

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.

April, 2009 ISSUE 30

Hello All! I hope your lambing season has gone well. If you are supposed to have completed this exciting time, then congratulations. My Hubby and I are still expecting lambs, in fact, we have about 55 more to lamb and due to my head being in la-la land, this could take place until MID - JUNE. DUH! Not the sort of thing I want to be contending with when I really want to put our major rams in July 4th week.

Enough about me, just a really quick mention that I think I forgot in the last newsletter. At the Louisville event, back in November, there were so many VOLUNTEERS that helped others that I could not begin to "Thank You" enough and certainly could not name everyone. I know that many people helped, and received help; across breed lines. We all need to remember when we see these people what a tremendous job they are doing to promote our breed and organization. There are the "Old Guard" ...those breeders that we just know will be at the show. These are our doers on a regular basis, but there were people showing Tunis that I had never heard of. Some of the "Old Guard" that I consider the people you just know you can count on are: S & T Tunis, Bob Bartholomew, Barbara & Leon Cassell, Nancy Schmidt & Jozi Best while some of the newer members to that "Old Guard" list would be the Kleman Family, David & Sandra Rock, and Triangle Farms with Linda Cook & Dale Huhnke. These latest names have stepped up to the plate to replace some of the really older showmen, such as Kenny Mayes, Bruce & Sandy Hunt, Mimi Asbornsen and some others. We really need youth members to step up and we must as a whole, encourage them as best we can. We all will reach that time in life when we can no longer justify the trip, let alone contend with the effort to exhibit our redheads to the best of their assets.

It has been a trying winter for us and I can only look forward to a better spring & hopefully summer. I look forward to seeing some of the folks I only see at sheep events while at Wooster. Hopefully, my daughter-in-law will be able to accompany me on this trip as well. We had a really good trip to Louisville. Best of Luck to all of our show & sell flocks for the coming year.

AnnaRae Hodgkin, NTSRI President

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REGION 1 Sally Barney, Treasurer, 52 Cartland Rd., Lee, NH 03824 Sally.Barney@comcast.net 603-659-5857

Judy Harris, 819 Lyons St., Ludlow, MA 01056 tunis11@localnet.com 413-589-9653

ALT. Jozi Best, 225 So. Hedgehog Hill Rd., Unity New-Port, NH 03773 jozibest@aol.com 603-304-9152

ALT. Bill Kerns, Box 322, Harvard, MA 01451 billkerns@charter.net 978-456-1240

REGION 2 Richard Feasley, 10683 Crump Rd., Holland, NY 14080 sfarm123@aol.com 716-860-9496

ALT. Laura Driesel, 2612 Oregon Rd., Lyndonville, NY 14098 AuntLuLu@rochester.rr.com 585-765-2280

REGION 3 David Rock, 590 Montgomery Rd., Hillsborough, NJ 08844 ROCKD@pt.fdah.com 908-369-6413

ALT. Alex Rock, Box 132, Neshanic Station, NJ 08853 alex.d.rock@gmail.com 732-691-5531

REGION 4 Nancy Schmidt, V-P, 3812 Townsend-Angling Rd., Collins, OH 44826 burdette@hmcld.net 419-668-6118

ALT. Louise Dunham, 8566 Co Rd 28, Zanesfield, OH 43360 tunis@bright.net 937-465-8299

REGION 5 AnnaRae Hodgkin, President, 5877 Buffalo Ford Rd., Ramseur, NC 27316 ahodgin@rtmc.net 336-879-5484

Barbara Cassell, Sec'y, 2317 Peppers Ferry Rd., Wytheville, VA 24382 barbaracassell2005@yahoo.com 276-228-2862

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

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

REGION 6 Dale Huhnke, 1725 W. CR 450N, Muncie, IN 47303 Dalehuhnke@yahoo.com 630-881-8108

ALT. Clint Garey, Box 213, Atlanta, IL 61723 gareytunis@gmail.com 217-648-2784

REGION 7 Kyle Booth, Box 390599, Anza, CA 92539 goodword50@yahoo.com 951-763-1045

ALT. Debbi Brown, 13232 E Hwy 84, Axtell, TX 76624 texastunis@yahoo.com 254-863-0606

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NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - July 12th

Treasurer's Report 1/1/09 - 4/12/09

INCOME:

Advertising - Newsletter	\$ 30.00
AR Income Received	\$4,570.00
Brochure Sales	\$ 30.00
Interest	\$ 1.68
Check Reimbursement	\$ 210.00
Tunis Spirit	\$1,550.00
Web Ads	\$ 10.00
TOTAL:	\$6,401.68

EXPENSES:

All American Raffle Money	\$ 120.00
Advertising	\$ 546.00
Dues Transaction fees	\$ 404.70
Duplicate Paper Trans Fees	\$ 11.40
Ext. Pedigree Transaction Fees	\$ 2.85
NAILE Jr Show	\$ 281.00
NAILE Open Show	\$1,037.00
National Tunis Sale Advance	\$ 350.00
Newsletter - Postage	\$ 94.40
Newsletter - Printing	\$ 135.00
Newsletter Ed Stipend	\$ 125.00
Newsletter - Supplies	\$ 8.00
Postage - Associated Registries	\$ 30.00
Promotional Mailings	\$ 29.94
Registration Transaction Fees	\$ 521.55
Transfer Transaction Fees	\$ 475.95
Webmaster Stipend	\$ 125.00
TOTAL:	\$4,297.79

Sally Barney, Treasurer

Election Results as of 4/12/09..... Bill Kerns

Region 7 - Tammie Serafin, Director - Kelly Stumpe, Alternate

Region 2 - Currently there is a tie between Bob Bartholomew & Robin Swartz

Another vote will be taken!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!!

