



Short Tales

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Official Registry for Finnsheep in the U.S.A. since 1971

www.finnsheep.org

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Letter from the President...

Greetings! I'm sure you've felt the common theme of a controlled chaos on the farm throughout the summer season. Or maybe it's just me...pasture management, selling lambs, shearing, fall lambing, and the list goes on. Well, the board of directors has been busy too!

In this abnormally large issue, you'll find news on the 2021 annual meeting and so much more. Please, read on! But before you do, I want to pull out an important (and I believe overlooked) part of our association's constitution. In Article III. five purposes are listed. The last three are:

3. To record lambing performance of registered ewes and encourage the use of performance/progeny records for further improvement of the Finnsheep breed.
4. To encourage and support breeding research to discover how Finnsheep can be used most effectively in cross-breeding to improve efficiency of commercial lamb production.
5. To continuously improve and promote Finnsheep in the interest of more profitable sheep enterprises.

There's a lot of work to be done if we hope to stay true to those objectives. Are they still relevant to our members? If they aren't relevant to the majority, should the purpose be shifted? Or should our founders' goals be respected? I certainly wasn't very interested in every detail of this document when I got my first Finns. But I am now, having read through it more times than I care to count. It holds some valuable insight!

Cheers,
Siri Swanson

Save the Date!

FBA Annual Meeting
Sunday, November 7
7 pm E.S.T.
on Zoom

Details on Page 3

Meeting can be joined by computer or phone.
Login information will be mailed and emailed prior to the event.

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Applied Animal Selection Zoom Program

On July 25th the FBA hosted an educational event titled Applied Animal Selection presented by Terry Burks. The Zoom event was well attended and a good amount of positive feedback has been shared with the board. The event was recorded. That recording has been distributed to all members via email. If you missed it, please contact our secretary.

The board has heard your requests for more educational resources. This event was the second one sponsored by the FBA in the past year, with more events and printable resources planned for the future. The next program is scheduled to follow our annual meeting on Zoom and will be an informal discussion focused on record keeping and performance data.

New FBA Facebook Group

Last year, the FBA joined the world of social media with an official Facebook page. When Facebook was still new, FBA

leadership was opposed to partaking in communication on the platform. Since then, Facebook has evolved to create more appropriate space for professional entities. This month we added an associated private group.

This group is a place for current FBA members to share and discuss topics of interest for the association. The group creates an organized discussion board for members that can be monitored by the board of directors. Members are still encouraged to submit formal letters (email or printed) and or attend the annual meeting to present concerns and proposals they would like addressed. This way, proper records can be kept by the secretary.

Director Resignation

Joanna Bullock resigned from her position as director in June. The board accepted her resignation and appointed Deb Kirsch, who was already serving on the committee to review the constitution, to fill the vacancy until the next election. We would like to thank Joanna for her time given to the board and wish her all the best! We also thank Deb for stepping into the role on short notice.

Committee on Colors and Markings Guide

The Board of Directors has decided to form a committee tasked with reviewing the Colors and Markings guide. If you would like to serve on the committee please contact committee chair, Ashley Hoffman (CedarViewFarmVA@gmail.com).

Do you want to contribute to your breed association?
Have an idea or experience you think is important to share?

Write for Short Tales!

All members are welcome to submit written pieces and pictures to be featured in *Short Tales*. Send your contributions to the editor, Siri Swanson via email (yankeerockfarm@gmail.com) or mail (363 Fisher Road, Orwell, VT 05760).

Date Set for Annual Business Meeting Sunday, November 7 at 7 pm EST on Zoom

Our annual business meeting will once again be conducted online. This went well last year accommodating an above average attendance. Due to that success and sheep-related events around the country once again being canceled, we hope you agree that this is the best course of action. Hopefully soon there will be an in-person option again!

An invitation with login information and the meeting agenda will be mailed out in October. In preparation for the meeting, here are a few things to think about.

