



# Short Tales

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## Chief Shepherd's Message

By: Clark BreDahl

By the time you read this, summer will officially be here. In Iowa, Mother Nature has had a bit of trouble sticking with the calendar recently as we have alternated between cold, early spring low temperatures and scorching, mid-summer highs. And, through it all, there's been no lack of moisture.

Before moaning too loudly, though, we need to acknowledge that things could be much worse. Just ask those living in communities devastated by tornados, flooding, drought or wild-fires. Like one currently popular country song says, most of us are "doin' all right for the shape that we're in."

Lamb, wool and breeding stock prices, in particular, are doing all right. Freshly weaned 40-50 lb. feeder lambs here in the Midwest have been selling in excess of \$100 per head, with fat lamb prices hovering above \$2.00 per pound. How long those good times will last is anybody's guess. But, regardless of price, it doesn't take a genius to figure out that the more lambs you sell per ewe per year, the better your chances for showing a profit.

One of the goals of the American Sheep Industry Association's new 2+2+2 program is to generate at least two lambs per ewe per year by the year 2014. **News Bulletin:** Finnsheep producers have been doing that, and more, since way back in the late 1960's. To our many friends out there who are still mired down with reproductively challenged sheep we say, welcome aboard! Profitability begins with choosing the right breed (s).

As you'll see elsewhere in this issue of *Short Tales*, FBA's 2011 annual meeting will once again offer an opportunity for Finnsheep producers to gather face-to-face. After moving from a six- to a seven-member board a year ago, it's worth noting that three of those board positions are up for election once again in October. All three current directors are eligible to seek a second term, but additional candidates are welcome and encouraged.

If you feel you have the interest, the knowledge and the time to donate, don't hesitate to throw your name in the hat. Most board activity is transacted via email or telephone conference call. The only words of caution I would add are that you may

## October 15-16, 2011 FBA 40th Anniversary and Annual Business Meeting at Rhinebeck, NY

be working with people who live far distant and whom you have never met. You may not be able to look them in the eye or even hear the tone of their voice as you transact association business. A trusting attitude, a calm demeanor and a willingness to compromise and learn are helpful attributes to bring to the table.

FBA directors serve without pay and may also incur some personal expense from time to time for telephone calls, Internet charges and other miscellaneous items. Members are limited to two consecutive three-year terms before leaving the board. If you are interested, please contact our secretary and submit a resume' by Aug 1, 2011.

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# REGISTRATIONS

## 2011

### Colors & Markings



Now that the FBA registration forms include more color & marking designations, we have decided to compile representative photographs and create an official reference document to assist your choices. All members are invited to submit pictures and those selected will credit the flock source. The color page and descriptive information is planned to be included on our website and also to be made available as handout information in time for the 2011 Annual Meeting at NYS Sheep & Wool Festival in October. Both lamb and mature Finn photos are desired. The pictures above display the piebald marking on the left & a black lamb on the right. Confusion can occur when the head, socks, & tail (HST) are white. Piebald sheep must have the spotting as part of the main fleece. This is a great opportunity to acquaint people with how our breed has developed in the USA over the last 40 years.

Please send photos as attachment to [stillmeadowfinnsheep@frontier.com](mailto:stillmeadowfinnsheep@frontier.com). A committee will review them and we hope to have everyone contribute.

## Welcome New Members

### Welcome to our newest members!!!

Zeneta M. Crawford - Crawford Sheep Ranch, Yreka, CA

Tamara Myers - Medley Farm & Kennel, Galt, CA

Rodney Garrett - Fuzz N Fluff Farm, Lucile, ID

Jennifer & Davi Miles, Boxford, MA

Laura Hauss - Borderhauss - Howell, MI

Callie Welch - Eau Clarie, MI

### Upcoming Sheep & Fiber Events

North East Youth Sheep Show, Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, West Springfield, MA [www.ne.sheep.org](http://www.ne.sheep.org)

Ohio Sheep Day: July 16, 2011; Blue Heron Farm; Lisbon, OH

Wisconsin Sheep & Wool: September 9-11, 2011; Jefferson, WI [www.wisconsinssheep&woolfestival.com](http://www.wisconsinssheep&woolfestival.com)

Endless Mountains Fiber Festival: September 10-11, 2011; Harford Fairgrounds, Harford, PA [www.pafiberfestival.com](http://www.pafiberfestival.com)

Finger Lakes Fiber Festival: September 17-18, 2011; Hemlock Fairgrounds, Hemlock, NY [www.gvhg.org/fest.html](http://www.gvhg.org/fest.html)

New York State Sheep and Wool Festival: October 15-16, 2011; Rhinebeck, NY [www.sheepandwool.com](http://www.sheepandwool.com)

NAILE Sheep Show: November 5 - 18, 2011 Louisville, KY [www.livestockexpo.org](http://www.livestockexpo.org)

**This is YOUR calendar. Help keep events current.**

## *Upcoming Board of Director Elections*

*If you are considering running in the upcoming Board of Director election please note the following:*

*A Letter of Intent and a brief bio about yourself must be submitted to the FBA Secretary no later than end of day August 1, 2011. The bio will be placed in the next edition of Short Tales for membership review. You may submit the information by US Mail to: FBA Secretary, 3937 Ridgewood Road, York, PA 17406; or by email to: [Finnegansflock@comcast.net](mailto:Finnegansflock@comcast.net). The FBA Secretary will confirm receipt of your information.*

*The available director positions are for a three year term with a limit of two consecutive terms. Anyone wishing to participate in the election must be a member in good standing, willing to participate in conference phone calls and travel to annual board meetings at your own expense. Since the majority of FBA business is communicated through email it is suggested that you have access to a computer. Although this is not a requirement it is highly recommended.*

## **FBA Constitution Changes**

Through the years changes have been made to the policies and practices within the FBA. Some of these changes should have resulted in FBA Constitutional Amendments that should have been voted on by the general membership. Unfortunately, this did not happen. As a result, the current FBA Board has formed a committee to examine the FBA policies and our Constitution. The committee's findings will be presented as Constitutional Amendments in the next edition of Short Tales and will be presented for vote at our annual meeting on October 15, 2011. The Committee is also considering the addition of a Code of Ethics and Bylaws.



This is for all of you busy Mom's and Dad's that need something for the little ones in your lives... just take to a printer, copy and enlarge for their coloring and maze fun!!!



