

***Editor's Note:** At the NTSRI Board Meeting in Louisville, I was instructed by the Board to send the newsletter by email to any member who has listed their email address with our association...so if you are receiving this by email...there will be no paper newsletter this time. If you want a paper copy of the next issue instead, please notify the editor. If you are receiving a paper copy now but want the email copy next time (which will arrive 4-5 days earlier), please notify the editor.*

Let me know how I can be of help. Louise Dunham, Editor tunis@bright.net 937-465-8299

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.

January, 2009 ISSUE 29

Happy New Year to Ewe, AnnaRae Hodgin

Nothing exciting going on here, just VERY late in lambing. This was due to having shearing problems, which is what happens when you can no longer do your own. So instead of being almost finished, we are just starting, with lots of little rams.

The trip to Louisville was something I had looked forward to doing. I was really wanting to see the show, but not to happen this trip. I saw part of one class of Tunis being shown & it was huge...I did get to walk around for a few minutes and spent that time talking to Kevin & Sara Kuykendall. Sara was about to enter the pen with the Champion ewe (forgot what class). We don't get to see Sara much, but do see Kevin when he is down to see Dad.

Our meeting ran way too long, but I hope everyone got to speak & discuss what they needed to say. Hopefully the meeting in Wooster can be somewhat shorter, but we do have some important things to discuss. Also Nancy was given the directive to clear up some maintenance issues with Associated Registries and she has asked for some assistance with that. She wants to have a plan ready for Wooster as well.

I would like to give the youth some information on the pottery pieces you received at Louisville. I live very close to Seagrove, NC; the pottery capital of the US. Zanesville, Ohio has the distinction for decorative art pottery, while Seagrove is known for the use and practical pottery. Many of the families have been potters going back over 200 years. Many of the families have pottery on display at the Smithsonian in Washington. One of the female potters that I knew & her husband received medals as "American Treasures" right before they were both killed in an auto wreck almost in front of their home. The names Owens/Owens, Auman, and Cole are some of the better known names. Now the more recognizable names are Kovach, Shelton, Callicutt, and Lambeth. Some of the newer potters use names for their wares such as Hickory Hill, Magnolia Place, Turn & Burn and others. Most of the newer potters have college degrees in art or some related field, and this at times has caused ill feelings among the traditional potters. If you have a burnt gold piece and it is not signed, it will belong to the Cole family of potters. This is one of the oldest families and some still do not sign their pieces. I hope you will enjoy this piece of art.

As before, we are still in a drought situation. We have been moved from the Extreme Drought to Drought. I would really like to have brought some of the snow home with us that followed us from Louisville to Asheville, NC; which is about 3 hours from home. But no such luck. So again, we will be decreasing the flock. We only have 255-257 now, not counting the lambs. But we have been feeding hay since June 2008 and we may run out. I simply cannot take care of this many animals and it is no longer fun! I am having a problem with balance and this causes J.C. much concern. So I was reluctant to tell him that I fell out in the pasture Tuesday. I think every ewe out there trounced me with at least 2 of her feed. Babe, the ram in for backup, is one that J.C. doesn't like. But he received a reprieve Tuesday. He came up...I'm still on the ground in a fetal position and sniffed my hair. I talked to him and was able to hold onto his collar, and then his rump and pull myself up to a sitting position. He then stood still while this "Ole Granny" got to her feet. The two jennies would not get near me!! SO more to go!

I am still on the NC Scrapie Board and we do have quarterly meetings. Also I will be attending the American Farm Bureau Advisory Committees Meeting in February. Sheep & Goat is the committee I serve on representing about 12 Southeastern states. This committee makes recommendations to the Board of Directors, which makes the final decision on things that AFB will seek to stress to Congress. One of the things we recommended last time was more funding for MUMS. This did come out in the Farm Bill. If anyone has a topic that you would want discussed at such a meeting, please feel free to email, write or call me. We had lively discussion, and then we rank our recommendations.

Hope everyone has nice healthy lambs and is looking forward to Wooster. I really enjoy that show & sale, and the fiber vendors. Hope to see many of you there. Don't forget to look at the website and see what new regions are voting on directors to take a seat in May. Be sure & vote for your choice!!! AnnaRae

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NTSRI Board of Directors' Meeting November 19, 2008 Louisville, KY

The fall meeting of the NTSRI Board of Directors was called to order by President AnnaRae Hodgin at 9:00 am on Thursday, November 19, 2008, in Louisville, KY. Present were directors AnnaRae Hodgin, Nancy Schmidt, Sally Barney, Dale Huhnke, Barbara Cassell, David Rock, and Walter Clark; and Past President, Bob Bartholomew. Bill Kerns was present for Judy Harris and AnnaRae Hodgin carried the proxy for Richard Feasley. In addition to directors, present were Louise Dunham, Newsletter Editor; Dan Kleman and Sandra Rock from the Show/Sale Committee; Jozi Best, Tunis Spirit Editor, Mandy Swartz for the Youth Organization Committee; and 5 other interested persons.

President AnnaRae Hodgin opened the meeting with statements declaring that in hindsight she could have appointed committees in a different way; at this time however all committees were formed and working well and that she hoped we could now move forward. Granted rebuttal time, David Rock disagreed with AnnaRae's comments saying that at the time of committee appointments he had offered suggestions and requested more time for consideration and discussion.

A discussion on the three proxies brought to the meeting followed. Bill Kerns was named proxy and alternate for Judy Harris, Region 2. The proxy presented from Kyle Booth, Region 8, to Tammie Serafin, was disallowed because it had not been granted ten days before the meeting as the Constitution demands. After much discussion concerning the dates on a letter from Richard Feasley naming AnnaRae Hodgin as his proxy and an email sent by Richard to several directors with a different date, David Rock moved to disallow Richard Feasley's proxy because of the two conflicting documents. By a vote of 3 yes and 5 no the motion failed.

AnnaRae called for the reading of the minutes from previous Board meetings. Bill Kerns moved to accept the minutes as already published. In discussion, Jozi Best asked that the minutes be read so a negative quote could be heard. By a vote of 7 to 2, the motion carried to approve the minutes as published.

Sally Barney gave the Treasurer's report, distributing a handout of cash flows recording an intake of \$24986.40 and an outflow of \$20589.16 as of November 18. Noting a checking account balance of a little more than \$8000, discussion was held concerning pertinent investment of some of these funds. David Rock moved that the Treasurer, within a month, send out recommendations for investment of \$5000 of the \$8000 in the checking account. The motion carried. Bob asked why the board made changes to the Newsletter Editor's stipend, raising it from \$299.99 to \$500, when the Board had just lowered the stipend from \$300 to \$299.99 at our last meeting in the fall of 2007. This was done following a recommendation by then director Randy Powley so we would be in compliance with IRS guidelines. Sally Barney, Treasurer, was instructed to double check that the limit of \$600 is correct so that a Form 1099 doesn't have to be filed. Walter Clark moved to accept the Treasurer's report and the motion carried.

Nancy Schmidt gave the membership report distributing a handout and a current membership list. She noted that there are a total of 276 NTSRI members; 239 senior members and 37 junior members. After much discussion about the presentation of materials sent from Associated Registries, Dale Huhnke moved that Nancy Schmidt form a committee to address policy and procedure guidelines for Associated Registries as to how NTSRI wants forms sent to us. The motion failed. President AnnaRae Hodgin then directed Nancy to handle the AR situation and report back to the Board.

Louise Dunham, Newsletter Editor, gave the Newsletter and Website report, distributing a handout. After much discussion on the cost of the Newsletter, Walter Clark moved to send the Newsletter electronically whenever possible with an option listed for receiving a paper copy. The motion carried. Louise asked for the Board's wishes on charges for ads in the Newsletter and on the Website. David Rock moved that charges be \$10 for Website ads, \$15 for Newsletter, and \$20 for both. The motion carried.

Barbara Cassell, Secretary, then presented the results of the vote for the new Constitution. Five ballots had been received with one "no" vote, and four votes indicating acceptance. The new Constitution became effective on September 2, 2008.

Board Meeting minutes continued.....

Barbara then presented the Standards of Operating Procedures report, distributing a list of motions concerning the operation of the NTSRI gathered from the minutes of the Board of Director meetings since 1999. Hearing that this list did not constitute SOP's, Barbara declared the need for help as to how to proceed and David Rock volunteered to create a template for Standards of Operating Procedures and distribute it to the Board for response and discussion before the Board of Directors' meeting at Wooster in May.

Lead by Nancy Schmidt, contact person with Associated Registries, much discussion was held on the contract with AR. Of particular note is that the ability to do business online will soon be available

Jozi Best, Editor, gave the 2008/2009 Tunis Spirit report. Jozi noted that 1000 Spirits had been printed for 2008. Though response and distributions of the Spirit had been extraordinarily positive, it was determined that no more copies needed to be printed at this time. Jozi also noted that enough commitments had already been made for the 2009 Spirit for close to ten pages; though no surplus remained and no discounts could be given at this time. Jozi declared that she continues to search for more efficient ways for publication of the Spirit, including consideration of different printers.