Constitution Amendments

A committee has been working on bringing our constitution up to date. Committee members are Cody Manspile (chair), Grant Blackburn, Jeff Ebert, Mary Tucker, and Deb Kirsch. The current board of directors has reviewed and approved the proposed edits. Now it's time for the membership to weigh in. On the next several pages you will find a copy of the constitution with proposed changes coded by color as well as underlining and highlighting in case it is viewed in black and white. If you have any objections to the proposed changes, prepare to present them at the annual meeting. If you cannot attend, you may send your comments to our secretary to present for you. If you have questions you'd like answered before the meeting, please send those to the secretary as well.

Elections

Two director positions will be once again up for election. All members in good standing are able to run for these positions. Directors are expected to attend at least quarterly and sometimes more frequent call-in meetings. Directors also correspond regularly through email and should be responsive. Individuals interested in running should familiarize themselves with the constitution, objectives, and mission statement accessible on the FBA website. Nominations will be accepted until just prior to voting, however it is recommended to submit nominations ahead of time so those running can provide written introductions. Introductions sent to the secretary by October 15 will be included with the mailed invitation.

DELETIONS are underlined and in red text.

ADDITIONS AND EDITS are highlighted yellow and in blue text.

(Notes which are present only to inform the reader about edits are italicized and in parenthesis.)

Finnsheep Breeders Association Constitution

Article I. NAME

The Name of this Association shall be: Finnsheep Breeders Association

Article II. CHARACTER AND EXISTENCE

This Association shall be a non-profit livestock breeders' corporation and shall have perpetual existence unless dissolved by due process of law.

Article III. GENERAL PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Association shall be to engage in any lawful activities for which a non-profit corporation may be formed, pursuant to the Minnesota Non-Profit Corporation Act, specifically including but not limited to the following:

1. To register and maintain pedigree identification of Finnish Landrace, hereinafter called Finnsheep, ewes and rams.
2. To register and maintain pedigree identification of first cross and backcross progeny having one purebred (Class 1) Finnsheep parent.
3. To record lambing performance of registered ewes and encourage the use of performance/progeny records for further improvement of the Finnsheep breed.
4. To encourage and support breeding research to discover how Finnsheep can be used most effectively in cross-breeding to improve efficiency of commercial lamb production.
5. To continuously improve and promote Finnsheep in the interest of more profitable sheep enterprises.

Article IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. There shall be two categories of membership:

Category I. Voting Membership. Owners of flocks of registered Finnsheep or the duly authorized agents or representatives of such owners shall be entitled to membership. Acceptance of membership in this Association shall bind the member to abide by this constitution. *(NOTE: This phrase is not a new addition but is being saved from the proposed deleted Article II below.)* Upon payment of annual activity fees, such membership shall be entitled to vote in relation to the number of animals registered annually from said flock. The number of votes entitled to said flock shall be determined by the annual number of sheep registered as follows:

- 1 vote for 0 to 50 registered
- 2 votes for 51 to 100 registered
- 3 votes for 101 to 500 registered

4 votes for 501 to 1000 registered
5 votes for 1001 and over registered

The “annual number of sheep registered” shall be designated as the number of Finnsheep registered by the flock owner for the preceding calendar year prior to the year the vote is cast. For purposes of establishing the number of registrations, the secretary shall publish as of January 1 each year the total number of registrations made by each flock owner for the preceding year.

In 2002 the board voted that annual activity fees need not be paid by breeders registering 50 or more animals in the preceding year.

Category II. Associate Membership. Persons may become Associate (non-voting) members on application to the association and payment of the Associate Membership fee. Acceptance of membership in this Association shall bind the member to abide by this constitution.

Section 2. Revocation of Membership

Any member of this Association who is charged by another member with violating the articles of this constitution, bylaws or rules and regulations adopted by the association shall be liable to revocation of membership and expulsion from the association. In the event a member is so charged, he/she shall receive a written notice of the violation so charged, signed by the President or Secretary of the Association and he/she shall be given an opportunity to be heard by the board of directors on the said charge. If after such hearing a majority of the board of directors shall decide that said charge is valid, the result of such hearing shall be presented to the membership at the next regular or any special meeting to decide whether such membership should be revoked. A 2/3 majority vote of Category 1 Membership present in person or by Absentee Ballot shall be required to revoke such membership in the Association. The board of directors is authorized and may decide by a 2/3 majority vote of the directors to suspend any registration or transfer of registration by such member until such charges are brought before the membership for vote. The privileges of registrations and transfers of registration by nonmembers shall be subject to the ruling of the Board of Directors in matters relating to such charges. A person whose membership has been revoked may be reinstated by the 2/3 recommendation of the Board of Directors and subsequent approval by a 2/3 majority vote of the Category I membership present in person or by proxy at the next annual meeting.

Section 3. Absentee Voting

Any member who wishes to vote at any regular or special meeting on any predetermined issue or for any individual running for an elective office may do so by requesting an absentee ballot in writing. This ballot, properly witnessed, signed, and returned to the board secretary in a timely fashion shall carry the full weight of a vote cast in person at the meeting.

Section 4. Membership Fees and Annual Dues

The Board of Directors shall be authorized to set membership fees and establish dues structure.

Section 5. Personal Liability of Members

The members of the Corporation shall not be subject to any personal liability for corporate obligations.

Article V. OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The business of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership. The board shall consist of seven (7) directors, each elected for a three (3) year term of office so that at least two (2) directors shall be elected each year. A director may not serve more than two (2) full, consecutive three (3) year terms, or more than seven (7) consecutive years / three (3) full, consecutive (3) year terms or more than 10 years, if originally appointed to fill a vacant position. A director must be a member of the association whose election to the Board of Directors shall be by a majority of votes cast by the membership. A director must be a member of the association AND KEEP CURRENT WITH ANNUAL ACTIVITY FEE. Members of other Finnsheep registries that have had a less stringent criteria for registration than the FBA, such as a continued policy of up-breeding, are not eligible to serve as FBA directors or officers.

Section 2. The officers of the Association shall be a President and Vice President. They shall be elected for a one-year term of office by and from the board of directors. The duties of the President shall be to preside over all meetings of the members and directors and other duties usually performed for such associations. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President if the President is unable to act.

Section 3. The board of directors shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer whose duties shall be to manage the affairs of the Association as determined by the board of directors. The Secretary- Treasurer may or may not be a member of the Association. The board of directors shall be authorized to determine the appropriate remuneration for the Secretary-Treasurer and any other employees of the association. The Secretary-Treasurer shall record the minutes of regular and special meetings of the association.

Section 4. The board of directors is established to conduct the business of the Association. They shall be authorized to implement procedures for registration, recording of pedigrees, issuing certificates of registration and transfer of registrations within the framework of this constitution. They shall also be authorized to determine and set fees not specifically designated by these articles.

The board of directors shall prepare or have prepared at their direction a report each year summarizing the activities of the association. This report shall include a summary of activities related to achievement of the objectives as outlined in Article III. The board of directors shall prepare or have prepared at their direction an annual financial report of the association.

Section 5. Meetings of the board of directors

A meeting of the board of directors shall be called at the discretion of the President or any four (4) members of the board. Notice of said meeting shall be given in writing by the Secretary-Treasurer to each board member at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting together with an agenda of said meeting. The written notice and agenda provision of this section may be dispensed with by unanimous agreement of the board of directors.

Detailed minutes of meetings of the board of directors shall be kept and made available to the members of the association upon request. A majority of four (4) members of the board of directors, including proxy vote shall constitute a quorum for purposes of conducting a meeting.

Section 6. Resignation of President and Vice President

The Board of Directors shall be authorized to elect a President and Vice President if either or both of these officers resign. The Board of Directors shall be authorized to appoint a member to the Board of Directors to fill a vacancy created by resignation of another member. The term of the appointees shall be until the next regular or special meeting of the association.

Section 7. Compensation of Board of Directors

The board of Directors may receive expenses, but not per diem, while on official business of the association to attend meetings or other official activities.

Article VI. HEADQUARTERS AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS

The location of the Corporation's registered office in this state is Pipestone, Minnesota / Wamego, Kansas. The Board of Directors shall be authorized to change the principal office and place of business for maintaining the records of the Corporation, conducting the affairs of the Corporation and for other activities which are directly related to the objectives of the Corporation by resolution duly adopted.

Article VII. INCOME AND PROPERTY

Income and property of this association shall be used solely for furtherance of the objectives of the Association as stated in this constitution.

Article VIII. ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings

An annual meeting of the members of the association shall be held for the election of directors and the transaction of any other business which may come before the association. The secretary shall notify members 30 days in advance of the annual meeting of the date, location, and time of the meeting. An agenda of business to be transacted shall also be sent to each member at the time notice is given of the annual meeting.

Section 2. Special Meetings

By a majority vote of the board of directors a special meeting of the members of the association may be called to transact business of the association. An agenda specifying the date, location, time and business to be considered must accompany the notice of the meeting. A notice of a special meeting must be given 14 days in advance.

Section 3. Quorum

The members present at any regular or special meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Article IX. REGISTRATION AND PEDIGREE RECORDATION

Section 1. There shall be two classes of Finnsheep:

a) Class I. This class of registry shall include purebred Finnsheep imported directly from Finland or indirectly through breeding stock propagated in the Irish Republic, the United Kingdom, Canada or any other country which may be designated by the association. The certificate of registry issued for this class shall show the date of birth, identity of sire and dam, litter size in which the individual was born, including age of dam and parity at the time of birth and the litter size in which the sire and dam were born. An extended pedigree will be available for an additional fee. The registration of an animal in this class shall count as one registration for the purpose of determining voting rights.

b) Class II. This class of registry shall include all animals and their descendants of one FBA Class I registered Finnsheep and a sheep of any other breed, including domestic Finnsheep not registered through FBA. The certificate of registry issued for an animal in this class shall show the date of birth, percentage of Finn blood, identity of sire and dam, litter size and the age of dam at time of birth, and litter size in which the sire and dam were born. The recording of an animal in this class shall count as one half of one Class I registration for purposes of determining the breeder's FBA voting rights.

Section 2. No restrictions on the use of artificial insemination or ova transplantation shall be imposed on the sheep offered for registration, provided the pedigree identity supplied is in accordance with that required for sheep produced by natural matings. Sheep produced by either or both of these methods shall be appropriately identified in the records of the Association. Any certificates of registration issued or transfer of ownership shall be appropriately identified.

Section 3. In 2009, the association voted to allow transfers of registrations from Canadian or other foreign registrations to our Association for the same fee as regular transfers within the USA.

Article X. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any regular annual meeting of the Association by the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the membership present or represented by absentee ballot at the meeting. Notice of a proposed amendment shall be given to the Secretary-Treasurer forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting and such proposed amendment shall be included in the general notice calling such meeting.

Article XI. CAPITAL STOCK

The Corporation shall have no Capital Stock.

Article XII. INCORPORATORS

The incorporators of the Corporation and their post office addresses are as follows:

Dwight Holaway Rural Route 2, Pipestone, Minnesota.

W. J. Boulan, University of Minnesota, Animal Science Department, St. Paul, Minnesota.

John F. Redding, Box 1029, Asheboro, North Carolina.

As of 2019 the location of the non-profit status is changed to PO Box 231, Wamego, Kansas, 66547.

This constitution was approved at an organizational meeting of Finnsheep breeders at Hastings, Nebraska on June 29, 1971 and duly amended October 23, 1973, October 6, 1976, August 23, 2009, August 29, 2010, August 1, 2011, October 15, 2011, October 14, 2012, & October 18, 2013

ADD AMENDED DATE

Finnsheep Breeders Association 2021 Survey Results

Total Surveys Received: 62

General Information

1. How many years have you been raising Finnsheep?

- a. 1-5 years 41%
- b. 6-10 years 39%
- c. 11+ years 20%

2. What state or region do you reside in?

Surveys were received from every region in the continental U.S. and 26 different states.

