mix with old friends.

CALENDAR OF TUNIS EVENTS....

Aug. 11th	National Tunis Show @ Ohio State Fair @ Columbus
Sept. 23rd	Northeast Regional Tunis Show @ Big E Open Show, Lead Line & fleece
Oct. 3-7th	Keystone International Show & Sale @ Harrisburg, PA
Oct. 19-20th	NY Bred Ewe Sale @ Rhinebeck, NY
Nov. 3-16th	North American International Livestock Expo @ Louisville, KY
	Tunis Jr Show - Nov. 11th Tunis Open Class - Nov. 15th @ 1:00 pm

NORTHEAST ACTIVITIES - Region 1 & 2 - Peter Harris & Sally Barney

Tunis events are in high gear now here in the Northeast. Both Connecticut and New Hampshire have held their annual **4-H Sheep Clinic/Camps**. Tunis youth in Regions 1 and 2 took advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the care and management of their sheep and Tunis breeders were seen offering their help to these important programs.

The **New England Sale** results will be forwarded to Louise as soon as the sale is over and we will send pictures to Debbi for the Web. The **Northeast Youth Sheep Show** has 18 Tunis youth entered. The show will be held the weekend this report is due so we will phone in results as soon as they are known. The **Northeast Tunis Sheep Ambassador** will be chosen at the Youth Sheep Show; this Tunis youth will work on promoting Tunis sheep throughout the northeast and they will work to help Tunis youth meet and get to know each other.

The **Northeast Regional Tunis Show** is September, 23, 2007 at Eastern States Exposition. Entry information is on the web at www.thebige.com and entries are due August 15th. This show is open to the world so please think about attending this fun show. Tunis will hold a Silent Auction fund raiser at this event and all donations are welcome. Another place in New England hosting a large Tunis Show will be **Woodstock Fair**, Woodstock, CT. This show is often the largest Tunis Show in New England outside of the Northeast Tunis Show at Eastern States Exposition. Entries are due August 11th. Superintendent of entries is Joy Blackmor 860-928-0886. The show will be held on Sunday, September 2 - one day in and out! Youth are eligible for the youth show the day before. Come join us!

DOES Q STAND FOR QUALITY?

By John Bare Reprinted with permission from the *Katahdin Hairald & Dr. John Bare*

As a veterinary medical officer with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), one of the most challenging and least desirable parts of my job is removing scrapie-susceptible sheep (usually QQ sheep) from scrapie-infected flocks. Although it is incredible that we are able to remove scrapie from a flock in as little as two or three weeks while leaving the majority of the sheep (QR and RR sheep) in place, it can be an especially stressful situation for the owners.

More than once, when going over the genotype results for their flock, infected flock owners have lamented that some of their best sheep came up QQ. While good ewes are certainly present in the RR and QR genotypes owners will retain, it is easy to focus on the QQ ewes that are potentially infected. Although the genetic-based scrapie flock plans are a far better alternative to the old days (before my time) when entire flocks were removed, having to part with scrapie-infected or potentially infected susceptible sheep is a situation I would never wish on anyone.

Even though the USDA pays compensation quite well for scrapie exposed QQ sheep (far better than most QQ breeding stock sells for), to lose such a chunk of valuable genetic potential in one fell swoop is mind boggling, but what is more mind boggling are the people who are wasting the exact same genetic potential not because they have to but because they choose to.

While removing susceptible sheep from scrapie-infected flocks may not be an enjoyable part of my USDA job, as a four-plus generation sheep producer (my other job) getting out and just "talking sheep" with other producers is by far the best part. Many of my visits involve tracing scrapie-exposed sheep and generally end well, with the traced animal found not to be a scrapie-transmission risk to the producers flock. In fact, nothing warms my heart more than finding out the sheep in question is resistant to the scrapie type being traced, as it makes everything more pleasant for everyone.

Unfortunately during these visits and others, I have started to notice something that does anything but warm my heart. With the availability of private genotyping of sheep, many producers have implemented their own Q gene extermination plans. As a result, I have been seeing a number of RR sheep being retained that are not as high quality as the QQ and even QR sheep being culled. Many of these RR sheep are excellent, but more are just okay, and a few look like an orangutan swam a couple laps in their gene pool. At the same time, some producers are noticing remaining QQ and QR sheep are beginning to appear superior to RR sheep. Does Q stand for quality? What the heck is going on here?

What is "going on here" is an observable decrease in the quality of overall characteristics due to incredibly intensive selection for a single characteristic. Other species and breeds have fallen into this trap many times before. Perhaps the best example can be found in many of the dairy cattle breeds. Prior to the widespread use of artificial insemination (AI), cow improvement occurred relatively slowly, creating an animal that was more balanced regarding other important characteristics such as conformation, reproduction and longevity.

When AI became available, rather than use a wide base of balanced bulls, producers used a small handful of bulls selected almost exclusively for pounds of milk produced per cow. The result was a near disaster; as the gene pool dramatically shrank, milk production did increase, but it became contingent on *if* her legs didn't go out, *if* you could get her to bred and rebred and *if* you could keep her alive. In a couple of breeds, rare life-threatening genetic disorders even became common.

Things have changed since then and broader selection criteria are being used, but a great deal of damage has been done to the point where some crossbreeding plans are being used in many herds, and some breeds have even opened their herd books to crossbreds. The blind pursuit of one characteristic led to the near complete loss of other characteristics vital to the end goal.

It doesn't matter if your goals are selecting your sheep for milk, meat, wool, hair coat, hoof color, coat color, eye color or singing voice; over-selection for one characteristic, such as scrapie resistance, will at best delay your other goals and at worst make them unachievable.

This brings us back to the title of the article, "Does Q stand for Quality?" Thus far I have not seen any compelling research that would indicate sheep being QR or RR at codon 171 have any advantage or disadvantage regarding productivity. It appears to only be involved with scrapie resistance.

So why does it seem like many QQ and QR sheep are superior to RR sheep? It is because QQ and QR sheep are being selected by a stricter set of criteria than RR sheep. For an example, say a producer decides to make their flock resistant to scrapie, so he or she starts genotyping. The producer finds their ewe flock and lamb crop are about 25 percent RR, 50 percent QR and 25 percent QQ. Some producers at this point may sell all their QQ sheep, and a few might even sell all their QR sheep. If they sell all their QQ sheep, they would eliminate 25 percent of their genetic base, and if they sell their QR sheep, they would eliminate 75 percent.

Talk about a shrinking gene pool! Since they need to replace the culled QQ and QR sheep, nearly all RR sheep are retained regardless of quality. Naturally, they want to use an RR ram so they go to a flock that has done the same thing and pick up a ram that is also potentially of decreased quality. As a result, the average quality of the flock is significantly decreased in just one year.

Expand this trend to the entire breed and we are quickly heading down the path of dairy cattle. Now, not everyone would be so drastic, but would still move in the same direction. Many, instead, would retain most of their RR sheep, including some sheep they normally may have culled and retain QR and QQ sheep of the highest quality, culling some sheep they normally would have kept. Thus, you can see how QR and QQ sheep would start to appear as superior in such a flock (or breed) since only the very best of their kind are being retained. The Q becomes an inadvertent marker of increased quality even though it directly causes no benefit.

