



Short Tales

Finnsheep Breeders Association

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

Photo Credit: Haley Campbell



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Chief Shepherd's Message

-by Haley Campbell

FEEDING FOR LAMBING

We've certainly entered 2025 in a winter wonderland type of way, or at least we have in my part of the world. As snow falls to the ground, lambs are sure to follow. My social media feed has been full of photos celebrating new lambs, and other photos of udders and sensitive areas asking, "When will she go!?"

Well, unfortunately, unless the flock has been synched or the romance was recorded, we can only go off rough estimates based on her physical characteristics. Regardless, if she is lambing in one day, one week, or one



Photo Credit: Haley Campbell



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Chief Shepherd's Message ... Continued

month, ewes have to be in good nutrition to support the last stages of gestation and prepare for lactation.

Until the last six weeks of gestation, ewes really don't need any extra groceries to aid in fetal development. However, in that last third of gestation, fetal development has been sidelined and fetal growth is now exponential. She now needs extra energy to support rapidly growing fetuses – and in our case, there are usually a few of them!

Mature sheep will consume 2-3% of their body weight in dry matter per day. That means, for ewes weighing 140 lbs, they may eat 2.8-4.2 lbs of dry matter per day. The base of ruminant diets will always be some sort of forage or roughage. Given the time of year, that means hay or silage for our late gestation ewes. First cutting hay is great for maintenance animals or animals that need to drop a few pounds, but it will not provide enough energy for our pregnant ewes. Second- or third-cutting grass hay would be an excellent choice for late-gestation ewes because it will contain less NDF (neutral detergent fiber) and more protein.



Photo Credit: Haley Campbell



Photo Credit: Haley Campbell

Supplementing grass hay with grain or concentrate feed can be an effective way to ensure the ewes are eating enough protein and microminerals to meet their needs when abdominal space is at a premium. Alfalfa hay is another (more expensive) option to feed. Alfalfa will likely not need any grain supplementation because of its nutrient content; however, the ewes may be unable to physically eat enough to meet their nutrient requirements because of the bulkiness of the hay.

Feeding to the ewe's requirements, and not above or below, can help ease the lambing process; skinny ewes will produce weak lambs, and overfed ewes will have issues lambing because of the fat deposits in the pelvis and big lambs to boot. Taking a few minutes to pencil out the diet will potentially save money from being wasted at the bunk and hours trying to revive or pull lambs.

Happy lambing!



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Webinar Available

Back to the Basics - Parasite Management



Dr. Scott Bowdridge, a Professor of Food Animal Production at West Virginia University kicked off our annual meeting with a back to the basics of parasite management presentation.

A little background about Dr. Bowdridge

Dr. Bowdridge has developed a research program to investigate immune responses in sheep to gastrointestinal nematode parasites. He earned his doctorate from Virginia Tech studying immune responses of St. Croix sheep to *Haemonchus contortus* and also spent time studying specific immune mechanisms during intestinal parasite infection in a NIH funded postdoc position at the New Jersey Medical School.

Check your email inboxes for the recording of our annual meeting, sent out on December 16 by finnsheepbreedersassociation@gmail.com, for Dr. Bowdridge's presentation.





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President's Letter

Dear Finnsheep Breeders,

Happy 2025! I hope you had a warm and joyous holiday season with your friends and family. 2024 was an exciting year for me as I served my first year on the Board of Directors, and now I am stepping into the role of president. I truly am looking forward to serving and promoting our breed.

At our annual meeting on October 26, Dr. Scott Bowdridge presented on basic parasite management. His information is an excellent start to controlling worm burden on our operations. The link to the recording of his presentation may be found in Short Tales Issue 116 or in an email sent to the membership on December 16 (subject line "Annual Meeting Recording and Pertinent Updates). Additionally, we welcomed Keeli Gay to the board as a new member. Her first three-year term will end in 2028.

This year's big conversation has been about the Associated Registry and our migration to a new system. This process has been slower than anticipated, and we are awaiting the beta testing edition of the database and website. Currently, our contractor is sorting through and cleaning up the present data to create the animal editing software. We appreciate your patience as we continue to work through this process. Please watch for communication from the Board of Directors as we anticipate the launch of this website later this year. For the time being, please send all registrations and transfers to the Associated Registry. As a note, they have moved! **The new mailing address for the Associated Registry is P.O. Box 27, Sedalia, MO 65302.**

Another initiative we are launching is a listening survey. We want to hear from you! Our migration away from Associated Registries and the creation of our own database puts our association at an interesting crossroads. This can be an opportunity to give the Finnsheep Breeders Association a new face. You will find a link to the survey at the bottom of this letter and in Short Tales Issue 116. This survey will remain anonymous, and your answers will not only help us understand the U.S. Finnsheep flock demographics, but your input will also help the board tackle issues such as communication preferences, annual meeting planning, and leadership expectations.

