

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.

JANUARY, 2008 ISSUE 25

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. Hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season and I wish you all a prosperous 2008. As the new year begins, we start the process of electing three new directors to represent us for the next three years. The folks leaving the board are Linda Cook, John Buffington (filling in the remainder of Peter Harris' term) and myself. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Linda and John for their participation and input to the board. Electing directors is a very important process, described by our Constitution and By Laws. In order to participate in these elections either as a nominee or just a voter, your 2008 dues **must** be paid by January 31st. As long as they are postmarked by that date you will be able to participate, if they are not, you cannot vote or run. Please take a few minutes and renew your membership so that your voice will count!!!!

I know lambing season is well underway, I can't remember a year when folks had more fall lambs. Here in NY, I know of one breeder that had over 40 and I had over twenty. I have heard from folks throughout the midwest with fall lambs as well. If you read Tunis talk (Yahoo groups) you will also see the posts from folks all across the county who have started lambing. I wish you all the best with your lambing season.

Well, that's all from here. I am fighting my first real cold of the season and I am truly under the weather.

Bob Bartholomew, President

What would you like to read in YOUR

newsletter? If you have a topic you would like to read about or something you would like to write about in the Tunis world....just let me know and maybe working together.....we can do something about that!

Next newsletter deadline - April 15th!

THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE WRITES.....

Attention Junior Tunis Members and Parents of Junior Members:

Are you a current or have been a FFA member in the past few years? If so, the P.R. committee would like to know. We were looking for ideas and stories to send to farm magazines and the FFA *NEW HORIZONS* magazine would be a nice fit to feature our Junior Members and the Tunis Sheep Breed. Please contact Jozi Best (Jozibest@aol.com) or Dale Huhnke (dale_huhnke@rkconnect.com) to let us know if you are a member of the National FFA organization. We need your information by December 1. Once we hear from you we will be sending a letter to the magazine to discuss our story ideas. We want to show them that the Tunis breed does have a great association with a great organization as FFA.

Attention all Tunis Breeders:

Besides the Junior member profile, we also would like to know as a Tunis Breeder if you sell Tunis to any local restaurants. We would like to interview the head chef of the restaurant to discuss the reaction of their customers to Tunis meat and how he/she prepares it for his customers for another story about Tunis. Also we need to know about wool spinners who use Tunis wool. There are hundreds of stories about Tunis and we want to hear from you to help promote Tunis sheep.

MORE OPEN TUNIS SHOWS COMING TO INDIANA

2008 Indiana State Fair

You are all invited to come to Indianapolis for the second Tunis open show at the 2008 Indiana State Fair. Besides showing sheep there is also a wool show too. In 2007, we had over 5 fleeces in the competition and we would like to double it for 2008. In May, you can go online to enter the open show and wool show at www.in.gov/statefair/fair. Deadline for entries to the open shows will be July 1. Show day has not been determined yet. We will have open show and hotel information at the National Tunis Sale in Wooster, Ohio. The comments from the 2007 breeders who showed loved the air-conditioned barn, all the great food booths, and lower entry fees at the fair. So join us in Indianapolis.

First Annual Indiana Sheep Expo

The Indiana Junior Sheep Association and the Indiana Sheep Association invite you to come to the first annual show which will be held on June 13-15 at the Clinton County Fairgrounds in Frankfort, Indiana. Frankfort is in west central Indiana not far from Lafayette. This is not only for Indiana breeders but out of state breeders as well.

Check in for the show will be Friday, June 13. The market lamb show will be Saturday, June 14. And the Tunis show will be on Sunday, June 15. Class splits will be available after all the sheep are checked in. There will be showmanship classes, fun tournaments and a supreme champion ram and ewe of all breeds will be selected.

For more information, please contact Andrea Mrozinski at 765-412-2200 or andrea_mrozinski@hotmail.com.

First Annual Open Sheep Show at the Delaware County Fair in Muncie

There will be an open breed sheep show on Saturday, July 19 at the Delaware County Fairgrounds in Muncie, Indiana. Contact Dale Huhnke at 630-881-8108 or Linda Cook at 765-288-7829 for more information.

2008 TUNIS SUMMER SPECTACULAR...Springfield, Illinois

Don't miss the 3rd annual Tunis Summer Spectacular on June 20 and 21 in Springfield, Illinois. Entry deadline for the 2008 show and sale is April 6 to Banner Sales Management. We are currently working on raising money for sale credits. We will also have the consignor booklets again and if you consign Tunis, please have your information to Dale Huhnke by April 15. Updated sale information will be posted by March 15 on the Tunis website.

NTSRI Board of Directors Meeting Phone Conference: Oct., 28, 2007

Bob Bartholomew, President, called the phone conference Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:07 PM on Sunday, October 28, 2007. Present were directors, Bob Bartholomew, Sally Barney, Linda Cook, John Buffington, Richard Feasley, AnnaRae Hodgkin, Nancy Schmidt, and Barbara Cassell. Also attending were Dale Huhnke, with the proxy from Roy Advise and Sandra Rock with the proxy from Jeff Norris.

Nancy Schmidt acknowledged that she had called the directors together because a single director she could not act on a request she had received from a member of her region. She stated, "That is the only reason I called this meeting."

It was stated that this matter is an ethics problem between two individuals and that there was no reason for the Board to get involved. Bob Bartholomew, President, stated that the meeting was about a request to take action against an employee and the meeting was to talk specifically about the email sent by an employee that was forwarded to the Board with a request for action.

Nancy Schmidt moved the Board move to executive session.

Before the Board moved to executive session, John Buffington raised a Point of Order stating that the NTSRI Constitution and By-Laws do not allow for members from outside a region to represent a region. The over-riding concern was whether by the Constitution proxies carried by individuals from outside regions where the proxies originated were valid. Bob Bartholomew, President, declared that these proxies had been used before and therefore the meeting would continue and anyone that objected could file a protest later.

Points of discussion of particular note were:

The Constitution provided for the Board to meet without all directors present since it is stated that quorum will be considered to be enough directors present to represent a majority of the members at large. (Without the two proxies in question, the eight directors present would represent a quorum.)

The Constitution states well the provision for appointing a new director when necessary, but it does not speak well for appointing proxies.

Because these proxies were accepted in the past as appropriate, once the issue has been raised, the Board does not have to continue approval of such proxies.

Both individuals serving in the questioned roles have served before in these roles, adding much at several meetings.

Several times/individuals in the past were recognized when proxies were carried by persons outside the regions represented were accepted.

One incident in the past (nineties) was mentioned where a proxy was not accepted because it was given to an individual not a member of the region from which the proxy originated.

Both individuals with proxies in question declared their willingness to participate or not at the directions of the Board/President.

To conclude the discussion, Bob Bartholomew, President, declared his decision to proceed with both appointed "proxies" participating; directing those who still held strong concerns with this participation to initiate protests after the meeting. John Buffington directed that his statement that this "absolutely wrong" since this was not the way the Constitution is written be acknowledged by President Bob Bartholomew, and it was so recognized.

Nancy Schmidt's motion to move to executive session was seconded and by a vote of six yes, three no, and one abstain the executive session began.

When regular session was reinstated, after much discussion as to the appropriate wording, Dale Huhnke moved that the Secretary of the Board write a letter to Louise Dunham as a reminder to think

and speak positively about Tunis breeders and the NTSRI. By a vote of eight yes and two no the motion carried.

At this time Linda Cook had to sign off because of work responsibilities.

Nancy Schmidt moved that a letter be sent to Dan Kleman stating that the Board had looked into the issue he brought to Nancy and to also include the same remarks as sent to Louise. By a vote of eight yes and two no the motion carried.

Bob then asked the Board to consider the Region 8 director issue. Kyle Booth will now be the Director from Region 8 since Roy Advise has resigned. For the past year Kyle has been unavailable for meetings when called to serve as Roy's alternate. Dale Huhnke moved and the motion carried that the Secretary send a certified letter to Kyle to determine his willingness to serve as Director from Region 8, with a request for response by December 31, 2007.

AnnaRae Hodgkin moved the meeting be adjourned, and at 9:50 PM the meeting was adjourned.