The key to avoiding the over-selection trap is to go slowly and select your sheep on a set of balanced criteria of which scrapie resistance is one. I AM IN NO WAY SUGGESTING PRODUCERS BREED FOR QQ SHEEP! The exact same over-selection problem will happen if one breeds for QQ, except the flock will be more susceptible to scrapie (Nor am I suggesting that producers who believe their flock may be infected with or at high risk for scrapie shouldn't move toward a QR or RR flock.)

A better strategy is to minimize the number of scrapie susceptible sheep in your flock with careful breeding to keep your QQ percentage below 25 percent. A person can think of many ways to accomplish this. Have some great QQ ewes? Don't just cull them just breed them to the best RR ram you can find. Have a lot of RR ewes? Breed them to an exceptional (and probably very affordable) QQ ram.

Both of these scenarios will result in 100 percent QR offspring so you don't have to shell out one dime in genotyping money. Using a QR ram on RR and QR ewes will produce a majority of RR and QR offspring with a smaller number of QQ sheep. This will keep your scrapie susceptibility low, but you may need to do some genotyping. When selecting from your lamb crop, select the sheep you intend to keep or sell as breeding stock, then genotype only those individuals to determine how they need to be mated to minimize scrapie susceptibility. The ungenotyped animals can be sent to slaughter (no matter what anyone tells you, not all of the sheep produced in your flock will be breeding stock quality, regardless of the genotype.)

This does carry the risk that if scrapie is traced into or out of your flock, you may have to cull your QQ sheep to be clear of infection, but it gives you years to spread their other valuable genetic material across the flock through the QR offspring that will stay. Don't forget that culling QQ and QR sheep is what a lot of people have been doing already even though they don't have to. It is a bit like peeling off your skin to eliminate the risk of skin cancer; it works, but there are some complications with the strategy.

Producers also need to keep in mind that the National Scrapie Eradication Program is now working, and each year, fewer new scrapie-infected flocks are found. About 40-percent fewer infected flocks were found in 2006 than in 2005, and this trend is expected to continue until scrapie is eradicated from the United States. This means that with each passing year, the risk of your flock contracting scrapie is less, and one day, when scrapie is eradicated, genotyping will be irrelevant. When that day comes, will we long for some of the sheep culled in the past because they were QQ?

Every year since about 8,000 B.C., when it was believed sheep were domesticated, shepherds have worked tirelessly to improve the productivity of their flocks, many times at risk of life and limb. Under conditions we can hardly imagine in modern times, they developed the art of selective breeding. We have inherited the fruits of these countless labors and now, as stewards of the flock, we also inherit the associated responsibility.

As we pursue a temporary genotype premium of a few hundred dollars per head, are we inadvertently throwing away something priceless? The science of genetic testing and selection is possibly the most powerful tool ever handed to humanity. Are we using our science as wisely as our ancestors used their art?

REGION 9 DIRECTOR, Barbara Cassell writes....

On "Does Q Stand for Quality" and Other Notions

As I read the article "Does Q Stand for Quality" in the June Sheep Industry News, I was reminded of the pendulum swings of our industry. Throughout the years I have watched trends of what is the perfect sheep wax and wane, oftentimes driven by the showing, sometimes pushed by the stock yards, and frequently ushered on by the practicalities of animal husbandry.

Any characteristics that can be quantified about a sheep, and even some that aren't quantities have been squeezed into this category, have had numerical standards set. At one time or another by-words for success in raising sheep have included multiple births, carcass quality, wool quality, out-of-season breeding, easy keepers, marketability, and now RR. And I hear the buzz even now, "Why didn't she include parasite resistance, environmental tolerance, etc., etc., etc."

All of these concepts and qualities could lead to "the perfect sheep." When used as was often done in individual exclusivity for selection, however, they can lead to problem sheep as well-think costly keepers, no fall lambing, shrinking gene pools, etc., etc., etc.

I think we all can agree that adding scrapie resistance to US sheep is important to the industry in many ways, including for export and consumer conceptions. But, as Dr. Bare points out in his article, scrapie resistance, and hopefully eventually scrapie eradication, does not have to be achieved exclusively by creating only RR flocks today. Breeders do not have to forego passing on the good genetics of a QQ sheep to speak to the individual bad trait of not being scrapie resistant. The pendulum swing management technique with its potential unintended bad consequences does not have to be embraced to achieve a needed good characteristic.

Perhaps the by-words of taking time and moderation are the ones that should become the mantras for our sheep industry today. I believe it can be argued that the best changes within our industry can be found not at the peaks of the pendulum swings, but at the limits of the middle sway where changes take more time but are also longer lasting. Let's strive for that "perfect sheep", but let's also harness our eagerness to achieve this so that good intentions do not result in bad consequences.

EDITOR'S NOTE.. by Louise.

Barb always brings us things to think about and she has done that again in this issue. Previously, I had read the quoted article but her commentary brings it all into light. I think the Tunis breed (like many other breeds of sheep) has always been at the mercy of that swinging pendulum and concentration on one trait and not always to the benefit of the overall breed of sheep. When I started with the Tunis 12 + years ago....the dark red head and long pendulous ears were the main criteria for purchasing sheep and not much else was discussed. After a while, the key words changed....length of loin, level hind saddle, more height, etc. The focus continually changes.

Luckily for us Tunis breeders, we have a great instrument in our breed standard that spells out some clear cut disqualifications of animals but also spells out some room for "pendulum swings" such as "tan to red face" or "pink nose and tongue but spots or dark pigment acceptable but not ideal", etc. The longer version of the breed standard even gives us height & weight variations that can be used for discussion about the size of the Tunis. (The top 5 animals in every class will be weighed at the National show in Columbus and the weights will be published with the results. It is interesting information to use when the discussion centers around the how big the Tunis are getting. The Standard says rams weigh between 175 and 225 pounds and ewes weigh between 125 and 175 pounds....watch for the show results and maybe you'll realize this, too, just might be a pendulum swing!)

Thank you again, Barb...I think your ideas can be applied to a wide range of Tunis breed characteristics...wonder what Barb will bring to us in the next issue?

2007 NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM:

NAME _____

INDIVIDUAL _____

FARM NAME _____

FARM _____

ST. ADDRESS _____

FAMILY _____

CITY, STATE, & ZIP _____

BUSINESS _____

PHONE # _____

YOUTH _____

E-MAIL _____

Dues

\$20.00

Members' Registrations & transfers

\$ 5.00 per head

Non Members' Registrations & transfers

\$10.00 per head

Amount Enclosed _____

PLEASE MAIL DUES & REGISTRATIONS to:

NTSRI, 15603 173rd Ave., Milo, IA 50166

BEGINNER'S COLUMN #3 By Dr. David Rock

PARASITOLOGY 101

When asked to identify the greatest health concern for their flock, the sheep producer usually lists internal parasites at or near the top of the list. For many reasons, sheep continue to be least capable of the farm animals to fight off infections caused by worms. Depending upon the worm burden of your flock, sheep can release large numbers of worm larvae into their environment. Sheep then graze close to the surface of the pasture and can take in large numbers of worm larvae that will cause an infection. Sheep are slow to develop the natural means to fight off worm infections (called immunity), taking lambs 10 to 12 months to develop natural immunity to parasites. To make matters worse, ewes lose that natural immunity at the time of lambing and do not regain immunity for approximately 4 weeks. During this time, ewes can infect your pastures with large numbers of parasite eggs that wait for the next unsuspecting victim to ingest larvae from these eggs with their next meal. It would seem that the deck is stacked against you in this high stakes game. Although the threat may be different in various geographical regions and in different production systems where we raise sheep, it takes resources to control parasites and minimize the production losses associated with heavy infections. It also takes a plan.

THE PROBLEM: A number of different parasite species infect sheep. Depending on your area, one species may be more important than the other. In general, the 3 most important species of roundworms that infect sheep are *Haemonchus contortus*, *Teladorsagia circumcincta* and *Trichostrongylus axei*. Now, *Teladorsagia* was originally called *Ostertagia* so that we knew this group of parasites as the HOT group. I guess it was too easy to remember so the experts had to change it. Anyway, if you are going to reduce the parasite burden in your flock, you have to in some way disrupt the life cycle of the parasites. Considering *Haemonchus contortus* as an example, that life cycle includes the eggs that are produced by adults in the animal, eggs passed onto the pasture in the manure, hatching of the eggs and several larval stages on pasture, ingestion of infective larvae and development of larvae into adults in the animal. The entire process can take from 10-14 days. An adult female can lay up to 5000 eggs per day, an indication of how your parasite problem can get out of hand very rapidly. Some symptoms of parasite infection include diarrhea, weakness, weight loss or reduced weight gain, unthriftiness, loss of appetite, poor reproduction and in very severe cases even death. As some parasites have a high capacity to suck blood from the sheep, animals can become anemic and the mucous membranes become pale. A condition called "bottle jaw" may occur. This condition is a result of edema and accumulation of fluids in the lower jaw.

Depending upon your region there are a number of other internal parasites that can cause a problem. Tapeworms can be a problem if the infection is severe. Because you can see tapeworm segments in the manure, many producers become very concerned with this parasite. However, there is disagreement over the amount of damage this parasite can cause to your sheep. They don't suck blood and do not cause the problems associated with a roundworm infection. However, the intestines can carry a large number of tapeworms that can block the intestine causing a decrease in feeding and reduced performance. Liver flukes can be a problem in California, the Gulf States and the Pacific Northwest. These parasites infiltrate the liver causing damage and reduced performance. Severe infections will cause death. The meningeal worm is a parasite of white-tailed deer. Sheep can become infected where the parasite moves in the brain and/or the spinal cord causing neurological disease and ultimately death. Because sheep pick up the parasite by consuming snails and slugs that contain a stage of the parasite, keeping sheep away from areas where these organisms inhabit is recommended.

SOLUTIONS: Lambs and lactating ewes are the most susceptible to parasite infection so any parasite management program should target these groups. Although it is unrealistic to expect that your flock can be made parasite free, a good parasite management plan along with the wise use of chemical control treatments can result in a flock with high performance and reduced healthy problems associated with internal parasites. Some easy steps that you can take to reduce parasite burdens in your flock and disrupt the life cycle of the parasites include not feeding on the ground, making sure your grain, hay and mineral feeders do not retain manure, by providing a clean water supply that is free of manure and by not overstocking pens and pastures. Pasture management is critical in your overall plan. Rotating the flock so that sheep are not eating close to the ground, using clean pastures that are not infected with parasite larvae (i.e. pastures that have not been grazed in 6-12 months, pastures grazed by cattle or horses, new pasture on land previously used for crops), resting pastures, multi species grazing and use of pasture grasses that have anthelmintic properties are pasture management techniques that can break the parasite life cycle to reduce parasite burdens. Also, animals on a high plane of nutrition have been shown to be less susceptible to parasite infection. Supplemental feed on pasture can reduce the parasite pressure.

The use of anthelmintics is still an important component of parasite control when used in conjunction with pasture management and other parasite management programs. Anthelmintics kill adult parasites (to limit egg production) or various larval stages of parasites (to limit exposure of sheep to infection). The main classes of anthelmintics that are used for sheep include benzimidazoles (albendazole, fenbendazole, mebendazole, oxfendazole, oximendazole), imidothiazoles (levamisole) and macrocyclic lactones (ivermectin, moxidectin). The most important thing to consider when using anthelmintics is the weight of the animals in the group you are treating. Underdosing results in decreased effectiveness of the drugs and can lead to the development of resistance. Fasting animals for 24 hours prior to treatment may improve the effectiveness of anthelmintics, especially benzimidazoles as they are absorbed more slowly in the digestive tract. You should consult with your veterinarian for the proper product and dosage for the parasite problems that are prevalent in your area. Concentrate on the most susceptible animals in your flock. As discussed previously, these are ewes at lambing (treat 14 days prior to lambing and after lambing if needed) and lambs.

CAUTIONS: A growing problem for sheep producers is the development of resistance to certain anthelmintic chemicals. In the US, this is a growing problem. Internationally, there are areas in which there are no effective anthelmintics. Consequently, this is something sheep producers should take very seriously. As resistance has started to develop, our recommendations for deworming sheep have changed. No longer should we schedule deworming by the calendar. Resistance has developed as a result of overuse and improper dosing. The result is that fewer parasites are killed with each treatment, these parasites begin to reproduce and the number of resistant parasites continues to increase. Finally, only resistant parasites will populate your pasture and the anthelmintic is no longer useful. Current thinking is to only treat sheep when they need it. This decreases the amount of anthelmintic that the parasite population is exposed to and can extend the useful life of available products. A term that you may hear is "Refugia". This refers to the parasites on pasture that have not been exposed to a chemical treatment. This is either by reduced use of anthelmintics or by treating only specific individuals in your flock. Parasites that have not been exposed to constant treatment with anthelmintics will not develop resistance and will pass these genes onto the next generation of parasites, thus helping to maintain a parasite population that is susceptible to anthelmintic treatment. The bottomline is that a few parasites in the flock is not a bad thing.

SUMMARY:

- To control parasites, you have to have a plan that does not rely only on one management factor.
- Pasture management plays a key role in limiting parasite burdens.
- Anthelmintics can also play a key role in your parasite control plan.
- When using anthelmintics, be sure not to under dose. Rotating between classes annually should be considered to reduce the incidence of resistance.
- Limit the use of anthelmintics only to those animals that need treatment. Remember, a few parasites in the flock is not a bad thing.

THANKS, DAVID!

Wonder who will be our next guest author?

KILE SALE:

Sandra Rock

The second KILE Tunis sale will be held in conjunction with the KILE show the first weekend in October in Harrisburg, PA. Tunis will show next to last on Friday, October 5. The sale begins at 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 6, and Tunis sell last. The youth show will be held on Sunday, October 7. It begins at 8:30 a.m. and Tunis are showing third in the order. Sale entries must be postmarked by 8/31/07 and should be sent directly to Sandra Rock. Checks for sale entry fees should be made payable to New Jersey Tunis Breeders. Sale entries should not be sent along with KILE show entries. Sale classes are listed in the KILE premium book. If you have any questions about either the sale entries or your regular KILE show entries, please call David or Sandra Rock at 908-369-6413 or email at rqlfarms1@patmedia.net. We also have extra entry forms which we will bring to New England, Ohio and Indiana. Hope to see you in Harrisburg.