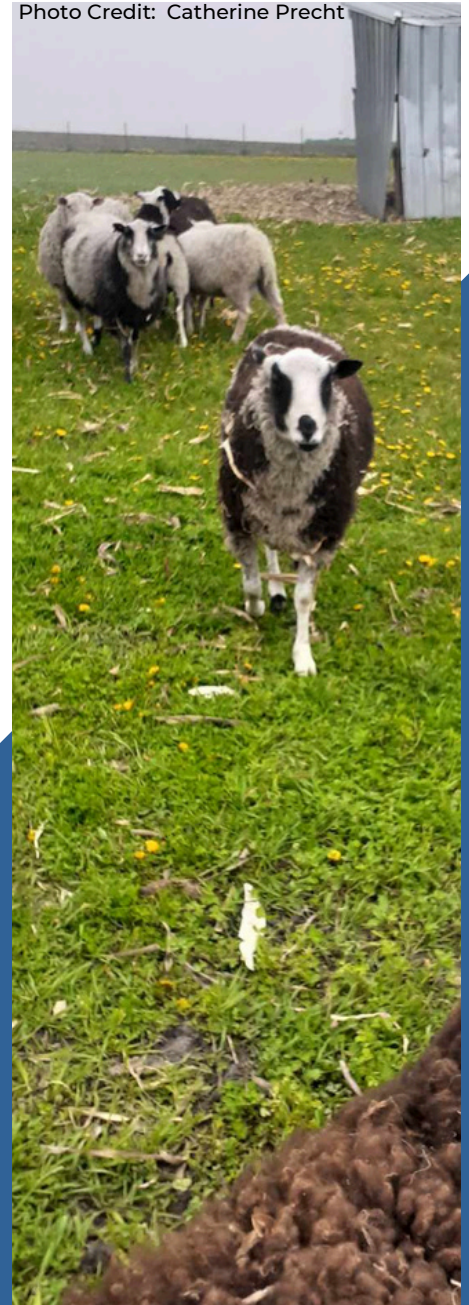
With that, I want to wish you a prosperous year with your flocks, and please do not hesitate to contact the board with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Haley Campbell, President

[Survey link - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc69XJSxReNst48HspptUSIm88GvwP5D4C1zoemlkZWStDa6w/viewform?usp=dialog](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc69XJSxReNst48HspptUSIm88GvwP5D4C1zoemlkZWStDa6w/viewform?usp=dialog)

Photo Credit: Catherine Precht



Survey QR Code



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Notes from the Board

Some of you have already heard rumblings of the change of manager and change of address within our hired registrar, the Associated Registry. To be clear, it is a staffing change and not a change of ownership. More information about the changes can be found at <http://associatedregistry.com/>

NEW ADDRESS for all Registrations, Transfers, Memberships etc!!

Associated Registry
Finnsheep Breeders Association
P.O. Box 27
Sedalia, MO 65302

The Board is still working on moving away from the Associated Registry to a new system that will give more options for our membership and be a better fit for our organization. We are currently waiting on the beta test design of a new area of our website to facilitate this change. We will continue to update you all as things progress.

As part of our transition, we'd like to hear from you!

If you have a minute, please fill out this quick survey about your preferences and your Finnsheep! There is a place at the end of the survey for you to add any comments that we didn't specifically address. Flock data will be combined with all other flocks to determine the current state of the Finnsheep breed in the US - don't worry it will be kept confidential and will not reflect on your individual flock!

Survey link - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc69XJSxReNst48HspptUS1m88GvwP5D4C1zoemlkZWStDa6w/viewform?usp=dialog>



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2024 Profit & Loss

5:27 PM

01/03/25

Accrual Basis

FINNSHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Profit & Loss

January through December 2024

	Jan - Dec 24
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Annual Dues	
2024	2,840.00
2025	275.00
Total Annual Dues	2,915.00
Breeders Directory Income	
2024	1,580.00
2025	71.00
Total Breeders Directory Income	1,631.00
Flock Prefix Income	380.00
Income (other- dup certs etc)	291.50
Interest	46.47
Membership Income	
Youth membership	80.00
Membership Income - Other	980.00
Total Membership Income	1,060.00
Registrations	
Finn Pedigrees	7,388.00
Non-purebred	74.00
Transfers	1,082.00
Total Registrations	8,504.00
Total Income	14,827.97
Expense	
Advertising	
Web-page	900.00
Advertising - Other	1,882.00
Total Advertising	2,782.00
Contract Labor	4,464.89
Meeting	439.76
Paypal fees	399.89
Postage and Delivery	266.00
Professional Fees	
Consulting	
Data Base	360.00
Total Consulting	360.00
Total Professional Fees	360.00
Supplies	
Office	146.36
Total Supplies	146.36
Total Expense	8,858.70
Net Ordinary Income	5,969.27
Net Income	5,969.27



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2024 Balance Sheet

5:27 PM

01/03/25

Accrual Basis

FINNSHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2024

	Dec 31, 24
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Cheque - Bennigton Bank	55,173.97
Petty Cash	46.80
Total Checking/Savings	55,220.77
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	24.01
Total Accounts Receivable	24.01
Other Current Assets	
BSB CD	2,156.14
Undeposited Funds	74.00
Total Other Current Assets	2,230.14
Total Current Assets	57,474.92
Other Assets	
Equipment	755.88
Total Other Assets	755.88
TOTAL ASSETS	58,230.80
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	3,543.42
Retained Earnings	48,718.11
Net Income	5,969.27
Total Equity	58,230.80
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	58,230.80



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2024 Registrations By State

FINNSHEEP - Finnsheep Breeders Assn

Animals Registered by State

From: 01/01/2024

To: 12/31/2024

<u>State Code</u>	<u>Animals Registered</u>
MN - Minnesota	117
NY - New York	105
WA - Washington	73
VT - Vermont	62
ID - Idaho	55
ME - Maine	46
IA - Iowa	40
VA - Virginia	37
PA - Pennsylvania	30
MD - Maryland	26
GA - Georgia	25
OH - Ohio	25
KS - Kansas	23
CO - Colorado	22
MA - Massachusetts	22
CA - California	19
MO - Missouri	18
IL - Illinois	15
MT - Montana	14
IN - Indiana	11
MI - Michigan	11
NC - North Carolina	11
DE - Delaware	10
AL - Alabama	7
AR - Arkansas	7
SD - South Dakota	7
CT - Connecticut	6
RI - Rhode Island	5
NH - New Hampshire	3
Total Animals Registered:	852