Barbara Cassell, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT: 10/15/07 - 1/11/08

INCOME: EXPENSES:

Associated Registries \$2,430.00 Advertising \$ 120.50
Conf. Call Reimbursement \$ 120.60 Brochure Printing \$1,246.31
Interest \$ 5.29 Director Conference Call \$ 134.04
Membership , 07 \$ 20.00 Dues - AR Fees \$ 142.50
NAILE Entry Fees \$ 822.00 Duplicate Paper - AR Fee \$ 17.10
Rec'd....NSF Reimbursement \$ 10.00 Gift \$ 51.95
Insurance Overpayment \$ 50.00 NAILE Jr Show \$ 293.00
Web Ads \$ 20.00 NAILE Open Show \$ 624.00
Newsletter \$ 397.23

TOTAL INCOME: \$3,477.89 Promo Mailings \$ 23.66

Registration - AR Fee \$ 424.65

Rush - AR Fees \$ 11.40

Transfers - AR fees \$ 327.75

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$3,814.09

(\$336.20)

FUND BALANCES as of 1/11/08

NTSRI Savings \$2,023.36

NTSRI Checking \$5,511.97

Tunis Spirit \$1,014.00

NTSRI Youth Fund \$1,087.41

TOTAL ASSETS \$9,636.74

WELCOME.....NEW MEMBERS:

- Danielle & Dillon Cardwell, Rt. 3, Box 47A, Edina, MO 63537 Region 8
- Randy & Becky Elsbernd, 19050 Thrush Ave. Mason City, IA 50401 Region 8
- Peggy Ferebee, 4301 Lawndale Dr., Greensboro, NC 27455 Region 9
- Harry Heidelbaugh, 5760 Peltier Rd., Delphos, OH 45833 Region 7
- Michale C Kampf, 11400 Shetler Rd NW, Bolivar, OH 4a4612 Region 7
- Sarah Lafreniere, 152 Harrison Ave., Newport, RI 02840 Region 2
- Kayla Miller, 412 Main Rd., Pitman, PA 17964 Region 5
- Clark Mizell, Gray Court, SC 29645 Region 9
- Cody Rock, 2657 E Mattle Rd., Everett, PA 15537 Region 5

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE:

The first meeting of the Committee was held by conference call on 28 November, 2007. Attending were Bill Kerns, Randy Powley, Paul Cassell and David Rock. Bob Bartholomew sent his apologies. Future meetings are planned monthly. Bill Kerns was asked and agreed to chair the committee.

Constitutions of many other sheep organizations were circulated for background reading and review. Paul Cassell presented a brief overview of the need for a strong constitution to manage risk and exposure. The existing Articles of the NTSRI constitution were assigned to committee members for review and recommendations for any changes. Recommendations of the Committee will be presented to the BOD and members meetings at the Wooster, OH meeting in May. Any agreed changes will then need to be reviewed and ratified by the membership at large.

Bill Kerns windsongfarms@charter.net

CONCERNING THE 2008 TUNIS SPIRIT:

There are some minor price changes...designed to give repeat supports a discount and to equalize the "Business Card" size price since it is really 1/8 of a page.

2008 Ad Prices for new supporters: These are the same prices except for the smallest ad:

full page \$275 ½ page \$175

¼ page \$125 1/8 page (enlarged Business Card) \$ 50

2008 Ad Prices for repeat supports from 2007 -- about 15% discount

full page \$235 ½ page \$140

¼ page \$105 1/8 page (enlarged Business Card) \$ 40

Designs, ideas, etc. are due ANYTIME now until 1st of February. Please, please do it as soon as you can, because I must have things on the way to the printer by mid March in order to try again to get mailing to members before early May.

Meanwhile, we are always looking for human/sheep interest pictures.

Jozi Best Jozibest@aol.com

REMEMBER...there can be no *Tunis Spirit* without your support.

Please purchase an ad by February 1st!

ELECTION INFORMATION Submitted by Nancy Schmidt, Vice President

Regions 2, 3 and 10 are scheduled for director elections in 2008.

Region 2 - Director John Buffington Eligible for re-election

Region 3 - Director Bob Bartholomew Not eligible for re-election

Region 10 - Director Linda Cook Not eligible for re-election

IMPORTANT NOTES TO REMEMBER:

To be a director you must be at least 18 years of age and dues paid member 30 days **prior to nomination** and throughout directorship. Directorship is a 3 year term.

To vote you must have a current paid membership.

Membership dues are due by January 31, 2008

Article 6 of the NTSRI Constitution explains the nominating and election process.

TIME FOR WOOL

Well, here we are: winter. What better time than to really enjoy the second crop from your sheep? It's time for your winter sweaters, scarves, fingerless mittens, hats and socks. All of these can be made from Tunis wool. There's no better gift to give than a scarf or hat from your very own sheep's wool. Great gifts for friends and family and a special treat just for you. There's nothing like sitting in the barn waiting for that lamb to come out knowing you are warm in your woolies.

I often make gifts for the holidays. It's more personal and it gives me a chance to examine yet again the fleece from my sheep. Since I usually process my own fleece and create my own yarn, I get a chance to re-evaluate how that fleeced turned into yarn is from each animal. What's great on the hoof might be different as a yarn. It's great winter fun to see how my best fleece (I always keep the best fleece for myself, but last year's best fleece might not be so the next shearing season) takes up the dye and how it spins up. There's nothing quite so gratifying as having that end product off the needles and in my hands. The surprise and joy of friends and family as they have an inkling of what they are getting, but not what it will look like. Will it be a bulky, natural colored hat? Maybe a multi-colored scarf with an interesting pattern. Maybe a nice set of partial dyed fingerless mittens...great for driving with so you don't have to put your hands on that cold steering wheel. Working in the barn is so much more comfortable when you have your sweater on and can say "this is from this ewe" or "next year I'll work with yours".

This is also a good time to get some spinning in. Sitting in the barn waiting on that lamb? Done with your chores and just want to sit with the lambs awhile? It's easy to sit in the barn with either a spindle or a wheel...Why not give it a try and see what I'm talking about. I'd love to hear what you made with from your Tunis wool!

Laurie Andreacci.....www.laurieslambs.com

TUNIS EVENTS.....CALENDAR:

- March 15 Entry Deadline for National Sale
- May 24-25 NTSRI National Tunis Sale @ Wooster, OH
- July 18-19 New England Sale West Springfield, MA
- June 20-21 Summer Spectacular Springfield, IL
- July 18-20 Northeast Youth Show West Springfield, MA
- July 22-25 Barnstable County Fair Barnstable, MA
- Aug. 31 Woodstock Fair Woodstock CT
- Sept. 12-28 Eastern States Exposition West Springfield, MA
- Oct. 17-18 New York Bred Ewe Sale Rhinebeck, NY

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OVINE MILK FEVER AND KETOSIS: How do you tell the difference?

by Dr. Bill Kerns, NTSRI Member

Summary. Both metabolic syndromes are caused by inadequate nutrition during late gestation and both are easily preventable with good management practices. Milk Fever is manifest by low blood calcium and Ketosis is manifest by low blood sugar. Both syndromes require urgent medical care; if left untreated, death is imminent. Although the clinical presentations overlap; there are key differences in early clinical observations, appetite and general appearance. Treatments are designed to replace either calcium or glucose. Treatment may be combined (Cal-Dex Products) to cover either scenario if warranted. However, follow-up treatment, fetal care and changes in management practices are very dependent on a correct diagnosis. Importantly, the occurrence of either nutritional disease on your farm should prompt you to re-evaluate your feeding and flock management programs.

Milk Fever (hypocalcemia, parturient paresis) is a largely preventable metabolic syndrome in ruminants caused by poor intake of calcium during the last trimester of pregnancy when calcium requirements are at their highest. The syndrome in ewes usually occurs prior to lambing, in contrast to cattle where it is recognized post-calving. Ewes carrying triplets and those raised for milk production appear to be more susceptible.

Clinical Signs. Clinical symptoms appear suddenly, usually in the last month of pregnancy and are manifest by recumbent, usually non-responsive ewes. Rear legs may be splayed out and sometimes a typical head turned back position, as seen in cattle, is observed. Some affected animals may appear bloated. Early on, body temperature will be normal (102F), but quickly falls to below normal. If the ewe is ambulatory, there may be a staggered gait, muscle weakness and falling. As this is largely a nutritional disease, multiple ewes may be affected at the same time. Aggressive treatment is warranted to prevent death.

