

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.

January, 2010

ISSUE 33

President's Message.....

Well, the New Year is here and we look forward to this year's lambs with great anticipation. Our first set of twin ewes arrived last weekend with great fanfare. However, they were a week before we were ready so we start out behind as usual. What else is new? I would like to take this time to congratulate all of our Tunis breeders for a great year. Our sales continue to be strong with great interest in our sheep and high quality individuals available to our buyers both old and new. I also hear from breeders that interest on the farm has never been greater. Our shows continued to grow with the national show at KILE being our largest show for the season. We had equally strong shows at NAILE, the Big E and the numerous state fairs around the country providing stiff competition to evaluate our breeding programs and the chance for great interaction with our show friends. Again, congratulations to all!

Now, let's look to the future. To say that the future is bright would be an understatement. We can expect that the interest in Tunis sheep will continue. Already this year I have received contacts for information on sheep that are not even born yet. However, as we grow, we have a number of issues that will face the breed. I and the Board want to know what is on the mind of the membership. To try to find out what is happening, we had a question (lots) and answer (few) session at NAILE. Thank you to those members that attended. We had a healthy discussion with good ideas and suggestions being made on some critical issues facing the breed. Among the topics that had the greatest amount of discussion was the status of the breed standard, the numbers of rams at the national sale, presentation of animals for show (slick shearing), class structure at national events, newsletter content and wool classes. The Board will be discussing all of these topics in the future. Some of these issues will require a great deal of discussion, planning and possibly a Membership referendum so your input is very important. A first step is to find out what the membership is thinking. In my business of research we call this the need to increase our sample size in comparison to the small group at NAILE. By now you should have received a survey sheet from the Show and Sale committee asking your thoughts on a few topics. I urge you to read and consider the questions and most importantly respond to the survey. Your response is very important as the Board addresses these issues and determines how best to make changes.

I'd like to say a quick word about sales. As the breed continues to grow we are seeing more Tunis sheep at more and more sales where they haven't been previously. Last year we saw Tunis in Reno and I hear that Tunis will make their debut in Sedalia this summer. These new venues for our sheep provide great opportunities for us as breeders, but this also requires additional planning. The sales should not be a place to just move some sheep. Remember, sale catalogues need to be exciting so as to generate interest in the sale, maintain a reputation for the breed and sell good sheep. Nothing generates interest like a large selection of quality sheep with pedigrees to match. As you look at your flock and the new lamb crop, plan out what you want to do and where best to market your sheep.

In closing, remember what I said in my first message, stay positive. There is so much in the Tunis breed to be positive about at this time. People in the sheep industry recognize that Tunis are up and coming, that we are starting to be considered as one of the big guys on the block. With this growth and recognition comes the responsibility to maintain a positive attitude so that we can continue on the current path. Good luck and happy lambing.

David Rock, NTSRI President

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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ARTICLES? ADS? SHOW RESULTS? OPINIONS?

- Send the information to Louise by April. 15th!

NTSRI Treasurer's Report.....Sally Barney

10-12-09 to 1-12-2010

INCOME:

Association Registries Income	\$ 1,355.00
Buyer Credit Donation	\$ 50.00
Interest - Savings	\$ 1.52
NAILE ENTRY Fees	\$ 1,256.00
Star of Louisville - Sheep Sold	\$10,275.00
Star of Louisville - Entry Fee	\$ 180.00
Tunis Spirit	\$ 1,425.00
Tunis Youth Fund Donation	\$ 25.00
Web Ads	\$ 50.00
TOTAL:	\$14,617.52

ACCOUNT BALANCES:

Certificate of Deposit	\$5,073.22
NTSRI - Savings	\$2,029.77
NTSRI - Checking	\$4,236.21
NTSRI - Youth Fund	\$3,486.33
Star of Louisville Sale	\$1,314.00
Tunis Spirit	\$ 679.81
TOTAL:	\$16,819.34

EXPENSES:

Advertising	\$ 311.00
Brochure Mailings	\$ 20.25
Dues Transaction Fees	\$ 91.20
Duplicate Paper Trans Fees	\$ 25.65
General Liability Insurance	\$ 125.00
NAILE Jr Show	\$ 171.69
NAILE Over Payment Returned	\$ 16.00
Newsletter	\$ 522.23
Photo Contest Awards	\$ 82.62
Promotional Mailings	\$ 43.94
Refund of an AR Credit	\$ 40.00
Registration Transaction Fees	\$ 632.70
Rush Fees - AR	\$ 14.25
National Tunis Show - 2009	\$ 46.19
National Tunis Show - 2010	\$ 500.00
Star of Louisville Expenses	\$ 978.00
Star of Louisville to Consignors	\$8,785.00
Transfer Transaction Fees	\$ 607.05
Web Master Stipend	\$ 125.00
TOTAL:	\$13,137.77
Overall	\$1,479.75

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!!

Russell Baker, 2115 Emerald Hill Rd., Sperryville, VA 22740	Region 5
Ashley Burke, 10846 Old Delaware Rd., Mt. Vernon, OH 43050	Region 4
Michael Stephen Cropp, 9101 Gue Rd., Damascus, MD 20872	Region 3
Leslie Gabbey, 32 Randy Dr., Akron, NY 14001	Region 2
Jordan Hath, 5474 Bell Oak Rd., Webberville, MI 48892	Region 6
Lisa & Glenn Heinsey, 76 Park St., Stevens, PA 17578	Region 3
Nicholas Loughman, 239 Highland Rd., Claysville, PA 15323	Region 3
Mathiew Perron & L'Ami Berger, 65 R 230 E, St. Philippe-de-Neri, Quebec	Region 1
Sharon Shobolm, 403 Beach St., Litchfield, CT 06759	Region 1
Maria Sierra, 5180 Churchill Rd., Snowflake, AZ 85937	Region 7
Daniel Vineyard, 9300 Blue Rock Church Rd., Blue Rock, OH 43720	Region 4

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SHOW & SALE ROTATION.....

National Sale

2010 - Great Lakes Show

*National Sale sites are scheduled one year at a time MA and must fit the requirements established in SOP's.

National Youth Show

2010 - Junior All American
Lansing, MI

2011 - NAILE (Tentative)

2012 - Junior All American
Springfield, MA

*The National Youth Show follows the Junior All American provided there is a sponsor and enough youth participation

National Open Show

2010 - Indiana State Fair
Indianapolis, IN

2011 - Big E Springfield,

2012 - Missouri State Fair
Sedalia, MO

2013 - NAILE
Louisville, KY

NTSRI Regional Director Elections for Districts 4 and 5

Are you ready to make a change in your organization? Want to become more involved with the National Board? Here's your chance members of District 4 and 5! A new year means we will sadly see some of our directors rotate off the board. This year District 4 (OH, WV) will be saying good bye and thank you to Nancy Schmidt and District 5 (VA, KY, TN, NC, SC, GA, AL, MS FL) will be saying good bye and thank you to Anna Rae Hodgkin and Barbara Cassell.

Nominations will be sent out to the members of these regions on Monday, January 25th. All members from your district are eligible for nomination providing their full active dues are paid for 2009 and they are at least 18 years old with a full membership. Only members from these districts can nominate a potential director of their region. Nominations are due back to me with a postmark of Saturday, February 13th.

Once the nominees have agreed to run, are eligible to serve with a full paid membership for 2009 and 2010 and understand that their responsibility to NTSRI and its members will be a 3 year term - we will ask for a brief write up from each candidate to be included on the ballot that will be sent out Monday, March 1st. If there is only one person running in your district, ballots will not go out and they will be named director.

Members are eligible to vote from each region provided they are an active full member in NTSRI. This means they must have paid for their 2009 and 2010 memberships by January 31st of this year. Ballots from each District are due back to me with a Postmark of Saturday, March 27th. Winners will be notified on Thursday, April 1st.

I ask that everyone please consider serving these positions as it is always great to see new interest and to hear new ideas in our organization.
Tammie Serafin, NTSRI Elections Officer 2009

Remember District 4 & 5 members

...your 2010 dues must be paid by Jan. 31st

...in order for you to vote in this election!

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Bruce Hunt Shepherd of the Year Nominations.....

The Bruce Hunt Tunis Shepherd of the year committee is now encouraging nominations for this prestigious annual award. Last year's winner was Peter Harris from Massachusetts in recognition of his long term efforts on behalf of the breed and especially working with our youth. Nominations should be made via the newsletter by submitting a supportive letter of your nominee to Louise for publication. Committee members select a winner and arrange a presentation in the fall. Previous winners include: Joe Seavey, Kenneth Mayes, Gary & Jeanne Grenier, Lyle Hotis, Judy Harris, and Peter Harris. This is a chance to showcase someone you feel is deserving of this recognition. Criteria for the award are: promotion of the Tunis breed, cooperation and friendliness toward others, and support of our Tunis youth.

Please submit the letter of support by April 15th for publication in the next NTSRI newsletter.

Congratulations.....Tim Barnes.....

NTSRI member, Tim Barnes of Radnor, Ohio recently earned the 2009 *Charles Boyles Master Shepherd Award*. This award, sponsored by the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association, is given to the individual who has shown a lifetime of dedication to sheep production and leadership within the industry. Tim has been involved with Shrops since 1959 and has served a number of positions with that breed along with service at the state level in various sheep organizations. He and his wife, Debbie, added the Tunis about 10 years ago. A complete story can be found at www.ocj.com by going to "Inside This Addition" and then going to page 29 & 30. CONGRATULATIONS, TIM!

IN MEMORY OF RAGINA POWELL,OTSA Member....

there will be two extra \$50 sales credits given to the youth at the 2010 National Tunis Sale in Wooster in May. Along with the NTSRI sponsored sales credit, this makes at least 3 \$50 credits to be given to 3 youth whose names will be drawn before the sale.

Ragina Powell of Forest, OH served as Treasurer of the OTSA for several years and was always supportive of the youth programs in many different ways. Her husband, Ed, and his dad had raised Southdowns for many years. When the Powell children, Craig and Renee, started 4-H market lamb projects the flock expanded to include Hamps. But for Christmas one year in the 1990's, Ed purchased Ragina 2 bred Tunis ewes. And R & R Tunis was created. With the help of long time friend, Max Garmon, Ragina was able to take the Tunis to the Ohio State Fairs and to participate in the NTSRI sales. (I think the record still stands that Ragina sold the highest priced ewe lamb - \$1600). Over the years, the Southdowns and the Hamps were sold and Ed added a number of Ken Mayes' ewes to the flock and currently there are 35 registered Tunis Ewes on the farm.

Ragina passed away this fall after a long fight with aggressive breast cancer which was first diagnosed in 2002. She had continued to work in the nursing field and also helped out with the family business - Mt. Victory Meats. Ed and the family can be reached at 9263 Maple Lane, Belle Center, OH 43310 or by phone 567-674-0034.

LET'S KEEP THOSE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS.....Barbara Cassell, Region 5

A New Year has begun and most of us have reflected on the past and have promised to the future with resolutions for better performances in our Tunis endeavors. To keep our resolutions for a better Tunis year in 2010, we need to acknowledge the challenges of ever tightening budgets, increasing demands on our time, and greater expectations associated with raising sheep. Fuel prices are already climbing, most areas are bracing for increased power bills, and the weather keeps on providing pressure on already strained resources. We are told by agriculture leaders to prepare for a year of extremes in weather, costs, and marketing of agriculture products. So, how can we as individual producers increase our returns for 2010-2011?

