

Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Club Newsletter January 2000

Club Dues

2000 dues are now past due. If you haven't already joined please send your \$10.00 payments to

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

If you do not rejoin this will be the last newsletter you receive.

Member Profile

I'd like to feature a member in each issue. Please, send several paragraphs about yourself and your farm to me and I'll add them to the newsletters. We especially want to hear from all the new members.

Tilden Little Farm

East Bay Regional Park District
Berkeley, CA 94708
Phone (510) 525 2233
Fax (510) 526 2393

Farmer - Stanley Ward

The Sheep

I started as farmer at the Little Farm in February 1999 and inherited a very poor quality flock of Suffolks. After lots of research and a review of all the options I decided to change our modest flock over to the Black Welsh Mountain breed. My main criteria were smallness of size, docility, thriftiness, high quality of meat and wool, colored wool, and availability.

Our foundation flock of Black Welsh Mountain sheep was purchased from Oogie McGuire in August 1999. It consists of six ewes and two rams. Ultimately we hope to increase the flock to between 12 and 15 ewes. We are expecting two sets of twins and three singles this year from our Welsh ewes put to our older Welsh ram and two sets of twins from our two Shetland ewes put to our younger Welsh ram. I will also be purchasing more ewes and rams from different blood lines in the future. The sheep have settled in very well after the long journey from Ramona CA and are proving very popular with the public. Lambing this year will start in late March and last until the end of April.

Due to lack of space we feed a mixture of forage mix and alfalfa hay for about eight months of the year. No concentrates will be fed at all. I anticipate turning the ewes out on fresh grass in early May. This first year I expect to keep all the ewe lambs and with luck sell the ram lambs to local flock owners. In the future I may well sell finished castrated lambs into the restaurant trade. It is my aim to become a supplier of breeding stock to the northern California region.

The Farm

Nestled snugly into the green wooded hills above Berkeley CA, Tilden Little Farm was established in the early 1950s in a small corner of the much larger Tilden Regional Park. It is open to the public all year round and has well over 200 000 visitors a year. Over the years a very strong bond has developed between the farm and the local community. Primarily designed for children's education, the farm has evolved into a major local recreational land mark. Along with the new flock of sheep, we also have two donkeys three Milking Shorthorn cows, a small herd of French Alpine and Nubian goats, Durac pigs, Satin rabbits, and a dozen or so breeds of chickens, geese and turkeys.

Black Sheep

In Britain I started farming in 1975 in North West Wales. The landscape there is very rough, wet and mountainous. The sheep population is still completely dominated by the Welsh Mountain breed, 99% of which are white in color. It was here that I came across my first black Welsh sheep. Many flocks in the area, despite continuous culling for over 200 years, continue to produce occasional black sheep. It was such black animals that were used as the foundation breeding stock for the present day Black Welsh Mountain breed about a hundred years ago. During my sheep shearing career in Wales I sheared many dozens of black sheep in white flocks and also was fortunate enough to shear entire flocks of Black Welsh Mountain sheep in Wales. Of all the sixty or so native breeds in Britain the Black Welsh stands out as being the ideal medium sized dual purpose breed. In all I have sheared over 40, 000 sheep of many different breeds and my favorite is definitely the Black Welsh Mountain. If you're in the area please come and visit it will be great to meet you and talk about sheep.

Breeders Listing

The latest breeders' listing is attached. There are a few names missing, these are people for whom I have not yet received membership dues for 2000. You will be added to the list once I get the dues payments.

Info Packets

I routinely send out information packets to people who inquire about the breed. These packets currently include a copy of the breed standard, a club membership application, the latest club member/breeders list and the latest newsletter. Once a person joins I send them the bylaws. Any suggestions on what else I should be including would be welcome. I average sending out 3-4 packets per month.

I would also be willing to provide these handouts for anyone who is showing the sheep in any fair or exhibit. Contact me at least 4 weeks in advance so I can be sure to get them to you. I will be charging for the copying and mailing costs based on the number of packets you want.

Letters Received

I have received a number of letters either direct to me or to the club address. At this point all letters, both for Hoctor and the registry and against his handling of the registry are being forwarded to Mr. Wyman for his review and action. Those people who contacted me and asked not to be named are being contacted by me and asked if I can provide their letters to Mr. Wyman.