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2024 Registrations By Breeder

CREAM CITY LAMB & WOOL	69	SWEETLAND HILL FINNSHEEP	8
BRENDA TREIBEL	39	Point of View Farm Finnsheep	8
GABRIELLA Nanci	25	Mc B's Hoof and Feather Farm	8
14 HANDS RANCH	23	PONKER FARM	7
Gray Farm	23	JIM & STEPHENIE ONORATI	7
HEDGEHOG HILL FARM	22	JAMES & SANDIE MERRIFIELD	7
BIGFOOT FARM	20	ANN PERRY	7
BRYNNA BODE	18	Thymeless Homestead	7
WILD ROSE FINNSHEEP	18	DANCING WATERS FARM	7
Cherish Duerst	18	RIVENDELL FARM OF ONEONTA	7
PRIMROSE PATH FARM	15	ERICA SHELDON	6
Mormon Trail Farm	15	Aine Martel	6
Gale Woods Farm Park	15	Nathan Foster	6
AJ'S HAPPY CHICK FARM	14	REBEL QUEEN FINNSHEEP	6
CEDAR VIEW FARM	13	NINE TREES FARM	5
Dale L Amendt	13	LH PINE HILL FARM	5
Marvin Blair	12	WALTER THRELFALL	5
YANKEE ROCK FARM	12	CAROLYN & JAMES MOLONEY	5
GYPSY MOUNTAIN FARM	11	MARY FALLON	5
CINDY CRONIN	11	VIOLET KNELLER	5
AUTUMN RAYNE ACRES	11	CHEYENNE KNELLER	5
Medley Farm & Kennel	11	FAIRY TALE FARM	5
SPINNING SHEEP FIBER FARM	11	MARY SCHARNHORST	5
PRAIRIE PLUM FARM	10	JOSHUA & CHANTEL MUNTAIN	5
5 GALLON DOG RANCH	10	Allen Rowley	5
FINNIE THRILLS & FRILLS	10	Joanne Blank	5
PATRICIA ROSS	10	Kristal Hayden	5
SAMANTHA HAMM	10	CHRISTIAN MORIGERATO	5
Daisy Timney	10	GAVIN WARREN GRAVES	5
HEELSIDE FARMS	10	Hannahs Happy Finn Sheep	5
Triple C Sheep Co	9	HILLARY COHEN	4
BUTTERCUP BARN LLC	9	DANA RUSSO	4
JENNIFER LORD	8	WANDERING FEET FARM	4
FOX FARM	8	LIL' MISFIT FARMS	4
LEANN SEROKA	8	FULL STOP FARM	4
SLATE OCHRE FARMSTEAD	8	RUE ARENDT	4



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2024 Registrations By Breeder...continued

SARAH PINCHON	4
Newlife Farm	4
BELINDA COLE	4
Lost River Homestead	4
STEPHEN SMITH HENNESSEY	4
Fair Winds Farm, LLC	4
Triple L Finnsheep	3
EWEPPEL FARM	3
ALEX ASH	3
JOHN MCKEON	3
CURTIS FARMS	3
WALDO VEGA	3
Honey Holler Farm	3
FTE FARMSTEAD	3
HARDDA FARM	3
Pine Lawn Farm	3
Kemper McCray	3
RHONDA JEAN & JORDAN & PAYNE &	3
Bay Haven Short Tails	3
BOONDOGGLE FARM	2
SOUTH RIDGE SHEEP	2
KENDRA & DALE GEHMAN	2
Danielle & Earl Brady	2
JAMISON SLATER	2
GREAT ACRES FARM	2
SUSAN WHITE	2
Huckleberry Farm	2
Two Moon Acres	2
KATIE COADY	1
RICHARD & MAUREEN MOOSE	1
STONYSLOPE FARM	1
MOON SHADOW FARM	1
PISGAH FARM & FOREST	1
AIMEE KING-ROGERS	1
Austin McKinney	1
Sara Anderson	1
SARAH JOHNSON	1
ALYZAH GOCHIE	1
DBA SEBEC & CO	1

Total Animals Registered:

852



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Dr Walter Threlfall

2024 FBA Hall of Fame

Dr Walter Threlfall is this year's Hall of Fame inductee. Walter and his wife started their Finnsheep flock in 1977 with 3/8's Finn ewes that they added to their commercial flock. Those ewes all produced triplets with excellent growth and survivability, so they decided to obtain purebreds that they imported from Canada. They had some issues with the breeding stock they started with including poor conformation, bad feet, and OPP. They only maintained a small percentage of the offspring, working to gradually make the flock better and free of disease. In Walter's own words he doesn't believe there is a perfect breed, and it is most important for each shepherd to find the breed(s) that work best for their managerial system. Obviously Finnsheep and Finnsheep crosses worked well for Walter since he stuck with them for over 40 years.

Not only has Walter been a strong promoter of Finnsheep he had an illustrious career as a professor of Veterinary Medicine at two universities, as well as serving on the Delaware Public Health District Board for 24 years. He also served on the FBA board of directors on multiple occasions.

Walter's daughter Ronda has worked with their sheep since she was 5 years old and also raises Finnsheep and Texels near Walter in Ohio.