Jamie Bevington, 16679 Carson Rd., Butler, OH 44822

Anna Chapdelain, 1176 Dunhamtown-Brimfield Rd., Brimfield, MA 01010-9736

Wyatt & Aberdeen Dean, 3165 Princeton Rd., New Castle, PA 16101

The Farmer's Museum, Box 30, Cooperstown, NY 13326

Carolyn & Steve Hart, 1206 E Hart Rd., Marietta, IL 61459

J & P Farms, P O Box, 268, Riverside, PA 17868

Kyle Kerkoulas, 253 Humphrey Rd., Narrowburg, NY 12764

Fred Martin, RD #2, Box 594, Tyrone, PA 16686

Laurie Maus, & Robert Garner, 19014 Co Rd 24, Donvegan, ON KOC 1J0

Ryan McClinchey, 11905 Hahnwald St., Monith, MI 49259

Larry & Theresa Norris, 9319 N900 W, Elwood, IN 46036

Jessica Swihart, 25168 E Broadway, Perrysburg, OH 43551

Gavyn Whitton, 40 Shadblow Lane, Clinton Corners, NY 12514

FOR SALE: DRASTIC FLOCK REDUCTION! Due to health concerns and no one else really wanting to fool with them, I need to reduce my flock to a bare minimum. My stock was developed from major show bloodlines - Bartholomew, Cassell, Mayes, Fingerlakes. The brood ewes are of various ages and all have done well showing. All these ewes have lambed with ease and had multiple births. There is also a 2 year old Mom's Tunis ram that has done an excellent job of color and confirmation. Will work with transportation problems and delivery. Please email or call me for more information on numbers, ages and prices. Patti Brashears - brashearspl@bellsouth.net or (865) 376-4815 or (865) 386-4815

RAMBLINGS.....Barbara Cassell, Region 5

Paper is waiting on the table - light lavender color for spring inspiration, pencils are sharpened - number 2 lead for clarity, and coffee cup is filled - the strong stuff for stamina. Still, no one theme comes to my mind for the quarterly Newsletter article that each director is asked to compose. And since today is the deadline I know that by evening Louise will be calling! So I hope you find some amusements in the following as I put on paper the rambling thoughts that floated by during "my writer's bloc" quest for ideas.

I hope you have paid your 2009 membership dues to the NTSRI. Only active members who have paid their membership dues may vote when membership choices are presented. An active member is a NTSRI member 18 and over who has paid the \$20 senior membership fee. Only active members in good standing that are current on their membership dues by the end of the previous year may nominate candidates for director of their regions, may become a candidate for director of their region, and may vote for a director for their region.

I'm looking forward to our National Show and Sale in Wooster, OH, May 23-24. Tunis entries are up from last year by 20+ sheep. Among exhibitor names are those of well-known breeders and breeder names not as well known. This number of animals from a variety of breeding programs promises that this Year's National Show and Sale will again be a premier event with good fellowship and good business dealings. New this year at the National Show and Sale is the first annual National Wool Contest. Louise Dunham, Laurie Andreacci and Debbi Brown have worked hard on this event and it promises to be another bright spot at the National Show and Sale. The 2009 spring Board of Directors meeting will be held on Friday, May 22, at 3 pm in the fair office building. The Amish Door will again be filled on Saturday night with good food, good fun, and good fellowship for the Tunis enthusiasts. It will be perhaps a more relaxing time since the general membership meeting this year has been scheduled for a separate time. The annual General Membership meeting is scheduled for Sunday morning at 9:30 am in the Sun Pavilion next to the showing.

The 2009 Southeast Tunis Breeders Field Day will be held Saturday, May 2, in Knoxville, TN, at Sheri and Leonard Palko's farm. If you've followed the TunisTalk@yahoo.com strings in the last couple of months, you know that Sheri milks sheep, including a couple of Tunis, and makes sheep cheese. We will have good fellowship, a bit of education and several good Tunis sheep for private treaty sale. If all goes as planned, there will be participants from as far away as Oregon---Yes, I said Oregon!

It's exciting to know that other areas are exploring the possibilities of private treaty sale venues for marketing Tunis sheep. On April 19 the first Northeast Tunis Breeders Field Day will be held at Harvard, Massachusetts. Bill Kerns is hosting this first annual event where Tunis rams and ewes of several ages will be offered for private treaty sell. On April 25 in New Castle, Indiana, Tunis market lambs will be offered for private treaty sell. Dale Huhnke, our Director from Indiana, is listed as the "Tunis person" for this sale.

The 2009 NTSRI National Junior Show will be held July 3-5 in Greenville, OH, in conjunction with the All American Junior Show. This promises to be a fantastic opportunity for our Tunis young people, with many special events planned to encourage all the junior breeders to network with peers from across the country.

Please take note of the new districting for the NTSRI. There are now seven Regions. Two new directors from Region 2 and 7 will take their seats at Wooster. Regions 4 and 5 will hold elections in 2010. Region 1, 3, and 6 will have elections in 2011. Our National Show in 2009 will be held in October at KILE, Harrisburg, PA. Plans were already being worked on in November last year, so the promise of a fantastic show is firmly in place. 2010 will see the National Show in Indiana at the Indiana State Fair.

More information about all of these events can be found on the National Tunis website at www.tunissheep.org. Indeed, for lots more information on events, NTSRI news, and marketing opportunities, visit our national website often. Debbi Brown, our webmaster, does a great job of keeping the site updated and informative.

