Congratulations to the new & re-elected TSBS Board of Directors

During the first meeting of the new TSBS Board the following officers were elected by the board. President Kerry Richardson, Vice-president Bret Taylor, Treasurer Beverly Pearsall, and Secretary Robert Stonerock. Congratulations to these board members.

Additional duties assigned were: Walter Stubbs-editor of the Texel Times. Kerry Richardson-TSBS web site updates. Kerry Richardson-Quartermaster (TSBS shirts and hats.)

The amendment to the bylaws to change the election procedure has passed by a vote of 17-2. The proposed procedure was used for this ballot.

Dutch Treat

Robert Stonerock used the new TSBS display in Middleton, Ohio for the International Festival Celebrating Holland that was held October 5-7. He also exhibited two Texel ewes along with the promotional display.

In addition to the Texel brochures distributed, a few people expressed interest in purchasing Texels. Contacts were also made with Dutch artisans from Pella, Iowa and Holland, Michigan. Both groups expressed some interest in displaying Texels at their local festivals.

The new TSBS display case could be shipped to any TSBS member who is willing to attend one of these festivals. Contact Robert Stonerock for further information.

Percentages in Registration Papers

During the October 18, 2007 TSBS board meeting President Kerry Richardson brought up the issue of percentages on the registration papers and some of the problems that occurred. In some cases the pedigree chart did not support the percentages. It was the consensus of the board that all future registrations would omit percentages.
Texel Display at Cornell, New York
The Texel Sheep Breeders Society was registered as a “Bronze Sponsor” at the Cornell University Sheep and Goat Symposium held October 26-27. Many of the attendees were from New York State, surrounding states including New England and Canada. Robert Stonerock attended the symposium and set up the new TSBS display in the vendor/sponsor section. Many brochures were handed out and there was interest shown in the Texel breed. Bill Courmoyer, a TSBS member from Preston, Connecticut was also in attendance. New York State has some great markets for their lambs in NYC and the East coast. Cornell University has a great reputation for their agricultural research. The symposium never leaves a shepherd disappointed with the outstanding presentations and hospitality during the two-day event.

Texel Show at the 2007 ND State Fair
The Open show was July 24 and 4-H show was July 25.
Exhibitors are Kimberly Herman, Ypsilanti, ND and Clay Hatlewick, Jamestown, ND.

“Kim, 16, has been raising Texels for about 4 years. Clay, 13, has for 2 years. He started with a lamb from Kim's flock. At the North Dakota State fair, Kim had grand champion ewe and grand champion ram while Clay had reserve ewe. The kids have worked hard to have the Texel show in Minot during the fair. They are trying to recruit more
exhibitors through their 4-H club members and siblings. Both the kids are very interested in the sheep industry and also have crossbred and Suffolk flocks. Being the 4-H Coordinator in our county, it is surprising that I need to let judges know that we have Texels in the county show as they have to do some research on them. Comments have been favorable to both kids.”

Deb Hatlewick  
Stutsman County Ext Office  
116 1/2 E First St  
Jamestown, ND 58401

**National Texel Show June 23, 2008**

The National Texel Show will be held Monday, June 23, 2008 in Sedalia, Missouri at the state fairgrounds. Judy Moore is selected as the judge but has not been confirmed yet. The National Texel Sale will be conducted on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at noon. The TSBS Annual Meeting and Banquet will be moved to Monday evening. This will allow the exhibitors the opportunity to attend the wine and cheese event hosted by Larry Mead.

**Umatilla, Oregon County Fair**

The Texels have a class of their own at the Umatilla County Fair, with exhibitors like Robin Davis, Silverdale Farms Tom and Karin Watson, and Aynn and Brian Lackey. Competition is obviously increasing.

Robin Davis says “The Texel breed is being seen more in FFA & 4-H club lambs at fairs all over Oregon and Washington, and is doing very well.”

Placing for the fair was:

Grand champion Texel Ram—Little Acre Texels  
Overall Grand Champion Ram—Little Acre Texels  
Reserve Grand Champion Ram-- Little Acre Texels  
Grand Champion Texel Ewe-- Little Acre Texels  
Overall Grand Champion Ewe—Little Acre Texels  
Reserve Grand Champion Ewe—Silverdale Farms
Robin Davis with her Grand Champion Ewe Twizel, and Robin and daughter Tiffani Maag with Ty the Reserve Grand Champion Ram.

Minnesota State Fair

Junior members Craig and Sara Marquette with the first and third place yearling rams at the 2007 Minnesota State Fair FFA show in all other breeds.

Welcome New Members:
Randall & Sharon Melson, 2310 Waite Road, Midvale, Idaho 83645  (208) 550-2123
Gretchen Lammon, 9074 NW 20th Street, Penalosa, Kansas 67035  (620) 491-1283
from the
Shepherd’s Notebook
Maryland Cooperative Extension
October 22, 2007

“Bev Pearsall was presented with the “Honorary County Agent” award from the Maryland Association of County Agricultural Agents (MACCA). The award was presented by Davis Greene, retired county agent from Carroll County and life member of MACAA. Pearsall is a sheep breeder in Frederick County. Her Texel sheep typically win the carcass contest at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival.”

Way to go Bev.

Indiana State Fair
Emily Thomas wins carcass show for second year in a row

The Texels are making a name for themselves at the Indiana State Fair. A Texel wether has had the best carcass for the last two years. The fair has one of the largest wether shows in the country. In 2006, 4-H members exhibited a total of 898 lambs, and in 2007 a total of 847 were shown. The show is a breed show with fifteen breed champions. The carcass class is made up of all fifteen breed champions. All wethers are born after January 1st of the year shown. The two winning Texel wethers were born in late February. The two purebred wethers were bred in the Thomas flock and sired by Hess 0353, a ram bred by Jerome Hess of Kansas. The dams, also bred in the Thomas flock, were granddaughters of "Walmart" owned by Bob Adams. Emily is the daughter of Donald Thomas of Walkerton, Indiana. The data on the wethers is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2006</th>
<th>Leg score</th>
<th>Hot carcass wt.</th>
<th>Dressing %</th>
<th>Adj. back fat</th>
<th>Loin eye</th>
<th>Quality Grade</th>
<th>Yield Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98#</td>
<td>57.2#</td>
<td>58.4%</td>
<td>.05 ins.</td>
<td>3.55 sq.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Choice</td>
<td>.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime</td>
<td>52.5#</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>3.40</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Choice</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2007

Quality Grade: Choice
Yield Grade: .9

2007

Quality Grade: Choice
Yield Grade: 1.4
After a lifetime of showing and judging sheep, Karin Watson has a good eye. But even she can’t accurately judge, on a live animal, the two criteria that make a superior lamb—the rib eye and back fat measurements.

Rib eye and back fat are measured on the lamb between the 12th and 13th ribs. Yield grade is based on the size of the rib eye, measured in square inches. Quality grade is based on the amount of back fat, measured in inches. Yield grade and quality grades determine the value of the carcass.

“The rib eye represents the rack of lamb, the most expensive cut. The rib eye muscle is what you want to increase the size of,” Watson said.
She stood among this year’s ram lambs in a corral overlooking the Columbia River. She noted their conformation, pointing out the wide-legged stance of the Texels she and her husband, Tom, breed at Silverdale Farms, and the muscling of the cross-bred Texel-Suffolks they offer for sale.

The Watsons breed and sell terminal sires that can be bred to any type of ewe to produce a superior meat lamb. Because they sell sires, with genetics that help determine yield and quality grades, the Watsons want to know the rib eye and back fat measurements on their live ram lambs. But because they sell sires they don’t want to slaughter the animals to find out.

Enter Bob Patacini and his ultrasound system.

Patacini, based in Prosser, Washington, began ultrasounding cattle in 1994. He evaluates about 4,000 cattle and 300 sheep annually, plus ultrasounding cattle, sheep, swine and goats at eight fairs.

“Ultrasound can measure carcass traits live,” Patacini said. “It can be used as a tool to select superior traits and as a marketing tool for that animal. Purchasers can literally see what they are buying.”

Ultrasound is also used for pregnancy checks in sheep and cattle.

The selection aspect excited the Watsons. If they could determine which lambs had the largest rib eye measurements they could breed for that trait. In 1996 they began ultrasounding ewe and ram lambs, keeping back the biggest rib eye animals for breeding.

“When you breed biggest to biggest, they tend to get bigger“ Watson said. “We’ve increased the rib eye from 2.75 square inches to 3.75 to 4 square inches, an increase of over 30 percent.”

The Watsons ultrasound the ram lambs at six months because that is when lambs are usually sold.

“We can say their offspring will look like this at six months,” Watson said.

On a breezy Saturday the Watsons and Patacini met a set of corrals east of Hermiston. The ram lambs stood patiently with their guard burro. The high-tech ultrasound equipment, laptop computer and printers looked oddly at home beneath the dusty blue tarp covering the work area.

At the processing chute, Paacini attached a standoff to his ultrasound probe. He explained that the plastic standoff connects the straight plane of the probe to the curve of the animal’s body. He dipped the standoff into vegetable oil, which serves as a conductor. With one hand he felt his way across the back of the first ram lamb, searching for the 12th and 13th ribs. When he found the spot he pressed the probe into the oily wool.
A grainy, black and white image appeared on the ultrasound screen. Patacini shifted the probe until he found the best spot, then froze the image. He pointed out the layers of wool, hide and back fat with an onscreen cursor, then outlined the rib eye and electronically saved the data.

When all the lambs were processed, Patacini downloaded the data onto a computerized spreadsheet. Within minutes he produced a list ranking the ram lambs by square inches of rib eye per hundredweight of live animal.

The Watsons are rigorous in their selection. Of the hundred of so lambs they evaluated this year, they expect to sell about 60 as terminal sires.

“They are passing on these genetics to commercial breeders who benefit at the rail,” Patacini said. “Producers are seeing more pounds at the scale when they sell.”

**Watsons breed for the best meat**

Tom Watson grew up with sheep in California and spent 40 years as the primary buyer for Superior Farms feedlot in Hermiston. Karin Watson started showing sheep in 4-H. The two met at the University of California-Davis, when Tom earned a degree in animal production and Karin majored in biology.

“Our interest are parallel,” Karin said.

While Tom purchased and fed lambs for Superior, Karin was active in the National Wool Growers Association (later the American Sheep Industry Association) and the Oregon Sheep Growers Association. Seventeen years ago she launched the annual Jackpot Lamb Contest at the Umatilla County Fair, where sheep growers from around the country can enter lambs for live and carcass judging.

The couple began breeding sheep through Superior Farms genetics research project aimed at producing a terminal ram sire that would do well on the Oregon Coast. The project used Texels, noted for their extreme muscling and hardiness and Suffolks, a traditional terminal sire for meat animals. Crossing the two produced sheep with strong hybrid vigor that quickly met the project goals.

In 2003 Superior divested itself of the flock and donated many of the ewes to California State University at Chico.

The Watsons’ Silverdale Farms bought the remaining sheep and continued the project with an emphasis on yield grade and rib eye size.

(This article has also appeared in the *Shepherd* v.52, no.11, November 2007, p. 8)

Send your stories and pictures to:
Walter Stubbs, Editor, walt@globaleyes.net Pictures should be jpg format, and we would prefer stories as email text or MS Word.
Balance as of July 29, 2007, at Peoples Bank, Milo, Iowa.................$3,154.18
Deposits made by Karey Claghorn for the period (July 29, 2007-Oct. 18, 2007).........................................................................................................................$1,276.00
Deposits made by Robert Stonerock for the period (July 29, 2007)-Oct. 18, 2007......................................................................................................................$177.00
Pay Pal transfers.................................................................................................$600.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS...............................................................................................$5207.18

Expenses:  Premier Global $104.95, Texel Registrar $795.98, Bank service charge & tax $15.90, CountryLovin (Web page) $480.00, Tom Tucker CPA $20.00, Sheep Magazine $46.00, Walmart $23.60, American Sheep Industry $100.00, Pay Pal Mastercard $330.42, Banner Magazine $213.81, Hayes Leather & Embroidery 50.00, Kerry Richardson $41.00, Trenna Grabowski CPA $200.00

TOTAL EXPENSES .................................................................$2,421.66

*Country Lovin was paid with two checks. The second one for $480.00 cleared the bank on 7-30-2007.
*Pay Pal Mastercard was used to pay for Enrollment in Lambplan.
*Supplies for the new display were purchased at Walmart.

Check Nos 1027 ($50.00) and 1029 ($41.00) have not cleared the bank.

Peoples Bank checking account balance.................$2,276.52
Pay Pal account balance............................................. $ 69.72
Cash Balance as of October 18, 2007 ..........................$2,346.24

Approximately 14 members have not paid their 2007 Dues. ($350.00)

Other anticipated expenses:
  • Univ. of MO for loin scanning:  $200.00
  • Shepherd Magazine: ........... $40.00
  • Pay Pal Mastercard for the TSBS Display: $840.00

Respectively Submitted,

Robert A. Stonerock
Treasurer-Texel Sheep Breeders Society