

the **TUNIS** **S**hepherd

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Volume 12

Issue 1

MESSAGE FROM ADAM HENSLEY.... 2002 TUNIS YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Hello, all fellow Tunis breeders, I wanted to write and introduce myself and give you brief history. I am 16 years old and live in Lenoir City, Tennessee, where I am in the 11th grade at Lenoir City High School. I have been raising and showing sheep since I was 8 years old. I began showing crossbred market lambs and Hampshire ewes. During a visit to NAILE in 1990, we fell in love with the Tunis. This was the first time we had seen them, and, of course, the color was the first thing that we loved. Now the rest is history and I have had a flock of Tunis since 1991. I have raised and shown these Tunis when no one in our area knew what they were. I started my flock with a single ewe my aunt purchased from Ken Mayes. That first year, she gave me twin ewe lambs, and from that point on, she gave me triplets! I still have my first ewe lamb from her, "Bonnie", who continues to lamb and raise great lambs every year. I have continued to add bloodlines to my flock including - Elayan, Ford, S & T and this year purchased a ewe lamb from Fingerlakes, and a new ram from Barbara Cassell of Wytheville, VA which is from Hickory Acres and S & T breeding. Currently, my 3 brothers and I have 13 ewes.

For the past 9 years, I have worked hard to promote the Tunis in Tennessee and have managed to get an Open or Junior Tunis shows added to the Tennessee Jr. Livestock Expo, Mideast Regional Fair, Anderson County Fair and Roane County Fairs. One event that I am particularly proud of is the Tennessee Junior Sheep Expo held every year in Cookeville, TN. I was able to get them to add a Tunis show in 1998. We barely had enough sheep (10) to add the show, but with continued promotion and growth of flocks, last year we had 29 sheep and 13 youth exhibiting Tunis. They remain one of the favorite of visitors to all our shows. I'm still working on a couple of fairs, too. This gives all the Tunis youth and adults a chance to show off their Tunis in their own show...and not having to show with other breeds.

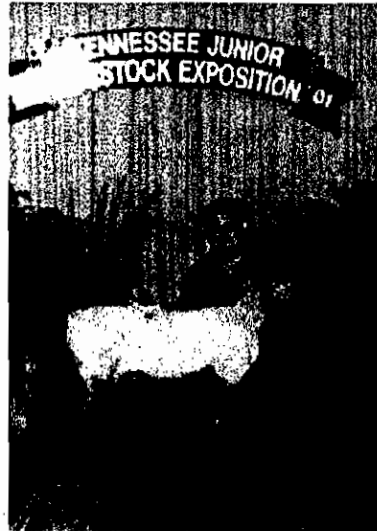
Showing is not the only way I have promoted the Tunis - I am working with the new District 6 directory, Randy Powley, for a Tunis Trade Day here in East Tennessee next May. I have cooked Tunis lamb for the past 5 years at the Appalachian Fair in a meat cookery contest. I have won 3 of those years - and the judges always tell me that is the best lamb they have eaten. I have set up numerous displays about the Tunis across the region, and managed to increase the number of flocks in Tennessee from 1 to approximately 12. I bring my Tunis ewes and lambs to the Loudon County Farm Day, Roane County Farm Day, Tennessee Valley Fair, Heritage Day, and Lenoir City Elementary Farm Days to provide an exhibit that school children and inner city children can get their hands on. I let them pet and lead the sheep - some of them have never seen them before. I also provide Tunis lambs to children who don't have farms, but want to work with the sheep - I lease them ewes and teach them how to train, care for and show them. This way, they don't have to have a lot of money to participate - and gives me a way to share something I love.

I am very active in my county, district, and state 4-H program. I am president of my county Honor Club, Jr. Livestock Association, and school club; at the district level, I serve as Scribe for our council; at the state level I have been the Tunis Representative for the Tennessee Jr. Sheep Breeder's Association (even though this is not 4-H) for 2 years and serve on state council. Sometime I do find time to attend school and play football for our varsity team.