On a personal note, we're privileged to welcome a daughter-in-law to our family. Paul and Melissa were married April 3, and we feel blessed to have this wonderful young woman join our family. She's already making plans to come to some of the sheep shows, too, so it will be fun to see the shows from a fresh set of eyes this year.

To all the directors, committee members, friends, and breeders who've spent time and energy making our organization better, I say "Thank you." I look forward to seeing many of you in Wooster. I hope all your barns are filled with healthy, lively redheads that you enjoy counting as your own.

Richard Feasley, Region 2 Director writes....

Hello everyone and Greetings from Holland, New York!

I am going to make this short and sweet and inform all the people that are interested....that the WNYYP - Western New York Youth Preview Classic - has a new sponsor from the United Suffolk Sheep Association along with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County 4-H...but still nothing from the National Tunis Association to date. Any interested parties are welcome to attend. Please check the website listed below for details.

In the future, any changes or additions and including entry forms will be available at my new website at feasleys.com. Please check it out.

June 19-20 Western New York Youth Preview Classic

Dunkirk, NY For details contact:

Laura Driesel at www.stitchesbyauntlulu.com

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ATTENTION MEMBERSHIP:

Please note the enclosed worksheet from Associated Registries. This will be what you send in to renew/join the NTSRI. Please note the changes under Senior and Junior memberships.

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Nomination for the Bruce Hunt Shepherd of the Year Award:

The purpose of the Bruce Hunt Shepherd of the Year Award is to give recognition to someone who has contributed to the promotion and the preservation of Tunis sheep.

Gary and I would like to nominate Sally Barney as a candidate for the Bruce Hunt Shepherd of the Year Award. We feel Sally has gone above and beyond promoting the Tunis Breed, as well as the Tunis Youth. In the many years we have known Sally, she is always willing to lend a helping hand in the show ring, outside the show ring, running silent auctions, raising donations, setting up meetings and anything else that needs to be done.

Sally was very instrumental in developing the Northeast Tunis Futurity, which has proved to be very successful. Sally went out of her way to make sure the Futurity animals had special ear tags to identify that they were in the futurity. She also put together envelopes containing all the rules and regulations that went home with each futurity animal that was entered.

Sally is a big asset to the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association and is always offering new ideas for getting the Tunis youth involved. In addition to the Northeast Tunis Futurity, Sally has helped established the Northeast Tunis Ambassador and the Northeast Tunis Association Logo Contest.

Sally wears many hats that involve the Tunis sheep. She is currently the director of Region 1 for the National Tunis Sheep Registry. She also serves as secretary for the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association as well as Treasurer for the National Tunis Sheep Registry.

Sally and her husband, Dwight, have driven all over the country to promote and support the Tunis breed. The Barney flock or otherwise known as Woolmark Farm is very prestigious and has had many champions emerge from their flock. They have always placed well at shows and sales. I remember years ago Gary and I bought a Woolmark yearling ram at the sale in Syracuse, New York. "Barney" as we called him was an excellent addition to our bloodlines.

These are some of the reasons we feel Sally Barney is a good candidate for the Bruce Hunt Shepherd of the Year Award. She has always given outstanding service and dedication to the Tunis breed and its members. Thank you, Sally, for all your time, ideas and dedication to the Tunis Sheep Industry.

Gary & Jeanne Grenier

Nomination for the Bruce Hunt Shepherd of the Year Award:

Peter Harris has made significant contributions to the Tunis breed in a multitude of ways and at every level of involvement. It is my pleasure to nominate Peter Harris, Harris Tunis, Ludlow, Massachusetts for the Bruce Hunt Shepherd of the Year Award.

Peter and his wife Judy have had a Tunis flock for about 30 years. Locally, as a Tunis breeder in western Massachusetts, Peter was and continues to be a driving force behind their very successful 4-H Sheep Club. He has supported those young 4-H member through his role as a parent/leader, but more importantly has acted as a role model, mentor and friend. Many of us know of the success that Anna Charest has had with her young Tunis flock, but you might not know that it was Peter Harris who loaned Anna her first Tunis to be used in Lead Line classes; that loan became a permanent gift that started this young 4-H member on her way as a Tunis breeder. While Anna is the 4-H'er we know, there are countless other young people who got their first start with Tunis through Peter's interest, encouragement and support and through his willingness to donate lambs to youth and to support youth purchases with generous 4-H discounts. It is never a surprise to see Peter behind the scenes at a youth show, fundraising for 4-H, serving food, giving kids an encouraging smile or driving club members to a farm visit. Today, many years after his own children have completed their 4-H careers, Peter is mentoring two new Tunis breeders as two of his grandsons are now exhibiting Tunis.

Beyond working with young people and encouraging the growth of youth Tunis flocks, which I think Peter would tell you has been his most fulfilling role as a Tunis breeder, Peter has been instrumental in the development and growth of the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association. He has always been, and remains today, committed to the promotion of the Tunis breed and to the support of Tunis breeders. He has served multiple term as the President, Vice President and Secretary of the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association (NETSA). He is one of those men who not only holds office, but works tirelessly to achieve results. Peter has assisted the NETSA in hosting annual Northeast Regional Tunis Shows in New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Peter and John Buffington were the men behind the first ever Tunis Futurity which was run nationally for five years by the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association. You might have seen him in those first years' tagging Futurity ewe lambs at Wooster, OH, or you might have had Peter ask you if you would like to nominate a lamb. Not only was Peter willing to try a new program, he worked on the program every year until the program was replaced by the NTSRI Futurity. Peter worked for many years on the Northeast Youth Show - Tunis Show; one of the largest Tunis youth shows in the country. He was the first Chair of the Northeast Tunis Youth Ambassador program initiated in 2006. In the beginning years he led the group with a clear vision; in the more recent years he has led by encouraging others to try their hand at leadership; the Association has flourished.