Bill Kerns, Co-Chair, gave the Show/Sale Committee report. Bill indicated that the Committee will be coming to Wooster in May with Standard Operating Procedures for the Committee for review and discussion. Bill then presented a request from Louise Dunham to have a fleece show at the National Show/Sale in Wooster. Louise declared that she, Debbi Brown and Laurie Andreacci as a committee will take responsibility for the fleece show. Bill moved that this venture be approved as a pilot project at the National Sale. The motion carried. Mrs. Susan Anderson gave a report on what is needed to have Tunis classes at the Kentucky State Fair, distributing a handout. She will carry through with having this information posted on the Website and in the Newsletter. Dan Kleman gave a report on the Junior All American to be held July 3-5, 2009 in Greenville, OH. It was noted that the \$750 fee for this show, the 2009 NTSRI National Junior Show, has already been allocated. Louise Dunham volunteered to help with the show for the Tunis Youth. Sally Barney mentioned that the North East Sheep Breeders had been approached to host the Junior All American in 2012 at the North East Youth Show in West Springfield, MA. The Show/Sale Committee will be staying aware of this since the National Junior Show is scheduled for 2011 at the North East Youth Show. Consideration will be given to changes in the Junior National Show schedule to accommodate having the National Junior Tunis Show at the All American. Congratulations were extended to the Star of Louisville Sale Committee and participants for a fantastic sale. Also, Dan Kleman, Superintendent, his committee and participants were congratulated on a great National Show.

Dale Huhnke gave the Publicity and Ads Committee report, referencing a handout. Dale noted that plans are made to place ads in several major publications throughout the year, noting especially that the Banner ads will change in wording to reflect dates of events throughout the year. Much praise was given to the full page Banner ad using the poster that came from the inside back cover of the 2007 Tunis Spirit.

Mandy Swartz presented the Youth Organization Committee report. Mandy requested that an adult advisor (Dwight Barney had resigned since the last meeting.) be appointed before her committee moved forward. Sally Barney volunteered to work with Mandy and will ask Joe Seavey to join the Committee. This action was approved by the Board.

Walter Clark, Chairman, presented the Audit Committee report. After much discussion on cost and appropriate timing and degree of an audit, Walter moved that we do an audit of accounting procedures with an outside source, with a capped cost of \$350, and then if questions arise the Audit Committee will investigate those issues. The motion carried.

Jozi Best gave the Youth Committee report. She noted several social activities had been held to get our young people together. Jozi also noted that concern had been raised about support of juniors leading Tunis in the NAILE Lead Line classes. Jozi noted that the Youth Committee had money for this and in the future there will be support for those juniors showing Tunis in the NAILE Lead Line classes.

Sally Barney, Chairman, gave the Re-Districting Committee report, referencing a handout. Noting that the Committee's plan was the same as the one adopted in the General Membership Meeting, Dale Huhnke moved that the Board affirm the membership vote on the re-districting plan as presented on the Website by the NTSRI Re-Districting Committee. By a vote of eight to one the motion carried.

Board Meeting minutes continued.....

AnnaRae then called for the committees' reports on guidelines. Noting earlier action taken concerning Standards of Operation Procedures for the NTSRI, David Rock moved that the proposed guidelines section of the agenda will not be discussed at this time since David will be putting together a template for SOP and sending it out to directors and committees for response and discussion at Wooster. The motion carried.

Under New Business several issues were discussed. Sally Barney, Treasurer, raised the issue of a way of dealing with people who do not pay their bills. After discussion, Walter Clark moved that the Treasurer be empowered to notify Associated Registries to stop any and all work for any delinquent checks and any bank fees and a \$25 NTSRI fee be imposed on any of these after a minimum of two notices have been sent. The motion carried. So, if checks for any work with the NTSRI are returned, the Treasurer is now empowered, after proper notification, to collect the amount of the original check, plus any bank fees, and an additional \$25 NTSRI fee.

Sally Barney reminded the Board that after May, NTSRI would need guidelines, etc. to appoint a Treasurer. After discussion, AnnaRae charged the already appointed Constitution Committee with Sally as an added member to work on these guidelines for presentation in May.

AnnaRae also noted that several "gray" areas had been discovered in the new Constitution adopted in September. She charged the Constitution Committee with reconvening to work on clarification of these areas.

David Rock reported on the General Membership meeting held on Sunday. David noted that the re-districting plan as printed on the Website had been adopted. David also reported that the membership had expressed great concerns over the way committees were assigned, the wrongful perceptions created, and the lack of communication. David noted that it was discussed that a "way out" of the animosity/concerns is to have guidelines established and get rules in writing. He stated that a motion that no further committee appointments or changes be made until this written procedure is approved by the general membership was defeated. The possibility of having a general membership meeting in the fall in conjunction with the fall Board of Directors meeting was discussed. David also reported that the membership wished the Annual Membership meeting at Wooster not be held at the Amish Door. It was noted that a more "business-like" meeting could be held elsewhere and that the dinner meeting at the Amish Door could then be a more social experience. Nancy Schmidt, who procures meeting rooms at Wooster, will work on an alternative meeting place for the general membership meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2 pm.

Barbara Cassell Secretary, NTSRI

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REMEMBER....20 brochures for \$5 Promote your product! Please order them from Louise

Do you know of anyone needing a PROMOTIONAL PACKET? Please send their name & address to Louise....it will be in the next day's mail!

Web Ads - 3 months \$10 Newsletter Ads - 1 issue - \$15 Both \$20

Send web ads to: Debbi Brown - texastunis@yahoo.com

Send newsletter ads to: tunis@bright.net- Louise Dunham, 8566 Co Rd 28, Zanesfield, OH

Send Memberships, Registrations & Transfers to: NTSRI, 15603 173rd Ave., Milo, IA 50166

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NEW NTSRI REGIONS....

REGION 1....Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont and eastern Canada.

REGION 2....New York.

REGION 3....Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

REGION 4....Ohio and West Virginia.

REGION 5....Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

REGION 6....Indiana, Illinois and Michigan.

REGION 7...All states west of the Mississippi River along with western Canada, Alaska and Wisconsin.

2009 Region 2 and Region 7 Director Elections

Submit Nominations to the Election Officer, Bill Kerns (billkerns@charter.net), from 25 January 2009 thru 14 February 2009.

Ballots will be sent to Active Members* in these Regions the first week of March.

Election Officer must receive completed ballots by 24 March 2009.

Results will be posted to the web site on 28 March 2009.

* Active Members are members 18 years and older who paid their FULL MEMBERSHIP dues in 2008

Bill Kerns P. O. Box 322, Harvard, MA 01451 billkerns@charter.net

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Called General Membership Meeting November 16, 2008 Louisville, KY

The general membership meeting of the NTSRI, called by petition of the membership (59 members), was called to order at 9:05 am Sunday, November 16, 2008, at NAILE in Louisville, KY, by Kelly Stumpe, membership point person. Kelly declared he had asked David Rock, Director of Region 3, to chair the meeting. Present from the Board were Bob Bartholomew, Past President; Dale Huhnke, Director; David Rock, Director; Barbara Cassell, Director; and Jozi Best, Alternate for Director Sally Barney. Also present were (voting members) Tammie Serafin, Jamie Pope, Matthew Maag, Dan Kleman, Dan Erwin, Max Garmon, Linda Cook, Paul Cassell, Mrs. Charest, Georgina Anderson, Mark and Kristen Swihart, Mindy Stoops, Leon Cassell, and Clint Garey. In addition, several other interested persons were in attendance.

David commented that at this time to communicate concerns, not all Board of Director members could be present and it was appreciated that Barbara and Bob were in attendance.

David called for the meeting to start with the redistricting plan. Dale Huhnke, a member of the NTSRI Redistricting Committee appointed in May at the Board of Directors Meeting, presented the Committee's plan that had been published on the national website and is to be presented to the Board of Directors on Thursday at the fall meeting. Kelly commented that this plan was the same plan as the membership's plan. Dan Erwin moved that the membership adopt the plan as presented at this meeting. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

David then asked for discussion on the new committee assignments. Much discussion was voiced about the concerns of how the committees were appointed and the wrongful perceptions that were created and the perceived lack of communication from the President. It was noted that a "way out" of the animosity/concerns is to have guidelines established and get rules in writing. Sandra Rock moved that no further committee appointments or changes be made until this written procedure is approved by the general membership. By a voice vote, the motion failed. Kelly moved that we recommend that the BOD come up with a set of guidelines for committee changes and appointments that at a minimum includes noting any committee changes or appointments on the website for at least 30 days prior to the BOD vote. The motion carried.

Further points brought up were: It would be better if the membership meeting at Wooster be like this meeting, dedicated to business and then the meeting at the Amish Door could be a less formal meeting, a fun get-together. Thanks were expressed to the Star of Louisville Committee (Kelly, Dan Kleman, Sandra, & Bob {announcing}) for all their hard work that lead to a great Sale. It was suggested that consideration at Board of Director meetings be given to having a membership comment section on the agenda. The question of why support for leading Tunis at the NAILE lead line had not been done. (Kelly/Dan are looking into this already and the Youth Committee has plans to address this issue.)

At 10:35 am the meeting was adjourned. Barbara Cassell, Secretary, BOD, NTSRI

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TUNIS EVENTS.....CALENDAR - 2009

April 10 NTSRI Newsletter Deadline

April 19 Northeast Tunis Breeders Sale Day - Harvard, MA John McDonough 978-939-8314

May 2 Southeast Tunis Field Day - Knoxville, TN Sheri Palko @865-388-4123

May 23 & 24 National Show/Sale & Wool Show Wooster, OH

June 19 & 20 Western New York Youth Preview Classic - Dunkirk, NY www.stitchesbyauntlulu.com

July 1 NE Tunis Youth Ambassador Applications Due Darlene Taylor @978-425-2432

July 3rd-5th Jr All American & National Jr Tunis Show - Ohio Dan Erwin @ 740-943-3792

July 16-19 New England Sheep Sale - Tunis, too! - W. Springfield, MA www.nesheep.org

July 17-19 NorthEast Youth Show - W. Springfield, MA www.nesheep.org

Aug. 5-9 Ohio State Fair - Tunis Show Columbus, OH

Aug. 11 Indiana State Fair Tunis Show Indianapolis, IN

Sept. 7 NE Regional Tunis Show & Jackpot Yr Ewe Show - Woodstock, CT

Sept. 24-Oct 4 Keystone International Livestock Show - National Tunis Show Harrisburg, PA

Sept. 29 Eastern States Expo Tunis Show - W. Springfield, MA www.thebige.com

National Tunis Sale May 23 & 24th Wooster, OH

(In conjunction with the Great Lakes Show & Sale) Many breeds & used equipment auction
Entry deadline is March 16th

Tunis Summer Spectacular June 19 & 20th Springfield, IL

(In conjunction with the Springfield Spectacular Weekend Sales) Many breeds represented
Entry Deadline is April 7th

FOR ENTRIES & CATALOGS FOR BOTH SALES CONTACT:

Banner Sale Management sales.banner@sybertech.net

PO Box 500 www.bannersheepmagazine.com

Cuba, IL 61427 309-785-5058

Entry forms & catalogs will be posted at www.bannersheepmagazine.com.

Entry forms are posted 30 days prior to entry deadline & catalogs are posted 30 days prior to sale date.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SALE/SHOW IN WOOSTER....Please make plans to be there starting Friday night because the 1st event will start at 9:00 am on Saturday with the Tunis judging to be at 11:00 am. As plans are made, they will be posted on the tunis sheep website and in the next newsletter.

But for now...please make your motel reservations!

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.

ALSO...The NTSRI Youth Committee will have another auction of much desired/much needed items to support NTSRI Youth activities....please make plans to bring something for the auction or your checkbook to buy something!

SOUTHEAST TUNIS FIELD DAY..... Sheri Palko

May 2nd Knoxville, TN

@ Locust Grove Farm....Farmstead Sheep's Milk Cheeses & home of Shannon Palko's Red Ridge Tunis
No show just a private treaty sale day sponsored by the SE Tunis Association

For details about entering or attending, please contact

Sheri Palko at spalko@chartertn.net or 865-388-4123 or

Barbara Cassell at barbaracassell2005@yahoo.com or 276-228-2862

More information will be available in the next NTSRI newsletter

NORTHEAST TUNIS BREEDERS 2009 SALE DAY.... Bill Kerns

Sunday, May 19 Windsong Farm, 112 Bolton Rd., Harvard, MA

Private treaty sale...no show! Registered Tunis ewe and ram lambs, yearlings & sound mature animals
\$5 registration fee Health papers, Scrapie tag & registration papers needed.

8:00 am Barn Open 11:00 am Annual Meeting 1:00 pm Private Treaty Sale

Lunch Available For more details contact:

John McDonough, davidbrownfarm@comcast.net or 978-939-8314

NTSRI TREASURER'S REPORT – Oct. 15, 2008 – Jan. 10, 2009

INCOME:

Associated Registry Income	\$2,265.70
Brochure Sales	\$ 10.00
Interest - Savings	\$ 2.04
NAILE Entry Fees	\$1,152.00
Star of Louisville sheep sold	\$8,850.00
Star of Louisville Entry Fees	\$ 420.00
T- Shirt Sales	\$ 85.00
Tunis Spirit	\$ 325.00
<u>Web Ads</u>	<u>\$ 40.00</u>
TOTAL	\$13,149.74

NTSRI Account Balances - 1/10/09

Certificate of Deposit \$5,000.00

NTSRI Savings \$2,027.41

NTSRI Checking \$4,670.96

NTSRI Youth Fund \$2,511.92

Star of L'Ville Sale \$ 572.00

Tunis Spirit \$ 655.42

TOTAL ASSETS \$15,437.71

EXPENSES:

Advertising	\$ 170.50
Board Meeting Expenses	\$ 22.23
Dues - AR Fees	\$ 102.60
Duplicate Paper - AR Fees	\$ 37.05
NAILE Jr Show	\$ 82.08
NAILE Open Show	\$ 199.20
Nat. Junior Show	\$ 228.16
Newsletter	\$ 468.82
Postage – AR	\$ 30.00
Promotional Mailings	\$ 22.42
Registrations - AR Fees	\$ 410.40
Rush - AR Fees	\$ 34.20
Star of L'ville - Auctioneer	\$ 202.50
Star of L'ville - Expense	\$ 98.00
Star of L'ville - to Consignors	\$7,797.50
Star of L'ville - Vet	\$ 200.00
Transfers - AR Fees	\$ 484.50
<u>Tunis Spirit Mailing</u>	<u>\$ 177.98</u>
TOTAL	\$10,768.14

From the Treasurer - Checks Returned for Insufficient Funds: At the most recent meeting of the NTSRI Board of Director's, the Board agreed to initiate the following policy for checks returned for insufficient funds. When check(s) are written to NTSRI and returned for insufficient funds, the person writing the check(s) will reimburse NTSRI for the amount of the check, a \$25 NTSRI fee and all bank fees associated with the transaction. After two written notices that the check has been returned for insufficient funds, and no action is taken to reimburse those funds, the NTSRI will suspend the privilege of that person to do business with NTSRI until action is taken to reimburse the funds. Suspended action includes, but is not limited to, all transactions with Associate Registries, advertising purchases, show & sale entries, T-shirt sales, etc. Please note that NTSRI through the Treasurer is willing to discuss payment options.

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RICHARD FEASLEY, REGION 2 DIRECTOR writes....

Hello and Greetings from Holland, NY, the land of high taxes and snow. The nice part of living here is if you don't like the weather, just wait a few minutes and it will change.

It has been a long time since I have had the opportunity to let you know what has been going on. It has been a long and stressful 2008 and full of heart ache due to the wrongful death of my father on August 24, 2008. The tragic manner shook me and my family to the core. It has been a very rough and hard road trying to recover from such a loss. But if my father was here, he would tell me...if you get knocked down, pick yourself up and continue on. So I have been working on a few projects.

My time has been spent promoting (WNYYPC) Western New York Youth Preview Classic. I have got this Memorial Show started in my father's name. It has been a hard journey but we will hold the Youth Preview Classic on June 19 & 20, 2009 at the Chautauqua Fair Grounds in Dunkirk, NY. With the help of a few friends, Jared Woolly and Sally and Laura Driesel (Region 2 Alternate) helping, we all are working to make it a success. Jared has been working diligently for the Chautauqua 4-H support

while Laura Driesel has been helping me work out all the details and is hosting the web site with the link to (WNYYPC) on her website www.stitchesbyauntlulu.com.

On another note lambing time is here again. It's keeping me busy preparing for new born lambs and kids and trying to make more room out of none. There is nothing more calming to the soul then watching the birth of new born lambs. I am going to leave you with a few words of one of my favorite poems by an unknown author "I wish they may, I wish they might not lamb at 2 or 3 at night."

2009 INDIANA STATE FAIR--More Days....More fun! By Dale Huhnke

The Indiana State Fair will have more days and more fun by adding a few days to the schedule compared to the 2008 fair. The 2009 Indiana State Fair will now run from August 7 through August 23. With the additional days brings new changes to showing Tunis Sheep. The 4-H shows will be on the first two weekends of the fair to accommodate kids going to school and the open show will be during the week.

Open Tunis Show - Open Tunis Sheep will begin arriving on Tuesday August 11 and need to be penned by noon. The Open Tunis Show will be held late in the day and will be released after the show on the 11th. You won't be able to pen on Monday night, August 10, because of clean up of the barn from the 4-H show. So if you are coming from the Ohio State Fair you will need to make arrangements to have your Tunis penned at a farm because the Indiana State Fair will not let you pen on Monday night.

What's nice about this arrangement is that you don't have to stay several days and spend money on hotels and eating out. You have to haul less feed, straw and materials to Indianapolis. And the flexibility of the Indiana State Fair staff of getting you in and out of the fairgrounds.

Right now this is the **tentative** schedule that was worked out by breed managers and the Indiana State Fair sheep staff. This is subject to change. The official schedule should be worked out in the next couple of months. Open Tunis show entries will be due July 1. So join us in Indianapolis in August with a great big air conditioned barn.

The December 2008 meeting of the Indiana State Fair Board voted to the Tunis to become a sanctioned open show at the 2009 State Fair. The State Fair will now be paying open Tunis Exhibitors that show at the Indiana State Fair.

BRUCE HUNT TUNIS SHEPHERD AWARD???? Lyle Hotis, Chairman

Last year we had zero nominations for the Tunis Shepherd of the Year Award. A little history on this award. It was initiated by friends of Bruce Hunt after his passing a number of years ago. Bruce was a long time Tunis breeder from Massachusetts. The criterion for the award was to exemplify the qualities that Bruce himself demonstrated as a member of our Tunis family. Namely, to support the raising of Tunis sheep, especially by youth. Also, to treat everyone in a friendly and positive manner in and around show and sale rings.

The award has been funded in large part by Sandie Hunt Hamel and administered by the Northeast Tunis group. Committee members who have selected past winners are: Sandie, Mimi Asbornsen, Dwight Barney and Lyle Hotis. After last year, I spoke with Sandie about the lack of a nomination. She suggested that it might be time to let it go because no one remembered Bruce anymore. I disagreed with her and suggested we keep at it. The point is not so much who remembers Bruce or indeed ever even met him! The point is to exemplify the good qualities mentioned above. If we don't have anyone left in our group deserving such recognition, what a shame!