Out Of Season Breeding

Lee Morgan-Davie sent a letter to every member of the club that implies that because Niki Sawyer's sheep have bred out of season as reported in the last newsletter they cannot be purebred. I would remind her and other members that in even the most seasonal of breeds there are always some individuals that will breed out of season. Conversely even in a non-seasonal breeding type like Dorsets there will be individuals who cannot breed out of season.

I have the three generation pedigrees as documented by the Hoctors on Niki's entire flock. Some of the sheep that have lambed out of season were bred by Mr. Wyman. To imply that these ewes are not purebred is to imply that Mr. Wyman's flock is not purebred. I do not think Ms.

Morgan-Davie believes this nor do I think she meant her letter to be construed that way.

Finally, Mrs. Sawyer has only one breed of sheep, and no others are nearby or share a pasture fence. So the possibility that the out of season lambers are crossbred is so unlikely as to be unbelievable.

Please, we have enough problems in the Black Welsh Mountain breed without immediately pointing fingers for things that are not necessarily indicative of crossbreeding. Save your anger for those people who are selling four horned rams, morrit or piebald sheep as purebred Black Welsh Mountain sheep. That some of these sheep are offered with registration papers is a huge issue and one we should address rather than attack members who happen to have animals that are slightly out of the norm in breeding season.

Rare Breed Status

The following letter was sent to Dr. Don Bixby, of the American Livestock Breed Conservancy.

"I am writing to you as the Secretary/Treasurer of the newly formed North American Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Club. The club was founded last year to promote the Black Welsh Mountain Sheep here in North America. We are separate from the privately owned registry. Some recent newsletters are included for your reference. As you know the Black Welsh Mountain Sheep were listed as a rare breed by the ALBC as recently as 1996. Then they were removed from subsequent lists.

The last census of Black Welsh Mountain sheep in North America was done in 1990. At that time the North American population was at 363 animals. The most recent 1999 flock book from the United Kingdom lists the population of purebred Black Welsh Mountain sheep at 8015 animals. Most of the North American animals are not included in the UK count but even with expansion since 1990 the breed still fits within the category of Watch status with less than 2,500 North American annual registrations and fewer than 10,000 population world wide.

The Board of the Club has asked me to start looking into what is required to again become recognized as a rare breed by ALBC. Certainly the worldwide and North American population size fits within the criteria for inclusion as a rare breed. When breeds such as Shetland sheep are listed whose registered numbers are much higher we understand that there are additional criteria that play into the decision to list or not list

a particular breed. Any information you can provide us as to how to go about meeting your requirements would be much appreciated.

If you have any questions I may be reached at the address listed above.”

I received back the following letter from Dr. Bixby

“Dear Oogie,

Thank you for your letter of January 6 with the information about the North American Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Club. I am pleased to see that a responsive breeders network now supports this beautiful and valuable breed. As you may know ALBC was asked to manage the registry for this breed. We devoted an enormous amount of resources in exploring the status of this breed in North America. After months of effort our technical committee was forced to abandon the project because of a lack of credible pedigree documentation. Pat Hctor then took on the registry and documentation became even less reliable. The dominant black gene meant that any black animal could be promoted as an exotic Black Welsh Mountain sheep. At the same time, the breed came off the Rare Breeds Survival Trust Priority list in the U.K., and so ALBC also dropped the breed as a conservation priority.

Presently, ALBC is working on a category that would include breeds that do not fit the conservation categories but warrant attention, particularly for consideration in both conventional and non-conventional agriculture. Such a category would definitely include Shetland sheep, as you have suggested, along with several others. Criteria for this category have been tricky to determine since there are so many factors to consider and we do not want everything apart from Suffolk, Dorset and Rambouillet on the list.

In the meantime, we are happy to promote the Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Club and will include the association contact information in the Black Welsh Mountain breed note. I am pleased that the Black Welsh Mountain breed has you as an official advocate because I know that you will do a spectacular job.

Best wishes,

Donald E. Bixby, DVM Executive Director,
American Livestock Breeds Conservancy”

Producing and Marketing Black Wool

Sandie McDonald provided this article about how she markets her wool. Lots of useful information there for all of us.

I have been a handspinner since 1973, and a wool grower since 1981. I live on the coast of Southern Oregon, our weather is wet all year round, this limits the sheep breeds we can run here. Wool growers even 10 miles east of me have excellent success with breeds that die like flies on the coast. I must tell you I am a color snob. When people tell me they have black sheep, I ask them "What color are they?" To you BWM growers, that might seem a silly question, but unfortunately "black" in my area simply means "not white".

I saw my first Black Welsh Mountain sheep in 1990, and purchased my first ram of the breed in 1991. Previously I had been breeding with a single goal in mind: jet black wool shorn from a 3 year old sheep. I had achieved this only twice in 10 years, using Romneys, and Karakul/Corriedale crossbred rams, until I got my BWM. After that, of course, it was a piece of cake. My flock now stops traffic. We are a major tourist attraction in my area.

I have been successfully marketing black wool since 1989, to the handspinners both in my area, and nationally, using SpinOff magazine and other sheep magazines to advertise. I have a waiting list for my blackest hoggett fleeces. My fleeces are free of vegetable matter (VM), skirted severely, and I sell by the ounce, not the fleece. My buyers pay shipping. I have a money back guarantee (sans shipping) that nobody has ever taken me up on. My experience has been that handspinners, felters and weavers are willing to pay very high prices for very black, very clean wool.

I do not coat my sheep, living on a 50 year old 32 acre farm, with old barbed wire fences coming up like weeds where we least expect them. (Coated wool would bring a better return, being incredibly clean, and longer than noncoated wool.) I feed alfalfa pellets rather than alfalfa or grass hay to reduce VM contamination. I also find there is almost no wastage of feed when using alfalfa pellets, so their seemingly high cost works out in the long run.

I crossbred to coal-black Romneys (with a Karakul in the woodpile 5 generations ago!) to obtain the blackest wool. I find the BWM crossbreeds do not get sunbleached tips as readily as the Romneys. Hence the processed

wool is an almost black/brown rather than a medium brown. Some of my September lamb shearings have been close to coal black to the tip. I cannot run purebred BWM's in my area, the fleece felts so badly on the animal's body in our weather that it is unusable when shorn.

I send out free sample cards to anyone who writes or calls to inquire. I also provide spinning services to those who need yarn, not raw wool, and direct people to the nearest wool scouring/carding plant in their region. SpinOff is wonderful as a resource.

Another way to market black wool is to have it prepared into quilting (not comforter!) batts for quilters who prefer dark fabrics. White batting "beards" when needed, leaving tiny white fuzzies on the surface of the quilt. Natural black wool also beards, but you can't see it. The trend among quilters right now is to purchase natural fiber batting, and in our area, a white wool batt weighing about 1 lb., goes for \$35.00. Properly packaged and advertised, black wool could be a goldmine in that direction. The batts also lend themselves well to art felters.

Never lose sight of the fact that really black wool is really rare. The best way to prove this to yourself, is try to buy some, in the grease, in roving form, in batt form, as yarn. It's the reason I'll have a BWM ram probably for the rest of my sheep growing life.

Club Donors

Here is the ongoing list of members who have graciously donated extra to help the club.

Lorna Kearney donated \$10.00

Sandra McDonald donated \$10.00

Patty Spor donated \$5.00

Thomas Wyman donated \$90.00

Oogie McGuire donated \$22.00 for Membership Certificates

2000 Wool Pool

Now is the time to start thinking about what we want to do with this year's wool pool. If you will have fleeces to add to the pool please contact me as soon as you can with the estimated shearing date, the estimated number of pounds of wool you will have, what you would like to see done with this year's wool pool (yarn, what type or types, roving, already woven blankets, or

something else) and what quality of wool you will have.

In particular please review the comments on the 1999 wool pool and skirt your fleeces well before adding them to the pool. VM contamination is a big problem and it would be nice to eliminate or at least reduce it this year.

I need to start contacting wool mills now to get on the list for having our wool processed so we need a consensus of what we want from our wool before I can start.

For 2000 each person who adds fleeces to the wool pool will be asked to pay up front for the mill cost. I can't afford to float the entire processing costs again. You will receive a portion of the final product(s) back that corresponds to the percentage of the raw fleece you have provided. The costs will be split the same way.

Club Ads

We should have ads in the next issues of Sheep! Magazine and The Shepherd announcing the club. I hope the increased ad exposure will result in more new members. I have already fielded over 6 requests for information as a result of these ads.

Ads will also go into the Black Sheep Newsletter as soon as I get their fee schedule.

BWM Yarn Comments

Here are the first comments back from people who have used the 1999 Wool Pool yarn.

Sandie McDonald writes "I found the commercially spun, 2 ply cone of yarn as I expected, stretched lifelessly.

The yarn is badly contaminated with vegetable matter.

The yarn is extremely uneven, 200 yd. skeins reeled off the cone weighed between 2 1/2 oz. and 3 1/4 oz.

The yarn has very low tensile strength, which in my opinion would make it extremely unsuitable as warp yarn for weaving. As weft it would be fine.

I was very pleased at the yardage. I received a cone weighing (with cone) 24 + ounces. I reeled off 2287 yards.

There was minimal "fallout" while reeling, minimal shedding.

When rinsed in hot water, the yarn relaxed and regained its buoyancy and resilience. When relaxed, the unevenness of the yarn is minimized.

The yarn knits up at 7 st. to the inch, with a nice soft hand.

I would recommend immediately reeling and relaxing the yarn when received, especially for weaving, to minimize takeup. Knitted before relaxing would seriously change the size of the knit item.

The total cost of the yarn, including shipping and handling, is approximately \$0.05 per yard.

I just finished knitting up a sample swatch with about 70 yds of the relaxed yarn. It performs beautifully. managed to pick out most of the grass hay as I was knitting, so the resulting swatch looks great. I did various lace stitches as well as cable and basketweave, and had a great time with it.

I had a great time with the yarn, had to pull out several rows, it pulls out and reknits with no problems."

Oogie McGuire writes "So far I've tried knitting direct off the cone and washing it first then knitting. Of the two methods I actually prefer knitting off the cone first then washing and blocking at the same time.

Off the cone I found it easy to use and a gentle wash in hot water fluffed but did not significantly shrink the knitted fabric. Washed first required that I skein it and find a place to dry the skeins without turning them into cat toys.

I tried a knitted then felted sampler which made a lovely potholder. The sampler was for a hat that I am in the process of felting. I've found that the knitted fabric, tossed into a washing machine, tends to shrink up more than from side to side. My hat was based on the sample swatch which shrank evenly but my hat is not doing the same thing. I'll have pictures up on my web site once the hat is done.

I've also made small 3-d knitted sheep. I had to adjust the pattern to have a shorter neck as the BWMS don't look the same as the samples. They came out well and my husband has one on his desk at work.

I am also starting a sweater in Harris Tweed stitch which is knitting up nice and loose and very soft.

Other people I've sold yarn to will be reporting on using it with a knitting machine, and as weaving yarn both for warp and weft. More as I get the results back.

Basic Genetic Calculations

There have been a number of questions about the basic genetic calculations and what they mean. I will try to present the most typical calculations and why they are important in this article.

First off a few basic definitions and concepts. What we see in an animal, the color, body conformation etc. is called the phenotype. The genetics or DNA is what will determine the genotype. The genotype and the environment interact to give us the visible phenotype. Genes are comprised of paired alleles on the DNA strand called a chromosome. An allele is one variation of the gene for a particular trait. All animals contain two alleles at each location or locus for all the traits or genes that comprise the living animal. Each animal gets one set of genes from each parent.

Most alleles are either dominant or recessive. From basic Mendelian genetics a dominant allele will hide or dominate a recessive one. Only the dominant allele will be expressed in the phenotype even though the genotype includes two alleles. Brown or morrit color in sheep is an example of a recessive allele. When both alleles are the same the animal is homozygous. When the two alleles are different the animal is heterozygous.

