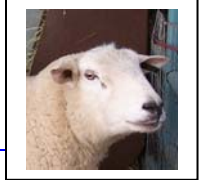




TEXEL TIMES



TSBS Membership Newsletter

v.8, no. 1 January 2011

www.usatexels.org

TSBS Officers

President

Bret Taylor

1633 250th Avenue

Osceola, Iowa 50213

bltusmc@yahoo.com

(641) 342-3364

Vice President

Walter Stubbs

440 Stubbs Lane

Cobden, Illinois 62920

walt@shawneelink.net

(618) 893-2058

Secretary

Niki Fisher

2275 N. Grays Creek Road

Indian Valley, Idaho 83632

fishertexels@gmail.com

(208) 256-4426

Treasurer

William Woods

14701 A Drive South

Marshall, MI 49068

woodstexels@aol.com

(269) 781-9059

Director

Ron Erdman

4362 S. Lake Fern Road

Polo, Illinois 61064

ronerdt@essex1.com

cell: (815) 564-7149

Director

David Green

Norfolk Co. Ag. High School

400 Main Street

Walpole, Ma 02081

dgreen@norfolkaggie.org

(508) 846-0706

Director

Charles Wray

11636 Snake Pt. Drive

Caledonia, MN 55921

(507)-495-3265

wray@acegroup.cc

TSBS Board Plans 2011 Texel Show and Sale

During the January 11, 2011 TSBS Board of Directors meeting, several decisions were made regarding the 2011 Texel Show and Sale.

The show will be on Monday June 20, 2011 at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, Missouri.

The annual meeting and banquet will be at 6:00 PM at the Best Western in Sedalia on June 20, 2011.

The sale will be on Wednesday June 22 in the show ring at the fairgrounds.

A block of 10 rooms has been reserved at the Best Western. Be sure to mention that you are with the Texel ground when you reserve your room. The number for the Best Western is **877-826-6101**.

The rules on OPP testing that have existed for the last two sales will continue in force. All stock brought to the sale must have had a negative OPP test in the last 30 days prior to the sale. All lambs over six months of age are included in these rules, and lambs under six months of age must be accompanied with a negative test from their dam within 30 days before the sale.

All stock must have:

Mandatory Scrapie Identification tags or ear tattoos that conform to the Scrapie Flock Certification Program and are recognized as such by the State of flock origin and the Federal government.

Tests results and health papers must be presented to the show manager prior to unloading. Ron Erdman has agreed to be show manager this year.

Walt Stubbs will be sale manager.

TSBS Advertising

In order to promote the Texel breed the TSBS board has continued to advertise in *Sheep*, *Shepherd*, and *Sheep Industry News* (the ASI newsletter). We would like to have another half page ad for breeders in the May/June issue of *Sheep* and the May issue of *Shepherd*. Niki Fisher will soon be sending out letters to members.

We would like some comments on the effectiveness of the advertising we have done for the last couple of years. Have you sold sheep because of the ads? Have people called and commented that the ads made them want to take a look at some Texel sheep?

Please let a director, or Walt know.

Blue Texels

Recently, while browsing pictures of Texel sheep on the web your editor discovered Blue Texels. The following explains some of the origins of the breed. It is from a recessive gene and explains some of the off color that sometimes appears in our white Texels. There is no Blue Texel registration society in the U.S.

“BLUE TEXELS were first recognised and recorded in Holland in the early 1970s, with blue sheep accidentally born to white Texel parents. Deliberate matings for the blue factor followed, and more blue animals were found in white Texel flocks. By 1983, there were 11 flocks with 213 blue sheep.

With the formation of a breed society for these sheep in Holland (*Stamboek Blauwe Texelaar*), numbers have now risen to 6,500 sheep in 250 flocks. This society continues to register Blue Texels born to white Texel parents.