Cause. Diets composed of solely corn silage or poor quality grass hay with low calcium levels have greater risks for producing milk fever.

Diagnosis. Field diagnosis is based on clinical history and clinical signs and importantly on a rapid and dramatic response to treatment. Definitive diagnosis is based on serum calcium concentrations <6-7 mg/dl; if your animals are being treated for milk fever, it would be a good idea to draw a blood sample prior to treatment to confirm the field diagnosis.

Treatment. Ewes will respond quickly to an intravenous injection of commercial calcium borogluconate solution (CG). In the early stages, CG can be administered subcutaneously. More seriously affected ewes will require intravenous calcium and other supportive therapies. Rapid infusion of calcium borogluconate intravenously can cause heart problems and death; caution is advised. Products with calcium-magnesium complex can be given intravenously with much less risk of adverse cardiac effect.

Prevention. Finely ground limestone (calcium carbonate) or dicalcium phosphate can be added to feed when feeding grains and hay that are low in calcium. Ewes fed on rations with alfalfa or high quality hay as the primary roughage source with supplemental grain should have adequate calcium intake. Most importantly, avoid the risk by feeding nutritionally sound diets with proper calcium content: late gestation diets should contain 0.35% calcium and 0.35% phosphorus (www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0812). Ewes should receive sufficient high quality leafy hay (3-5 lb) and supplemental grain (1-2 lb/day) during the last 4-8 weeks of gestation. If concerned about the nutritional value of your feedstuffs, have them analyzed at a qualified laboratory www.foragetesting.org. Free choice mineral supplement formulated for sheep should be available at all times. Sheep should not be fed commercial feeds and mineral mixes that have been formulated for other animal species as these products may contain copper. In sheep, excess copper will lead to liver disease and ultimately death.

KETOSIS (Twin lamb disease, acidosis, lambing paralysis, pregnancy disease, pregnancy toxemia, fatty liver syndrome) is also a largely preventable metabolic syndrome in ewes caused by poor nutrition during the last 4-6 weeks of pregnancy and is seen in underweight and occasionally overweight ewes. It is much more common in pregnant sheep than milk fever. Ketosis is directly related to inadequate intake of energy foodstuffs (corn and other carbohydrate sources) when they are most needed. Lack of adequate carbohydrates in the diet eventually will lead to the breakdown of fat reserves to maintain blood glucose at near normal levels. This method of maintaining general health, in the face of low energy intake, will fail, blood sugar (glucose) levels will fall to life threatening levels and the ewes become ketoacidotic...meaning the formation of beta-ketoacids (acetone, beta-hydroxybutyrate, acetoacetate) in the blood. This leads to serious metabolic complications resulting in death in 2-5 days if not treated aggressively.

Clinical Signs. Timid, noncompetitive ewes and older ewes with poor dentition should not be overlooked as contributing factors to ewes at risk for ketosis. Ketosis usually occurs in ewes carrying twins or triplets. The observant shepherd will first notice the at risk ewes to stop eating which further complicates their problems. Affected animals will separate themselves from the flock sometimes appearing to wander aimlessly with heads down. Teeth grinding is common and

temperatures are normal at the onset. Ultimately, the ewes become depressed, weak and have poor muscle control. In latter stages, they lie down and unable to rise. Body temperatures are below normal. If left untreated, death follows in hours.

Cause. Inadequate nutrition, importantly carbohydrates, during the last 4-6 weeks of pregnancy is the primary cause of ketosis. Over-conditioned ewes with obesity and twinning have essentially little room left in the abdominal cavity and they cannot eat enough to satisfy their metabolic needs, leading to the breakdown of fatty tissue and ketoacidosis. Under-conditioned ewes are not competitive at the feed bunk so they need to be fed more feed in isolation. Anything that affects the ewe's ability to eat enough during the late gestation can result in ketosis, including multiple fetuses, fat ewes, thin ewes, small ewes, timid ewes, granny ewes, dental disease, parasitism and inadequate room at the feed bunk.

Diagnosis. Field diagnosis is based on clinical history and clinical signs. Response to treatment will be much slower (days) than that observed for milk fever (minutes). Definitive field diagnosis is based on the presence of urinary ketones; this is an easy test with a urine test strip. If your animal were being treated for ketosis, it would be a good idea to draw a blood sample prior to the treatment to confirm the field diagnosis by focusing on blood sugar and ketone levels. You will be better prepared the next time with this knowledge.

Treatment. The objective of therapy is to increase blood glucose levels rapidly. Therapy is urgent and unless initiated soon after the first signs are noticed, little can be done to save the ewe or the fetuses. Isolate the ewe and give 100 to 200 mL 50% glucose/electrolyte solution intravenously. Subcutaneous glucose (50 mL-25 mL/ injection site) could also be given for a few days following intravenous treatment. Also consider an oral drench with 100 to 240 mL propylene glycol (glucose precursor) twice a day for 2-3 days. Ensure free access to grain, hay and water. If the ewe is not treated, the prognosis is poor. In advanced cases, a cesarean section must be considered to remove the fetuses and save the ewe's life. If the lambs are near term, labor could be induced with dexamethasone (20 mg). The sicker ewes will require much supportive care and intravenous fluids to survive.

Prevention. Prevention is obviously the desired path and the easiest. Maintain adequate nutrition to keep ewes gaining weight during the last four weeks of gestation. Increase the energy intake by feeding 3-5 pounds of good quality hay and 1-2 pounds grain. Hay alone usually doesn't provide enough energy for ewes carrying twins and triplets.

William D. Kerns DVM, MS, DACVP

P. O. Box 322, Harvard, MA 01451 windsongfarms@charter.net

NTSRI REGION 1 UPDATE....Sally Barney writes...

New England Tunis breeders are gearing up for an exciting year in the Tunis business. Inquiries are constant and breeders are now looking forward to the lamb crop that will provide for the needs of those in the area wishing to get into Tunis or to expand a bit. Tunis breeders are working hard on upcoming Tunis opportunities. Many event dates will be finalized at an early February meeting of the Executive Committee of the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association, but much is already known.

The New England Sale will again be having a Tunis consignment and many plans are in the works for that event. Look for entry and catalog information at www.nesheep.org. **The Northeast Youth Show** is one of the largest youth sheep shows in the country and the Tunis show is always large in both quantity and quality. Plan now to attend this exciting and unique Tunis Youth Event. Details may be found at www.nesheep.org.

Both of these events are on the same week-end in July, the dates are July 18-20, 2008. Combine the two for a very worthwhile week-end in New England on the grounds of Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, MA.

Woodstock Fair, Woodstock, CT will host the **2008 Northeast Tunis Specialty** on Sunday of Labor Day week-end. They have added a lot of prize money to the Tunis premiums in support of this special event. You won't want to miss what will be a dynamic Tunis show. The **2008 Northeast Regional Tunis Show** will again be held at the Eastern States Exposition in September. Information is online at www.thebige.com.

Anna Charest is the Northeast Tunis Youth Ambassador. She has assisted the NETSA through an article in the newsletter, by assisting with the awarding of the Futurity awards and by promoting Tunis at regional and national events. The Northeast Tunis Sheep Association will again be selecting a Northeast Tunis Youth Ambassador. Look for details in the next NETSA newsletter.

REGION 2 DIRECTOR....John Buffington writes...

Here in New England, fall has arrived, wait a minute, it is summer again, nope, now it is winter. Weather has been so inconsistent. Been very dry here, not as dry as some parts of the country. The scanning lady, Nancy Minter hasn't stopped by yet so, we are hoping the ewes are all bred, they are sheared for the winter.

Hi, my name is John Buffington, new director for Region 2, filling the seat of retired director Peter Harris. Please join me in saying thank you to Peter and Judy for all their years of service to the NTSRI.

My family and I have been showing Tunis and Southdowns for over 20 years. My daughters did most of the showing until a couple of years ago. I fit and showed for J & J Farm for the years Jan raised and showed Tunis. Some of her breeding is still producing class winners and champions today.