Here are five suggestions that could trim costs and add value to our Tunis endeavors.

- Consider a shorter lambing season. A shorter lambing season ensures more lamb uniformity and thus allows better marketing efficiency. It reduces labor costs since the number of working sessions can be reduced and health supplies can be used more efficiently.
- Plan for smarter marketing. Advertise more where you will best reach your targeted buyers. If you sell through national sales, place ads in major publications, on websites, and in sale catalogs. If your major sales are at local venues, use your local newspapers, Farm Bureau newsletters, government marketing sites designed for your area, and websites. When marketing is done in a timely manner and directed towards your buyers, the costs can be easily recouped and can add value per lamb.
- Improve your genetics. Better genetics can create uniformity in your flock, contribute to lambing ease, and foster faster growth. With easier lambing there are fewer problems for both ewes and lambs, providing for more opportunities for faster marketing of auction lambs, additional marketing strategies for better sales, and increased sales for proven breeding stock.
- Find at least one more way to cut costs. With all the penny pinching already done, we may feel there's not more we can do to cut costs. However with the expected rise in feeding costs, fuel costs, and general agriculture expenses, we all need to hunt for more ways to trim our expenses. Perhaps a move to fall lambing, to reduce feed costs, barn expenses, and "shepherd wear" can be considered. Now may be the time we need to sacrifice our emotional attachments and reduce our flocks to the most productive animals, beginning with allowing ourselves to finally cull animals we've carried for "one more chance". We may want to look into paying someone else to do some chores to cut costs. Hiring someone to haul our lambs to market because we can't justify the costs of owning a trailer and buying hay instead of paying to maintain equipment and fields are examples of how some of us might be able to spend some to save more.
- As we strive to improve our Tunis endeavors, let's resolve also to allow ourselves moments everyday to appreciate our contributions. Everyday for just a moment or two, let's do nothing. Let's just sit quietly and allow our heart rate to slow and our blood pressure to reduce. Every day let's laugh out loud at least once. It's been shown that even looking forward to laughing calms people. When we face difficult tasks, let's allow ourselves time to tune in. Taking time to relax and study the situation before beginning a difficult task reduces stress and affords quicker, more positive actions.

When we appreciate our sacrifices and contributions in furthering our Tunis endeavors, we can more easily acknowledge our challenges and work more efficiently to construct better solutions with higher rewards for all.

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Nov. 16-17th New York Bred Ewe Sale @ Rhinebeck, NY

Champion Ewe	Anna Charest - brood ewe	\$550
Res. Champ Ewe	1.43 Acre Farm	\$175

Other ewes consigned by Lawthea Farm, David Brown Farm & Half Pint Farm sold for prices ranging from \$200 to \$450. The 9 head averaged \$347.

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PAPER OR EMAIL? At the NTSRI Board Meeting in Louisville in 2008, 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 newsletter instead, please notify the editor and the change will be quickly made! Let me know - **Paper or email!**

Louise Dunham, Editor tunis@bright.net 937-465-8299

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NTSRI entry fees are due at the same time as entry fees to NAILE as stated in the premium book. No late checks to be accepted for 2010. Please plan accordingly to insure your participation in the NAILE Tunis Show. Dan Kleman, Show & Sale Committee

GREETINGS REGION 7....Tammie Serafin, Region 7

I know I say this in every regional report but it seems like this excitement for our Tunis gets bigger and stronger. So for all of those people tired of hearing me say this, close your eyes for a sentence. WHAT A GREAT TIME TO BE IN TUNIS IN REGION 7!!!! There! It is off my chest and now on to some very exciting happenings around this district.

If you think that good or even great Tunis can not be found in this region, I am happy to report you're wrong! Our region had an exceptional showing in the Open and Youth shows at NAILE in Louisville, KY in November. The youth show was dominated by our youth members Tom and Rachel Schambow of WI and Emily and Elizabeth Stumpe of MO. The Stumpe girls won Champion ram with a March buck and Reserve Champion ewe with a February lamb. The Schambows won Reserve Champion ram with a February lamb and had Champion ewe with a yearling. Elizabeth Stumpe was 3rd in the Jr Showmanship and her sister Emily was 3rd in the Sr Showmanship. The full results of the Jr show are elsewhere in the newsletter. In the Open show, our Senior members, Triple T Ranch - Tim, Tammie and Trinity Serafin of OR and Matt and Kate Lambert of MO and Youth Members, Tom and Rachel Schambow of WI and Emily and Elizabeth Stumpe of MO took the high honors. Reserve Champion Ram went to Matt and Kate Lambert's February buck. Kate also won Premier Exhibitor!!! Reserve Champion Ewe went to Tom and Rachel Schambow's yearling. In every class our members held the top 5 spots in what proved to be the largest Tunis show to date! Check out the full results for the Open show elsewhere in the newsletter. Great job to everyone!!

The Missouri Tunis Association is excited to host the Midwest Junior Preview Tunis Sheep Show on June 12, 2010 at the Chillicothe, MO showgrounds. They have a ton of outstanding prizes and gifts lined up already for its exhibitors. This will not be a show to miss! For more information, go to www.motunis.com.

SAVE THIS DATE for what will prove to be the most exciting and prestigious Tunis Sale to date!! Yes, that's right! Tunis will show and sell at the largest sheep sale in the world...The Midwest Stud Ram Sale in Sedalia, MO...Our Tunis will show Monday, June 21, 2010 and sell Wednesday, June 23, 2010. Evan Snyder will be our judge for the day. There will be a truck from every point in the United States here at this sale. Transport of any sale animal will not be a problem guaranteed. We have already secured some of the top sheep from top consignors for this sale, so don't miss out! We have already planned for a get together for buyers and sellers. We are also happy to report some nice awards are already coming in and, of course, those great buyers credits will be available. For more information go to www.midwestramsale.com or www.motunis.com.

The National Tunis Sale will again be held at the Great Lakes Show and Sale in Wooster, OH on May 29 and 30, 2010. Once again, there will be a wool show. I know this regio has some exceptional fleeces running around, so send them in. As always, I hope to see many of you there!

By now, everyone should have received a questionnaire from NTSRI. There is some extremely important issues that we as a board want to hear your feedback on. This is not a ballot, just a questionnaire. Postage is paid and just takes a few minutes to fill out. Your opinions matter to us!

May everyone have a successful lambing season and manage to get at least a few hours sleep in between! If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please feel free to contact me!! Tammie Serafin - trail2win@msn.com, 831-809-3751, facebook: Tammie Harris Serafin.

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"Welcome to the Midwest!"

The Missouri Tunis Association is proud to announce that the Midwest Stud Ram Sale held in Sedalia, MO has approved the addition of Tunis to the sale offering. Tunis will show on Monday, June 21 at 4:00 p.m. and sell on Wednesday, June 23, at 4:30 p.m. A sale catalogue will be available at www.MidWestRamSale.com.

The Missouri Tunis Association is working hard on organizing a great kickoff event. Breeders are working to put together a **"Welcome to the Midwest"** dinner and celebration following the show. Evening events are still being organized but will tentatively include dinner and drinks featuring Missouri brewed beer and wine. The MTA is working on organizing a "Best Consignment Award" and buyer credits to give out as well.

In discussion with breeders around the country, the consignments offered at the sale will be top quality sheep. Some of the nation's top breeders have committed to bringing their finest quality animals. "Some of the best prospects in the Tunis industry will only be offered at the Midwest," said Tammie Serafin, from Triple T Tunis in Oregon.

"The most exciting part about this sale is being part of something so huge. There are literally trailers going to every corner of the United States from this sale. No one will have trouble with transportation. Tunis are growing by leaps and bounds in the Midwest and West Coast. It's really exciting to have an event of this caliber so close to all these new breeders." said Kate Lambert, MTA secretary.

MTA President Kelly Stumpe has emphasized the importance of making the first sale an exceptional one both in terms of quality and numbers. "This is our chance to showcase our breed at the largest purebred sheep sale in North America," he said. For additional information on consigning or buying sheep from the Midwest Stud Ram Sale, please contact the Missouri Tunis Association secretary, Kate Lambert, at 660-541-0468 or MissouriTunis@hotmail.com.

Tunis accepted into line-up at Stud Ram Sale!

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2010 NTSRI CALENDAR:

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|----------------------------|---|---|
| May 8th | <u>Southeast Tunis Breeders Tunis Field Day</u>
Private treaty sale & day of education & fellowship | Wytheville, VA
barbaracassell2005@yahoo.com |
| May 29-30 | <u>National Tunis Show & Sale - Wool Show</u>
Show & Sale Entry Deadline - March 15
NTSRI Wool Show | Wooster, OH
Banner Sales Management
Kim Day |
| June 12 | <u>Midwest Junior Preview Show</u>
All Breeds Youth Show | Chillicothe, MO
www.MoTunis.com |
| June 18-19 | <u>Tunis Summer Spectacular Show & Sale</u>
Show & Sale Entry Deadline - April 7 | Springfield, IL
Banner Sales Management |
| June 21-26 | <u>Midwest Stud Ram Sale</u>
Show - June 21st @ 4:00 pm Sale - June 23rd | Sedalia, MO |
| July 2 - 4 | <u>National Jr Tunis Show - "All American Jr Show"</u>
Michigan State University | E. Lansing, MI
www.countrylovin.com/AAJSS |
| July 16-17 | <u>New England Sheep Sale</u>
Tunis welcome! | W. Springfield, MA
www.nesheep.org |
| July 16-18 | <u>Northeast Youth Show</u>
Tunis Youth Show | W. Springfield, MA
www.nesheep.org |
| Aug. 4 - 8th | <u>Ohio State Fair</u>
Entry Deadline - June 20th
Tunis Jr Show - Aug. 5th | Columbus, OH
www.ohiostatefair.com |
| Aug. 18-20th | <u>National Tunis Show - Open</u>
Entry Deadline - July 1st | Tunis Open Class Show - Aug. 5th
Indianapolis, IN
Judging - Aug. 20th - 4:00 pm |
| Sept. 17 - Oct. 3rd | <u>Eastern States Exposition</u>
Tunis are in - September 23-29 | W. Springfield, MA
www.thebigc.com |
| Oct. 15-16th | <u>New York Bred Ewe Sale</u>
Entry Deadline - Aug. 20th | Rhinebeck, NY
Banner Sales Management |

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May 29 & 30 NAT'L TUNIS SALE & SHOW INFORMATION:

Sale Entry INFO: The Banner Sales Management will send all NTSRI members entry information at the beginning of February. Sale Entry Deadline is March 15th for the catalog.
Catalog INFO: All members will receive the Sale catalog early in May.

<u>SALE & SHOW TENTATIVE TIMELINE:</u>		Wooster, OH
Friday, May 28th	Sheep Move in & Free Friday Night Dinner @ the Fairgrounds	
Saturday, May 29th	NTSRI National Wool Show	NTSRI National Show
	Saturday Night Tunis Dinner & Futurity Awards & Auction	
Sunday, May 30th	Complimentary donuts & coffee	General Membership Meeting
	Used Sheep Equipment Auction	NTSRI National Sale

MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS NOW!! Ask about a sheep show/Tunis discount!