It's disturbing to this member to read in the newsletter and hear from old friends that we as a group seem to be preoccupied with things like written rules, power struggles, and sheep politics (what a crazy notion that is). I hope the pendulum swings back again before we throw out everyone that is just plain in this for the fun and the love of our sheep. Even in this climate, I hope we all know of someone who exemplifies the "Hunt" characteristics and needs to be recognized for their part.

To make a nomination, simply write a brief letter that mentions what the person had done in support of the Tunis breed, how they have encouraged youth, and how they have been a positive role model in and around the show and sale ring. I can't believe there aren't people like that out there. The letter or article should be sent to Louise for printing in the newsletter in the July issue. Hopefully there will be several and the committee will have a decision to make.

Should you wish to join the committee or take part in the promotion of this award feel free to contact Lyle Hotis. We would be glad to have you. For your information, past recipients of this award are: Joe Seavey, Kenneth Mayes, Gary & Jeanne Grenier, Judy Harris, and Lyle Hotis.

TRYING TIMES - A BRIGHT FUTURE

Barbara Cassell

Buying Christmas cards and decorations on December 29--what better sign of hope for the future can be found? In this year's especially challenging economic times, many people waited for after Christmas sales to buy gifts, whether needs or wants, and trimmed Christmas expenses for 2008. Many celebrations were subdued when compared to previous years. Still, many took advantage of sales to buy cards and decorations for future celebrations. So, can we in the sheep industry take a page from the notebooks of these frugal shoppers? Can we prepare ourselves to "celebrate" our industry, perhaps in a bit more subdued fashion, but still with hope for a bright future?

What measures might we take in these troubled economic times to meet our goals and priorities for the New Year? As we reflect on the past and look to the future, let's keep in mind that our major responsibilities should include work to protect our families, our communities, our animals, and our industry. Arguably, those of us in the sheep industry have had it pretty good in the last few years. Our expenses may be higher, but they are not as much higher as inflation might have indicated, and weather, from droughts to ice and snow storms, has been a problem, but farmers have endured these situations before and most have coping strategies firmly in place. And finally, statisticians are telling us that compared to the general population farm debt is low and repayment ability is higher than in years past. As a group, farmers seem to be taking our economic situation in stride without the nail biting angst of many facing Wall Street challenges. However, we in the sheep industry cannot just count our blessings and be content with the status quo. As we make decisions about our investments and begin the all important planning processes for the New Year, we need to consider measures that will cut costs and save money while still employing the more altruistic goals of protecting animal welfare and family life.

So, with thanks to several folks as I borrowed and adapted ideas, I offer my ten tips for moving our sheep operations into the New Year with better profits, happier shepherds, and hope for a bright future.

- Cut out the fancy. When a standard machine, feed, or handling system will work just as well, curb the instinct our modern culture has ingrained in us all to add all the "bells and whistles" that aren't used with proficiency, if at all.
- Make it yourself. Many of the sheep supplies we use have "home remedies" that are as effective and efficient as the "store bought". When possible use these self constructed alternatives that can save hundreds of dollars.
- Borrow. When you need equipment or services for a one-time job, borrow time or equipment from neighbors, fellow farmers or relatives. Be prepared to be "borrowed from"!
- Unplug when it's not being used. Turn off the lights in outbuildings; drain the waterers and unplug if no sheep are in the field; don't forget household electronics that can be unplugged too.
- Shop sales. Most farm supply stores will have sales on everything from farm clothes to baling twine to fertilizer as spring approaches. Take advantage of these sales to stock up on necessities.
- Buy at home when possible. To save shipping costs, buy locally. A better local economy can also fuel better sales for you.
- Check your equipment to see that it's operating at its most efficient level. Good maintenance makes for more efficient operations and longer lasting machines.
- Reduce waste. Whether it's water from a leaky pipe, grain spilled because of poor storage or other losses from mishandling, savings can be found when corrections are made to distribution and storing processes.
- Cut down on the new. Planks saved from that demolished shed can repair feeders; extra metal siding can be used to fix that hole in the barn door; pipe left over from a kitchen renovation can be used for a new waterline hookup, etc. Use available supplies to repair rather than replace.
- Stay well. A sick shepherd translates to a sick flock! Take care of your own health.

As we move into 2009 and look to the future, we in the sheep industry seem to be better than most others at taking in stride these tough economic times. It seems to me that we in the agribusiness industry have always valued a bit more than other industries a spirit of cooperation with neighbors, suppliers, buyers and organizations. As we continue to build this collaborative relationship between our sheep world and the agencies and organizations that keep us strong, let's remember also to apply technology and proven processes as key initiatives in moving our industry forward in a profitable way. Remember also that a focus on good health, family and friends, neighbors and colleagues, and time spent together offer unique opportunities for discovering better processes, equipment and support to keep us all moving towards a bright future.



YOUTH SECTION.....

NTSRI SCHOLARSHIP.... the NTSRI Scholarship Application date has been moved to Feb. 10th! So high school Seniors...go to the Tunis website and get the application and get it sent in by Feb. 10th!

NTSRI AMBASSADOR....The NTSRI Ambassador applications are due April 1st....the form is on the website.

NTSRI FUTURITY RESULTS....The contest is rapidly coming to an end---please send your placement cards in now! Currently the standings are:

JR MEMBER:	FUTURITY LAMB	# OF SHOWS	POINTS
Sara Carr	LaValle Farm T026	1	6
Amy Davenport	Campbell 03038	4	17
Jacci Erwin	RQL 0820	5	48
Kalie Harrison	JAS 0068	2	8
Kalie Harrison	LaValle Farm T027	5	26
Mindy Stoops	Stumpe 325	4	33
Justine Swartz	Harbor Acres 332	3	28
Mandy Swartz	Stumpe 334	3	29
Kaitlin Whiting	SQM T103	1	1
Ryan Whiting	Bruns 0811	5	28

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All American Junior Show - National Tunis Junior Show

July 3 - 5, 2009 Greenville, OH

We, in Ohio, are once again honored to host the ALL AMERICAN JUNIOR SHOW this year, and, as Tunis breeders, we are thrilled that it will also be the NATIONAL JUNIOR TUNIS SHOW.

Camping sites are available at the fairgrounds and room blocks are being held at Comfort Inn-Greenville (937-316-5252) and Holiday Inn Express - Greenville (937-548-1322). Please make your room reservations early as the other closest hotels are in Richmond, Indiana, and Brookville, Ohio (1/2 hour drive).

As always, besides the sheep show, the All American will feature a Skillathon, Lamb Camp, Judging Contest, 3 on 3 Basketball, and much more. We should have a supplier available for purchase of bedding and hay for those who won't have room to haul it.

Further information can be obtained @ allamericanjuniorshow.com, or call Associated Registry office at 641-942-6402, or Deb Hopkin, Show Coordinator, at 401-647-4676, or Dan Erwin, Ohio Tunis Coordinator, at 740-943-3792.

Remember: Today's Youth are the Future of the Sheep Industry!

June 19-20 Western New York Youth Preview Classic

Dunkirk, NY

For details contact:

Laura Driesel at www.stitchesbyauntlulu.com

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THANKS, GEORGINA!

Georgina Anderson from Hustonville, KY answered my call in the last issue for members to write for their newsletter! Georgina has been raising Tunis since 1996 and, after moving to KY in 1999, has expanded her flock to include 20 bred ewes and 5 yearlings. Georgina exhibits as Westwind Farm and has shown all around Kentucky and including the KY State Fair and NAILE. Georgina has just completed her Masters Degree in Meat Science and Protein Biochemistry at the University of KY and will start her Ph.D. program at the University of New England in Armidale, Australia in July. Yes, I have asked Georgina to send us articles from Australia!

ALTERNATIVE FEEDSTUFFS FOR SHEEPIncreased prices and decreased availability of some feedstuffs have led many sheep producers to investigate alternative sources of feed for their animals. After the cost of land and buildings, the cost of feed is the next highest expense for most farms. Alternative feedstuffs are often available regionally, and might be available to sheep producers during certain times of the year for costs lower than a standard, corn-based diet. With just a little investigation into what is available in your area and some creativity, you might be able to save a substantial amount of money in feeding your flock.

No matter what diet is provided, it must meet the nutritional requirements of the flock for the specific stage of production the sheep happen to be in. Sheep need adequate amounts of water, carbohydrates, protein, fats, vitamins and minerals. In addition, different sheep have different dietary requirements. Fortunately for us Tunis Breeders, it seems that our sheep may need less concentrates in their diets in order to maintain healthy body weights as compared to other breeds!

Corn is often used as the "gold standard" in formulating rations because (other than fat sources) corn provides more usable energy to sheep than any other feed source. For this reason, corn is given a score of "100" in the scale of relative feeding values. Some common concentrates that may be fed in place of corn and the relative feeding values of these feeds are listed below:

<u>FEED</u>	<u>Relative Feeding Value</u>	<u>Pounds of Feedstuff required to Provide Energy of One Pound Corn</u>
Shelled Corn	100	-----
Sorghum (Milo)	95	1.05
Barley	90	1.10
Oats	80	1.25
Wheat*	105	0.95
Ground Ear Corn	88	1.14
Liquid Molasses	70	1.43

* Wheat should be fed at no more than 50% of the total ration because the carbohydrates in this feed are easily digested.

Some newer, and/or less common alternative feedstuffs include corn silage, corn stover, barley and distiller's grains. As feed prices have increased in the last several years, researchers have done a lot of work in investigating the nutritional characteristics of these feeds.

CORN SILAGE: Next to shelled corn, you'll have trouble finding any other feed that provides as much energy per acres. Disadvantages include the labor and equipment costs, and the fact that improperly harvested and storage silage may contain *Listeria* bacteria, which can cause Circling Disease.