Debbi Brown, NTSRI Webmaster writes....

"The NTSRI website had 2,848 visitors the month of June! That means about 95 people are checking out our information every day. We have been getting requests for good quality Tunis photos for use in exhibits and publications. They are also nice to have so we can rotate photos on the website. If you have any to share please either email them to the webmaster at texastunis@yahoo.com or mail them to Debbi Brown, 13232 E Hwy 84, Axtell, TX 76624 to be scanned and added to the collection!"

"The Breeders' Directory has been viewed more than **1248** times since I added a counter in June! **So if you want your name added to the NTSRI Breeders' Directory, send that information to me now and I'll add you to the list! Debbi Brown**

VISIT....www.tunissheep.org...and you'll find...

Pictures of all animals sold at the National Sale!

Summer Spectacular pictures & results!

Breeders' Directory

Order forms for the NTSRI t-shirts & sweatshirts!

Pictures & results of all events added on a weekly basis!

Jr All American results & pictures!

Sale ads....\$10 for 3 months!

Upcoming Tunis event information!

Registration & membership blanks!

SHOW & SALE REPORT

7-15-07

Summer is in full swing now and we can step back and reflect on the early sales in Wooster and Springfield. Both sales were highly successful and continued to generate interest in the Tunis breed. Many new buyers joined the ranks of the truly blessed by purchasing their first redhead and as we all know, once you find perfection, you have to come back for more.

Wooster generally maintained its average from last year with more animals sold. As you can see from the following comparison some classes were up while others were down, but the total sale average was within about \$6.00. From conversations with consignors, it seems that the sales this year were more consistent across the board rather than very high sales and much lower sales.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Total Number of Animals	73	66
Total Sale Average	\$398.29	\$403.91
Yearling rams	\$469.44	\$546.88
Fall ram lambs	\$300.00	\$450.00
Spring ram lambs	\$333.33	\$311.11
Yearling ewes	\$506.25	\$460.29
Fall ewe lambs	\$450.00	\$558.33
January ewe lambs	\$360.00	\$342.31
Early junior ewe lambs	\$333.93	\$318.75
Late junior ewe lambs	\$360.00	Not classed

The Tunis Summer Spectacular also generally maintained its average with a second successful sale. As you can see from this comparison all classes were up with the exception of the spring ewe lambs. There were quite a few more spring ewe lambs this year than the last but the sale of some ewe lambs outside the sale from a trailer on the fairgrounds may have greatly impacted the sale average. This issue is being addressed by sale management including the investigating it's legality since this practice is illegal in some states.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Total Number of Animals	39	31
Total Sale Average	\$305.51	\$336.20
Yearling rams	\$350.00	\$308.30
Spring ram lambs	\$271.00	\$255.00
Yearling ewes	\$450.00	\$411.11
Fall ewe lambs	\$466.00	\$450.00
Early spring ewe lambs	\$235.00	\$337.50
Late spring ewe lambs	\$242.00	\$350.00

Several other suggestions were brought to the attention of directors and show and sale committee during the course of these sales. The suggestion was made to limit the number of rams sold at the national sale. The theory behind a limitation is that it should increase the price for the rams sold. Before discussing how this limitation might be accomplished, we are asking that members contact their director and express their opinion as to whether this limitation should be considered. This issue of limitation will be discussed at the board of directors meeting in October at KILE and your director should know how you feel on this matter. If the determination is made that members want to limit the rams sold, a discussion of how to best accomplish that would necessarily follow and proposals would be outlined in a future newsletter. As a reminder, the current status of sales is as follows:

- National Sale - currently - Wooster, Ohio - no limitation on number of rams sold
- Tunis Summer Spectacular - Springfield, Illinois - limited to one ram per consignor
- New England Sale - Springfield, Massachusetts - no limitation on number of rams sold
- KILE Sale - Harrisburg, Pennsylvania - no rams sold, only ewes sold
- New York Bred Ewe Sale - Rhinebeck, New York - no rams sold, only ewes sold

Please contact your director before the board meeting in October to voice your opinion. Should consignors be limited in the number of rams they can bring to the National Sale? Your opinion counts!!

The second suggestion dealt with continued discussion over adherence to breed standard and the severity of faults (no disqualifications). This is not a new discussion and continues to be brought up at various shows and sales. This show and sale committee will be actively working on a proposed solution to this problem to be presented and discussed at the board meeting in October.

From the show circuit, the first Tunis show at the Indiana State Fair looks to be shaping up nicely. Breed manager, Dale Huhnke, has worked incredibly hard to make this first show very special. Exhibitors should be in for a great show and fun experience in Indianapolis. If you haven't entered sheep and can make it to Indiana, try to come by and join the fun and show support for this first showing of our breed.

As a reminder, the New England Sale is Saturday July 21 at the Big E in Springfield, MA. Youth who buy can show these animals at the Northeast Youth Show the following day. Come out and check out the Tunis consignment and the best used equipment auction around.

Hope to see you all out and about with your redheads. Enjoy your shows or just enjoy the beauty of those redheads.

Show and Sale Committee:

Dan, Doc and Sandra

A TUNIS INTERVIEWCONGRATULATIONS TO RQL FARMS.....

Owner and Breeder of the Tunis Summer Spectacular Champion Ewe!

David and Sandra Rock live in Hillsborough, NJ and show under RQL Farms. Their daughter, Alexandra, who has just finished a MS in Agricultural Economics International Program from the University of Arkansas and the University Ghent, Belgium, shows under Rocksway Tunis. Their son, Todd, is a student at the University of Alaska at Anchorage.

David writes...."RQL Farms is located in the Sourland Mountain region of central New Jersey about halfway between New York City and Philadelphia. We maintain the flock on 2 small farms, 1 is 6 acres, the other 10. Both farms have barns that were built for horses and have individual box stalls. Both have been adapted for sheep. We lamb in the larger of the 2 that is ¼ mile down from the house. We made a loafing area from 3 original large box stalls. In order to cut down on the cold winter night barn checks, we have begun to use a closed circuit barn cam and Christmas lights (Thanks Jim Dunham) to watch for lambs. This has probably been our best idea while raising sheep. Although we sometimes think of this as more than a full time job, this gone wild 4-H project is still a hobby.

We currently raise Bluefaced Leicester sheep (2 white yearling ewes and 1 black, 2 ewe lambs, 1 yearling ram and 1 ram lamb) for fiber production. We previously boarded some Suffolk ewes for a 4-Her that made us appreciate the Tunis more and more. Currently, due to some experimentation, we are heavy on ewes and expect to lamb out 40 in the fall or spring. We have 14 ewe lambs that we are 'watching' to determine how they develop before making a decision on where they will go. We have 3 rams and 6 ram lambs. The breeding rams are Howe, Kleman (Danny Bow) and an RQL Farms ram that is from Fingerlakes breeding.

We were first introduced to Tunis by Alex's riding instructor and were immediately attracted to the breed because of the color that made them unique. We also knew that we would never be able to compete with the large breeders in the Dourest, Suffolk and Southdown breeds. In 1995 we started out with 2 yearlings and 2 ewe lambs for the kid's 4-H project and it just grew from there.

