

TEXEL SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 14, 2021, SEDALIA, MO

President Brady Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm, cst. This meeting was held at the Best Western Motel in Sedalia, MO and also by Zoom for those who could not attend in person.

Board members present: Ron Wilcox, Austin Brown, and Niki Fisher. Via Zoom: Brady Campbell, Walter Threfall and James Oller.

Other members and guests present were: Bret Taylor, Danny Brinson, Cloe & Ashlyn Brinson, Shelby Cowley, Brett Taylor, Riana Martin, Cathy Martin, Justin & Amy Slaydon, Julianne & Abigail Slaydon, Rachel Gately, Eric Bruns, Tammy Hedrick, Crystal Retzlaff, Evan Retzlaff, Steven Iles, Elizabeth Crowley, Theresa Crowley, Sam Gullion (and Dad), Trevor and Kara Kimzey, Hayden Hoffman, and Natalee Smalley. Via Zoom attendees: Harold Dunn, Victoria Subik, and Travis Crouse.

Treasurer's Report was read by Treasurer, Austin Brown.

Beginning balance as of 1/31/21 was \$22,841.07. Balance as of 5/27/21 is \$25,227.53.

Questions/discussion were as follows:

Q 1) What were the typical carryover per year amount? A: Approx. \$21,000 in January with a yearly bump in income with registrations. The income/expenses are consistent with about a \$1000 increase per year. Conversation followed about ways to better allocate monies as far as advertising and reducing some advertising avenues that were not as popular or widespread such as the Countryside Magazine and adding social media advertising as well as ASI and virtual photo contests. Harold Dunn moved and Rachel Gately seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer's report as read. Motion passed.

Kara Kimzey read the previous annual meeting minutes from June 25, 2020. Comments following the reading were that the second place futurity ewe lamb was sold to Lillian Oller, TN. The purchase was from Taylor Texels out of Iowa and not Ohio. Also, Niki noted that Justin Slaydon's name was misspelled in the minutes.

Walter Threfall made the motion and Rachel Gately seconded the motion to approve the 2020 Annual Minutes as read. Motion was passed.

Old Business started out with discussion about the motion to table talk of the logos since Kenan was not present. He is not present yet at this meeting, however he has moved back to Puerto Rico with his family. He is currently working on getting the logos "cleaned up" so they are more user friendly and images sharper. He will contact Kara Kimzey and update when he is able to.

Second on the agenda is a reminder to submit for article 3 submission by July 15, 2021 to be in the next Texel Times issue.

Next item discussed by Walter is that the By Laws are still being worked on by himself and Brady to correct some grammatical errors and language that will allow offices such as Secretary and Treasurer to not have to be board members and encourage them to continue the office for more than the three year board term. Brady and Walter ask that any comments or suggestions be sent to them on any By Law issue.

Advertising was addressed by Austin Brown. Currently our two major ads are being run in the Shepherd and Banner Magazine. He would like to see the association expand to some other areas such as social media which is basically free. Austin said he and Kenan have talked about thirty or so key topic areas and objectives to best advertise our breed. They would like any assistance to start a committee to include membership in advertising as much as possible.

Last on old business is the All American Junior Show. Ron Wilcox says that it is scheduled in July and so far there are three exhibitors with a total of thirty two animals going. He asks that people submit donated items to add to a gift basket for the AAJS.

New Business. The first item to discuss is the Board Member Elections. Several members commented that they did not receive ballots and therefore, they didn't get to vote. There will be a new set of ballots sent out to make sure the voting process is correct.

Second item of new business is the Treasurer position. Austin Brown's term is up and he wants to step down whether or not he is reelected to the board to help him concentrate better on his studies. Further discussion followed about both the Secretary and Treasurer positions need to be more permanent than a three year term as especially the Treasurer switch over is complicated and time consuming to change names/signature cards at the bank and having bills mailed to correct address for payment.

Third is the topic of our sheep guarantee/warranty. James Oller commented that currently purchasers have no assurance of animal soundness and ability to reproduce when the animals are bought. It is a gamble but as producers we need to be conscious of this and try to personally honor what we sell if possible.

