

American Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Association Newsletter October 2002

Apology for Newsletter Delays

I apologize for the lack of newsletters this year. The registration and documentation of the existing North American population of sheep is taking a lot more of my time than I anticipated.

We really need a person to step up and volunteer to do the newsletter. This individual needs to be able to collect or write articles and get the newsletter published and sent out to members 4 times a year. As Secretary I can provide the newsletter person with the address labels for current members but it is clear that I do not have the time to collect articles or write them when there are none.

Registry Update

As of August 2002 we have registered 207 sheep and processed 42 transfers. I am still working to clean up the registry database and enter in the lambing reports that are trickling in. Still planning on publishing the flock book this year.

Officer Candidates Needed

It's time to start thinking about electing our 2003 officers. In addition to the President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer positions, there are 3 board positions open. Board members serve a 2-year term.

There is a requirement that all officers and board members have an e-mail address and access to the internet. The reason is that to save costs and deal with the fact that we are widely scattered we hold meetings on-line through the use of an e-mail list. If you wish to run for office, but do not have a computer, please contact the Secretary. She will try to locate a suitable machine for you to borrow for your term of office. You will need to provide your own internet access.

Many public libraries provide machines for use by patrons. The Secretary can provide you with an e-mail address under the blackwelsh.org domain name here if you do not already have one.

I would like to continue to serve as Secretary/Treasurer and will be running for that office.

New Annual Flock Census and Lambing Report Requirements

The board has ruled that there will be 2 required reports each year. The first will be a census report, due in January with your annual dues. In December the Secretary/Treasurer will prepare a report for every member listing every sheep currently owned by him or her. The member must complete the report documenting any sheep that have died or been sold or butchered and verify that all living sheep are listed on the report. These reports must be turned in by January 31 each year.

The second report is the lambing report, due the end of July. This should list all lambs born to the flock that spring and include lambs that are not going to be registered, stillborn or who died young as well as any to be registered.

These reports, when properly completed, will meet all the current requirements for the US Federal Scrapie Eradication Program.

The Association has developed an Excel spreadsheet that can be used to track all the data. If you choose to use this file the Secretary can accept your reports electronically via e-mail. The spreadsheet is available on the web site for download. If you have other flock management software, please contact the secretary to see if reports from your package can be used without modification.

We realize that doing the reports may be seen as a hardship by some members. However, the requirements for this documentation are for all sheep owners in the US. We have modified our required reports to match what the government requires to minimize the hassle. This will also allow us to have current, accurate census data about these sheep in North America.

Web Site

I am updating the website to list all breeders. If this is not what you want please contact me ASAP.

US Federal Scrapie Eradication Program

By now everyone should have been issued your Federal Scrapie Eradication Program premises

ID number. This is a US federal requirement and the number will be included on all registration papers for sheep you own or have bred. As discussed above the new requirements for documenting the status of your flock will meet all the new rules so you do not have to keep duplicate paperwork for the Association and the Federal government.

For our Canadian members, some of you also have a government flock number. We will use that if you have one.

New Breed Brochure

Enclosed is a copy of a new color brochure that is available to members at cost. There was a printing error in some of them and they are backwards. This has been corrected and no more have that problem. These brochures are available to members for \$0.25 each for use at shows, sales etc. A copy is included free with every packet of information sent out by the club to anyone who inquires about these sheep. We are also looking for good photographs especially of top quality rams to add to the brochure. Please contact the Secretary if you have any suitable pictures.

4-H Chain Animal Ideas

by Sandy

A 4H "chain animal" is a purebred, registered, breedable female, given to a 4H child (age 10 to 18) with the provision that the first breedable female offspring of that animal be donated to the NEXT recipient child. It is customary to help the recipient of the first animal to get proper registered breeding for their female animal. I am doing this with the Shetland breed of sheep in my area. Unfortunately Black Welsh Mountain sheep, while thriving here, do not have marketable wool here, so I can't do it with the BWM. However it's an idea for people to consider for their area and is a great way to promote your breed.

Member Ads

Niki B. Sawyer
Hound Heaven Farm

Black Welsh Mountain Sheep
Newark, NY 14513
nbs@rochester.rr.com

I have 4 ewe lambs and two young ewes for sale. They are \$250.00 each.

Mark Whitaker
Shannon Meeker
Bramblehouse
1908-2 W SR 4
Skamokawa, WA 98647
(360)795-3384
markw1@scattercreek.com

One yearling ram, twin, good horns, not aggressive, \$100
One ram lamb, single, good horns, \$100
One two year old ewe, single, good mom, \$200
One yearling ewe, single, didn't get it together for her first lamb, \$100
Two ewe lambs, both singles, \$125 each

Sheep located in SW Washington. Delivery along the west coast could be arranged for a price.

Ken and Oogie McGuire
Desert Weyr
1692 4175 Drive
Paonia, CO 81428
oogiem@desertweyr.com

3 US line ram lambs QR at 171 \$125 each
2 UK line ram lambs QQ \$500 each
2 UK line ram lambs QR \$700 each
1 UK line ram yearling QQ \$750
1 UK line ram yearling QR \$850
2 US line ewe lambs QR \$125 each
1 UK line ewe lamb QQ \$350
1 UK line ewe yearling QQ \$500
6 butcher lambs \$40 each

Secretary/Treasurer Notes

Club bank balance is currently at \$602.93 before this newsletter and paying for our annual software maintenance for the registry.