Our goals? David always was attracted to the showing aspect of livestock and had thought that he would get involved with showing cattle. However, that it is a little difficult to do in New Jersey with our limitations on space. Consequently we are in sheep. The size of the operation makes this a hobby. We say it keeps us off the streets. We work hard on the show aspect and hope that we have something to offer other breeders. We have certain lines that produce magnificent fleeces and Sandra has gotten very involved, and very accomplished, with spinning. We will continue to develop this area as well."

When asked about the people who have been the most help or things they would have done differently, the Rocks write...."Joe Seavey, Royal Unzicker, Bob Bartholomew, and Gregory and Doreen John have been the most help with advice or sheep to us. Make the decision earlier on what was our main objective in producing sheep and commit to that decision. What we mean is to make the decision whether you are commercial or going for show animals. You manage your flock differently with different objectives. Unfortunately, if you do not commit, you do a lot of work with little progress towards success."

What one piece of advice would you give to someone just starting out with Tunis? RQL Farms says..."Get a lot of advice from a lot of people. No one individual has the corner on good ideas. Also, have a vision for what you want to do and develop a plan to achieve that goal. And above all, enjoy the sheep. They have a lot to offer."

Finally, David and Sandra write...."Living in close proximity to major metropolitan areas on the east coast, we have always tried to consider ourselves as ambassadors for agriculture. It is amazing how little most people really know about agriculture. We would emphasize that to our 4-H members. You never know when you will make a convert to agriculture. That is just so much easier with Tunis sheep. Whether it is at a fair competition, at an agriculture display or as part of a church pageant, everyone loves the Tunis and wants to learn more about the red heads. What a great place to start conversation."
Thanks...David and Sandra
And CONGRATULATIONS on a great win!

2007 TUNIS SUMMER SPECTACULAR REPORT

Summer is here and that means it was time for the second annual Tunis Summer Spectacular which was held on June 22-23 at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield, Ill. With rains falling (I hope some of you Ohio consignors took back some rain with you) and the Tunis were the last sale of the day, it didn't dampen any spirits as the sale average remained at that 2006 level. There were 30 ewes and 11 rams that were entered in the show and sale.

We made some changes to the show and sale order this year in which we had the ewes show and sell first. This brought up our ram average compared to 2006. Preliminary sale results show that rams sold an average of \$310(2006 was at \$255) and ewes sold at an average of \$348 (2006 was at \$350).

The champion ewe was the yearling and owned by RQL Farms of Hillsborough, NJ. The reserve champion ewe came from the early spring lamb class and was owned by Kleman Family Tunis of Ottawa, Ohio. The yearling ram was selected champion and he was owned by Darling Tunis of Zanesfield, Ohio. The reserve ram was the spring ram lamb and was owned by Stumpe Tunis of Tuscola, Ill. Judge of the show was Dan Spilde of Wisconsin.

The RFD radio network of Illinois provided the consignor gifts. Each consignor received two blankets. The purchasers of the champion ewe and ram also received a blanket. We also gave away \$400 in sale credits. We would like to thank NTSRI, Indiana Tunis Association, Tabor Feed Mill of Waynesville, IL and several friends for donating sale credits. Schambow Tunis of Wisconsin provided coffee, milk and donuts to everyone on the morning of the sale day.

NATIONAL JR TUNIS SHOW

Sat, July 7, 2007

Lansing, MI Billy Wade, Judge

1 SR RAM LAMB

Taylor Harrison, NY

6 JANUARY RL

Molly Kleman, OH
Olivia Brown, OH
Sean Harper, MA
Sean Bryant, OH
Jacci Erwin, OH
Mandy Swartz, NY

4 FEBRUARY RL

Eric Kleman, OH
Kayla Barkley, PA
Sean Harper, MA
Kayla Barkley, PA

1 MARCH RAM LAMB

Lane Brown, OH

CHAMPION RAM

Eric Kleman, OH
RES. CHAMP. RAM
Lane Brown, OH

15 YR EWES

Jacci Erwin, OH
Sean Bryant, OH
Eric Kleman, OH
Sean Harper, MA
Kayla Barkley, PA

3 PAIRS YR EWES

Jacci Erwin, OH
Sean Harper, MA
Kayla Barkley, PA

2 SR EWE LAMBS

Taylor Harrison, NY
Eric Kleman, OH

7 JANUARY EWE L

Olivia Brown, OH
Kayla Barkley, PA
Eric Kleman, OH
Kaitlin Whiting, OH
Taylor Harrison, NY
Mandy Swartz, NY
Sean Bryant, OH

Jacci Erwin, OH

Olivia Brown, OH
Taylor Harrison, NY
Sean Harper, MA
Kayla Barkley, PA
Kalie Harrison, NY
Kayla Carlise, DE
Matthew Overfield, IN
Luke Overfield, IN
Zachary Overfield, IN

9 FEBRUARY EL

Lane Brown, OH
Jacci Erwin, OH
Kalie Harrison, NY
Kayla Barkley, PA
Delaney Toth, OH
Mandy Swartz, NY
Ryan Whiting, OH
Luke Overfield, IN
Kayla Carlise, DE

2 MARCH EWE LAMBS

Kalie Harrison, NY
Lane Brown, OH

CHAMPION EWE - Olivia Brown, OH

RES. CHAMP EWE - Jacci Erwin, OH

5 PAIRS EWE LAMBS

Olivia Brown, OH
Kayla Barkley, OH
Eric Kleman, OH
Kalie Harrison, NY
Taylor Harrison, NY

3 YOUNG FLOCK

Olivia Brown, OH
Eric Kleman, OH
Kayla Barkley, OH

2 BEST FOUR HEAD OF EWES

Kayla Barkley, PA
Lane Brown, OH

3 MARKET LAMBS

Zachary Overfield, IN
Luke Overfield, IN
Taylor Harrison, NY

2 RAM FLEECES

Kalie Harrison, NY
Matthew Overfield, IN

3 EWE FLEECES

Zachary Overfield, IN
Luke Overfield, IN
Kalie Harrison, NY

TOP GUN - Kayla Barkley

2nd Place - Olivia Brown

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE WINNERS!

2nd Place Showmanship - Lane Brown & Molly Kleman

3rd Place Showmanship - Eric Kleman

2nd Place Skill-A-Thon - Eric Kleman and Jacci Erwin

3rd Place Skill-A-Thon - Delaney Toth

Congratulations to all who participated in the Judging Contests, Poster Contest, Photo Contest, Essay Contest and the t-shirt design contest!

ATTENTION JUNIOR TUNIS EXHIBITORS:

We need you and your Tunis at the NAILE Jr Show. Several past exhibitors will be in college or playing sports so they won't be attending. We need more numbers to keep us off probation. Many juniors believe they are not experienced enough to exhibit at NAILE. All youth are welcome and we have an experienced group of exhibitors to help with advice on showing your sheep. If you never showed in Louisville you will find it to be a great family experience. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. Tunis have their own showmanship classes and great awards. If you need help getting your sheep to the show or have questions call me at 419-235-3096. Entry deadline is Oct. 1st, 2007. You can make online entries at www.livestockexpo.org. Get out there and promote your breed!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Dan Kleman

NAILE TUNIS JR SHOW
NAILE TUNIS OPEN CLASS SHOW

Sunday, Nov 11th
Thursday, Nov 15th 1:00 pm

BITS & PIECES OF INFORMATION FROM NTSRI MEMBERS.....Breeding season??