The RR Genetic Advisory Committee (RGAC) has completed its preliminary investigation of determining the need for and availability of RR Scrapie-resistant genetics. Results and recommendations are as follows:

- 1) The Finnsheep breed is QQ at codon 171 making it more susceptible to developing scrapie, if exposed to the disease, than animals that are RR at codon 171. Registered Finnsheep that currently test QR at codon 171 have most likely sourced the genetics either through the breed-up program that was in place during the 1980s and 1990s or through mis-reported breedings.
- 2) The United States and Canada both have scrapie eradication programs in place. The United States wants to be recognized by the World Organization for Animal Health as being “scrapie free” by 2017. Canada, a large trading partner with the United States, has recently updated its own programs in order to be in accordance with the goals of the U.S. and maintain trade between the countries. The USDA/APHIS has charged each state with implementing its own scrapie eradication program. Several of these programs were outlined by Dr. Paul Hunter in the last newsletter (refer to December 2010 issue, page four). Sheep breeders located in states with more stringent requirements have been upgrading for scrapie resistance over the past decade. As demand for more scrapie-resistant strains increases, markets for Finnsheep continue to decline.
- 3) The number of Finnsheep registered (all ages) each year for the past ten years has consistently averaged just over 400 indicating no growth over a ten year period. Gene pool reduction and increased inbreeding coefficients will begin to be noticed.
- 4) As inbreeding increases, production capabilities and disease resistance in species decrease resulting in loss of profits and a decline in positive market perception.
- 5) In the past several years, several FBA members have officially requested the FBA to open the registry to allow for a breeding-up program that would incorporate scrapie resistant genetics into the program and improve the overall quality and marketability of the breed.

Based on its findings, the RGAC, recommends opening the registry. However, it stresses that the opening of any registry must be done with clear objectives, policies and procedures in place. The program will have to be well-managed and absolutely voluntary. The RGAC does not endorse opening the flock book without objectives, policies, procedures and management in place.

Objectives, policies and procedures are currently being developed by RGAC and will be presented to the membership in the next newsletter.

RGAC welcomes your input, please feel free to contact me at [htrimbur@dejazzd.com](mailto:htrimbur@dejazzd.com) or my co-chairperson, Dr. Paul Hunter, at [drhunter@bright.net](mailto:drhunter@bright.net)

**Don't forget to renew your FBA Membership and Directory Listings**

At the last Annual Meeting, members voted to form a committee tasked to determine the feasibility of controlled opening of the flock book in order to incorporate scrapie-resistant genetics into the FBA registered Finnsheep flock. The committee, the RR Genetic Advisory Committee (RGAC), of which I am co-chairperson, has been busily conducting its research. I have come across some additional information that I think all members should be made aware of.

The Finnsheep breed is considered one of the Northern European short-tailed breeds that earlier migrated north through central Asia. The exception to this is the Romanov breed (rooted in the Volga region of Russia) that has recently been found to have strains of near eastern lineages.

While breeders sometimes make the mistake of assuming all the short-tailed breeds are interchangeable, in fact, they are not. The short-tailed breeds are actually more differentiated from each other than one may think although the recent decline of sheep in Europe (2007) has created some challenges within several of the breeds in order to prevent inbreeding. (Tapio, Miida, Origin & Maintenance of Genetic Diversity in N.E. Sheep; Un. Of Oulu, Oulu, Finland)

One of the most unique characteristics of the Finnsheep breed is its wool traits. Here is a chart detailing some of the differences between Finnsheep and other N.E. Sheep wools. For the sake of brevity, not all traits are listed.

Breed	Class	Micron	Staple	Coat
Finnsheep	Medium-Fine	20-30 (25 av.), well-defined crimp, not curly	3-6 in. tapering ends	Single
Gotland	Medium-Coarse	28-32, wavy, curly locks	3-5 in. tapering to narrow tips	Single
Icelandic	Tog - Coarse Thel - Fine	Outer (tog) 28-31; Under (thel) 19-22	Tog - 4-10 in. Thel - 2-3 in.	Dual
Romanov	Outer-Coarse Under- Fine	Outer - 40-150 Under - 16-22	4-5 in. Outer and Under	Dual, Rams have cape/mane May shed
Shetland	Medium	23-30 open crimps	2-5 in. indistinct tapered ends	Slightly Dual, tendency to
Spelsau	Outer - Coarse	Outer - 37-40	5-7 in. Outer	Dual

\*Source: Fournier, Fournier; In Sheep's Clothing; FBA-Finland

Over the last eleven years, FBA registrations have averaged 407/year (all ages). Of these, on average, 110 were from USMARC. USMARC has discontinued its use of Finnsheep in its programs which will result in a farther narrowing of the gene pool. As gene pools narrow, breed traits and characteristics are affected. Reproductive abilities and disease resistance decline and, as the level of homozygosity rises, so does the expression of harmful autosomal recessive genes (ex. cryptorchidism). As problems associated with inbreeding begin to express (decline in reproductive abilities, increased susceptibility to disease and respiratory illnesses, loss of thriftiness, etc.) perceived value and salability decline resulting in revenue loss. If changes are not made, obscurity is a certain. The USDA released an informative article detailing the effects of inbreeding on lamb and wool production and profitability. (USDA, Effects of Inbreeding on Reproduction and Wool Production - 1991; S.K Ercanbrack and A.D. Knight) In a nutshell, as inbreeding percentages rise, profitability declines. With the number of FBA registrations recorded in the last eleven years showing no growth and numbers of annual registrations so small, it should be realized that a

## **The Need for A Breed Improvement Program (continued)**

narrowing of the gene pool is taking place. As a matter of interest, USMARC has replaced the Finnsheep with the Romanov breed at its research facilities. When I recently spoke with Dr. Kreg Leymaster of USMARC, one of the most noteworthy and prudent recommendations he made is as follows:

“Finnsheep breeders need to share a common vision and work together to improve their breed...genetic progress will be enhanced only by cooperation among producers.”

Dr. Leymaster supports the eventual use of a program such as NSIP/LAMBPLAN yet he understands that an interim program may be necessary until the market values of Finnsheep products can justify breeders' investment into such a program.

As a breeder who has transported a wide variety of genetics from all over North America to be incorporated into my flock, I can say with certainty that careful review of pedigrees reveals just how much genetic material is actually shared within the breed regardless of region of origin. Finland has 44 defined lines of Finnsheep, I'd say we would be very lucky if we have half that number of unrelated lines in production.

Another piece of research that I found interesting was the *Short Tales* articles I reviewed as part of my RGAC work. Ten years ago, FBA directors and members were mentioning the need to make improvements in the breed (refer to Short Tails archives) in order to maintain and expand markets. One of the most interesting *ST* issues is number 43. It features “Highlights from Twenty Years of Short Tales! Real Finnpower!” In this section one can read about ten year old ewes still going strong and Finn rams selling at public auction for \$1,000. Market penetration was quite different ten years ago (compare member flock locations to today's member flocks).

There were 56 million sheep in the US in 1942; by 2007, there were 6.2 million. (Un. WI, #A3858-2). In April of 2011 the American Sheep Industry Association rolled out its 2+2+2=Rebuild plan to increase production of US sheep and wool products. The program asks that each producer increase the size of their operation by two ewes (or by 2 per every 100), increase the birth rate per ewe and increase harvest of product by 2%. ASI is well aware of the changing demographics of sheep flocks in the US and it realizes that the smaller farms are rapidly gaining ground in sheep production. The Finnsheep is uniquely equipped to suit the new initiatives of ASI to grow the markets, however, a quality product has to be available.

A well-implemented breed improvement program will allow breeders to produce quality stock and wool products that will pass the litmus test of any program: the Point of Sale (POS). POS is where the “rubber meets the road” and it is a key economic factor in determining the success and sustainability of any business. POS determines what your product is really worth (not what you think it's worth). Profitability and potential for future growth are directly determined by POS revenues (measured against inputs). Good POS revenues require the production of quality products that the market wants and is willing to pay for. If a good system is not in place for production of these products, the business will fail.

