

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.

APRIL, 2008 ISSUE 26

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

How nice it is that spring has sprung (at least this week) and we can finally unplug those costly tank de-icers. Spring is of course a busy time for all involved in agriculture and we are no exception. Hopefully most of you have already, or are finishing up another successful lambing season. As we wrap we also begin to think about which animals to keep, which to consign to sales, which we might show and the often times unpleasant chore of culling some old timers to make room for those promising youngsters. There has been much discussion recently on Tunis chat about different types of Tunis, and what the "show" people want, or what the "wool" people want or what someone just interested in breeding a Heritage breed of sheep wants. Remember there is a breed standard that has been developed and revised over the years to use as a guide when selecting animals, showing or even registering your lambs. Take a few minutes and become familiar with it, no, it is not perfect and does not meet every detail of each breeder's flock but it covers many of the things that have been discussed on the Internet. As you read through the standard remember that it is a guideline and except for the disqualifications there is variation allowed. With that in mind, if you are looking to add a ewe or two to your flock or a new stud buck, there are several opportunities coming up in the next several weeks. There is the Southeast Trade Day in Virginia, the National Show and Sale in Ohio, the Tunis Summer Spectacular in Illinois and the New England Sale in Massachusetts all of which will have a great selection of Tunis available for your consideration. Take advantage of these events to not only pick up the sheep you need, but to talk with other breeders from around the country. We are a relatively small organization but we have wonderful people from coast to coast. Most of all HAVE FUN!!!

Speaking of wonderful people, I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to all those on the board of directors for all the long hours you have given attending meetings and supporting our breed. Along with them I also need to recognize and thank all those that have volunteered on various committees, without your help we just wouldn't be able to do all the things we do. I cannot forget to thank Louise Dunham and Debbi Brown for the great work they both do on the newsletter and the website and to Jozi Best for putting together the Spirit each year. It's because all of you that the breed continues to grow in popularity around the country.

Finally, since this is my last President's message I would like to say what a great experience it has been serving as your President for the past two years, and director for the past six. I will be going off the board and unfortunately will not be in attendance at Wooster as I am judging a large show that weekend in Northern California. The folks out there had been asking me for several years to come out and judge their show again, and I have turned them down time after time, so this year I agreed to judge for them. My alternate (previously) and now the new director from our region, David Rock, will be attending in my place and starting out his term as director. I would also like to thank the other three directors going off the board, John Buffington, Linda Cook and Jeff Norris and welcome those coming in Judy Harris and Dale Huhnke. Unfortunately there were no nominations for Jeff Norris' seat so it will remain vacant at least for now.

As I close I wanted to say that wouldn't you know in a year when I'm trying to reduce my flock due to other interests, over two-thirds of my lambs have been ewes. **Somehow I think they knew!!!!** Bob

NTSRI 'S General Membership Meeting....

Saturday, May 24 @ Amish Door Restaurant!

TREASURER'S REPORT January 13-April 13, 2008

INCOME:

Associated Registry Income \$3,603.85
Get of Sire-NAILE 2008 \$ 75.85
Interest \$ 2.44
T-Shirt Sales \$ 84.00
Web Ad \$ 60.00

TOTAL: \$3,825.29

EXPENSES:

Advertising \$ 215.50
Dues Trans. Fee (AR) \$ 310.65
Dup. Reg. Paper (AR) \$ 19.95
Nat. Tunis Sale (Advance) \$ 350.00
Newsletter \$ 379.99
Overnight Postage (AR) \$ 15.00
Promo Mailings \$ 31.20
Registration Fees (AR) \$ 424.65
Transfer Fees (AR) \$ 265.05

TOTAL: \$2,011.99

FUND BALANCES:

NTSRI Checking \$7,240.92 (\$1,813.30)
NTSRI Savings \$2,024.37
NTSRI Youth Fund \$1,171.41
Tunis Spirit \$1,014.00
TOTAL ASSETS \$11,450.70

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW DIRECTORS!

Region 2 Judy Harris, Director John Buffington, alternate

Region 3 David Rock, Director

Region 10 Dale Huhnke, Director

Region 5 No one elected. If you are interested in becoming a director, contact Bob Bartholomew, President
Submitted by Election Commissioner, Nancy Schmidt

"Tunis Spirit"

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE "*SPIRIT*" IS AUTOMATICALLY MAILED FROM THE PUBLISHER TO THE MEMBERSHIP LISTED IN IT! The member list is received from Associated Registries at the last possible minute before printing. **GET YOUR MEMBERSHIP PAID TO BE LISTED!**

NEW MEMBERS:

Linda Casey, 27 Piney Wood Rd., Taylorsville, GA 3004 Region 6

Mike & Jill Cull, 10720 S CR 300E, Muncie, IN 47303 Region 10

Wendy English, 413 Stage Rd, Buskirk, NY Region 3

Joyce McCarthy, 65 Nyhart Rd., Orangeville, PA 17859 Region 5

Clarence & Linda Morris, 9561 N. Adeline Rd., Leaf River, IL 61047 Region 10

Scott Reichenbach, 176 Dahl Rd., Crown Point, IN 46307 Region 10

Maurice Schmidt, 5671 Waterman Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63112 Region 8

Brittany Schroeder, 18905 St. Rt 114, Cloverdale, OH 44826 Region 7

Lori Smith, 2290 Mud Lake Rd., Deleon Springs, FL 32130 Region 6

Kalyn, Mark & Kristen Swihart, 25168 E. Broadway, Perrysburg, OH 43551 Region 7

Cody Ward, 819 Lyons St., Ludlow, MA 01056 Region 2

Rob & Shelly Williamson, 4714 Kimball Rd., Ontario, OR 97914 Region 8

Nancy Schmidt, Region 7 Director writes....

Ohio is quiet at the moment, everyone is finishing lambing, getting the shears sharpened, sorting lambs and waiting for warm weather. This has been a very interesting winter here for us. Here, in the northern part, our worst weather has been in March.

Barbara Cassell, Region 9 Director writes...

The NTSRI's Constitution Committee has been working over the last year on a revision of the NTSRI Constitution. The revised Constitution will be presented to the Board in May at the National Board meeting in Wooster. After Board approval, the revised Constitution will be "submitted to the entire NTSRI membership by mail ballot." (Article 12: Section 1202) If you are not a member, you don't get to vote on the acceptance of this very important document.

There are presently 10 Regions of the NTSRI. The just-held elections were for Regions 2, 3, 5, and 10. In Regions 2, 3, and 10 new Directors were elected and will be taking their places on the Board at the end of the meeting in May. Region 5 had no nominations and therefore will have no Director on the Board. A member from Region 5 can be appointed as Director by the President. (Article 6: Section 610) So, members in Region 5, PA, step forward to have your Region represented on the Board for May 2008-2011. Changes to the Constitution and membership are on their way; become a member of the NTSRI and make certain you have a vote during this important time.

Regions 1, 4, and 8 will have elections in 2009. Regions 6, 7, and 9 will have elections in 2010. Director nominations and elections are begun in January and if you are not a member of the NTSRI, you cannot nominate someone for a Director position; you cannot vote for the candidate of your choice; you cannot hold a Director position.

In 2008 the National Tunis Show will be at NAILE in Louisville, KY; in 2009 the National Show will be at KILE in Harrisburg, PA; in 2010 it will be at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis, IN. The National Junior Show will be at KILE in 2008 and at NAILE in 2009. The 2008 National Tunis Sale will be held May 24-25 in Wooster, OH, at the Great Lakes Show and Sale. This Sale has hosted the National Tunis Sale for several years now. With 85 Tunis entries from top Tunis breeders across the nation (225 total entries), this year's Sale promises to be one of the best. The Board will decide where the 2009 National Sale will be held at its May meeting in Wooster.