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Camping - Linda Reichert - 330-264-9665 | Rodeway Inn - 330-262-5008 |
| 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 |

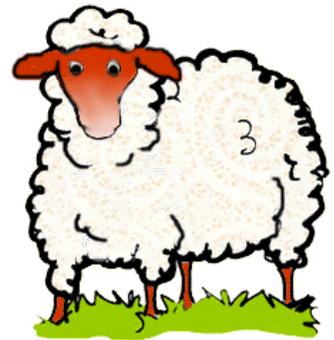
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2nd Annual NTSRI Tunis Wool Contest

May 29th & 30th, 2010

Great Lakes Wool Festival &
National Tunis Sale, Wooster, OH

Entry Fee - \$3.00 per fleece



SCHEDULE (times to be announced)

- Friday – Fleeces accepted
- Saturday – Fleeces on display
- Saturday – Fleeces judged in Show ring: first thing in the morning
- Saturday – Fleeces on display from 9 am until Sunday at 1 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.

COMPETITION & PRIZES

- Two Classes "Tunis Ram Fleece" & "Tunis Ewe Fleece"
- Prizes each class
 - 1st Place – Rosette & \$15
 - 2nd Place – \$10
 - 3rd Place – \$5
- Grand Prize
 - Supreme Tunis Fleece – Rosette & \$20

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 fleeces should be skirted and free of chaff, burrs, tags & second cuts.
 6. The judge has the right to refuse to judge/place any fleece that has an excessive amount of foreign material in it.
 7. 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 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 may be shipped to Kim Day and **must** be received by Tuesday, May 18th (see address below).
 - If you are delivering your fleece personally, please let Kim know how many fleeces you are bringing so there can be enough display room for all fleeces.

TO ENTER:

1. Fill out & mail Pre-Registration form to Kim Day by May 3, 2010.
2. Put the following information on a 3 x 5 index card inside an envelope:
 - o Owner name & farm name
 - o Address & phone number
 - o Disposal of fleece...To be sold (price); to be picked up; or to be shipped back to owner - include funds for return postage if needed.
 - o Entry fee should also be in envelope.
3. On the outside of the same envelope, indicate the following information:
 - o Breed, sex, age, & registration # of animal
 - o Weight of fleece
 - o Months of growth represented by fleece
 - o And class

Please direct all questions to the Wool Show Committee, **Laurie Andreacci** (laurie@laurieslambs.com), **Debbi Brown** (texastunis@yahoo.com), **Kim Day** (redropefarm@yahoo.com), **Louise Dunham** (tunis@bright.net.) and **Marianne Turcheck** (marianne@rostraverfarm.com).

If you're shipping your fleece(s) to Kim, please include a phone number or email so she can let you know they were received. Please send fleeces to: Kim Day, 196 Hill School Road, Douglassville, PA 19518.

Fleece Show Pre-Registration Form
PLEASE PRINT

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	

NTSRI Senior Member
 NTSRI Junior Member
 Non-Member

Fleece	Class	Weight	\$/lb*
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

***\$/lb MUST be included for sale fleeces**

June 18 - 19 TUNIS SUMMER SPECTACULAR!

Plans are being made for our 5th annual show and sale in Springfield, Illinois. Join us in June for a fun weekend. Watch for entry information from the Banner Sales Management. The entry deadline is April 7th.

July 2 - 4 NAT'L JR TUNIS SHOW INFORMATION:

The 2010 National Junior Tunis Show will be in conjunction with the "All-American" Junior Sheep Shows. The National Junior Tunis Show will be held over the 4th of July weekend at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. Region 6 Tunis Breeders are honored to host the National Junior Tunis Show. If you would like to help out please contact Dale Huhnke at 630-881-8108 or email at dalehuhnke@yahoo.com.

July 15 - 18 NORTH EAST YOUTH SHEEP SHOW

The 2010 North East Youth Show will be taking place July 15th - 18th, and is held in the Livestock Complex at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield, Massachusetts. This show is open to all youths under the age of 21 years with all breeds of sheep being invited. The exhibitors must solely own or lease their sheep or co-own sheep in a youth partnership. The sheep and exhibitors should arrive by Thursday, July 15th; with animals being penned by 11:00 pm. Activities begin on Thursday evening and continue right through the weekend with the finale being the selection of the Supreme Champions on Sunday afternoon. For more information please visit the NES & WG website (www.nesheep.org). We can now also be found on Facebook. We look forward to another great weekend this year.

July 18 - 20th NATIONAL TUNIS SHOW INFORMATION:

The Indiana Tunis Sheep Association cordially invites all Tunis Breeders to "Take the Checkered Flag" at the 2010 National Tunis Show which will be held at the Indiana State Fair. The show is currently scheduled for Friday afternoon August 20 in Indianapolis. Come and enjoy a few days of Hoosier Hospitality in an air conditioned sheep barn which has shower facilities, dorm rooms, and plenty of sights and sounds for everyone to enjoy.

Not only do you have an opportunity to show Tunis, both fitted and slick-shear classes, but there is also a wool show that you can enter Tunis fleeces. Entry deadline for the show is July 1. Online entry will be up on the Indiana State Fair website after May 15. Once you get the entry back from Indiana please check your flock entries. If you have any changes or corrections please contact the entry department to make those changes so that once you get on the fairgrounds check-in will run smoothly.

The Indiana Tunis Sheep Association are busy planning a super show for you. We have designated the Marten House as the official hotel for the show. Rooms are \$69 a night. A hotel brochure on the NTSRI website is available right now for you to download to get phone numbers to make hotel reservations.

You have an opportunity to sponsor one of the classes at the 2010 show. Each first place class winner will receive a special gift. The cost to sponsor a class is \$25. We will have a sponsor display at the show. Here is a list of classes to sponsor: yearling ram, fall ram, early spring ram lamb, late spring ram lamb, slick-shorn ram lamb, pair of ram lambs, early yearling ewes, late yearling ewes, slick-shorn yearling ewes, pair of yearling ewes, fall ewes, early spring ewe lambs, late spring ewe lambs, slick-shorn ewe lambs, pair of ewe lambs, get-of-sire (already sponsored), and flock.

We have the official 2010 show T-shirt available. Costs will be \$10-13 per shirt. We will be taking shirt orders at the National Sale in Wooster. Shirts will be picked-up and paid for once you get to the Indiana State Fair. If you have any questions, please contact Dale Huhnke at 630-881-8108 or email at dalehuhnke@yahoo.com. See you in Indianapolis in August.

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YOUTH INFORMATION.....

HOW ABOUT OUR YOUTH OF '09!!! Lyle Hotis, Contributing Writer

In the forty years or so I have been associated with the Tunis breed; I don't think there has ever been a better showing of your youth than the last year. The hard work has finally paid off. Things like this don't happen by chance or in a vacuum. The parents of these young people really need to be congratulated as well. It is your support, encouragement, and leadership that set the kind of example that makes them want to get involved in something worthwhile and succeed at it.

It also appears that the work of all the folks involved with the futurity program are seeing the fruits of their labor too. The Youth committee and its members have been doing a good job getting the kids involved and most importantly seeing that they have been successful.

The October/November issue of the Banner brings a number of our youth to the National forefront. There is a wonderful picture of Anna Charest, Massachusetts in this issue holding her Supreme Champion Ewe over all breeds at the Keystone International. One of the best things about this picture is the support shown by all the Tunis breeders in the photo. No grumblers or complainers in that picture! Everyone was genuinely happy for her success.

What about Jacci Erwin winning the National FFA Sheep Proficiency Award? This award requires a tremendous effort in record keeping and success with the project. Each State submits its best candidates for this recognition. To be selected a National winner is no small accomplishment. Congratulations to Jacci for her accomplishment and her parents for their support.

In the same Banner issue you can find the likes of: Mandy Swartz holding a futurity lamb purchased from Garey's that went on to win several first place awards. Swartz, where have we heard that name before? Oh, yes! Billy Howe is there with a top selling ewe from Old Glory Farm. The two Harrison girls are there with their class winners from Jewel Tunis.

Another young man with a big name, Jeremy Jochums-Chickering, did very well at the Big E with both ram and ewe winners. I wonder where his interest comes from. Probably mom, Julia, and grandma, Jozi, have some idea.

There may well be some other young people that I missed in this one issue alone. It's a big magazine. The point being, however, that all of these young people have enjoyed outstanding support and leadership from family and friends to allow them this level of accomplishment. Congratulations to all of the kids and their families. It looks like we're in good shape for years to come.

SO LET'S LEARN MORE ABOUT THOSE GREAT "TUNIS" YOUTH...

Anna Charest of Small Fry Farm Continued of Brimfield, MA had the Champion Ewe at the 2009 NTSRI Open Class National Show held at the Keystone International Show at Harrisburg, PA...and went on to have the *Supreme Champion Ewe* over 14 other breeds of sheep totaling 1,143 head! When asked to tell the NTSRI membership a little bit more about herself and her sheep, Anna wrote....

Small Farm, BIG Quality

You know you're a "Small Fry Farm" when you can count your number of brood ewes on one hand. With five Tunis lambing this year I know that it will be a challenge to keep my stakes in the show ring. I have been told that once you finally make your way to the top, it is twice as difficult to stay there. As formidable as that feat may be, my journey to create my "Small farm, BIG quality" has been all the more remarkable. My success is the intriguing combination of hard work, good fortune and staunch kinship. I would like to take this opportunity to answer some frequently asked questions as well as grant insight into my Tunis program.

Although I have only been raising sheep for less than 10 years, my mother is a veteran to the sheep industry. She was well known for her competitive Cheviot flock. She also raised Horned Dorsets and Corriedales. Being one of 11 children she and her siblings had quite the operation, thus leading to the name *Small Fry Farm*. When I began my endeavor into the sheep industry I decided to take the farm name as my own and make it *Continued*. I chose to follow through with the Cheviot breed, but then came the decision for my second breed.

Having been a part of a sewing club in my early 4-H days, I became interested in Lead Line. In order to compete in both Lead Line weekends at the Big E I had to find a breed that was shown during wool week. It was then that I saw Tunis, a wonderfully unique and docile breed, and I fell in love with them. I placed first in Lead Line that year with a Tunis yearling ewe that I had borrowed from Jan Smith.

When it came to choosing who I wanted to buy my first Tunis from, the choice was easy. Peter and Judy Harris knew my mother well from their days showing together. When I asked about leasing a ewe lamb they were more than helpful. Not only did I show that ewe for two years but they gave her to me as a yearling and she became the foundation for my current Tunis flock.

In the following years I participated in the futurity program, buying lambs from R & R Tunis (the late Ragina Powell flock) as well as the Campbells. Both won in their respective years. Futurity has done wonders for me. I was able

to purchase quality ewes and make money doing it. In fact, the 2008 Champion Ewe at the National Jr Show and the 2009 Champion Ewe at KILE are both products of a futurity lamb.

I now own eleven Tunis, eight of which are bred and owned. I am working on increasing my flock now that I seem to have established a solid bloodline. It is a challenge to do so with only 3 acres of land and limited barn space. I also own nearly twenty Cheviots. I am striving to have such quantity with my Tunis flock.

This year my flock has been present at 21 shows, all of which I have been in charge of my preparation and fitting. I have traveled to 6 different states and each endeavor has been a success. My most well known accomplishment was at the National Tunis Jr Show held at KILE. There my February born yearling ewe, *The Red Pearl*, was named Supreme Champion Ewe. This ewe was not born showing such promise. In fact, she started off as the runt who kept her place in the barn due to her genetics. Like herself, her day was an under-dog. She was a purchase from Harris Tunis. Her small size and recent liberation from the bottle made her a diamond in the rough. But she had promise and grew out to be very competitive. Bred to my "bred and owned" ram (a descendant of my first Tunis) she produced an outstanding individual.