It is time to implement a breed improvement program. The program will have to be well-managed with clearly defined objectives, criteria and procedures. Participants will have to be willing to invest time and resources and follow requirements of the program. This can be done!

By improving the breed to increase its ability to be competitive at POS and developing an advertising campaign that communicates a clear, well-defined direction and message, the FBA membership can improve the quality of its flocks, increase the value of its products and expand its market share.

## **Finnsheep and ASI's 2+2+2**

**By Mary Tucker**

Finnsheep have been an integral part of the commercial sheep industries ability to increase productivity for the past 40 years. Productivity was the original reason for the importation of Finnsheep into the United States. Finnsheep have some unique characteristics: early sexual maturity, high ovulation and conception rates, being able to lamb multiple times (2 in one years or 3 in two years ), shorter gestation period, shorter time till re-breeding, large litters (3-5 avg. ), maternal abilities, ease of lambing, able to raise their lambs till market, rams are fertile early, very active with a high libido, and able to service multiple ewes efficiently. With adequate nutrition, Finnsheep are well suited to meet the needs of the American Sheep Industry 's (ASI ) goals. Utilizing Finnsheep US producers can improve productivity of the sheep industry far greater than the ASI 's goals of 2+2+2.

## **ASI's 2+2+2 Plan Details**

The U.S. sheep industry is finding itself amidst an encouraging time:

lamb prices are at an all-time high, the wool market is the highest it's been since 1989 and the cull ewe and pelt markets are very lucrative. However, from the farm gate through to the lamb and wool processing level, there is a shared concern about meeting the demand for lamb and wool production in the United States.

Lamb processors, from the commercial market channel to the rapidly growing nontraditional markets, are clamoring for a greater supply of lamb. In 2011, two major announcements to carry American lamb in our nation's grocery stores occurred: Kroger, one of the nation's largest grocery store chains, launched an American lamb branded campaign and Walmart made a commitment to exclusively carry American lamb in its stores. And the nontraditional market channels, which include on-farm sales, farmers markets and small processors serving ethnic communities, have grown exponentially over the years. In fact, one-third of the U.S. lamb crop has moved outside the traditional industry infrastructure to feed this nontraditional lamb market. As an industry, we must supply the traditional market channel to keep American lamb in the nation's largest grocery store chains and restaurants all while meeting the emerging demand for American lamb in the nontraditional markets.

This robust demand for product is also being experienced in the wool market. The U.S. military, the largest domestic consumer of U.S. wool, is excited for the opportunity to clothe our troops in high-performance washable wool products. The equipment that makes washable wool top has been installed in the United States and is being used for a variety of domestically produced wool products that are already reaching the military and commercial markets.

A strategy to strengthen the lamb and wool industry's infrastructure by increasing the number of sheep in production is vital for the long-term sustainability of the industry.

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) is calling on sheep producers, both large and small, from east to west, to help accomplish the goal of growing our flock. ASI has come up with a formula to address these shortages within just a few years, it's called: **Let's Grow with two PLUS.**

### **Goal 1**

Encourage producers to increase the size of their operation by two ewes per operation or by two ewes per 100 by 2014.

### **Goal 2**

Encourage sheep producers to increase the average birthrate per ewe to two lambs per year.

### **Goal 3**

Encourage producers to increase the harvested lamb crop by 2 percent – taking it from 108 percent to 110 percent.

With three goals in mind, the primary objective of this campaign is to encourage current producers to expand their sheep numbers by 2014. This initiative will result in 315,000 more lambs and 2 million more pounds of wool for the industry to market.

By implementing pre-breeding and pre-lambing management tools like flushing, teaser bucks, cross breeding and nutrition, increasing the average birthrate per ewe to two lambs per year can become a reality. And although the industry will never do away with predator and disease issues, there are mortality reduction tools out there for those experiencing problems. A great resource for producers to learn about these practices is the SID handbook that ASI has produced. By being on the cutting edge of management practices and new technology, the industry can increase both the lamb birth rate and lower lamb mortality rates.

Information: <http://www.growourflock.org/twoplus> or [http://www.sheepusa.org/Sheep\\_Industry\\_News\\_Detail/newsID/4612](http://www.sheepusa.org/Sheep_Industry_News_Detail/newsID/4612)

**FINN BREEDER CONSORTIUM**

A core group of Finn breeders would like to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by enrolling their flocks in NSIP/LambPlan to increase the speed of their genetic progress. The beef cattle industry embraced this technology over 25 years ago. Now the majority of bulls are sold based on their Expected Progeny Difference (EPD). The National Sheep Improvement Program has been available since the mid eighties but its adoption has been sporadic. Recently NSIP has contracted with LambPlan in Australia to process their records. This allows faster turn around as well as other advantages. Information regarding NSIP/LambPlan can be located at: <http://nsip.org/>

The process involves collecting data from each participating producers flock and submitting it to the central data bank in Australia. The normal data that are collected includes birth weights, weaning weights, litter size, and age of dam. Wool and carcass traits can also be measured and reported. Indexes that tie together traits that are important to the producer can also be generated. The more data that is entered the greater the accuracy of the EPDs. The computer will compile data on parents, aunts, uncles and siblings of the animals in question. It also takes out environmental and management differences between flocks.

Good genetic progress can be made within an individual flock. However the more ewes and flocks enrolled the faster the progress. Genetic links between enrolled flocks also increase progress. Currently the Polypay and Kathadin breeds have cooperative programs. I was in a Suffolk group for three years . The lambs from the reference sire always out performed my home sired lambs.

A survey to gauge interest in such a cooperative program is included. If you have any questions please contact myself at [drhunter@brightnet.net](mailto:drhunter@brightnet.net) or Clark BreDahl at [bredahl.mtfarms@gmail.com](mailto:bredahl.mtfarms@gmail.com).

I am also looking for potential names for the group.

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**Breeding Date Formula  
for Holiday Target Marketing**

17-31 Days—Ram in Flock  
142 Days—Gestation Ave.  
50-200 Days—Growth  
10 Days—Buyer Pick-up Time  
219—383 Total Days:  
Breeding to sale date varies  
according to desired sizes,  
and flock’s growth rates.

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Happy Market Planning  
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**Ethnic Market Calendar**

<b><u>Holiday</u></b>	<b><u>2011</u></b>	<b><u>2012</u></b>
<i>New Years Day</i>	1/1	1/2
<i>Epiphany</i>	1/6	1/6
<i>Chinese New Year</i>	2/3	
<i>Nawlid al-Nabi-Prophet’s Birthday</i>	2/16	2/5
<i>Western Roman Easter</i>	3/24	3/8
<i>Eastern Orthodox Easter</i>	3/24	3/15
<i>Passover/Pesach</i>	3/19-3/26	3/7-3/14
<i>Cinco do Mayo</i>	5/5	5/5
<i>Independence Day</i>	7/4	7/4
<i>Start of Ramadan-Month of Fasting</i>	8/1	7/20
<i>Eid ul-Fitr-Festival of Fast Breaking</i>	8/11	8/19
<i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	9/29	9/17
<i>Eidul-Adha– Festival of Sacrifice</i>	10/18	10/26
<i>Diwali</i>	10/26	11/13
<i>Muharramn-Islamic New Year</i>	11/27	11/15
<i>Navadurgara/Navratra Dashara/Dassai</i>		
<i>Chanukkah</i>	12/21-12/28	12/19-12/16
<i>Christmas</i>	12/25	12/25

By Gail Von Bargen, FBA Director

In recent years, some FBA members have asked the Board to consider opening the Purebred Finnsheep registry to allow crossbreeding animals, by a specified method, to a certain purity and then allowing them to be registered as Purebred Finnsheep. These members report losing sales of their registered Finnsheep because their sheep buyers want to buy only sheep that have RR markers at Codon 171—a genetic signature believed by many to offer genetic resistance to the disease, Scrapie, in sheep. Most Finnsheep are QQ at this marker, and these breeders want to crossbreed in other sheep that have the RR marker.

Without a doubt, Scrapie is a devastating disease. It would be wise for any sheep breeder to read up on its symptoms, its prevalence, the science behind the RR/QQ genetic question, and decide for themselves what action to take in regard to their own flock. Most states have a Scrapie prevention program in place, through their Board of Animal Health or the USDA, in which shepherds can enroll their flocks, and after 5 years' annual, visual inspections finding healthy animals, be certified scrapie-free. All states differ in their policies, though, so enrollment will be a very individual decision.

The FBA Board, at its last annual meeting, considered opening the registry to “breed up“ more “purebred” Finns that have R genes, and the vote was tied. Members present agreed to focus first on finding and identifying already-registered animals with R genes. A few known RR gene-animals were said, by some present, to exist in current FBA members' flocks, and others agreed to have their animals tested to identify more.

Discussion in months after the 2010 annual meeting was heated, however, and pressure mounted to move the question before much time had passed, or animals identified. A vote was taken by the Board of Directors to again consider opening the registry, now recognized as an Amendment to the Constitution, since the FBA Constitution describes the makeup of purebred Finnsheep. The motion passed 4 to 3 to take a vote of members present or voting by proxy at its 2011 Annual Meeting, which will be held October 15 at the NY Sheep and wool Festival at Rhinebeck, NY. Materials defining the motion and the methods being considered will be mailed to FBA members in advance of the Meeting.

Much FBA Board online discussion preceded this decision to ask for the membership's vote to determine whether opening the registry to “upbreeding” is desired. While some favor the registry change, it is feared by others that valuable, present Finnsheep traits will be negatively affected.

One argument was made that while FBA has long discouraged showing Finnsheep for fear that the breed's chief attributes, including prolificacy, would be downplayed and lost to other non-essential traits through the show ring “beauty contest”, the same thing could happen here. People could choose to breed in R gene sheep of other breeds that only produce single lambs; that have rounder heads unsuited for lambing by the narrower Finns; that have coarse wool; less resistance to parasites, and so on. No doubt, larger, meatier animals would be chosen for crossing sires in this scheme, in order to appeal to commercial buyers. The same occurs in current show breeds, resulting in pony-sized sheep with unusable wool.

It was also argued that since R genes reportedly do already exist in the U.S. flock, opening the registry is unnecessary if breeders avail themselves of what is already here.

It is possible to start breeding for Scrapie resistance with what we currently have. Not many animals have

been tested in order to determine how many R gene animals exist, and taking the proposed action may be rushing the decision. The idea that using a limited number of R gene Finn rams will create an inbred Finn flock is unsubstantiated if R-gene Finnsheep available have not yet even been identified. Testing first, before changing the registry rules, would be a more cautious course of action.

Some Finnsheep are marketed to commercial flockholders who are apparently the buyers that ask most often about R genes. However, there is a question as to how many FBA members sell to commercial buyers, and how many instead sell to home hobby or fiber flocks as dual-purpose animals—for meat and fleece, a growing market of Finnsheep. It would be interesting to learn how FBA members use their Finn flocks, and relevant to the registry question being put to them to vote on.

Others question why FBA needs to open its Purebred registry to crossbred animals, when FBA already has a crossbred registry (Class II Registry)--Why not use that option to register crossbred animals with newly obtained R genes? It was asked: does a commercial buyer actually care if the animal he or she buys is Purebred and Registered? Such buyers generally crossbreed their Finns into their mixed-breed flock to increase its prolificacy, so why change the nature of all U.S. purebred Finns in order to supply some crossbred flocks?

When breeders can already offer crossbred animals of a known percentage, one can only guess that there is a monetary advantage to offering an animal with a purebred pedigree, however obtained, AND an R gene. Finnsheep breeders could, instead, enroll in the Voluntary Flock Scrapie Certification program to assure buyers that they are buying healthy animals, without altering Finnsheep to provide characteristics from another breed.

Arguments against opening the flockbook to breed in more R genes were made by several board members. Strongly at their center is a desire to preserve Finnsheep as they currently exist in the United States, with the belief that the animals in the U.S. are valuable and in need of conservation. Some will argue that since the Registry was opened in the FBA's early years in the USA, doing so again will not matter. It can also be argued that opening it the first time had negative results, and that we should strive to continue importing purebred Finn genetics to achieve more diverse, authentic animals, not dilute them.

Many of us like the Finns as they are: highly prolific, with beautiful wool, great mothering instincts and a calm temperament. Ultimately, the decision to keep Finnsheep in America free from further crossbreeding will be made by the votes cast at the October 15 annual meeting of the FBA. Members are encouraged to consider all issues, ask questions, and be sure to cast your vote on this important matter at the Annual Meeting.

### Finnish Nursery Rhyme (translated into English)

Bah, bah, baah, poor fool!

You carry the wool the whole summer,

Give it away in the fall,

Have none for yourself in the winter.

Bah, bah, baah, poor fool!

Come here, my dear sheep,

I'll give you a piece of bread.

Then I'll take some wool,

To knit a pair of booties,

So our little ones will have warm feet.

Below are two opportunities that I believe Finnsheep will excel in, so I thought I would bring them to your attention. There is still time to enter if you are interested in either option.

**2011 Fleece Show and Sales:** One is being held at Rhinebeck, NY during the FBA's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Annual Business Meeting in October, 15-16, 2011. From what I read there is still time to enter a Finnsheep fleece if you are interested. There are other Fleece shows and sales at state level Fiber Festivals. **Finnsheep wool is splendid for fleece shows and fleece projects. Finnsheep fleece has become highly desired by hand spinners around the country and many will be in attendance at Rhinebeck and other Fiber Festivals. Let your Finnsheep fleeces be seen.** NOTE: Please remember that clean fleeces do better than fleeces with dirt and other vegetable matter.

To enter the Rhinebeck's Fleece Show and Sale contact: <http://www.sheepandwool.com/fleece-sale/index.asp>

**Make It with Wool!!!** – This is a local, state to national level competition with several levels of entry. Again, Finnsheep fleece is well suited for this kind of project as they have high luster and a soft luxurious feel! Local & State Competitions are held from August-December 2011. The National Finals are held January 25-28, 2012 in Scottsdale, AZ. There are five divisions: (Age as of: Dec. 31, 2011) so you should find a good fit in this program somewhere... enjoy! For further information: <http://www.sheepandwool.com/make-it-with-wool/index.asp>

You can contact the Coordinator at the address below. Our Finnsheep are particularly well suited for project fun! The items made must be useful in the day-to-day life of the folks who make them and who knows that better than the sheep's Shepherd.