Ross Conroy of Berwick, ME writes....."We currently have 13 Tunis and we normally lamb in March and love it! WE have never tried fall lambing, or using chemicals to bring ewes into heat. We do deworm the ewes and feed some additional grain just before we start breeding season. We don't breed the registered Tunis years until they are yearlings but others are bred at 9-10 months of age. I will use a ram lamb for breeding after he is 9 months of age. I leave the ram in with the ewes until lambing time." And he doesn't believe the old wives tale that ewes won't breed on their first heat cycle, either! Thanks, Ross!

Maxine Howell of Zuni, VA writes..."I keep 15-20 Tunis on pastures of mixed grass/clover/plaintain/chicory and broad leaf weeds and each year concentrate on getting rid of sand burrs. The soil is sandy; humidity high. I do not breed all ewes every year because there is no outside help available at lambing time. With low stocking rate and good grass and hay, I do not need to flush ewes. Blue Seal sheep minerals are provided but often dumped out on pasture after they get 'mushy' from fog/dew.

The best piece of lambing equipment is the Barn Camera. I will monitor progress until ewe is 'bulging'. If they lamb on pasture, they will follow the corn bucket to barn and safety for lamb and mom for a few days. Rams are with selected ewes the middle of November until all are marked. Brisket paint marks well. I keep names of marked ewes on daily calendar. Young rams 'court' for approximately three days and move on to the next ewe. Tunis rams do not seem to notice weather changes, but ewes do - so I plan breeding time when weather is stable.

Advice for beginner shepherds? Watch for increased water consumption after two months gestation. Keep plenty of water, sheep minerals, grass and hay, fresh air out on pasture and minimal stress. Observe and walk among them daily. Keep good records. Enjoy your Tunis!"

Mimi Asbornsen of Stuyvesant, NY writes...."I don't have any sheep now...but I would still like to answer your questions.....I never lambed before April 7th because I liked to plant peas the first week of April. I never tried Artificial Insemination but if it was easy in sheep as in cows, I certainly would have tried it! When I flushed my ewes, I increased the grain to ½ pound and only wormed the ewes after lambing in May. The rams stayed in with the ewes for 6-10 weeks and I removed the rams after they became aggressive. I never bred lambs; I don't think it is wise for their growth (don't believe in adolescent pregnancy either!)." Way to go, Mimi!

Richard Schambow, Sr. of Montfort, WI writes...."I currently have 26 Tunis ewes and 9 Suffolk ewes. I like to lamb most of them in January and February and not very many in March. I worm twice a year - in the spring before pasture and again before breeding season. I also give shots so ewes don't abort their lambs. About July 15th, I put a protein lick tub in with the ewes and I feed loose sheep mineral on top of it. I also feed about 1# of shelled corn per day to flush...they cycle much better. I don't use a ram lamb unless I have to and I would limit him to 10-12 ewes. The rams go in about Aug. 10 and come out the 1st of November. My best advice is to not feed grain all through the gestation period as the ewe can get too fat and would have weak lambs. If you can't afford the protein, always feed the mineral."

Dan Kleman of Ottawa, OH writes...."Last year we lambed out 23 head of Tunis. We don't have room for a second breed. One year, Mike Niese & I tried using seedars(sponges) on a split set of ewes. Mike's ewes had lambed in Jan. and ours had lambed in mid February. Mike had much better luck because his ewes were dried up longer. I have not heard of AI or embryo transplant being very successful in sheep. When it is more reliable, I would like to try it. We flush with a 14% grind and mix for 2 weeks prior to the ram going in and 2 weeks after. I really don't think it does much good. We have found out that if we are patient and wait to put the ram in for Feb. and after lambs, we have a much higher rate of twins than do those that lamb in Jan. with a flush. We do use a marking harness on older rams...we have quit using a harness on ram lambs because they are so inexperienced that they mark every ewe whether they are cycling or not.

We are convinced that apple cider vinegar does increase our percentage of ewe lambs born. We use 3 locations to breed ewes. Two locations have water tanks that we pour apple cider into. The other pasture has 2 ponds and the ewes don't get the apple cider. We have far more ewe lambs from the ewes that drink from the tanks with apple cider vinegar. Semen testing is a great insurance policy. We would like to start testing our sale rams also prior to sales. You need to have a vet who is experienced in semen testing. If the vet uses a cold screen to test semen, it will cause a very high readying of split tails. Make sure your vet warms the screen prior to the semen test. We use a 8 month old ram every year and we limit him to 8 ewes. He is brought in every day for extra feed to keep him in condition. It is more management but this way we know if he is going to be a keeper by the time he is a yearling. We have proven the old wives' tale of ewes not breeding on the first cycle wrong over and over again." When asked for advice, Dan writes..."I really don't feel qualified to give advice on breeding because we are still trying to figure out how to get all of our ewes to lamb from Jan. 1st through the 15th with all twins. We have tried many different ideas and are not any closer then when we started. Nature just takes its course."

Jeff Norris of Hopewell, PA, Region 5 Director, writes...."I currently lamb January thru April but fall or late spring would be my choice as I hate to deal with ½ frozen, ½ dead lambs. I have thought about fall lambing or using chemical means to induce a heat cycle but have never thought about a embryo transplant as you shouldn't fool with mother nature! Before I introduce the ram, I do increase the protein intake gradually so they are at the highest amount at 17-20 days and then I slowly decrease it. I use either better pasture, grain or a protein block to do this & sometimes all 3!

I do all the worming, feet trimming, and CD & T shots when we get the sheep sheared and not necessarily at breeding time. I do use a marking harness on the ram as it gives me an idea when they will lamb and how many times they cycle. If a ewe cycles more than two times, I start looking at the ram. I will use a ram lamb that is at least 8-9 months of age and the rams stays in the breeding pen for three or four months."

When asked about the wives tale that ewes won't breed the first cycle...Jeff tells of his own superstitions, etc...."My grandma was PA Dutch and she wouldn't do anything like plants root crops in the up sign if the sign wasn't right. But my grandpa wasn't Dutch and he did things when he had time. I don't know who was right but I learned most things from my pap...get-er-done!

My best advice is to the buy the best animal you can afford and work off of them. Don't buy a cheap animal just because it is the breed you have. Make sure the animal will improve your flock...if not, pass it up!"

Thanks, Jeff and everyone else!

WHAT QUESTION DO YOU WANT ASKED NEXT?

Send suggestions to Louise by September 1st!

FOR SALE: We still have a good selection of 2007 spring born ram and ewe lambs available at the farm. We also have a few select yearling ewes available. Contact us for more information: Mom's Tunis, Barbara Cassell, 2317 Peppers Ferry Road, Wytheville, VA 24382: phone 276-228-2862 email barbaracassell@hotmail.com. Visit our website: www.tunissheep.com. Come see us. We always like "talking sheep".

INDIANA STATE FAIR TUNIS SHOW.....The goal has been met with getting 5 different Tunis breeders and 25 head of Tunis for our first open show at the Indiana State Fair. According to the sheep department director, Don Whicker, we have made the goal and then some. We have over 5 Tunis breeders and over 50 head of Tunis to show in the open show. For the 4-H show, the Indiana State Fair currently has 10 market lambs and 10 breed show entries. For the Tunis open wool show, those statistics were not available at deadline time.

There has also been a change to the start time of the Tunis open show. The Open Tunis show will begin after the open Shropshire and Southdown shows on Tuesday, August 14. The shows begin that morning at 8 am (Indianapolis time). We could be showing Tunis around 1 pm. We will be released that night at 8 pm. For Tunis Breeders that have long drives home and would like to get on the road on Wednesday morning August 15, the Indiana State Fair sheep department would like you to contact them when you're on the fairgrounds to make arrangements to stay that extra night. The reason they would like to have everyone out is to re-configure the pens for the next session of open sheep shows that being arriving Wednesday morning.

You can begin arriving with open sheep on Sunday afternoon, August 12. Tunis wool needs to be entered on Sunday too in the wool room at the sheep barn. On Monday, August 13 registration papers will be checked. On Monday at 6 pm (Indianapolis time) the Indiana Tunis Association will have an ice cream social with a short meeting afterwards. We look forward to all the Tunis exhibitors coming to the Indiana State Fair and thanks for supporting our first show in over 20 years.

Since the Indiana State Fair will not give out premium money for the next two years, we were able to get several corporate sponsors. We put together a presentation for some local farm newspapers, magazines and radio stations to help us out with our first show. The response was tremendous where we raised almost \$800. These sponsors not only came from Indiana but outside the state as well. Here are the sponsors that we would like to thank: WOWO-AM-Ft. Wayne, Ind., Successful Farming Magazine-Des Moines, Iowa, WMBD/WIRL - Peoria, Ill; KRVN-AM - Lexington, Neb; KGNC-AM-Amarillo, Texas; KFEQ-FM-St. Joseph, MO; KMJ-AM-Fresno, Calif; WSMI_AM/FM-Litchfield, ILL; and Linder Farm Network-Owatonna, Minn. Dale Huhnke

NTSRI JUNIOR NEWS....By Jozi Best, Youth Committee Member

NH 4- H Sheep Camp - Two of our Junior Tunis breeders stood out of more than 43 participants at the 3 day event. Emily Gibson topped one of the Novice Showmanship classes and Jeremy Jochums-Chickering earned the most herdmanship points which boosted his overall score in the 4-H categories of Head, Heart, Hands, Health to the highest total to win the "4-H Spirit" award.

Martha Robie, former NTSRI Youth Representative was a counselor at the camp, Jozi was a repeat guest instructor for fitting, and a new member, David Camrie was a first time camper with his Tunis lamb. There were also a couple of campers with Tunis crossbreeds. The camp is sponsored by the NH Sheep and Woolgrowers Association and funded by many contributors, including Northeast Tunis breeders. It is staffed almost entirely by Senior 4-H members, many graduates of the camp. Every year it has grown larger, obviously attaining its goals of not only helping youngster learn better shepherding, sportsmanship, and showing skills, but more importantly encouraging more and better sheep products.

NORTHEAST YOUTH SHOW, W. SPRINGFIELD, MA - At noon Friday, the Youth committee held a pizza party for the Junior Tunis exhibitors. Most of the 17 juniors present were able to attend. A mixer game helped the youngsters get acquainted and laughing, then they enjoyed the pizza and juice. There was a brief report on the proposed junior association. Thanks to Julia for help with setting up and to Julia and Sally for clean-up, including Sally taking leftovers to her camper frig for sharing again later and NTSRI for \$\$\$\$\$. More t-shirts and sweatshirts with "Not Everything in the Sheep Business is Black and White" were made up and delivered to have for sale. A few became game prizes. They will be at Ohio next.

COMING EVENTS -There will be similar (not always Pizza) get-togethers for the youth to socialize and connect at the Big E Open in Sept., KILE in Oct., and NAILE in Nov, organized by the Youth Committee and funded by NTSRI. And, of course, a gathering at the National in Ohio. These will be the most opportune times for youth to communicate through committee members to our directors about their ideas, concerns and needs, so that we can provide a super youth program for them. Meanwhile, real success will only come when parents and other adults stay closely involved and behind the youth.

There will be more discussions about having a junior association. If it is decided to form one, officers will be elected at Harrisburg, KILE. (Juniors may write or e-mail comments, nominations also to youth committee members - Kelly Stumpe, Jozi Best, Jeff Norris, Alex Rock). The purpose of a junior organization would be to have a structure in which juniors may elect their own leaders to communicate with the directors and committee members, and take responsibility for planning and carrying out junior activities.

New, revised applications for the Youth scholarships will be available on the website and at youth events from 1 August. The final deadline will be 1st Dec, 1007. They will be in a new format that allow the committee to not only make selections more wisely, but also to provide instructional feedback to help applicants improve in the future. The committee is challenging our youth to stretch and achieve more, and will be available to help do just that.

New, revised applications for the 2008 Youth Representative will be announced later. The winner will not be announced until the 2008 National Sale in Wooster next May.

Congratulations! Bob Bartholomew told me that he had heard about Jeremy's 4-H Spirit award and when stopped to congratulate him in person. Bob said that Jeremy lit up all over when he did so, and later Jeremy glowed again in talking about Bob bringing it up. Thank you Bob for making his day and who knows how many other days with a great memory. Lets all follow our Pres' example. To do so, more of you need to let us know when our youth stand out (the newsletter, Tunis Talk, etc.) so we can build them up! Jozi

PS....Kelly Stumpe, Youth Committee member would like to congratulate all of the NTSRI Youth showing at the Jr-All American/National Tunis Youth show for their great presentation of animals and sportsmanship. Special notice goes to Eric Kleman, Lane Brown, Olivia Brown and Jacci Erwin for showing and presenting the Champion/Reserve Champion Animals and to Kayla Barkley for winning the Top Gun Award.

NE YOUTH SHOW - TUNIS July 22, 2007
64 Tunis Shown by 15 Youth W. Springfield, MA

7 SR SHOWMANSHIP	4 JR SHOWMANSHIP	2 NOVICE S/S	3 MARKET LAMBS
Mandy Swartz, NY Devan Newton, RI Jared LaVelle, MA	Sara Carr, NY Nick Horner, NY J Jochums-Chickering, NH	Emily Gibson, NH Katherine Horner, NY	Jochums-Chickering, NH Kelsey Nation, NH Kelsey Nation, NH
3 YR RAMS	8 EARLY RAM LAMBS	8 LATE RAM LAMBS	5 PAIRS RAM L
Sean Harper, MA Anna Charest, MA Nick Horner, NY	Kelsey Nation, NH Sean Harper, MA Sean Harper, MA	Anna Charest, MA Jared LaVelle, MA Kelsey Nation, NH	Sean Harper, MA Jared LaVelle, MA Anna Charest, MA
10 EARLY YR EWES	8 LATE YR EWES	6 PAIRS YR EWES	12 EARLY EWE L
Sara Carr, NY Sean Harper, MA Sean Harper, MA	Anna Charest, MA Jared LaVelle, MA Jared LaVelle, MA	Sara Carr, NY Sean Harper, MA Jared LaVelle, MA	Emily Gibson, NH Cody Coutts, ME Sara Carr, NY
11 LATE EWE LAMBS	10 PAIRS EWE LAMBS	10 EXHIBITORS FLOCK	
Kelsey Nation, NH Jared LaVelle, MA Kelsey Nation, NH	Kelsey Nation, NH Jared LaVelle, MA Mandy Swartz, NY	Kelsey Nation, NH Sean Harper, MA Jared LaVelle, MA	

CHAMPION RAM - Sean Harper
CHAMPION EWE - Sara Carr

RES. CHAMPION RAM - Kelsey Nation
RES. CHAMPION EWE - Kelsey Nation

"The participants in the Northeast Youth Sheep Show Tunis Show wish to thank the NTSRI for the Pizza Party and 'get acquainted' games held at the show. Your support was much appreciated."