I feel the goal of the Tunis Association should be to promote our youth as well as our breed. The youth are the force that will carry the breed forward. We, as members, have to maintain the high integrity of the breed and well as the officers we elect. The by laws and constitution of the association need to be followed to the letter, that is what keeps the association alive. Every member should locate a copy and read, so you know your rights. It is in your best interest. Remember, members pay the dues, registration fees, donate your time and or money, and the association should work for you. Each region is important and you NEED representation from your region. This is your association, become active, express opinions and contact your directors. They are always grateful for any input.

Plan on attending some of the shows and sales of 2008. If you just have sheep in your back yard to look at, it is always nice to see what some else has. These days showing sheep, raising market lamb and the selling of wool helps somewhat in reducing the cost of feed. Promote your animals. Contact breeders in your area to improve your blood stock. Breeders are always happy to talk.

Finally, congrats to all the Tunis folks and juniors that showed at Louisville, it was a great show. I can be reached at *alandatunis@yahoo.com* or call 508-252-3968. Good luck and get those 2008 champions on the ground. John

"www.tunissheep.org" features.....

Complete show results & pictures!

\$10 website ad...for 3 months!

Typeable forms & membership information!

"NTSRI Breeders' Directory" National Futurity Entry Info!

T-Shirt & Youth Representative Information!

REGION 4 DIRECTOR....Richard Feasley writes....

My first message for 2008 is to wish everyone a Happy New Year and a good lambing season. My ewes started lambing and I had to run to the store for more heat lambs when I arrived back home there was a big white dog locked in my barn. I called the police in which was a mistake because the owner arrived and ran into my barn and grabbed her dog and took off by truck. I went into the barn and there was dead lambs and gates broke and never a dog warden arrived then or later. I decided that was the last attack I will let a dog do on my property without the dog missing for life.

About the new Region 6 Director....My name is Richard Feasley. I live at 10683 Crump Road, Holland, New York 14080. My cell phone number is 716 860 9496. My flock name is Feasley's Club lambs and meat goats. I have 10 acres and I own another 5 acres across the street surrounded by state property for wild life. I live in a fancy house that is blue and a clean farm. I have a large Morton barn

all steel roof and sides blue and I have 3 ponds in my pasture and 1 pond in the acreage across the street with a siding building. Both sides of my property is all high tensile fencing all professional done. All my property is professionally fenced in with gates all the way to the driveway. My pastures are closed off with gates to allow and not allow the animals in what pasture at any time I feel it grown enough for them to eat grass. My barn has all removable gates in which I run a skid steer inside to clean my barn out, in the spring. I have all self waters. I put back into the barn with large fans for good ventilation.

I am a judge of livestock and a breeder of club lambs and I am a professional mechanic who also is in college with almost a full degree in Science working to finish in the spring and also a dual degree in the auto mechanics field. I am finishing soon both degrees and work one day a week on farm calls with a vet. I am a welder, fence builder, and a transmission technician. I also went to school to be a draftsman and I have an A in most of my classes and a few B's. I am going to learn more about vet work or to be a teacher in the field of auto mechanics at the college level.

When asked about his position as Director...Richard writes....**What are things people will notice?** "I will always answer my phone I will never hide behind a answering machine. If you have concerns I will always try to find an answer. I never get intimidated." **What person traits do you bring to the organization that makes the club better?** "I care to help and don't play sides or to play politics and I refuse to get into all the arguments that go on that people have heard about talk about and still nothing solved but another dispute. I believe in solving the problem before it gets out of control. I want to make the club stop being a battle field and turn it back into a club where everyone is happy to be a member." **Your biggest dream for the club?** "What I would like to give to the club that makes it better - team work - working together and getting along and have more silent auctions." **If you had a magic wand, what would you change?** "I don't know too much about the club but in a short time I realized people don't get along for long and the team work should be together and not apart."

REGION 6 DIRECTOR...AnnaRae Hodgin writes....

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Region 6

I'm sure that many have now said, maybe secretly: Thank Goodness the rush is over & things have returned to "normal". I assume that many in our region are well into lambing..and I hoped to be almost finished as I wrote this...well, NOPE! But more about my lapse of judgment later.

A few members may have known that I was to host an educational session for ALBC's (American Livestock Breeds Conservancy) 30th anniversary & conference. This event was Friday, November 2. There were 20+ persons who PAID to come to our farm and hear MY views in breed selection. Drs. Phil Sponenberg and Don Bixby were in attendance, as was our own Don Schrider. People were in attendance from Oregon, Montana, Idaho, South Carolina, Rhode Island, and Vermont. I used some of my oldest sheep (almost 17 years old) to show what I term "old fashioned" or "traditional" and the difference within a bloodline. For example, an old Hillis ewe, Gertie Maude, is clean-headed, clean legs & dark almost burgundy. On inspection there are NO black hairs. She has tri-color hooves and NO DEWLAP! She is taller than the Isaac Hunter ewe by 6 inches or so. The Isaac Hunter ewe, Gretchen, is short, compact, heavy-set, has a top-knot on her head and has minimal hair on her front legs and a tad more on the back legs. Her color is more like copper. The color on her legs, both front & back and her head is the same. Both ewes have good ears, almost to the corner of the mouth, and are sound on their feet at this advanced age. Both ewes lambed in Feb. or March 2007.

Gertie Maude had a single for the first time and Gretchen had twins. It appears both will lamb this year, and if so, then it will be their final lamb. Gertie Maude has arthritis and when she is heavy with lamb, she has trouble getting up & down. Gretchen is super-slow in her movements--much like myself on some mornings.

I was really worried about my presentation, but felt better when one of the attendees said, "Well, you do know crappy and you admit it." This was in reference to the ram lambs that were still there.

I also participated in a Master Breeders Panel on Sat., Nov. 3rd. We fielded questions from the audience, as well as responded to questions from Dr. Sponenberg, who was our Moderator/Facilitator. This panel was composed of breeders of chickens, sheep, oxen, cattle, and horses & ponies.

The week-end after the ALBC event, I learned I had torn a muscle and was placed on muscle relaxers and pain medication! I'm a wuss when it comes to pain! Not the best combo when you are expecting to lamb any day! Now I have shingles--more meds and more pain pills. BUT I DON'T HURT!!! We had hoped to have a much better season than last year. HOWEVER!!!! My lapse of judgment reared its ugly head. What was I thinking? That's the problem, I wasn't! Who in their right mind would use rams from the same group as last year, especially when you lost lambs and ewes and 30 mature ewes were left open? DUH! Well, major brain malfunction. So this is our lambing thus far - 141 ewes exposed (divided into 2 groups of 70 or so each) to 1 ram for 2 cycles and then another ram for 2 additional cycles. So, we used a total of 4 different rams, each ram having 2 heat cycles to breed. The first breeding group has lambed--of the 141 ewes, only 16 have lambed. We are into our second breeding grouping and as of the time I was writing this not 1 had lambed. I do see some bagging---maybe 5 or 6 ewes! (We have almost completed that cycle, and our numbers are not a whole lot better than the first group!)

It would seem that those 4 rams have a very low sperm count, or low libido. Either way--not the lambs that one expects from a virile Tunis ram. Those rams were out, the ewes all together again when I noticed, like Don Schrider, the "girls" flirting and the guys pacing the fence line. (Newsletter Issue 5, Jan. 2003)...SO>>>>in goes Willie Nelson...in late September. (Willie Nelson was the hit of the session at the farm.) Poor thing was exhausted after about 4 days. My hubby, JC, thought he was sick...Willie came in with the girls and immediately flopped down by the barn, when I told JC that I witnessed him servicing 7 different ewes that morning, he understood the exhaustion. So as this session ends Jan. 03-05, 2008, we should have a break and start seeing Willie lambs in Feb. I personally hate to lamb much past Jan...but it looks as if due to my dead brain, that is what we will be doing.

Have had several requests for information or pictures. Recently made the trip to New Holland, PA to sell those "crappy" lambs. We did okay, I think; as the average price was \$1.42 per pound. That did not include the 3 rams that sold for \$ 58 each.