Epistatic refers to the action of one locus controlling the expression of another one. In sheep the locus A determines whether the sheep will be pigmented. The B locus determines the color, brown or black. A white allele at A makes the fleece white and hides the effects of the B locus. This is how in typical breeds a white ewe can give birth to a black lamb. It appears that the Black allele in BWMS is actually epistatic to the white allele at A and gives rise to the concept of dominant black in this breed.

Various traits are controlled either more by environment or more by heredity. Heritability is a measure of how much of the phenotype of a trait is caused by the genes vs how much is caused by the environment. In most animal species sex determination is an example of a highly heritable

trait. Environment does not play a significant role in whether a specific animal will be male or female for most species. We speak of sex determination in mammals as having a heritability of 100%. Sex determination in reptiles, amphibians and some fishes is much less heritable and the sex of the individual animal can be controlled or changed by temperature or the pH of the water in which it was raised. In sheep the common production traits vary widely in how heritable they are. From the SID Handbook here is a table listing the heritability of several major production traits.

Ewe Fertility	5%
Scrotal Circumference	35%
Birth Weight	15%
120-Day Weight	30%
Percent Trimmed Retail Cuts	40%
Clean Fleece Weight	25%
Staple Length	55%
Fiber Diameter	40%
Milk Yield	30%

Heritabilities are published for most of the important economic traits for most farm species.

Inbreeding is defined as the mating of animals that share common ancestors. Inbreeding increases homozygosity and decreases the heterozygosity. A good way to determine the amount of inbreeding is to calculate an inbreeding coefficient for each animal. The general formula for this is:

Inbreeding coefficient

$$IC = \frac{\sum \frac{1}{2^{(N1 + N2 + 1)}}}{2} \times (1 + F)$$

for all common ancestors where N1 is the number of generations between the sire and the common ancestor, N2 is the number of generations between the dam and the common ancestor and F is the inbreeding coefficient of the common ancestor.

The formula although deceptively simple is hard to calculate as each common ancestor must be found and calculated separately. In computer programs it makes for a recursive walking of the pedigree tree for as many common ancestors as can be found adding the numbers up.

For the percentage of inbreeding multiply the inbreeding coefficient by 100%. So an individual with an inbreeding coefficient of .25 is 25% inbred.

Typically in relatively non-inbred populations a 5 generation pedigree is sufficient to determine the inbreeding coefficient. The parents are generation 1, the grandparents are 2 and so on. However, from personal experience with Arabian horses when you have a small founder population or a significantly inbred population at least 12 generations are needed to accurately calculate the coefficient.

In my horses I have animals who with 5 generation pedigree data appear to be unrelated or minimally related but when calculated out to 12 generations they end up having an inbreeding coefficient of .37 or 37% inbred.

We care about the inbreeding coefficients because it has been shown that in sheep increases in inbreeding dramatically affect performance. For example, for each percentage point increase in the inbreeding (i.e. from .24 or 24% to .25 or 25%) the following characteristics will be negatively affected:

Grease Fleece Weight	- .037 lb
Fertility (ewes lambing / ewes exposed)	- 1.4 ewes lambing / 100 ewes exposed
Lamb Survival (Lambs born/ ewes lambing)	- 2.78 lambs weaned / 100 lambs born

The first step to developing a sustainable breeding program is to calculate the inbreeding coefficient of each individual animal in the flock. Then look at the heritability of the traits that are important to you. With this information you can determine how to select individuals who are superior for the traits you want while simultaneously keeping the inbreeding coefficients low or as low as possible.

This is why I continually try to get accurate and complete pedigree data on the ancestors of my sheep. Without this information I cannot calculate the numbers I need to develop a breeding program to maximize the good traits and minimize the bad ones.

I offer to calculate the inbreeding coefficients for all individuals in any member's flock if they will provide me with the pedigree data. If you have more data than that shown on the registration papers the results will be more accurate.

EPD's and the NSIP

Related to the calculations of inbreeding coefficients is the concept of an FEPD or Flock Expected Progeny Difference. An FEPD is a number based on the heritability of the trait in question plus the phenotype that gives an indication of the amount of change using that individual in your breeding program will give you. FEPD's are shown as the estimate of the performance of the progeny of a specific individual relative to the average flock performance. A ewe with a FEPD of +5 for 60 day weight will have on average lambs that weigh 5 pounds more at 60 days of age than a ewe with an FEPD of 0. The calculation of an FEPD is long and complex and starts with a complete inbreeding coefficient and includes the performance data for all relatives of the individual. I am not aware of any home computer programs that can calculate FEPD's.

The National Sheep Improvement System is a large mainframe based computer program that allows for the calculation of accurate FEPDs for the traits the producer chooses. Members of the NSIP collect the required data and submit it along with the appropriate fees for each animal in the flock. The FEPDS are sent back and these can be used to select superior individuals. If enough flocks include their data and there are genetic linkages between the flocks then you can calculate cross flock EPD's as well.

If the Black Welsh Breeders would decide to use the NSIP system for FEPD and cross flock EPD's then it would be possible for one member to offer a ram for sale and be able to state that using said ram will increase the weaning weight of lambs by 6 pounds over the flock average, or that he will increase the grease fleece weight by 1.25 pounds over the average or whatever the EPD is for the trait in question for that individual.

The concept of FEPD's and EPD's is one that has been used for decades in the dairy and beef cattle industries to identify and promote the best bulls and brood cows for specific needs. This is one reason why you can buy semen from a bull and state with confidence that his daughters will produce on average 100 pounds more milk than your current herd, or he will wean 200 pounds more calves in your beef herd.

The NSIP system can track a number of traits. If the Black Welsh breeders wish to develop a database that can be used for EPD's or cross flock EPD numbers then we must agree on what traits are to be measured. I'd encourage all BWMS owners to get more information on the

NSIP program and provide your board members with a list of the traits NSIP calculates that you believe are the most important to you. Since it costs extra money for each additional trait for the calculations I suspect we cannot track every trait the NSIP can calculate. Which ones we pick will determine the selection criteria for the breed so we must choose wisely. Send your data suggestions either directly to your board members or to the club P.O. box.

Pedigree Data

Tom Wyman has provided me with verification of the changes made to registration papers that occurred when sheep I purchased were transferred to my name. These corrections and data are included here. If you have any of these animals in the background of your sheep you may wish to correct your pedigree papers.

Dixie Bell originally 0030D165E198 bred by Kevin Chambers changed to 0000D165E179 bred by Thomas G. Wyman. Single birth. (0000O6R170 (TW) X 0000A6E179 (S))

Lady originally 0032D43E198 bred by Kevin Chambers changed to 0000D43E179 and bred by Thomas G. Wyman.

Amy originally 0217A48E201 bred by Patrick D. Hoctor, birth date Spring 1987 changed to 0000A48E179 bred by Thomas G. Wyman Birth date 10 March 1987. Single birth. (0000M115R179 (TW) x 0000M137E179 (TW))

Abbey originally 0103D73E201 bred by Patrick D. Hoctor, birth date March 1990 changed to 0000D73E179 bred by Thomas G. Wyman Birth date Spring 1990. Correct birth date is March 1990. Single birth. (0000E125R179 (S) x 0000A20E179 (TW))

Agnes originally 0104D182E201 bred by Patrick D. Hoctor, birth date March 1990 changed to 0000D104E179 bred by Thomas G. Wyman birth date Spring 1990. Correct birth date is March 1990. Twin birth. (0000B68R179 (TW) x 0000P170E179 (S))

Peep originally 0047D140E201 bred by Patrick D. Hoctor, birth date March 1990 changed to 0000DD140E179 bred by Thomas G. Wyman birth date Spring 1990. Correct birth date is March 1990. Twin birth. (0000O6R179 (TW) x 0000J31E179 (TW))

Titus registered in the UK as 1073.F.179 has US number 0000D100R179. Born March 1990. (0000M115R179 (TW) x 0000O59E179 (S))

0000M115R179 (TW) sometimes listed as a single he is really a twin. (0000H4R179 (TW) x 0000J5E179 (TW))

0000M57R179 Listed in the pedigrees as the dam of 0000D202E179 . This is a ewe and should be 0000M57E179 (TW) (0000K50R179 (TW) x 000K53E179(S))

0000P170R179 Listed in the pedigrees as the dam of 0000D181E179. Thi is a ewe and should be 0000P170E179 (S) (0000M10R179 (S) x 0000K2E179 (TW))

Further data regarding birth date, type and sire and dam are listed for these sheep. I cannot fit all the data I received here but I will keep putting the data in future newsletters.