GRAZING CORN STALKS: Do you have any neighbors who grow corn? Leasing corn fields after harvest for grazing sheep is an option for many sheep producers. Corn harvest often coincides with early gestation in ewes, and this may be a good way to reduce the cost of providing increased nutrients to your ewes during this phase in production. Keep in mind that fencing may be required before you turn sheep in, and watch out for very rainy weather, as rain can lower the quality of the feed and mud can inhibit ewes from grazing. Also, feed quality decreases the longer sheep graze, because no new growth is happening in the corn plants.

BARLEY: If barley is available to you as a feed option, it may lower your feed costs! Research shows that barley is higher in fiber than corn, and the fiber in barley is quicker to ferment in the rumen. Lambs grow faster when fed whole barley compared to processed barley, and adding up to 15% whole barley in the diet can increase Average Daily Gains in lambs. Barley got a bad reputation because it can have a fungus that harms pigs, but the fungus has been proven safe for sheep to consume...even bred ewes! Barley is higher in protein than corn, so less supplementation is needed.

DISTILLER'S GRAIN: A relatively new feed that has gotten a lot of attention recently, Distiller's Grains is a high-protein concentrate that can be added at 10-20% in a ration in place of corn. Distiller's Grains is a by-product of fermentation and the high protein content comes from the yeast that ferment the corn in the distilling process.

Once you've identified possible alternative feeds, your next task is to determine if they will actually save your money! First, make sure your alternative ration contains all the nutrients your sheep need. Then compare the price per ton of your first-choice feed to the price of your possible alternative feed. Doing this should give you an estimate of how much money you can save by switching feeds. Don't forget to include the cost of gas you might expend in traveling to purchase the feeds in your calculations, if you'd have to go to different locations!

The bottom line is to keep your eyes and ears out for feed sources for your flock. The availability of alternative feedstuffs varies around the country and with the seasons. Talk to producers in your area about what they are feeding their sheep. Whatever you choose to feed your sheep, double-check that it will fulfill all their nutritional requirements. And finally, if you ever have any questions about alternative feeds for your sheep (or any other area of sheep production), contact the Sheep Extension Specialist at your state's Land Grant university. Having worked for and with extension specialists for most of the last seven years, I can tell you there's nothing they like better than to talk to producers and help solve problems!

THANKS, Georgina! What is your next topic?

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CONGRATULATIONS to the NATIONAL TUNIS SHOW Winners!

Jacob Reister, Judge Louisville, KY Nov. 19, 2008
37 RAMS & 98 EWES SHOWN BY 25 Exhibitors - 12 States!

10 Yr Rams	4 Fall Ram Lambs	8 Jan. Ram Lambs	14 Feb. Ram Lambs
Triple T Ranch, OR	RQL Farms, NJ	E & E Stumpe, MO	T & R Schambow, WI
Mom's Tunis, VA	Mom's Tunis, VA	Triple T Ranch, OR	J & L Dunham, OH
Chad Epley, OH	Georgina Anderson, KY	Mom's Tunis, VA	RQL Farms, NJ
BWB Farms Inc., OH	Georgina Anderson, KY	Kayla Barkley, PA	Big Oaks Farm, IN
Garey's Tunis, IL		Bruns Tunis, OH	Big Time Tunis, OH
Big Oaks Farm, IN		RQL Farms, NJ	Triangle Farms, IN
Big Time Tunis, OH		Big Time Tunis, OH	T & R Schambow, WI
Mindy Stoops, PA		Triangle Farms, IN	Kayla Barkley, PA
Georgina Anderson, KY			Mindy Stoops, PA
Triangle Farms, IN			Big Oaks Farm, IN

3 Mar Ram Lambs	9 Pairs Ram Lambs	18 Early Yr Ewes	10 Late Yr Ewes
Bruns Tunis, OH	RQL Farms, NJ	E & E Stumpe, MO	Mom's Tunis, VA
Mom's Tunis, VA	T & R Schambow, WI	Kayla Barkley, PA	Mom's Tunis, VA
BWB Farms Inc., OH	Bruns Tunis, OH	T & R Schambow, WI	RQL Farms, NJ
	Mom's Tunis, VA	Triple T Ranch, OR	Big Time Tunis, OH
	Big Time Tunis, OH	Bruns Tunis, OH	T & R Schambow, WI
	Kayla Barkley, PA	Triple T Ranch, OR	Kayla Barkley, PA
	Triangle Farms, IN	Garey's Tunis, IL	Bruns Tunis, OH
	BWB Farms Inc., OH	Big Time Tunis, OH	Georgina Anderson, K
	Georgina Anderson, KY	RQL Farms, NJ	Mike & Ethan Cull, IN
		Mom's Tunis, VA	BWB Farms Inc., OH

10 Slick Shorn Yr Es	11 Pairs Yr Ewes	3 Fall Ewe Lambs	16 January EL
T & R Schambow, WI	Mom's Tunis, VA	RQL Farms, NJ	Uptown Farms, MO
Sean Bryant, OH	T & R Schambow, WI	Mom's Tunis, VA	Triple T Ranch, OR
Mom's Tunis, VA	Kayla Barkley, PA	Triangle Farms, IN	Big Time Tunis, OH
J & L Dunham, OH	Triple T Ranch, OR		Justine Swartz, NY
J & L Dunham, OH	Big Time Tunis, OH		RQL Farms, NJ
RQL Farms, NJ	RQL Farms, NJ		Mom's Tunis, VA
S & T Tunis, NY	Bruns Tunis, OH		Kayla Barkley, PA
Mindy Stoops, PA	J & L Dunham, OH		Garey's Tunis, IL
Triangle Farms, IN	Mandy Swartz, NY		J & L Dunham, OH
Georgina Anderson, KY	Mindy Stoops, PA		Big Oaks Farm, IN

19 Feb Ewe Lambs	12 March Ewe Lambs	10 Slick Shorn EL	9 Pairs Ewe Lambs
E & E Stumpe, MO	E & E Stumpe, MO	Sean Bryant, OH	E & E Stumpe, MO
T & R Schambow, WI	Bruns Tunis, OH	J & L Dunham, OH	Bruns Tunis, OH
BWB Farms, INC., OH	Mom's Tunis, VA	RQL Farms, NJ	Triple T Ranch, OR
Triple T Ranch, OR	E & E Stumpe, MO	J & L Dunham, OH	T & R Schambow, WI
Bruns Tunis, OH	J & L Dunham, OH	Bruns Tunis, OH	Mom's Tunis, VA
RQL Farms, NJ	Big Time Tunis, OH	T & R Schambow, WI	RQL Farms, NJ
Bruns Tunis, OH	Hart Livestock, IL	BWB Farms INC., OH	J & L Dunham, OH
J & L Dunham, OH	Big Oaks Farm, IN	Mindy Stoops, PA	Big Time Tunis, OH
Anna Charest, MA	Anna Charest, MA	Triangle Farms, IN	Georgina Anderson, KY
Big Time Tunis, OH	Anna Charest, MA	Big Time Tunis, OH	

9 Get of Sires

9 Get of Sires	9 Flocks
E & E Stumpe, MO	Triple T Ranch, OR
Mom's Tunis, VA	T & R Schambow, WI
T & R Schambow, WI	Mom's Tunis, VA
Bruns Tunis, OH	Bruns Tunis, OH
RQL Farms, NJ	RQL Farms, NJ
J & L Dunham, OH	J & L Dunham, OH
Big Time Tunis, OH	Big Time Tunis, OH
BWB Farms Inc., OH	Triangle Farms, IN
Georgina Anderson, KY	Georgina Anderson, KY

NATIONAL TUNIS SHOW EXHIBITORS!

Georgina Anderson, KY	Kayla Barkley, PA	Big Oaks Farm Tunis, IN	Big Time Tunis, OH
Bruns Tunis, OH	Sean Bryant, OH	BWB Farms, INC., OH	Anna Charest, MA
Cripple Creek Ranch, IN	Mike & Ethan Cull, IN	Jim & Louise Dunham, OH	Chad Epley, OH
Garey's Tunis, IL	Hart Livestock, IL	Mom's Tunis, VA	RQL Farms, NJ
S & T Tunis, NY	Tom & Rachel Schambow, WI	Mindy Stoops, PA	Emily/Elizabeth Stumpe, MO
Justine Swartz, NY	Mandy Swartz, NY	Triangle Farms Tunis, IN	Triple T Ranch, OR
Uptown Farms, MO			

CONGRATULATIONS to the JR. TUNIS SHOW Winners!