We are beginning to feel comfortable with our flock again---last year left a lot to be desired. We culled heavily and sent many nice-looking Tunis to slaughter. We will cull again after the lambs are weaned. It has been much easier to be hard-hearted after the past breeding/lambing year. We still have almost 300 sheep...not counting the lambs being born currently. We will be making drastic cuts this year. I have the flock on two different programs and it is very easy to check production, medication needed, worming needed, etc. All things to consider when making cuts, besides the major ones I use sometimes..."I don't like your looks", "You really peevd me by not going into the barn", and "You're always the last sheep in." YES!!! I have culled using those exact criteria. Heaven forbid you butt your lamb...if I see that...I make a note of it and if she's just being bitchy, then it is really easy to ship her for slaughter. But enough of my ramblings....

I have asked Randy to continue with the Southeast Tunis Day and he has graciously agreed to do so. So look for that event in May (I guess).

Also I have just been notified that I have been appointed to the American Farm Bureau Federation's Sheep and Goat Advisory Committee. I will be attending the committee meeting in February in Irvine, CA. There are 16 committee members and I feel very honored to have been nominated by our state president, but to actually be selected to serve, was totally unexpected!

CONGRATULATIONS, AnnaRae.....we expect a full report in the next newsletter!

And from the "RANDOLPH GUIDE" Wed, Nov. 21, 2007, vol. 54, # 47....

Happenings at Coleridge...."AnnaRae Hodgin attended and participated in the 30th anniversary conference of the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy held at the Dennis Wicker Civic Center in Sanford and at selected local farms.

AnnaRae hosted the Tunis Sheep Breeder Clinic at the TLH Farm located at 5977 Buffalo Ford Road in Ramseur and participated in the Master Breeders Roundtable.

At the conference those attending learned about traditional breeds, modern skills and about 30 years of breed conservation.

AnnaRae has been a member and supporter of the ALBC since 1990. She is the official historian for the National Tunis Sheep Association and is a master breeder of Tunis Sheep.

AnnaRae maintains a large flock of Tunis Sheep on her farm near Ramseur with the help of her husband J.C. Loflin Jr. Her flock is composed of many old and rare bloodlines. Like a good shepherd AnnaRae knows her sheep. She is also well versed in their production, bloodlines, and what it takes to maintain a successful farming operation. She is a member of the N.C. Scrapie Board, and represented the International Marketing Division of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Alternative Livestock Committee of the N.C. Farm Bureau and the N.C. Sheep Producers Association at the Seventh World Sheep and Wool Congress. AnnaRae was pleased and honored to be a part of the Conference. It was a learning experience for all attending. To learn more about this event and the conservancy check them out on the Web at www.albc-use.org."

* * * * *

Tunis brochures.....are for sale for members use!

20 brochures for \$5 and that includes postage!

May be ordered from the news editor!

REMEMBERPromote your product!

REGION 9 DIRECTOR, Barbara Cassell writes...

This time of year there are self-help lists everywhere as most of us try on resolutions for the New Year. I read an article on becoming a millionaire and thought that the "five -step program" could easily be modified for success in most any field. So, with apologies to Kristyn Kusek Lewis, READERS DIGEST, December 2007, I offer my five-step program for success as a Tunis breeder.

If you want to succeed in the Tunis business you will need to:

- #1. Set your sights on where you're going. Analyze your motivations and goals for being in the Tunis business. Decide if you want a hobby or an income producing enterprise, or something in between with the pleasant aspects of both. Make a plan that reflects your interests and believe you will succeed.
- #2. Educate yourself. Learn as much as you can about Tunis, the NTSRI, and the sheep business in general. Subscribe to sheep magazines, talk to well established sheep breeders, and research the aspects of the business that you don't understand. You can't do anything until you understand the basics.
- #3. Be passionate about Tunis. Focus on the highs and positives, not on the lows and negatives. There will be downturns before and after you become established in the Tunis business, but if you look for it, there will be a "win-win" even when there are challenges to be endured. Maintain a positive attitude

and not only will your outlook be brighter, but those around you will interact with you in a more positive way.

#4. Grow your flock. When that lamb wins all year and everyone is talking "big money" it's easy to decide to sell. But be sure you grow your flock first. The quickest way of realizing a return from your flock may not be the best way. There are many ways to make money from your flock; be willing to do the work and research to find them.

#5. Be willing to take a chance. We've all heard the saying "no guts, no glory". Though you certainly shouldn't act without reason, sometimes you need to act without guarantees. That animal that looks exactly like what you need for your "next big step" may not have an established breeder's nametag, but if you're not willing to try it you will never see the excellent results produced.

As you strive towards your goals in the Tunis world, don't forget to take care of yourself. A stressed out shepherd makes for a stressed flock. Cope with your stress to better appreciate the plans you have for your Tunis and to better implement the steps to success. Don't stew over losses. Whether it's a placing in a show, a lost sale, or a lamb lost for no apparent reason, let it go. Count all you've won, not what you've lost. Exercise, read a book, sit on a straw bale and watch the lambs play---just let stress go. Treat yourself. At that special show/sale hire a fitter/shower so that you have time to enjoy the ambiance and people. The money spent, far from being extravagant, can provide a chance for rejuvenation of spirit and desire that will allow challenges to be tackled with more resolve and endurance. Seek peace with where you are. Take time to regain perspective. Take pride on how far you've come; be confident in how far you're going; for just a while be at peace with where you are now. Find joy in your sheep. Let the number of the placing fade and remember the encouraging words from the judge at the last show. Let last year's losses fade and cause your mind to dwell on how well this year's lambs are growing. Forget the naysayers and enjoy the friends and colleagues who support Tunis and your efforts to enhance the breed.

So, should we expect a proliferation of millionaire Tunis breeders in the coming year? I hardly think so, but I do think that if we look to the future, educate ourselves, speak passionately about Tunis, increase Tunis numbers, and take reasoned chances we will seek better Tunis, better Tunis shepherds, and a continuing of a growing and thriving Tunis business.

I hope for all of you to be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and that a new year finds you a better 'shepherd'. (Benjamin Franklin)

SOUTHEAST TUNIS BREEDERS 2008 TUNIS FIELD DAY...

Saturday, May 3, 2008 Cassell Farm, Wytheville, VA

Mark your calendar and come join us Saturday, May 3, 2008, in Wytheville, VA at the Cassell Farm for the 2008 SETBFD. Bring your "sheep ideas", bring your truck and checkbook! Bring some good, healthy ewes and rams to sell! As in the past, there will be a speaker or a "round robin" discussion---probably both, a picnic meal, ewes and rams for sale, and lots of Tunis talk to enjoy. We'll start the festivities around 10 am and begin the private treaty sales after a picnic lunch. We always have some good sheep to sell, some old friends to greet, and some new folks to learn about. For more details, contact Barbara at 276-228-2862 or barbaracassell2005@yahoo.com. Watch for more information as the time gets closer to May 3.

NOTES FROM GREEN LANE FARM....by Val Ames

Well, lambing started early this winter: as in 2006, the extreme heat of the previous summer did not result in the delayed lambing that I expected. However in 2006 it resulted in a reduced lamb crop with many more singles. As I had used two of the Tunis rams the previous year, but with a different set of ewes, I knew by comparing the lambing percentages between 2005 and 2006, that the fault this year was not with the ewes or rams. By rotating the rams between two fixed sets of ewes, I was also able to compare the 2005 lambs with the 2006 lambs from each ewe. The idea was to see which of the two

rams used made the best lambs, but the result was quite unexpected: the best lambs, in appearance, came from the same ewes, regardless of which ram was used! This year I will be able to compare production of the 2005 ewe lambs but certainly gain and appearance appear to be very maternally dictated (perhaps I should say 'in my flock!'), although one of the rams does throw a high percentage of overcoated and white capped lambs, regardless of the dam. I hasten to add that in my experience with the Suffolks at least, the ram can have a significant effect on prolificacy if that is a multi-generational trait, so it would be best to select a twin ram from a ewe that has a high tendency to twinning. However, it has also been my experience that selecting a single born ram from a ewe that usually twins, does not negatively affect the prolificacy of his offspring; singles may start as twins or even triplets, but for a variety of reasons the ewe absorbs one or more fetus before the end of gestation. Selecting a single born ram from a dam that usually singles (surely we don't keep these ewes more than 2 or 3 years?) is definitely an unwise move unless we don't care about having a barn full of single lambs year after year (but I hope they are not registered!).