The Show/Sale Committee and Youth Committee provide recommendations to the Board for the National Shows and Sale venues and for other important activities sponsored by the NTSRI. The Promotions Committee determines how best to promote the NTSRI in media. The Tunis Spirit Committee is responsible for the publishing of the Tunis Spirit. The Newsletter Editor coordinates the publication of the Newsletter four times a year. The Webmaster assumes the editing and updating responsibilities for the NTSRI website. These committees, along with several others, are appointed from the NTSRI membership by the President, with approval of the Board. (Article 8: Section 801)

In addition to the revised Constitution proposal, locations of the National Shows and Sale, committee appointments, and proposals from existing committees, the NTSRI Board of Directors will consider any issues brought to it by NTSRI members. Become a member of the NTSRI. Participate in the NTSRI as a Director, on a committee, or as an interested member. Remember, "any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain--and most fools do." Don't be that "fool": don't criticize after-the-fact; don't condemn other's

efforts; don't complain about promoted motions until you have shared your concerns, ideals, and suggestions. Bring your concerns, suggestions and ideals to the attention of the Board to help promote Tunis and the NTSRI in positive, productive ways. Attend the General Membership Meeting that will be held in Wooster before the National Sale, and help shape the NTSRI for a positive, growing and connected future.

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Sally Barney, Region 1 Director writes...

There are a number of great opportunities for Tunis breeders and Tunis youth this year in the Northeast. These opportunities are supported by Tunis breeders and are designed to provide local opportunities for promotion of the Tunis breed and for building positive relationships between Tunis breeders...both youth and open.

Ongoing - Tunis Challenge. A new program for youth where youth nominate their own yearling ewes, ram lambs and ewe lambs and earn points toward end-of-season awards. Starts when Tunis are nominated. For youth in New England States and New York. Contact Sally.Barney@comcast.net or 603-659-5857.

July 1 - Applications due for the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association Tunis Youth Ambassador program. Open to youth ages 7 to 21 from ME, NH, CT, VT, MA, RI & NY. Call Peter Harris for an application (413-589-9653). Selection announced at the Northeast Youth Show.

July 19-20 - Northeast Youth Show - Tunis Show. Open to all youth everywhere (regardless of residence) under the age of 21. Contact Anna Marie Charest for info (413-245-9328) or www.nesheep.org.

July 19-20 - New England Sale. Tunis sell. Buyers credits for Tunis youth. Everyone is welcome to consign and to buy. Futurity lambs. www.nesheep.org for info. Sheep purchased in the Sale are eligible for the Youth Show (see youth show rules.)

August 31 - Tunis Special - Woodstock Fair, Woodstock, CT. Open to the world. A one day show which is currently the largest Tunis Show in New England.

September 20 - Northeast Regional Tunis Show. Eastern States Exposition, W. Springfield, MA. Tunis show starts at 2:00 pm. This show is always a quality event.

INTERVIEWS with the NAILE TUNIS WINNERS.....

Winner of the CHAMPION EWE @ NAILE is....Cass Hollow Tunis also known as the Richard Schambow Family of Evansville, Wisconsin. Richard writes, "Part of our reason for getting into Tunis was our grandchildren. We always try to support tomorrow's livestock youth as they are the future of the industry." Richard and Karen Schambow previously raised Reg. Suffolks and cross breeds for club lamb purchases but started with the Tunis in 2002 for their grandchildren Tom and Rachel.

The flock of 25 brood ewes, 10-15 yearling ewes as well as a couple of stud rams are housed in the newly built 40' x 60' Cleary building on the 77 acre farm. The ewes lamb in portable lambing jugs and then they are split off into large pens depending on the lamb, age & size. In addition to the sheep, they raise reg. Quarter horses for western pleasure and halter.

Richard says, "Their beautiful breed character, size and calm demeanor attracted me to Tunis. I got started with the purchase of a couple of bred ewes from Kenny Mayes. The next spring, I went and purchased a group of ewes along with a ram from Kenny I just wish I would have started in the breed earlier." When asked about the people that have been the most helpful, he says, "Kenny Mayes because he helped me start out in the Tunis breed with ewes and a stud ram as well as advice on breeding, etc. Also, John Bruns of Ohio has been very helpful with advice and support."

Cass Hollow Tunis have a goal to produce sound, productive Tunis with good breed character and durability. Since their grandchildren are a part of their Tunis operation and they enjoy showing, the family breeds for size and beauty. Richard says "Our Tunis are bred to perform in the show ring as well as the lambing barn." He encourages everyone to "start with higher quality! Remember, a ram is half of your flock. Buy a ram that excels with the traits that you want in your flock."

Winner of the CHAMPION RAM & RESERVE CHAMPION EWE @ NAILE is Tammy Serafin of Triple T Ranch of Albany, Oregon. Tammie, who works as a mail carrier, and Tim, who owns a custom hay operation, along with their daughter, Trinity, currently have 31 Tunis brood ewes and lambs. Tammie and her family live on a 5 acre farm that has a 12 stall horse barn used by both the sheep and the Arabian horses. Tammie's mother lives close by and she has 20 acres and a specially built lambing barn.

The family had been raising wether sheep when Tammie's mom, Jamie Pape, wanted a registered breed of sheep for Trinity. Tammie purchased a registered Suffolk but Trinity had some problems with that ewe. At that time, Tammie saw an ad for Doc. Davis' sale of his Tunis flock and immediately started looking for Tunis.

Tammie likes sheep with long necks, pretty heads and square tops & RR if possible and she doesn't want weak pasterns and low docks. She advises the beginner to "Buy the best you can afford. It costs the same to feed the higher quality animals as to feed the poor quality one. I would also advise that people start their flock by studying and learning about the breed before buying any animals." I would also suggest that they find their niche and stick with it! Her goal for Tunis on the West Coast is to have every child have a Tunis and to develop a sale/show at the Nugget in Reno.

When asked about who has been the most help to her, she says..."My vet, Mike Reynolds, as he is the one I call in the middle of the night. Billy Wade for teaching me how to feed them differently as I had a problem learning how to feed them as I was getting them too fat. And Dan Kleman for the Tunis information."

Tammie's concerns are similar to other breeders...."Where do I plant the money tree so it doesn't die!...and where do I find the perfect cross?" But Tammie isn't so concerned with the Tunis people,, she says, "The group is awesome! They will go out of their way to help you...they are just a great group of people!"

And the **winner of the RESERVE CHAMPION RAM @ NAILE is...Meadow Crest Farm!** Henry & Christine Zerby along with their 3 young daughters live on a 35 acre farm outside of Marengo, OH. The acreage is divided with 20 acres for hay production and the other 15 acres as pasture for the 12 Tunis brood ewes, 40 Southdown ewes and about 25 cross bred commercial ewes.

Henry writes, "I helped Dirk Wise show Tunis when I was younger. I wanted another breed that would be easy keeping to run with my Southdowns so I selected Tunis in 2001." Henry indicated that he selects his replacements on structural correctness, maternal production, muscle conformation and breed characteristics. Henry writes, "My goals are to produce high quality seed stock and occasionally show a few individuals to see how they compare with others in the breed. We are pleased that our home raised sheep have represented our flock well during the last few years: Champion Ram @ the Ohio State Fair - 2005 & 2006; Champion Ewe @ the National Tunis Show & Sale in 2006, and the Reserve Champion Ewe @ the Ohio State Fair - 2006."

Henry continues..."I grew up in a family where each child had their own breed of sheep so we had 6 or 7 breeds at the farm. Growing up around sheep I would say my father was the most influential. There have been many friends along the way who have taught me things about sheep. With regard to the Tunis, Sam & Pat Wiford have helped me establish my current flock." Henry continues..."We certainly appreciate the help we have received at shows and sales from Stacey Johnson, Michael Wise, Sam & Pat Wiford, and Darling Tunis (both Louise and the Old Stud Buck she runs with.)"

