

# **Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Club Newsletter January 1999**

## **New Breed Club!**

The Club is on its way to becoming a reality. Luke Vaughn sent out general information in December. Enough people responded that he asked me to send out applications for membership and officer nomination forms with this newsletter. Dues will be minimal, mostly to cover the cost of ads in Sheep! and Shepherd magazines and expenses of producing a newsletter. They have been initially set at \$10.00 per year.

If you wish to join please return your payment and application directly to Luke at the address in the back. We need candidates for the offices. Be sure to fill out the nomination form and tell us about yourself and how you got started with Black Welsh Mountain Sheep. Ballots will be sent to the paying members sometime in late February or early March.

Good Job Luke!

## **Wool or Meat?**

I got a nice letter from Patty Spor of High Desert Primitives. She writes "I think that from what I've read that Black Welsh would be close to being industrialized as they are a meat breed in England or so I've been led to believe."

Well perhaps and perhaps not. The UK has a well defined classification for dual purpose sheep. Breeds which produce good meat but also produce excellent wool are included in this classification. In England Black Welsh Mountain sheep are in this dual purpose group. In mixed shows they are classed in the dual purpose section and judged accordingly.

While they do produce superior carcasses and are used in terminal sire programs for crossbred market lambs their wool is also very important. UK Black Welsh wool commands it's own separate grade and is considered a high value item for it's durability and working qualities. It is used primarily in the carpet and furniture businesses but several companies make sweaters, socks and outerwear from Black Welsh Wool.

Here in the US even the clothing company Lands' End has made a special all Black Welsh sweater. My husband and I each have one of these from last year and I bought several for gifts

for this year. They are well made and are the warmest sweaters we own. The wool is a bit finer and softer than the typical Black Welsh here in the US but they are clearly from the same breed.

If you are considering a gift for yourself or others I can heartily recommend them. Even if you do not buy a sweater may I suggest that you send a short letter or e-mail to Lands' End and thank them for supporting our rare breed.

## **OPP and Scrapie Testing**

We got the final results on our new additions. All are OPP negative. We will be retesting the entire flock again after lambs are born in April and May.

In the Codon 171 scrapie genotype department we got 3 QQ and 2 QR ewes. Our flock now has one QR ram and a total of 4 QR ewes. If you want specifics of which animals are what genotype I'd be glad to include it in a future newsletter. I will also be posting the results on my web site when I do the next major update in February.

I also now have partial results of the scrapie gene testing for the UK rams. Hounsley Harry is QR at codon 171 and AV at codon 136. The testing of Hounsley Jack is still in process. I will report as I get news.

## **UK & US Registry Issues**

I received a letter from the UK Club. A copy is attached. As you can see they believe that any lambs produced from the use of UK registered sires should be registered in the US registry. This is good news. I have not heard anything from Mr. Hoctor regarding his acceptance of their guidelines.

## **Open Barn Results**

Three local sheep breeders all joined together to host an open barn tour describing our different breeds of sheep to interested spinners and knitters. We learned some very important lessons I want to pass on to you in case you decide to do something similar.

While we had many people respond and say they were coming actual turnout was very small. Many of those expressing interest initially asked whether there was a charge. Based on their

interest and the time required to get everything ready in future we would have a nominal charge paid in advance to reserve a spot.

We tried to caravan from barn to barn. We lost a few people on the way. Either everyone needed maps or better, have everyone come to one place and set up temporary pens for the other sheep.

A packet of information about your breed would be helpful. I had the UK Breed Standard and some stuff from the internet about Black Welsh and Shetlands but some breeders did not have data.

Fleece and roving for sale would have been good. Also samples of things made from the wool of your breed. Novice spinners did not know what they could use the different types of wool for.

Overall, in spite of the problems I'd do it again. I'd encourage you to consider starting a similar exhibition in your area.

## **Breed Standards**

I have sent a letter to the UK club asking for judging standards. I have the one page breed standard if you want a copy.

## **Showing Sheep**

It turns out there is no restriction on showing sheep in California. The only requirement is that each animal must be registered. The UK Registry does not provide any registration papers so any UK registered animals will not be able to be shown.

## **Pedigree Data**

I am trying to trace the pedigrees of the following US sheep. Please, check your registration papers and if you have one of these animals in the background of your sheep please send me a copy of the pedigree part of the registration papers.

P159 a ewe lambled in 1989 or earlier

KR008 a ewe lambled in 1990 or earlier

N92 a ewe lambled in 1989 or earlier

KR004 a ewe lambled in 1990 or earlier

BWM1071 Moses Ram bred by Mr. Wyman

BWM1073 Titus Ram bred by Mr. Wyman

## **Black Welsh Yarn**

I and several other breeders all have received recent requests for Black Welsh Mountain yarn. I have been primarily selling my fleeces as raw fleece to hand spinners. I also spin my own wool but I am not good enough to spin for sale.

I have done some checking and most of the wool mills that will spin yarn require a minimum of 100 pounds of raw wool. I do not have 100 pounds of extra wool as I already have much of my wool pre-sold for 1999. I will have a few fleeces left over though.

Perhaps between us we can pool our wool to get to 100 pounds and have it commercially spun. We'd share expenses based on our proportion of weight of raw wool and split the resulting yarn according to the same percentages. If you are interested please contact me.

## **Web Pages**

I have updated my own web pages. I have a listing of breeders of Black Welsh Mountain sheep. If you wish to be included send me e-mail with your data. I will link to existing pages where they exist. If you do not currently have a web page but want one call me. I can put up a simple 1-2 page listing showing a picture or 2 of your sheep and contact information for free.

## **Editors Notes**

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

Oogie McGuire – Acting Editor

E-Mail [oogiem@dsrtweyr.com](mailto:oogiem@dsrtweyr.com)

## 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. If you wish to be included please let me know. Also tell me whether you wish to be added to the Web Site listing.

<p><b>Brindle Hill Farm</b> Mr. James Warren Mr. Kevin Barnhart P.O. Box 306 St. Thomas, PA 17252 (717) 369-3275</p> <p>11 Ewes                   NFS 1 Ewe Lamb            NFS 2 Rams                 NFS <b>2 Ram Lambs           \$250.00 each</b></p>	<p><b>Desert Weyr</b> Ken and Oogie McGuire 551 Gem Lane Ramona, CA 92065-3770 (760) 788-6671 oogiem@dsrtweyr.com</p> <p>15 Ewes                   NFS 2 Ewe Lambs            NFS 1 Ram                    NFS 1 Yearling Ram on loan from Mary Mondello</p>
<p><b>High Desert Primitives</b> Patty Spor P. O. Box 3031 Princeton, OR 97721 (541) 493-2628</p> <p><b>6 Ewes                 call for prices</b> <b>5 Rams                 call for prices</b></p>	<p><b>Jack and Lorna Kearney</b> 6691 Westcott Road Duncan, BC V9L 3W8</p> <p><b>I need data on what you have and any animals for sale.</b></p>
<p><b>Mondello Miniature Ranch</b> Mrs. Mary Mondello 3110 Vineyard Canyon Road San Miguel, CA 93451 (805) 467-3206</p> <p>21 Ewes                 NFS 4 RamsNFS <b>4 Ram Lambs some for sale call for prices</b> <b>12 Ewe Lambs some for sale call for prices</b></p>	<p><b>Deb Moore</b> 24828 4th Avenue NW Stanwood WA 98292 (360) 629-2481</p> <p><b>12 Ewes</b> <b>5 Rams</b></p> <p><b>\$3500.00 for entire flock.</b></p>
<p><b>Perigord Farmstead</b> Mr. Luke Vaughn Mr. Eric Edelstein 1120 Valley Road Mason, NH 03048 (603) 878-1195</p> <p>2 Ewes                 NFS 1 Ewe Lamb         NFS</p>	<p><b>Smith Farm Black Welsh Mountain Sheep</b> Sally and Basil Smith 7650 Sandy Farm Road Severn, MD 21144 (410) 766-0879</p> <p><b>37 Ewes and Ewe Lambs         some for sale</b> <b>3 Proven Rams                 \$400.00 each</b> <b>4 Young Rams \$250.00 each</b> <b>10 Ram Lambs\$175.00</b></p>
<p><b>Gerard and Sandra Zurawski</b> 2005 School Road San Juan Bautista, CA 95045</p> <p>3 Ewes                 NFS 1 Ram                 NFS</p>	