Another revelation that winter was maternal behaviour as it relates to management practices. Although I cull rigorously for lack of maternal attitude, I kept one not very maternal seven year old Tunis ewe because her average production is 2.14 very nice lambs (with no deaths at any age) for each of her seven lambings. With a very much reduced flock that year, I had lots of space, particularly for this ewe and all the others with twins, who were in a very large barn and field area. I noticed that she was a very much better dam that year because, I believe, she had much more space to herself and her lambs and could choose to keep away from other ewes/lambs. Of course many of you do not have the luxury or inclination to give 'picky' ewes a lot more real estate, but with my reduced flock and still the same size facilities, I didn't mind doing it, especially as this behaviour has not been an inherited trait with those of her offspring I have kept.

In the fall of 2006 I was obliged to use an untried two year old Tunis ram on my ewe lambs, a practice not encouraged (something like the 'blind leading the blind') and was quite confounded when I discovered mid-winter that he had settled 10 of the 12 ewe lambs - the last lambled February 8th! Of course this could just be because he is exceptionally good ram, but I won't hesitate another year to do this if I have to.

Culled and retired ewes have gone to market now - all go just before Easter, which gives me the best returns, especially when the pastures might not be as good as they could be later on. Weaning is just a memory but will start again in just a few weeks! I find this one of the most stressful activities as a shepherd, as I am sure the lambs do!! I am sure too that everyone has their own method. My routine for the past 20 years has been to cut off any grain at least a week before 'the day', pen the ewes for about 36 hours with poor hay, no water, their lambs and extra bedding, and then if possible, move the ewes out, not the lambs, preferably out of ear-shot. I read a very good article about weaning calves, where they determined the calves did very much better post-weaning, if they had at least nose contact with the cows, through a secure fence of course. I have been tempted to try this, but haven't yet. If anyone has I would be very interested in hearing from them; we are never too old to learn new tricks! The timing of weaning is often dictated by the length of the lambing season but lambs here are weaned at any time between 50 days and 90 days.

May I wish you all a peaceful lambing season in 2008.

Val Ames Green Lane Farm, Williamsford, Ontario, Canada

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SALE.....

Sale entry information will be sent to all members in the early part of February. The entry deadline will be March 15th so that the catalog and *The Banner* sale ad can be composed.

SOMEONE INTERESTED IN TUNIS?

Please send their name & address to the editor - the NTSRI will send out a package of information including a *Tunis Spirit*, a brochure and a newsletter. Let's promote our product!

CONGRATULATIONS to the NAILE Tunis Show Winners!

John Mzorsinki, Judge Louisville, KY

41 RAMS & 83 EWES SHOWN BY 25 Exhibitors - 11 States!

10 Yr Rams 4 Fall Ram Lambs 8 Jan. Ram Lambs 14 Feb. Ram Lambs

Meadow Crest/Darling, OH E & E Stumpe, IL Big Time Tunis, OH Tammie Serafin, OR

Uptown Farms, MO RQL Farms, NJ Olivia Brown, OH Bruns Tunis, OH

Billy Howe, NY Billy Howe, NY Tom Schambow, WI Meadowcrest/Darling

Mom's Tunis, VA Triangle Farms, IN Uptown Farms, MO E & E Stumpe, IL

Tammie Serafin, OR RQL Farms, NJ Triangle Farms, IN

5 March Ram Lambs 8 Pair Ram Lambs 15 Early Yr Ewes 7 Late Yr Ewes

Lane Brown, OH RQL Farms, NJ Rachel Schambow, WI Tammie Serafin, OR

Triangle Farms, IN Uptown Farms, MO Tom Schambow, WI Uptown Farms, MO

Mom's Tunis, VA E & E Stumpe, IL Uptown Farms, MO Billy Howe, NY

Big Time Tunis, OH Triangle Farms, IN Mom's Tunis, VA Mom's Tunis, VA

RQL Farms, NJ Mom's Tunis, VA Billy Howe, NY Bruns Tunis, OH

5 Slick Shorn YE 8 Pairs Yr Ewes 6 Fall Ewe Lambs 10 Jan. Ewe Lambs

J & L Dunham, OH Uptown Farms, MO RQL Farms, NJ Tammie Serafin, OR

Billy Howe, NY Billy Howe, NY Uptown Farms, MO Kayla Barkley, PA

RQL Farms, NJ Mom's Tunis, VA RQL Farms, NJ E & E Stumpe, IL

Triangle Farms, IN Bruns Tunis, OH Clint Garey, IL J & L Dunham, OH

Triangle Farms, IN RQL Farms, NJ Georgina Anderson, KY Mom's Tunis, VA

17 Feb. Ewe Lambs 12 March Ewe Lambs 11 Slick Shorn EL 8 Pairs Ewe Lambs

Lane Brown, OH Bruns Tunis, OH J & L Dunham, OH Bruns Tunis, OH

Brun Tunis, OH Mom's Tunis, VA Mom's Tunis, VA J & L Dunham, OH

Mom's Tunis, VA RQL Farms, NJ J & L Dunham, OH Mom's Tunis, VA

E & E Stumpe, IL Billy Howe, NY T & R Schambow, WI E & E Stumpe, IL

Rachel Schambow, WI Ethan Cull, IN Kaitlin Whiting, OH RQL Farms, NJ

8 Get of Sire 6 Flocks

J & L Dunham, OH Uptown Farms, MO **CHAMPION RAM - Feb. Ram Lamb**

E & E Stumpe, IL Bruns Tunis, OH **Tammie Serafin - Triple T**

Uptown Farms, MO Mom's Tunis, VA **RES. CHAMPION RAM - Yr Ram**

Mom's Tunis, VA Billy Howe, NY **Meadow Crest & Darling Tunis**

Billy Howe, NY RQL Farms, NJ

CHAMPION EWE - Early Yr Ewe

Rachel Schambow

PREMIER EXHIBITOR - Mom's Tunis RES. CHAMPION EWE - Jan. Ewe Lamb

Tammie Serafin - Triple T

EXHIBITORS:

Georgina Anderson, KY Kayla Barkley, PA Big Time Tunis, OH Lane Brown, OH
Olivia Brown, OH Bruns Tunis, OH Ethan Cull, IN Jim & Louise Dunham, OH
Jacci Erwin, OH Clint Garey, IL Billy Howe, NY JNT Tunis, OH
Nicholas & Robert Johnson, MA Meadowcrest/Darling Tunis, OH Mom's Tunis, VA William Reed, IN
RQL Farms, NJ Rachel Schambow, WI Tom Schambow, WI Tammie Serafin, Triple T
Square M Sheep Farm, IL Emily & Elizabeth Stumpe, IL Triangle Farms Tunis, IN Uptown Farms, MO
Kaitlin Whiting, OH Ryan Whiting, OH

NEXT NEWSLETTER - APRIL 15TH DEADLINE!

Do you want to receive your newsletter electronically?

Please let the editor know!

CONGRATULATIONS to the NAILE JR Tunis Show Winners!

12 RAMS & 42 EWES SHOWN BY 16 Exhibitors - 8 States!

1 Sr Ram Lamb 11 Jr Ram Lambs 9 Early Yr Ewes 5 Late Yr Ewes

E & E Stumpe, IL E & E Stumpe, IL Tom Schambow, WI Uptown Farms, MO

Uptown Farms, MO Uptown Farms, MO Dana Gochenour, VA

Lane Brown, OH Rachel Schambow, WI Bennett Brothers, OH

Tom Schambow, WI Jacci Erwin, OH Anna Charest, MA

Uptown Farms, MO Kayla Barkley, PA Jacci Erwin, OH

1 Sr Ewe Lamb 13 Early Jr Ewe Lambs 9 Late Jr Ewe Lambs 5 Slick Shorn EL

Uptown Farms, MO E & E Stumpe, MO Anna Charest, MA Kaitlin Whiting, OH

E & E Stumpe, MO Dana Gouchenour, VA R & R Schambow, WI

Uptown Farms, MO T & R Schambow, WI T & R Schambow, WI

Lane Brown, OH Uptown Farms, MO Steven Hasselman, IL

Kayla Barkley, PA Uptown Farms, MO Ryan Whiting, OH

CHAMPION RAM - Jr Ram Lamb - Emily & Elizabeth Stumpe RES. CHAMPION RAM - Jr Ram Lamb - Uptown Farms

CHAMPION EWE - Early Junior Ewe Lamb - Emily & Elizabeth Stumpe

RES. CHAMPION EWE - Early Yr Ewe - Tom Schambow

FLOCK - Emily & Elizabeth Stumpe

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A TUNIS INTERVIEW WITH....Debbi Brown, NTSRI Webmaster....