The first time *The Red Pearl* made waves in the show ring was at the Big E in 2008 when she was named Reserve Champion Ewe. Ever since she has been top-dog continuing on to win Champion Ewe at KILE 2008 and Reserve Champion at the National Tunis Jr Show (Champion went to my yearling ewe). As much confidence as I had in her, I never expected to win Supreme Ewe. I cannot describe the excitement I felt, not only for winning the prestigious award, but due to the thunderous approval of the crowd. I know I have said it before, but I truly am grateful for the support of other Tunis breeders. It means more to me than the award itself.

I hope that my success will do more than help my name, but also the Tunis breed. It is not every day that a Tunis takes on a Montadale and Dorset (among others) and comes out on top. I am optimistic that other youth will learn the same lessons I have. Improving your flock isn't about buying the most expensive animals or the champions at sales. If you keep an open mind and a careful eye you just might get a bargain on the foundation for your success.

Hard work.....pays off! A National FFA Award!

Jacci Erwin of Richwood, Ohio won the *2009 National FFA Sheep Production Proficiency Award*. This award was presented at the 2009 annual FFA Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana in October. I asked Jacci to tell us about her Tunis and the work involved in applying for this award.

Jacci writes...."I live on a 150 acre grain farm with my Dad, Dan, who works as a sow unit operator for Troyton Grain and my mom, Cris, who is a retired school teacher. We currently raise Hamps and Tunis and so we just recently put in a large pasture that connects to the barn for the sheep.

My dad started in the sheep business when he was little with Suffolks and then had a commercial flock until my sister and I were old enough to show sheep. We then got into the Hamps and then into the Tunis. We currently have 38 Tunis ewes and 4 rams along with the Hamps. I do wish that we could have separated the Tunis from the Hamps because their feed efficiency is so different. And I still wonder why the Tunis get so fat so fast compared to the Hamps and any other breeds.

When I was much younger, our county fair still had an open show and Max Garmon (another Tunis breeder in central Ohio) was showing his sheep and I went to help him with the infamous "Groundhog". That ewe won Champion Ewe and I was hooked. From that time, my goals are to show and sell show quality sheep to other breeders that can use them in their flocks. I think that my father and Max, who got me started, are the people who have been the most help over the years plus all the friends I have met along the way who have helped me show. As a club, I hope we can continue to try to get everyone involved....the juniors are running thin in Ohio and I just hope this trend doesn't continue."

Jacci's describes the process in these steps:

Complete your state's record books.

Judged at your state's District level

The top 4 applicants are interviewed at the state level...the winner is announced early in May

Before submitting the national application, the applicant may rework their application.

The National board judges each application by awarding a gold, silver or bronze award

The National board chooses 4 finalist level awards and announces them in the middle of August

The applicant must complete a 10 page checklist of things to do for the national convention - including pictures, etc.

The applicant goes through a final interview with 9 judges on Thursday of the convention

The winner is announced on Friday of the national FFA convention!

Jacci concludes by saying..."This is just an overview but it seems to be a good and just process. This wasn't the first time I applied. This was actually my fourth and final time I could apply. I was first in my district for 3 years and second in the state twice before winning! I really would like to thank my Ag teachers, Mr. Nevin Smith and Mr. Jolliff."

Thank you, Jacci, for all of your hard work and extensive time you spent on this project!

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YOUTH CALENDAR:

- FEB. 10th** **TUNIS YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS** - Remember this award is open to any graduating senior who is a member or their family is a member of NTSRI. Check out the website for the application.
- APRIL 1ST** **DEADLINE FOR EWE LAMB FUTURITY POINTS** - All show cards must be returned to Kelly Stumpe by this date to be counted.
- APRIL 1ST** **TUNIS YOUTH AMBASSADOR** - This position is open to any youth member under the age of 19 years of age. Full details can be found on the Tunis website.
- MAY 29TH** **FUTURITY CHECKS PRESENTED!** The prize money will be distributed at the National Sale in Wooster on the evening of May 29th. Consignors of Futurity Lambs are asked to be in attendance to present the awards provided by the NTSRI Youth Fund.
- JULY 2 - 4TH** **NAT'L JR TUNIS SHOW INFORMATION** - The 2010 National Junior Tunis Show will be in conjunction with the "All-American" Junior Sheep Shows. The National Junior Tunis Show will be held over the 4th of July weekend at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. Region 6 Tunis Breeders are honored to host the National Junior Tunis Show. If you would like to help out please contact Dale Huhnke at 630-881-8108 or email at dalehuhnke@yahoo.com.

If you want to help support these Youth Activities, please bring an item for the youth auction to be held at the May 29th evening Social Gathering at Wooster. Use your imagination and come up with that donation that will make everyone want to bid on it!

NTSRI SALES CREDITS...The NTSRI Youth Fund will again give away a \$50 sales credit at these 2010 sales:

- | | |
|---|---|
| National Tunis Sale @ Wooster, OH | Tunis Summer Spectacular @ Springfield, IL |
| Midwest Stud Ram Sale @ Sedalia, MO | New England Sale @ E. Springfield, MA |
| Star of Louisville Sale @ Louisville, KY | |

Remember any youth - member or non member- may register for the drawing of these sales credits at no cost to the youth. The youth must have a separate buyer's number but need not be present to win. The drawing will be held just prior to the start of the sale. Applications will be available at the sales.

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ADD'L DATES:

- | | | |
|------------------|---|--------------------|
| Aug. 14th | Missouri State Fair Jr Breeding Sheep Show | Sedalia, MO |
| Aug. 17th | Missouri State Fair Open Tunis Sheep Show | Sedalia, MO |
| Oct. 1st | NAILE Entry Deadline | |

Do you have a topic to suggest for our Members to answer in the next issue? If so, please send it to Louise ASAP!

THANKS to everyone who submitted an article for this issue! I really do like the variety of topics presented! Do you have something you could submit for the April newsletter? April 15th deadline!

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FIRST ANNUAL MIDWEST JUNIOR PREVIEW SHOW....

MEAD to Sponsor \$300 Cash Award for Supreme Champions at All-Breed Junior Show - \$100 cash award to 3 Showmanship winners also sponsored.

Tunis to award over \$800 in cash! The plans for the first annual Midwest Junior Preview Show are quickly coming together. The show has been scheduled for June 12, 2010 in Chillicothe, MO. The show will be held at the Litton Agriculture Center which offers an indoor show ring, dining facilities and a campground.

Several different Missouri sheep producers have been working to get this all-breed sheep show underway. The show will host any registered breed that attends, with 6 classes offered in each breed. This show is open to any producer 21 or younger from any state. Pre-registration will be encouraged by offering a T-shirt to those who have entries in by June 1st, but it is not required. Entry fees are \$6 per head.

The Missouri Sheep Producers have stepped up to back the event in a huge way. They have provided the funding to cover the facility cost as well as a T-shirt for all juniors who pre-register. Larry Mead, manager of the Midwest Stud Ram Sale, has pledged a cash award of \$300 each for the Supreme Champion Ram and Supreme Champion Ewe. "Getting Larry's support on this event, especially in such a huge way, is going to make all the difference in the world. He has really stood up and told our junior members that they matter. That they are important to this industry," says Kate Lambert, organizer of the event.

The Missouri Tunis Association and individual Tunis breeders from across the state are working hard to make this an exciting event for all Tunis exhibitors as well by offering prizes and cash awards. Tunis members have raised an additional \$800 to date that will be awarded as cash prizes to exhibitors.

Additionally, the United Suffolk Sheep Association, with the guidance of Tom Burk, has declared this event the home of the 2010 Regional Suffolk Junior Show. The USSA will provide additional funding for awards and cash prizes at the event. The Missouri Suffolk Association has also pledged \$250 towards the event. The Missouri Hampshire Association is also backing the show, with an additional \$250 donation towards the Hampshire show.

There will also be three showmanship events offered at the conclusion of the day. The showmanship classes will also be divided by age. Dr. Helen Swartz, long time Missouri Sheep Producer, has provided a donation that will allow for a \$100 cash award for each of the three showmanship classes.

Funding is still being sought for general expenses. Additionally, other breed associations and producers are encouraged to help sponsor their respective breed with additional donations. "I am working to cover the basics. I want every kid to be able to show their sheep. From that point, it is up to the breed associations and producers to make their breed standout. I hope the breeders realize the value of this event and take the opportunity to promote their products," says Kate Lambert.

For information on exhibiting at this event, to receive entry information, or to sponsor the event, please contact Kate Lambert at 660-541-0468 or MissouriTunis@hotmail.com. Visit the website of the Missouri Tunis Association for more information on this event at www.MoTunis.com.

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What's in My Feed? - or - Chicken Little Rides Again! By Dan Erwin

Either one of these titles may be true as the year goes on. This article is not meant to scare or alarm any shepherd - only to make him/her more aware. While Ohio and Indiana (and other Midwest states) were blessed with a bumper crop of corn, it may pose some problems for livestock feeding. Corn containing DON (commonly called VOMITOXIN) and ZEARLELENONE (an estrogen compound) is showing up in Ohio. What is vomitoxin and zearelenone? They are toxins produced by mold and fungus grow on the ears of the corn plant. The mold itself can be killed by drying the corn, but the toxin already produced will always be present.

How did it get there? The climate of our growing season, along with planting times and environmental differences influence this greatly. This is why some areas see higher levels of toxins than others. How much does it take? In doing research for this article, I found that definitive answers are hard to get. For zearelenone, the University of Nebraska recommends for swine, less than 3 PPM, and for heifers, less than 10 PPM in the total ration. More information is available on vomitoxin. The University of Nebraska recommends 5 PPM on total ration for cattle and 10 PPM maximum for feedstuff concentration. Recommendations for other species (i.e. sheep) cut these numbers in half. What is a PPM? PPM stands for parts per million. The best picture of PPM I can give is this: take a 200 mg Ibuprofen tablet from your medicine cabinet. Cut the tablet in half and then take one half and grind it into powder. Take this powder to the barn and thoroughly mix it in 50 pounds of feed. This feed now has 4.5 PPM Ibuprofen in it, or close to the top recommended amount per feedstuff. Feed consumption with possible feed refusal will probably be your first indication. You must remember that many things influence feed consumption, especially water availability. The estrogen compounds and prolonged exposure can cause reproductive problems and reproductive growth concerns.

What can I do? A shepherd's best strategies for this are the same as they should be every year. "Don't Panic!" You must develop as good a working relationship with your feed supplier as with your vet. We must remain diligent in our daily observations. Watch the grain to forage ratio. Ruminants can dilute the amount of corn in the ration by their ability to utilize forage. If you do have to deal with the high levels of these toxins, your options are: complete feeds, dilution with other feedstuffs and binders. Talk to your feed supplier for more information on this problem.

REGIONAL NEWS.....

Promote your flock by joining the Missouri Tunis Association!

As Tunis continue to become more popular in the Midwest, it is more important than ever to promote flocks in this part of the country. The Missouri Tunis Association offers both in state and out-of-state breeders the opportunity to do this. Joining the MTA allows members numerous networking benefits plus a free Breeders Listing on the MTA website, access to free classified ads complete with links to websites, colored text, and pictures, and a free listing in each year's Spring Breeder Directory that will be dispersed at sales, shows, and at other sheep events through-out the country.