Not only has Peter left his mark across the northeast, on the farm and with our children, he has left his mark on the national Tunis industry as well. Peter has been elected to serve multiple terms as a Director for the National Tunis Sheep Registry, Inc. Peter served his region and Tunis breeders nationally as an NTSRI President, Director and Treasurer. He served with distinction taking his election to officer positions and his appointments to national committees seriously. He coordinated many National Tunis Shows held at Eastern States Exposition and served on the NTSRI Show & Sale committee, provided support to the National Sale as it moved to a number of venues including Wooster where it currently resides. He has organized fund raisers for the NTSRI which provided much needed monetary support for National Shows, the Ambassador Program, Youth Buyer's Credits and Youth Scholarships. He has exhibited at many National Shows and has brought distinction to his quality Tunis flock. With his many years of service and his commitment to the NTSRI, Peter accomplished much; I know I have barely touched the surface of the organizational details he attended to and the activities and events he supported with his time and talents on a regular basis.

Peter's love of the breed and his interest in its success, his genuine interest in and compassion for others, his honesty and his integrity are the qualities that make Peter an outstanding leader and promoter of the breed. He is an excellent Tunis breeder; an appreciated and well-liked youth mentor and a respected supporter of his fellow Tunis breeders. It is these same qualities that make Peter an ideal nominee for the Bruce Hunt Shepherd of the Year Award.

Nomination Submitted by Dwight and Sally Barney

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Remember to promote your breed...
20 Tunis Brochures \$5.00 Contact Louise

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

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Send Memberships, Registrations & Transfers to: NTSRI, 15603 173rd Ave., Milo, IA 50166
Send web ads to: Debbi Brown - texastunis@yahoo.com
Send newsletter ads to: tunis@bright.net- Louise Dunham, 8566 Co Rd 28, Zanesfield, OH
Web Ads - 3 months \$10 Newsletter - 1 issue - \$15 Both \$20
FREE "Want to Buy" ads on the website.... please contact Debbi at texastunis@yahoo.com

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TUNIS EVENTS.....CALENDAR - 2009

- May 2 Southeast Tunis Field Day - Knoxville, TN Sheri Palko @865-388-4123
- May 2-3rd Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival - West Friendship, MD
- May 16-17th Waynesburg Sheep & Fiber Festival - Waynesburg, PA thundermntgirl@yahoo.com
- 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
Sale, Show, Used Equipment Auction, many contests for youth, etc.
- Aug. 5-9 Ohio State Fair - Tunis Show Columbus, OH
Entry Deadline is June 20th Show Date is Aug. 9th www.ohiostatefair.com
- Aug. 11 Indiana State Fair Tunis Show Indianapolis, IN
July 1st is the deadline - contact www.IndianaStateFair.com for entry information
- Aug. 27-30th Kentucky State Fair - Tunis Show Louisville, KY -
Entry deadline - July 10th Contact KY State Fair Entry Department @ 502-367-5190
- Sept. 7 NE Regional Tunis Show & Jackpot Yr Ewe Show - Woodstock, CT
- Sept. 12-13th Garden State Sheep Breeders Festival - New Jersey www.njsheep.com
- 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

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2009 NATIONAL TUNIS SALE SCHEDULE

WOOSTER, OHIO - May 23-24th Please come & join the fun!

Friday, May 22nd Sheep Arrive

3:00 PM NTSRI Board of Directors Meeting

Fair Board Office - Everyone Welcome

6:00 PM Hospitality Supper...Everyone Welcome! Provided by Ohio Tunis & Other Sponsors

Saturday, May 23rd 9:00 AM National Tunis Wool Show

NOTE TIME CHANGE 10:00 AM National Tunis Show

6:00 PM Dinner @ Amish Door Restaurant

Sunday, May 24th 9:00 AM Complimentary Donuts & Coffee Provided by Darling Tunis & Woolmark Farms

9:30 AM NTSRI General Membership Meeting

@ the Sun Pavilion next to the Show Ring

10:00 AM Used Sheep Equipment Auction

12:00 PM Complimentary Sandwiches Provided by Ohio Tunis & Other sponsors

12:00 PM National Tunis Sale

ABOUT THE GREAT LAKES FIBER SHOW....This weekend is all about wool & other fibers...there are 4 buildings filled with dealers, demonstrations, workshops, etc. Check out those schedules on their web site "Great Lakes Fiber Show." Same place...same time as the National Sale!

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

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

The latest tally is 117 Tunis consigned!

AREA MOTELS & CAMPING:

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY NIGHT HOSPITALITY ROOM:

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

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

THE SATURDAY NIGHT SOCIAL EVENT.....6:00 pm Amish Door Restaurant

The Ohio Tunis Sheep Association will coordinate the Saturday evening meal. The Amish Door has changed it's policy and we must confirm our reservation May 8. The cost of each meal is \$16.50 for adults and \$8.50 for children ages 4 to 10. Children 3 and under are free. Please complete the reservation form below and return it by May 9. Payment for your meals must be sent with your reservation form. **All reservation must be paid for by 12:00 Saturday, May 23rd.** PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS TO:

Kathy Niese at 419-523-3657 or 419-969-0783 or mike.niese@hotmail.com.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE OHIO TUNIS SHEEP ASSOCIATION.

Remember. Ewe Lamb Futurity Awards will be presented & a great auction will be held. Casual attire & great food!

YOUTH SALES CREDITS.....