Let's learn more about our new webmaster....Debbi writes....The Unicorner Farm is located at 13232 E Hwy 84 in Axtell, Texas. Bob works as a machinist/scheduler at Alcoa Fasteners in Waco and Debbi a marketing specialist for Manitou North America but also judges cat shows as time permits. Their son, Jeff, is a school teacher and lives near Dallas.

The farm consists of 55 acres where the Browns have 1 quarter horse mare and a draft mare but specialize in raising miniature horses. Debbi comments that "both she and Bob have 'real' jobs but do consider the miniature horses as supplemental income (which seldom happens)".

Debbi's interest in sheep started almost 40 years ago when she had Rambouillet ewes as a FFA project. She credits her grandfather who also raised Suffolks and Rambouillets with creating her interest in sheep. Debbi writes that they originally purchased 5 Tunis ewes from a breeder in Greenville, TX. As 4 of them were bred, their flock has increased to 11 ewes and 1 wether. The Browns indicate they would like to keep the flock small but plan on acquiring a ram sometime soon. And Debbi asks..."What ram should I buy?"

After researching different breeds of sheep for several months, they knew they wanted a medium sized, rare but attractive breed of sheep. As Debbi said, "It came down to Tunis and Jacob - availability and horns made the final decision plus willing mentors." She admits "that the Tunis folks have been extremely helpful. Louise Dunham's answers to my emails was a big factor in choosing Tunis!"

The Tunis provide a number of different characteristics that will help the Browns' reach their goals...."hobby, raise a few lambs, maybe learn to spin. Possibly start a dairy flock ...when we retire!" Debbi again addresses this variety of Tunis traits in her final comments, "Though I have always enjoyed the show aspect of the animals we raise, I am concerned that the Tunis is being changed to compete in the meat industry when they are a multi-purpose breed. In other words, I wish the Tunis did not have to be changed so much in order to compete. I don't want to breed red suffolks."

EDITOR'S NOTE: THANK YOU DEBBI! You have said just what I have been thinking for a very long time...The TUNIS are a very versatile, multi-purpose breed.....**SO WHY ARE WE NOT DOING A BETTER JOB OF PROMOTING THOSE OTHER ASPECTS? Please use the free website Breeders' Directory listing to promote your unique product! And your newsletter can always use articles about Tunis and their varied uses!**

BITS & PIECES OF INFORMATION FROM NTSRI MEMBERS.....Hints for feeding lambs, creep feeding lambs & drying up ewes!

Nancy Schmidt, Region 7 Director writes....NBS Tunis had 25 ewes lamb this fall and they expect another 40 to lamb this spring. Currently, there are 100+ Tunis (and 1 lonely Karakul) on their farm in Collins, OH. Nancy is known for having a lot of all lambs on the ground and believes that creep feeding is the only way to insure that these fall lambs their share of feed in their own area. Also, the Schmidts feed a medicated pellet for coccidi to prevent any problems as these lambs are sometimes shut in for several days due to the winter weather.

Nancy describes the creep area as approximately 16 x 30 lighted area and that always has fresh water, hay and a mineral block. She says she puts creep feed in the feeder twice a day and increasing the amount as the number of lambs increase. She feeds a 18-21% formula for the first month or so and then goes to a 16-18% as they get older. The feed is a mix of pellets, speltz and corn. Nancy suggests allowing the mothers and lambs into the creep area so the lambs know there is feed there and then she blocks the ewes out. The Schmidts mix the lambs as soon as possible as they do much better if the lambs have playmates and the older lambs will teach the younger lambs.

Nancy leaves the lambs on the ewes for 10-12 weeks and at that time removes 1 twin at a time, if possible, and the ram lamb is generally removed first. She will cut back the feed to the ewes and, in some cases, will remove all feed. Otherwise, she doesn't do anything special and has had only 1 case of mastitis in all of the years of her experience! She does caution people to continue to increase the feed to lambs as they grow.

Nancy's best piece of advice is "I feed twice a day so that I can watch who eats and who does not so if there is a problem I can see it early!" Thank you, Nancy!

Larry Calkins & Mike Cass of CCC Tunis of Greenfield, IA writes...."We currently have 125 head of purebred Tunis and another 130-145 head of tunis, dorset, suffolk cross grade ewes. The 125 head of purebred Tunis will start lambing anytime now. The lambs learn to eat grain while in the lambing jugs. We'll set up the creep area as we turn out the ewes and lambs grouping them in groups of 10-15 ewes and their lambs as a unit. The creep is more for the ease of the ewes rather than the lambs needing it.

Our creep areas are usually about 16' x 16' with a couple of watering tubs and no additional lights. We hand feed the creep feed and hay twice a day on a limited feed basis. The creep feed is cracked corn, oats and ground alfalfa and vitamins. Our best hint is not to overcrowd the area. We also don't give them full feed with the grain as we prefer to keep them hungry and that way they will not stall out on gaining of weight.

Ewes are in a dry lot and the lambs are weaned at 2 ½ to 3 ½ months of age. We pull the lambs off by their size and put them in groups of 20-25 lambs. If there are multiple births, this will help even out the size." When asked about the biggest mistake people make when feeding lambs, again CCC Tunis comments that ..."lambs are often stalled out and feed is wasted with full feeding."

Eric and Beth Shafer of Cortland, OH writes..."We started with a small flock of 8 in the summer of 2005 and have never looked back. We currently have 22 Tunis on the property, and the number keeps growing. This year we bred 12 of our ewes and expect them to lamb the last week of March.

We do not use any supplemental feed with our lambs. We find that they are hardy and flourish without any help from us. We allow moms & lambs to graze together until we separate the ram lambs in late summer. Ewes and ewe lambs remain together. We happily watch them mow our grass all summer long, and allow the ewes to wean the lambs on their own. In early fall, we take our pasture-fed ram lambs to market. While they are a little lighter than lambs who have been 'finished', we think the trade off is worth it.

Our best piece of advice is just to find what works for you. It sounds silly, but don't be afraid to adapt things for your own circumstances. Read everything you can, ask questions of anyone & everyone, and then experiment to find out what works for you. While our hands-off approach is probably in the minority, it suits our situation, and makes the self-sufficient Tunis the perfect choice for us."

Melanie and Dave Campbell of Marion, NY writes...."Here at Campbells' Tunis, we will lamb out about 20 Tunis ewes and about 6 of Melanie's fleece sheep. We put the ram in about July 15th so we hope most of the lambs will be born in Jan. & Feb.

We will wean our lambs at 7-8 weeks of age. During this time, we have a creep feeder set up where the lambs have access to a 16% medicated pellets and alfalfa hay. Since we exhibit our sheep, we feel this gets the lambs off to a good start. Also we have stopped giving our lambs anything except BO-SE. Since the lambs have access to the creep at all times, we have not had a case of over eating for the last 10 years. Also the medication in the pellets keeps coccidiosis in check.

When it comes time to wean, we take the ewes to our other barn, with hold water for 24 hours and feed our poorest hay for 6-7 days until she is dried up.

Hope everyone's lambing time is easy and all ewe lambs! Happy New Year everyone!"

John Reed, Big Oak Tunis, of Crown Point, IN writes..."My brother and I currently have 10 Tunis brood ewes along with 5 yearling ewes and 2 stud rams. We also have 45+ Southdowns. Our 10 Tunis brood ewes will lamb late February to mid March due to the warm fall which delayed breeding.

Yes, we creep feed as we find that creep-fed lambs are healthier and have a better resilience to a warm, wet spring. Also Tunis ewes have proven to be heavy milkers to the point that they will lose condition which means feeding extra feed to the ewes. By creep feeding, the lambs drink less milk which results in faster growing lambs with greater disease resistance and better conditioned ewes on less feed.

