

Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Club Newsletter August 1998

Sheep Conference

I attended the ALBC annual meeting held in conjunction with the Sheep Is Life conference in Farmington NM in June. The conference was wonderful. I was able to speak with ALBC people regarding breeding programs and registry issues.

I spoke with Dr. Sponenberg regarding how to best use the UK frozen semen. His recommendation was to use the semen in only one line of the US sheep. If we are using the conservation breeding program then mate the UK rams with all the ewes but only save males from one line. Other males from other lines would be culled and not used. That would give some boost to each line through the UK ram's daughters and bring it in as a male line in the line we say they are part of. Dr. Sponenberg also mentioned that it would be important to maintain at least some sheep that are pure US lines. He stressed not using the UK rams on all bloodlines.

In my own flock I have three lines, one each from my three founding ewes. I plan on using the UK semen as if they are part of one of my ewe lines. I will use the UK semen on two of my lines but not on the third at all. I suggest that each breeder plan on how they will use the UK semen and the lambs got from that semen in future generations.

On registry issues. I was told by several people that one solution would be to form our own registry. While I agree it is an option I feel that it would dilute the breed. One concern that ALBC has is that when they have a breed listed on the conservation list they then feel that every animal purported to be of the breed must show strong breed type and be traceable to approved foundation sources. With all the crossing and lack of documentation on sheep claimed as Black Welsh Mountain they felt that there was too much room for partbred animals to be claimed as purebred. ALBC also mentioned that if the BWM registry became active and was verified as accurate and there was an active breed group they would reconsider listing them as a conservation priority.

Other items of interest at the conference included a wonderful session on ram breeding exams done by Dr. McNeal. Annual testing he suggests include Brucellosis, verification of semen quality, general health and verification the ram is not homosexual. He also judges each

ram on the fleece quality before deciding to continue to breed with him.

There was a wool grading class which was interesting but held late at night so I didn't get as much out of it as I could. I didn't think to take any Black Welsh wool to be graded. Something to do next time.

I had a great time and found the entire conference interesting. It is small but growing and for me the smallness was refreshing and I was able to talk to many people individually.

Registry Issues

I sent a long letter to Mr. Hctor of the US registry and got a short note back. Both letters are included so others can see what has been said. I never did get a written confirmation of my issues regarding the animals whose registration is in question.

Breed Standard

Several people have asked me about a breed standard. I am enclosing a copy of the British Standard that I received when I transferred my sheep. As far as I know there is no US standard. At least I have never received one from the US registry.

Showing Sheep

I am interested in showing my sheep at the fairs next year. If anyone else is planning to show perhaps we can compare notes and discuss preparation and how to show them properly.

British Meeting and sale

I have received an invitation to attend the British Black Welsh annual meeting and sale to be held September 3rd at the Abergavenny Show. I've enclosed a flyer. In addition I received a private letter from the Secretary indicating a willingness to talk to us about our issues and registration of US sheep. There is a Breed Open day to be held August 30. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend either event, perhaps someone else might do so? If so please let us all know what you see and learn.

Customer Listing

This will be an ongoing listing. Here's the updated status for these people and a new addition.

Vivian Smith
5148 Felter Road
San Jose, CA 95132
(408) 942-5414

I have sent her a wool sample from my ewe that is for sale. She is very interested in the UK semen but needs more ewes and a ram.

Sarah Morse
abercroft@aol.com
Yamhill, OR

Mrs. Nees
Danishpb@aol.com.
606 SE Pine Rd.
Port Orchard, WA 98367

Jacques Caillot
J_Caillot@email.msn.com
8850 Winton Hills Court
Springboro, OH 45066-9620
(513) 748-9364
Fax (513) 748-5191

They are planning to relocate to Vermont in the next 6-12 months and are interested in getting Black Welsh.

Pedigree Data

No pedigree data have been received. Please send your pedigree information to me. I'd really appreciate it.

Horned Ewes?

Lorna Kearney from Canada sent me a photocopy of a part of a booklet published in 1913 that shows a horned Black Welsh Ewe and her ram lamb. I wonder when the standard changed to disallow horns in ewes? Anyone with more information please let me know and I'll put it in the newsletter. Also I'd love to get a copy of this booklet if anyone finds another copy.

Newsletter Items

Continual plea for more items to add. Nothing was received so nothing but my own notes are in this newsletter.

Editors Notes

On a personal note, my mother had a heart attack and passed away suddenly just after the Sheep Conference. I spent several additional weeks at her farm arranging for the care of her sheep, donkeys and horses and trying to settle her affairs. I will be moving my Black Welsh and her Shetland sheep to California as soon as the weather cools enough to travel. I also have her Cotswold cross, Baby Doll Southdown cross and Navajo Churro sheep up for sale. I am also selling her donkeys, 5 jennets and a jack foal, and two horses. The donkeys have been with sheep before and might be suitable as sheep guardians. Anyone who is interested in these animals please contact me.

That's it for now, take care and please, SEND ME STUFF FOR THE NEWSLETTER!

Oogie McGuire

Breeders Listing

If you sell animals please let me know so I can add the new owners to the breeders listing and send them a newsletter. Also please send me updates to your stock so we can know who has what and what's for sale.

<p>Desert Weyr Ken and Oogie McGuire 551 Gem Lane Ramona, CA 92065-3770 (760) 788-6671 oogiem@dsrtweyr.com 7 Ewes NFS 2 Ewe Lambs NFS 1 Yearling Ram on loan from Mary Mondello 1 ram lamb already sold 1 Yearling Ewe \$1,000.00</p>	<p>Jack and Lorna Kearney 6691 Westcott Road Duncan, BC V9L 3W8 Got a nice long letter from Lorna Kearney. Since she has Black Welsh now I have moved her to the Breeder Listing. Welcome!</p>
<p>Kim Kerley 17720 Northcraft Rd SE Tenino, WA 98589 1 Ram Jet born 4/21/95 for sale \$250.00 She has a copy of the dam's registration and paperwork on the sire but the ram is not registered yet. He was originally to be used as a crossbred sire. She has Navajo-Churros and this is her only Black Welsh.</p>	<p>Mondello Miniature Ranch Mrs. Mary Mondello 3110 Vineyard Canyon Road San Miguel, CA 93451 (805) 467-3206 21 Ewes NFS 3 Rams NFS 4 Ram Lambs some for sale \$750.00 each 12 Ewe Lambs some for sale \$1,000.00 each</p>
<p>Perigord Farmstead Mr. Luke Vaughn Mr. Eric Edelstein 1120 Valley Road Mason, NH 03048 (603) 878-1195 2 Ewes NFS 1 Ewe Lamb NFS</p>	<p>Brindle Hill Farm Mr. James Warren Mr. Kevin Barnhart P.O. Box 306 St. Thomas, PA 17252 (717) 369-3275 11 Ewes NFS 1 Ewe Lamb NFS 2 Rams NFS 2 Ram Lambs for sale \$250.00 each</p>
<p>Gerard and Sandra Zurawski 2005 School Road San Juan Bautista, CA 95045 3 Ewes NFS 1 Ram NFS 1 Ram Moe on loan from Mary.</p>	