BLUE TEXEL flocks in Britain have now been formed both by importation and from blue sheep born in British white pedigree Texel flocks. There are now 44 registered flocks in all parts of the United Kingdom.” <http://www.bluetexelsheep.co.uk/Breed.html>



DON'T JUST ASSUME

There is an old adage that says, “Buyer beware” and it is important that when purchasing new animals to add to your flock, you do your homework and end up with the animal of your dreams.

As sellers, it is important that what we are advertising is what the buyer is getting. We need to look at our web-sites, the breeders directory, anywhere we have our flock information out for public inspection. Take a look at the contact information. Is the address correct? Have I changed cell phone numbers since I first posted a phone number? Did I change internet providers and did my email address change?

When we've check-out all of these then let's look a little deeper. The TSBS website says that my flock is OPP (-). Am I still doing OPP testing on a regular basis--full flock testing or just a percentage? Here is what the *OPP Concerned Sheep Breeders Society* recommends:

If a flock is believed to have achieved OPP-free status and is no longer being tested regularly —breeder is willing to provide lab reports to verify (a minimum of 2, and preferably 3, consecutive annual tests during which all animals in the flock were determined to be negative). It is further recommended that breeders continue to monitor OPP status by testing at least 10-20% of the flock each year (preferably ewes 2 years of age or older that have been in the flock for at least 12 months).

Which way we have chosen to keep up on our OPP testing, this needs to be correctly advertised.

Some breeders are in the Scrapie Flock Certification program and also the Export Program. It will take 5 years of annual inspections to become Certified Scrapie Free. After this 5 year goal has been achieved, there still needs to be yearly inspections to retain this certification.

In addition to the yearly inspections, any animal that dies by reasons other than going to butcher, has to be reported and either the State Veterinarian will come out and salvage the head for scrapie research or, if you live off the beaten path, you will have to ship the head yourself. There is a specified number of animals that have to be tested during these 5 years. Especially if you are taking part in the Export Program.

The enrollment date and status date are not necessarily the same. You can be enrolled in the Scrapie program on a certain date, but then by adding an animal (usually a ewe) with a lower status than your flock, your whole flock will go back to that new animal's status. Purchasing an animal with a higher status than your flock will not do any damage to your status.

Let's do our best as breeders to ensure that what we are advertising is what the buyer is getting. After all, that is what we expect when we set out to add an animal to our flocks.

Niki Fisher

SILVARA VALLEY FARM

Outside of Laceyville, PA, nestled between two hills on 50 acres, Fred and Tammy Hemmerly own and operate Silvara Valley Farm. On this farm the Hemmerly's raise chickens, rabbits, goats and Texel sheep.

Currently, they have 50 purebred Texel ewes and 10 percentage ewes. Breeders from New York, New Jersey, Virginia as well as Pennsylvania come to Silvara Valley Farm to purchase breeding stock. Commercial breeders, using Texel rams, like the outcome-as they are looking for lambs that they can raise on grass and send to market without feeding a lot of grain. Lambs from the percentage ewes are also chosen by 4-H'ers to use in the market class at the local fair. And it's not just the percentage lambs that get a chance to show off; the Hemmerly grandchildren, ages 3 and 8, too young for 4-H, show Texel sheep in Open Class, because, according to Tammy, "they are so calm."

Late last spring, Fred and Tammy entered 4 ram lambs in the Pennsylvania Ram Test. Their top ram weighed in at the beginning of the test with a weight of 47 pounds. At the end of the test he weighed 119 pounds; having an average daily gain of 0.93 pounds. The loin measurements ranged from 2.1 to 3.0 inches.

Acquiring breeding stock from breeders such as, Eastern Texels, Lonestar, and Beverly Pearsall, Fisher Texels, along with Bravehart genetics is helping the Hemmerly's reach their goal of the Texel of their dreams.

Lambing starts around the middle of January, which can also bring 4-6 feet of snow. Fred and Tammy handle all the lambing chores, sometimes being helped by their grandchildren who like to pitch in and help. By mid-March lambing is finished and Fred and Tammy can take a deep breath and gear up for whatever the rest of the year holds for them.

Fred with grand daughters.