We start creep feeding when the lambs are 5 days old by using a low feeder. We sort the lambs by size and age and try to keep no more than 10-15 lambs in a group. We use hanging hog feeders where we can put 250 pounds of feed in the hopper. Our creep areas are 12' x 7' and we'll use light to draw the lambs in...even using heat lamps if the weather is cold. We always have fresh water and we keep the hay up off the floor so the lambs can't walk or waste any hay. We start the lambs on a 21% lamb starter feed and once the lamb's appetite increases, we switch to a 17.5% ration plus good hay. Once weaned, we provide the lambs with 2 lbs of feed per day.

We leave the lambs with the ewe for 9 weeks unless the lamb is having difficulty in which case we leave it longer with its mother. To dry up the dews, we move them to a pasture away from the lambs and feed them 1st cutting grass hay and plenty of fresh clean water. We found that we have to be careful with the Tunis ewes developing mastitis because of their prolific milking ability. When the lambs are pulled off, the ewes sometimes requires being milked out every 4th day. We stop this after about 16 days.

Our best piece of advice is to keep the lamb in a low stress environment...which encompasses vaccinating and worming lambs, providing them with a strong creep environment which is warm and dry, and group lambs according to size and thriftiness. Also, lambs need to exercise. For those breeders who have more than one breed of sheep, we found that the

Tunis lamb has such a mild disposition that it will gladly give up its spot at the creep feeder for a more aggressive breed of lamb. Even when hungry, Tunis lambs tend to keep quiet and not complain and thus are under fed. Keep a close eye on the condition of your lambs."

NTSRI YOUTH COMMITTEE....Kelly Stumpe writes:

The Youth Committee has been very busy this show season organizing & funding the different shows, pizza parties, prizes and awards. I enjoyed being down at Louisville in November and conversing with all of the Jr. exhibitors. It was good to put some faces with some of you that I've had e-mail and phone conversations with.

We have received all of the applications for the Youth Scholarship and are in the process of getting copies to all the committee members for the final decision. Thank You to all who applied for the award! Don't forget the Youth Representative applications are available on line and we will be picking a new Youth Representative at Wooster this year.

We have two ewe lambs donated to fund the Youth activities. Like last year, we will sell one at Wooster and one at Springfield. Thank you to B-Bar Farm, Bob Bartholomew and Stumpe Tunis for their donations. If you would like to donate a ewe lamb in the future, please give me a call or email to one of the committee members.

Remember we will have a "Youth Fund Auction" at the dinner Saturday night at Wooster. We are looking for one or two items or groups of items from each region. Please let me know if you have something that you can donate to this. We will move along quickly with this and it should be a lot of fun!

We still have t-shirts and sweatshirts for sale! They make great birthday gifts!

The national youth futurity information will be posted on the website in February. All of the information is ready but just not in a presentable style yet! If consigning to any of the sales this year, please check out that information.

Kelly Stumpe, Chairman 636-357-8227 stumpesheep@yahoo.com

SEAN HARPER, NTSRI Youth Representative writes....

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope that everyone had a great 2007. As we start gearing up for an exciting 2008, I want to wish youth around the country the best of luck. As many things have changed with the National Tunis Sheep Registry this past year I believe that one thing certainly hasn't.... Youth exhibitors always have a strong showing of Tunis and are great representatives of the breed. This can be in part to the great support that the NTSRI has shown by the growing number of youth around the country and hopefully, will continue in the upcoming year.

As well as great support for the NTSRI, the ability for youth just starting out having the opportunity to purchase quality stock has always been something that the Tunis industry has been known for and I hope this will continue. So I ask that the consignors will keep this in mind; sell sheep that you would want to start a flock with.

I would also like to take this time to encourage youth to apply for the National Tunis Youth Representative as a new representative will be selected at the National Sale this may.

Once again, Happy New Year and good luck with lambing!

NTSRI Youth Representative, Sean Harper Southwick, MA

REMEMBER....NTSRI Junior memberships are now \$10!!!!

REMEMBER....NTSRI Youth Representative forms are now available on line!

REMEMBER....NTSRI Futurity information will be available starting in February!

Brianna Taylor wins Northeast Tunis Futurity with Windsong Farms Ewe!

Hearty Congratulations to Brianna Taylor, Shirley, MA who was the winner of the 2007 Northeast Tunis Sheep Association Tunis Futurity. Brianna's lamb was nominated for the Futurity by Tunis breeders Bill and Sharon Kerns, Harvard, MA. The complete results are as follows:

- 1st Brianna Taylor, Shirley, MA Nominated by Windsong Farms, Bill & Sharon Kerns, Harvard, MA
- 2nd Emily Gibson, Lee, NH Nominated by Woolmark Farm, Dwight & Sally Barney, Lee, NH
- 3rd Kaitlin Whiting, Martinsville, OH Nominated by Mom's Tunis, Barbara Cassell, Wytheville, VA
- 4th Ryan Whiting, Martinsville, OH Nominated by Mom's Tunis, Barbara Cassell, Wytheville, VA
- 5th Katie Harrison, Tivoli, NY Nominated by Jewel Tunis, Julie Jones, Tivoli, NY
- 6th Kayla Barkley, Mans Choice, PA Nominated by Square M Sheep, Elder & June Mers, Industry, IL
- 7th Taylor Harrison, Tivoli, NY Nominated by Jewel Tunis, Julie Jones, Tivoli, NY
- 8th Cody Coitus, Chelsea, ME Nominated by Mom's Tunis, Barbara Cassell, Wytheville, VA
- 9th Mandy Swartz, Attica, NY Nominated by Mom's Tunis, Barbara Cassell, Wytheville, VA
- 10th Kaytee Norris, Hopewell, PA Nominated by Darling Tunis, Jim & Louise Dunham, Zanesfield, OH

11th JC Norris, Hopewell, PA Nominated by Darling Tunis, Jim and Louise Dunham, Zanesfield, The Futurity would not be possible without the support of Tunis breeders who each pay \$25 to nominate their lambs. While not all lambs nominated for the Futurity are purchased by youth, every nomination is an important part of the program. Thank you to the following breeders who supported the 2007 Futurity with one or more nominations: 1.43 Acre Farm, Canton, NY; Bruns Tunis, Maria Stein, OH; Campbell Tunis, Marion, NY; Darling Tunis, Zanesfield, OH; David Brown Farm, Winchendon, MA; Hotis Scotch Acre Tunis, Gouverneur, NY; Jewel Tunis, Tivoli, NY; Lawthea Farm, Middleboro, MA; Square M Farm, Industry, IL; Stumpe Tunis, Tuscola, IL; Triangle Farms, Muncie, IN, Windsong Farms, Harvard, MA; and Woolmark Farm, Lee, NH. The support of each of these breeders is sincerely appreciated.

* * * * *

FOR SALE: The TLH Farm located in Ramseur, NC will be offering to sell many of the ewe lambs, yearlings, and proven ewes here on the farm this spring & summer. The main bloodlines are Arthur Hillis and Isaac Hunter with a smattering of Omar Elayan. We added the Mende flock recently and there will be some with that infusion. TLH Farm raises TRADITIONAL (or Old-fashioned) Tunis. We do have a few animals that would make a show animal, but that is not/and has not been our goal. If you are interested, please contact us @336-879-5484, ahodgin@rtmc.net, or see us at the Farm. We simply have to admit that we have "too many sheep for the wife to tend". This is a Scrapie-Free Certified Flock since 2004.

YOUR 2008 DUES MUST BE PAID NOW IF you want your name listed in the 2008 *Tunis Spirit* & the right to vote in the regional elections!

2008 NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.

MEMBERSHIP FORM:

NAME _____ INDIVIDUAL _____

FARM NAME _____ FARM _____

ST. ADDRESS _____ FAMILY _____

CITY, STATE, & ZIP _____ BUSINESS _____

PHONE # _____ YOUTH _____

E-MAIL _____

DUES ADULTS/FARMS \$20.00

JUNIORS \$10.00

Amount Enclosed _____

Send to: **NTSRI, 15603 173rd Ave., Milo, IA 50166**

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.

Louise Dunham, Editor

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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

October, 2007 NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC ISSUE 22

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