



FINNSHEEP *SHORT TALES*

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Chief Shepherd's Message By Sandra DeMaster

Greetings,

Fall is in the air and I imagine most of you are starting to plan for breeding in the near future. Time flies. It seems we barely get the lambs raised and we are on to the next season and the next stage in the cycle of raising sheep.

I am currently taking a few days off after having been a vendor at the Michigan Fiber Fest and the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival, which just ended this past weekend (2nd weekend in September). The Finnsheep Breeders Association also had a booth at the Wisconsin festival and all 100 brochures describing Finnsheep were handed out. There were 3 Finn fleeces entered in the wool show and all 3 of them placed in their respective classes. This continues to show Finn fleeces are well received in the spinning and knitting community.

Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival is growing very steadily. This year attendance fell just short of 4000, almost doubling the number of participants last year. It is very similar to the Maryland Sheep and Wool festival and offers classes and seminars on sheep related topics as well as spinning and knitting classes, a sheep show and sale, vendors, and a wool show. Next year's Finnsheep Breeders Association annual meeting will be held in conjunction with this show. The dates for next year's festival are September 9, 10 and 11, so mark your calendars now and plan on attending!

This year's annual meeting was held at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. Seven members attended the meeting, the minutes of which are included in this newsletter. As president of this association, I have some concerns as to how long we can continue to exist with such little member participation. I know some breeders think they can breed their sheep and register them as they wish, but we all need to bear in mind that if the FBA ceases to exist, we will no longer have a means of registering our animals. This could prove disastrous to the breed. If you have Finnsheep

or are interested in the breed, please consider joining the association and participating.

I spoke with our registrar's office today and learned that thus far this year we have 180 registrations. Last year's total was 375. What do these numbers tell us? Are there fewer Finnsheep in this country every year or are fewer being registered?

I wish you all a successful breeding season.

Sincerely,
Sandy

Editors Notes By Cindy Smith

Recently my husband and I took a few of our Finns to the sale barn. It was interesting watching the people there trying to figure out what kind of sheep they were. We also found it interesting that there was quite a good amount of people interested in them in the auction ring. One man mentioned he thought Finnsheep only came in white. I have to wonder what other misconceptions abound in the sheep world regarding our beautiful and docile Finns?

Some great news for us all as Finn Wool has really won some recognition this year. Tracy Sengupta's fleece placed first in the medium white division at the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Show! Sandy Demaster placed first and third with two of her fleeces in the medium natural color division at the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Show. I entered a black fleece and placed second in the medium natural color division at the Nevada Missouri Heart of America Sheep Show and Fiber Fest.

If you have any stories, thoughts, or just good news you would like to share, please send that to me at:

Cindy Smith
HC 65 Box 517
Hominy, OK 74035
or you can email me at
Cynthia.Smith@benham.com

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD
MAY 1, 2004 AT THE DAYS INN MOTEL,
FREDRICK, MD**

PRESENT: Naomi Smith (President), Denny Haugh, Irene Haugh, Tony Haugh, Sandra DeMaster, Tracy Sengupta, Cynthia Smith, Grant Blackburn (Secretary)

PRESIDENT. The President opened the meeting welcoming members and expressed an appreciation for those members that had traveled long distances to attend the meeting.

PREVIOUS MINUTES. The previous minutes were read and accepted.
Moved: Sandy DeMaster;
Seconded: Denny Haugh. - Carried

TREASURER'S REPORT. The attached financial statements were presented to the meeting. The report was accepted by the meeting.
Moved: Naomi Smith;
Seconded: Sandy DeMaster - Carried

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. One director's position, (Grant Blackburn) was vacated through term limits and Tracy Sengupta was elected to fill this chair. Denny Haugh completed the first term and was elected for the second term.

Cindy Smith agreed to takeover secretarial duties, while Grant Blackburn will continue as Treasurer.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS. - Committee Reports

Health Protocol. This matter was tabled until the next meeting

Logo The President displayed the carpet logo woven in Nepal with finnsheep wool. The carpet will be part of the display case.

Grant funding future AI. Meeting advised Paul Hunter had purchased all the Finnsheep semen and is selling it. The FBA is not involved with the sale of the semen.

Constitution Revision. To be taken up by the board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS.