Any youth under the age of 18 may sign up with NTSRI's Region 4 director before the time of the sale to be eligible for winning one of two \$50 sales credits. The youth need not be a member of the NTSRI or the OTSA to sign up or win. The youth must have their own sales number and the credit will be paid directly to the Banner Sales Management at the conclusion of the sale. Drawings will be held PRIOR to THE TUNIS PORTION OF THE SALE. One credit is given by the National Tunis Sheep Registry and the other credit is given by the Ohio Tunis Sheep Association.

FARM DISPLAYS....

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

PHOTO CONTEST....

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

THE NATIONAL TUNIS YOUTH COMMITTEE is holding an AUCTION!

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

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY MEETINGS.....

NTSRI Board of Directors Meeting: Friday, May 22, 2009.

The NTSRI Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Friday, May 22, 2009 at 3 pm in Wooster, Ohio, in conjunction with the National Show and Sale, the Great Lakes Show and Sale, at the Fair Office Building on the Wayne County Fairgrounds. All are welcome to attend.

NTSRI General Membership Meeting: Sunday, May 24, 2009

The NTSRI General Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 24, 2009, at 9:30 am in Wooster, Ohio, in conjunction with the National Show and Sale, the Great Lakes Show and Sale, in the Sun Pavilion next to the show arena on the Wayne County Fairgrounds. All are welcome to attend.

YEARLING EWE RAFFLE.....TO BENEFIT THE NATIONAL JR SHOW!

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 rams offered by Triple T Ranch - Tammie Serafin; Kelly Stumpe; RQL Farms - David & Sandra Rock; Big Time Tunis - Mike & Kathy Niese and others.

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 Cynthia 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. 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.

A PICTURE OF THIS DONATED YEARLING EWE CAN BE SEEN ON THE NATIONAL TUNIS WEBSITE....
...GO TO EVENTS....AND PAGE DOWN!

Remember to bring lawn chairs! We'll make our own social gathering area so we can meet new people & talk Tunis!

Complimentary Supper on Friday Night!
Complimentary coffee & donuts on Sunday Morning!
Complimentary light lunch at 11 am on Sunday!

1st Annual NTSRI Tunis Wool Contest

May 23rd & 24th, 2009

Great Lakes Wool Festival & National Tunis Sale Wooster, OH

Saturday 9:00 am Dave Clouser, Judge

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

Entry Fee - \$2.00 per fleece

Prizes - 1st Place - Tunis Wool Scarf & \$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 if shipped 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@yahoo.com), and Louise Dunham (tunis@bright.net.)

BITS & PIECES OF INFORMATION ABOUT DIFFERENT EVENTS:

FLEECES ENTERED IN THE NATIONAL WOOL SHOW...MAY BE SOLD.....If you want to sell your Tunis fleeces that were entered in the National Show....you will have two different opportunities to do so....Marianne Turcheck will display the winning fleeces in her booth in the Fiber building but the Wool Committee has rented space from The Banner Sales Management and will set up a sale room next to the show ring. If you want to sell your fleece, please let the Wool Committee know the price, wt, etc. when you make your entry and every effort will be made to market the wool.

1ST PLACE PRIZES IN THE WOOL SHOW! Specially woven scarves will be given to the 1st Place Winners of both the Ewe and Ram Fleece Contests. These scarves will be made with a blend of Border Leicester and Tunis wool and will feature a distinctive design. The Wool Committee wants to thank Marj Finnegan of Ostrander, Ohio for donating her Tunis Wool for this project!

GOT WOOL? As the weather begins to warm up and we start to think about shearing time, have you ever thought, "If only I knew what to do with all these beautiful fleeces?" Why not come to The Great Lakes Sheep and Fiber Festival, which will be held in Wooster, Ohio, May 23-24 and support the very first Tunis Wool Show!

Marianne Turcheck and her daughter Rebecca Giles of Rostraver Farm, Belle Vernon, PA, will be there as vendors, displaying the winning National Tunis fleeces at their booth after the show. They will be demonstrating and selling needle-felted sheep made from their own fleeces. Needle-felting supplies, fiber, handmade clay sheep jewelry, beautiful sheepskin rugs, and hand painted maple sugar tap buckets will be available for purchase at their booth. Stop by and see them in Building 13 - Booth 1 and learn some simple techniques for using some of those fleeces.

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Shearing for the Wool Show or for the Spinner...

With so many people raising sheep for meat, many don't know or care how to shear for the spinner and the wool show. Since many times after wool shows, the fleeces are offered up for sale to spinners (and the highest placed fleece will bring the highest price), we will consider the judge and the spinner as the same person for this article.

Coating your sheep is the best first step to shearing for the spinner or show; this keeps the sheep from accumulating too much vegetable matter (VM) in their fleece, which can be hard to get out with home processing methods. The other ways to minimize VM in your fleece; feeding on pasture that contains little or no tall, clinging weeds (like cocklebur), or feeding from feeders that don't allow hay to fall down onto the necks and backs of your sheep.

Letting the fleece grow to an acceptable length is the next step; your sheep should have a minimum of four to five inches growth in order to be appealing to a spinner. To the spinner who processes at home, less than 3" shorn is too short for a raw fleece. Next, find a good shearer. I haven't found one yet that cares how the fleece looks when they're done, just that the sheep walk away naked. The shearer should try to shear as close to the skin as safe for the sheep, but not go back over the same swath twice. This causes "second cuttings" that for a spinner are difficult to deal with. Also, have them shear over a piece of plywood, if not on a cement floor, and be sure to sweep up between sheep, especially between different colored sheep. A judge will mark your fleece down if it includes odd bits of colored wool.

Be sure and skirt your shorn fleece well. Overall weight isn't near as important as the amount of spinnable fleece. Skirting means you remove areas with excessive VM, dung tags, felted wool, belly, and haunch wool. The blanket area of the fleece is usually the highest quality. This is from the neck to just past the hips and down about three quarters of the way to the curve into the belly area.

Check for breaks: a "break" occurs when nutrients don't match the intake needs of the sheep such as in the last trimester of pregnancy, or when a sheep becomes very ill, causing a thinning of the fiber at the skin. After the ewe lambs and her nutrition levels are matched by her intake, the fiber thickens up again quickly. This leaves a very thin point in the fiber that will cause breakage during processing. Shearing within a month after lambing insures the break will be close to the shorn end of the lock with leaves more of the staple length strong and healthy. In warmer climates, some shear before lambing. To detect a break, grasp each end of a lock of the fleece in each hand; "pop" the lock, like you might do with a leather belt, close to your ear. If you hear a distinctive "POP", you have a healthy lock of wool with no breaks, Of you hear a dull thud, you likely have a break in your fleece.

Hand (the way the fleece handles) is very important, but subjective. Different spinners like different fleeces, and the judge is not immune to this. Generally, if it feels good, it is. Freshness is also a factor to consider; lanolin tends to get stale and harden after being in storage over time and can become difficult to remove.

Presentation of the fleece can earn you points. When sheared professionally, a fleece should come off the sheep in one piece. This piece is rolled up, taken to the skirting table, skirted, then rolled back up, cut end out, to keep it in one piece. Judges know that not every fleece will be in one piece, but it is the best way to present it.

So to recap, choose your competition fleece with these things in mind; consistency over all, lock structure (consistency in crimp from top to bottom), length, cleanliness, freshness, breaks, second cuts and hand.

Any Q's? Email me at sittin.n.spinnin@gmail.com

Becky Pennington <http://sittinnspinnin.blogspot.com>

TUNIS SUMMER SPECTACULAR:

On behalf of the Tunis Summer Spectacular sales committee we would like to welcome you to the June 19-20 sale. New to the 2009 sale is an incentive to bring in your top Tunis to the sale. If your 2009 consigned Tunis wins champion or reserve at any national show, state fair or regional show, the Indiana Tunis Sheep Association will give an \$50 consignment credit to you for the 2010 sale. I want to give the impression to buyers that the Tunis Summer Spectacular is one of the top Tunis Sales in the county. Also RFD Illinois radio network and Illinois AgriNews Newspaper will be supporting us again.

Each consignor is only allowed to sell one Tunis ram in the sale. If you are selling spring ewe lambs they can be nominated for the Tunis futurity Contest. Nominations are \$25 per ewe lamb. We will also be taking 1% of the sale for the Indiana Tunis Sheep Association. The 1% helps with expenses and sale credits for the Springfield sale.

Because I was laid off work, I won't be able to print a consignor booklet. But I want to put together a consignor profile to put on the National Tunis Website. Feedback from buyers and Tunis members show that the consignor information is very helpful. If you consigned in 2008 and want to make any changes to your consignor profile, please let me know by May 1 by emailing me the information to dalehuhnke@yahoo.com.

In 2008 we took pictures of each consignment and uploaded the pictures on the national website. It was such a huge success that we will be doing it again in 2009. Consignors please have your Tunis ready for pictures when you arrive at Springfield.

INDIANA STATE FAIR:

Don't forget to enter the 2009 Indiana State Fair. July 1 is the deadline and starting May 1, you can go online to enter at www.IndianaStateFair.com. From 6 a.m. to 12 noon on Tuesday, August 11, you arrive on the Indiana State Fairgrounds. At noon registration papers are checked and then at 2 p.m. shows begin in which the Tunis is the second breed to show that date. After the Tunis show we will be taking pictures and have the annual ice cream social. Tunis are released after the show but must be out by Wednesday August 12. Hotel information and an Indianapolis map will be up on the Tunis website soon. Join us in Indianapolis in an air-conditioned barn during those hot summer days of August.

KENTUCKY STATE FAIR:

Please help establish a Tunis Show at the Kentucky State Fair! If a minimum of 20 Tunis are exhibited for 3 consecutive years, the Kentucky State Fair will make a separate show for the Tunis. This year the sheep may arrive starting on Thursday, Aug. 27th and must be in place by noon on the 28th. The Show is Saturday, August 29th at 4:00 pm and will be released on Sunday. The Tunis will show in the "All Other Breed - Meat" classes. The entry deadline is July 10th. For more information, please contact the Andersons at 606-346-3916.

ABOUT OUR YOUTH ACTIVITIES.....

Kelly Stumpe, Chairman

2008 NTSRI EWE LAMB FUTURITY FINAL RESULTS!!!!

\$1200 in Prize Money to be awarded!