Advice to beginners? "Appreciate the tunis for what they are; don't try to change the breed. Seek out help from those around you and be willing to listen. Be patient - success doesn't come over night." One thing you would have done differently? "I would have been more selective in purchasing ewe lambs. I probably should have purchased yearling ewes rather than ewe lambs even though they generally cost more. And I would have tried to identify ewes that would lamb in the fall naturally."

TUNIS EVENTS.....CALENDAR

May 3 Southeast Tunis Field Day Wytheville, VA

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

NORTHEAST LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION - MAY 16-18

Mark your calendars now for the second annual Northeast Livestock Breeders Exposition sponsored in part by the Maine Sheep Breeders Association where it will hold its second annual sheep show and sale the Windsor Fair Grounds May 16-18, 2008 in Windsor Maine. This show will offer producers the opportunity

to buy and sell quality breeding stock and market lambs that will support their overall program needs. The deadline for consigning sheep is May 1st. To obtain more information or a sale catalog, please contact Wendy Reinemann at 207-785-2978 or www.northeastlivestockexpo.org.

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 (Topic? "Judging of Sheep for the Show Ring and the Keeper Pen") 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.

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT!

Rebecca Giles - a beautiful young lady from Pennsylvania. "Becca" received a donated ewe lamb through the Youth Conservation Program at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival in the spring of 2006. She showed her at several local fairs and did very well with her. She became so interested in Tunis, she went to KILE that October and bought 2 more. Not only did she like the Tunis, she liked promoting sheep and wool. She became her counties' Sheep and Wool Queen. In 2007 she became PA Sheep and Wool Princess. She traveled the state giving talks to all ages. Becca and her mother decided to make homemade sheep pins of all breeds. They take them everywhere they go and sell them. They use the money to buy supplies to pass out to kids when Becca does a program.

Jan 2008 Becca became PA Sheep and Wool Queen. The flock has increased with several more Tunis, Becca still traveling, making pins, and promoting sheep and wool So, if you see anyone walking around with a basket of sheep pins for sale you'll know who it is.

CONGRATS TO BECCA FOR TERRIFIC JOB!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

BY OUR MEMBERS....

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS....

FROM OUR MEMBERS.....

A NOTE OF CONCERN....

Please keep Richard Feasley, Sr in your prayers. Richard Sr, the father of Region 4 Director, Richard Feasley, Jr, is currently in Intensive Care on a ventilator and has been there for the past six weeks.

Richard says his father could use the emotional support provided by receiving cards and notes of encouragement. The best way to do this is to send cards to his home address: Richard Feasley, Sr., 10683 Crump Rd., Holland, NY 14080-9303.

A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE.....

From the Jan. 16, 2008 edition of "*The Country Today*"...a regional newspaper published in WI & MN

Couple starts first farm with sociable Tunis sheep written by Megan Parker -- "LaFarge - When James and Lisa Twomey open a gate and walk into their field of Tunis sheep, the animals don't scatter to the fences. The docile sheep jog in for a rub on the head, brushing their wet wool against their owners' legs.

'They're catlike sheep,' Mr. Twomey said last week at his farm near LaFarge in Vernon County.

For the couple -- who split their time between Kenosha and the Kickapoo Valley -- the sheep are a way to make their hobby farm pay for itself.

Tunis sheep, with ancestors from Tunisia in northern Africa, are a heritage breed. Tunis (pronounced Too-nis) is listed on the Americans Livestock Breeds Conservancy's watch list. It's also on Slow Food USA's Ark of Taste, which lists heritage foods. The animals have cream or ivory downy wool, with cinnamon faces and legs. The National Tunis Sheep Registry proclaims, 'Choose a redhead!' and 'Not everything in the sheep industry is black and white.'

The registry's Web site lists three Tunis owners in Wisconsin, including the Twomeys.

But for the couple, it wasn't easy becoming sheep farmers. After the couple bought their 12-acre farm two years, they learned of a Tunis flock for sale. They bought 13 ewes and one ram in July 2006. 'We were instantly in over our heads,' Ms. Twomey said. When the sheep kept licking the Twomeys, they learned about the necessity for sale blocks.

'We were really confident because we had read 3 books,' Mr. Twomey said with a laugh.

Without a barn of their own, the Twomeys rented a neighbor's barn. It had electricity but no water.

Mr. Twomey hauled 200 gallons of water a week into the barn's loft, where it flowed into the waterers, which sometimes froze. 'We swore to ourselves we would never rent a barn again,' Mr. Twomey said. The couple built a hoop house to use as a barn. It sits up the hill from their home, built in a narrow valley. The sheep roam in and out of the building.

The couple's flock has increased to 34 ewes and three rams - about the maximum the farm can sustain, Mr. Twomey said. They also own a Shetland ram. A family of llamas guards the flock. Lambs are born year round, though the couple is consolidating lambing in the spring. The next lambs are due around Valentine's Day.

Tunis meat is tender and flavorful without a strong mutton taste, according to Slow Food USA. The Twomeys have lambs processed at Steve's Country Meats in Genoa. They also have some meat processed in Madison. That plant is U.S. Department of Agriculture-certified and meets halal requirements for Islamic law. The Twomeys' freezer is state licensed, allowing them to sell meat. Most goes to a client of Mr. Twomey's bookbinding business."

AN ARTICLE ABOUT WOOL....

Shearing time is upon us all as we move into spring. For some, it's a last look at that fleece before that animal goes on the truck. For others, it's the first lamb fleece coming off. Get your fingers and eyes looking; for it's time to evaluate each fleece as an individual. Remember, Tunis serve three purposes and how much of each purpose you want to take on is entirely up to you...but at least two of these purposes are good for money - meat and fleece.

The hand spinners are clambering all over each other for quality fleece that is consistently clean, free of second cuts and meets their spinning/felting needs. As I remove each jacket from each sheep, before they are handed over to the shearer, I have a look at their fleece. I can tell pretty quickly if it is a silky fleece with a high luster, if it has some good crimp or is it more lofty. I have sold to hand spinners all across the country and had many of them as repeat customers, I know pretty quickly if they're going to be happy with this fleece or that one. Some special people are going to get a lamb's fleece that is not only full of crimp, but full of Tunis red! They won't know it until they spin it up and go to knit something...then they're going to really see the red come through. Such a treat! So look at your sheep's fleece! Skirt

those fleeces! Get your hands in the grease and begin to learn what a special animal Tunis sheep are.

Happy lambing to all!

Laurie Andreacci @ www.laurieslambs.com

A REPORT FROM A NATIONAL CONFERENCE....

AnnaRae Hodgin writes....I attended Round 2 of the American Farm Bureau Federation Advisory Committees. The meetings were held at the Hyatt Regency Irvine, 17900 Jamboree Rd., Irvine, CA 92514. We met February 19-21, 2008. There was a general session the first day, with speakers discussing the effects of the new Comprehensive Energy Bill on fuel costs, feeds and livestock operations in general. The Purchasing head from McDonald's Worldwide spoke on the livestock products purchased by the corporation and the safety structure that must be followed by the producer. He envisions that it will only be a matter of time before mandatory traceability of our meat occurs. This will probably be a requirement placed on the producer by the purchaser, not the government. McDonald's already has very strict guidelines for the producer to follow to ensure the safety and the healthiness of the meats the company purchases. Another general session speaker included a Cargill Feeds representative. This speaker discussed the many ways that the newly enacted Energy Bill will be affecting the producer, and in turn, the feed company. While the general sessions were thought provoking, the meat & potatoes part of the event was the commodity committee meetings. Besides sheep and goats, the following were also meeting: Beef cattle, Dairy, Swine, Hay & Grasses, Poultry, Equine and others. Our committee was chaired by J. Paul Brown, (CO). There were 16 committee members from across the US and I felt privileged to be there. Members were from CA, GA, ID, IA, KS, MT, OH, OK PA, SD, TX, UT, WY, Mike Corn of Roswell Wool from NM, Don Van Nostran from OH, and myself from NC.