FULL RESULTS are on the NTSRI website!



EASTERN REGION JR LIVESTOCK - BREEDING EWE SHOW!

Tennessee District Show 18 Tunis Ewes Shown by 6 Exhibitors
Champion Ewe Megan Long of Loudon County, TN
Res. Champion Ewe Shannon Palko of Knox County, TN
Champion & Reserve Champion Ewe Bred by Exhibitor - Sydnee Brashears of Loudon County, TN

LET'S MEET THE NEWEST NTSRI DIRECTOR...AnnaRae Hodgkin!

Did you know that.....

AnnaRae's 1st term on the board was when she was elected to replace Ken Mayes who was appointed to replace Dr. David Lincicome as director for Region 6...which at that time covered 17 states & territories from MD southward and westerly to the area covered by Ken Mayes, the Virgin Islands & Puerto Rico?

AnnaRae missed only ONE Director's meeting in almost 8 years including attending one with a broken foot & crutches? You really get super service from the airlines when you are helpless!

AnnaRae worked on a card grading system for Tunis and actually helped take part in the trial at Penn State with Bob Calhan of Indiana? Bob was raising Tunis at that time in his feedlot with other lambs.

AnnaRae has been married to J C Loflin, Jr for 5 years and has 2 children, 3 step children and 1 foster son along with 5 grand daughters, 2 grand sons and 1 great granddaughter ranging in age from 2 to 27. We just celebrated our 6th anniversary on July 14th and my anniversary gift was a new Highland bull named "Showdown".

AnnaRae, of Ramseur, NC, was recently elected to serve as director of Region 6. She and her husband, JC have a little more than 100 acres and 323 head of Tunis along with some red Scottish Highland cattle, donkeys, chickens and guineas. Our hip roof barn was built by my grandparents and their sons and is situated ½ mile off the highway. AnnaRae says she has chased away more than 1 set of amorous couple parked in the driveway just out of sight of the road. Where the sheep are is actually AnnaRae's farm, inherited from her grandparents & great grandparents. The farm is recognized as a North Carolina Century Farm, having been in continuous agricultural operation for at least 100 years in the same family.

AnnaRae has had sheep for a long time. Her first sheep were donated Cheviot sheep from Henry Kuykendall plus some Suffolk, Hamps & Dorsets. She bred a strong line of Dorsets before selling most of them for research. The American Livestock Breed Conservancy was close by and our director picked up some ideas of preservation of old breeds. After talking with Dr. David Lincicome for a long time about the Tunis breed...and because she had red hair in her younger days, Anna Rae bought "Uno" in July of 1990 to use with her 10 remaining Dorset ewes.

"Uno" was a Meiser x Hunter ram and Anna Rae added ewes from Hunter, Hillis, Liddel, Red Wing, G. Lawson Clark, Omar Elayan, Spraker, Britsch, Tulip Tree Acres, and Stephanie Neborsky before closing her flock. The TLH Farm LLC currently has 192 producing Tunis ewes along with 52 ewe lambs, 19 rams and 60 ram lambs. AnnaRae keeps that large number of rams around so she can keep certain bloodlines going in her flock. She says, "I check each pedigree against the ram's before determining breeding pods. It takes about a week to get it all worked out. Thank goodness for the computer!"

AnnaRae's sheep are known as being traditional in style with the old fashion look fat rumps, dark color, tri-colored hoof and the ewes weighing about 130 pounds and the rams weighing about 180 pounds. She says her main thrust is meat production and quality breeding stock. She admits that this isn't any hobby! The flock is a USDA Scrapie-Free Certified Flock and is tested for OPP and CL also. It is also the largest flock of Tunis certified as Scrapie-Free.

The two people that have helped her the most are Henry Kuykendall with very practical flock advice and Dr. David R. Lincicome with his knowledge of the Tunis breed. When asked about her giving advice to new people just starting with Tunis, AnnaRae says...."Use only RR rams for breeding!" and to "Look! Look! Look! Visit, Visit, Visit! Ask questions, take notes, do your follow-up and be proactive!" She also advises that you use and hand out shoe covers when you visit or show off your sheep. And to pay special attention to the feet so you don't buy foot rot!

After all of these years of raising sheep and taking care of the large number of sheep currently on the farm, AnnaRae still maintains a good outlook on life as evidenced by her last statements....when asked 'what one perfect answer do you still need for your flock'...AnnaRae says..."Why all rams one year? Why does Gertie have to be the last ewe to lamb every year? She can barely waddle but she waits...I think she does it on purpose!" FYI" Gertie is a Hillis Ewe and will be 16 on Feb. 20th. She is still productive & is a super mom...so I keep her! However, she looks rather ratty at times! She is one ewe that will spend her days here along with the rams Leandre & Willie Nelson. I have many ewes in the 10-11 year old brackets

Thanks, AnnaRae, I'm sure that your experienced, mature voice will be an asset to the NTSRI Board of Directors! ANNARAE writes in closing...."An aside, JC says that all men who have wives that own sheep, need to form a support group..so they can boost each other when the wife does something they cannot fathom.

Also, we recently sold 5 ewe lambs & a ewe to the Nature Science Center in Greensboro, NC. This is an educational facility about 35 miles away. They have even made the TV evening news a few times, as the center had a grand re-opening recently. We have also sold to Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina."

NE TUNIS SALE.....July 20-21 E. Springfield, MA

Grand Champion Ram - Joe Seavey's Late Spring Ram Lamb	\$325
Res. Gr Champ Ram - Mom's Tunis Early Spring Ram Lamb	\$275
Grand Champion Ewe - Mom's Tunis Early Spring Ewe Lamb	\$400
Res Gr Champ Ewe - Campbell's Tunis Brood Ewe & lamb	\$450

Hickory Grove Acres and Lawthea Farms also consigned animals.

The \$50 buyers credits donated by NTSRI, NE Tunis Association and other donors were won by Cody Coutts, ME; Sara Carr, NY; and Jared LaValle, MA.

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.

Louise Dunham, Editor

8566 Co Rd 28

Zanesfield, OH 43360

937-465-8299 tunis@bright.net

FIRST CLASS:

WWW.TUNISSHEEP.ORG

NTSRI NEWSLETTER MISSION STATEMENT....

"The two main purposes of the NTSRI newsletter are to promote the Tunis breed of sheep and all activities connected with this breed and to educate all members or interested people about the breed in a positive, supportive manner." NTSRI Board Approved...May, 2005

July, 2007

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC

ISSUE 23

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