



# FINNSHEEP *SHORT TALES*

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## Chief Shepherd's Message

by Tracy Sengupta

The 2005 FBA general and board meetings were held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival in September. The minutes are included in this newsletter. The meetings were both productive and enjoyable. We had some good discussions on how to encourage new members, keep current members informed and promote our versatile Finnsheep to prospective sheep buyers.

Somehow, in the midst of the very early morning board meeting, I was nominated and voted in as President. I was a little bleary-eyed being the only board member who had gotten up in the dark to feed sheep and then driven an hour to arrive at the 6:30 AM meeting! Nonetheless, I look forward to serving as FBA president and hope to live up to the challenge. I have previously served on the board and chaired committees as a member of local and national dog clubs, so I hope the organizational skills I acquired in those positions will help me to serve the FBA.

The Wisconsin festival is a fairly "young" festival and 2005 was its 4<sup>th</sup> year. It is well balanced between producer sessions and fiber workshops. I have attended every year and it is something I really look forward to. The FBA had an informational booth and Naomi and Joe Smith, Paul Hunter, Grant Blackburn and I took turns manning the booth and answering questions. We talked to quite a few people and gave out the FBA tri-fold pamphlets.

Our 2006 meetings will be held in Louisville, KY in conjunction with the North American Livestock Exposition in November. The exact dates are not available yet, but Naomi Smith says that the sheep days are normally the weekend before Thanksgiving. The FBA will be reserving a block of rooms to try to get a group rate for our members. Please plan to join us!

## From the Editor

by Sandy De Master

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Elections for the Board of Directors occur during the annual meeting. This year Dr. Paul Hunter and Grant Blackburn were each elected to serve three-year terms. The following is a list of the FBA board of directors and their terms:

Naomi Smith	2003-06	2 <sup>nd</sup> term	
Cindy Smith	2003-06	1 <sup>st</sup> term	Secretary
Denny Haugh	2004-07	2 <sup>nd</sup> term	Vice President
Tracy Sengupta	2004-07	1 <sup>st</sup> term	President
Paul Hunter	2005-08	2 <sup>nd</sup> term	
Grant Blackburn	2005-08	1 <sup>st</sup> term	Treasurer

As editor of the newsletter, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce each of these individuals.

**Naomi Smith** has been an active member in the Finnsheep Breeders Association for many years. She has served as president for three terms and has been a steady contributor to our organization. She and her husband Joe live in Lexington, Virginia where Naomi raises the largest flock of white Finnsheep in the country (100 + ewes).

**Cindy Smith** (no relation to Naomi) hails from Hominy, Oklahoma. She and her husband Jody became disillusioned with "city life" and decided to move to the country. Cindy decided she wanted to raise sheep and selected Finnsheep as her breed. She has been raising Finnsheep now for over 4 years. She has a flock of white and colored ewes and has also been doing some crossbreeding for larger lambs. Cindy also raises Great Pyrenees livestock guardian dogs and frequently has young dogs for sale.

**From the Editor -- Continued on page 6**

## **Breeder Profile Triple L Finnsheep by Leanne Hughes**

(Photos of Leanne's sheep are in the photo insert on p. 9.)

I was introduced to the Finn breed in 1982. I had a small group of mixed ewes that were lucky to give me one lamb a year. Someone said, "You need a Finn ram." I bought my Finns from Ladd Mitchell of Moses Lake, Washington who was one of the original owners of Finnsheep. When I went to buy my ram, he had to tell me that the ones with the tails were the purebreds. I had never even seen a picture of one! Of course, no one can buy just one, so I also bought a couple of ewe lambs who were quintuplet littermates. The next year, one had twins and the other had quads, and I was hooked. I went back to Ladd and bought 6 more, and the next year bought his entire flock – including the fence jumper – when he sold his flock. He had beautiful animals and that gave me a good start.

I originally got into Finnsheep to produce crossbred animals. I've crossed them with Columbias, Hamps, Suffolks, and Dorsets, All the crosses worked well, producing more lambs per ewe, as well as lambs that grew well after birth. At one time I had 175 ewes in my flock, both crossbred and purebred. Lambing was intense, and I slept in a camper out by the sheep pens until the lambing was over. It was like Christmas to me. It was always exciting to see how many lambs were born from each ewe. I'm meticulous with my records, and have kept them since I got the original sheep. This allows me to see how my different ewe lines are performing. I currently have only purebred animals.