The MTA is actively involved in organizing events in the area for its members. The group is hosting the Midwest Junior Preview Show, "Welcome to the Midwest" celebration at the Stud Ram Sale, the Tunis show at the Missouri State Fair, and eventually the National Tunis Show that is slated to come to Missouri in the future. Dues are \$20/family and are collected each year in August during the State Fair. Out-of-state members will be billed. For information on joining, and to get listed in the 2010 Spring Breeder's Directory, visit the website at www.MoTunis.com or call Kate Lambert at 660-541-0468.

News from the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association

Folks here in the Northeast are still talking about the excitement of having Northeast Tunis Sheep Association member and NTSRI junior member **Anna Charest, Brimfield, MA**, take her National Tunis Show Champion Ewe to Supreme Ewe at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition. Last year Anna wrote a very interesting article for the NTSRI newsletter focused on how it does not take a large number of sheep or a large amount of money to succeed. Obviously, Anna has proved her point! Congratulations, Anna. Also congratulations go out to Northeast member **Peter Harris, Ludlow, MA** who was awarded the NTSRI 2009 Bruce Hunt Shepherd of the Year Award. Coincidentally, Peter gave Anna her first Tunis ewe. What a great story. **Amy Davenport, Wallingford, VT** is our Northeast Youth Ambassador. She is currently studying at the SUNY, Cobleskill, NY. Good luck, Amy.

There are a lot of plans in the works for 2010. Look for a notice in late February announcing the time and place of the Northeast Tunis Sheep Association annual members meeting. The Tunis will again be part of the **Northeast Youth Show**. Juniors should definitely check out this opportunity to join with 250 youth in a quality show. Dates are July 16-18, 2010. Save those same dates, July 16-17, 2010 for the **New England Sale**. Tunis are eligible to sell and many quality ewes and rams are usually offered.

The annual newsletter will be out in late winter with additional dates and opportunities. Lambing has started and I hear there are a number of breeders with red heads on the ground. Good luck shepherds. In **2011, the NTSRI will hold its National Show** at the Eastern States Exposition and planning will be ongoing over the next year plus.

The first ever **New England Fiber Festival** will be held in November, 2010 at Eastern States Exposition. There is time to reserve a spot.

News from the Ohio Tunis Sheep Association

The Ohio Tunis Sheep Association is planning their spring meeting for Saturday, March 13th at 11:00 am at the home of BWB Farms in Martinsville, OH. To receive a complimentary copy of the OTSA newsletter or membership information, please call Kathy Niese, OTSA Treasurer, at 419-969-0783 or email her at kniese1@ivytech.edu. The Ohio Tunis group will again be organizing the Friday night dinner, the Saturday night Tunis dinner and the Sunday morning donut and coffee break for the **2010 National Sale in Wooster**. Please watch the April newsletter for more details.

News from the Southeast Tunis Breeders

SOUTHEAST TUNIS BREEDERS FIELD DAY - May 8, 2010

The 9th Annual Southeast Tunis Breeders Field Day will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2010, at the Cassell Farm in Wytheville, VA. Come join us of a day filled with Tunis activities. We plan to have food, fun, and fellowship along with a bit of education and selling some fantastic sheep. Our format will be a private treaty sale, with no show. Look for more information in the April Newsletter and on the website as the date gets closer.

News from the Indiana Tunis Breeders

Futurity Contest for Youth!

The Indiana Tunis Sheep Association will have a youth futurity contest in 2010. It is only available to Indiana Tunis Breeders and it will be for both yearling and spring ewe lambs. The costs to enter a ewe in the futurity is \$15 per head. Entries are due May 15, 2010. For rules and forms please contact Dale Huhnke at 630-881-8108 or email at dalehuhnke@yahoo.com. Prizes for the youth will be awarded. We hope this will increase our Tunis entries at the county and state fairs in Indiana.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS..... Contact these people!

MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATIONS - NTSRI, 15603 173RD AVE., MILO, IA 50166 641-942-6402

FINANCIAL CONCERNS - Sally Barney, Treasurer, 52 Cartland Rd., Lee, NH 03824 603-659-5857

WEBSITE INFO - Debbi Brown texastunis@yahoo.com 254-863-0606

Ads on the website - \$10 Ads in the Newsletter - \$15 Same ad in both places - \$20

NEWSLETTER - COMPLIMENTARY PROMOTIONAL PACKETS -

& BROCHURES! - Louise Dunham, 8566 Co Rd 28, Zanesfield, OH 43360

20 Brochures - \$5 937-465-8299 tunis@bright.net

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Have you seen the pictures?

Attention all Tunis Breeders, we would like to see your photos of your flock in our Tunis Pride Monthly Photo Contest. Please email your photos to enter to Debbi Brown or Dale Huhnke by the 5th of each month. We will display on the website each entry that we receive. You will also need to sign a release form from the NTSRI website. Each monthly winner gets a gift card. With February and March coming up we would like to see any Valentine or St. Patrick's Day themed photos. Photographers have some fun!

TUNIS PRIDE Website Contest ...www.tunissheep.org

October Winner....Kim Day of Douglasville, PA

November Winner....Steven Cox, Muncie, IN

December Winner....Val Ames, Williamsford, Ontario

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Sell a sheep?

Let me know and I'll send the buyer a promotional package of Tunis information!

Have a Tunis event to promote? A Show?

Let me know and I'll put it on our calendar!

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NATIONAL SHOW AND SALE COMMITTEE REPORT:

The National Show and Sale Committee want to remind all Tunis Breeders to please fill out those surveys and mail them back to Dale Huhnke. If you did not receive a survey in the mail, please go to the NTSRI website to download a copy of the survey. Please mail them by February 1.

New to the 2010 National Tunis Sale at Wooster will be slick shorn classes. We will have classes available for yearling rams, spring ram lambs, yearling ewes and spring ewe lambs. When sending in your entry to Banner Sales Management, please designate your entry whether it is fitted or slick-shorn. No last minute changes when you get to Wooster. We look forward to the Ohio Tunis Sheep Association hosting the National Sale again. Show and sale times are being changed so watch for upcoming notices.

With the show season over, we want to remind Tunis exhibitors at NAILE that when you enter the NAILE show that you need to pay for the extra entry to the NAILE Tunis breed manager at the same time. Deadline for entry is October 1 and we expect payment at that time. In the past, some of you have delayed in sending in your payment. So for 2010 all entries must be postmarked by October 1.

www.tunissheep.org

Yahoo groups...Tunis Talk

JR TUNIS SHOW @ NAILE

11/15/2009

Shawn Ramsey, Judge

65 HEAD SHOWN!

13 Jr Ram Lambs

E & E Stumpe, MO
T & R Schambow, WI
Steve Hasselman, IL
Sean Bryant, OH
E & E Stumpe, MO

6 Early Yr Ewes

T & R Schambow, WI
Mindy Stoops Irvine, PA
Anna Charest, MA
Sean Bryant, OH
Mindy Stoops Irvine, PA

5 Late Yr Ewes

T & R Schambow, WI
Anna Charest, MA
Morgan Munsey, IN
Elliza Casey, GA
Dana Gochenour, VA

5 Slick Shorn Yr E

Mindy Stoops Irvine, PA
T & R Schambow, WI
Dana Gochenour, VA
Kayla Carlisle, DE
Steve Hasselman, IL

4 Sr Ewe Lambs

E & E Stumpe, MO
Kalie Harrison, NY
Morgan Munsey, IN
Lindsay Casey, GA

16 Early Jr Ewe Lambs

E & E Stumpe, MO
T & R Schambow, WI
T & R Schambow, WI
Anna Charest, MA
Olivia Brown, OH

12 Late Ewe Lambs

Mindy Stoops Irvine, PA
T & R Schambow, WI
Kaleb Schakel, IN
T & R Schambow, WI
Drew Ridgeway, MD

4 Slick Shorn EL

T & R Schambow, WI
Steve Hasselman, IL
Kayla Carlisle, DE
Dana Gochenour, VA

5 Flocks

E & E Stumpe, MO
T & R Schambow, WI
Anna Charest, MA
Kalie Harrison, NY
Steve Hasselman, IL

5 Jr Showmanship

Olivia Brown, OH
Morgan Munsey, IN
Emily Stumpe, MO
Drew Ridgeway, MD
Taylor Harrison, NY

5 Sr Showmanship

Anna Charest, MA
Dana Gochenour, VA
Elizabeth Stumpe, MO
Lindsey Casey, GA
Elliza Casey, GA

Grand Champion Ram - Emily & Elizabeth Stumpe, Leslie, MO

Reserve Champion Ram - Tom & Rachel Schambow, Janesville, WI

Grand Champion Ewe - Tom & Rachel Schambow, Janesville, WI

Reserve Champion Ewe - Emily & Elizabeth Stumpe, Leslie MO

EXHIBITORS: Kayla Barkley, PA; Olivia Brown, OH; Sean Bryant, OH; Kayla Carlisle, DE; Elliza Casey, GA; Lindsey Casey, GA; Anna Charest, MA; Dana Gochenour, VA; Kalie Harrison, NY; Taylor Harrison, NY; Steve Hasselman, IL; Mindy Stoops Irvine, PA; Morgan Munsey, IN; Carson Priddle, MO; Drew Ridgeway, MD; Kaleb Schakel, IN; Tom & Rachel Schambow, WI; Emily & Elizabeth Stumpe, MO; and Kaitlin Whiting, OH.

OPEN CLASS TUNIS SHOW @ NAILE

11/15/2009

Eric Bruns, Judge

135 HEAD SHOWN!

5 Yr Rams

WindSong Farms, MA
Mindy Stoops Irvine, PA
T & R Schambow, WI
Triangle Farms Tunis, IN
Anderson Family, KY

5 Fall Ram Lambs

RQL Farms, NJ
Mom's Tunis, VA
Triple T Ranch, OR
JNT Tunis, OH
Anderson Family, KY

4 Jan Ram Lambs

E & E Stumpe, MO
Rob Brown Family, OH
Mom's Tunis, VA
Mom's Tunis, VA

10 Feb Ram Lamb

J & L Dunham, OH
Uptown Farms, MO
Anna Charest, MA
Triple T Ranch, OR
Mom's Tunis, VA

10 March Ram Lambs

Uptown Farms, MO
Triple T Ranch, OR
E & E Stumpe, MO
Mom's Tunis, VA
Hart Livestock, IL

7 Pairs Ram Lambs

Uptown Farms, MO
E & E Stumpe, MO
Triple T Ranch, OR
RQL Farms, NJ
Rob Brown Family, OH

18 Early Yr Ewes

T & R Schambow, WI
Uptown Farms, MO
Anna Charest, MA
J & L Dunham, OH
Triple T Ranch, OR

10 Late Yr Ewes

Uptown Farms, MO
Triple T Ranch, OR
Anna Charest, MA
Mom's Tunis, VA
J & L Dunham, OH

7 Slick Shorn Yr Ewes

Uptown Farms, MO
Mindy Stoops Irvine, PA
Mom's Tunis, VA
J & L Dunham, OH
Triangle Farms Tunis, IN

7 Pairs Yr Ewes

Anna Charest, MA
Triple T Ranch, OR
Uptown Farms, MO
T & R Schambow, WI
J & L Dunham, OH

9 Fall Ewe Lambs

Triple T Ranch, OR
Mom's Tunis, VA
RQL Farms, NJ
WindSong Farms, MA
E & E Stumpe, MO

17 Jan Ewe Lambs

Anna Charest, MA
Anna Charest, MA
J & L Dunham, OH
Kayla Barkley, PA
T & R Schambow, WI