Dr. Linda Detwiler gave a presentation on Scrapie and CL, but mainly discussed the newest strain of Scrapie isolated, Nor 98. This strain was identified in Norway and to date there have been 5 possible cases detected in the US. While Dr. Detwiler was very informative, she almost seemed to be retaliatory. Many of the producers there voiced the opinion that she seemed to have an axe to

grind with the USDA, or the APHIS section. She did admit that while there appeared to be 5 cases in the US, one could not state this for certain, as the detection methods are not fail-safe. She touched on CL (caseous lymphadenitis). This was in response to an inquiry I had sent in. To say that I was disappointed would be putting it mildly. She mentioned that CL was prevalent in sheep & goats, caused major loss due to the pustules, was contagious to humans, and that one could test for this disease, but there was no cure. She didn't tell me a thing I didn't already know. She didn't even mention the most reliable place for testing was in CA, at the University of California at Davis.

Mike Corn (NM) of Roswell Wool gave an update on the past wool clip. He stressed that while poly is a problem, contamination from "wool" from hair sheep was the biggest problem Roswell was having. He also talked about the price differential in wool markets.

Things discussed in round-table manner were the following:

- *an update from ASI on industry issues (predation & proposed banning of control methods
- *USDA lamb purchases *lamb weights down due to rising feed costs
- *LRP-17 states are offering the insurance *ethanol & energy & feeding of distillers grains
- *predator control & the DeFazio Bill in Congress to ban 1080 collars & M-44 compounds
- *military development of wool products *National Lamb promotions & how check off helps
- *Shearing Labor *Big Horn Sheep vs grazing for production sheep *MUMS funding *Animal Welfare *Endangered Species Act
- *Market Access *Farm Bill *Animal ID *COOL *Immigration & Labor (H2A program)
- *Media Attacks...esp. Cancer ads implicating red meats
- *Misconceptions about agriculture...i.e. did you know that most elementary school children think that chocolate milk comes from brown cows?

However the 3 items that were settled on/agreed to by the committee that are to be presented to the full Board of American Farm Bureau Federation as items the committee feels should be AFBF policy were these (Ranked in order of concern):

1. Emphasis should be placed on securing adequate federal funding support for PREDATOR CONTROL activities for all areas of the US & the efforts to ban or further restrict the use of predator control materials such as M-44 and Compound 1080 be vigorously opposed. The last part refers to Rep. DeFazio's (D-OR) bill.
2. Support reforms of the Endangered Species Act that would allow producers to protect their livestock from attacks by protected predator species. Also, to inform members of Congress of the negative impact that EST protection for the Big Horn Sheep is having on BLM & Forest Serve grazing permits. (Identified ESA species which are protected, yet causing significant damage to livestock...eagles, ravens, big cats...cougars, mountain lions: black vultures, wolves, even prairie dogs.
3. Continue to see adequate funding for minor species drug use, research & authorization for new extra-label use of drugs.

We were asked to limit our recommendations to three for policy implementation. (During our stay, there could have been a total of 69 proposals). We did write a proposal for inclusion in the Policy Development for this coming year. That issue dealt with the U.S. Energy policy. Our main concerns were that there were several unintended impacts that have already happened due to the provisions of the recently enacted Comprehensive Energy Bill. Moreover, it is important that the government of subsidies (such as funding for ethanol plants, etc.) & mandates (production of XX barrels of ethanol by 20XX) do not unduly raise feed prices or reduce feed availability.

As for MUMS, there are medications available in NZ & AU for use in sheep & goats that are not being used in the US. We'd like to see the testing used in those countries to clear a medication for use, be allowed to be used as a basis for use in the US. Intervet manufactures some of these medication, but we in the US cannot purchase these same products, even though we can purchase some Internet products.

Another topic that was touched on briefly was the elimination of the word "navigable waters" from a Clean Water bill that would GIVE the federal government control of ALL water. This would mean that Big Brother could tell you to give your water, in your pond or well, to a big corporation in time of whatever. The number 4 poultry processing company in the US has a facility 11 miles from my home. The company was not thinking when they settled there, as the town has ALWAYS had water problems...I remember during a training session at the fire dept. (I was a firefighter/EMT for 23 years) the instructor from that town stated several times during our class that when his fire department (city supported) had a fire to fight, they HAD to notify the chicken plant that they would be pulling water & the plant needed to stop certain operations, as the lack of water could damage the machinery. IF I had lived there and my house was on fire & the fire dept. had to give the chicken plant time to shut down lines, BEFORE they could attack the fire...I would have been at each & every council meeting demanding that something be done. Now, with the removal of the word navigable, the federal government could come in and take ALL of my water for whatever use they saw fit. I personally do not care if chicken cannot be processed there, because of poor site selection on the company's part, or the fact that the town has done nothing in years to even look at eliminating the water problems of the town. On the local news last night, our governor is asking for the power to do just that in times of emergency. He wants the authority to make a neighboring

town (that is conserving water) GIVE water to the town that doesn't have enough. This is becoming a "hot topic" in our area due to the extreme drought that we have been in. We continue to be in a drought, but some areas are not labeled as extreme due to some rainfall. We are already required to tell state government if our operation will use a million gallons of water in a day, and do we have that much water available, or are we purchasing that amount. This is an issue that will affect each of us, if congress passes that bill with that word eliminated and the word "all" replaces navigable!

I found myself carrying on a conversation with Bob Stallman, AFBF President, He struck me as a very knowledgeable person, yet one that anyone could converse. He knew enough about some sheep issues that he asked about those and that started our conversation. We talked about 15 minutes. I was extremely impressed with Mr. Stallman. He had left Group One's meeting on Tuesday, flown to London from CA, given a speech at some meeting; flown back to CA and sat in on one day of our meeting.

I would urge anyone who is a member of Farm Bureau Federation to become involved and take part in the activities that the local or state federation sponsor. A really nice perk was the following: airfare paid by state farm bureau federation, hotel and all meals...paid by AFBF. The only thing one spent was for something extra wanted by the individual.

A PRODUCTION ARTICLE.....

Well, that's the lambing season is over and what a strange one: both the Tunis and Suffolk dropped 85% ram lambs! In 22 years, the previous high was 65% ram lambs. As most of the rams had worked previous years I can only attribute this event to the extreme heat of last summer. Did other shepherds haven an abnormally high percentage of ram lambs?

I have not been in such a hurry to wean the lambs this year but will have them all done by Easter, except the ewe lambs that were the last to lamb. It was interesting to read in the last newsletter all the different approaches to drying off ewes. To those that have all that additional work milking out ewes after the lambs have been removed I would like to mention that this is just the same as if the lambs were still there - milking out just stimulates the udder to keep producing milk and if there is plenty of water there too - all the better! The withdrawal of lambs AND water, coupled with an unrelieved and full udder, causes the kind of stress that contributes to the udder stopping production and drying up. Just like to mention this to save someone precious time that can be spent instead on just enjoying the lambs! (and maybe eliminating mastitis.)

For the winter lambing period, my ewes get their grain in feeders set up outside the winter paddocks. This means I can pour it without being mobbed and when I let them out for the feed, their lambs will usually start racing round the buildings and up and down the lane, having a great time and a wonderful work-out. In the 22 years they have yet to race out of the farm - nothing to attract them as there's snow everywhere! (even now at the end of March.)

Another interesting and unusual-to-me item - I had two ram lambs born with already fat tails! Although I dock leaving 1" to 1 1/2" of tail, the end looked like a leg steak! Do any other Tunis shepherds get these newborns with fat tails? They also had the most wonderful dark red overcoats and dark red, almost silky faces - a trait that traces back to a Simon ram.