Thank you, Walter for your dedication to sheep production and the Finnsheep breed.



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Help us feature more about our wonderful sheep and our farms that raise them! Some new sections have been added to help us all share the wonderful things that can be done with our Finnsheep.

Also, if you have photos you want to share for us to use in the Short Tales, we would enjoy sharing your submissions!



Let us feature your farm with a Shepherd Spotlight feature



Share your favorite dairy recipe or an accomplishment with your dairy Finnsheep



Share your favorite recipe using lamb meat or an accomplishment with your finnsheep in regards to their commercial production



Share your favorite fiber project or an accomplishment with your fiber Finnsheep

Please send your submission to FinnsheepBreedersAssociation@gmail.com to get your farm in the next edition of Short Tales!



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Shepherd Spotlight

Jessica McDonald

Hello there! My name is Jessica McDonald, and I am the main shepherdess at Lost River Homestead in Central Idaho. One day my husband turned to me and said, “we should get sheep”, and we started our small fiber farm just a couple of months later. Both of us grew up on farms, and we wanted to give our children some farm life and work.

Being a knitter, the sheep we chose were always going to be a fiber breed, and given that our children were going to be very involved in the day-to-day work of caring for the sheep, I wanted a breed that was small and docile. Finnsheep fit the bill perfectly. Our starter flock came from Cedar View Farm, and we have since added ewes and a ram from Nine Trees Farm and Wildrose Finnsheep.

As a fiber farm, our main focus is breeding sheep that produce a finely crimped and soft fleece. Also, as a fiber farm, we want each sheep to produce as much fleece as possible, so we also focus on fleece length and density to maximize our fleece production from each individual in the flock.

In addition to the focus on fleece, we pay attention to mothering ability (easy lambing, attentiveness, and milk production), body composition, and general health including good growth and parasite resistance. Temperament is also very important to us especially in the rams. The overarching goal is a flock of sweet tempered and problem free sheep that produce immense quantities of high-quality fleece, and we are well on our way to it.

Our kids are very involved in the care and management of our flock. Every day a different child comes along and does the chores with me. It gives us a chance to have one on one

time and is a fantastic way to have each child learn responsibility and resilience. The children especially love putting all the sheep on halters and playing a 4-H game they invented. We are expecting over thirty lambs this spring, and my daughters cannot wait! And neither can I. It's like yarn mail except it's a surprise what you ordered. If you would like to follow along with our farm adventures, you can find us on Facebook as Lost River Homestead or sign up for our email newsletter at www.LostRiverHomestead.com.





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Selling Your Amazing Finnsheep Wool - part 1

- by Donna Putnam

This issue will address direct sales of high quality wool to spinners and felters.

This requires special care of your wool.

- Covering your wool during hay feeding time dramatically increases the value. It is possible to sell wool with moderate VM (vegetable matter), but price will be much lower.
- Be especially attentive when skirting. Remove all tags, uneven/short bits around the edges, felted parts, second cuts, and any VM you can pick out. The cleaner and more even the wool, the happier your customers will be.
- Take good, clear, honest pictures of the fleece. You will need pictures of the tip side, the cut side, a close up of the crimp quality, and a picture showing measured staple length. Remember, a picture is worth a thousand words.
- When you write your description, describe the characteristics of the wool, including softness, color, staple length, and crimp quality.
- Tell a story. When marketing your wool, tell a story about each fleece. Maybe it comes from an extra sweet sheep, one that is a terrific mama, one with funny personality quirks.
- Include a picture of the sheep, preferably before shearing. The more personal you can make the experience, the more engaged your customers will be.
- Places to post your fleeces: Your web page is always a good bet. I also use Facebook pages, like Raw Wool for Sale. If you have a fiber guild with a newsletter, the guilds will sometimes list you as a source.



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Selling Your Amazing Finnsheep Wool - continued

- by Donna Putnam

Example Listing:

Hannah

Wow, oh my, goodness! This is how you may react when you see Finnsheep Hannah's fleece. This girl, who grows the longest fleece in the flock, is on her way to being a first time mama. She is as sweet as her fleece. It is a lovely black badger, almost white to dark gray. The crimp is amazing! This 10-month fleece has a 5-6" staple. (Her 12-month lamb fleece was 7-9"!) Hannah was coated during hay season, so has a very clean fleece with minimal VM. Heavily skirted. This oh so soft fleece is 3 lb 5 oz. \$ plus shipping from (zip code).



Photo Credit for all photos on this page: Donna Putnam





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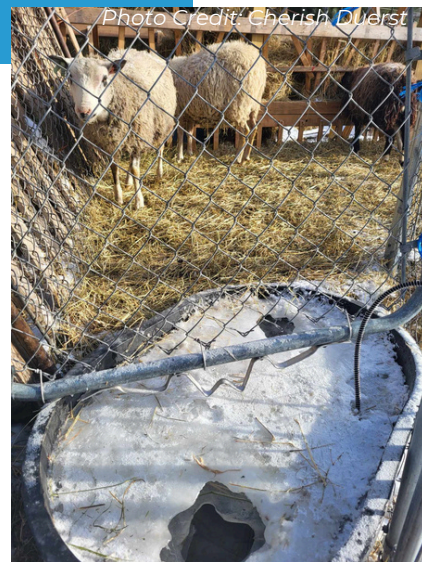
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Keeping Water Fluid in Freezing Temperature

- by Haley Campbell

With this winter's frigid temperatures, water lines and water troughs were likely frozen across the nation. If you and your livestock are lucky to have an automatic waterer with a heating element, you may not be feeling the cold too much, but for those without, I'm sure hammers and axes may have made an appearance in barns and fields. I've gotten the question a few times – "How can I prevent troughs from freezing without electricity?" Well, what a very good question indeed.