18 Feb. Ewe Lambs	14 March Ewe Lambs	8 Slick Shorn EL	14 Prs Ewe Lamb
Mom's Tunis, VA	J & L Dunham, OH	J & L Dunham, OH	Anna Charest, MA
J & L Dunham, OH	Triple T Ranch, OR	J & L Dunham, OH	Triple T Ranch, OR
Clint Garey, IL	Uptown Farms, MO	Uptown Farms, MO	Uptown Farms, MO
Clint Garey, IL	Mindy Stoops Irvine, PA	Mom's Tunis, VA	J & L Dunham, OH
Triple T Ranch, OR	T & R Schambow, WI	T & R Schambow, WI	Mom's Tunis, VA

7 Get of Sire

Anna Charest, MA
 Uptown Farms, MO
 J & L Dunham, OH
 RQL Farms, NJ
 Hart Livestock, IL

7 Flocks

Uptown Farms, MO
 J & L Dunham, OH
 Triple T Ranch, OR
 Anna Charest, MA
 RQL Farms, NJ

Champion Ram - Feb. Ram Lamb - Darling Tunis - Jim & Louise Dunham, OH
Res. Champ Ram - Feb. Ram Lamb - Uptown Farms - Matt & Kate Lambert, MO
Champion Ewe - Jan. Ewe Lamb - Small Fry Farm Cont. - Anna Charest, MA
Res. Champ Ewe - Early Yr Ewe - Tom and Rachel Schambow, WI
Premier Exhibitor - Uptown Farms - Matt & Kate Lambert, MO

Exhibitors: Anderson Family, KY; Kayla Barkley, PA: BWB Farms, Inc.; OH: Blue Ridge Tunis, WI; Rob Brown Family, OH; Anna Charest, MA; Jim & Louise Dunham, OH; Clint Garey, IL: Hart Livestock, IL; Mindy Stoops Irvine, PA; JNT Tunis, OH; Mom's Tunis, VA; Jeff Munsey, IN; Mike Niese Big Time Tunis, OH; Carson Priddle, MO; RQL Farms, NJ; Kaleb Schakel, IN; Tom & Rachel Schambow, WI; Emily & Elizabeth Stumpe, MO; Triangle Farms Tunis, IN; Triple T Ranch, OR; Uptown Farms, MO; Kaitlin Whiting, OH; and WindSong Farms, MA;

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Star of Louisville Sale - Nov. 14, 2009

CONSIGNOR	PRICE	BUYER	
LOT #1	RQL Farms, NJ	\$1,100.00	Clint Garey, IL Yr Ewe
LOT #2	RQL Farms, NJ	\$ 450.00	Matt Maag, OH Yr Ewe
LOT #3	Garey's Tunis, IL	\$ 850.00	Carolyn Hart, IL Brood Ewe
LOT #5	Garey's Tunis, IL	\$ 325.00	Carolyn Hart, IL Brood Ewe
LOT #6	Big Time Tunis, OH	\$ 850.00	Carson Priddle, MO Ewe Lamb
LOT #7	Big Time Tunis, OH	\$ 350.00	Max Garmon, OH Yr Ewe
LOT #8	Big Time Tunis, OH	\$1,300.00	Brooke LaFavor, MO Brood Ewe
LOT #9	Big Time Tunis, OH	\$ 575.00	Morgan Munsey, IN Brood Ewe
LOT #10	Big Time Tunis, OH	\$ 300.00	Sandra & Eli Sample, MO Brood Ewe
LOT #11	Big Time Tunis, OH	\$ 350.00	Richard Suffridge, TN Brood Ewe
LOT #12	Big Time Tunis, OH	\$ 850.00	Neil Knapp, MA Brood Ewe
LOT #14	Mom's Tunis, VA	\$ 550.00	Martha Robie, NH Ewe Lamb
LOT #15	Mom's Tunis, VA	\$ 250.00	Emily, Elizabeth & Ben Stumpe Ewe Lamb
LOT #16	Mom's Tunis, VA	\$ 300.00	Matt Maag, OH Ewe Lamb
LOT #17	Brown Family Tunis, OH	\$ 600.00	Doug Garey, IL Ewe Lamb
LOT #18	Brown Family Tunis, OH	\$ 325.00	Matt Maag, OH Brood Ewe
LOT #19	Stumpe Tunis, MO	\$ 850.00	Megan Long, TN Yr Ewe
LOT #20	Stumpe Tunis, MO	\$ 900.00	Shannon Palko, TN Yr Ewe
LOT #21	Stumpe Tunis, MO	\$ 250.00	Brooke LaFavor, MO Ewe Lamb
LOT #24	Brown Family Tunis, OH	\$ 300.00	Matt Maag, OH Brood Ewe

CHAMPION EWE - Brown Family Tunis

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ALL 2009 Memberships EXPIRED Dec. 31st....
Please pay your 2010 NTSRI dues now!!

SHOW AND SHOW/SALE COMPARISON REPORT

SHOW	2009	Judge	2008	Judge	2007	Judge	2006	Judge
NAILE	135	Eric Bruns	134	** Jacob Reister	124	John Mrozinski	102	Debbie Holmquist
Ohio St. Fair	54	Matt Martin	93	Dan Splide	117	** Jim Brandt	104	Dick Kuzemchak
KILE	150	** Judy Moore	105	Travis Hoffman	98	Doris Powel	98	Larry Mrozinski
Woodstock	59	Ed Keeney	58	Ed Keeney	65	Bud Martin	79	Bud Martin
Big E	63	Tor Sorrenson	65	Jacob Reister	56	Jacob Reister	70	Ed Julian
Missouri St. Fair	31	Jim Kin	43	Ed Julian	53	@ Kenny Urban	121	** Kent Splide
Indiana St. Fair	98	Jeremy Etzler	60	@ David Simms	53	@ Ted Coil	---	
	590		558		566		574	

** - Denotes National Show

@ - two shows held on the same day

SHOW & SALE	2009	Judge	2008	Judge	2007	Judge	2006	Judge
Great Lakes - National Sale	86 / \$451.45	** Dave Smith	82 / \$446.04	** Ron Guenther	73 / \$398.29	** Judy Moore	64 / \$403.91	** 51 / \$542.16
Tunis Summer Spectacular	24 / \$340.63	Bob Johnson	23 / \$423.91	Ted Coil	41 / \$303.41	Dan Splide	31 / \$324.19	not held
New England Sale	7 / \$185.71	Ed Julian	16 / \$287.50	Steve Taylor	11 / \$290.41	Brad Gilmore	16 / \$166.89	not held
KILE Sale	13 / \$476.92	Judy Moore	9 / \$288.88	Travis Hoffman	12 / \$404.17	Doris Powel	13 / \$340.00	34 / \$341.18
Rhinebeck Sale	9 / \$347.22	Judy Moore	4 / \$250.00	Bill Gardhouse	12 / \$258.33	Judy Moore	16 / \$373.44	
Stars of Louisville Sale	20 / \$581.25	Mark Johnson	20 / \$506.25	Sam Wilford			149 / \$544.63	
Triple S Dispersal - 2006	--	--	--	--	--	--		
B-Bar Stock Farm Dispersal - 2008	--	--	59 / \$508.10	n/a				
	159 / \$435.53		213 / \$444.26		149 / \$353.42		289 / \$450.23	85 / \$461.76

2008 National Show and Sale	2008 Average	# of animals	2009 Average	# of animals	Judge
Yearling Rams	622.22	9	391.67	6	Dave Smith
Fall Ram Lambs	370.83	6	518.75	4	
January Ram Lambs	405.00	5	319.44	9	
February Ram Lambs	237.50	8	266.67	3	
March Ram Lambs			287.50	2	
All Rams	419.64	28	361.46	24	
Yearling Ewes	638.16	19	614.29	21	
Fall Ewe Lambs	325.00	8	445.00	5	
January Ewe Lambs	369.23	13	471.67	15	
February Ewe Lambs	385.42	12	356.25	16	
March Ewe Lambs	337.50	2	450.00	5	
All Ewes	456.72	54	558.33	62	
Total Sale	446.04	82	451.45	86	

TUNIS WOOL....

Have a Good Day and a Wooly Great May!

May is a great month for attending sheep & fiber shows. We can meet top breeders, catch some great sheep shows, and also learn more about the wonderful fleeces from our beautiful Tunis sheep. The Tunis fiber is a favorite among many hand-spinners, as well as one of the best fibers for felting projects. Several Tunis breeders will be attending these shows as fiber arts & crafts vendors at the Waynesburg and Great Lakes Shows, where they will be demonstrating and selling craft projects inspired by their Tunis flock. Stop by our booth in Wooster to see the winning National Tunis Wool fleeces displayed for sale. We will also attend the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, the Waynesburg Sheep & Fiber Show and the Great Lakes Show.

Marianne Turcheck & Rebecca Giles of Rostraver Farm - Belle Vernon, PA

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2010 Wool and Fiber Show Calendar

April 10 - 11	The Fiber Event	Greencastle, Indiana	
May 1 - 2	The Maryland Sheep & Wool Show	W. Friendship, MD	www.sheepandwool.org
May 15 16	The Waynesburg Sheep & Fiber Festival	Waynesburg, PA	www.sheepand fiber.com
May 29 - 30	The Great Lakes Sheep & Fiber Show	Wooster, OH	www.greatlakesfibershow.com
May 29 - 30	Massachusetts Sheep & Woolcraft Fair	Cummington, MA	
June 4 - 5	Hoosier Hills Fiber Arts Festival	Franklin, IN	
Sept. 10-12	Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival		
Sept. 18 - 19	Midwest Festival of Fiber "A Wool Gathering"	Yellow Springs, OH	
Oct. 2 - 3	Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival	Turnbridge, VT	
Oct. 15 - 16	Southern Indiana Fiber Arts Festival	Corydon, IN	
Oct. 16 - 17	New York Sheep and Wool Festival	Rhinebeck, NY	
Oct. 23 - 24	Fiber Expo	Ann Arbor, MI	

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A Sheep Shearer for a Spinners' Flock.....Marianne Turcheck

Finding the right shearer for a small spinners flock can be quite a challenge. When you find one, be nice to the shearer---you want them to come back! For the small flock owner, just getting someone to shear can be a real problem. Many shearers cannot justify the time to travel and set-up their equipment to shear a few sheep. The professional can shear a sheep in under two minutes, but speed can leave nicked-up sheep and second cuts in the fleece. The ideal shearer should keep the sheep calm and not put any extra stress on them, while removing the fleece in one piece.

My shearer is a long-time friend from our own days of fitting and showing market lambs in 4-H. He's strong, knowledgeable, meticulous, and we both work together to get the job done. On shearing day, the sheep are waiting for him in a holding pen to keep them calm, dry, and easy to catch. Cold drinks and sandwiches are in a cooler chest. He works on a tarp to keep the fleeces clean. Afterwards, we ear tag, vaccinate, trim hooves, and worm each sheep in an assembly line. A quick skirting is done to remove the belly wool and tags, then each fleece is bagged separately with the sheep's name on it. We also contact the families who have purchased "pet" lambs from us and invite them to bring them over to be shorn. Providing a good shearer is an excellent selling point for our lambs.

Be creative in contracting the services of a shearer. Check with your county Cooperative Extension Service for names of local sheep farms or 4-H members who may help you. They may also have information on "Learn To Shear" courses you can take. Check online classified ads, such as Craigslist, AgriSeek, or www.livestockshearing.com/directory. And when you find a good shearer, keep them happy! They will likely be willing to return to shear for you again.