It was a season of firsts I think. I had three bottle lambs this winter and instead of increasing the fed milk as they grew and then reducing the number of bottles fed a day as they got older, at 30 days I decreased the amount of milk to four daily 7 ounce bottles up to 45 days of age. From then to 60 days it was 3 bottles down to none! This meant that as they grew and became more hungry, they had to satisfy their appetites with hay and creep as I wasn't giving them more milk. While, the 'test numbers' were small, I did note that they seemed calmer and not inclined to follow me whenever I was in the barn as bottle lambs from years would do. Their weight gain might almost have been better too.

It will be strange this Spring to see just redheads on the pastures (with just a few crossbred 'red-and-something's') I have realized that I just don't enjoy Suffolks anymore (though undoubtedly the UK Suffolks are good to look at and make wonderful market lambs), so they all went at Easter, except two exceptional ram lambs! And yes AnnaRae - I too cull for interesting reasons, like "you eat more than my Tunis" or "you bully my Tunis"!

Well, let's hope we don't have such a hot summer this year - if it ever gets here - or I may look into the camel breeding business!

VAL AMES @ 519-794-3000

BITS & PIECES OF INFORMATION FROM NTSRI MEMBERS.....

Let's talk about ewe lambs!

Dana Gochenour of Woodstock, VA writes.....I have a small flock that began as a 4-H project in 1999.. My numbers have grown steadily, but since I have been away at college this year I have cut back, keeping only my best ewes. I currently own six Tunis brood ewes, the same amount of yearling ewes for replacements, plus this year's lamb crop. I also own a dozen purebred Hampshire ewes with lambs.

Since I am still trying to increase my Tunis flock size phenotype is my main criteria when deciding which ewes to keep. I look for ewes that are fast growing and structurally correct. I also focus on ewes with sound feet and legs as there are spots in some of my

sheep lots that don't drain well, which can amplify even the smallest of problems. One breed characteristic that I pay attention to is color. I have never culled a lamb solely because of color, but I do take it into consideration when choosing lambs to show or offer for sale.

This year I, unfortunately, won't have the chance to test or expand my selection criteria, because I only have lonely ewe lamb in this year's crop. Thankfully, she is out of my best ewe and so far is looking quite promising, because I'm not sure what I would do if she wasn't.

My only advice to someone purchasing their first Tunis is to have an idea of the direction you want to take with your flock, and to make sure that you start with a quality animal that fits your goals and will give you a good foundation for the future.

Denise & Walter Clark of Meadville, PA writes....With our lambs, we have over 70 head of Tunis and Hampshire sheep. We started as a 4-H project and it went wild. Our son, Curtis (now a pastor) started us with Tunis and he is now shepherding a different flock. We have 100% RR Tunis and have built our flock around Doris Hoffman's foundation ewes that we purchased in 1993. We typically don't sell lambs as we want to see how they grow out....many times we are surprised.

The breed characteristics that are the most important to us are color, defects and conformation. If an animal is not conformationally correct, it is headed to slaughter.

When asked about advice to a family purchasing their 1st Tunis ewe lamb, Walter & Denise say, "Pick a good lamb that stands well and whose parents have been productive for the flock from which you are buying. Pick an RR animal from the start, especially rams. Look at the parents if possible because they are a good indication how your lamb will turn out. Don't skimp or settle for just any ewe. Check the breeding, the characteristics, teeth, and feet and legs." The Clarks' end this interview with these comments...."Tunis are prolific and the lambs are vibrant and energetic when born. They have been a blessing & joy for us to raise. Shepherd your flock & spend time with them & you will be rewarded with calm and dependable animals."

KYLE BOOTH, REGION 8 DIRECTOR WRITES...We have had Tunis now for about 3 years. Previously we had a small commercial flock of Southdowns, Dorsets, and Southdown/Dorset crosses (80-100 ewes). Our three kids were raised taking care of sheep, my boys spent many nights with me in the sheep barn during lambing season. They grew up with sheep and we sold organic lamb to local chefs and many of our customers from a number of Farmers Markets we did weekly in our area.

We sold out a few years back and did not have any sheep for a couple of years. When we decided to get back into sheep again we began looking for a heritage type breed that was not common and that could fit into range/pasture type operation for the production of natural/organic lamb. We are interested in eventually doing farm tours with our local schools and have decided to only go with breeds of livestock that may have been more common in years past and would be considered rare by today's standards.

In looking at a variety of breeds, we began to look seriously at Tunis. Through our search for Tunis we met Sam Cunningham and her husband from Moab, Utah. There were hardly any Tunis breeders or sheep in the West. Sam was very knowledgeable regarding the breed and offered a start-up flock to us. She had been trying to some of the best bloodlines from Tunis breeders back East to help start some flocks in the Western US. She and her husband made another trip a year later and bought Tunis from several breeders. We had our order in and Sam brought back a number of sheep which we bought from her as well. This has given us our start in the breed. We currently have around 20 adult ewes and two of the best rams we could get from Sam. We are in the middle of lambing right now and have a number of lambs on the ground already.

From our past experience, we know that it takes sheep at least a year or two to acclimated to a new climate, location, weather patterns, different feeds and hay, etc. We did not register any lambs from last year as it was our first real lambing season and we knew we were on a learning curve with the Tunis. Lambing went well and several Tunis characteristics became evident to us. The ewes all demonstrated a strong mothering instinct. They tended to have twins even with a limited amount of flushing being done prior to breeding. The Tunis lambs got up quick and wanted to nurse immediately, they were very vigorous and were up on their feet following the ewe some before they were even completely dried off. We are well into our second lambing season with the Tunis and not one ewe, even the first-timers, have had to have help from us lambing. All of the ewes, particularly those who have lambed before, have plenty of milk. All of these traits are very important to sheep being raised on pasture/range and being used for lamb/meat production.

We currently keep all of our ewe lambs since we are trying to increase our ewe numbers up to 75 or so as quickly as possible. We are interested in ewe lambs that are fast growing, true to breed type, and are from twinning ewes. Good muscling and frame are also desirable traits. Ewe lambs who are small, develop slowly, or have any obvious problems with breed type are culled and sent to auction or consumed by us.

Currently we have not had enough ewe lambs to develop a "Tunis Lamb" demand. We will obviously be working on identifying our lamb as "Tunis Lamb" as we develop our flock and increase our numbers. As well as producing lamb, our goal is to be able to provide start-up flocks of Tunis sheep to those individuals who are interested in them. We would like to see a number of new flocks started in the Western US. When people see Tunis for the first time they always catch their eyes and get attention. We get lots of questions from people who see them for the first time which opens the door to future contact. We are hoping our HS daughter will be able to show Tunis this Summer at some of our local fairs. We currently have two families we are working with who desired to start Tunis flocks of their own. Down the road we would like to work with our local 4H and provide Tunis lambs that can be shown in our local fairs.

When purchasing Tunis Ewe lambs for the first time it is important to get the best you can afford and in our case find, decide your purpose for raising them, and make the decision to become an ambassador for the breed. Buy healthy, growthy ewe lambs that exhibit good breed type and temperament. Taking a good look at the lamb's mother will tell you a lot. Try to get a ewe lamb that is also a twin. Taking care of a ewe lamb will be a great opportunity to teach your children responsibility and will start them on the learning curve of understanding sheep and taking care of them. Keep your ewe lamb growing at a good rate on good feed so as to reach her genetic potential. Follow a vaccination plan and schedule for your particular area, do not feed hay or grain on the ground, be sure and worm with commercial or organize methods as needed to insure growth and to get the most out of your feeding/nutrition.