NAILE @ Louisville, KY 46 Shown-15 Exhibitors - 10 States

1 Sr Ram Lamb	7 Jr Ram Lambs	7 Early Yr Ewes	6 Late Yr Ewe
Kalyn Swihart, OH	E & E Stumpe, MO	Kayla Barkley, PA	T & R Schambow, WI
	Kayla Barkley, PA	T & R Schambow, WI	Dana Gochenour, VA
	T & R Schambow, WI	Mindy Stoops, PA	Kayla Barkley, PA
	T & R Schambow, WI	Mandy Swartz, NY	Dana Gochenour, VA
	Mindy Stoops, PA	Mindy Stoops, PA	Kayla Carlisle, DE

3 Slick Shorn Yr Ewes	11 Early Jr Ewe Lambs	8 Late Jr Ewe Lambs	3 Slick Shorn EL
Sean Bryant, OH	Kate Ireton, MO	E & E Stumpe, MO	Sean Bryant, OH
T & R Schambow, WI	Jacci Erwin, OH	Jacci Erwin, OH	T & R Schambow, WI
Steve Hasselman, IL	T & R Schambow, WI	E & E Stumpe, MO	Steve Hasselman, IL
	T & R Schambow, WI	Anna Charest, MA	
	Justine Swartz, NY	T & R Schambow, WI	

2 Flocks	3 Jr Showmanship	3 Sr Showmanship	Grand Champion Ram - Emily & Elizabeth Stumpe, MO
E & E Stumpe, MO	Justine Swartz, NY	Anna Charest, MA	Reserve Grand Champion Ram - Kayla Barkley, PA
Kayla Barkley, PA	Elizabeth Stumpe, MO	Mandy Swartz, NY	
	Emily Stumpe, MO	Mindy Stoops, PA	

Grand Champion Ram - Emily & Elizabeth Stumpe, MO	Grand Champion Ewe - Emily & Elizabeth Stumpe, MO
Reserve Grand Champion Ram - Kayla Barkley, PA	Reserve Grand Champion Ewe - Kayla Barkley, PA

JR TUNIS SHOW EXHIBITORS:

Kayla Barkley, PA	Sean Bryant, OH	Kayla Carlisle, DE	Anna Charest, MA
Ethan Cull, IN	Jacci Erwin, OH	Dana Gochenour, VA	Steve Hasselman, IL
Kate Ireton, MO	Tom & Rachel Schambow, WI	Emily & Elizabeth Stumpe, MO	Mindy Stoops, PA
Justine Swartz, NY	Mandy Swartz, NY	Kalyn Swihart, OH	

LOUISVILLE NOTES....Cynthia Kleman

The National Tunis Show at NAILE was enhanced this year with the "Comfort Zone." The "Comfort Zone" was the brainchild of Tammie Serafin and Mike Niese. Under their direction and the sponsorship of Kelly Stumpe, Sandra and David Rock, Clint Garey, Linda Cook and Dale Huhnke, John and Irene Bruns and Kate Ireton and Matt Lambert this area received many positive comments from the public. Thanks so much for your "out of the box" thinking to accomplish this endeavor.

The Stars of Louisville was a huge success. The planning of the event by Kelly Stumpe, Dan Kleman and Sandra Rock was evident in the quality of the Show and Sale. The support personnel to this group allowed the event to run smoothly and provide income into the National Junior Account.

Everyone that was a part of this event from consignors, buyers or worker should be thanked for their efforts. It is the combination of many people doing a little to create a "HUGE" success. Keep the new ideas flowing in 2009 and beyond.

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STAR OF LOUISVILLE SALE Nov. 15, 2008

@ NAILE Sam Wiford, Judge

<u>CONSIGNOR</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>BUYER</u>
Triple T Ranch - CHAMPION EWE	\$ 600	Carolyn Hart, Marietta, IL
Best Tunis - RES. CHAMP EWE	\$ 825	William Reed, Hebron, IN

YEARLING EWES - In no particular order

Triple T Ranch	\$ 600	Megan Long, Greenback, TN
RQL Farms	\$ 700	Mindy Stoops, W. Sunbury, PA
RQL Farms	\$ 500	Matt Maag, Ottawa, OH
Bruns Tunis	\$ 500	Cripple Creek Ranch, Elwood, IN
Big Time Tunis	\$ 450	Steve Hasselman, Ridott, IL
Triangle Farms Tunis	\$ 500	Cripple Creek Ranch, Elwood, IN
Stumpe Tunis	\$1500	Cripple Creek Ranch, Elwood, IN

EWE LAMBS - in no particular order

Garey's Tunis	\$ 375	Emily Stumpe, Leslie, MO
Big Time Tunis	\$ 425	Steve Hasselman, Ridott, IL
Big Time Tunis	\$ 300	Kevin Schultz, Fairbury, IL
Cass Hollow Tunis	\$ 500	Pine Knoll Acres, New Richard, MN
Triangle Farms Tunis	\$ 200	Sandra & Eli Sample, Anapolis, MO 63620
Best Tunis	\$ 275	Max Garmon, Kenton, OH
Stumpe Tunis	\$ 425	Martha Robie, Bath, NH
Uptown Farms	\$ 500	Bruns Tunis, Maria Stein, OH
Uptown Farms	\$ 275	Matt Maag, Ottawa, OH
Jacci Erwin Tunis	\$ 275	Dana Gochenour, Woodstock VA

\$510 - Overall Average!!!

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2009 NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.
MEMBERSHIP FORM:

NAME(s) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, & ZIP _____

PHONE # _____ CELLPHONE? _____

E-MAIL? _____ FAX? _____

FREE LISTING ON WWW.TUNISSHEEP.ORG? YES NO

IF so....please list one line of information about your flock:

DUES: ADULTS/F FARMS \$20.00 JUNIORS (22 or younger) \$10.00

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

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YEARLING EWE RAFFLE.....OTSA President, Cynthy Kleman

The Ohio Tunis Sheep Association (OTSA) is holding a raffle of a yearling ewe to help fund the rental of the Darke County Fairgrounds in Greenville, OH, the site of the "All-American Junior Sheep Show". The show will be held July 3-5, 2009. In an effort to help raise the needed funds for this show, Jacci Erwin Tunis "JET" has graciously agreed to donate a yearling ewe. The ewe will be offered with a free breeding from the winner's choice of eligible rams. Several OTSA members will be offering their best rams for a free breeding to this ewe.

The tickets sell for \$5 a piece or 5 for \$20. They are available from any OTSA member or Dan Erwin (937-578-8303) or Cynthy Kleman (419-538-6383).

The actual raffle will take place at Wooster on Sunday, May 24, 2009, before the start of the National Tunis Sale. The yearling ewe will be on display along with information on rams available for breeding. All OTSA members will have the opportunity to offer their best ram for the fall breeding. The winner will be responsible to pick up the ewe on May 24, 2009 from Wooster. The winner will also be responsible for making arrangements for the fall breeding. The OTSA takes no responsibility for this transaction.

The OTSA would like to say "Thank You" to Jacci Erwin and all members offering a free breeding. This raffle will greatly benefit all Tunis youth.

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Work is proceeding on TUNIS SPIRIT 2009.

All materials need to be in to me before the end of January -- this month. Please help us make our deadlines so that we can have everyone in who wishes to be in. We must have everything ready for printer in early February. There are a few things that may be right up to the wire including Applications for the Youth scholarships because the Youth committee has extended the deadline to 10th February. Our theme this year is the ancient origins of our breed. And we expect to create an inside back cover that will be a new poster about our origins. If YOU receive this notice before 10th February, it is NOT too late to contact me to get at least your business card/ 1/8 page into *TUNIS SPIRIT 2009*.

Thanks to all who have supported us so far. \$\$ not due until March.

JoziBest@aol.com 603-304-9152 225 So. Hedgehog Hill Rd., Unity, NH 03773

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Heidi & Paul Anderson, W12398 Spring Creek Rd., Black River Falls, WI 54615

Annie Clarkson, 2120 Bennett Ave., Carson City, NV 89701

Jenny Davenport, 818 Waldo Lane, Wallingford, VT 05773

James Fitzgibbons, Box 67, Meriden, NH 03770

Lisa Gray, 5977 Buffalo Ford Rd., Ramseur, NC 27316

Barney Gause, 809 Wilson Chapel Rd., Kingstree, SC 29556

Marissa & Hannah Hansen, 340 Gannon Rd., Buskirk, NY 12028

Shaylyn Melhorn, 175 Melhorn Rd., Harriman, TN 37748

Sidney & Brittany Pitts, 3821 E. Elbow Lane, Olney, IL 62450

Chase Pulley, Rt. #1, Box 231D, Keysor, WV 26726

Dawson Smith, 175 Melhorn Rd., Harriman, TN 37748

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www.tunissheep.org

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Let's talk about why we have this feature! I know that most of us do the same basic things with our flock...but sometimes that one little extra thing or suggestion that we read about might make a difference with our flock. For instance, last year I lost a lamb to tetanus but I don't give CD & T boosters to my ewes...after reading the responses...we're giving the booster! Personally, I won't go thru lambing season without my ewes being sheared within the last 6 weeks of lambing.. I know that it helps us from losing lambs. After this fall with short grass, I would have bet that my ewes needed some condition....wrong! There are fat rumps on every one of those ewes! So I hope that you can find at least one thing to discuss and/or consider for your flock after reading these breeders' comments! They help me...I hope they help you!

Do you have a topic to suggest? Please send it my way!

Let's talk about getting the brood ewes ready for lambing!

On Dec. 6th, I had my brood ewes sheared...we trimmed feet and checked to see if they needed wormed. I just like to see the udder development, the condition of the ewes and how close to lambing they are...what do you do to get your ewes ready for lambing?

