



FINNSHEEP *SHORT TALES*

**PUBLISHED BY THE FINNSHEEP BREEDERS ASSN.
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CHIEF SHEPHERD'S MESSAGE, By Naomi Leith Smith

The annual meeting was held during the First Annual Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival. The workshops conducted by Finn breeders, Dr. Paul Hunter and Sandy DeMaster were well attended.

A major concern of the Finn breeders has been the status of Finn semen stored at Elite Genetics. Paul, Sandy and Grant have been working on that and I am pleased to report that the location of the semen has been found. The Finnsheep Association will be working with the lawyers to gain ownership of that semen.

We welcome Sandy DeMaster and Dr. Paul Hunter to the Board of Directors. I encourage the Directors to make plans now to attend the 2003 Annual Meeting to be held during the Keystone Sale at Penn State.

If any breeder knows of Finn-Dorset ewe lambs please contact Grant or me as we have an order for 40 ewes.

For Finn breeders in the Northeast, or anyone else who would like to attend, the annual Virginia-Carolina Shepherd's Symposium is scheduled for January 10 & 11, 2003 at Sheraton Four Points in Harrisonburg, VA. Contact Dr. Scott Greiner, 540/961-9163. These symposiums are very informative and also give a chance to visit with sheep breeders. Their breeders' panels are informative and I always come away with new ideas.

The beginning of the Islamic celebration of Ramadan this year is November 6 and ending with al-Fitr, on December 5. The date for Eid al Adha is February 11, 2003. These are good times to market Finn males weighing 40 to 80 lbs.

The October issue of The Shepherd contains two articles which mention Finnsheep. One is on research conducted in Australia. The Rideau breed was developed in Canada with a combination of 40% Finn. I have thought that there area registered Finns which could be useful in a dairy sheep program.

The East Coast states are experiencing some much needed rain. Streams are coming up and most importantly the grass has turned green and is growing. The fall lambs are looking good and should make the weight for Ramadan. My wishes for a Happy Holiday Season to you all!

ANZAR FINNSHEEP



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Ewe and Ram lambs for sale.**

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Phone or fax: (540) 463-4594 Email: anzar@rockbridge.net**

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Class of '04
824 Delta Rd,
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FINNSHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 8PM, SEPTEMBER 7, 2002 AT WATERTOWN, WI

PRESENT: Naomi Smith (President) Sandy DeMaster, Dr. Paul Hunter, Grant Blackburn (Secretary)

PREVIOUS MINUTES. The previous minutes were read and accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Sandy DeMaster; Seconded: Dr. Hunter. Carried

TREASURER'S REPORT. The attached financial statements were presented to the meeting. Some discussion ensued on the advertising budget and the matter was deferred until later in the meeting. The report was accepted by the meeting.

Moved: Dr. Hunter; Seconded: Sandy DeMaster. Carried

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. Two director positions, Sandy DeMaster and Carol Winchell were vacated through term limits. (Carol Winchell was elected last meeting to fill the position vacated by the resignation of Lonnie Cook whose term expired this meeting). Sandy Demaster was nominated and accepted to serve a second term. Dr. Hunter was nominated and accepted to fill the other vacancy.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS. - Committee Reports

Health Protocol. Dr. Hunter reported limited progress on the health protocol. It was decided to hold it in abeyance for the mean time.

Logo The meeting discussed the matter of a new logo and decided to table it until more options were available.

Grant funding for future AI. It was reported to the meeting that Elite Genetics, the laboratory that is storing the Finnsheep semen imported from Finland, has gone out of business and been taken over by Struthers Laboratories. It is not known what has happened to the semen. It was decided to investigate what has happened to the semen before taking further action on funding. Sandy agreed to investigate the matter.

Action: Sandy DeMaster

Constitution Revision. After some discussion the meeting agreed to leave the constitution as it is but found the grey booklet and brochure need some revision. There are very few of the former and a reprint is needed urgently. A timetable was set to have comments and amendments formulated for inclusion in the reprint by end of 2002.

Action: All members

NEW BUSINESS.

Registrations. The Secretary presented registration printouts of breeders for 2001. A total of 555 finnsheep were registered in 2001. It was agreed to publish the 2001 list in the next newsletter.

Moved: Dr. Hunter; Seconded: Sandy DeMaster Carried

Piebald Finnsheep. As a result of concern expressed by members the matter of Piebald Finnsheep was discussed by the meeting. It was acknowledged that a previous meeting had agreed to register Piebald as a color while the formal breed standard requires solid color fleeces. It was mentioned that in Finland breeders cull out spotted sheep and Piebalds are not registered there. All agreed that there should be a balanced approach to FBA funded advertising and marketing initiatives ensuring the breed is marketed nationally in terms of the breed standard.