3. What was your original interest in Finns? (circle all that apply)

- a. for meat 21%
- b. for fiber 44%
- c. for crossbreeding to improve prolificacy 11%
- d. other 24% - included temperament, small size, dairy, crossing for dairy, hobby, homestead, land management

4. How many Finnsheep are in your flock?

- a. 10 or less 22%
- b. 11-20 24%
- c. 21-50 17%
- d. 51+ 4%
- e. has another breed 32% - flock size of other breeds 1 – 600 head

5. Rank these selection criteria from most important (1) to least important (10) when purchasing new breeding stock. Please answer in terms of individual animal traits, rather than entire flock generalizations.

Average rank (from most to least important): structural soundness, other*, fleece quality, health – physical exam, litter size, health – verified test results, fleece color, codon 171 status, analyzed data, non-verified flock data.

*Write ins for “other” included dam’s lambing record, mothering ability, temperament, travel distance, cost, written agreements with seller, growth rate, small size, animal medical records, and seller’s references.

20% ranked fleece color more important than fleece quality.

38% ranked analyzed data more important than non-verified flock data.

Comments: Some notes were made pointing out differing conclusions of the importance of R at codon 171 as well as the accuracy of tests for certain diseases. A few noted fleece color rankings specifically for pure white. Several notes were made suggesting analyzed data would be ranked higher if it were more widely used by breeders. Many others noted uncertainty of what analyzed data is. Lastly, several comments were made that ranking would change as flock size grew.

6. My purpose for breeding Finns include: (circle all that apply)

- a. producing breeding stock to sell to other Finn breeders 82%
- b. producing breeding stock to sell to other farms for crossbreeding 68%
- c. selling meat direct-to-consumer 53%
- d. selling meat wholesale 6%
- e. selling feeder lambs or finished lambs 32%
- f. selling wool through a wool broker/wool pool 10%
- g. selling wool direct-to-consumer 76%
- h. selling wool as finished products (roving, yarn, knit items, etc.) 55%
- i. personal sustenance for meat and or fiber 53%

National Sale Structure

The proposed criteria for admittance into the sale are as follows:

- FBA registration
- scrapie tag in ear and valid CVI (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection)*
- negative test for OPP with verified results
- rams must have 2 descended testicles of uniform size
- ewes may not have hard or lumpy udders and should have two teats
- all entries should meet breed standard according to size and structure

7. Is there anything else you feel is important to consider during this sifting?

fleece length, temperament, low coefficient of inbreeding, breeder's membership status, lambing records, animal medical records, conformation, litter size, fleece quality, body condition score, rejection of single born lambs, production records, correct jaw alignment

*Several suggestions were made about veterinary inspection, foot rot, sore mouth, and other contagious diseases. Note CVIs would be required which provides documentation that a veterinarian has already inspected animals for signs of disease.

8. How important do you feel a show held just prior to the sale is in evaluating consignments?

comments: Some pointed out the importance of comparison within the breed (and only within the breed – not to judge against other breeds) and the educational opportunity this could become. Others answered a. or b. with the note that judge should be familiar with Finns and how to evaluate them. The belief of FBA founders that Finns should not be shown was also pointed out.

- a. very important 21%
- b. somewhat important 25%
- c. neutral 38%
- d. not so important 8%
- e. not at all important 8%

9. How important do you feel it is to ask consignors to include production and or performance data with each of their consignments?

- a. very important 48%
- b. somewhat important 35%
- c. neutral 12%
- d. not so important 5%
- e. not at all important 0%

10. Would you be willing to micron test wool from your consignments?

YES 72% / NO 28%

11. Would you be willing to test scrapie resistance (codon 171) on your consignments?

YES 76% / NO 24%

12. Should a "Best Fleece" class be included in the show?

YES 78% / NO 22%

13. Would you be interested in a fleece show separate from the sheep sale and show?

YES 76% / NO 24%

Comments for Q10-13: Concern for cost of testing and ability to test was expressed. It was suggested tests not be a requirement. Many questions were added about what micron testing and codon testing was as well. These questions were addressed in Short Tales 107.

Attendance

14. How likely are you to attend a 2021 National Finnsheep Sale in Illinois held during a weekend in June? **comments: Many expressed a desire to attend once COVID is no longer a concern. Some mentioned desire to attend but inability due to the specific time of year in relation to other farm responsibilities (crop/hay harvesting, markets and festivals, etc.).**

- a. very likely 13%
- b. somewhat likely 13%
- c. not sure 16%
- d. somewhat unlikely 8%
- e. very unlikely 49%

15. How important do you think an FBA-sponsored dinner with opportunities to meet other Finn breeders is to this event?

- a. very important 36%
- b. somewhat important 32%
- c. neutral 25%
- d. not so important 0%
- e. not at all important 7%

Annual Meeting

To accommodate as much of our membership as possible, the possibility to hold the FBA Annual Business Meeting at a different time of year and different location has been considered. The option to call in to the meeting from all locations across the country would remain available.

16. How important is separating the sale and annual meeting so they can be held in two different locations in different regions to accommodate more of the membership?

comments: Some suggested to keep the events combined but move the location on a regular basis.

- a. very important 12%
- b. somewhat important 21%
- c. neutral 35%
- d. not so important 7%
- e. not at all important 25%

**Plans for any in-person events are dependent on COVID-19 restrictions. If we are unable to travel and gather in-person this year, we will apply the information collected from your survey*

to event planning for next year.

Stay safe!

Finnsheep Breeders Association Directory

Join the directory for \$30 per year.

Your listing will appear on the FBA website and in every issue of Short Tales.

ARKANSAS

Kelli Otting

Ponker Farm
346 W Firetower Road
Hardy, AR 72542
(309) 642-7330
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www.PonkerFarm.com
Purebred Finns for
temperament and fleece,
white and colored

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Purebred registered adults
and lambs, white and
colored

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CONNECTICUT

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ILLINOIS

Terrisa Turner

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FBA Finn lambs

IOWA

Dale L Amendt

6815 Waterman Blvd
Sutherland, IA 51058
(712) 446-3489
Purebred and crossbred
Finns (Finn X Suffolk,
Finn X Corriedale)

Marvin Blair

3402 Fletcher Ave
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(712) 464-8153
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bbqshop@gmail.com

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Dorset)

Clark E BreDahl

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(641) 745-2323
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bredahl.mtfarms@gmail.com
mtrailfarms.com

Registered white purebred
and crossbred Finns (Finn
x Dorset x Ille De France)
with complete performance
data

MARYLAND

**Carolyn & James
Moloney**

403 Beards Creek Dr
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(443) 851-7346
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John & Mary O'Malley

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Purebred Finns, registered
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MASSACHUSETTS

Marti Taft-Ferguson

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www.walkingcloudfarm.com

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MICHIGAN

Aimee Buckley

Overland Lamb
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aimeebuckley9718@gmail.com

**Holly Hamill & Lorene
Kennedy**

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Quint & Catherine Precht

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(320) 296-8025
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for growth, carcass, wool,
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Heidi Quist

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Tim Reese

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Sue Wiegrefe

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www.prairieplumfarm.com
Babydoll Southdown and
BDS X Finn for fiber and
orchard maintenance,
white and colored

MISSOURI

Donna & Robert Putnam

Spinning Sheep Fiber
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Purebred Finns for wool,
parasite resistance, and

mothering, white and colored

NEW MEXICO

Kerry Mower

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FBA Secretarial Office

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Finnsheep Breeders Association, Inc.

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

- 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



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