First, let's talk a little bit of chemistry. Adding salt to water when you're boiling noodles increases the boiling point of the water, meaning the water is hotter than 212°F. This is the same concept with salt water and freezing point; salt water will freeze at a lower temperature than 32°F.

Now that the chemistry is out of the way, it brings us to our first option – making a saltwater float. Using a 2-liter soda bottle, fill it two-thirds of the way full of water and add 2 cups of salt, making sure it dissolves. After tightening the cap, place it in your trough. It should float (if it doesn't, empty a bit of the solution) and break the surface tension of the water without freezing itself. Additionally, if the trough begins to freeze, the stock may learn to press on the bottle to expose fluid water. You can also use a soccer or basketball for the same effect.

Another option is to insulate the trough with a combination of insulation and plywood or burying the trough into the ground. If you're able, you can build a plywood box around the trough and fill the gaps with Styrofoam, foil-wrapped insulation, or spray foam. You can insulate the tank itself with the insulation, but the plywood would act as a windbreak. While the box tactic controls the "body" of the water trough, the surface is still exposed and can freeze. Adding a



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Keeping Water Fluid - continued

- by Haley Campbell

plywood lid may also work, provided the lid has a couple of access points in which the stock can drink. Putting a hinge on the lid may be a benefit as well, to prevent curious sheep from accidentally knocking off the lid and allowing the water to freeze, but also for easy access to scrub the tank if need be.

Burying the trough is similar to insulation in that the ground will be warmer than the air. Dr. Thunes from Clarity Equine Nutrition reports that a drilled 12-inch diameter hole several feet deep directly under the troughs was enough to prevent the water from freezing due to the geothermal heat coming up from the earth.

Lastly, in the words of our real estate friends, "Location, location, location." Under a shade tree sounds like a great spot to place a water trough in the summer, but come winter, that same location will hardly ever see sun, especially in the cloudy months of winter. Moving the trough to the sunniest spot in the field during the winter will allow solar radiation to warm the surface of the trough; therefore, scope out a few different places where you may move water to throughout the year.

If all else fails, you may need to break down and heat the trough or come to terms with your trusty hammer. If you end up deciding on a heater, there are several electric options and a couple of propane options, too. The propane options seem to be pricier and meant for large tanks (at least 100 gallons) but are useful if there is no close electric hookup. The electric options range from submersible to floating to tank side to drain plug, depending on what you're looking for and are usually less than \$150.

Keeping water fluid is a tricky thing to do when it's frigid, but a necessary farm chore of the winter. Check the water at least once a day to see how it is working, and always be careful with propane or electric heating elements in barns and around animals.



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How to Get Involved in a Committee!

Fiber Committee

Contact: Donna Putnam
dputnam.fiber.art@gmail.com
(816) 694-6801

Commercial/NSIP Committee

Contact: Catherine Precht
cclambandwool@gmail.com
(320) 296-8025

Dairy Committee

Contact: Cherish Duerst
2cabbageheads@gmail.com
(218) 556-8159

Youth/Education Committee

Contact: Laura Timney
Fuzzlop@hotmail.com
(302) 354-8151

Constitution Committee

FinnsheepBreedersAssociation@gmail.com

The Board is always looking for volunteers to help with planning and projects. To get involved, contact the representative from the committee you are interested in.



Photo Credit: Keeli Gay

Constitution Committee

Several changes are needed to the constitution... There are items that are no longer accurate that need to be fixed, for example, where our Non-Profit is registered.

Would you be able to give up a few hours and work with some fellow shepherds to help us get this updated?

Reach out to a member of the board and let's get this completed.



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Board Introductions of the 2025 Board

Haley Campbell

Hello! My name is Haley Campbell, and I am so excited to serve as the President of the Finnsheep Breeders' Association Board of Directors. I am entering my second year of service to this wonderful breed.

This year has been one of major change as my flock grew and found themselves a new zip code in Ashland, Ohio! My husband Brady and I bought a small farm in August and have been busy making it a home for ourselves and all the animals. Finnie Thrills and Frills is the name of my purebred flock consisting of 12 mature ewes, 12 newly turned yearlings, and three rams. After preg-checking the mature ewes, I am expecting 37 lambs come March. The yearlings are the first crop I have produced with a ram I purchased. Each of them thinks they are the main character of some farming story. I took four of them as lambs to the Ohio State Fair and one of them placed 7th in a class of 20! I was quite pleased for my girls and am already looking forward to showing them off as yearlings this summer.



Aside from the Finns, we also have Texel sheep, a sassy indoor cat (Fig), two barn cats that came with the farm (Calypso and Chicken Little), lavender Guineas, and more laying hens than 2 people should probably ever have.

Professionally, I teach freshmen and sophomore students at The Ohio State Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, Ohio. There, I help the agriculturalists of tomorrow learn animal biology, anatomy, behavior and welfare, and nutrition. With half my class periods taking place on a farm, I am usually partial to the classes I hold at the University's sheep unit. Brady is also employed by Ohio State as an assistant professor in the Department of Animal Sciences and serves as the State Small Ruminant Extension Specialist. The sheep run deep in our household!

I am looking forward to serving in this officer role and continuing to promote our fantastic Finns.

Happy New Year!



Short Tales

Finnsheep Breeders Association
Official registry for Finnsheep in the U.S.A. since 1971

Board Introductions ... Continued

Keeli Gay

Hello from Arkansas! I am Keeli Gay and proudly serving my first year on the board of directors. I am no stranger to farm life. My husband of almost 34 years and I reside just over the hill from my parents on the same farm I grew up on in Northeast Arkansas. Beef cattle and commercial poultry were the bread winners when I grew up. Fast forward to just a few years ago when my husband and I purchased our first flock of sheep. I am a hand-spinner, weaver, and knitter and wanted to be able to raise my own sheep to meet my fiber needs. We started with Shetland sheep, as they are known for their hardiness, next-to-skin-softness, and easy handling. Well, any sheep lover knows that once you get into raising sheep you get sucked into a deep, dark, black hole! I began researching sheep seeking the best known for ease of lambing, good mothering abilities, milking capabilities, and prolificacy. I also wanted to mark all the boxes for superb fiber such as low micron counts, medium to long staple length, and color variety. Finns met every desire! An added bonus with Finns are the commercial benefits when crossing a Finn ewe with a terminal sire. Hence my interest in Texel's as well. Anywho, I hope to pass my love for sheep and the fiber arts to my grandchildren as they will inherit a lot of "toys" someday!

In the meanwhile, I am excited to serve on this board and hope to be an advocate for the Finn breed and raise awareness locally as well as across the nation! You are always welcome to contact me with any questions at Thistlesprings@gmail.com.



Cherish Duerst

My grandmother introduced me to her sheep when I was a young child, and there has never been any going back. After my family inherited her flock, I learned more about milking sheep, working with fiber, and using sheep byproducts in the garden. Finnsheep have captured my heart with their versatility, being large enough for meat yet small enough to handle, productive enough to milk and friendly enough to train. As a fiber addict, I love their wide variety of colors and textures for all my crafty desires. I especially enjoy getting to know other Finn fanatics and bonding over this amazing breed! It's an honor to serve you all as board secretary!





Short Tales

Finnsheep Breeders Association
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Board Introductions ... Continued

Donna Putnam

My husband and I established Spinning Sheep Fiber Farm 11 years ago, after determining that his border collie needed his own sheep, and that I would like to grow my own wool. Our flock has grown to about 50 permanent residents. It was determined early on that we would focus on excellent breeding stock and outstanding wool quality.

Through the use of careful selection, our flock has improved every year. I am a fiber artist, so went looking for the best wool to meet my felting and spinning needs. I enjoy sharing my fiber knowledge, so my studio offers classes in spinning, wet felting, and dyeing. We also wanted to help others establish their own happy flocks. One of the most satisfying parts of raising these wonderful sheep has been mentoring beginning sheep owners, helping them find success in their journey.

I look forward to continuing to serve on the FBA Board as we all strive to improve quality in the breed, as well as provide educational opportunities to both breeders and users of our fine sheep, and help establish a strong organization for our membership.



Quint Precht

Let me introduce myself to you. I am Quint Precht from Hector, Minnesota. This is my second year serving as the Vice President on the Board of Directors. I have been around sheep at many stages of my life, including 4H and FFA. I was introduced to Finnsheep by my FFA advisor back in 1979. I did not have any myself at that time. I was involved in feeder lamb program at that time, but friends of mine started using Finnsheep in their lambing program and I saw the potential in the profitability of adding Finn genetics to a flock of production sheep. Fast forward 40 years, my wife Catherine and I



have the opportunity to go back to the family farm and raise livestock. We tried many breeds of sheep till we settled on Finnsheep as our primary focus, they check all the boxes for us. As a Board member I am here to listen to the concerns of all members, to make well informed decisions to keep this great breed a viable option for everyone. Be it commercial production, dairy or fiber. Feel free to reach out anytime.



Short Tales

Finnsheep Breeders Association

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

Board Introductions ... Continued

Catherine Precht

Hi there! I'm Catherine Precht, and I'm looking forward to what my 4th year serving on the board has in store. I love promoting this breed as they are my favorite to have in the barn, hence why this year we now only have Finnsheep ewes. We did some cutting back this year and all of our crossbreds and hampshires found ways into new homes. It certainly gives me a different look at the flock as I was always expecting my ewes to look differently as they weren't all the same breed, but now that they all are I am seeing a lot more changes I want to make so I have a much more consistent flock. The versatility and ability of Finnsheep to do all that they do always amazes me. They aren't the best fiber breed for use on a commercial scale, but I know lots of them with some pretty amazing wool that has made beautiful articles of clothing and fiber projects. They may not be the fastest growing or have the most meaty carcass, but they have such succulent meat and they can put a decent amount of meat in the freezer when they are harvested. They may not be the breed with the heaviest lactation, but they can often produce enough milk to feed their litters and many produce enough milk to be worth the effort of milking. I enjoy owning and promoting a breed that is so versatile and amazing.



Laura Timney

My love of finnsheep began as a teen, and I purchased my first ewe Gypsy in 1999. I had had Suffolk previously but could not deny the love received from these precious animals and the trust built between shepherd and sheep. I raise a flock of under 20 purebred Finns in Delaware with my family. My daughters have Gotlands and Leicester longwools as well, and we have 3 labs that serve as official sheep poo tasters. My goals for our flock are mostly aimed at sending correct conformation and quality Finn breed characteristics out into the world. I love the wool and seeing the colors and patterns in my lambs each year as well!



As a board member I hope to increase our youth presence and participation. My own teens have learned many life skills out in our fields and I know there are youth doing amazing things with their sheep out there as well. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve!

Breeder's Directory

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ALABAMA

Artful Acres
Michelle Vilamaa
2231 Atkin Hill Rd
Wetumpka, AL 36092
334-220-7258
michellevilamaa@gmail.com

Dancing Waters Farm
Debra Perry
27959 Wooley Springs Rd
Athens, AL 35613
253-861-5382
mountaintrailwalker@yahoo.com

ARKANSAS

Ponker Farm
Kelli Otting
346 W Firetower RD
Hardy, AR 72542
309-642-7330
PonkerFarm@gmail.com
PonkerFarm.com

CALIFORNIA

Autumn Farms & Gardens Foundation Inc
Autumn Moody
20801 N Burma Rd
Ramona, CA 92065
619-877-9379
autumnfarmsandgardens@gmail.com

Lazy Morning Farm
Michelle Ramirez
7220 34th 34th St
North Highlands, CA 95660
916-276-0856
lazymorningfarm@gmail.com

COLORADO

Aimee King-Rogers
PO Box 184
Buffalo Creek, CO 80425
303-898-7959
jackpotspringranch@gmail.com

IDAHO

Gray Farm
Leonard & Carol Gray
2451 E Little Basin Rd
King Hill, ID 83633
(208) 366-3304
thecgrayfarm@gmail.com

Lost River Homestead
Jessica McDonald
3503 W 3800 N
Moore, ID 83255
(208) 521-8474
LostRiverHomestead@gmail.com
www.LostRiverHomestead.com

ILLINOIS

Primrose Path Farm
Terrisa Turner
3502 Black Oak Lane
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-570-8871
turner428@yahoo.com
www.primrosepathfarm.net

Lori Homeyer
14102 Jankowski Rd
Woodstock, IL 60098
(815) 451-4729
lori@lorihomeyer.com

INDIANA

Eweppel Farm
Kendall Ruppel
232 E. 600 N.
Rensselaer, IN 47978
219-208-2086
klian715@gmail.com

IOWA

Dale L. Amendt
6815 Waterman Blvd
Sutherland, IA 51058
712-446-3489

Marvin Blair
3402 Fletcher Ave.
Lake City, IA 51449
712-464-8153; 712-464-3688
bbqshop@gmail.com

Mormon Trail Farm
Clark E. Bredahl
1911 290TH ST.
Greenfield, IA 50849-8016
641-745-2323; 641-221-0551
bredahl.mtfarms@gmail.com
www.mtrailfarms.com

MAINE

Full Stop Farm
Sadie Cora & Karl Hluska
381 Bean Rd
Mt Vernon, ME 04352
413-522-0630
sadiespinsyarn@gmail.com

Riverside Farm
Kristie Green
1110 North Rd N
Yarmouth, ME 04097
207-831-5020
tokristie@yahoo.com

MASSACHUSETTS

Walking Cloud Farm
Marti Taft-Ferguson
7 Martin Rd
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
(804) 994-7540
marti@walkingcloudfarm.com

MARYLAND

Bruce & Brenda Kinzinger
338 Quaker Bottom Rd
Havre De Grace, MD 21078
443-415-6517
bkinzing@gmail.com

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MICHIGAN

Flying Rowan Farm
Julie Turner
4300 Wheeler Rd
Fowlerville, MI 48836
734-417-6360
info@flyingrowanfarm.com

LH Pine Hill Farm
Holly Hamill & Lorene Kennedy
1734 E M20
Shelby, MI 49455
989-672-4140
hollyhamill45@gmail.com

MINNESOTA

Cream City Lamb and Wool
Quint & Catherine Precht
44661 870th Ave
Hector, MN 55342
320-296-8025
cclambandwool@gmail.com

EC Sustainable Natural Farms
Brandy Scobee
35433 Helium St NW
Princeton, MN 55371
612-280-1973
brandy@emswiss.net

Gale Woods Farm Park
Tim Reese
7210 County Rd. 110 West
Minnetrista, MN 55364
763-694-2002; 612-490-2186
tim.reese@threeriversparks.org
www.galewoodsfarm.org

Prairie Plum Farm
Sue Wiegrefe
42443 120TH Street
Mabel, MN 55954
715-220-1183
swiegrefe@sbcglobal.net
www.prairieplumfarm.com

Prairie Willows Farm
Heidi Quist
16026 345th Street
Center City, MN 55012
651-238-5370
prairiewillowsfarm@gmail.com

MISSOURI

Spinning Sheep Fiber Farm
Donna & Robert Putnam
350 SW 1501 Rd
Holden, MO 64040
816-694-6801
dputnam.fiber.art@gmail.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bob Newton & Cathy Blais
14 Old Temple Rd
Lyndeborough, NH 03082
401-862-8853
cathysfarmnh@gmail.com

NEW MEXICO

Hyer Woods
Kerry Mower
33 County Rd 28
Stanley, NM 87056
505-459-9927
kerryjmower@gmail.com

NEW YORK

Joshua & Chantel Muntain
56 Church Street
Delvan, NY 13820
716-302-7124
muntains@gmail.com

Point of View Finnsheep
Sten & Caraleigh Wilson
PO BOX 535
Bangell, NY 12506
845-868-4140
finnsheep@finnsheep.net
www.finnsheep.net

Sweetland Hill Finnsheep
Amy Cook
64 Sweetland Hill Rd
Chenango Fork, NY 13746
607-725-4844
cookam@sunnybroome.edu

Wandering Feet Farm
Kathryn Davis
1229 River Rd
Troy, NY 12182
518-926-0799
kathryn842@aol.com

Bigfoot Farm
Johanna Hunt
859-707-9593
859-340-0089 QHEventr@aol.com

Jennifer Lord
2443 State Highway 28
Oneonta, NY 13820
(607) 437-0951
aj3kb@yahoo.com

Bay Haven Short Tails
Lisa Konnerth
80 Bay Road
Brookhaven, NY 11719
(631) 776-0279
bayhavenshorttails@hotmail.com

OHIO

Hannah's Happy Finnsheep
Hannah Smits
3706 Bass Road
Williamsburg, OH 45176
513-724-2679
info@hannahshappyfinnsheep.com

Woolberry Ranch
Stacey Lee
1081 South County Line Rd
Johnstown, OH 43031
740-825-2609
woolberryranch@gmail.com

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PENNSYLVANIA

Brambly Hedge Farm
Gwendolyn Hemer
131 Keen Road
Spring City, PA 19475
484-500-1890
bramblyhedgefarm.pa@gmail.com

SOUTH CAROLINA

Misty Strange
1313 Highway 247
Belton, SC 29627
864-360-8604
mimedawn@yahoo.com

SOUTH DAKOTA

Ann Perry
10936 W Wood Rd
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
605-499-9774
raperry6500@icloud.com

TEXAS

Charissa Fredrickson
7840 County Rd 1054
Celeste, TX 75423
903-568-9924
oreothebordercollie@juno.com

Otto Ranch
Heather Otto
PO Box 70
Cedar Creek, TX 76812
512-825-1457
moonoverewe@gmail.com

VIRGINIA

Cedar View Farm
Ashley Hoffman
PO BOX 174
23088 Slaughters Mill Rd
Mitchells, VA 22729
540-661-7331
CedarViewFarmVA@gmail.com
www.CedarViewFarmVA.com

Gypsy Mountain Farm
Robin Doty
1346 Nester School Rd
Dugspur, VA 24325
716-560-0226
eagypsy@aol.com

VERMONT

AJ's Happy Chick Farm
Susan Beshar
287 Sinion Rd
West Glover, VT 05875
802-242--0062
susan@ajshappychickfarm.com

Autumn Rayne Acres
Becky Thompson
149 Stewart Rd
Berlin Heights, VT 05602
757-240-6796
autumnrayneacres@gmail.com

Pine Maple Homestead
Jared & Hannah Felch
576 Steward Rd
Berlin, VT 05602
802-793-6678
jared.felch@gmail.com

Red Barn Finnsheep
Richard Crocker
93 Burnett Rd
Putney, VT 05346
802-384-3715
rcrocker.horizen@gmail.com

Gavin Graves
196 Whitford Rd
Addison, VT 05491
(802) 598-4116
kayhart.funnyfarm@gmail.com

Boondoggle Farm
Katy Wolfe
559 Windmill Hill RD S
Putney, VT 05346
(802) 557-1163
yeskatydid@gmail.com

WASHINGTON

Triple L Finnsheep
Dan & Leanne Hughes
89202 N. Harrington Rd.
West Richland, WA 99353
509-539-6745
danlea23@msn.com
www.triplelfinnsheep.com

Solace Farm
Robert & Sandra Willford
30119 N. Spotted Rd.
Deer Park, WA 99006
509-276-7160
sandra@solacefarmer.com
www.solacefarmer.com

The Smithshyre
Erin & Roni Smith
22119 Foss Road NE
Poulsbo, WA 98370
360-271-7896
thesmithshyre@gmail.com

Brenda Treibel
27824 SE 378th PL
Enumclaw, WA 98022
360-367-1515
fuzzyfunfish@gmail.com

Kaisha Hamilton
1424 W Axton RD
Ferndale, WA 98248
(360) 223-5467
hedgerowwillows@gmail.com

Huckleberry Farm
Colleen & Murray Peck
36116 SE 89TH PL
Snoqualmie, WA 98065
(425) 888-3290
ovna@aol.com



Short Tales

Finnsheep Breeders Association

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

Board of Directors

President

Haley Campbell
2026, 1st Term
3856 Melrose DR A2
Wooster, OH 44691
campbell.2708@osu.edu

Vice President

Quint Precht
2025, 1st Term
44661 870th Ave
Hector, MN 55342
(320) 296-8024
qdprecht@gmail.com

Secretary

Cherish Duerst
2025, 1st Term
7451 Balsam Rd NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
(218) 556-8159
2cabbageheads@gmail.com

Director

Donna Putnam
2025, 1st Term
350 SW 1501 RD
Holden, MO 64040
(816) 694-6801
dputnam.fiber.art@gmail.com

Director

Laura Timney
2026, 1st Term
3585 Summit Bridge Rd.
Bear, DE 19701
(302) 354-8151
Fuzzlop@hotmail.com

Director

Catherine Precht
2026, 2nd Term
44661 870th Ave
Hector, MN 55342
(320) 296-8025
cclambandwool@gmail.com

Director

Keeli Gay
2027, 1st Term
3585 Summit Bridge Rd.
Bear, DE 19701
(302) 354-8151
Fuzzlop@hotmail.com



Photo Credit: Keeli Gay



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Photo Credit:
Haley Campbell

Visit us on the web: www.finnsheep.org

Associated Registry Office

P.O. Box 231, 305 Lincoln

Wamego, KS 66547

P: (785) 456-8500 F: (785) 456-8599

asregistry@gmail.com

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.

FBA 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