General, my sextuplet ram, is the fourth generation from the original ewe that I bought that had twins. That ewe FSW 2061, had 43 lambs in 13 years. When she died, she left me triplets to raise. General's dam, 3L 751, the great-granddaughter, has had 28 lambs in 8 years, including the set of sextuplets. Her daughters produce as well as she does.

I have had people ask why have extra lambs when the ewe can only raise twins. I do not see them as a problem. I bottle each lamb in a set of quads or higher twice a day for the first few days until the ewe's milk comes in. I use a regular baby bottle that has a larger slit cut in it. After a couple of days, only the lambs who need it come up. Since I work full time, this is the only way I can manage my flock. When the lambs get a little older, I graduate them to a bucket feeder sold by Caprine for goat kids. This bucket has nipples around it, and feeds 10 lambs at a time. I have tried the cold milk approach, but I find that the lambs do as well left on their dams, and supplemented with milk twice a day. This year, the buckets became a social event, and even a lamb who was raised as a single – and huge – came up just to be part of the crowd. I know he wasn't hungry!

I have always been interested in genetics. I plan on spending the winter seeing if I can genotype my ewes from their lambing history. I have enjoyed seeing the changes in my sheep over the years. My breeding goals have been to produce animals with good size and length on them so there is room for the extra lambs in the ewes. I expect my ewes to raise triplets, so udder capacity is important to me. Straight legs and back are important also. There is a lot of stress put on Finn ewes, so they need to have good conformation. Many of my animals are still producing triplets or better over the age of 10.

I attended the Finnsheep Sale in 1987 and purchased a black ram for my mother. This got me into colored Finns. It was interesting to see which of my white ewes had a black gene. I've worked with both my black and white sheep to produce a soft fleece with nice crimp.

I drove to Wisconsin this year and added two rams to my flock from Sandy De Master. The Chocolate Man is a brown ram and Mr. T is a fawn ram. I also bought a grey ewe and a white ewe from her. I am very anxious to see how my lambing goes next year.

**Breeder Profile - Continued on page 3**

# TOP TEN REASONS TO RETHINK YOUR PARASITE CONTROL PROGRAM

by Paul Hunter DVM

- 10 Worms don't look at a calendar so deworming based on a set schedule is ineffective.
- 9 Sheep get worms by eating standing forage that contains worm larvae so don't worry about deworming stabled animals, put your effort into monitoring the pastured animals.
- 8 Fecal exams need to measure fecal egg counts, this is sometimes referred to as a McMaster test. It is a quantitative test measuring eggs per gram. The mere presence of eggs in ruminant feces is meaningless you need to know the number.
- 7 Fecal egg counts are better used to measure pre and post treatment effectiveness than they are to determine who needs to be dewormed.
- 6 Resistance has been demonstrated to all three classes of dewormers: the benzimidazoles (TBZ, Valbazen, Safeguard), levamisole (Ivomec bolus, Prohibit drench) and the avermectins (Ivomec, Dectomax)
- 5 Worms don't "forget" their resistance so the rotation strategies we have used in the past won't help us once a worm population becomes resistant.
- 4 There are no new dewormers coming down the pike so use what you have left wisely.
- 3 The less dewormer you use the longer it takes for resistance to develop. The moral of the story is use a selective deworming program such as FAMACHA where you only deworm sheep showing anemia as measured by

looking inside their eyelid. You will need to attend a class in order to learn this technique.

- 2 Some sheep have resistance to the worms. Genetic selection for these individuals via FAMACHA scores, fecal egg counts and in the near future genetic markers provide some hope.
- 1 Worms can put you out of the sheep business. It is time to critically evaluate your current control strategies before it's too late.

Disclaimer: Not all veterinarians are up on the latest information in regards to internal parasites so caveat emptor.

**Editor's note:** Dr. Hunter will be giving a talk on the FAMACHA system in conjunction with the 2006 FBA Annual Meeting in Louisville.

## Remember!

Annual dues and Breeders Directory fee are due by January 7<sup>th</sup>!  
(Renewal form enclosed in this issue)

Send them now. Avoid the holiday rush!

## Breeder Profile – Continued from page 2

Laura, my 13 year old daughter, is as interested in the sheep as I am. Together we are going through our ewes to see if we can determine who would give us the best chance for the new colors. She is as excited as I am to see if we will get the brown or gray color next year, and I know she will be in the lambing barn with me so she is the first to know.

I also kept a pied ram, Apache, that was born to one of my ewes this year.

I usually try to keep my ewe flock around 20-25 animals, but I'm wintering 30 ewes and 10 rams this year and I know there will be more next year. My husband says every time he turns his back on the sheep they double. I expect he is right – no one can have just one!

## **A Summer Journey to Estonia and Finland: Land of the Midnight Sun**

**by Sandy De Master**

(Photos of sheep in Finland are in the photo insert on p. 9.)

And yes, it is true – the sun never sets in mid-summer in Finland! This past June I was fortunate to be able to participate in a knitting seminar: Nordic Knitting Days. Of course, when I learned that the seminar was to take place in Estonia, the country immediately across the Baltic to the south of Finland, I knew that I had to take advantage of the opportunity and spend some time in Finland, home of my beloved Finnsheep.

Thanks to the Internet, I had been corresponding for some time with Helena Korhonen, a breeder of Finnsheep in eastern Finland. Helena has been a tremendous help to me. She raises gray Finnsheep and is very knowledgeable about Finnsheep color genetics and sheep in general. She is very active in “Lampola”, a Finnsheep breeders group whose goal it is to preserve the landrace genetics of this breed. I wrote to her and asked if she would be around in June/early July. She said she would be available after the summer solstice, “Midsummer’s Eve”, which is an important festival time in Scandinavia and Finland.

So I went to Estonia for ten days. During this time I was able to meet with some Estonian women who were working very hard to preserve the Estonian Landrace sheep. This has been an uphill battle for them as Estonia is just beginning to come into its own again after many years of Soviet occupation. The government is preoccupied with many social and economic issues and is not at this time able to concern itself with the conservation of a native sheep breed, so funding has been very limited. These women have worked on their own and have rounded up as many sheep as they have been able to find and afford, with the goal of saving this landrace breed. Estonia is very rich in knitting and weaving and these women have been able to enlist the help of knitters and

weavers to show off the wool of this native sheep.

The native Estonian breed was probably a short-tail breed at one time, due to its proximity to Scandinavia. They are a very small breed, even smaller than Shetland sheep. Many of them have been crossed and appear to have medium length tails. Their wool varies from fine to dual-coated. These women are collecting the best examples of this breed primarily from the islands, which are off the coast of Estonia. They hope to establish a breeding program to preserve their native breed.

Following the week of touring Estonia and taking 2 days of knitting classes, I crossed the Baltic via ferry to Helsinki. I called Helena upon arriving and we made arrangements for her to pick me up on the outskirts of Helsinki the following morning. I spent the next two days with Helena touring southeastern Finland. Helena must have taken me to at least 20 different sheep farms. She also showed me many small towns, introduced me to a knitter/weaver and took me to Pirtin Kehraamo Oy, a woolen mill that cards and spins Finnsheep wool.

Helena and her husband Kalle and their two boys reside in Rantasalmi, Finland, an area very close to the Russian border. Their property, as is most of Finland, is very wooded. They have built themselves a beautiful house in a clearing in the woods. Nearby, in front of their house, through the trees is a beautiful, pristine lake. Their pasture is behind the house and they have a flock of about 30 + ewes, most of which are gray.

Helena told me that the gray Finnsheep is very rare and was close to extinction when a veterinarian in northeastern, Dr. Pertti Hankonen, upon retiring, made it his goal to preserve the gray genetics. He spent some time collecting as many gray Finnsheep as he could find and then put together a breeding program to preserve and expand the genetic base. Recently, he sold his flock to his son, but I believe at present, there are some 70 ewes in this flock and about 8 rams or so of different lines.

**A Summer Journey – Continued on page 6**

## Finnsheep Fleece Wins Reserve Grand Champion at Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival!

Tracy Sengupta's piebald fleece won the Finnsheep division in the WI Sheep and Wool festival wool show this past September. And it went on to win Reserve Grand Champion of the whole show of 82 fleeces! This lovely fleece was from her wether, Sparky, who is white with black panda eye patches and a black spot on his back. This fleece was Sparky's first shearing.

Sandy De Master took reserve champion of the Finnsheep class with a gray fleece. Sandy also won Grand Champion of the medium wool division at Michigan Fiber Fest with a black lamb fleece.



Tracy with Sparky's prize winning fleece.



Baby "Sparky"  
Firefly Fields Finnsheep

## Save the Estonian Sheep by Sandy De Master

I mentioned in my article on my trip to Estonia and Finland that we met a group of women who are trying to preserve the landrace breed of sheep in Estonia. In order to help them out, we took donations at my booth at Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival. The Finnsheep Breeders' Association donated \$50 to the cause and in total we were able to collect \$115.

This is the response from Estonia:

*Dear Sandy,*

*On the behalf of the Estonian Native Sheep board I thank you for your contribution to protect and rescue the Estonian Native Sheep. I want also to tell you that I think that we are in making a break into a positive direction. I have been in contact with Estonian Farmers Union and the director promised to bring this very important issue forward quickly. I have also got this promise from a member of the Estonian Agricultural Development Board. I am now waiting for an appointment with the director of the Estonian Farmers Union where I can show him photos of all different kind of native breeds that still are without any attention in Estonia. I know the director already for 15 years and hope that we soon will have a solution and a method in how to protect our native breeds.*

*You can see some of native breeds in the Baltic Sea region on the following pages:  
[http://www.virtuaaliamek.fi/our\\_native\\_breeds](http://www.virtuaaliamek.fi/our_native_breeds)*

*Kind regards, Annika Michelson  
Estonian Native Sheep Association Board member*

*Teacher in agriculture and environment  
Häme Polytechnic Mustiala, University of Applied Sciences*

**A Summer Journey  
continued from page 4**

Most of the flocks we visited were interested in preserving these gray genetics, which only comprise about 3% of the entire Finnsheep

gene pool. Most of the flocks were very small and local farmers who have an interest in the breed are largely responsible for preserving these genetics. We also visited some commercial Finnsheep flocks. It seems that in Finland, as in the US, the larger-carcassed meat sheep has prevailed. Helena tells me that many of the landrace breeds in Finland are becoming endangered and the government has established an organization whose mission it is to preserve all the Finnish landrace breeds. Of course, Finnsheep fall into this category.

Finnsheep in Finland were originally a dual-purpose breed: they were used both for meat and for wool. Today, however, the larger breeds such as the Texel have become more popular, especially for meat. Knitting and weaving are still very popular in Finland and the wool of the Finnsheep does seem to be appreciated by fiber artists, knitters and weavers. However, the numbers of the breed do appear to be decreasing, and thus, Lampola and the preservation group are doing their best to preserve the genetics. The average flock size is small and probably ranges from 3-20 sheep. Helena informed me that most breeders prefer to raise ewes with triplets and this is what they select for. Numbers greater than 3 lambs make it more difficult for the shepherd, and thus are not desired.

The Finnish people that I met were lovely and very pleased that someone from the US was interested in their native sheep. They were happy to show me their flocks and were always curious about how I got involved with Finnsheep. We are hoping to have a small group come and visit the US and attend the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival next year.

Many thanks to Helena and the other Finnsheep breeders who are working so hard to preserve these fabulous sheep in the land of the midnight sun!

**From the Editor -- continued from page 1**

**Denny Haugh** and his wife and son live in Pennsylvania where they raise their flock of Finnsheep along with several other breeds. They enjoy showing their stock and are frequent exhibitors at Maryland Sheep and Wool and other shows in the east.

**Tracy Sengupta** and her husband Upal live in southern Wisconsin. Tracy had yearned to raise sheep for many years and prior to moving to the country, spent quite a bit of time researching breeds and taking a sheep class at UW Madison. Tracy fell in love with Finnsheep for their friendly nature and beautiful wool. She is planning to use some of the imported semen to expand her flock's color genetics Tracy is an experienced dog handler and competes with her Border Collies and Papillion in obedience trials. Tracy is currently serving as President of the FBA.

**Paul Hunter** is a veterinarian who raises three breeds of sheep: "old style" Suffolks, Dorsets and Finnsheep. He also breeds Boer goats. Paul is a very busy man. He has a full time practice in Ohio where he cares for large and small animals. He also serves on several Boards of Directors and is very helpful and giving of his time when asked to contribute information on the latest tests and findings pertaining to sheep veterinary medicine.

**Grant Blackburn** is originally from New Zealand, but now resides near Naomi in Lexington, Virginia. Grant has been very active in our organization and has served as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. He has been a big help in the day-to-day running of the FBA. Grant has a flock of white Finnsheep and is particularly interested in the prolificacy of our breed.

**Wanted:  
Photos of your flock!**  
email to [tracy@fireflyfields.com](mailto:tracy@fireflyfields.com)  
or US Mail to  
Tracy Sengupta,  
4110 W. Plymouth Church Rd.,  
Beloit, WI 53511

## **Finnsheep Breeders' Association General Meeting September 10, 2005 Jefferson, Wisconsin**

The meeting was called to order at 7:58 PM by President Sandy De Master.

### **Present:**

- Members: Sandy De Master, Grant Blackburn, Naomi and Joe Smith, Paul Hunter, and Tracy Sengupta
- Guests: Steve and Aaron Schamp

**Secretary's report:** The minutes from the 2004 meeting were read by Tracy (substituting for Cindy). Grant moved to approve. Paul seconded. Minutes were approved as read.

**Treasurer's report:** The treasurer's report for the past year was read by Grant. So far we are +\$622 for 2005. Most of the expenditures have been for advertising and payments to Milo for administrative costs. We have \$4995 in the general account and \$920 in the Franklin Fund.

It is felt that the money should be removed from the Franklin Fund as it is not making money. It makes a dividend of about \$3.20 per month. Currently there are no service fees on this account but there may be soon. Previously, Paul and Sandy had difficulty removing the money from the Franklin Fund due to authorization issues. This has been resolved. Naomi suggested putting \$1000 into a certificate of deposit. Paul suggested a money market fund. Grant will explore the options.

**Registration / Membership Report:** To date, there have been 254 Finnsheep registered in 2005. No final total was received from Milo prior to this year's meeting. Since last year's meeting, the FBA has 7-8 new members. The total membership is around 25; this varies based on when people pay their dues.

### **Old Business:**

**Health Protocol:** This was shelved from last year's meeting since Paul was not present to explain it to us. There is money available from

the National Sheep Improvement Center to set up programs on OPP etc.. So far the OPP Concerned Sheep Breeders Society and other sheep societies have not been interested.

**Buyers Guide:** Sandy showed the new buyer's guide. This came out in response to some problems with registration papers in an attempt to educate buyers on what to look for and precautions to take. This is currently on the website and could go in the newsletter.

**Newsletter:** Previously had been going out two times per year. Cindy was interested in increasing it to three times per year. Currently, it is still going out two times per year.

**Website:** The website has been updated. A Finnsheep breeder, Maryann Thorpe (not an FBA member), has plagiarized our site which is copyrighted and states so on the index page. Tracy will attempt to contact her.

**Grey booklet:** Sandy updated the booklet and it is now in a tri-fold brochure form. This is more economical to produce. Sandy suggested making an additional publication with the breed standard. Paul suggested sending the breed standard publication to new members. We will now have two publications:

"Pamphlets" – is the tri-fold brochure to distribute to people requesting information on the breed from the secretary. This will also be used to give to interested parties at sheep / wool events where we have a booth.

"Booklets" – will have a cardstock cover with paper pages inside and will contain the breed standard. This will be sent to new members with their membership packet.

Naomi is willing to take over membership (encouraging new owners to join FBA) for the next couple of years. Milo is willing to send out the packet to new members, but they don't want to put anything together unless paid for their time. Tracy suggested that we put the booklet together ourselves so we can have more control over its format etc.. Sandy will assist in writing a cover letter for the packet. This will be a form letter to make the link to people buying

sheep. Grant will get the list of new owners and give to Naomi.

### **Constitution Revision:**

The constitution has remained mostly the same since it was written. Do we need to update the constitution to reflect the increase in uses for the Finnsheep breed in the US? One of the few changes was Article III Section C approved in 1990 to no longer allow "breeding up". Can still register 1/2 and 3/4 Finn, but can no longer "breed up" to 7/8 and register as purebred.

The original goal of the FBA was to promote the use of Finnsheep in commercial flocks at that time. At that time, there was no mention of other uses for breed such as wool or meat for the ethnic market etc.. Sandy felt that using Finnsheep for crossbreeding in commercial flocks, should be one stated use for the breed, but not the only use. Paul felt and Grant agreed that we have adequate flexibility in the current constitution under Article III; clause D which states, "To continuously improve and promote Finnsheep in the interests of more profitable sheep enterprises." It was decided that a procedural problem was the only reason to change the constitution.

### **Update on Frozen Semen from Finland:**

Paul Hunter still has 30 straws of Laku for sale. Sandy De Master says that she got two beautiful ewe lambs from the Laku semen she used this year. He is black and is recessive for brown. All other straws from colored sheep have been sold. Paul has used most of his straws from the white rams.

Sandy De Master spent a few days in Finland this summer while on a knitting expedition to Estonia. There is a possibility of bringing in more frozen semen from Finland in the future as they might now have the expertise to collect it in Finland or Randy Gottfredson from the UW Madison might be able to go. He has a Finnish student in Finland. Sandy is not sure what the USDA regulations would be since there have now been cases of Scrapie reported in Finland.

Sandy does not wish to coordinate the efforts this time.

### **New Business:**

#### **NY Sheep and Wool Festival:**

Naomi reported on the NY Sheep and Wool Festival. A different association and breed are featured each year. The annual sale for that breed is also there. This is in October each year in upstate NY.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tracy Sengupta  
(Substituting for Cindy Smith)



photo: House Mountain Finnsheep  
(Joe and Naomi Smith)

## **2006 FBA Annual Meeting**

to be held in conjunction with the

**North American Livestock  
Exposition  
Louisville, KY**

**November 2006**

Exact time, date and details  
coming soon.

# A Summer Journey to Estonia and Finland: Land of the Midnight Sun –

photos by Sandy De Master



Face and body markings on a “badger-face” Finnsheep in Finland. This color pattern is almost extinct in Finns, even in Finland. The owner of these sheep traveled around Finland and purchased sheep from from the flocks of older people who had died or were retiring from raising sheep in order to “rescue” the genetics.



Helena and Kalle Korhonen,  
Sandy's hosts in Finland, with one of their Finn lambs.  
Their flock was previously featured in Short Tales 55.

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## Triple L Finnsheep – Leanne Hughes



“Long John” (ram)



“Romeo” (ram)

## **Sheep Genetic Distancing Project** by Tracy Sengupta

I recently received information from Dr. Paul Hunter regarding a program currently being conducted by the USDA. At the time of publication they did not yet have any of the blood samples needed from Finnsheep breed. The fact sheet provided by the program is located on page 10. I wrote to one of the project coordinators for more information in lay terms on what the project hopes to achieve and how this would benefit the Finnsheep breed. Her reply to me is included below:

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*Thank you for following up with me about this project. I work for the USDA's National Animal Germplasm Program which, among other things, maintains a gene bank of semen, embryos, and other tissue types. In order to help characterize the genetic diversity among sheep breeds in the U.S., we are doing a genetic distancing study. This will allow us to better target what to collect for our gene bank. We will extract DNA from the blood samples from each animal and microsatellite markers at 31 loci will be used to assess the diversity. These microsatellite markers have been recommended by the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) for looking at sheep genetic diversity. Other countries have already done this work on their sheep breeds. In the published papers I have seen, the results allow the breeds to be grouped together by how similar they are at those 31 loci. One example my supervisor used last week was with Hog Island sheep. That breed has so few numbers that it will likely not recover unless some breeding up occurs. We can see which breeds are the closest to the Hog Island to make breeding up recommendations. Right now, we anticipate the Suffolk will be the closest breed, but it will be nice to have some scientific proof to back up this theory.*

*For the benefits directly to Finn breeders, it would mostly be an interest in seeing how the breed relates to other U.S. sheep breeds. We are trying to sample many breeders from across the country, so it will be interesting to see if there are differences within the breed as well. Some of the other breeds are facing problems with maintaining the purity of their breed, so they may have more at stake than the Finn breeders, who don't seem to have this problem.*

*Please let me know if I need to explain anything better.*

*Thanks,  
Carrie Welsh*

*National Animal Germplasm Program  
USDA-ARS-NCGRP  
1111 South Mason Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80521  
Phone: 970.495.3237*

**Sheep Genetic Distance Project  
continued on page 10**

**STATUS REPORT:**  
479 Finnsheep were registered  
from January – October 2005.

**Sheep Genetic Distance Project  
continued from page 9**

**Conserving Sheep Genetic Resources – (Fact Sheet Provided by Project)**

**National Animal Germplasm Program – National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation –  
ARS-USDA**

The National Animal Germplasm Program (NAGP) is developing a collection of frozen semen and embryos from all livestock species. The purpose of this genebank is to provide all livestock industries with a strategic backup of genetic resources that can be used in the event of a major disease outbreak, the formation of new strains of livestock or performing research on particular genetic strains (for example, studying resistance to internal parasites). With sheep this is particularly difficult due to a lack of commercial companies collecting and freezing semen and embryos.

To better target and prioritize sheep breeds NAGP is in the process of determining the genetic diversity between breeds of sheep. To determine the genetic diversity between sheep breeds we will need to collect blood samples from 24 to 48 individual sheep per breed. With over 40 breeds of sheep in the U.S. this is a significant task and we are asking for your help in accomplishing this work by allowing us to collect blood samples from some of your sheep.

In sampling a breed we would like to collect three unrelated animals per breeder and have breeders that are located across the U. S. We would like a minimal set of information on any sheep we collect. The information we would request includes: breeder name, breeder address, animal registration number, sire and dam registration number, sex, animal birth date, flock size and animal age. All information concerning the breeders name and specific details about an individual sheep would be kept confidential within the limits of Federal law. If breeders object to their address being recorded we would be content with the state they are located in. We will want to publish the information derived from this work but such a publication will not include information about breeders or how their individual animals/flocks tested. Breeders should also know that the information we will be deriving from their sampled animals will not be at a level of detail suitable for use in determining parentage. Also there is no cost to the sheep owner.

If you are interested in letting NAGP collect blood samples from your sheep or have questions about this project please contact:

Dr. Harvey Blackburn 970-495-3268 [hblackbu@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:hblackbu@lamar.colostate.edu) or  
Carrie Welsh 970-495-3237



Photo: Anzar Sheep  
(Grant Blackburn)

## FINNSHEEP BREEDERS DIRECTORY

### CALIFORNIA

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

### COLORADO

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Janet Herman  
7054 S. Hwy. 83  
Franktown, CO 80116  
(303) 668-6812  
Purebred Finnsheep/Crossbred Finnsheep  
(Finn/Dorset)  
Commercially processed batts. Specializing in out of  
season lambing

### IOWA

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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)

### MONTANA

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JT and Julie Korkow  
HC 40 Box 28A  
Volborg, MT 59351  
(406) 554-3123  
[jtkinmt@midrivers.co](mailto: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

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Elizabeth Hale Kinne  
Stillmeadow Finnsheep  
5883 Randall Hill Rd.

DeRuyter, NY 13052  
(315)852-3344  
[stillmeadowfinns@hotmail.com](mailto:stillmeadowfinns@hotmail.com)  
Purebred Finnsheep since 1994. Genetically  
diverse white, natural colored solids and piebalds.  
OPP test Negative, CL and footrot free. Selected for  
maternalism, udder quality, structural soundness,  
& fleece.

### OHIO

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Paul J. Hunter, DVM  
11425 Bruns Rd.  
Fort Loramie, OH 45845  
1-800-628-LAMB (5262)  
[drhunter@bright.net](mailto: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. Crossbreds include  
Finn/Dorset, Finn/Dorper, Finn/Texel. Ewes and  
rams available. [WRTDVM@aol.com](mailto:WRTDVM@aol.com)

### OKLAHOMA

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Cynthia Smith  
HC 65 Box 517  
Hominy, OK 74035  
(918) 885-1284  
[Cynthia.Smith@Benham.com](mailto: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

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Grace Hatton  
HC 8 Box 8151  
Hawley, PA 18428  
(570) 775-9136  
[hatton@microserve.net](mailto: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.

## 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.

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.

## WISCONSIN

Sandy De Master  
Wee Croft Finnsheep  
N 7087 Hillside Dr.  
Watertown, WI 53094  
(920) 699-7420

[weecroft@execpc.com](mailto:weecroft@execpc.com)  
[www.weecroftfinnsheep.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.fireflyfields.com/finns)



Photo: SPF Finnsheep  
(Paul Hunter)

*Don't forget to sign the agreement, if you are new member.*

Mail (along with a check or money order) to:  
**Finnsheep Breeders' Assn., 15603 173rd Street, Milo, IA 50166**

### **Membership Services**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Please check all that apply:**

- ( ) New member - \$60 (\$35 Application fee + \$25 annual dues)
- ( ) Continuing member - \$25 (Annual Dues)
- ( ) Listing in Breeders Directory - \$30
- ( ) Flock Prefix - **One time fee** of \$10 **per letter** -  
Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note:** Annual Dues are **payable by Jan 7<sup>th</sup>** of each year. For this fee, **members receive** the Short Tales Newsletter, Meeting Minutes and Annual Report and all other pertinent mailings from the FBA. Additionally, FBA members pay **half price for registration fees.** (Often times this discount on registrations will pay for your membership dues!)

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### **Lifetime Membership Application for New Members**

Check:

- ( ) Purebred Breeder
- ( ) Commercial Producer
- ( ) Other

I / We agree to be governed by the rules, regulations, constitution, and bylaws of the association as amended from time to time, and to keep a written memorandum of breeding, exact birth dates, and litter size of Finnsheep, and further that I / we will furnish promptly any information concerning same at any time when requested to do so by the association.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Don't forget to fill out the Breeders Directory Form on the reverse side!!*

## Breeders Directory Listing

Annual Fee: \$30.00 - available to FBA members only.

The Breeders Directory is included with each issue of Short Tales in a given year from January 1st to December 31st. Your listing will also be included on the FBA Website. The directory is sent to people inquiring about the breed exhibited at fairs etc. with the Finnsheep Breed Display.

Please check:

- Purebred Finns  
 Crossbred FinnX - What crosses? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Website URL: \_\_\_\_\_

*As an organization, we encourage our members to participate in the USDA (Voluntary) Scrapie Flock Certification Program. This is value-add for our customers and will help us eradicate Scrapie in the Finnsheep breed.*

Do you participate in the SFCP?

Flock number: \_\_\_\_\_

- Certified  
 Enrolled -- Enrolled since (year): \_\_\_\_\_

Products and Other Information: 20 words (Over 20 words - \$1 extra per line to be included with Breeders Directory fees):

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### Flock Prefix

**One Time Fee** of \$10.00 **per letter**

A flock prefix enables exclusive use of your name or that of your farm or flock on registrations. You could use your last name, the full name of your farm, or some initials.

Please enter your chosen prefix here: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Importance of Finn Rams in Strengthening the Breed

by Elizabeth Hale Kinne

It seems as though most shepherds classify Finnsheep as a docile maternal breed, placing emphasis upon the ewes for litter size, mothering ability, ease of lambing, udder capacity, etc. However, it is of considerable importance to develop purebred rams which strengthen the breed as well. Genetic diversity is a factor which can improve growth rates and muscling, while also producing a range of color for fleece enthusiasts. Selection based on good record keeping is the key. Pictured are triple and quadruplet senior Stillmeadow Finn rams and their five month old male progeny, also triplets and quads.



Stillmeadow bred senior Finn rams (foreground)



Stillmeadow Finn ram lambs at 5 months of age

## SHORT TALES ADVERTISING RATES AND PROCEDURES

Rates Per Issue:	
<b>Classified</b> per word: members \$.10 nonmembers \$.15	<b>Display:</b> Business card members \$5.00 nonmembers \$7.50
<b>¼ Page:</b> (approx. 3.5" by 5") members \$10.00 nonmembers \$15.00	<b>½ Page:</b> (approx. 3.5" by 10" or 7" by 5") members \$20.00 nonmembers \$30.00
<b>Full Page</b> (approx. 7" by 10") members \$40.00 nonmembers \$60.00	Advance payment on all ads required.

Send your ad copy to [tracy@fireflyfields.com](mailto:tracy@fireflyfields.com) Please put "**ST Classified**" in the subject line or send your hard copy and fee to Tracy Sengupta, 4110 W. Plymouth Church Road, Beloit, WI 53511. I can help you design your ad if you need assistance.

**Counting Words:** Phone numbers count as one word. Each number and two letter initial count as one word. For example "I. M. Wright" is two words, and "P. O. Box 999" is three words. Hyphenated words, (e.g.: Jones-Smythe) count as separate words.

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

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**