Secretary/Treasurer. The Secretary briefed the meeting on the amount of work involved in fulfilling the duties and suggested more administrative tasks could be given to Associated Sheep Registries to do to ease the workload. While agreeing to this idea the meeting acknowledged there will be additional contractual costs but agreed this would be money well spent.

The meeting acknowledged the work done by the Secretary/Treasurer and wished to record a vote of thanks.

Moved: Naomi Smith; Seconded: Dr. Hunter Carried

Annual Sale. The matter of holding again an annual sale was discussed. It was noted that insufficient breeder participation on a national level was the reason for suspending the annual sale. And the meeting agreed, judging by the low attendance at annual meetings, not to sponsor an annual sale in 2003.

Moved: Dr. Hunter; Seconded: Grant Blackburn Carried

Annual meeting. It was agreed to hold the next meeting in conjunction with the 'Keystone' sale at Penn State, mid 2003. Dates yet to be confirmed

Moved: Naomi Smith; Seconded: Grant Blackburn Carried

Breed Standard. After review of the Breed Standard it was agreed not to change it.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Advertising Budget. The meeting agreed to an advertising budget of \$2000 to be spent on advertising in nationally circulated publications, depicting animals that conform to the Breed Standard.

Moved: Dr. Hunter; Seconded: Sandy DeMaster
Carried

Adjournment. The meeting agreed to adjourn at 1230am

Moved: Grant Blackburn; Seconded Sandy DeMaster Carried

FINNSHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD 1 AM SEPTEMBER 8, 2002 AT WATERTOWN, WI

PRESENT: Naomi Smith (President) Sandy DeMaster, Dr. Paul Hunter, Grant Blackburn (Secretary)

PREVIOUS MINUTES. The previous minutes were read and accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Naomi Smith; Seconded: Dr. Hunter. Carried

TREASURER'S REPORT. The Board concurred with the annual meetings sentiments that the FBA was financially viable at the present moment and accepted the Treasurer's report.

Moved: Sandy DeMaster; Seconded: Dr. Hunter Carried

BUSINESS.

Annual Meeting. Acknowledging the discussions of the Annual Meeting the Board concurred with the general direction FBA resources are being used to enhance the breed across the nation.

Editorship Short Tales. The Board acknowledged the efforts and time Grace Hatton has put into producing the newsletter and recorded a vote of thanks in appreciation of her good work.

Moved: Naomi Smith; Seconded: Grant Blackburn Carried

Further discussion on the content of the newsletter ensued and the Board reaffirmed that the newsletter needs to be reviewed by board members before publication.

Action: Editor

The Board agreed to three newsletters for the upcoming year in: September 02, January and May 03.

Moved: Dr. Hunter; Seconded: Sandy DeMaster Carried

Stipend. After some discussion the Board agreed that a Stipend of \$50 be paid to each Board member who attends the annual meetings. This is designed to defray the cost of the individual's travel and accommodation costs and some small compensation for the time spent on FBA business. The stipend is to be effective in 2003.

Moved: Sandy DeMaster; Seconded: Dr. Hunter Carried

Annual Dues. The Board acknowledged the cost of registering large numbers of sheep and agreed the Annual Dues be credited to a breeders account with fifty or more full registrations in a year.

Moved: Sandy DeMaster; Seconded: Grant Blackburn Carried

ADJOURNMENT A vote of appreciation was extended to Sandy DeMaster for hosting the meeting and it was agreed to adjourn at 2am

Moved: Grant Blackburn; Seconded: Naomi Smith Carried

AGAINST SHOWING FINNS

By Grace Hatton

For over twenty years I raised Nubian dairy goats and showed them. In that time I resented "having" to cull several good milkers because of conformation that while functional was not in style.