0000A6E179 (S) 5 March 1987 (0000N20R179 (TW) x 0000L85E179 (TW))

0000A13E179 (TW) 6 March 1987 (0000N20R179 (TW) x 0000L20E179 (TW))

0000A21R179 (S) 7 March 1987 (0000K107R179 (TW) x 0000M101E179 (TW))

0000A23R179 (TW) 7 March 1987 (0000M10R179 (S) x 0000M15E179 (TW))

0000A76E179 (S) 14 March 1987 (0000M115R179 (TW) x 0000O78E179 (TW))

0000A84E179 (TW) 16 March 1987 (0000M10R179 (S) x 0000O104E179 (TW))

0000B23R179 (TW) 11 March 1988 (0000N45R179 (TR) x 0000O1E179 (TW))

0000B35E179 (TW) 12 March 1988 (0000P199R179 (TW) x 0000O60E179 (TW))

0000B68R179 (TW) 14 March 1988 (0000P199R179 (TW) x 0000P160E179 (S))

0000B125R179 (S) 17 March 1988 (0000N45R179 (TR) x 0000O22E179 (S))

0000B152R1779 (TW) 22 March 1988
0000M115R179 (TW) Dam 0000O48E179 (TW)

0000G16E179 (TW) March 1977 (B Original x 000E13E179 (S))

0000G23R179 (S) March 1977 (A Original x D3 Original)

0000H41R179 (TW) March 1978 (B Original x 0000G32E179 (TW))

0000H43E179 (S) March 1978 (A Original x 0000F60E179 (S))

0000I13E179 (TW) March 1979 (0000H17R179 (S) x 000E8E179 (TW))

0000I32R179 (TW) March 1979 (0000H10R179 (S) x 0000G16E179 (TW))

0000J4E179 (TW) March 1980 (0000G23R179 x 0000H45E179 (TW))

0000J5E179 (TW) March 1980 (0000G23R179 (S) x 0000H45E179 (TW))

0000J43E179 (TW) March 1980 (0000G23R179 (S) x (0000H29E179 (TW))

0000J46E179 (TW) March 1980 (000H41R179 (TW) x 0000E36E179 (S))

0000K2E179 (TW) March 1981 (0000G23R179 (S) x 0000I48E179 (S))

0000K20R179 (TW) March 1981 (0000G23R179 (S) x 0000G16E179 (S))

0000K29E179 (TW) March 1981 (0000I32R179 (TW) x 0000I18E179 (TW))

0000K40E179 (TW) March 1981 (0000I32R179 (TW) x 0000I13E179 (TW))

0000K69E179 (S) March 1981 (0000I36R179 (TW) x 0000E23E179 (TW))

0000K107R179 (TW) March 1981 (0000G23R179 (S) x (0000I43E179 (S))

0000L3R179 (TW) March 1982 (0000J24R179 (S) x (0000H29E179 (TW))

0000L85E179 (S) March 1982 (0000H41R179 (TW) x (0000J4E179 (TW))

0000L93E179 (TW) March 1982 (0000J2R179 (TW) x (0000J26E179 (TW))

0000M10R179 (S) March 1983 (0000K6R179 (TW) x 0000I37E179 (TW))

0000M32E179 (TW) March 1983 (0000G23R179 (S) x 0000H44E179 (S))

0000M101E179 (TW) March 1983 (0000K50R179 (TW) x 0000J12E179 (TW))

0000M120E179 (S) March 1983 (0000G23R179 (S) x 0000K49E179 (TW))

0000N20R179 (TW) 22 March 1984
(0000L3R179 (TW) x 0000K40E179 (TW))

0000N28E179 (S) 23 March 1984
(0000K20R179 (TW) x 0000H21E179 (TW))

0000N42E179 (TW) 27 March 1984
(0000K20R179 (TW) x 0000K104E179 (TW))

0000N45R179 (TR) 28 March 1984
(0000K107R179 (TW) x 0000J46E179 (TW))

0000N60E179 (TW) 30 March 1984
(0000K107R179 (TW) x 0000J51E179 (S))

0000N97E179 No Record found. On my pedigrees this ewe is listed as the dam of 0234D74E179 (TW) If you have further information please send it to me.

Member News

Jodi Milske writes "I am a handspinner, knitter and beginning weaver living on an 80 acre hobby farm in northeastern Wisconsin. I have had Black Welsh Mountain Sheep for a year and a half, as well as Lincoln Longwools since 1996. The decision to add the BWM to my flock was based on a desire to raise a small, easy to handle sheep. (I am a small person) with an interesting fleece for handspinning that was different in character from Lincoln. I researched several breeds and liked everything I read about the BWM. Then I met them in person and I was hooked! I now have 3 bred ewes and a ewe lamb. They are very sweet and enjoyable sheep to own and I look forward to expanding my flock with the best genetics I can find. I am delighted to discover this club!"

Sue Goetz reports that her small flock of BWMS is also in the Voluntary Federal Scrapie program. She will be using the UK semen in a future year.

Oogie McGuire reports that she got one ewe lamb sired by Hounsley Harry and one ram lamb sired by Hounsley Jack out of the 9 ewes who were inseminated with the UK semen. The success rate was very low but at least we got one lamb from each of the sires. The rest of the ewes have started lambing, mostly we're getting twins.

Secretary/Treasurer Notes

Club bank balance is currently at \$597.13 before taking out the costs of publication for this newsletter.

At this time we have 18 Individual Voting members and one Individual Associate member.

Un-Classified Ads

If you wish to offer something for sale or wanted send it to me and I'll put it in the next newsletter. For now no charge to members to list animals, yarn, hides or other products from BWMS sheep. We may change this if the list gets too large. All ads will also be posted on the www.blackwelsh.com web site.

Lorna Kearney

two yearling rams - twins
1 ram lamb
1 yearling ewe not for breeding

Niki Sawyer

1 ram \$100

NA BWMS Club - 2 ply sportweight yarn

\$2.00/oz full cones or
\$2.25/oz partial cones

Oogie McGuire

1 prepared skull with horn caps \$75
roving \$22.00/pound
ewes and rams available in April
3 tanned hides from purebreds
1 tanned crossbred hide

WANTED

Transport for 8 adult ewes and their 2000 lambs, 7 1999 lambs and 2 rams from VA to CA or CO.

Shari Nees - WANTED

ram lamb, good temperament a must

Editors Notes

There is lots of controversy in the club right now. I hope that as we all work through our differences we don't lose sight of the fact that we all really care for these sheep. Only if we continue to put the sheep first will the breed survive.

Over the past 3 years I have been asked by many people whether I would start a competing registry. A number of them have begged me to start such a registry and be done with the

problems they have experienced with the Hectors. I have repeatedly told these people that in my opinion any time a breed of rare animals splits the registry it is to the detriment of the breed. We have a big enough problem within the Black Welsh community without adding the problems caused by two registries. I have also gone on record as saying and firmly believe that no single individual should control a breed or registry. When only one person is in charge it invariably causes problems like those we have experienced.

I do not want to own the registry, but I would like to ask that the Hectors make the registry available to the Club for purchase. And that we then hold a regular election to select a person who will manage and maintain the registry for a term of office, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

I also reiterate two offers I have repeatedly made to the Hectors. First, I offer to publish the flock

book, tracing all the registered Black Welsh Mountain sheep from the original imports to the current generation as best we can at my expense. Second, I offer to work with the Hectors or a new registrar to develop a decent computer program to manage the registry that will maintain all the data that breeders are asking for and prevent data from being stored in multiple places and therefore difficult to maintain. This should reduce the errors that are common in the existing system. I have over 20 years of professional programming experience and in fact initially got into computers as a result of programming animal record systems and genetic analysis programs in college.

I have been a vocal advocate for the breed and I vow to continue to campaign for the recognition of these lovely sheep as the viable niche market commercial animals they are in Britain.

Send info to ooziem@desertweyr.com