We have been very pleased so far with our Tunis. We are excited about the market possibilities down the road. We ate our first Tunis lamb last season, it was outstanding according to us and our guinea pig friends. We know it is an excellent product. There are some other sideline traits that have been very evident to us for potential Tunis income or use. One is their wool. We are currently getting ready to have some made into roving for quilts. We will see how that works out. Secondly, due to the milkiness of the ewes, they may well be a good candidate for cheese making. We have seen several Sheep dairy operations making their own cheese and they have been using Dorsets and trying to selectively breed for milk. Tunis seem to have great potential in this area. The last trait that Tunis have going for them and one we are interested in is their ability to breed out of season or year round. That is just one more strong reason to consider Tunis for any type of commercial production.

As Tunis breeders, we have much to offer the sheep industry. We have found the breed to be hardy and we do not baby our Tunis in any way. We have sheep from a number of better known Tunis flocks and have been impressed with their ruggedness for the most part. We are looking forward to doing our part in advancing the breed and introducing Tunis to many people as possible our here in the West.

John Sachs of "Swingin Star Tunis" of Farwell, MI wrote...

First let me say that we are small growing flock, started in 2005 with 6 ewe lams and ram lamb from Mom's Tunis, Barbara Cassell, from Virginia. Then last year, 2007, we purchased 3 rams from Shelley Nussbaum, of New Jersey. Those are the only purchases that we have made, with a goal of getting to 20 mature ewes, plus young stock, based on the limited acreage and barn space we have available. This year we have reached our 20 head goal, if we count the ewe lambs that we are planning to keep. So next year, we will be able to begin our movement forward to an accelerated lambing flock of Tunis, breeding half our ewes every 4 months, therefore allowing 3 lambing per ewe in two years.

We currently also have a few 1/2 Tunis 1/2 hair sheep crosses that we have used for meat and to sell to a few people for butcher lambs. Our plans are to sell them and their lambs this spring, with a Tunis ram as a "starter" flock for someone wanting a few good productive sheep, with a good meat sire ram.

Our requirements have not been real strict, as we were building the numbers that we wanted. If a ewe lamb has a good mouth, (not undershot nor overshot) and has good feet and legs, and of the correct color, then we will give her a try at least one lambing to see if she will be a good producer, a good mother and milker. We prefer twins, but since our ewes are young we have not discriminated against singles.

We are developing a production testing records system, using a 90 day adjusted weight, recording those weights and keeping a cumulative weight for each lamb that a ewe produces, and comparing this information to develop ewe families within the flock. We look at life time production for a ewe in planning selections. Longevity is a key element in addition to pounds produced.

We have mixed thoughts on the RR-QR issue, as it seems the diseased we are forced to deal with evolve faster than the answers or solutions. In example, there have been reports of RR sheep either testing positive for, or confirmed scrapie. I feel that testing is another TOOL, but perhaps not a total answer, unless and until the scrapie program is made mandatory or with regulations that have some teeth.

So we look at mouth, feet and legs, a ewe that cannot graze, nor carry multiple birth fetuses will go to market. We look at 50% production records, 20% visual, and 30% handling of the animal. These percentages are approximate, but we feel we MUST emphasize production because our ultimate market is the consumer. We are working to develop a market through 4-H and FFA projects, and we feel that exposure as well as production records will aid in further markets for both rams and ewes.

As to advice: Start with what you feel is the best stock - bloodlines, confirmation, breed character, etc. that you can afford. BE OBSERVANT, PAY ATTENTION TO DETAIL. Spend time studying and getting to know each individual, their strengths, and their weaknesses, how they react to you and to the other sheep in your flock. Society, in general has adopted the "philosophy" - "Don't sweat the small stuff." I TOTALLY disagree - whether it is life or a sheep breeding program. ATTENTION TO DETAIL, PLAN AND FOLLOW THROUGH, but keep in mind that a plan is just an outline to achieve your end objectives, it MUST be FLEXIBLE and updated regularly. As to Tunis sheep, I have raised Hampshires, Southdowns, Suffolks, Dorper crosses, Katahdin crosses, as well as "Heinz 57" mixtures, but hands down the Tunis disposition, in my opinion, beats then ALL, consistently.

* * * * *

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE REPORT...

The Tunis Constitution Committee (Bill Kerns [Chair], David Rock, Paul Cassell, Randy Powley, Bob Bartholomew) have met 4 times over the past 5 months. Articles 1 through 10 have been thoroughly reviewed and many proposed changes recorded. At our next meeting in mid April, we will finalise our review of the Tunis Constitution. Amendments for each Article will be presented and discussed at the Directors' meeting in Wooster. Following this, agreed amendments to the Constitution will be presented to the Active Membership for ratification.

Bill Kerns windsongfarms@charter.net

FOR SALE: We live in Delaware and have good stock Tunis lambs and yearlings. We also have a few ewes and a senior ram. Our children are getting older and leaving us with way too many sheep on our farm. They have won many ribbons at our state fair...not all have been blue ribbon winners but many have. If you are interested, please e-mail me Wanda Loockerman at FullHouseFarmDE @ aol.com or call 302-337-7287

FOR SALE: 5 yearling ewes born 1/31-3/2, 2007. Sired by Triple S 402 and MTP 71 (both RR rams). Out of our "keeper pen". \$600 each with volume buy discount. Also, good selection of late December and spring born ram lambs for sale. Contact Mom's Tunis, Barbara Cassell, 2317 Peppers Ferry Rd., Wytheville, VA 24385. 276-228-2862. Visit our website www.tunissheep.com for more information.

FOR SALE: Maple Hollow Farms is offering a quality yearling ram for sale at their farm in Manns Choice, PA. This ram is straight Wise breeding and tests RR. For more information, contact Brian Barkley at 814-623-5756 or maplehollow@embarqmail.com or www.maplehollow.net

FOR SALE: Blue Ridge Farm Museum is offering for sale a number of Tunis lambs, both rams and ewes. We maintain a scrapie free flock and are located approximately 40 miles from Roanoke, VA. Contact Rebecca Austin at 540-365-4412 or rbaustin@ferrum.edu.

ABOUT THE BRUCE HUNT MEMORIAL AWARD....

It is time to think about that Tunis member/breeder that has made a difference. Remember all nominations are to be published in the national newsletter no later than the July issue for consideration. The committee will make their decision and announce the winner at a suitable gathering of Tunis membership after September 1st. For more information, contact Lyle Hotis @ 315-287-3776 & send all nominations to the news editor!

Sean Harper, 2007 NTSRI Youth Ambassador writes.....

I would like to take the time to thank everyone for giving me the chance to represent the Tunis breed over this past year. I enjoyed meeting many new people, who are that excited about the Tunis breed as myself. I look forward to giving a new youth member the opportunity to represent the breed for this upcoming year. I look forward to the National Sale during Memorial Day weekend and seeing many new faces and introducing a new youth ambassador.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity,

NTSRI Youth Ambassador, Sean Harper

NTSRI TUNIS EWE LAMB FUTURITY

In an effort to get junior members more involved, the National Tunis Sheep Registry Inc. is initiating a new National Tunis Ewe Lamb Futurity in May 2008.

The Tunis ewe lamb futurity will offer in premiums a jackpot of nomination fees plus any additional donations to youth who participate. This program will not only enhance the junior members ability to purchase extremely high quality breeding stock but will also make it more beneficial for the breeders to consign their very best animals.

The rules of the futurity are relatively simple and are outlined below. You can buy a top quality ewe lamb at one of the designated sales that has been nominated for the futurity, exhibit the lamb at the shows you normally attend and then send in your results on the point record form provided. It's fun, it's easy and you could theoretically win back a sizable premium while adding a top quality female to your flock.

The designated sales will include: National Tunis Sale (Wooster, OH); Tunis Summer Spectacular (Springfield, IL), and the New England Sale (MA).

CONSIGNOR RULES: Entries are open to all lambs born on or after January 1st, 2008.

1. A nomination fee of \$25.00 is required and payable to the National Tunis Sheep Registry, Inc. (NTSRI). Payment of the nomination fee is payable before the animal is sold. Ewe lambs must be nominated and designated prior to entering the show ring of their class at each Futurity Sale.
2. Each ewe lamb must be properly identified which in turn must correspond to the registration certificate.
3. Each ewe lamb must conform and abide by the rules and regulations of the individual sale to which it is consigned. All normal entry and commission fees will apply.
4. The National Tunis Sheep Registry Inc. will not be responsible and shall be held harmless for any disputes and/or disagreements between buyers and sellers.

EXHIBITOR RULES:

1. All North American International Livestock Exposition rules shall apply. Juniors are expected to be knowledgeable of and agree to abide by these rules.
2. All juniors who meet the requirements for the junior show at the North American International Livestock Exposition are eligible. Rules for the NAILE are:
 - a. Not more than 21 years of age at the date of the show in November.
 - b. Junior members must be present to show their own sheep unless physically impaired.
 - c. Animals must be registered in their respective breed organization by August 1 of that year.
 - d. Must have an up to date paid membership in the junior breed association of the said breed.
3. Junior members must be at least 8 years of age with no partnerships, joint registrations, etc.
4. Ewe lambs and points earned in the Futurity are not transferable to any other person, any other Futurity, nor are the points from one lamb to another.
5. Ewe lambs are to be registered to individuals only, no partnerships, joint registrations, etc.
6. No Futurity entrant can compete with more than two lambs. Total points earned by two ewe lambs may not be combined into one lamb's total.
7. If registration papers are not received by the first show, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to show the lamb in the correct class.
8. Lambs must compete in a class of registered ewe lambs to receive futurity points.
9. Junior members must exhibit their own lamb within a class. If they have two lambs in the same class, another junior member may exhibit the second lamb.

10. If any exhibitor that owns a lamb is not present at the respective show - futurity points are not eligible and should not be submitted to the Youth Committee.

11. Premiums - A jackpot of nomination fees plus any donations will be awarded in premiums with the money total to be awarded as follows:

FIRST - 20% SECOND - 15% THIRD - 12.5 % FOURTH - 11.25% FIFTH - 10%

SIXTH - 8.75% SEVENTH - 7.5 % EIGHTH - 8.25% NINTH - 5% TENTH - 3.75%

POINT SCORING:

1. A point card must be filled out for each show and forwarded to the Youth Committee within 14 days of the show. The card must be signed by the superintendent of the appropriate show.

2. At each individual show the ewe lamb may earn Futurity points from both the open show and the junior show.

3. Ewe lambs can compete at an unlimited number of shows and submit for each show attended, with only the highest five point award cards to be recorded as Futurity points. Of the seven point award cards, no more than three point scorings from the county fair Jr shows (shows where it is only Jr kids from your county and adjoining counties) will be counted towards the total points.

4. Points at the National Open class & Junior Tunis show will be doubled.

5. Futurity awards will be announced at the National Tunis Sale in Wooster, Ohio.

6. The Futurity year runs from the National Sale date to the next National Sale date.

If you have purchased a nominated ewe lamb and would like to participate in the Futurity or need more information regarding the Futurity and the Tunis breed, please feel free to call any member of the Youth Committee or Kelly Stumpe @ stumpesheep@yahoo.com or 636-357-8227

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

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

Typeable forms & membership information!

"NTSRI Breeders' Directory - FREE listing for members!

National Futurity Entry Info!

T-Shirt & Youth Representative Information!

***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!

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!

Next Newsletter deadline - July 22nd!

Please send any Tunis news/informative article
**YOUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOUR
INPUT!!!**

THE BEGINNER'S COLUMN.....Lyle Hotis

"Affording the Sheep Flock"

This column concerns the affordability of the small sheep flock. If cost is no object to you, you might as well skip this right now and save yourself the time!

If you are beginner with sheep, I hate to be the one to break this news to you, but: there is not a lot of money to be made in raising sheep. If you are truly interested in making money with sheep you need to consider raising them in the multiples of hundreds. One hundred, two hundred, or more.

Having said that, there are still some very good reasons for keeping a small flock of sheep (hopefully Tunis). In my own case, sheep have been an excellent outlet for my desire to be actively involved with agriculture. Sheep are a perfect youth project. They are great at keeping vegetation on our land under control and utilizing it for our food and fiber. In our own red, they are the bond that brings us together as friends. Without our involvement with Tunis, our list of good friends would be greatly diminished.

I'm sure you have reasons of your own for raising sheep, but to get to the subject, how do we afford to keep them in these rather challenging times? The cost of everything is up and up some more. Most of it is in some way related to the cost of oil. The price of oil is the reason that corn costs so much to produce, process, and transport to the feed store nearest you.

The largest single cost of raising sheep is feed. In order to be able to afford to raise sheep we need to reduce the dependence on grains and rely more on homegrown pastures and hay. The cheapest of those is the pasture. Here in the Northeast, we hope to pasture from around May 1 to December 1. That's seven months if I count correctly that we can hope for low cost feed.

Learning how to manage your pasture is of great importance. I would recommend that you learn about rotational grazing in order to maximize plant production. Let's say for example that you have a four acre pasture that can be divided into quarters. You might pasture the sheep in quadrant one for only one week. But because in the meantime the other quadrants are growing along rapidly, the sheep might be in the second quadrant for two weeks, and the third for possibly longer. The whole idea is to get them into the fourth quadrant before those plants become too tall or mature for them to eat efficiently. In the meantime, the initial quadrant that you grazed should be rebounding to the point that it can be grazed again. All of this takes close observation and some management to achieve but it has great potential for maximizing quality and quantity of grazing.

We advertise Tunis as being easy keepers. I have never been a great fan of using feed tables to calculate their total daily requirements and matching that with total daily intake to arrive at a conclusion that we're feeding them right. I'm more inclined to observe their body condition and apparent health to determine if I'm feeding them right.

Sheep are not born to be grain eaters. They are naturally processors of forages. That's why they have the four stomach compartments. Grain should be supplementary only. I try to feed grain to the ewe flock only six weeks before and six weeks after lambing. This last winter, I was fortunate enough to have excellent quality hay to feed. Because of that I only fed once daily when other years when grain was cheaper I fed twice daily. This sheep came through in excellent condition and the grain bill was lower.

I would suggest to you that you consider the possibility of investing your feed dollars in better quality hay and staying away from grains as much as possible. The area you live in and the price of the hay will be a factor in that decision. In my area I was able to purchase excellent quality second cutting grass hay for \$2-3/bale. With the big jump in the price of diesel fuel, that may not be the case again, we'll see. Our grain was around \$15/cwt. So whatever the cost of feed in your area, you will have to weigh the options and make up your own mind. Just keep in mind that forages are usually a cheaper source of nutrients than purchased grains.

If you already have the equipment to put up your own hay, that's all the better. But I certainly wouldn't go out and buy tractors, mowers, and hay balers to put up hay for a small sheep flock. The economics for that are just not there.

The final suggestion for keeping costs down concerns the area of preventative health care of the flock. Following feed costs, health care is the next largest cost of maintaining the sheep flock. It should be a common goal to minimize the number of times the veterinarian has to visit the farm. And that is accomplished through prevention.

Simple things like having free access to minerals, routinely trimming feet, and keeping up with vaccinations appropriate for your area are all part of the process. If you have not learned how to give vaccines by yourself, you should. It's not a big deal. Your vet would probably be happy to show you how. Most sheep vaccines are given subcutaneous, or under the skin.

You should also learn something about sheep obstetrics so you can assist in simple delivery problems. As you gain experience, you will be able to solve more of these situations by yourself. It's actually very rewarding and saves you money besides.

If you are raising Tunis you are raising a low maintenance breed of sheep. By utilizing high quality forages, avoiding purchased grain where you can, and preventative health care, you can keep your costs low and the rewards high.

Your comments are always welcome. If you have some experience raising sheep and would like to write a column for the newsletter, contact me or Louise and we would be glad to share it with our member friends.

