



November 22, 1996

Dear Members and Friends of BBSA (USA),

I am so happy to report to you that many missing pieces and loose ends of information are coming together for us. Just this week I received very good news from Anthony (Tony) Bruno and from the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, (ALBC).

Tony has become a very important lifetime member for us. He has done extensive research on our breed of sheep as well as other African sheep that are scattered throughout the Caribbean, West Indies, South America, and follows them into the USA with well documented information from research done by Texas, California, and North Carolina State Agricultural Universities as well as history books. I'm enclosing 2 pages out of 10 that I received from him that contain information we needed to move ahead with confidence that we are breeding for the right color conformation and standards for these wonderful sheep. Please note the paragraph on hair and the fuzzy undercoat on the page with the two pictures at the bottom. I don't know about the rest of you, but I had to have this information. The other page refers to the gentleness of our breed with some of these sheep being able to learn their name indicating good intelligence, another paragraph educates us on the mating ritual which answers the question several have asked, "How do you know when a Ewe has been bred?" This is hard to miss for anyone with their sheep 5 min. per day. Another way is to equip your rams with a marking harness.

The rest of the information gives pretty strong documentation that the Blackbelly was developed by the Barbados Island people as a matter of choice of colors from other African hair sheep with perhaps some out crossing with some wool sheep. The black hair sheep, the blond, as well as spotted sheep are probably also from tropical sheep with many out crossings.

Now back to the ALBC. They have the Blackbelly sheep line bred from the Barbados Island researched by the North Carolina State University. Both sexes are poled and report that rams will probably be available for sale next spring for use in bringing our sheep back to the Barbados standards. For a \$30 membership fee you are promised a directory of the breeders who own the sheep and updates on the progress of the Conservancy. The Conservancy is happy to have us conserving this Blackbelly sheep, and providing a registry. They would like for us to also register some of the other hair sheep that are related to them but have different confirmations. I liked some of their

*nice 3 year old Ram for sale  
nancy 405-771-3449*

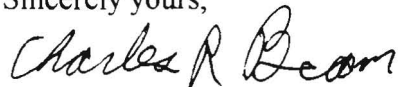
suggestions and some of us have talked about registering some of these as exotic Barbados crosses. But we must take one step at a time while we are still small and limited in operating capital.

I am recommending some changes in the standards for registration listed in, and as part of our present By-Laws at the Jan. 12, 1997 trustee and membership meeting. Theresa Dean and Vicky Smallwood have helped me with the changes, points have been ascribed to the different items included as parts of the standards totaling 100 points, we liked this rather than claiming 100% pure blood since we are starting with an "open book" registry and being unable to document pure breeding lines for the sheep we now have on hand. When we reach the point we are ready to move to a closed book registry, the Sire and Dam of each lamb will have to have been registered in order to qualify as part of the standards for full blood.

This is a heavy mailing and will also serve as your notice of the meeting on Jan. 12, 1997 at 3:00 p.m. at the Spurlock and Beam Farm. We will serve you lamb chili. You may bring anything you like to go with your meal. A map is enclosed. The McCray Farm will have the first quarterly 1997 meeting, and I think you will enjoy lamb again in some way. This will be in April.

Please help us put together an information booklet. Because of the size of the information packets we are sending out the cost of copies and postage should be paid for by those requesting this information. Please write your story about your experience raising the , Blackbelly Sheep. Tell us about your beginnings, your goals, your pleasures and the problems you have overcome. Write up things like " My Kind Of Mowing Machine" or something like the McCrays. This is really getting us a lot of publicity when they were run in the "Choctaw Chronicle" and the "Exotic Animal Finders" we need your art and poetry as well as your helpful ways of handling your sheep. All these things can be made into a booklet or a book people will be willing to buy rather than having the membership bear all expenses. What ever the charge is for the booklet could be deductible toward the membership fee should they decide to become members. All of us will become better shepherds.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles R. Beam". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Charles R. Beam, president.