Registrations. The Secretary presented registration printouts of breeders for 2003. A total of 375 finnsheep were registered in 2003.

Membership Report. Membership grew with the addition of nine new members in 2003.

Annual Sale. The matter of holding an annual sale was discussed. It was agreed to hold an annual sale in 2005 in conjunction with the annual meeting, possibly in Wisconsin. Cindy Smith to confirm details.
Action: Cindy Smith

Annual meeting. It was agreed to explore holding the 05 meeting in conjunction with the Wisconsin sheep and wool festival. It will be held September 9-11, 2005.
Action: Sandy DeMaster

Scrapie The President attended a seminar on Scrapie and advised the meeting the matter of QQ?RR factors in finnsheep is not a serious issue. It is apparent there is some confusion over the USDA Scrapie programs and it was agreed an awareness program needs to be developed to advise breeders on Scrapie matters.
Action: Naomi Smith

Buying Sheep. The matter of buying sheep was raised. It was agreed to develop a guide for buying sheep.
Action: Sandy DeMaster

Adjournment. The meeting agreed to adjourn at 10:00pm.

Moved: Grant Blackburn;
Seconded: Denny Haugh - Carried

Breeder Profile: Dr. Paul Hunter

I first became aware of the Finn breed in my first animal science class at Ohio State in 1975. Dr. Judy, one of the first importers of Finnsheep from Canada, was a professor at the time. I was fortunate enough to have him for some sheep production classes even though my main interest at the time was Angus cattle.

While in veterinary school at Ohio State I was a work-study student for Dr. Threlfall another pioneer with the Finn Breed. Several of the projects I worked on involved reproduction in sheep. I also had the opportunity to see Dr. Threlfall's personal flock a few times.

Upon graduation from veterinary school I took a food animal position in west central Ohio. The first place I rented had a bowl shaped side yard that proved difficult to mow. Since it was only one acre it was a bit small for the Angus I dreamed of getting. My budget was also limited due to student loans and such. So I decided to get some sheep.

I went back to Ohio State and spoke with Dr. Judy. Since my interest was commercial production he recommended Finn cross sheep. My first purchase was three Finn cross ewes from Dr. Threlfall. I also purchased two Suffolk ewes later that summer.

The next year farmers asked me to put some sheep around their buildings to eat grass. Since my numbers were limited I went out and purchased 10 more Finn cross ewes. By now the sheep bug had bitten me. In 1989 I decided to try purebred Finns. My first purchase was from the National Sale held in Colorado. I purchased three purebred ewes and a ram sight unseen. Over the next several years I purchased several more purebred animals from Brain Magee and Dan Maurice among others.

The goals for my Finn flock is to develop ewes that could have consistent litter sizes, milk well and lamb every 8 months. After learning of OPP through the FBA, eliminating this disease became another goal. I spent several years testing and orphan rearing lambs.

While working with my swine clients I was exposed to the concept of specific pathogen free (SPF) swine. The procedure was to take the piglets by caesarean section and raise them separately to break the disease cycle. This way, germs (pathogens) could be eliminated from the herd thereby improving performance and lowering costs.

Since I was already taping teats and orphan rearing lambs this seemed like the next logical step. Besides with my schedule, I was not always home when the lambs were born and the tape would come off or the lambs would go too long without nourishment.

So in 1993 I started taking lambs by caesarean and raising them on a separate farm. I started with Suffolks and added Boer goats in 1995. My first Finn surgeries were in 1999. I currently perform 15 to 20 a year as I add new bloodlines and a new breed, Dorsets.

The results have been remarkable. I have tested for Johnes, OPP and Brucella ovis and to date all tests have been negative. No foot rot or contagious abscesses have been found in the flock. As an added bonus I have not had to deworm the sheep since the clean flock's inception. To maintain the health status of the flock I do maintain strict bio-security standards.

I currently run four different genetic lines of Finns designated by tag color. The current clean flock is comprised of 30 adult ewes and 8 ewe lambs. The donor flock has 8 adult ewes and three ewe lambs. They are run on an intensively grazed pasture made

up of clovers, orchard grass and alfalfa. Currently they are eating turnips as well. I have about 100 ewes on the 12 acre field and I move the fence daily. Last fall the ewes ran on corn stalks after the corn was harvested. My goal is to extend the grazing season and limit the use of stored feeds.

I have had a steady market for breeding stock over the last few years. Sales have been to other purebred breeders and small spinner flocks. This year I also had a large order for Finn cross rams from a large commercial producer that needed to increase his litter size. The excess rams also make nice teasers rams. With the strong lamb market I look forward to my future with the Finn breed.



Finnpower

REMINDER!! Next Annual Meeting is to be held at the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival, September 9-11, 2005

Elizabeth Kinne Luke, Stillmeadow Finnsheep.....

Finnsheep In Print Once More!

Several weeks ago the editor of "Hobby Farms Magazine" contacted me for some photographs of Finnsheep to use in their upcoming article about our breed which will be in the Jan/Feb issue. It will be in a Q & A column and is edited by Dr. Lyle G. McNeal. The text includes quotes by Dr. Walter Threlfall, Sandy DeMaster, and Grace Hatton of the FBA. I am pleased to say that it is well written and a gives a true representation of our terrific Finns. Appropriate for the season, the picture chosen is a view of two white ewes, fully fleeced, outdoors in the snow. It's always a personal delight to be able to share in the promotion of these wonderful sheep. For additional information about the magazine, go to their website: www.hobbyfarmsmagazine.com

FINNSHEEP BREEDERS DIRECTORY

CALIFORNIA

Connie Santos,
34843 Wiemiller Rd., Tollhouse, CA 93667
flynsbar@psnw.com
Purebred Finnsheep
Black, white, grey

COLORADO

Janet Herman
7054 S. Hwy. 83
Franktown, CO 80116
(303) 668-9812
Purebred Finnsheep/Crossbred Finnsheep
(Finn/Dorset)
Commercially processed batts. Specializing
in out of season lambing

IOWA

Dale L. Amendt
6815 Waterman Blvd.
Sutherland, IA 51058
(712) 446-3489
Purebred Finnsheep/Crossbred Finnsheep
(Finn X Suffolk, Finn X Corriedales)

Marvin Blair
3402 Fletcher Ave.
Lake City, IA 51449
(712) 464-8153
Purebred Finnsheep Crossbred Finnsheep
(Finn X Hamp & Finn Dorset)

MICHIGAN

Don & Sandra Domerese
6600 N Crawford Rd
Rosebush, MI 48878
(989) 386-6887
Finn/Romney, Finn/Cotswold

MONTANA

JT and Julie Korkow
HC 40 Box 28A
Volborg, MT 59351
(406) 554-3123
jtkinmt@midrivers.co
<http://www.finnsheep.us>
Flock prefix JK, Purebred Finns and
Finn/Texel cross. Flock enrolled in VFSCP
(MT30), OPP tested, no history of footrot or
Johnes. Production of color and white
Finns with selection for prolificacy and size.

NEW YORK

Elenore Eimers
8162 Titus Rd
Sherman, NY 14781
(716) 761-6737

Elizabeth Luke
Stillmeadow Finnsheep
HC 65 Box 495
DeRuyter, NY 13052
(315) 852-3344
stillmeadowfinns@hotmail.com
Purebred Finns: white, black, grey, piebald
Whole flock tested OPP neg., foot rot free.
Enrolled in USDA Voluntary Scrapie Flock
Certification Program , NY69. Selected for
maternalism, udder quality, broad based
genetics. Handspinner fleeces available.

OHIO

Paul J. Hunter, DVM
11425 Bruns Rd.
Fort Loramie, OH 45845
1-800-628-LAMB (5262)
drhunter@bright.net
Breeder of Finnsheep since 1989,
Cesarean derived-disease free flock, OPP
test negative entire adult flock since 1996,
Scrapie Certification Program OH 20, White
Finnsheep selected for commercial
important traits, 3 separate lines available

for genetic diversity Finn/Dorset and Finn teaser rams also available.

Walter R. Threlfall, DVM
& Barbara A. Threlfall
Falling Tree Ranch
7012 Liberty Road
Powell, OH 43065
(740) 881-4417

OPP negative & entered in Scrapie program. Flock was established in 1977. Crossbreeds include Finn/Dorset, Finn/Dorper, Finn/Texel. Ewes and rams available. WRTDVM@aol.com

OKLAHOMA

Cynthia Smith
HC 65 Box 517
Hominy, OK 74035
(918) 885-1284

Cynthia.Smith@Benham.com
<http://www.boulderridgefarm.com>

Purebred Finnsheep, OPP, Johnes and Footrot free, Voluntary Scrapie Program (OK001926). Breeding for maternal instincts, prolificacy, size & wool quality. Also raise Great Pyrenees Livestock Guardian Dogs.

PENNSYLVANIA

Grace Hatton
HC 8 Box 8151
Hawley, PA 18428
(717) 775-9136
hatton@microserve.net

<http://home.ptd.net/~hatton7/>
Purebred Finnsheep, white and black, since 1986, OPP negative, Enrolled VSCP-PA 43, Spinning wheel repair, antique wheels for sale.

Dale and Martha Livermore
RR 5 Box 134A
Brookville, PA 15825
(814) 328-2720

Flock Prefix: ARK, purebred Finnsheep, natural purebred Finnsheep, OPP, Johnes

test negative. Footrot, abcess, bovis test free. Breeding stock for sale.

June Roshong
P.O. Box 276
St Peters, PA 19470-0276
(610) 326-5612
e-mail: lelu@oco.net
www.geocities.com/finnsheepa

OPP tested Negative. We have been breeding Finnsheep since 1995. Registered and unregistered, color and white. Mostly triplets & quads.

Megan Loyd-Thompson
1140 Creek Road
Carlisle, PA 17013
(717) 249-4321

cowdance@epix.net
Purebred Finnsheep, color and white rams with very fine fleeces. Micron tested. Naturally colored and white handspinning fleeces available.

VIRGINIA

Grant W. Blackburn
"Anzar Sheep"
142 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.

Grace G. Robelen
A—Plus Farm
Route 4, Box 369
Farmville, VA 23901
(434) 392-3451
aplusfarm@hovac.com

Breeder of healthy, quality white registered Finnsheep and a few Finn/Dorsets. We also

raise white registered Angora goats and healthy, sensible AKC Collies.

Joe and Naomi Smith
House Mountain Finnsheep
1765 Jacktown Road
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-6062

Enrolled VA Scrapie Program, Purebred Finnsheep. Farm established in 1985 in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Flock of 50 breeding ewes, mostly quads and quints. Bred for size, multiple births, mothering ability and structural correctness. Glen Avon and Root bloodlines. Also rams available for crossbreeding.

Linda and Leanna Witt
154 Quail Call Lane
Amissville, VA 20106
(540) 937-4707
linda@MistyMountainFarm.com
www.MistyMountainFarm.com
OPP free, Scrapies free VA flock 26. Very prolific white and colored Finnsheep. Handspinning, weaving, and felting equipment and supplies. Fiberart classes. New! Guardian llamas!

WASHINGTON

TRIPLE L FINNSHEEP
Dan and Leanne Hughes
89202 N. Harrington Road
West Richland, WA. 99353
(509) 967-3975
danlea23@msn.com
purebred white, black and gray finnsheep, all ages. OPP and disease free flock. Breeding records since 1982. Breeding for size, milking and lambing ability.

WEST VIRGINIA

Melissa Orr
604 Orr Drive
Martinsburg, WV 25401

(304) 267-4754
Morrssheep@aol.com
Purebred Finnsheep, Crossbred Finnsheep (with Shetlands). Beautiful healthy reg. rams & ewes. Excellent fleeces, roving, handspun/millspun yarns, handknitted and woven items for sale.

WISCONSIN

Sandy De Master
Wee Croft Finnsheep
N 7087 Hillside Dr.
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.

Tracy Sengupta
Firefly Fields Finnsheep
4110 W. Plymouth Church Rd.
Beloit, WI 53511
608-361-1446
tracy@fireflyfields.com
Certified Status - Voluntary Scrapie Program - WI Flock 1990. White and colored purebred Finnsheep. Bred for health, prolificacy, and lovely wool. Covered handspinning fleeces.
www.fireflyfields.com/finns



**Finnsheep Breeders' Association
HC 65 Box 517
Hominy, OK 74035**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED