

Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Club Newsletter September 1999

Voting Results

The officers of the club were voted on and the results are:

President – Tom Wyman

Vice President – Luke Vaughn

Secretary/Treasurer – Oogie McGuire

Board Members –
Mary Mondello
Patricia Mazarella
Sandie McDonald
Nicki B. Sawyer

There were 16 valid ballots sent in. One ballot was blank with no items marked. The remainder of the ballots were counted. The bylaws passed with only 1 dissenting vote. There was a comment on this ballot which will be brought up at the first board meeting and information provided as soon as we have a decision.

Club Address

The club now has a mailbox. The address for all club business is:

NA Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Club
PMB338
1672 Main Street, Suite E
Ramona, CA 92065

Please send any requests for information and membership applications to this address.

Bank Account

The club also now has a bank account. All of your membership checks should have cleared the bank by now. I apologize for the delay in processing your memberships. The bank required a minimum deposit of \$300.00 to open the account I have made up the difference between what was collected as memberships and the minimum out of my personal account.

Duplicate Registration Numbers

Just a short note for new members. In case you were not already aware of it you should know that the registration numbers shown on Black Welsh Mountain Sheep registration papers are

not unique. There may be several animals that share the same registration number. The breeder numbers will be different for the different animals. This is important to know as you search old pedigrees and trace the background of your animals.

Breed Standards

I still have copies of the UK breed flyer that has the breed standard in it. If you want a copy let me know.

Wool Pool

The first Black Welsh Mountain Wool Pool is underway. We have shipped all the fleeces to the mill and should be getting yarn in several months. It will be available for sale. More details to follow.

Breeders Listing

A breeders listing is attached. This listing includes all current paid members of the club. This is one of the items I send out to anyone who calls or e-mails about the sheep. I also send out the UK breed standard sheet and a copy of the most recent newsletter.

About our Members

I'll be adding in information off the membership applications as I have room.

From Sandra Gerard Zurawski I got notes on their flock. They have been breeding BWMS since 1996. They started with 3 ewes and a ram and the flock currently consists of 12 ewes, 3 rams and 2 wethers. They do have some stock for sale.

Sally and Basil Smith have a web site at <http://www.babablacksheep.com>

Nicki Sawyer, one of your board members, reports that her flock currently consists of 12 ewes and 1 ram.

Shari Nees wrote a nice note on her membership form. "I have a small hobby farm in Kitsap Co. Washington state. I have a couple of Breaknock Cheviots, one is black. Bought three BWMS lambs from Deb Moore, two ewes and a ram. (Wish I could get more! sigh)

So far they have been a gentle breed of sheep and I have always wanted some. My son will show them in 4-H. I will not have any lambs for sale until 2003. But next spring I will be selling roving both the BH Cheviots and the BWMS sometime the end of April 2000.

My family has raised sheep for at least 400 years that I know of. My father raised Suffolks. Personally I do not like the modern sheep, they cost a lot of feed to keep in good condition, just too much upkeep and maintenance. He has a lot of lamb loss if he is not around to help.

I prefer hardy, smart sheep and along with Jacobs, BH Cheviots, I think the BWM are also one of the hardy smart sheep that come in a small easy to care for size. That and I live in a very wet climate similar to Wales."

Dr. Patricia Mazzarella wrote to me back in February, sorry I didn't get this in sooner: "This is our first year with BWM sheep. My daughter and I were becoming acquainted with various breeds so that we could choose with the goal of developing a dairy flock. Then we answered an ad for BWM, it was love at first sight. A year later it remains so. We are looking forward to our first lambs in the next couple of weeks and plan to acquire an additional ram and ewes from more distant bloodlines. We will also be looking for dairy sheep but the BWM will stay with us. Our flock consists of two ewes and one ram as well as five ewes which are (1/4 or less) Border Leicester BWM mix. It is our intent to phase out the mixes and develop a purebred BWM flock. We are amazed when we hear that many sheep farms take diseases as an expected part of the experience. Our sheep, those hardy, disease resistant, beautiful animals have been healthy and thriving, even under the care of brand new shepherds. We hope this will continue to be the case."

Bonnie and Ed Lutkewich write: "We are developing an 80 acre farm in central PA for the purpose of breeding and raising rare domestic livestock. We will have a core group of Belted Galloway cattle and Black Welsh Mountain sheep. We are also very interested in Black Necked Welsh Mountain Goats and hope that

Breeders Listing

These are the members and flock information for the initial members of the Club. Not all members listed here voted as some joined after the voting deadline. This list will be up on my website by October 15. If you have animals for sale or wish to provide information on how many animals you own please contact me.

we can locate seed stock to begin raising them also. We plan on buying our foundation stock this spring of the BWMS. We are in need of a mentor to guide and direct us with the sheep. We plan on being very active in the breed by the spring of next year. We are excited!"

Sue and Tom Connery sent this note: "I am looking for purebred BWMS. At the moment we have 3 ewe lambs, 1/2 BWMS and 1/2 Black Face from Luke and 2 adult Romney/Rambouillet x BWMS ewes. I love the fleece and the size of the sheep. I am a handspinner and fell in love with the fleece from adult crosses. Am interested in all the info I can get on the breed."

Marge Bunker writes: "Last year we bought 5 lambs from David Becker. They are all black but I believe they were crossbred. back in the 1950's we had 400 white face ewes from the west and 8 Suffolk rams from nearby. We haven't had sheep since. We decided to get a few to keep the stone walls cleaned up. The 5 did a good job. We now have 3 ewes and 1 ewe lamb from a week ago. We would like to buy a few more ewe lambs. Anyone have any for sale?" There were several other questions which I will answer in this and future newsletters.

Ken and Oogie McGuire report that "We've been separating sheep and putting in rams for next year. We have also finished inseminating the first ewes with the imported UK semen. Our UK sired lambs are due in January 2000. We got our second full flock OPP test back, all negative, and also have started testing for CL. We are culling our CL positives. We currently have 35 ewes, 7 ewe lambs, 5 rams and 6 ram lambs. Some old ewes and ram lambs are for sale."

I got several articles and info from Lorna Kearney in Canada. No time to get them in this newsletter but I will get them in the next one.

Editors Notes

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

Oogie McGuire – Secretary/Treasurer E-Mail
oogiem@dsrtweyr.com