The Make It With Wool NYS Director and National Coordinator Fashion/Apparel Design Competition contact is:

Meegan Veeder-Shave  
475 N. Quaker Lane  
Hyde Park, NY 12538  
Home Phone: 845-229-5728  
[meeveesh1@netzero.com](mailto:meeveesh1@netzero.com)

## Neapolitan Lamb Risotto

- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1 clove garlic
- 2 lbs lamb shoulder cut into cubes (I use ground lamb and brown it in chunks rather than breaking it up as it cooks)
- 1 med onion chopped
- 2 Tbsp catsup
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp Tabasco
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup bouillon
- 1 cup uncooked rice
- 1/4 cup grated cheese

Melt butter in a large skillet. Add garlic and lamb, cook over med heat until lamb is browned on all sides. Remove garlic. Add onion and continue cooking until onion is tender. Stir in catsup, salt, Tabasco, water and bouillon; bring to a boil. Cover and simmer on very low heat for 1 hour or until lamb is tender. (when using ground lamb, I cook for only 20 mins or so) Remove lamb. Measure sauce and add water to make 3 cups; return to skillet; bring to a boil. Add rice; cover and cook 20-25 mins or until rice is tender. Add lamb and cheese and heat through.

Recipe from: "Lamb around the World" published by the Lamb Education Center, 200 Clayton St, Denver, Colorado 80206, Random House 1970. This recipe provided by Amy Cook of Sweetland Hill Finnsheep of Chenango Forks, NY

**The FBA General Business Meeting** will take place on **Saturday, October 15, 2011** at **7:00 PM**.

The location of this years meeting is:

**Morton Memorial Library**  
**82 Kelly Street**  
**Rhinecliff, NY 12574**

Our meeting location is within five miles of the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. As previously mentioned, the FBA will have a breed sponsored display at the NY Sheep and Wool Festival.

Directions to Morton Memorial Library from the Fairgrounds are as follows:

Go South on Rt 9

Turn right on Rt 85. This takes you into the town of Rhinecliff and the Library is located in town on the right side of the road.

If you plan to attend the NY Sheep & Wool Festival and the FBA Annual Business Meeting and have not made overnight accommodations I encourage you to contact the following Motel as soon as possible to make your hotel/motel reservations. At the time of the release of this issue of Short Tales, they had several rooms available.

Motel 8  
487 Washington Avenue  
I-87 Exit 19  
Kingston, NY 12401-2906  
Phone: 845-338-3078  
Email: [kingstonsuper8@gmail.com](mailto:kingstonsuper8@gmail.com)

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person you will be able to participate by telephone through conference call. The specific call in numbers will be published in the next edition of Short Tales.

We encourage all members to participate in this years meeting as many important issues will be discussed.

Please contact the FBA Secretary, Deb Olschefski by email: [Finnegansflock@comcast.net](mailto:Finnegansflock@comcast.net) or telephone: 717.324.2320 for more information.

## Finnsheep and The Youth Breed Conservation Program

Hi. My name is Phill Osborn. My wife Judy and I own Abundance Acres Fiber Farm in Hagerstown, Maryland. We came to Finnsheep in a roundabout way.

We first attended the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival 20 years ago, at the invitation of a pair of dear friends who knew Judy loved crafts, especially crocheting, and we both were “country kids” who loved animals, even though we were living in a city apartment at the time.

We really enjoyed it, and have been back every year since. Judy especially saw an 8-year old girl spinning and said, “If she can do that, I could do it.”

Since we were hoping to have kids, we were looking for something that Judy could do at home when they came along. She was also looking at all the “real” yarn and seeing how much nicer it was than the cheap acrylic she was used to crocheting. So the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, we were looking for opportunities and possibilities, not just there to enjoy it. We looked long and hard at the angora rabbits, since we knew they wouldn’t take much space, but produced a real luxury fiber. We bought a book and set about making a decision. With a background in registered Holsteins (on my grandfather’s farm) I knew that if we did get animals, I wanted to be a “breeder,” not just a multiplier.

Before the 3<sup>rd</sup> year rolled around, we had moved from the apartment into a rented country house on a half acre, and I set about building a rabbit barn. We came home from the Festival that year with 3 German Angoras and 1 black German Hybrid.

The following year we discovered rabbit shows, and began transitioning from Germans to Giants, which are recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association.

A couple more years and we were applying for a craft vendor’s booth at Maryland. We did that for 3 years, along with a couple of years at Rhinebeck and various other festivals. But with Judy still employed full time “down the road,” we did not really have enough volume or variety of product to sell, even with buying fleeces and having blended rovings and commercially spun yarn made.

Then we finally were able to purchase our own place. It was just a bit over 4 acres, but came with a big steel barn and “some” fence. About that time another rabbit breeder/spinner friend was transitioning into other “fiber arts,” specifically felt sculptures. She introduced us to Finnsheep, because she really likes the way the fleeces felt. But we could also see that, although it was not super-fine, the fleece would blend well with our angora. When shorn twice a year, as we do, the staple is a similar length. We also liked the easy to handle size, the clean face and legs, no tail docking, and no horns. And I *don’t* like to mow lawns. So, being rabbit breeders, we purchased a “trio” at the Festival 10 years ago. We tried showing our Finns at Maryland a couple of times, but, in a mixed breed class, they were not big enough to catch the judge’s attention.

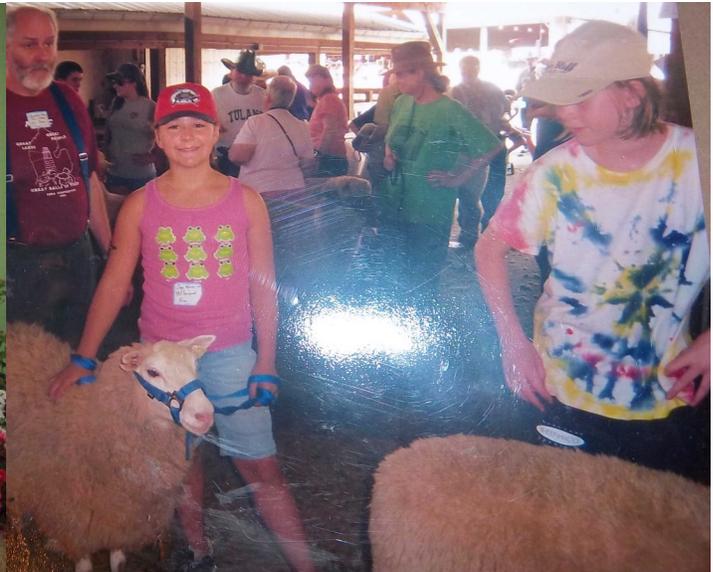
Then in the summer of 2008, Carol Winchell, from whom we had purchased our original stock, decided to disperse her Finns and focus on Romneys. Since she had the Finn booth in the Breed Display at Maryland, we immediately called the chairperson and asked to be considered as her replacement. Since the Festival prefers to have exhibitors from within Maryland, we were accepted, and we began making plans for 2009. A few months before the Festival we were contacted by Elaine Ashcroft from the Youth Breed Conservation program. Carol had given her our name, as she had previously been involved with donating, but no longer had a “rare breed” to offer.