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Steps to Insure Lamb Quality for the Consumer by Melanie Barkley, Penn State Extension Educator

Media coverage of food products finds many consumers becoming skeptical about the quality of the foods that they are eating. As a sheep producer, there are a number of steps you can follow to insure that the consumer will receive a high quality product and have an enjoyable eating experience. Here are some considerations to help insure that a consumer enjoys eating lamb:

Identification: In order to keep accurate flock records, it is important to have all your animals identified. This is very important for tracking any treated animals in your flock as well as keeping track of pedigrees for registered stock.

Injections and Antibiotics: Regardless of the route of administration for injectable products, scar tissue will form at the injection site. As a producer, your goal is to minimize the damage from injections. When given a choice, select a subcutaneous product (given under the skin) over an intramuscular product (given in the muscle). Another important point is to always give injections in the neck. There is a triangle that is formed from the shoulder blade, the spine at the bottom of the neck and the cartilage at the top of the neck. All injections should be given in this area, with not more than 6 to 8 cc given in location. Choose an appropriate length and gauge of needles used for injections. For subcutaneous injections, one half inch in length and 18 to 20 gauge is sufficient. One inch needles can be used for intramuscular injections.

Follow dosage instructions carefully when treating any animal and record withdrawal dates so that no medication residues remain in the meat. A good rule of thumb is to record the date, which animals were treated, what they were treated with, the dosage and the withdrawal date. You may also want to include product serial numbers in your records to follow up if a product does not work properly. Be sure to use products that are approved for use in sheep unless under the direct supervision of your local veterinarian. And, remember that feed additives may only be fed to the species listed on the product label.

Animal Handling: Animal handling is important to prevent bruising on carcasses and to keep stress levels low for the animal until they are harvested. Check all handling facilities and trailers for any areas where an animal could become bruised or cut.

Biosecurity: In order to provide a high quality product for consumers, sheep producers should follow some basic biosecurity principles for keeping their flock healthy. Establish a biosecurity plan for your flock that includes a protocol for any visitors on your farm. In addition, provide an isolation area for any animals returning to your farm, or arriving at your farm for the first time from another farm.

Flock Management Plan: Develop a health management plan for your flock to keep the animals healthy and prevent illness. This plan can include anything from routine health treatments to deworming schedules, mortality disposal and marketing. Don't forget to include biosecurity as part of the plan.

Housing and Facilities: Providing adequate fencing, shelter, ventilation, feeder space, and watering systems will help to keep animals healthy as well as growing rapidly. This area certainly provides economic benefits to producers as well as presents a positive image to the public.

Nutrition: Meeting nutrient requirements for animals will promote healthy animals. Keep contaminants such as manure, fuels, pesticides, and pet foods away from feed sources and feeding areas. Also, secure grain sources to keep out critters: rodents, raccoons, opossums, and cats. And, don't forget to clean the watering systems and feeders on a regular basis.

Record keeping: In addition to breeding and lambing records, keep detailed records on medication treatments and deworming. Keeping track of sheep with chronic problems can be useful when selecting animals to cull from the flock.

All these items work together to insure that consumers receive high quality lamb and lamb products. They also help to reduce processing wastes which in turn can boost prices that packers are willing to pay for lambs. Why not take a look at your own operation and identify any areas where you could make changes to improve the quality of lamb coming from your farm or ranch? For more information on sheep quality assurance, visit the Colorado State University website at <http://www.colostate.edu/programs/SSQA/>.

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FREE "Want to Buy" ads on the website....
FREE "Breeders Directory Listings" on the website....
please contact Debbi at texastunis@yahoo.com

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BITS & PIECES OF INFORMATION FROM NTSRI MEMBERS

As the NTSRI Board of Directors continues to look at ways to provide the needed support for our members, it also becomes very important that everyone has a clear understanding of who the membership is and what style of Tunis they raise...so I am asking... "**WHO ARE YOU?**"

Brian & Paula Snyder, Goodhart Ridge Farm, of Centre Hall, PA write...."We live with our two daughters Kerry (17) and Kayla (14) on a 10 acre farm in Centre Hall, PA. We began raising sheep when we moved to Pennsylvania from Massachusetts in 2001. Starting with both Southdowns and Tunis for their 4-H market lamb projects, we now raise only Tunis sheep. The girls show breeding animals at the Centre County Grange Fair in Centre Hall and keep most of their market animals for their own freezer. We also occasionally sell animals to friends and other involved in small-scale farming. This year we have 6 brood ewes, 3 ewe lambs and 1 ram. Generally speaking, we have an interest in preserving heritage breeds and enjoy the gentleness and color of the Tunis breed. Tunis do well on pasture, too, and that is very important to our forage-based system. Our goal is to raise healthy 'fresh air' sheep."

Shawn & Linda Casey, Piney Woods Farm, of Taylorsville, GA write...."We along with our daughters, Lindsey and Elliza, have been raising Tunis for only four years. Casey's Tunis are raised at Piney Wood Farms, which is a twenty-five acre farm located about forty miles northwest of Atlanta in a rural farm area called Taylorsville, Georgia. The Tunis flock currently consists of six brood ewes, two breeding rams, five yearling ewe lambs and two yearling ram lambs.

The Tunis breed is the only sheep breed we have ever raised and it is the only breed we will probably ever own. The beautiful mid-sized multipurpose breed is the most logical and is easily handled by women. When I first began to spin, I was very disappointed in other fleeces because of their skin irritability. The Tunis fleece dyes beautifully and makes the softest hats that do not itch the forehead! Working with the wool is only one attribute. Of course, raising breeding stock and preserving the rare breed are important parts of raising the breed, but the most rewarding aspect is family unity and the wholesome bond that the sheep have enriched our lives with. As we are preparing for another lambing season, the excitement increases especially for Lindsey and Elliza. 'Mr. Rhett', a ram lamb from Bob Bartholomew will be a father. Not only is 'Mr. Rhett' large and long, but he is handsome and should produce some fine show lambs.

Advertisement and breed promotion is a challenge especially in these economic times, but the Tunis website has been a great help nationally. At the state level, we advertise in the Farms and Consumers bimonthly paper. Overall the best advertisement and the most fun is through the breed shows and wool shows. In the future, I would like to see more spinners use the Tunis wool and would like to develop a website for hand-spinners on Tunis tips."

Tim & Beverly Arman of Pickford, MI write...The Armans live on an 80 acre farm in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan along with their daughters Jessica (14) and Katie (11). They added the sheep to the farm because they had 80 acres and they needed to do something with it. The flock is a commercial, forage-based flock consisting of 11 purebred Tunis ewes and 2 registered Tunis rams along with 75 crossbred ewes and 2 rams - suffolk & polypay. The Tunis were added 4 years ago because of their color! Tim says he works with holstein cattle daily and his favorite ones are the red holsteins!

The Armans' goal is to sell the most lambs possible with the most efficiency possible. Their lambs are sold to a lamb pool via United Producers which runs the pool at the county fairgrounds.

Josiah and Kathy Pierce of Baldwin, ME writes...."My family has owned this farm since the 1780's. I do not want to be the person who closes the farming down. The sheep keep it a farm. We have 17 ewes right now on about 20 acres of farm and fields. Most of my land is forest...we were named the 2007 National Outstanding Tree Farmers.

I was buying freezer lamb from Sue & Bill Hager every year. One year, I said to myself...why don't I raise a couple of sheep through the summer, it can't be too bad. One thing led to another and here I am. The Hagers sold me two Tunis ewe lambs that spring because they had no ram lambs that year. We raise the Tunis for meat. We eat them and sell them for freezer lamb. We market the whole animals only...sitting in a farmer's market for half a day to a whole day has no appeal. The sheep keep the fields down and connect me to wonderful people I sell to or buy my rams from. I sell the meat by word of mouth and it has taken a few years to build my customer base but then it has taken some time to build my flock, too. Kathy continues to try to market the wool and has some yarn in a local craft store. "

When asked about how the NTSRI can help promote their product, Josiah says, "We raise the best tasting lamb there is...why don't people understand this? How can we hook into the slow food movement? We recently worked the 'Harvest on The Harbor' food show in Portland. It gained us nothing this year but we promoted the Tunis. I hope we built goodwill for Tunis. Growing tasty food isn't easy, just satisfying. There is just something about raising Tunis (or any food actually) because it tastes good rather than because it is uniform in growth or grows fast. I know that is old-fashioned but it works for me."

Patsy Steele of Ascutney, VT writes..."Steele's Golden Patches owned and operated by Chip and Patsy Steele was established in 1996 on 80 acres of rocky, hilly terrain, in Ascutney, Vermont.

We purchased many different breeds and eventually determined that Tunis was the breed for us. We built our flock from 3 ewes and have had as many as 13 romping over the land, keeping only ewes. At times it has been very difficult giving up the ram lambs because of their beauty and personality. This breed is very inquisitive, the quality of their meat is exquisite and the orphans are your shadows for life.

We are meat farmers and only advertise by word of mouth. Our customers advertise of us.

There is no better way to begin or end a day then to enter the barn being greeted by loving, jovial lambs and ewes. Each one will bring a smile to your face and the desire to hug and pat each one."

Randy & Lynette Powley of Loudon, TN writes about "And how did you get in the sheep business?"

"Lynette and I have been asked that questions numerous times. The answer? Like many others, we have found ourselves caught up in a 4-H project run amuck and can not get out; or more honestly, refuse to get out.

It all began when we took our youngest daughter, Amanda, to watch her older sister help a friend with her sheep in the county 4-H show. At the show they had a pee-wee class for kids too young to be in 4-H. Amanda decided she would give it a try and as she exited the ring with her blue ribbon she announced that when she became old enough she wanted to show sheep. Three years later when she entered the fourth grade she reminded us that she was going to show sheep. I agree that we would get one, maybe two market lambs, but in no way was I getting into breeding purebred sheep I figured this way she could sell the lambs at the conclusion of the show season thus financing the next year. My plan was simple: each year, buy two lambs, sell two lambs, and when interest wanes I won't be stuck with a bunch of sheep.

All went well that first year. We bought two sheep, sold two sheep. It was the second year that my plan was sabotaged. My job at the time had me traveling quite a bit and I was scheduled to be out of town the week of a local sale. Since I was going to be gone Amanda asked a friend (Patti Brashears, whom many of you know) if she would buy a market lamb for her. She told Patti that she had \$75 to spend for the lamb. When I arrived home from my trip Lynette said that Amanda needed to tell me about the lamb Patti had purchased for her. It seems Amanda was now the proud owner of a registered Southdown lamb which had cost \$100. Patti was going to be a silent partner, paying \$50 and asking for a lamb from the first set of twins produced. It was at this point that I realized all of my scheming was for naught and there was no need fighting the inevitable. Within three years we had over twenty sheep.

Amanda's interest never waned. By the time she had finished tenth grade, she had owned Southdown, Natural Color, Hampshire, Suffolk, and Shropshire. That year she had both the Southdown and Hampshire state 'bred by' champion at the 4-H Expo. But it had been three years earlier when our friend (yes, it was again Patti) brought a lovely red headed sheep home from NAILE that we were introduced to what would become by far our favorite breed. No one in the state of Tennessee had ever shown a Tunis in 4-H. Without at least three breeders and ten head, it would mean showing in the AOB classes. Amanda took on the mission of having Tunis classes within 4-H shows by her senior year. She actually accomplished that two years early. The year she had two state winners, we saw the first Tunis classes included in the show. That year, Adam Hensley, Patti's nephew, owned the champion.

When Amanda graduated from high school, our friends all asked if we were going to sell the sheep. I had to tell them that we had held lengthy family discussion and made a difficult decision. We were going to drive to Missouri and buy six ewes from Ken Mayes. We now have a flock of 18 brood ewes, 7 yearling ewes and a sire, all Tunis. As for Amanda, she now holds two college degrees; she has a successful career, and has been married for five years. Last September at the local fair, she came to help us show the Tunis. It was the first time I had ever seen someone show with their four week old son on their hip."

Marjorie Finnegan of Ostrander, OH writes, "When I was just starting with sheep, I was looking for sheep that were easy keepers, small-to-medium size, good grazers, good mothers, docile and that produced both good meat and good fleece. If possible, I wanted to raise a rare breed. Through the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, I found the NTSRI and Louise Dunham (then Louise Darling). She invited me to see her flock, and I found that the Tunis breed was everything I wanted. (Thank you, Louise!) My flock can be described as traditional type Tunis, carefully selected for conformation, temperament, and ability to thrive in a forage-based system. Being a hand spinner, I also select for good fleece. To quote from the ALBC, my goal remains 'ensuring the future of agriculture through genetic conservation, and the promotion of endangered breeds of livestock and poultry.' Specifically, to produce and promote traditional Tunis sheep, with an emphasis on their place in small farms and sustainable agriculture.

I support and cooperate with Stratford Ecological Center, a demonstration farm and nature preserve here in Delaware County. I have an ALBC display at 'A Woolgathering', a fiber festival held each fall at Young's Dairy near Yellow Springs, OH and I include Tunis sheep and fleece in the exhibit. I am an active member of the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association. I am listed in the ALBC Breeders Directory and the NTSRI Breeders' Directory and I do place ads in the *Tunis Spirit*. With the sheep, I sell breeding stock and freezer lambs wherever I can and everything else goes to Producer's auction sale in Mt. Vernon. With the wool products, I sell fleeces and hand knit items as possible but I have no established retail outlet. I use this slogan on my business cards: 'The heritage breed for today's farm'.

I really like the newsletter articles on how people do basic things with their flocks. I feel really isolated here, and appreciate seeing what the rest of the world does. The show information is important. I appreciate general information on flock management, pertinent legislative issues, and news of member and association activities."

In noting the changes over the years, Marge comments, "I sometimes wonder how show Tunis would look today if a card grading system had been used for judging during the past ten years or so." Thanks, Marge!

John & Irene Bruns of Maria Stein, OH writes, "After the 4-H years with our four sons and their market lambs, our son, Eric, who has suffolks and is shepherd for dorsets and dorpers, suggested the Tunis to us. We live along St. Rt. 119 outside of Maria Stein and own approximately 7 acres with 1 acre of pasture and 4 acres in a hay field.

We have four sons...all out of the nest and on their own. They are Andy (and Jenny), Eric, Ben (and Lauren), and Greg (and Kim) along with four grandchildren - Lauren, Janel, Garrett and Gina. We started the Tunis in 2001 and currently have 25 Tunis sheep and 40,000 Leghorn hens."

John and Irene consider their flock as a breeding stock flock with good bloodlines. When asked about their goal, John says, "We want to have fun raising and showing good quality, correct sheep while meeting a lot of great people from all over the country and other great Tunis breeders."

We advertise by being at some of the shows and in the *Banner* magazine. We have also displayed some lambs at our local 'Maria Stein Countryfest'. We have sold breeding stock at Wooster, OH; Springfield, IL, and Louisville, KY. The cull sheep go to a local livestock auction. We were happy to host the Ohio Tunis Association meeting last October and hope that everyone enjoyed the day as much as we did. Recently, RQL Farms of New Jersey bought 3 brood ewes from us - serviced by three different sires out of our stud barn. We wish them much success with these bloodlines added to their great flock. Thank you, Dave & Sandra." John admits that he doesn't advertise much on the NTSRI website or Breeders Directory but realizes he should!

When asked to write a one sentence advertising slogan about his flock, John acts as the typical politician does (he is a county commissioner) and writes one very long sentence...."You have looked at the Rest...now check out the Best! At 'Bruns Tunis'! Selected 5 years in a row at the Ohio State Fair as 'Best Bred & Owned Flock in Ohio!' Thanks, John and Irene!

Kirk & Laurie Meyer (& little Charlie) of Rock City, IL writes, "Thirteen years ago, we started out with suffolk weather sires/dams and didn't like the high maintenance so we added some Southdown ewes and rams and crossed them with our suffolk ewes and we were very pleased. We started looking for another breed to expand for our show string and we didn't want a 'whatchamacallit' or 'whatever it needs to be breed' black faced sheep. When we went down to NAILE five years ago with the 'downers, we saw the Tunis and the next year went to Wooster and the Triple SSS sale to build our numbers. We now have 35 brood ewes, 4 rams and 8 replacement ewe lambs on our 7 acres.

Our goal is to raise sheep that meet the breed characteristics with honesty without too much trouble for ourselves or our pocketbook. We would describe our flock as commercial....breeding stock...and a hobby. We sell our market lambs at the local sale barn and usually do pretty well turning a profit. We also go to some county fairs and bring in some premium money and lastly we do sell a few breeding stock here and there but keep most of them for ourselves. We don't really advertise but my mother owns a feed store and puts out the good word for us."

When asked about ways for the NTSRI to help members promote their product, Kirk says, "A regional private treaty sale might be a good idea and might have a better attendance plus attract more new buyers especially if we could stage them at local/regional shows or exhibitions. I think we could do more to promote the wool. For now, you mention 'Tunis wool' and they say 'tuna what?'. I do enjoy reading these little ditties that our fellow producers submit. It is great to hear what little guys like ourselves are doing to keep up with things around the farm.

Our flock name is 'Beginners' Luck' so our slogan is 'Beginners' Luck, raising sheep with Good Luck from the Beginning!' As far as the direction that our breed goes, we (breeders as a whole) need to keep an eye on the production of our animals when we are trying to create a future for our breed otherwise in not too many years, we are going to have a Red Headed Suffolk in our pastures. We really need to keep our focus on keeping Tunis as a heritage type breed that produces well on minimal inputs rather than trying to be the one with the tallest, longest, most feminine sheep in the world. Otherwise, Tunis will lose its niche in the industry."

Georgina Anderson, NTSRI member writes....

Animal Rights Groups: Know Your Enemies

- True or False** PETA is the only animal rights group that is really active.
- True or False** Animal rights groups may be annoying, but they're really just all talk.
- True or False** Sheep production is too small a segment of animal agriculture for animal rights groups to address specifically.
- True or False** PETA and other animal rights groups use media to target adults because adults have the most purchasing power.
- True or False** "Animal Law" is taught in the majority of law schools in the United States.

The foundation of the Animal Rights debate is a series of beliefs about animals and about ethics, not facts. No one with an opinion can call themselves unbiased. I fully admit that I, too, am biased. To make things clear from the beginning, here is my stance on this issue: I believe that animals should be afforded Animal Welfare, which I'll tell you more about later in this article. However, I'll try to present as many sides of this issue as possible, and make statements based on logic, not emotion.

In entering a discussion about animal rights, the first question to ask is whether animals are sentient. Can animals feel, either on a physical level (pain or hunger) or on an emotional level (fear or contentedness)? I was walking around our barn at chore-time last weekend, watching the lambs jumping and running around, watching a ewe stomp her feet when my dog (though on the other side of the fence) got a little too close to her lamb, and then later watching all the ewes, lambs by their sides, snuggled together and contentedly

chewing their cud, and it struck me as absurd that anyone would argue that animals are not sentient. However, in an effort to present several facets of this issue, there are lay persons and experts who argue that animals cannot think or feel, and therefore the entire animal rights issue is laughable.

If we say that animals are sentient creatures, the question then becomes what is the responsible and ethical thing to do, in terms of raising livestock. There is a very vocal segment of the population that argues that since we believe animals are sentient, and therefore more similar to humans than rocks or plants, that they should be afforded the same rights as humans. On the other end of the spectrum are those who contest that, while animals are sentient, their purpose is for human exploitation at any cost and may be intentionally and knowingly harmed because they aren't human. An intermediate position suggests that animals should be provided with freedom from hunger, thirst, pain, and fear as much as possible, while (in the case of livestock species) preparing them for use as food or fiber. Let's look a little more closely at these three philosophies.

Proponents of the Animal Rights position are a small, growing and vocal group. In thinking about Animal Rights groups, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is usually the first to come to mind, but they're not the only group. Pushing the same agenda are the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and others. The more I learn about marketing, the clearer it is to me that these groups are excellent at getting their story out to the general public. Their campaigns are attention-getting (nude women posing with cute animals; "Drink beer, not milk", etc.) and emotionally hard-hitting (comparing the Holocaust to large poultry operations; a HSUS commercial that played several times on Christmas Day with graphic pictures of abused and injured animals, etc.). Some of these campaigns may make us roll our eyes, change the station or even laugh.

Then things get scary. ALF and its sister organization, the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), are considered by the FBI to be domestic-terrorism groups. ALF even took credit for burning a McDonald's Restaurant in Tucson, Arizona on September 11, 2001. A research laboratory at the Michigan State University was burned down by Rodney Coronado of ALF. PETA (who, as a nonprofit organization, has open financial records) paid Coronado more than \$70,000 during the 1990's. You can draw your own conclusions from this information.

One last point about these groups before I move on. A PETA representative proudly stated in an interview on Fox News that their campaigns are geared toward children, and always will be. In addition, PETA's website brags that their messages reach 1.2 million minors a year through email (read: no parental supervision necessary). One brochure full of bright colored cartoons bears the heading, "Your Mommy Kills Animals!"

On the other side of the spectrum are people who knowingly and intentionally abuse animals. I'd be willing to bet we all remember the video of the downer cow being pushed with a fork lift that circulated in the media a few years ago. Images like this make a strong and lasting impression on the general public, who often has no direct experience with animal agriculture and are led to believe such practices are routine.

This brings us to the Animal Welfare position. Proponents of Animal Welfare believe that animals should be afforded the Five Freedoms: freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort (i.e. adequate shelter when appropriate), freedom from pain, injury and disease (including prevention and rapid treatment), freedom to express normal behavior, and freedom from fear and distress.

An emotional argument can be made for the ethicality of providing livestock with these 'five freedoms' based on sympathy and empathy. In addition, a logical, economic argument can also be presented. We all know that not providing adequate feed and water results in poor growth. We all know that injured or sick animals will not be as productive as healthy animals. It seems obvious, but the general public might not realize that livestock producers have an economic incentive to take good care of their animals, and strong disincentive to intentionally cause harm or even stress.

So how does this all relate to you, as a sheep producer? Those of us who show sheep or other livestock have a great deal of contact with the general public. And, in a time and place where most people are not involved in agriculture, the general public is mostly ignorant about livestock production. As such, when someone with an Animal Rights agenda tells the average person that shearing a sheep involves cutting all the skin off a live sheep (like I just read on PETA's website) they're apt to believe it. Countering these beliefs by showing people what it's really like to shear a sheep as you're fitting is a start. PETA gives a gruesome description of docking on their website. Telling the real story when people ask will go a long way. This might sound like common sense, but it's worth thinking about before the show season. Also, if you have Internet access, it might be worth your time to check in on PETA's or ALF's websites, just to see what they're saying in case someone asks you a question at a fair or show.

NATIONAL TUNIS SHEEP REGISTRY, INC.

January, 2010

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