Do you have a topic to suggest that would be interesting to beginners? If so, send the idea to Louise or Lyle Hotis!

2008 NATIONAL TUNIS SALE SCHEDULE

WOOSTER, OHIO

May 24-25th Please come & join the fun!

Friday, May 23rd Sheep Arrive 6:00 PM Hospitality Supper...Everyone Welcome!

Saturday, May 24th 1:00 PM National Tunis Show

6:30 PM Dinner @ Amish Door Restaurant

NTSRI's General Membership Meeting

Sunday, May 25th 9:00 AM Complimentary Donuts & Coffee

11:00 AM Used Sheep Equipment Auction

1:00 PM National Tunis Sale

ABOUT THE GREAT LAKES FIBER SHOW...This weekend is all about wool & other fibers...there are 3 buildings filled with dealers, demonstrations, workshops, etc. Check out those schedules on their web site "Great Lakes Fiber Show." Same place...same time as the National Sale!

LOCATION: at the Wayne County Fairgrounds is located at St. Rt. 250 & US 30 on the west edge of Wooster.

SALE CATALOG: All NTSRI & OTSA members (and anyone else receiving this newsletter) will receive a complete catalog from The Banner Sales Management. The catalog will also be published in the April issue of The Banner Magazine and will be available on line at www.bannersheepmagazine.com. +
TUNISSHEEP.ORG

AREA MOTELS & CAMPING:

AmeriHost Inn East now known as the Rodeway Inn at 330-262-5008 will serve as our headquarters and has a special rate for our group when you ask for the National Tunis sheep rate. Also.....

Wooster Best Western 330-264-7750 AmeriHost North 330-345-1500

EconoLodge 330-264-8883 Hampton Inn 330-345-4424

Super 8 Motel 800-800-8000 The Wooster Inn 330-263-2661

Camping.....is available at the Fairgrounds...contact Linda Reichert at 330-264-9665.

FRIDAY NIGHT HOSPITALITY ROOM:

There will be a light supper served Friday night at the fairgrounds for anyone in attendance. This is a good way to start the weekend off on a positive note. The Hospitality Room is being organized by Kathy Niese and any and all donations towards this meal will be appreciated. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

Kathy Niese and Linda Brown will again head up this effort. If anyone would like to help sponsor the Friday night meal let Kathy Niese know. Sponsors can send \$25.00 toward the purchase of the meal, volunteer to bring a dessert, or drinks for that night. Please give Kathy a call @419-969-0783 or kniese@muncie.k12.in.us.

YOUTH SALES CREDITS.....

Any youth under the age of 18 may sign up with NTSRI's Region 7 director before the time of the sale to be eligible for winning one of three \$50 sales credits. The youth need not be a member of the NTSRI or the OTSA to sign up or win. The youth must have their own sales number and the credit will be paid directly to the Banner Sales Management at the conclusion of the sale. Drawings will be held 10 MINUTES FOLLOWING THE TUNIS PORTION OF THE SALE. These credits are given by the National Tunis Sheep Registry and Tim & Deb Barnes and the Ohio Tunis Sheep Association.

FARM DISPLAYS....

The Ohio Tunis Sheep Association will again provide a commons area in the barn where individual farms can set up displays, and gather with friends. Bring your displays and your chairs and let's have a great time.

PHOTO CONTEST....

We will again be having the photo contest, so bring your great Tunis Sheep photos. Contest winners will be published in the next newsletter! We will pick the top 3 pictures to publish. Be sure to include your name on all photos. * photos must be able to be submitted by email to be published.

THE NATIONAL TUNIS YOUTH COMMITTEE is holding an AUCTION!

The Committee will hold an auction after the dinner at the Amish Door to benefit the National Youth Program. If you would like to donate a basket/item for this auction, please contact Kelly Stumpe at 636-357-8227. All regions are encouraged to donate 2 items or a basket for this auction. As Kelly says, "If I don't hear from you or your region, I'll be contacting you!"

THE SATURDAY NIGHT SOCIAL EVENT.....6:30 pm Amish Door Restaurant

The Ohio Tunis Sheep Association will coordinate the Saturday evening meal. The Amish Door has changed it's policy and we must confirm our reservation May 8. The cost of each meal is \$16.50 for adults and \$8.40 for children ages 4 to 10. Children 3 and under are free. Please complete the reservation form below and return it by May 8. Payment for your meals can be sent with your reservation form. All reservation must be paid for by 12:00 Saturday, May 24.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE OHIO TUNIS SHEEP ASSOCIATION.

REMEMBER....bring lawn chairs!

Bring something for the "Used Equipment Auction" & make some money and have some fun doing it!

See you at Wooster!

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

FREE WEBSITE LISTING.....on the NTSRI's website under the "Breeder's Directory."

FARM NAME _____
FAMILY MEMBERS' NAMES: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
STATE & ZIP CODE _____ PHONE NUMBER _____
EMAIL? FAX? CELL PHONE? _____
ONE LINE OF INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FLOCK _____

SEND TO:

Debbi Brown, NTSRI's Webmaster, 13232 E Hwy 84, Axtell, TX 76624

NATIONAL SALE.....DINNER RESERVATION FORM

Saturday, May 24th @ 6:30 pm

AMISH DOOR RESERVATION FORM Return by May 16, 2008

NAME _____

OF ADULTS ATTENDING? _____ @ \$16.50

CHILDREN 4 - 10 YEARS? _____ @ \$ 8.40

3 AND UNDER? _____ Free

Amount enclosed? _____

(Make check payable to Ohio Tunis Sheep Association)

Return the reservation form to:

Kathy Niese, OTSA Treasurer 8777 Rd I-7, Ottawa, OH 45875

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

April, 2008 NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC ISSUE 26

REGION 1 Sally Barney, Treasurer, 52 Cartland Rd., Lee, NH 03824

Sally.Barney@comcast.net 603-659-5857

ALT. Jozi Best, 225 S. Hedgehog Hill Rd., Unity, Newport, NH 03773 jozibest.aol.com 603-304-9152

REGION 2 John Buffington, 2685 Horton, N. Dighton, MA 02764

alandatunis@yahoo.com 508-252-3968

REGION 3 Bob Bartholomew, Jr., President 571 Frisbee, E. Chatham, NY 12060

bbarfarm@aol.com 518-755-1701

ALT. Dr. David Rock, 590 Montgomery Rd., Hillsborough, NJ 08844 rqlFarms1@patmedia.net 908-369-6413

REGION 4 Richard Feasley, 10683 Crump Rd., Holland, NY 14080

slfarm123@aol.com 716-860-9496

REGION 5 Jeff Norris, 174 Colonel John Dr., Hopewell, PA 16650

fortpiperovine@yahoo.com 814-652-2347

REGION 6 AnnaRae Hodgin, 5877 Buffalo Ford Rd., Ramseur, NC 27316 336-879-5484 ahodgin@rtmc.net

ALT. Sheri Palko, 500 Mountain Breeze Lane, Knoxville, TN 37934 865-966-2604

REGION 7 Nancy Schmidt, V-P, 3812 Townsend-Angling Rd., Collins, OH 44826

burdette@hmcld.net 419-668-6118

REGION 8 Kyle Booth, Box 390599, Anza, CA 92539

goodword50@yahoo.com 951-763-1045

REGION 9 Barbara Cassell, Sec'y, 2317 Peppers Ferry Rd., Wytheville, VA 24382 276-228-2862

barbaracassell2005@yahoo.com

ALT. Catharine Johnson, 251 Southwood Dr., Kearneysville, WV 25430 swoodfarmforge@outdrs.net 304-876-7080

REGION 10 Linda Cook, 1725 W. CR 450N, Muncie, IN 47303

lcmouse@juno.com 765-288-7829

ALT. Dale Huhnke, 1725 W. CR 450N, Muncie, IN 47303 daleh@asheragency.com