The Youth Breed Conservation program is designed to bring together young people, mostly 4-Her’s, often home schooled, who are interested in helping to preserve some of the “underappreciated” sheep, with ewe lambs to begin their breeding programs. Since we love kids, (human, not goat) and our Finns, it was a natural fit for us.

The youth who are selected are required to: show the lamb, use its fleece, breed the ewe to a purebred ram of the same breed, keep records (scrapbook), etc. Some of the applicants are willing to accept any breed, but many of them have a specific breed or 2 that they prefer. We have been blessed all 3 years that we have been donating to be able to choose from 2 or 3 applicants who expressed a strong interest in Finns. Some of the youth end up coming back a few years later as donors themselves. It has not yet happened with the Finns, but who knows? We would encourage other Finn breeder to consider donating to this worthy cause. We like to help the next generation get their start in this wonderful multipurpose breed..

**Abby and Faith in 2009 shown above**

**Sage Moore above, received her ewe in 2010**



*“ The Youth Breed Conservation program is designed to bring together young people, mostly 4-Her ’ s, often home schooled, who are interested in helping to preserve some of the “ underappreciated ” sheep, with ewe lambs to begin their breeding programs. ”*

**Natasha Stallsmith received her ewe in 2011**

For information on the Youth Conservationist Program contact Elaine Ashcraft at [tankewe\\_cr58@yahoo.com](mailto:tankewe_cr58@yahoo.com).

Also visit the YCP websites:

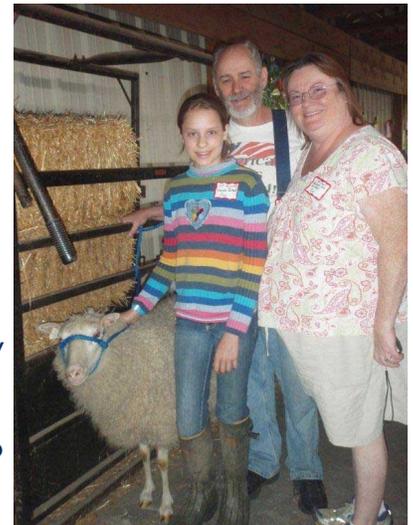
<http://youthconservationistprogram.blogspot.com/>

[http://www.sheepandwool.org/events\\_detail.php?eid=81](http://www.sheepandwool.org/events_detail.php?eid=81)

Hi! I'm Natasha Stallsmith. Some of you might remember me e-mailing you questions about Finnsheep. I was thinking about entering the Youth Conservationist Program (YCP). For those of you who don't know what this is, it is a program where kids from ages nine to eighteen enter an essay about themselves to the coordinator Elaine Ashcraft. There is a list of breeds of heritage sheep that they are giving away every year and in your essay you say what breed you would like and why you would like it. The person who is donating the sheep picks one person by their essay. They notify that person that he/she won a sheep and has to pick it up at the Maryland Sheep & Wool festival. Once that person has won the sheep he/she has to do certain things with it like show it, breed it, and promote the breed. For more information on this program contact Elaine Ashcraft at [tankewe\\_cr58@yahoo.com](mailto:tankewe_cr58@yahoo.com).

Anyways, since the Finnsheep was one of the available breeds this year I was doing research on it. Because of those who answered my questions, I decided to write an essay to try to win a Finnsheep ewe. I wrote my essay and sent it in. I waited to see if I would hear back from them. The rules said that if I won I would be notified by April 20<sup>th</sup>. On April 20<sup>th</sup> I waited for a call and since I did not hear from them all of that day I figured I had not been chosen. That night I received a call from Judy Osborn who, along with her husband Phil, is the Finnsheep breeder who was donating a ewe to the program. She said that they had picked my essay and we talked for a little bit. I learned that I won a two year old ewe that was already bred for September. Later I e-mailed her with a few more questions and she answered me. I received a letter in the mail that told me I had won and restated all the things that I needed to do with my ewe.

On May 6<sup>th</sup> we started out for the Maryland Sheep & Wool festival that is five to six hours from where we live in northwestern PA. We arrived at the fairgrounds late that night and since we were camping instead of going to a motel, we set up our tent. The next morning we walked around the fairgrounds a little bit and by noon I had found the ewe that I had won. I talked to Phil and Judy some that day and I walked all over the fairgrounds. I was overwhelmed by all the different breeds of sheep there was and everything there was to see. The next morning I walked around a little bit more and then it was almost time for the presentation where they would present the ewe to me. There was a little talk about what we needed to do and we had to show a signed agreement that said that we would show the ewe, breed her and do all the other things we were required to do. They put us in alphabetical order by breed and one by one we walked out in to the show ring with our new sheep and the people who donated it. In the ring we were given an envelope with the sheep's health certificate and a one year membership to the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy. We were not allowed to leave and go home until the festival was over, so we put the ewe back in her stall. Later we came back to visit her and discovered that since her wool had not yet been shorn we could have her shorn before we left the festival. We led her over to be sheared. (she did not lead too well but she was not too bad either) We found out that the person who was shearing her was one of the top ten shearers in the nation so after my ewe was sheared I had my picture taken with him, my ewe, and her fleece. Later we put her in a cage in the truck and drove home.



By the time we got home it was very late so we put her in her pen and made sure she had water. The next day we checked on her and since she was in new surroundings we decided not to try to catch her until later that night. Instead we laid out her fleece and started cleaning it. We did not get it all done but we got enough to make almost a load in the washer. That evening we caught her and handled her a little bit. I decided to name her Sasha. Today (May 10<sup>th</sup>) I hope to put the first load of her fleece in the washer and possible get more ready to go in. I hope to spin her fleece and make a shawl out of it. I am looking forward to September when she is supposed to lamb. I am also looking forward to showing her or one of her lambs.

I am grateful to all the people that have helped to give me this opportunity,

Natasha

# Finnsheep Breeders Association Breeders' Directory

## Illinois

**Cheryl Medlin & Frank Moore**  
**Wolf Moon**  
10304 Julie Lane  
Lebanon, IL  
618.623.2628  
cherylmedlin@sbcglobal.net  
Purebred Finns

**Bryan & Elizabeth Pullen**  
**Walnut Springs Farm**  
11111 W. Park School Road  
Princeville, IL 61559  
309.385.4637  
walnutspringfarm@hughes.net  
www.pullenfarms.com  
Healthy purebred Finnsheep for breeding or fiber pets. Beautiful fleeces available.  
4H discount.  
Purebred Finns

**Fran Smith**  
**Zip Ty Acres**  
7588 E State Route 9  
Rankin, IL 60960  
217.375.4311  
Ziptyacres@gmail.com  
www.Ziptyacres.com  
Flock Prefix: Zip Ty Acres  
Purebred Registered Finnsheep, Finn-Southdown/Tunis Cross, Angora Goats, Pygora Goats & Angora Rabbits. Breeding stock. Fleeces and hand dyed wool and rovings (\$2.00 Fee)

## Indiana

**Pamela K. Hoover**  
**Rooster's Run Farm**  
5197 SW Washington School Road  
Salem, IN 47167  
812.896.1223  
Pam.Hoover@rrfiberfarm.com  
www.rrfiberfarm.com  
Purebred Finnsheep, Finn x Shetland Enrolled Status; Mandatory Scrapie Program since 2002; Flock ID: 88035  
New for 2011, The Rooster's Run Store selling yarn, rovings, fleeces plus other wool products as well as Kromski Spinning wheels and Howard Brush Carders. We also offer registered Angora goats.

## Iowa

**Dale L. Amendt**  
6815 Waterman Blvd  
Sutherland, IA 51058  
712.446.3489  
Purebred Finnsheep  
Crossbred Finnsheep (Finn x Suffolk, Finn x Corriedale)

**Marvin Blair**  
**BBG Sheep**  
3402 Fletcher Avenue  
Lake City, IA 51449  
712.464.8153  
Purebred Finnsheep  
Crossbred Finnsheep (Finn x Hamp and Finn x Dorset)

**Clark BreDahl**  
**Mormon Trail Farm**  
1911 290th Street  
Greenfield, IA 50849  
641.745.2323  
bredahl.mtfarms@gmail.com  
Purebred Finnsheep  
Crossbred Finnsheep  
(Finn x Dorset x Ile de France)  
Footrot free; OPP flock test negative  
Flock Prefix: MTF

## Maryland

**Mary & John O'Malley**  
**Honeysuckle Farm**  
1600 Ednor Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20905  
301.421.9420  
Johnandmaryomalley@yahoo.com  
Purebred Finnsheep & Finn cross

**Phil & Judy Osborn**  
**Abundance Acres**  
9713 Crystall Falls Drive  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
Office: 240.556.0627  
Home: 301.791.1110  
abundanceacres@myactv.net  
www.abundantfiber.com

## Michigan

**Darren & Margaret Cole**  
**Sable Forest Finnsheep**  
2114 South Magruder Road  
St. Louis, MI 48880  
989.681.0024  
sableforest@aol.com  
www.sableforestfinns.webs.com  
Flock ID: MIF2042  
White, black, brown and badgerface;  
Fleeces available yearly; call to check prices and availability

**Bobbie L. Peck**  
**The Counting Sheep Farm**  
5709 E. 12 Street  
White Cloud, MI 49349  
231.429.3364  
john\_330\_live\_it@yahoo.com  
www.thecountingsheepfarm.com  
Registered breeding stock, freezer lambs, fleeces and roving. Call, email or check us out on Facebook!

## Minnesota

**Tim Reese**  
**Gale Woods Farm Park**  
7210 County Road 110 West  
Minnetrista, MN 55364  
763.694.2002  
treese@threeriversparkdistrict.org  
www.galewoodsfarm.org  
Purebred Finnsheep  
Cross-Bred Corriedale & Islandic  
Flock Prefix: TRP  
SFCP Enrolled Status since 2005  
Flock ID: MN43  
Gale Woods is an educational farm.  
Products include wool & yarn and pasture-raised lamb, beef, poultry and hogs and a vegetable CSA.

**Gail VonBargen**  
**Little Red Oak Farm**  
14255 Jacob Street Hamburg, MN 55339  
Office: 952.467.2305  
Home: 952.564.9522  
gvonbargen@aol.com  
www.littleredoakfarm.blogspot.com  
SFCP Enrolled in 2006  
Flock ID: MN62  
Purebred Shetlands & Finnsheep in white, brown, gray and black, piebald;  
Quality fleece, roving, registered and unregistered animals available

**New York**

**Kathryn & Bill Clemens  
Sunrise Farms**  
252 Plymouth-NO Norwich Rd.  
Plymouth, NY 13832  
607.336.5834  
clemensclan@citlink.net  
Enrolled Scrapie Flock  
Purebred Finnsheep, white & colored;  
meat, breeding stock

**Elizabeth H. Kinne Gossner  
Stillmeadow Finnsheep**  
5883 Randall Hill Road  
DeRuyter, NY 13052  
315.852.3344  
www.stillmeadowfinnsheep.com  
stillmeadowfinnsheep@frontier.com  
SFCP #NY69  
Registered Finnsheep since 1994. O.P.P.  
negative; Emphasis on Health, Maternal  
Traits & Fleece Quality; All Colors; Start-  
er Flocks Available; Grass Fed Lamb &  
Roving for sale.

**Brian H. Magee  
Star Finnsheep & Dorsets**  
1184 Harford Slaterville Road  
Dryden, NY 13053  
607.844.9711  
OPP Free  
Selected for accelerated lambing STAR  
Codon 171R Heterozygous and  
Homozygous

**Mary & Herb Tucker  
Lighthouse Farm (LHF)**  
P.O. Box 85  
8885 Daggett Hollow Road  
West Clarksville, NY 14786  
585.928.1721  
mary@lighthousesheepfarm.com  
www.lighthousesheepfarm.com  
Purebred Registered Finnsheep  
Finn x Dorset crosses available  
SFCP: NY 103  
Finnsheep selected for maternal abilities,  
carcass traits, parasite resistance, and  
fleeces of many colors. AI genetics from  
Finland have enhanced these characteris-  
tics. Lambs due throughout the year.  
Two QR Registered Finn rams in use.

**CaraLeigh Wilson  
Point of View Farm**  
PO Box 535  
Bangall, NY 12506  
845.868.4140  
finnsheep@me.com  
www.pointofviewfarm.net  
SFCP Flock ID: NY120  
Purebred Finnsheep raised all naturally  
on pasture, organic grains, minerals and  
herbs. Biosecure farm offering healthy  
breeding stock for sale including white,  
brown, fawn, black and grey lambs.  
Entire flock tested for negative OPP sta-  
tus annually, enrolled in SFCP, Flock  
#NY120. Random flock testing for CL  
and Johne's. Flock goals are wide genetic  
variety, confirmation, maternal traits,  
parasite resistance and high quality wool.  
Chemical free coated hand spinning fleec-  
es, roving and yarn available for sale in all  
colors. Come visit and see how we have  
an alternative Point of view at our farm  
following the traditions of our family in  
Finland.

**Pennsylvania**

**Deb Olschefski  
Finnegan's Flock**  
3937 Ridgewood Road  
York, PA 17406  
717.840.7316  
Finnegansflock@comcast.net  
www.Finnegansflock.com  
SFCP Enrolled Status; Flock ID: PA0185  
Entire flock tested negative for OPP &  
CL in 2011. Excellent flock health; Bred  
for maternal traits and fleece; White,  
black and pied; Fleece, roving and yarn.

**Heidi Trimbur  
Trimburfield Farm**  
58 Bitting Road  
Alburtis, PA 18011  
610.845.3607  
htrimbur@dejazzd.com  
www.trimburfieldfinnsheep.com  
Flock Prefix: TRIMBUR  
Flock ID: PA3781  
SFCP Enrolled Status  
Purebred & RR composites; ASI SSQA  
Program Participant; PA Preferred Farm;  
Varied genetics from AI and imported  
rare lines. Premium wool in all colors;  
excellent herd health, established breed  
improvement program.