Tammie Serafin of Albany, Oregon writes..."We have about 22 Tunis ewes expecting this year. The breeding sheep all live at my mom's house on a rye grass pasture. We do not 'flush' our ewes. We do not use teaser rams. We have a barn camera but have never needed to use it for sheep. We are very fortunate our ewes lamb during the day. There is always someone home during the day. So we can make sure the lambs eat right away. If the lamb doesn't make the connection right away, we tube feed. We move any moms and babies that need extra to my house. We have two separate ways of doing things depending on the weather. We had 4 natural fall producers this year...yay! These ewes stayed on pasture until they started to form a sizable bag. We brought them into the barn to lamb. Our spring producing ewes all live in the barn for the winter. Here in Oregon we have VERY WET winters. We just had way too much trouble with scald and foot rot when they lived in the pasture during the winter. So now everyone comes in and we are trouble free. When these ewes start forming a sizable bag we move them to lambing pens. These pens all have a heat source, so we don't have to worry about cold lambs. We give all the ewes a BoSe, A, D & E, and wormer shot when they get turned out to breed. We give the ewes a CDT shot about a month before lambing. We do not vaccinate for anything. We trim their rear ends, flanks and all belly wool when they bag up. The ewes all get free choice orchard and rye grass hay and about 2 lbs of Oat/Alfalfa meal. When the ewes lamb, they all go on to starter feed. The lambs usually start eating the grain and meal at about 3 days. On day 3, we band the tail and give the lambs a BoSe and CDT shot. We turn everyone out into a larger pen at about a week. This enables the lambs to all creep in the same place. We are very fortunate that all our ewes share their lambs. This kind of takes the pressure off of the multiple producers. The ewes are all fed the same. We leave the ram in right until we pull the ewe out to lamb. That way we make sure there is a lamb no matter what. We do not preg check ewes except for the ones that go to Louisville. We decided this year that we need to invest in an ultrasound machine. I found a class that I can go to and learn how to use it properly. So next year...we will be preg checking. I would just feel better knowing when and how many...lol" **Debby & Martha Robie of Bath, NY** have 6 Tunis ewes to lamb this year starting in late December. One month prior to lambing, the ewes are sheared, the feet are trimmed, and CD & T shots are updated. Shortly after that time, grain (1/2 pound) is introduced. The ewes are housed in 2 small barns with pens big enough for running small groups of ewes by age and grain can be individually fed if necessary. Because of the lack of separate housing, the ram does stay with the older brood ewes but is pulled out after lambing time. When asked about pregnancy testing, Debby writes...."Normally we do preg checks. This year it was going to be \$15 per head plus a stop fee from our vet so we didn't do them this year because of the cost." Debby indicates that it is very important to know how the ewes behave normally so that you can notice the differences such as nesting behavior, restless, swelling & off feed. And more importantly, "Have other experienced shepherds on speed dial! **Ron & Diane Nier of Sacketts Harbor, NY writes.....**"We have 18 Tunis ewes and 20 Suffolk ewes that will lamb from the end of January thru April. Because of the season some of the ewes will lamb outside on pasture and some in the barn. We sometimes shear in the fall but we will always worm them & trim feet along with giving Bo-Se, CD & T, and overeating shots. We do this about one month prior to lambing with we start doing some additional feeding. The Suffolks and Tunis get a 5 gallon bucket of 18% feed and 2nd cutting hay. We would like to do pregnancy testing but don't currently do it. The weather determines if and when we pull the ewes into lambing jugs. The signs we watch for are when she drops and acts sluggish. We don't use barn cameras but we do check them every 4-5 hours during lambing season according to their due dates." The Niers' best hint? "It helps to either shear in the fall or trim wool in the crotch and upper leg area. It is easier to view and for the lamb to find the nipple."

Julie Poudrier of Liberty, NC writes..."I have just 3 or 4 Tunis ewes to lamb out this year, along with 10 Karakul ewes. We've been having such a problem with drought and feed costs that I chose to just breed a very select few this year since I've been selling off sheep all year. I lamb in late February or early March. About a month before lambing should start, I vaccinate all sheep (I use Covexin-B because we have blackleg here) and crutch any that are pregnant. I don't necessarily trim hooves or worm just prior to lambing because those things are done on a regular basis anyway. That said, if while vaccinating and crutching I see any ewes with hoof issues or whose mucous membranes are pale, I would take care of those things--I just don't necessarily do the whole flock at that time. I have jugs set up in the barn and 2 paddocks below the barn that I use as mothering/mixing pens. If I see that a ewe

is close to lambing, I will bring her out of the pasture and into the mixing pen or jug depending on what I already have in jugs. The ewes with lambs will stay in the mixing pen for around a month so that the ewes can be fed and the lambs can get a good start in a secure location. I don't pregnancy test and generally don't even use a marker on the ram. I just know who I had with the ram and then when lambing time approaches I start checking for bagging up and so on. Ewes are fed corn while with the ram and then are moved back to the pasture where they have grass and unlimited hay until about a month out from lambing. At that time, I will start feeding the ewes. In the past when I've bred most of the sheep, I would just go ahead and feed the whole flock, starting with corn and then gradually switching over to a custom sheep mix from a local mill. This year, since I bred so few of my ewes, I may well go ahead and separate them out to feed them and leave the open ewes and last year's lambs on pasture and hay. When I'm feeding grain, the sheep get between half a pound and a pound a day, but I don't do any accurate measuring. I do make sure there's plenty of space around the feed bunks so that no sheep are ever crowded out. And the bullies will be pulled out and fed separately (and probably marked for culling since it's extra work for me to have to feed a sheep separately.) Aside from bagging up I keep an eye out for ewes who are off their feed, or especially who separate themselves from the rest of the flock. Usually if they start hanging out by themselves in the pasture I know they will lamb in the next day or so. I don't use cameras or any other monitoring devices. I have had so few lambs born in the middle of the night that I don't even do a middle of the night check anymore. My housemate is a night owl and will check the sheep for a last time before going to bed. Since I'm an early riser, I check again first thing in the morning, and this has worked well for the past several years. I try to keep the ewes exercised and from getting overly fat so that I won't have lambing issues like needing to pull lambs. I think my best advice would be to keep your ewes fit and try not to interfere too much---and enjoy those lambs."

BJ & Gene Stoltzfus of Mohnton, PA

writes "We currently have 10 Tunis ewes that are due in March. We worm the ewes and trim their feet before we turn the ram in and then we trim wool and give CD & T one month before lambing. We feed grain all thru gestation starting with 6 oz when we turn the ram in and go up to 8 oz by the time we take the ram out. We slowly increase that amount to a pound. The ewes almost always have twins but found if we feed too much too soon, they have lambing problems. We do not have access to pregnancy testing but we did leave the ram in 6 weeks longer than normal because this was the first year we had used this ram. We watch for ewes not eating grain, staying away from the flock or staying in a corner and pawing the ground. We try to get them into jugs if they look like they are ready to lamb but sometimes we find that if we do this too soon, the ewe gets very stressed. The ewes like to find their own spot and we try to build a jug around them there. We do not have barn cameras but do find that baby monitors are very helpful. Since we both have full time jobs, it is hard to be here when the ewes lamb but the best thing I would say is to know your sheep...which ones are skittish and which ones tend to want to lamb in the woods or in the barn."

Becky & Drew Ridgeway of Libertytown, MD writes..."Our situation with our flock is unique in the

fact that we do not have any acreage, and all of our sheep are kept in pens, which keeps us very limited on how many animals we keep. As of right now, we have five brood ewes bred with four being Tunis and one is a commercial ewe. Some of the things that we do for lambing with the ewes we shear their rear ends and around the udder, making it easier for us to check udder development and easier to help the ewe when lambing, if she needs help. Since we don't have the room to separate our ewes, they all end up in the same area when lambing, but this has never been an issue for us. We also experience a very low death loss, due to the fact that our mom stays at home and is always here during lambing season. New this year will be that we are also using barn cameras, which should be a great help to the family being that I am away at college and the family gets tired of having to go out every couple of hours to check the ewes when they are close to lambing. Hopefully, the lambing season goes well for us and everyone else out there!"

Sarah Todd of Salem, NY tells us that her 11 Tunis ewes will lamb starting in April and that some will lamb on pasture and some in the barn.

The ewes are placed in jugs 1 or 2 days prior to their expected lambing date at night but run with the general population during the day. Sarah watches for bagging up, behavior, pinking/red vulva and a dropped "belly". Two to four weeks prior to lambing the ewes are sheared, wormed, given a CD & T booster and have their feet trimmed. Also at this time, a small amount of grain is started - approximately 1/4 to 1/2 pound. As Sarah says..."Keep them moving and in good shape....not too fat!"

Walter & Denise Clark of Meadville, PA writes..."We know pretty close on the date of lambing since we use a marking harness on the rams. But we do watch udder development to see if they drop close to their due date."

The Clarks have 13 Tunis ewes and 12 Hamp ewes to lamb in January & February. About 1 month prior to lambing, they increase the grain to their ewes and keep them on the grain until weaning. Walter mixes his own feed with a recipe he has used over the years using ear corn and utilizing their own grinder. His recipe includes some ammonium chloride to prevent urinary calculi. Walter & Denise will crotch the ewes and also vaccinate the ewes for overeating prior to lambing. The ewes are placed in individual jugs just before lambing and then combined with other ewes and lambs a couple of days after lambing with a centrally located creep area between the pens. And, of course, they always have lambing supplies on hand in advance in case they have to pull lambs or assist in any way.

1st Annual NTSRI Tunis Wool Contest

May 23rd & 24th, 2009

Great Lakes Wool Festival & National Tunis Sale Wooster, OH

Fleeces need to be on display by Saturday 10:00 am

Judging Saturday morning in the show ring

Two Classes "Tunis Ram Fleece" & "Tunis Ewe Fleece"

Entry Fee - \$2.00 per fleece

Prizes - 1st Place - Rosette & \$25 2nd Place - \$15 3rd Place - \$10

RULES & GUIDELINES:

1. Fleeces must be from a registered Tunis animal and registration numbers will be required on the entry form.
2. Exhibitors need not be members of the NTSRI.
3. The fleeces must be shorn within the past 12 months of the show date.
4. The fleeces must be displayed in clear plastic bags and not be tied.
5. The judge has the right to refuse to judge/place any fleece that has an excessive amount of foreign material in it.
6. These factors will be considered when the fleeces are judged:
 - A. The quality of the fleece must be typical of the Tunis breed of sheep.
 - B. Evenness of quality among the various parts of the fleece is very important.
 - C. An appropriate length and strength of staple is required for judging.
 - D. The condition of the fleece will influence the placing.
 - E. Crimp and color of the fleece will be considered.
 - F. The estimated clean weight will be a factor.