<u>Jr Member:</u>	<u>Futurity Lamb</u>	<u>Consignor</u>	<u>Pts. & # of Shows</u>	<u>AM'T WON!</u>
1. Jacci Erwin, OH	RQL 0820	RQL Farms, NJ	48 Pts - 5	\$240.00
2. Mindy Stoops, PA	Stumpe 325	E & E Stumpe, MO	46 Pts - 5	\$180.00
3. Mandy Swartz, NY	Stumpe 334	E & E Stumpe, MO	29 Pts. - 3	\$150.00
4. Justine Swartz, NY	Harbor Acres 332	R & D Nier, NY	28 Pts. - 3	\$127.50
4. Ryan Whiting, OH	Bruns 0811	Bruns Tunis, OH	28 Pts - 5	\$127.50
6. Kalie Harrison, NY	LaValle T027	Jared LaValle, MA	26 Pts. - 5	\$105.00
7. Amy Davenport, VT	Campbell 03038	Campbell Tunis, NY	17 Pts - 4.	\$ 90.00
8. Kalie Harrison, NY	JAS 0068	J & J Seavey, NY	8 Pts. - 2	\$ 75.00
9. Sara Carr, NY	LaValle T026	Jared LaValle, MA	6 Pts. - 1	\$ 60.00
10. Kaitlin Whiting, OH	SQM T103	E & J Myers, IL	1 Pt. - 1	\$ 45.00

Checks totaling \$1200 will be handed out to these winners at the NTSRI Dinner on Saturday, May 23rd at The Amish Door Restaurant in Wooster, OH. Consignors of these ewe lambs are asked to be ready for pictures as they will present the check to the winners that night!

2009 NTSRI EWE LAMB FUTURITY

All rules and guidelines are posted on the website. The rules will remain the same for 2009 with the addition of a cut-off date for result cards to be returned to the committee. Consignors of ewe lambs to the NTSRI National Sale at Wooster, the Tunis Summer Spectacular at Springfield, IL, and the NE Youth Sheep Show and Sale in W. Springfield, MA have the opportunity to nominate their ewe lambs for a \$25 fee. Jr Members purchasing these nominated ewe lambs, showing them and sending the results into the committee could win similar prizes next year. There is no cost to the jr member and no required shows to attend!

AND TO MAKE IT EVEN EASIER TO BUY THOSE LAMBS...The NTSRI Youth committee will continue to offer a **free \$50 SALES VOUCHER** at each of these sales. Youth interested in purchasing Tunis may submit their name to this free raffle drawing prior to the sale. The winning name will be drawn prior to the sale and may be used on any Tunis animal in the sale! Youth must have a buyer's number in their own name to enter. These vouchers will be offered at the National Sale at Wooster, the Tunis Summer Spectacular in Illinois and the NE Youth Sale in Massachusetts. Ohio Tunis is also offering a \$50 sales voucher at the National Sale!

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The NTSRI Scholarship will be presented just prior to the start of the sale in the show ring!

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FUND RAISING AUCTION: The NTSRI Youth Committee will hold their annual fund-raising auction at the Saturday night social at The Amish Door. If you would like to donate an item to this fund raiser, please contact Kelly Stumpe at Stumpesheep@yahoo.com or call 636-357-8227 so he will have enough display room for your item! The Youth Committee thanks you for your support!

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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). The Holiday Inn Express in Brookville still has rooms!

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!

Friday, July 3rd Skill-a-thon, Judging Contests, Lamb Camp, Ice Cream Social, Showmanship & Three-on-Three basketball

Saturday, July 4th National Jr Tunis Show - 8:00 am
Skill-a-thon, Lamb Camp & Pool Party

Sunday, July 5th Finish all breed judging, Lamb Camp Graduation
Final Basketball Game & Awards & Raffle Drawing

CLASSES FOR THE TUNIS:

Fall Ram Lamb	Yearling Ewe	Fall Ewe Lamb
January Ram Lamb	Slick Shorn Yearling Ewe	January Ewe Lamb
February Ram Lamb	Pair Yearling Ewes	February Ewe Lamb
March Ram Lamb	March Ewe Lamb	Slick Shorn Ewe Lamb
Market Lamb	Best 4 Head of Ewes	Pair Ewe Lambs
Young Flock (1R & 2E)	Best Ram Fleece	Best Ewe Fleece

PS.....The Ohio Tunis Sheep Association and its members are taking an active part in supporting this show. The club has financially supported the JR All American; OTSA members are serving in various capacities to help the show run smoothly; the OTSA is donating a Silent Auction Basket, and even providing sheep for a judging class! So please support us by purchasing Yearling Ewe Raffle Tickets and by saying thanks to John and Irene Bruns for providing 4 Yearling Ewes to be judged.

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BITS & PIECES OF INFORMATION FROM NTSRI MEMBERS

When reading "BreedersWorld" or "TunisTalk", there are always some of the same sheep problems that keep on coming up...foot rot, OPP, caseous Lymphadenitis, and Scrapie. Not all flocks have these problems and not all flocks have all of these problems...we just know they are a topic of discussion in the sheep world. Even though we try hard to eliminate or reduce these problems in our flocks, they still sometimes occur. What would you do if you had this problem on your farm?

Rebecca Austen of Ferrum, VA writes..."I am the farm manager of the Blue Ridge Farm Museum at Ferrum College. I have been working with the sheep for about 8 years. I came into this job with no experience with sheep of any breed, but that first year, we had a student working for us that had raised 4-H sheep. I learned a great deal from her and will be eternally grateful! At that time none of our local veterinarians had much experience with sheep. Since then the office we use has hired a vet with more extensive knowledge of the species. Tunis is the only breed that we have, with 7 ewes, 1 ram and 2 yearlings. In the past, there was a problem with foot rot. When I began caring for them, the flock had been treated and I trimmed hooves every month for about 18 months, being extra diligent about cleaning out and disinfecting any suspicious spots. This seems to have prevented a recurrence. Now, I trim their hooves 4 times a year. I do not vaccinate for foot rot. As for Ovine Progressive Pneumonia and Caseous Lymphadenitis, neither of these diseases have been a problem in our flock, so they are not something we test for. The flock tested negative for Scrapie a number of years ago and I do not buy any replacement ewes. When I replace the ram, I get one from a Scrapie free flock. Although I do not have any experience with any sheep except the Tunis, I like the breed because of their good mothering instinct and tolerance of the heat and humidity that we have in Southwestern Virginia. The breed is historically accurate for our museum and visitors love the beautiful red heads. The sheep hear the groups of school children coming and are waiting impatiently to get their handout of grain through the rail fence."