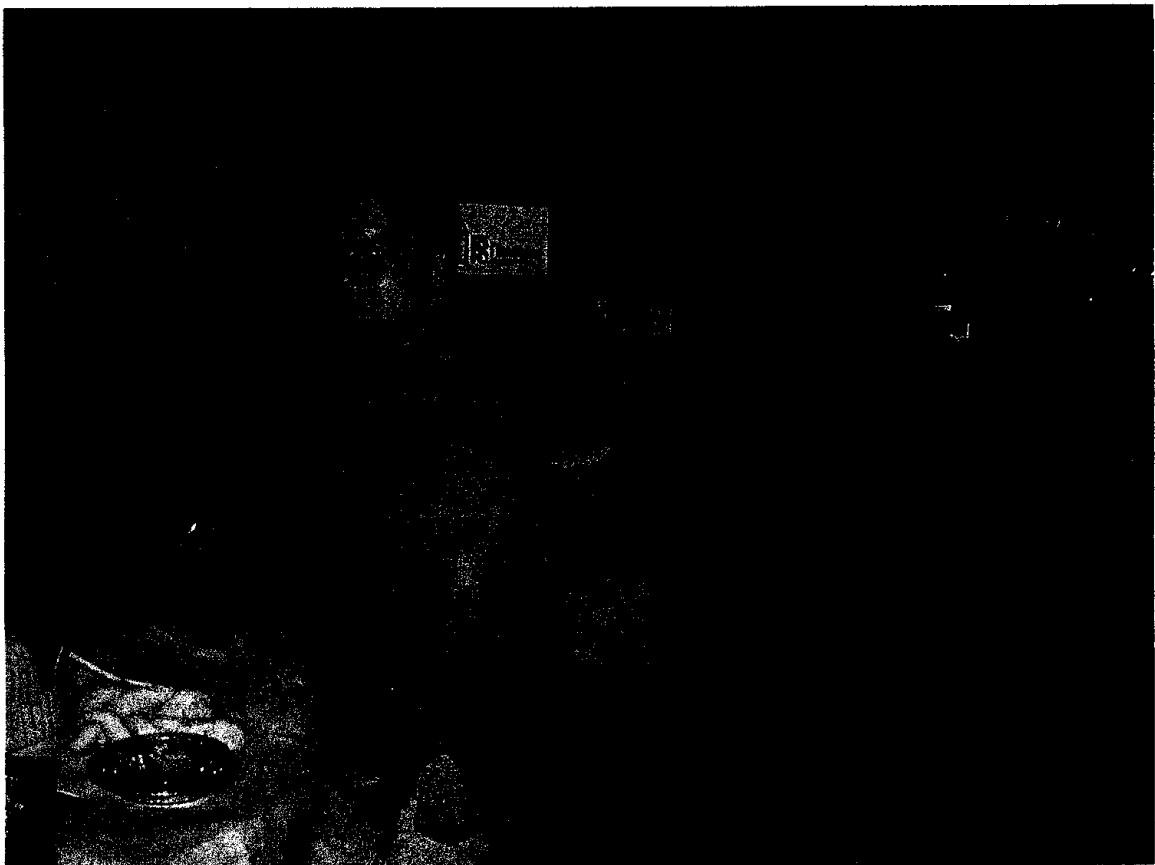
Over the years I've been asked to judge dairy goats at local county fairs. These were small shows not sanctioned by the American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA)- - which would have required an ADGA licensed judge.

This year a friend found herself in charge of sheep at her county fair and asked me to judge sheep. There was a single entry in showmanship and only five sheep total so I figured my ignorance wouldn't show too much and I agreed.

I ran headlong into the biggest problem with showing Finns in one of two classes I had to judge that actually required me to decide between two sheep. There were two Montadale ewe lambs in the class. One was large and one was small. Conformation was similar. The smaller one was a twin. The big one was a single. I "had" to give the blue to the larger lamb. She went on to be Supreme Ewe.

So now the obvious thing is that this supreme ewe will be bred to some ram that all else being equal was the biggest in his class and maybe also a single. So if this happens enough, eventually show sheep will only produce singles. I can't afford to keep a sheep that has only singles or twins. That's why I have Finns.

Clark BreDahl's column in the current issue of the Shepherd touches on many other problems with showing, but for Finnsheep breeders, the single biggest problem is that showing selects against multiple births.



'Mike Gossard, a graduate student at Madison studying dairy sheep, discusses the merits of using Finnsheep in dairy flocks with our President Naomi Smith at the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival. Dr Hunter (right) shows Bob Black, President of the Festival, the finer points of Finn wool.

ON MAINTAINING PROLIFICACY

Editor's note: This EXCELLENT post from the internet sheep-I came about after some heated discussion about the merits of Finnsheep. I have the author's permission to reprint it.

Folks,

Building a flock quickly. This is why I chose purebred Finns during my brief foray into the breed back in 1994. I wanted to create a flock of F1 ewes quickly, and breed those ewes to produce a particular production-type ewe. The resulting ewe flock was to be 25 percent Finn -- which is generally a low enough percentage that the carcass of their lambs (which would be 1/8th Finn) would not be discounted.

I bought 10 purebred Finn ewes, in lamb to a purebred Finn ram. At the next joining, I had 27 purebred Finn ewes to breed. These were bred to a Dorset ram, and my first F1 ewe lamb crop consisted of 30 animals, despite high neo-natal mortality (caused by management problems more than genetics).