Fleeces may be shipped to Louise Dunham and must be received by Wednesday, May 20th.

Fleeces should be marked whether they are to be sold thru a "Private Treaty Sale", returned to the exhibitor, or other arrangements have been made with a wool processing company.

Fleeces will be on display from Saturday at 9:00 am until Sunday at 1:00 pm. Posters will be made and displayed in the other wool buildings about the availability of these Tunis fleeces to encourage wool show visitors to view the Tunis wool.

If you are delivering your fleece personally, please let Louise know how many fleeces you are bringing so there can be enough display room for all fleeces.

TO ENTER:

Put the following information on a 3 x 5 index card inside an envelope:

Owner name & farm name

Address & phone number

Disposal of fleece...To be sold (price); to be shipped back to owner; or will be picked up - include funds for return postage if needed.

On the outside of the same envelope, indicate the following information:

Breed, sex, age, & registration # of animal

Weight of fleece

Months of growth represented by fleece

And class

Please direct all questions to the Wool Show Committee, Laurie Andreacci (laurie@laurieslambs.com), Debbi Brown (texastunis), and Louise Dunham (tunis@bright.net.)

OUR FIRST NTSRI TUNIS WOOL SHOW!! By Laurie Andreacci

This is an exciting time for the Tunis breeders and with the upcoming show, it's a time for us to show everyone just how wonderful a Tunis fleece can be! We'll be a showcase fleece show, so we'll be separate from the rest of the fleece entries and therefore need as many fleeces as you all can enter. Louise is graciously consenting to being a receiving point, so there's no excuse that this can't be an outstanding representation of the breed!

So, a few notes for you to keep in mind to prepare your fleece for the show....

Before your shearer gets started, let him/her know that these fleeces are going to be shown. It could make a difference in his/her shearing techniques. When your shearer is shearing, try to keep the area as clean as possible, you don't want him stepping all over your fleeces. As each animal is shorn, pick up the fleece and move it to a skirting table as quickly as you can. If you don't have enough people, then put it in a plastic bag for skirting afterward - One fleece - One bag.

Okay, you're ready to skirt. Lay the fleece out shorn side out. Start by ripping off all of the belly wool, neck wool, tags, anything that might make it look dirty. Pick out all of those bits of hay and chaff and whatever else might be lingering in between the locks. It should look pretty clean from the top side by now.

You'll want to fold up one side, this would be length wise and you'll fold it over to what would be the back bone line. If you see any second cuts or skin, remove them. Now fold up the other side and pull off any second cuts or skin. Now the easy part, start rolling it up from head to tail (or tail to head) and pull off any second cuts or skin that you might see. Hopefully there isn't too much or any of either.

Now that you have your roll of fleece, put it in a paper bag for now (I use the grocery bags as they're usually big enough). Write the sheep's number of in, weigh it, write the weight on it and you can store it like this for months. The reason you don't want to keep it in a plastic bag is that the heat and the humidity can rot the wool in the bag. It needs to breathe and the paper will actually absorb the extra lanolin that could otherwise settle on the fleece and make it look yellowish. So now your fleece is ready for show. For rules and guidelines, visit <http://www.tunissheep.org/events.htm> and under May 2009, there is a link with everything you will need to enter your fleece. Remember - fleeces need to be in a clear plastic bag, so just pull it out of your paper bag and put it in the plastic one for the sake of the show. Afterward, if it is already sold and you have to take it home, you can put it back in the bag.

I'm looking forward to having my fleece at the show and hope that you will all consider entering as well! This is a great opportunity for people to see what Tunis wool is really like and to make them fall in love with it, and in turn, with the breed! So come on everyone, show a fleece!

Laurie Andreacci www.laurieslambs.com.

Thanks, Laurie, for writing these informative articles for us.....if you want to know more about Laurie, go to http://www.sheepmagazine.com/issues/30/30-1/wide_product_variety_even_on_a_small_farm.html! It's a great article!

* * * * *

Some LAST MINUTE NEWS....Wooster & Wool Show.....

I just talked with *The Banner* Sale Management

.....the Tunis Show will be at 11:00 am on Saturday.

.....the National Border Leicester Show will also have a newly created Wool Show....and both wool shows will be judged on Saturday morning before the Sheep Show

.....and we will be sharing a judge and display space with them.

.....and we are working on several wool related demonstrations!

So now....we just need entries!

* * * * *

REGION 6 ALTERNATE.....Clint Garey of Atlanta, Illinois.

Clint writes..."I live with my family on the farm for now. My family farm consists of 5 acres where we live but we are fortunate to be surrounded by my grandparents' farm acreage of around 230 acres. The barn is close to being 80 years old and constantly being repaired by me, Dad and my brother. It is just an old barn, but has raised 100's of lambs for many years, nothing fancy. We have raised cattle, many breeds of sheep but we have always enjoyed the Tunis the most."

Garey's Tunis consists mainly of Clint and dad, Doug. His younger brother, Caleb, was also involved in sheep as 4-H projects. Doug works off the farm as an operator of a water plant in Bloomington, IL and Clint does drywall finishing. The Gareys have raised many breeds of sheep (including crossbreds and a commercial flock of 300 ewes) over the years and Clint had his 1st Tunis when he was 8 years old but got away from the Tunis until about 5 years ago. The flock now consists of about 40-50 Tunis ewes.

When asked about goals, etc., Clint writes, "We currently are striving to raise Tunis that everyone desires in the show ring. We sell those at Wooster, ILL sale, Louisville, etc. and enjoy showing them myself. Then again no flock that I know of raises all perfect sheep. The ones that don't make the standards go for slaughter lambs only. If there are good, sound ewe lambs left that would make good breeders for a commercial flock, then we advertise them as such. I have never met people so willing to help as the Tunis breeders but I trust my own gut feelings and take what I have learned from many friends."

Advice for individuals? "Don't settle for something you don't want. Get what is going to improve your Tunis flock to your standards. Think what you want to raise. Then get the best for your needs. If it's commercial sheep, buy the best ewe for your commercial operation. If it's for show, but something you are happy with, and then strive to improve what you have, and most of all - Enjoy it!"

Advice for the membership? "We need to continue to move forward and look ahead, not behind. The Tunis breed is increasing because we have good people and great sheep. They may be the oldest breed of sheep and we have built on that - I believe that we have the best breed. With fresh ideas flowing from our breeders, we will continue to be the best, and grow stronger!"

* * * * *

REGION 1 ALTERNATE...Bill Kerns of Harvard, MA

Bill, a Veterinary Pathologist and a Pharmaceutical Industry Consultant, and his wife, Sharon, an active volunteer for organizations that support the needy and elderly, started with the Tunis 5 years ago when...."as all the kids had left to do their thing, we decided that it was time to revert to our roots." Sharon and I both had sheep (Southdown and Suffolk) in 4-H for 10 years and we wanted, originally, just to have some sheep in the pasture. We needed to decide on a breed so we visited the Woodstock Fair that year and discovered Tunis, a breed that I had never seen before. We met the Rocks and Barneys and the Barneys helped us get started with 3 pregnant ewes.

We have since discovered that raising Tunis is an expensive hobby; we used to own a large boat, now sheep. (Editor's note: Just think...Bill in a Speedo!) Both are the same, expensive and constant maintenance. We built a post and beam barn (28 x 60) a few years ago on our 35 acre farm and this provides enough space to lamb out about 18 ewes with a creep area for 20-30 lambs. The ewes have access to about 7 acres of pasture in the spring, summer, and fall. Approximately half of the lambs are butchered and sold locally. The rest are raised for breeding stock. We try to attend several major shows each year with our animals.

This year we bred 17 ewes to Oscar (2005/2006 OSF Grand Champion and 2006 NAILE Yearling Champion). As we started our flock only 4 years ago, we have acquired several blood lines (Mayes, Darling, Bruns, Zerby, Woolmark, Cassell, Hotis, Grenier, McDonough) from which to build our own. We have made progress, but have a long way to go to be consistently competitive. Our goal is to develop a consistent level of performance nationally and to develop a healthy flock with a marketable meat product and importantly to develop a program that will cover its costs! Not sure this is even possible! There have been many people who have been very helpful to us: The Rocks whom we met at the Woodstock show 5 years ago (David was asleep so he won't remember); The Barneys who helped us set up our founding flock, John Buffington for his sage advice, Henry Zerby for Oscar genetics, The Dunhams for much help and support, and many others.

When asked about what he would have done differently, Bill states that he should have developed a breed phenotype plan earlier to guide him. When asked what is the one thing you still need, Bill writes, "Where do I find that perfect ram?....The unrelated RR sound ram that will meet our needs!" Bill concludes by saying, "I am new to Tunis, but not to the sheep industry. We are looking forward to the emergence of a mature National Tunis Organization in the near future. We have many new friendships now across the nation and this has been the most rewarding aspect of getting back into raising sheep. You are all welcome to visit our farm anytime; give us a call or drop us a line. 978.456.1240,
windsongfarms@charter.net.

Editor's Note: Just call before you visit as their 3 children and business keep Bill and Sharon traveling much of the time. Josh and his wife, Sue (Dr. Sue), along with grand daughter Cheyanne, own and operate the North Cascades Lodge in WA, Sue is Assistant Professor at UW; Heather is Crew Accommodations Manager for Frontier Airlines in Denver and Joe is in graduate school in Colorado studying Geological Information Systems.

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NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.

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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

January, 2009 NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC ISSUE 29

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