Another summer comes to an end…

As long summer days start to fade, sheep breeders are starting to think about breeding season. Fall breeding times bring the promise and excitement for the next generation spring flock.

In this edition of Texel Times we look back at the National Sale with some of its highlights. Before too long Texel breeders will again prepare to make the trip to the Missouri Fair Grounds!

Good luck to all of you who will be showing your Texels at county and state fairs. Enjoy the end of summer. I’m sure the sheep will welcome cooler weather!

Love At First Sight

Natalee Marquette of Marquette Texels met her first Texel lamb at just four months old. Natalee’s mom, JoLee, reports both the lamb and its mother never moved while she was taking the picture.
2011 Texel Show and Sale

Missouri sees quality, size and interest continuing to grow around the Texel sheep breed

The 2011 Texel National Show and Sale is now history and buyers and sellers are setting their sights on next year. But, before we go on, let's take a look at this year's Show and Sale.

Eight consignors brought 40 sheep to show and sell at Sedalia, Missouri, this June. The consensus of the consignors was that this year's animals were superior than those brought last year; and, the competition within and between classes was very strong.

Not all the consignors had kept track of how much their animals gained each day, but Lamb Chop Haven did, and their spring ram lamb had been gaining at a rate of .96 pounds per day. Almost a pound a day! Animals like these are what help keep the competition keen and buyers buying.

Adams Texels took the Grand Champion yearling ewe award with a very nice ewe. Portland Prairie had the Grand Champion Yearling ram and these two squared off for the Best of Breed title. Each had an outstanding entry with the yearling ewe coming out on top. Congratulations goes to Adams Texels, as this ewe was the high selling animal of the sale as well as Best of Breed.

The Reserve Champion ram and ewe were both owned by Richardson Texels. The Reserve Champion ram being a spring ram lamb and the Reserve ewe being a brood ewe. Continued on Page 4

Brady Campbell – FFA Award Winner

Brady Campbell, a Waterford FFA member, was announced the winner of the Ohio Star State FFA Farmer Award during the 83rd Ohio State FFA Convention that was held in Columbus, OH on May 5th & 6th. He has now advanced to a Regional Competition that is to be held in Springfield, Massachusetts this September. He was also the winner of the Swine Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award. Winning the Swine Proficiency Award has now advanced Campbell to the National Competition that will be held during the National FFA Convention in
There were six juniors showing at the 2011 National Texel Sheep Show and Sale with one older teen helping out when needed. Here is what a National Show and Sale is like from a youngsters' perspective...

* On June 20, 2011, I showed lambs for about an hour. It was fun, but sometimes hard because the lambs were struggling a lot so I had to make them do what I wanted them to do. I got 3 ribbons - a second, seventh, and fourth. I tried my best but wasn't champion. Which is okay because it doesn't matter what you get, you just have to work hard. The first lamb I showed was a Texel yearling ram. The rest were a Texel yearling ewe and a lamb.

-BreAnn from Leslie, MO

* The experience I had was driving for 2 ½ days to Missouri with four of my boy cousins. It was fun driving because we saw lots of cool things that were really neat. Then we spent four whole days in Sedalia, MO. It was fun but hot in Missouri. In Missouri, we showed and sold the sheep. It was amazing! The sheep were cute and sweet. At the sale, the auctioneer talked like a crazy person. He talked super fast and sometimes all you could hear was “bla, bla, bla.” There were more people at the sale than at the show. I had a wonderful time with my cousins and grandparents. It was nice to see people I met two years ago and meet new people this year.

-Toni from Boise, ID

*My experience in Missouri was that it was really hot there and when we got to Sedalia we started sweating. We got the sheep out of the trailer and put them in the pens. Sometimes the halters were hard to put on 'cause the sheep would move around. Sometimes it was hard to lead them in the pen or where we showed them. All my sheep did well when I was showing them. My best sheep were D134 and D96, but we had to sell them, which was sad. All the sheep were friendly and loving. That's why I like them. At the sale we bought 2 rams and then we left.

-Kason from Athena, OR

*I love Missouri because it is hot and fun and I have a loving family. We saw some antelope on the way out and it is greener than Pendleton and pretty.

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**Juniors- continued from Page 3**

It is a long drive. It is fun to play there. There is so much room to run and play. There are so many animals. I love the people there that help out.

- Zaanan from Pendleton, OR

*My experience is Sedalia, MO was really exciting. First, I got to drive from Oregon to Idaho, and then Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas and finally I got to Missouri. I saw many sites such as the Kansas City Royals Stadium. When we got to Sedalia, we penned the sheep and gave them food and water so they could survive. Sedalia is really nice and green.

- Shyler from Pendleton, OR

**Junior Showmen snapshots collected by Niki Fisher**

**Highlights- continued from Page 2**

When the measuring and scanning were finished, a yearling ram from Wilcox Texels took the largest loin scan for rams with a very impressive scan of 5 inches. Fisher Texels’ brood ewe scanned the top scan for ewes with a 3.73” scan.

While the animals themselves competed for top placings, they were also carefully looked at by many potential buyers. 2011 sales totaled $21,025.00 giving a $525.63 average selling price. There were many new names on the buyers list this year spreading out across the country with sheep going to 13 states from North Dakota to Texas; Idaho to Virginia. It appears that Texel sheep are being noticed throughout the United States.

- photos and article contributed by Niki Fisher

**Winner- continued from Page2**

Indianapolis, IN this October. Campbell is the first member in Waterford FFA history to be selected as a Star State Farmer Winner and Swine Production Proficiency Winner. Campbell’s SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) program consists of Berkshires and a Hereford Swine Operation and a Texel and crossbred Sheep Operation. His parents are Joe & Bridget Campbell of Waterford.

- article and picture provided by Matt Hartline, FFA advisor at Waterford, OH High School

**About the new Texel Times Editor ….**

My name is Kristin Pike and I am pleased to be taking over the newsletter position from Walt Stubbs. I wanted to introduce myself to you, as we are new to the Texel Association.

In September 2009 my husband Dan and I welcomed our first ten Texel sheep to our farm, Breslau Farms, in Dover, PA.

We chose the breed after having worked with Dorset and Finn sheep. We decided we wanted to downsize from a flock of about 250 to build a small, specialized flock.

Although new to the breed, we are very excited about raising Texels. We find them to be easy to work with and great with kids. We have been amazed to see how quickly the lambs grow.

My husband and I have two boys, Erich, 3 and Karsten, 1. Dan is a veterinarian here in central PA. We also raise Hereford cattle on our farm.

We hope to meet other members of the Association in the future. In the meantime please keep sending me your pictures and stories about Texels. I am happy for any and all suggestions.