I would like to meet as many of the Tunis Breeders and Youth as possible. If you're ever in our area, or know of an event I need to attend, please contact me at: 865-376-4656 or email at WiZaRd575@aol.com For the past several years, I have had articles in the newsletters and I look forward to writing many more.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to serve such a great organization.

Adam Hensley



Adam Hensley - Tennessee 4-H Expo
2001 Reserve Champion Bred-By-Exhibitor

SPECIAL NOTE: Exhibit your Tunis Fleeces at the Big E....

The Eastern States Exposition will be the site of the 2002 National Tunis show on Sept. 21, 2002. In addition, Tunis are the featured breed for week two. The folks who run the Fleece show at the Big E like to feature fleeces from the breed of sheep featured in the sheep show. Please think seriously about entering a fleece. Fleeces will need to be shipped in one week prior to the start of the 1st week of showing...(Sept. 10th) and you need to make arrangements for return. Fleeces can be offered for sale. Fleeces need to be entered in the Featured Breed class or the handspinning division. For more information, please contact the Ag. Office, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089-3564

NORTH AMERICAN SHOW RESULTS.....Louisville, Nov. 16, 2001

GRAND CHAMPION RAM - Jozi Best

RES. GRAND CHAMPION RAM - Bob Bartholomew

YEARLING RAMS:

1. Jozi Best
2. Kenneth Mayes
3. Bob Bartholomew
4. Swartz & Talley
5. Barbara Cassell
6. Kleman Family Tunis
7. Gene Watson
8. The Darling Farm
9. Joseph A. Seavey

FALL RAM LAMBS:

1. Bob Bartholomew
2. Kenneth Mayes
3. Swartz & Talley

EARLY SPRING RAM LAMBS

1. Jozi Best
2. Kenneth Mayes
3. Swartz & Talley
4. Jozi Best
5. Barbara Cassell
6. Bob Bartholomew
7. Joseph A. Seavey
8. Lee Thomas
9. Gene Watson

PAIR RAM LAMBS

1. Bob Bartholomew
2. Kenneth Mayes
3. Jozi Best
4. Swartz & Talley
5. Joseph A. Seavey
6. Barbara Cassell

LATE SPRING RAM LAMBS

1. Bob Bartholomew
2. Swartz & Talley
3. Barbara Cassell
4. Joseph A. Seavey
5. Peter & Judy Harris
6. Bruns Tunis

GRAND CHAMPION EWE - Bob Bartholomew

RES. CHAMPION EWE - Kenneth Mayes

EARLY YEARLING EWES:

1. Bob Bartholomew
2. Kenneth Mayes
3. Jozi Best
4. Swartz & Talley
5. Jozi Best
6. Barbara Cassell
7. Barbara Cassell
8. Gene Watson
9. Joseph A. Seavey
10. Peter & Judy Harris

LATE YEARLING EWES:

1. Kenneth Mayes
2. Swartz & Talley
3. Bob Bartholomew
4. Bob Bartholomew
5. Peter & Judy Harris
6. Joseph A. Seavey
7. Triangel Farms

PAIR YEARLING EWES:

1. Bob Bartholomew
2. Kenneth Mayes
3. Swartz & Talley
4. Jozi Best
5. Barbara Cassell
6. Peter & Judy Harris
7. Joseph A. Seavey
8. Triangel Farms

FALL EWE LAMBS:

1. Swartz & Talley
2. Jozi Best
3. Kleman Family Tunis
4. Kenneth Mayes
5. Bob Bartholomew

EARLY SPRING EWE LAMBS

1. Jozi Best
2. Bob Bartholomew
3. Swartz & Talley
4. Jozi Best
5. Peter & Judy Harris
6. Barbara Cassell
7. Kleman Family Tunis
8. Joseph A. Seavey
9. Barbara Cassell
10. The Darling Farm

LATE SPRING EWE LAMB

1. Kenneth Mayes
2. Jozi Best
3. Swartz & Talley
4. Peter & Judy Harris
5. Bob Bartholomew
6. Joseph A. Seavey
7. Lee Thomas
8. Gene Watson
9. Lee Thomas
10. Lee Thomas

PAIR EWE LAMBS:

1. Swartz & Talley
2. Kenneth Mayes
3. Jozi Best
4. Bob Bartholomew
5. Barbara Cassell
6. Peter & Judy Harris
7. Kleman Family Tunis
8. Joseph A. Seavey
9. Gene Watson
10. Lee Thomas

FLOCK:

1. Bob Bartholomew
2. Jozi Best
3. Kenneth Mayes
4. Swartz & Talley
5. Barbara Cassell
6. Peter & Judy Harris
7. Joseph A. Seavey

PREMIER EXHIBITOR:

1. Jozi Best

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THOSE WHO
SUPPORTED THE SHOW!**

DIRECTOR OF REGION 4.....Joseph A. Seavey writes.....

Member, Jocelyn Seavey, married Shawn Wells on Sept. 15, 2001. Great day! I finally got a son (in-law). Beautiful weather, good crowd and a good time had by all.

Jocelyn is a physical therapy assistant employed at a local hospital. Shawn is employed as a Sheriff's deputy by the county. They reside at 5 Meade Rd, Canton, NY 13617. Jocelyn still maintains a small flock of Tunis (at Dad's place.)

Member, Jasmine Seavey, received the New York State Governor's Youth Recognition Award on Jan. 14, 2002 in Albany, NY. She was the recipient for St. Lawrence County. Sixty-two youth (one from each county) received recognition by the NYS Governor Pataki, both personally and collectively. This award was established by Governor Pataki as one of the Empire State's highest honors for youth leadership and community service. The award pays tribute to outstanding youth who have made major contributions toward positive youth development. Each of the 62 youth received a certificate and an IBM ThinkPad laptop computer complete with DVD player and carrying case in recognition of their efforts.

Jasmine is a junior at Madrid-Waddington High school. She is active in 4-H, FF., speech and debate. She is a member of the Youth Advisory Board of St. Lawrence County and serves as a teen educator with the 2001-2002 leadership group. She also serves as a member of Governor Pataki's Youth Council.

DIRECTOR OF REGION 5.....Don Schrider writes.....

Greetings from Region 5! I have been asked to serve as Election Officer for 2002. elections are to be held for Regions 2 & 3. Anyone wishing to nominate a candidate or declare for office, may contact me by March 1st. Nominations and candidates must come from members in good standing (paid up membership dues) within the region being served. In other words, you must live in the Region in order to nominate a candidate, also from that region, to serve on the Board. I will contact each candidate to make sure they are willing to run and then send out a ballot. Only members whose dues are paid up will receive a ballot or be eligible for office.

In Region 3, Virginia Lavin has served the maximum time allowed by our constitution. She will now need to sit out for at least one year before she will be eligible to run again. If you live in Region 3, now is the time to consider who should represent you as a member of the Board of Directors. Each term of office is for a period of 3 years. Region 3 encompasses Eastern New York (telephone area codes 212, 516, 518, 718, 914, & 917) New Jersey and Ontario (Canada).

In Region 2, we have an incumbent, Gary Grenier, eligible to run for a second term. This does not rule out the possibility of someone challenging for this office. If you live in Region 2 and wish to nominate someone for this office, please contact me by March 1st. If you wish to support Gary in his bid for re-election, make sure your dues are paid-up and be prepared to cast your vote when I mail the ballot later this year (sometime in April). Region 2 encompasses Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Here at Long Corner, the sheep have been extra frisky this winter. Friday, the rams decided it was time to race around the field. Even Albert, our 7 year old ram, raced at full speed. I watched them, for about 40 minutes, race and shake their heads at each other across about 3 acres of pasture. The ewes got into the act by racing up and down a fence line occasionally "pronging" (bouncing like an antelope, with both feet held together and both back feet also held together). We had just gotten another cold snap, and I suppose they were happy.

We have bred for late March lambs and are just now seeing any signs of pregnancy. We split the flock in half and used Albert on one half and Samson on the other. Samson is a triplet born ram out of our triplet born ram Samuel. Last year we decided to replace Samuel with his son, Samson, out of our favorite ewe, Star. This will be our first year using Samson and we hope for good results. Albert produced a number of good lambs last year, so we have mated him to the ewes that produced the best lambs last year.

I sold a pair of twin ewe lambs last year from Albert mated to Daphnia (Samson's sister). I wish we had kept at least one of those two and hope to reproduce them this year. They went to a family new to Tunis as part of their start, so I have only small regrets about selling them.

A comment about equipment. We bought an electric waterer about three years ago. Now that I look back I wonder how we ever managed without one. No more frozen water or lugging water out twice a day (actually Mike did most of that.) I hate to spend money on equipment that we do not need, but it was well spent on the waterer. We also spent the extra \$40 or so for the heating unit. No worries about frozen water or expensive plumbing repairs.

Good luck in your lambing pens and I hope you each produce many great Tunis lambs this year!
Don Schrider

DIRECTOR OF REGION 6.....Randy Powley writes.....

With the assistance of Adam Hensley, our national youth representative, plans are underway for the first Tennessee Tunis Trade Day to occur on Saturday, May 4.

The goal of the trade day is to give Tunis breeders within the region an opportunity to meet one another and buy and sell some of their sheep. At the time, there are no plans for an auction but instead to allow each owner to negotiate a private treaty sale with each buyer.

The date of the trade day has been chosen to allow 4-H youth in Tennessee to acquire their lambs and/or yearlings before their required date of ownership. For this reason we are most interested in having ewe lambs and yearlings brought to be sold. However, there have been a few who want to start or expand a flock and they have expressed an interest in older brood ewes and rams. It is asked that if you will be bringing sheep to sell that they already be registered and they you have the papers in hand. Health papers for each animal will also be required.

Location for the Trade Day will be Louder County which is just a few miles south of Knoxville. Any and all are welcome. Because it is being called the Tennessee Tunis Trade Day does not mean that it is limited to breeders within Tennessee. The only requirement to attend is that you have Tunis to sell, want to buy Tunis, have an interest in Tunis, want to meet other Tunis Breeders or just need an excuse to come to beautiful east Tennessee in the spring.

For more information, please feel free to call Randy Powley at 865-986-0183 or after February call 865-408-9214 or e-mail at musicman@esper.com

DIRECTOR OF REGION 7.....Louise Darling writes.....

As you can tell, I'm starting lots of new ventures this year...the director's position, the secretary's position and now the news editor. No, I haven't had an IQ test recently but will do it soon!

So with all of the new things in my region...the establishing of the separate Ohio State Fair Tunis show...and working with the Great Lakes Wool Show and Sale in May for a Tunis show and sale....my questions and concerns tend to be short and sweet....

What percentage of lambs do you have born with just one leg out & head out? I seem to have more born this way than I would anticipate! Caused by genetics? Nutritional? Husbandary practices? Just too observant? Please share with me your pieces of wisdom about this.

And what prices do you get for ewe lambs and ram lambs? I use the Tunis web site and get lots of calls about sheep and prices...I'm not always sure what to charge for 3-6 month old lambs that don't make my final show cut. And I know that other people have the same questions because they ask me! Do you have a bottom price that you never go under? (\$125 ram? \$150 ewe lamb?) Please share.....937-465-8299 evenings or tunis @bright.net.

If health permits, you will see me traveling with my new shepherd. Jim Dunham and I will be getting married this spring and since he likes the sheep better than the rabbits...he will be with me at the Tunis events. We will still be the Darling Farm...but the Dunhams will be running it! See just too many changes in my life.

TUNIS WEBSITE...tunissheep.org

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: April 15th....please send articles, calendar dates, ads, promotional items etc. to Louise.

NEWSLETTER PROBLEMS? Call Louise or e-mail her. Yes, I have had computer problems, health issues, and lambing times...my next issue will be better!

A TUNIS INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH A. SEAVEY:

Along with my wife, Joan, I am the owner of The 1.43 Acre Farm. We have Tunis and Border Cheviot Sheep. We normally have about 25-30 Tunis Brood ewes and 10-12 Cheviot Brood ewes. We show fairly extensively and consign to several sales. We also exhibit poultry, both bantams and standards. We usually have a few head of cattle and a pair of oxen. We have a couple of guard llamas, a couple of donkeys (no, they aren't relatives), a horse and other transient livestock and fowl.

I am a Child Support Investigator for St. Lawrence County. On Jan. 17, 2002, I completed 25 years as a county employee. I am the editor of a newsletter for the Department of Social Services for about 260 employees. I teach and judge public presentations. I serve as an assistant coach for the Speech and Debate team in our school district and I serve as a judge in that league. I also serve as a trustee for our local library.

I particularly like working with and encouraging youth. I tremendously enjoy visiting with our Tunis membership at shows and sales. There doesn't ever seem to be enough time for the fun things. I enjoy exhibiting and promoting our Tunis sheep.

I believe that there is room in the National Tunis Registry for everyone regardless of their reason for keeping Tunis sheep ie: purebreds, breeding stock, showing, pets, fleece, meat, etc. Each serves a role and has a place in the overall scheme of things. Each has the right to be heard or not heard as they choose. I would sincerely hope that everyone would treat each other courteously and respect the other's right to their beliefs.

As a director, I welcome all concerns, questions, etc. Please feel free to contact me.

Joseph A. Seavey

ABBREVIATED MINUTES ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONFERENCE CALL...

Held Dec. 9, 2001 Everyone on Board participated.

REPORTS: Secretary's minutes approved as published.
Gary Grenier, Treasurer reported \$8,950.81 in Savings and \$24.80 in checking
Judy Harris, Clerk, reported 250 members--1,058 registrations & 579 transfers.
as of 10/31/01 Comparable to last year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Scraple & Farm ID prefix: The NTSRI will continue to provide the membership with unique prefixes and will co-operate with the Federal Scraple Program for verification.

Ethics Committee: Report will be in the spring

Editor Selection: Louise Darling was selected by the Board by vote.

Youth Committee: Adam Hensley, TN, was selected for the 2002 Youth Rep.

Computer: Judy is still looking to update computer

Web site: tunissheep.org is now operational & is official site for club.

NEW BUSINESS: Election Committee: Don Schrider was appointed.

Show Committee: Dan Kleman, OH; Peter Harris, MA; & Roy Davis, MO will serve to work with the 4 major shows for judges' selection and specials placements.

National Sale: Cobbleskill, NY June 1st & 2nd....Gary Grenier & Dwight Barney will be the committee.

National Show: Big E at Springfield, MA on Sept. 21st. Tunis are featured breed this year...\$250 donated for support. Peter and Judy Harris will be chairman.

National Youth Show: Keystone..July 18-21st

Financial Support of Shows: \$200 to Keystone, NAILE, Ohio State Fair & \$250 to Big E. Other regional groups may request show funds thru the show committee for Tunis shows for the year 2002.

NOTE: Other regional groups may request show funds thru the show committee for regional tunis shows/events for the year 2002. Contact Dan Kleman at

10557 Co Rd M, Ottawa, OH 45875 for application.

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PROMOTING THE SHEEP INDUSTRY - NEW HAMPSHIRE STYLE

The New Hampshire Sheep and Wool Growers annually conduct a number of programs to introduce the public to the sheep industry. You might possibly be interested in replicating one of these efforts.

GETTING STARTED WITH SHEEP - This popular one day workshop was conducted for people thinking about purchasing one or more sheep. The day consisted of morning discussions focused on goal settings, selection and purchase, nutrition and health, pasture management and housing. The afternoon session was held in the barn where the demonstrations and discussions centered on handling, routine management tasks and condition scoring. The day brought out many potential shepherds and new 4-H families. In 2001, the event was held at a Tunis farm providing great exposure for the breed!

DROP-IN LAMBING DAY - On one Saturday in either February or March, New Hampshire shepherds open their farms to the public. The idea is to provide an opportunity for people to see lambing operations on an informal basis, and talk with shepherds at length. It gives the smaller producer, who may never have the opportunity to host a large public event, the opportunity to share their knowledge. Friends and neighbors get an opportunity to learn more about the farm(s) in their community.

TUNIS FEATURED IN....December, 2001 SHEEP! Magazine

The Ed and Ragina Powell family of Forest, Ohio and owners of more than 40 head of Tunis ewes were featured in the recent addition of the SHEEP! magazine with an article titled, " 'Value added' means going into the meat business." The Mt. Victory Meats slaughter facility is well known in central Ohio for turning out quality lamb products for home consumption. Ragina's recipes are often used for lamb banquets and other sheep promotional items. For more information about the facility, recipes or a copy of the article, please call Ed or Ragina at 937-354-2326 during working hours. You have to visit after business hours to see the Tunis! Congratulations on the article!!

SHOW & SALE INFORMATION!

THE NATIONAL TUNIS CHAMPION GOES SUPREME!

Jozi & Matt Best of Best Tunis, Litchfield, OH, exhibited the Champion Tunis Ram at the 2001 National Tunis show held at the Eastern States Exposition in September. This national champion ram went on to be selected as the SUPREME CHAMPION RAM OF THE SHOW! Congratulations!

NEW YORK BRED EWE AND EWE LAMB SALE.....Oct. 20, 2001

15 HEAD OF REGISTERED TUNIS EWES & EWE LAMBS sold at the sale held in Rhinebeck, NY on Oct. 20th. The 15 head averaged \$305 apiece with the top selling ewe consigned by Hotis Scotch Acre Farm bringing \$75 as a yearling ewe. The Champion Ewe was a brood ewe consigned by Swartz and Talley Tunis and she brought \$425. The Reserve Champion Ewe brought \$450 and was consigned by Hickory Grove Acres. The 5 head of yearling ewes averaged \$295 with the brood ewes averaging \$337.50 and ewe lambs averaged \$218.75.

2002 MEMBERSHIP BLANK...NTSRI.

NAME _____

Individual _____

FARM NAME _____

Farm _____

ST. ADDRESS _____

Family _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP _____

Business _____

PHONE # _____

E-MAIL _____

**REMEMBER ALL DUES ARE \$10...PAYABLE JAN. 1ST! Please send to:
Judy Harris, 819 Lyons St., Ludlow, MA 01056**

A CALENDAR OF TUNIS EVENTS....

Let's make a calendar of Tunis regional/related events so that people can know times and places....please send info to Louise by April 15th....dates so far...

May 4th TENNESSEE TUNIS TRADE DAY Louden County, TN
CONTACT: Randy Powley at 865-408-9214

May 25th & 26th OHIO REGIONAL TUNIS SHOW & SALE Wooster, OH
CONTACT: Joan Hess at 937-652-3438 for sale info...Entry deadline- March 1st
CONTACT: Louise Darling for later catalog info and motels, etc.

June 1st & 2nd NATIONAL TUNIS SALE Cobleskill, NY
CONTACT: Gary Grenier at 860-535-2489 Meeting & show and sale

July 18-21st NATIONAL TUNIS YOUTH SHOW...New England Show
CONTACT: Dwight Barney at 603-659-5857

Aug. 4th NORTHEAST REGIONAL TUNIS SHOW W. Swanzey, NH
CONTACT: Laurie Goodrich, Show super. for catalog.....603-399-7151

Aug. 7th OHIO STATE FAIR Columbus, OH
Open class show...move in Aug. 4th...show Aug. 7th

CONTACT: Ohio state web site for fair catalog or Dan Kleman at 419-538-6383

Sept. 21st NATIONAL TUNIS SHOW...BIG E EXPOSITION Springfield, MA
Tunis will be featured breed....Enter a sheep or a fleece!
CONTACT: Judy Harris at 413-589-9653 Meeting & show and sale

I'M MISSING DATES AND ENTRY INFO....SEND IT TO ME...Let's promote our sheep the easy way...in the newsletter.

THE TUNIS SHEPHERD

Louise Darling, Editor

8566 Co Rd 28, Zanesfield, OH 43360