Aimee Bailey - Turtle Rock Tunis of Richland, MO writes...."I am only 17 and have just raised sheep since 2007. I currently have 7 Tunis. I do show great concern for lumps. I isolate the animal and lance the abscess and then I treat the infected animals herbally under the guidance of a very knowledgeable certified family and nutritional herbalist. I test annually for CL by doing a blood test and sending the exude off to be cultured. I shear myself so I disinfect the blades between sheep. I would not buy an animal with lumps or foot rot. I test annually for OPP. I will pull the ewe lambs and bottle raise them to stop the spread of OPP. I've never dealt with foot rot before but I do trim and check feet regularly. If I were to have foot rot in my flock, I would isolate the animal in a dry pen and I would medicate the affected foot and use a wrap. No, I don't have a god sheep vet. I get advice from wise, experienced sheep keepers, books, the Internet and our herbalist, Kat Drov Dahl at Firmeadow.com."

Kim Day of Douglassville, PA writes...."Our farm name is Red Rope Farm and the family members are David, Kim, Noah (3 1/2 years old) and Hannah (almost 1 year old) Day. We got our first Tunis sheep in 2006 and this is our 3rd lambing seasons. We have 2 rams, a wether, and 6 ewes. We had 2 sets of twin rams born March 15th. All of the lambs are sired by our new ram that we purchased from Laurie Andreacci. Foot rot? We haven't had any foot rot on our farm yet and we hope we can keep it like that! We trim feet when we worm (4x per year), and also in between if we notice overgrowth. I always ask breeders if they've had cases of foot rot before I buy. I disinfect shoes/boots after I go to the auction or someplace where I may come in contact with the disease. I am interested in learning more about keeping foot rot away...should I ask visitors and our shearer to disinfect their shoes? We don't test for CL or OPP...We've never had any animals with symptoms. Can you test for CL if no symptoms are present? I don't think I would buy any animal that had a lump or one that tests positive for OPP. Scrapie...I only have one sheep that has had DNA testing (he's RR), but I plan to start testing my other breeders this year. I will probably use cards. We are in the process of enrolling in the Scrapie program. RR is definitely more valuable to me, but I really like a sheep that wasn't RR, I would probably still buy it. I do like my vet and I value his opinions. His daughters are active in 4-H and he works with the 4-H sheep club, too. I had to call our vet to help with my first lambing. My husband was away for work and our ewe was in labor for quite a while and not progressing. He came and pulled the lambs out and told me the ewe wasn't dilating enough. I had to call him at 11:30 again that night because the ewe had a uterine prolapse. He came right out to take care of her. He later bought one of that ewe's ram lambs for his daughter to use in 4-H (the other twin didn't make it). That was a scary 1st lambing, but I learned so much from the experience...both about my sheep and about myself!"

Tim & Debbie Barnes of Barnes Farms in Radnor, OH writes...."We have been blessed with the opportunity to show and raise sheep for the past 40+ years. Our original breed has been and will remain Shropshires, but raising Southdowns and now Tunis have allowed us to meet new people and address the challenges of being competitive in other breeds. Concerning foot rot, as I have gotten older, I do not need all the labor and hassle that limping sheep bring on a daily basis. So, I do 2 things: #1 - Cull any sheep that limps, no matter how good they are. #2 - Do not bring sheep belonging to other people onto our farm. If Caseous Lymphadenitis is a problem for your flock, you may want to consult an experienced sheep vet. I would assume the problem is related to management techniques or environmental conditions. Boy, OPP is a disease I have not had any experience with. Our flock has not exhibited any classical symptoms and by annually culling 20% of our brood ewes, we eliminate those hard doing, low producing ewes. I am sure that everyone is aware that there is a federal eradication program for Scrapie in effect. Since the program is funded by each state, there have been differences in how each state handles its enforcement policies. History shows programs such as this will eventually eradicate the disease. Currently, I am not aware of any major Tunis breeder that has had to depopulate, but I feel it is only a matter of time until it happens. If you decide not to test all of your sheep, then use only an RR ram. In a few years, the majority of your lambs will then be at least QR. Here at the Barnes Farms, we are fortunate to have a vet who also raises sheep. She is active in the production of sheep, shows sheep, and is knowledgeable about sheep disease and management. A good vet is beneficial to any flock.

Linda Casey of Piney Wood Farms of Taylorsville, GA writes...We have raised sheep for only 2 years. Currently, we have 13 registered Tunis, however, we have 7 ewes that are ready to lamb. We do not have any other breed of sheep nor do I wish to get another breed! So far, I have not had any foot rot! YEAH! I trim feed every three months keeping the hooves very short and soaking them in zinc sulfate. If I do have one that may limp or have an object like a rock wedged in the toes, then I will soak the foot in Betadine. Caseous Lymphadenitis and OPP both sound nasty. We have not had any and do want any either! As far as Scrapie, I have just ordered and received the ear punch test tags. I want to test my rams because I have a fine yearling show ram that I would like to sell. I think he would be more desirable if I knew his genetic makeup. Hopefully, he will be RR. I do have a vet that does my inspections for show. But from word of mouth, I hear another local vet is better and cheaper! So far I have been lucky and have been able to administer all my veterinary needs myself.....Dr. Casey! (Ha! Ha!)

Do You Have A Topic to Suggest? Please send it to Louise...tunis@bright.net

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NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - July 12th

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