**Virginia**

**Joe & Naomi Smith  
House Mountain Finnsheep**  
1765 Jacktown Road  
Lexington, VA 24450  
540.463.6062  
Flock ID: VA17; SFCP enrolled 1999  
Farm established in 1985 in the Blue  
Ridge Mountains for Virginia  
Purebred Finnsheep; flock of 100 breed-  
ing ewes, mostly quads and quints. Bred  
for size, multiple births, mothering ability  
and structural correctness. Glen Avon  
and Root bloodlines. Rams available for  
cross-breeding

**Linda Witt  
Misty Mountain Farm**  
154 Quail Call Lane  
Amissville, VA 20106  
540.937.4707  
info@mistymountainfarm.com  
www.mistymountainfarm.com  
SFP Flock #: VA26  
Purebred Finnsheep  
Handspinning fleece, roving and batts

**Washington**

**Dan & Leanne Hughes  
Triple L Finnsheep**  
89202 N. Harrington Road  
West Richland, WA 99353  
509.539.6745  
Leanne@TripleLFinnsheep.com  
www.TripleLFinnsheep.com  
Flock Prefix: 3L  
Flock ID: WA2252; SFCP Certified  
Purebred Finnsheep since 1982  
We raise white, black, gray, brown, fawn,  
and pied animals. We raise for produc-  
tivity, size, milking ability and quality.  
Fleeces available.  
Lambing records available to 1982.

**Robert & Sandra Willford  
Solace Farm**  
30119 N. Spotted Road  
Deer Park, WA 99006  
509.276.7160  
Solacefarmfiber@yahoo.com  
www.solacefinnsheep.com  
SFCP Flock ID: WA2167  
Purebred Finnsheep & Finn x Romanov  
Quality fleeces, roving and handspun  
yarns. Starter flocks available in spring  
ABCA Border Collies

**Wisconsin**

**Tracy Sengupta**  
**Firefly Fields Finnsheep**  
 4110 W. Plymouth Church Road  
 Beloit, WI 53511  
 608.345.8555  
 tracy@fireflyfields.com  
 www.fireflyfields.com  
 Flock Prefix: FF  
 Flock ID: WI1990  
 SFCP Certified Status  
 Purebred Finnsheep  
 Authentic Finnish Landrace Sheep as a  
 heritage breed. High percentage Finnish  
 genetics. All breeding stock micron test-  
 ed. Jacketed hand-spinning fleeces.

**Brian Stichter**  
 422 US Hwy 14  
 Arena, WI 53503  
 608.753.2713  
 Stichter@charter.net  
 VSFCP Flock ID: WI456  
 Purebred Registered Finnsheep in white,  
 black and brown. Finn x North Country  
 Cheviot Commercial ewes and ewe  
 lambs, fleeces and raw wool available.

**Mary Tucker** has been appointed  
**Short Tales Coordinator**. Feel  
 free to contact Mary Tucker at:  
[maire8797@yahoo.com](mailto:maire8797@yahoo.com) with  
 your suggestions regarding infor-  
 mation you would like published in  
 Short Tales.

**This is YOUR newsletter**  
**...lets make it great!!!**

**Thank you to all FBA Members who paid their Membership Renewal in January, 2011!**

*The Finnsheep Breeders Association is happy to offer all Breeders the opportunity to advertise in the Short Tales Breeder Directory and the FBA Website Breeder Directory for an annual fee of \$30. Your business is appreciated. However, it is necessary that your payment is received in January in order to keep your information current on our sites.*

*If you notice your breeder information is no longer listed in Short Tales or on the Website, please check to make sure you sent in your membership renewal. If you have questions regarding either memberships or directory listings please contact FBA Secretary, Deb Olschefski at [Finnegansflock@comcast.net](mailto:Finnegansflock@comcast.net) or 717.840.7316 and she will assist you.*

**Don't forget to renew your FBA Membership and your On-Line Breeder Directory**

**Advertising Rates for Short Tales**

Classified: Members \$.10/word	Business Card Display: Members \$5.00/card
Non-members \$.15/word	Non-members \$7.50/card
Quarter Page (approx. 3.5" by 5'):	Half Page (approx. 3.5" by 10" or 7" by 5"):
Members \$10.00	Members \$20.00
Non-members \$15.00	Non-members \$30.00
Full Page (approx. 7" by 10"):	
Members \$ 40.00	
Non-members \$60.00	

**Advance payment required for all ads**

Send your advertising copy to the Short Tales Coordinator, Mary Tucker - [mary@lighthousesheepfarm.com](mailto:mary@lighthousesheepfarm.com)

Please place "ST Classified Ad" in the subject line or send your hard copy and applicable fee to:

Deb Olschefski, FBA Secretary 3937 Ridgewood Road York, PA 17406

**President:****Clark BreDahl, Class of 2011 (First term)**

Mormon Trail Farm  
1911 290th Street  
Greenfield, IA 50849  
641-745-2323  
[mtfarms@mddc.com](mailto:mtfarms@mddc.com)

**Vice President:****Dr. Paul Hunter, Class of 2013 (First term)**

11425 Bruns Road  
Fort Loramie, OH 45845  
1-800-628-5262(2013)  
[drhunter@bright.net](mailto:drhunter@bright.net)

**Secretary and Director:****Deb Olschefski, Class of 2013 (First term)**

**FBA Secretarial Office**  
Finnegan's Flock  
3937 Ridgewood Road  
York, PA 17406  
717-840-7316  
[finnegansflock@comcast.net](mailto:finnegansflock@comcast.net)

**Treasurer: (appointed)****Grant Blackburn**

142 Gravel Lane  
Lexington, VA 24450  
540-463-4594  
[anzar@rockbridge.net](mailto:anzar@rockbridge.net)

**Director:****Joe Smith, Class of 2012 (Second term)**

House Mountain Finnsheep  
765 Jacktown Rd  
Lexington, VA 24450  
540-463-6062

**Director:****Elizabeth Kinne Gossner, Class of 2012 (First term)**

Stillmeadow Finnsheep  
5883 Randall Hill Rd  
DeRuyter, NY 13052  
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**Finnsheep Breeders' Association**

Finnsheep breeders are now found across many States producing purebred and crossbred Finnsheep. Breeders look to the Finnsheep Breeders' Association, Inc. to provide record keeping of registrations and transfers of the breed. Since the inception of the Finnsheep Breeders' Association, Inc. the organization has drawn on the expertise of leading research authorities to enhance the Finnsheep breed and provide leadership in promoting the Finnsheep qualities and characteristics.

**Mission Statement**

**The American Finnsheep Breeders' Association:**

- 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 sheep industry and abroad
- Is a national focal point for Finnsheep Breeders
- Disseminates timely information to members on all matters relating to the breed.

**Were on the Web!**

**Visit Us at:**  
**[www.finnsheep.org](http://www.finnsheep.org)**

**FBA Secretarial Office**

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