Next topic for discussion is the Futurity/Scholarship Program. The Ohio sale is gaining in futurity popularity and here at the National Jr. Show, we had 16 Juniors and 35 sheep entered. Trevor Kimzey took charge of the National Jr. Show this year and mentioned he would like to see a budget put together to see that funds are available for ribbons and prizes, etc. If we need to seek outside donations, then we will know what we need to have to work with. He also mentioned that we should consider adding a Junior member to the board. His nomination according to a Junior member vote for 2021 would be Ashlyn Brinson. He also suggests that we move the Junior age up to 21 vs 18 in order encourage the youth to show longer and stay involved as they are the future of the Texel breed. It was mentioned that it could be added to the By Laws and voted on at which time the By Laws are approved. Rachel proposed that we appoint a Junior Coordinator to help handle the budget and try to keep the AAJS active and do all we can to stay involved in that as it is a big deal and should be done well. Rachel made a motion to appoint a Junior Coordinator. Trevor Kimzey seconded the motion. James Oller nominated Trevor to be this Junior Coordinator and to have him help run a committee (which will have a sitting board member on it) to start on the budget and ideas to further the Futurity Program. The motion was passed by majority vote.

Open discussion continued as Rachel mentioned that she feels that as a breed/group, we as producers need to start offering more mature ewes for sale so that we don't have to start governing ourselves as to how many rams to ewes are required at a particular sale. Some sales already do so. Brady asked how we could accomplish this? Rachel suggests that we merely try to do it ourselves so that it never gets to the point as some sales managements that are requiring a certain ratio. She also mentioned that she understands that the Texel rams are extremely popular as terminal sires, so this has not yet become a serious problem.

Justin Slaydon visited about donating ewes as a possible way to help. Trevor noted that maybe a donation to the futurity could help if everyone took a turn. Rachel said she thought as buyers, we need to be prepared to bring more ewes vs. keeping them in order to help further breed. James commented that the demand for ewes is always high.

Bret Taylor thanked the board members for their service and hard work as it is a job with low gratitude.

Danny Brensin asked about adding ewe/lamb pairs as another way to encourage ewes to be entered. It was commented that usually after 30 days there is low risk of placental fluid or otherwise to be present that might cause some disease spread.

Niki Fisher asks the members to not turn Texels into “show sheep” and change the general characteristics of the breed as so many others have done. Also comments were about tail docks and since Texels are a heavier muscled breed that having a longer dock does help reduce prolapse especially on females. Brady mentioned that we should continue to go by the veterinarian’s recommendation of the liftable tail dock vs letting a judge’s opinion dictate the direction of our breed. This may result in not showing breeding sheep in market classes, but it is worth it to not ruin a good animal to satisfy a judges preference.

Texel breed integrity was brought to the discussion as far as if there has been any further interest in closing the herd book and only breeding full Texel to full Texels. Walter said he thought it might be the way to keep the Texels pure. Niki asked if there were enough registrations to support the breed for diversity sake and how many animals in the registry would we need in order to close the book. Walter suggested that we do an audit on the flock book and compare how many are still using the breed up program. Rachel talked about encouraging people to register all registerable Texels especially rams and even though they cost more, it guarantees to purchasers even if they are buying commercial terminal sire rams as to the breed purity of that ram. Crystal Retzlaff say she registers all rams and doesn’t give the buyer the choice, but that they know the purity of the ram. Trevor said the purpose to close the flock book would be to assure even terminal sires as pure. Steve Iles say we are all guilty of selling non-registered rams and would like to also know how many breed up animals there are and look at the numbers and start trying to not bring more outside blood into the Texel breed. Comments were also that tattooing can help this process also.

Along the same discussion, a mention from Travis Crouse is that he decided to go ahead and purchase purebred ewes vs crossbred even though they were more difficult to find. Questions from Bret Taylor as to how many purebred semen from outside the USA were being used and if that would affect the “closed book”? General consensus was that new semen is a good way to keep growing the breed and the more new semen that is available can help keep diversity in the breed even if the book is closed. Rachel proposed that we communicate with the registrar and come back to another meeting with numbers on purebred vs breed-up program and to also include semen sired Texels into that inquiry. Brady mentioned that we could grandfather in everything that is already in the book. The topic is to be revisited at the next board meeting and no vote was needed at this time.

Rachel moved to adjourn the meeting. James Oller seconded the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm cst.