If not for circumstances that forced me to change from an intensive management system to an extensive management system under which the Finnsheep did not thrive, I think it would have worked quite nicely, and it's a plan that I hope to revisit someday.

With the purebred Finns producing 3 to 4 lambs per ewe per year, and the F1s producing 2 or 3, one could build up a good-sized commercial flock very quickly. It would also allow me to get more out of a high-dollar ram by putting him on a small group of prolific ewes to produce offspring that are the type that I want to be running in the main flock.

I don't believe I will ever be a long-term breeder of purebred Finnsheep, but I sure hope that folks who breed them will hold true to the ideals of a milky, prolific ewe so that when I want to create my F1 flock there will be enough good stock out there to choose from.

One thing that concerns me is that I see a trend in the mini- and micro-Finn flocks away from consistency, and toward treating each lamb as a special case. (I like this one's markings, and this one has a cute face. This one was so sweet and docile, etc.) If that trend continues, the breed will lose some of its value to commercial producers. It's important to me when I go out to purchase my nucleus flock that I be able to locate a group of 20 or so ewes that are of similar size,

frame, fleece, and productivity. I'll need to manage the nucleus flock as a unit, not as 20 separate units.

Bill Fosher
Surry, NH

FBA STATISTICS:

In the 2001 calendar year, 28 Finnsheep breeders registered 555. Registering the most animals were USDA MARC, with more than 17% of all registrations.

Next in line was Dr. Paul Hunter of Ohio. In third place were Larry and Elizabeth Luke of New York, and fourth, Naomi Smith of Virginia, with more than 50 registrations.



A proud and excited Sandy DeMaster with her champion Finn fleece in the Spinners Division of the fleece competition. The fleece is from the offspring of one of the imported 'AI rams'. Sandy's fleece is the middle one.

FINNSHEEP BREEDERS DIRECTORY

CALIFORNIA

Connie Santos,
34843 Wiemiller Rd.,
Tollhouse, CA 93667
Purebred Finnsheep
Black, white, grey

COLORADO

Janet Herman
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X Suffolk, Finn X
Corriedales)

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Lake City, IA 51449
(712) 464-8153
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Crossbred Finnsheep (Finn
X Hamp & Finn Dorset)

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PENNSYLVANIA

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(570) 775 9136
hatton@microserve.net
[http://www.microserve.net/
~hatton/finnsheep.htm](http://www.microserve.net/~hatton/finnsheep.htm)
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OPP neg
Enrolled VSCP - PA 43

June Roshong
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e-mail: lelu@oco.net
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eeppa](http://www.geocities.com/finnsh
eeppa)
OPP tested Negative. We
have been breeding
Finnsheep since 1995.
Registered and
unregistered colored and
white
Finnsheep. Mostly triplets
& quads

VIRGINIA

Grant W. Blackburn
"Anzar Sheep"
143 Gravel Lane
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463 4594
anzar@rockbridge.net

Purebred Finnsheep
Breeder of Finnsheep since
1994, participating in
Finnsheep semen
importation and
specializing in high quality
pure white pedigree
livestock. We have never
had scrapie, foot rot or
OPP and the flock is
enrolled (VA18) in the
USDA Voluntary Scrapie
Flock Certification
Program.

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Beautiful healthy reg. rams
& ewes. Excellent fleeces,
roving, handspun/millspun
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woven items 4-sale.

WISCONSIN

Sandy De Master
Wee Croft Finnsheep
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Watertown, WI 53094
(920)699-7420

weecroft@execpc.com
www.weecroftfinnsheep.com
Health status: OPP Free
(3+ flock tests) and
Voluntary Scrapie Program
WI Flock 28.
White and colored
Finnsheep selected for
maternal traits, prolificacy
and wool quality. Covered
handspinning fleeces,
roving, and yarn.

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purebred white, black and
gray finnsheep, all ages.
OPP and disease free
flock.
Breeding records since
1982. Breeding for size,
milking and lambing
ability.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
*Please send all
corrections,
complaints, great
ideas, Finnpower
items, etc to Grace
Hatton,
hatton@microserve.
net*

FINNSHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION MISSION STATEMENT

The Finnsheep Breeders' Association of the USA:

- ❖ **Provides a national pedigree breed recording system for Finnsheep**
- ❖ **Maintains the Finnsheep breed standard for the USA**
- ❖ **Promotes animal health within the breed and nationally**
- ❖ **Fosters and promotes the proliferation and marketing of Finnsheep within the national industry and abroad**
- ❖ **Is a national focal point for Finnsheep Breeders**
- ❖ **Disseminates timely information to members on all matters relating to the breed**

Finnsheep Breeders' Association
143 Gravel Lane
Lexington, VA 24450

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED