



Greeting BBSAI Members!

Making Sure You Get the BBSAI Newsletter

As many readers know, there is a variety of anti-spam products operating to filter email. Some are on your computer and others are controlled by your ISP. Sometimes these measures mistakenly block legitimate newsletters like those from BBSAI. We have no control over these anti-spam measures; we can only send an issue to the people who ask for it and hope it arrives at its destination. If you have control over your anti-spam systems, then we suggest you do this to increase your chances of getting the BBSAI newsletter: To make sure you continue to receive the newsletter, you should add our "From" address to your e-mail program's Address Book and any "whitelist" or "approved senders list" it uses. Enter the entire domain "Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International" (no, there is no "l" at the end of International) or the specific address "Barbados_Blackbelly_Sheep_Associ@mail.vresp.com" (do not use the quotation marks in either one).

Note: If your email program is not set to accept HTML text, you have received a text-only version of this newsletter, which is boring because you can't see graphics and tables. If you would like to see what you've missed, or if you would like to download the newsletter from BBSAI's Web site, go to

http://www.blackbellysheep.org/newsletter/BBSAI_newlsetter_October2004.htm

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Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International Newsletter
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The Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International Newsletter is a benefit of membership in the BBSAI and is published quarterly. BBSAI was established to conserve and promote the Barbados Blackbelly and American Blackbelly sheep breeds. Annual membership is \$30.00, and includes the newsletter. We also accept unsolicited donations. Please send changes of address to BBSAI. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

The BBSAI Newsletter welcomes articles, photographs, letters and classified ads that deal with American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly Sheep. Publication of articles or advertisements is not necessarily an endorsement by BBSAI. No part of the BBSAI Newsletter (including photographs) can be reprinted, put on websites or used in any manner without the written permission of the President or Secretary of the Association. Issue deadlines for articles and ads are:

January - December 15
April - March 15
July - June 15
October - September 15

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President's Message

I just returned home from the BBSAI 2004 annual meeting and workshop held at the home of Mary Swindell in Cobden, Illinois. The workshop went over without a hitch. We were served a lasagna lunch on Saturday and a pork chop lunch on Sunday as well as coffee and donuts by a local 4-H club. The workshops were great. I am sure that everyone who attended learned a great deal at the workshops that were provided. Dr. John Wiemers of the USDA, was present and gave us a look into where the animal identification plan is headed. We also learned about the voluntary scrapie program. Following is a list of other seminars and workshops that were made available to everyone who attended: proper ear tag placement, marketing strategies, foot trimming, use of a sheep and goat chute, how to set up a lamb pool, how to conduct your own fecal counts, proper record keeping, the use of dogs to maneuver sheep, and a trip to the farm of Walt Stubbs to show us how he feeds market lambs on a slotted floor. The BBSAI would like to thank all who gave classes at the event along with all of the vendors who donated all of the more than generous items for the silent auction. I for one, appreciate all of the hard work that everyone put into this event to make it the success that it turned out to be. I will look forward to seeing each of you again next year wherever the event is held, and I hope each of you that did not get the chance to attend will find time to be with us as well.

Sincerely,
Josh Weimer
President, BBSAI

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BBSAI Secretary/Treasurer Update

Having just finished the BBSAI Workshop/Annual Meeting, it turned out to be a huge success. I was unable to attend this year due to a medical situation, but I can provide you with the results of the 2004 ballot issues. Ballots were mailed to 105 voting members and 29 cast their votes. The new by-laws were passed, along with the approval of the three Directors, Mary Swindell, Carol Elkins, and James Harper. The voting results for both of those issues were 25 to 4. In addition, 17 of 29 members voted to use American Blackbelly name in reference to the horned stock. From the reports, the workshops and membership meeting proved to be very educational and informative to all. Thank you to those in attendance and hopefully next year, along with me, we will have even more members that are able to attend. Our special thanks to our very gracious host, Mary Swindell. Mary did a wonderful job in opening up her home and farm to so many strangers. Thank you, Mary! In this update, I will address the following items: Mailing and Email Addresses; Memberships and Sheep Registrations; Membership Proration Schedule; BBSAI Web Site; Financial Summary of the Association; and a segment on "2004 Achievements".

Mailing and Email Addresses

Please be sure to notify me if your mailing addresses or email has changed. Several of mailing packets in July, containing the 2004 ballot, proposed by-laws, and Workshop/Annual Meeting flyers were returned as the addresses we had on file were invalid. We also had 8 members email addresses that bounced when we sent out the electronic version of the July newsletter. If you are having problems receiving the newsletter or need help in setting your email, please contact newsletter@blackbellysheep.org. As a reminder, if you do not want the email version, there is a \$10 mailing fee for four issues of the newsletter.

Memberships and Sheep Registrations

We currently have 120 members and have over 800 sheep in the BBSAI Registry. As a reminder, applications to become a member, renew your membership, or to register your sheep can be downloaded from the Association's website at <http://www.blackbellysheep.org> or you can contact me at secretary@blackbellysheep.org. If you do not have access to a computer, you can contact me at my home address and I will be glad to send them to you. My address and phone number will be at the end of this update.

Membership Proration Schedule

In an effort to simplify our membership process, we have established July as our expiration and renewal month. In the past, we have had membership renewals come due each month. This system caused some financial constraints to many of our members. Plus, this is an effort to cut down on the time consumed with the correspondence each month, as well as to provide a consistent service to our members. Until we transition all of our members to July memberships, we have worked out a special cost share plan. In this plan, no one will be out any additional money. They will pay only their normal dues or the proration rate to July. To help you understand this, I am including the schedule. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Examples:

- (1) My regular membership dues are due in January at which time I would pay \$17.50 to July 2005. Then in July I would pay my \$30 and my membership would be extended until July 2006 and I would be on track for the future.
- (2) Member A's membership is good until March 2005, at which time he would pay \$12.50, and then he would receive notification in June to renew his membership in July for \$30 which would extend him to July 2006 and he is on track.
- (3) Member B's membership is good until October 2004 at which time she would pay \$25

which will take her to July 2005. Then she will pay \$30 and she will be on track.

MembershipType	Associate	Regular	Family
AnnualDues	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$45.00
Prorated per month	\$2.10	\$2.50	\$3.75
January	\$14.50	\$17.50	\$26.25
February	12.40	15.00	22.50
March	10.30	12.50	18.75
April*	25.00	30.00	45.00
May*	25.00	30.00	45.00
June*	25.00	30.00	45.00
July †	25.00	30.00	45.00
August*	25.00	30.00	45.00
September	22.90	27.50	41.25
October	20.80	25.00	37.50
November	18.70	22.50	33.75
December	16.60	20.00	

*Floating months in which the July 2005, 2006, etc. would be established.

†July was used as the central month for all membership dues.

BBSAI Web Site

I encourage each of you to take a look at the new web site format at: www.blackbellysheep.org. This wonderful new format was created by Carol Elkins. The Association's web site helps you locate fellow breeders through the Breeders Directory, plus provide other informational areas such as Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ); Breed Standards; BBSAI Gift Shop; Sheep Photo Album; Articles from Quarterly Newsletters; Membership and Sheep Registration Applications; and the new BBSAI cookbook (Volume 1) or CD.

As a reminder, if you want to update or change your information on the Breeders Directory, please e-mail me at secretary@blackbellysheep.org. We update the Directory on a quarterly basis, which is January, April, July, and October.

Financial Summary of the Association

To keep each of you up-to-date with the financial condition of the Association, we are providing you with a comparison of the Budgeted Expenses versus Actual Expenses through October 2004.

	2004		2004	
	Budgeted Fixed Expenses		Actual Fixed Expenses	
Telephone Fees		\$60.00		\$20.00
Web Site Fees		\$95.40		\$143.10
	2004		2004	
	Budgeted Discretionary Expenses		Actual Discretionary Expenses	
Postage Fees		\$213.60		\$184.29
Office Supplies		\$240.00		\$176.67
Newsletter		\$60.00		\$61.00
Annual Meeting		\$60.00		\$572.21
Note: Includes workshop t-shirts and petty cash for working capitol				
Advertising		\$150.00		\$25.00
Organizational		\$0.00		\$25.00
Note: Oklahoma Secretary of State filing fees				
Total Expenses		\$879.00		\$1,044.17
	2004		2004	
	Estimated Income		Actual Income	
Memberships		\$425.00		\$787.50
Registrations		\$395.00		\$285.50
Transfers		\$0.00		\$56.00
CafePress		\$60.00		\$53.73
Advertisements		\$0.00		\$30.00
Newsletter Postage		\$0.00		\$90.00
Additional Income		\$25.00		\$1,075.50
Note: Includes monies generated from silent auctions, workshop fees, donations, etc. from Annual Mtg				
Total Income		\$905.00		\$2,324.50
Current Bank Balance as of October 28, 2004				\$2,389.82

2004 Accomplishments

Over the past months, several of us have received emails, phone calls, and letters asking about the status and future of the Association. Having just completed a very successful Annual Meeting and Workshop, we are on solid ground, both financially and with our membership.

As we near the end of 2004, the Board of Directors and Officers would like to take this opportunity to share with you this year's accomplishments, along with the financial results from the Annual Meeting and Workshop from September. The 2004 accomplishments include the following:

1. Created an Association logo.
2. Established two storefronts at CafePress and began receiving a monthly income from the sale of the products.
3. Designed and published a two-volume cookbook (Volume 1 due out in October).
4. Established a formal backup protocol for the registry.
5. Published four huge newsletters and committed to continued quarterly publication.
6. Developed the technology to publish the newsletter electronically, thus enabling the Association to continue to offer it.
7. Engaged authorities in the academic and scientific communities and received their active support and participation.

8. Established a relationship with the National Animal Germplasm Program and began collecting and storing semen.
9. Added significant content and revised the BBSAI web site, including Facts And Questions (FAQ), a photo album, and cookbook and CD purchase section.
10. Staged a two-day workshop and annual meeting that was a tremendous and profitable success.
11. Reduced Association expenses, developed a budget, and continued to stay within and well under the budgeted expenses.
12. Rewrote the bylaws to protect the Association and to ensure that it had a legal foundation on which to operate.
13. Publicized the Association as well as the Annual Meeting in over a dozen magazines.
14. Began to develop an outreach program to 4H and FFA youth.

The financial data from the Annual Meeting and Workshop reflects the following income and expense report:

Income:	\$720.00
Workshop Registrations:	\$550.00
Silent Auction Profit:	\$ 170.00
Expenses incurred by the Association:	\$388.48
Working Expenses (Speaker fees, meals, rental equipment, t-shirts):	\$363.48
Mailing Fees:	\$25.00
Net Profit to the Association:	\$331.52

Note: To help in the establishment and success of the Annual Meeting and Workshop, the Board of Directors donated \$ 673.92 to the Association.

We are committed to see our Association grow and prosper. Each of the Board of Directors and Officers has spent at least 20 hours a week over the past year tending to our BBSAI duties and promoting the Association. Although it can be very time consuming and quite costly, it is very rewarding for each of us to see the gains made to protect and preserve our breeds. If you are interested in getting involved, we always need folks who want to work with on-going events and issues of the Association and our sheep. Let one of us know!

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New Members

- Miles Brayton - Paxico, KS
- Terry Callahan - Edgar Springs, MO
- Diana Matthews, Angier, NC
- Linda Powell, Petersburg, VA
- Mohan Sawh, Hollis, NY
- Sandra and Frank Smith, Wichita Falls, TX

We welcome you into our flock!

Members, we are looking for new members and friends to share the love, preservation, and dedication of our breed. Herd new members and friends to join BBSAI. In exchange you will receive two FREE Certificates of Registry.

Membership Renewals

- Tom Allison, Tulsa, OK
- Dan & Beth Lockwood, Caldwell, ID
- Sherry Lorentzen-Gacke, Loveland, CO
- Mandy Missant, Belleville, MI

Thank you for staying with our flock!

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All Members Benefit from Sheep Registration

by Lynn Magedson

The old saying goes like this - A rising tide raises all ships. The Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International is the tide for our breed. Members that consistently register their sheep will keep the tide rising.

The entire range of benefits derived totally or in part by monies from registration fees might be overlooked at times. Maintaining your sheep's pedigree and issuing certificates is only one of the benefits of registry fees.

Have you had that call yet? The one where the potential buyer is informed and knows just about what he/she wants after visiting the BBSAI website and/or receiving the brochure? Registration fees helped to pay the expense of printing and mailing that brochure and maintaining and updating the website as well. The Association fields many calls about our breed. When we need funds to pay the phone bill, registration fees need to be there. Folks are working very hard behind the scenes to promote the breed so all members benefit.

Have you sold stock via the members' sales page on the BBSAI website? Have you looked through the sheep wanted listings and found a sales lead? Does it help having your contact information in the breeder's directory? 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, potential buyers have access to a listing of all members that have sheep for sale. Thanks in part to members registering sheep; the BBSAI can keep offering this valuable service.

Did you see (or hear of) the ads placed in key publications to promote the breed? Purchasing promotional space for the breed can vary in costs. Regardless of the cost, a real person took the time to find, contact and supply copy to the publication.

Have you had the option of attending a workshop or annual meeting? Untold hours of volunteer work go into each gathering. We have devoted members that do this for no compensation whatsoever. However, some expenses must be paid from BBSAI cash for these functions to exist. Registration fees help offset these expenses.

Do you enjoy your newsletter? There is one publication that is devoted exclusively to our breed of sheep - the BBSAI newsletter. The newsletter is an opportunity for you to sell, buy or exchange stock and an opportunity to learn about the breed from experienced shepherds.

Registration fees help to offset an increase in other fees such as membership. If you are a lifetime member, registration fees are a great way to keep contributing to the association.

You can help keep the Association strong by keeping your sheep registrations up to date. When you sell stock, make sure it is registered or recorded. When you sell registered/recorded stock, complete the transfer papers for your customer. You can also collect the transfer fee and then mail it off to the BBSAI. Folks new to sheep may overlook completing the paperwork and fall out of touch with the association.

Thanks go out to all our shepherds that stick with the task of registration. Look for more follow-up articles regarding registration in future issues of your BBSAI newsletter.

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Member's Spotlight - Heather Sharfeddin

I recently contacted Heather Sharfeddin about giving her the Member's Spotlight for this issue of the BBSAI News. She graciously accepted and sent me an article about herself and her farm. Heather has been a member of the BBSAI since February 28th, 2003. She is a breeder of horned stock and currently has 11 sheep registered with the Association. Heather's article is as follows:

When my husband and I bought a few acres on the east slope of Chehalem Mountain, about twenty miles southwest of Portland, Oregon, my father - cattleman extraordinaire - promptly deposited six funny looking ruminants that we were certain had to be goats in our meadow.

"Sheep. To eat the blackberries," he informed us.

It was the first time for me, looking at my aging father, to wonder if he was going round the bend.

Our little band of Barbado sheep, which we'd been wrongly told were Blackbellies, was a motley bunch. Some had spots, some were a delicious cream-color without a speck of black anywhere, but one thing was certain, all were as flighty as a herd of wild deer.

We enjoyed watching them (they fit nicely into our country-living fantasy), but we had no need to attempt a roundup. And as we lounged on our deck, laughing at their antics, it occurred to us that we could barely see them in the waist high brush of our two-acre pasture. So we did the next natural thing, we got more.

My father can be a little like God-almighty - ask and ye shall receive. For Thanksgiving he brought ten more mutt-like Barbs in a wide assortment of colors and conformation from western Montana. The roundup at his neighbor's place, where he first discovered the little sweethearts, was, as he recounts it, tantamount to high plains rodeo, and we got what we got. Three rams, and seven ewes. Even one little girl with short-pronged horns.

It was about this time that we started thinking along the lines of true animal husbandry and decided to vaccinate and worm our little herd. When I got home from the hospital, sitting in my living room with a heating pad flush against the pinched nerve in my spine, I wondered for the first time if maybe we'd made a terrible mistake.

Does any of this sound familiar to you?

The funny thing about Barbados, as I'm sure you know, is their propensity for rapid reproduction. Within a short few months, our first little band (they seem so peaceful and sweet now in my memory) had grown to 26 sheep of various shapes and colors, one of which was living out of a dog crate in our living room, reminding us why we chose not to have another baby. When the lambs started coming, my husband - did I mention he's from a Tripoli? You know, smog, cars, crowded little streets choked by throngs of people. Farming? Not a chance! Yeah, that guy - turned to me and said, "I just wanted a nice shoulder roast".

It was clearly time to do something. So we advertised a starter flock in our local farm paper and asked \$500 for seven sheep, which we were prepared to come down on (way down, after all we'd gotten them for free). To our amazement, they were sold the first day for full price. And we had four more callers ready to buy them sight-unseen. One guy was in southern Utah for heavens sake! Hmm, maybe we'd stumbled onto something here?

Fortunately for us, I'd found the BBSAI website and all the helpful, friendly people on the listserv. Ah, that's what they're supposed to look like? What do you mean they're not Blackbellies? But we've already named our farm. Horns? Of course they have horns. These sheep are from Montana after-all. Okay, I can concede the ewes would be more attractive without. It was also around this time that we met Mark and Lin Story of Foley Peak Farms, just down the coast here. They came out and took a look at our flock, pointing out desirable traits (they were truly nice about it all) and helping us decide which ones to cull. They have an infectious love of the breed and a genuine desire to improve it. Mark introduced us to his brother and sister-in-law, Casey and Michelle Story, and together we've begun to establish a solid pool of high-quality Barbado breeding stock. We welcome new breeders to our growing Oregon gene pool and encourage them to read up on the breed, learn the standards, register their sheep, and relentlessly strive for improvement. We're anxiously awaiting Barb Lee's (our newest Oregon breeder) trip back for the Convention and all she will have to share with us when she returns.

Have you ever heard that annoying phrase "necessity is the mother of invention"? Our farm is stands as a reluctant testament. Catch pens, partitions, stanchions (no sheep shall possess a will stronger than my own), and lambing pens - I mean jugs. You know the stuff, you're shepherds. We highly recommend consistent bribery for sheep, not unlike children, as the best method for catching and handling them, though.

Ultimately, three years later, we're hopelessly attached to the little buggers, and it's become very important to us to protect and improve this breed. It isn't about the money for us, though we like to keep the income a little higher than the outgo. They are wondrous creatures, funny, intelligent (though a little short on memory), with quirky little personalities. How could you not fall in love? We've stanchied the flow of in-coming Montana mongrels, though we encounter free or cheap animals of questionable heritage often, partly of our own doing, no doubt. But the best way to preserve this breed is to educate people about them and to register our sheep.

Heather Sharfeddin
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4-H News—Peso and Caleb Shaw's Story

By Caleb Shaw

This was my first year raising lambs. Our family had a lot to learn. We first learned that sheep do better if there is more than one. So we decided to buy a Blackbelly Barbados ewe. We later learned the proper name for the breed of sheep we purchased was called Barbado since the ram had horns. We planned to keep it just so it would be company for the Suffolk. Our 4-H leader suggested that we take it to the fair. It could be shown in the open class. It was fun taking care of my lambs. At church our minister, Fr. Kevin, said on Sunday of the Good Shepherd, "You all have probably never met a shepherd." I said "I have sheep." Boy, was he surprised!

One thing I learned right away was the difference in size. The Barbado was small and the Suffolk was very large. But the Suffolk and the Barbado got along just fine. They liked to be together all the time. Another thing I learned was how heavy sawdust was. We had to clean the pen once a week and it was a lot of work. My Dad helped me.

The main improvement that we want to have for next year is a better shelter. We are looking at barns so the sheep can get out of the weather better. We recycled a "little tykes" plastic play house for them. They liked to stick their heads out the window.

While raising our Barbado, we did not know that they are often flighty. Peso never ran away, she liked to stay with Rufus all the time. So we started out walking her on a dog halter. At the fair we bought a rope harness. We bathed her and brushed her. We didn't worry too much about how she would act. As it happened, she behaved much better than the Suffolk, who got loose and the judge had to help catch him.

The last thing was how popular she was. There were about 70 Market lambs, all Suffolk or Suffolk/ mix. White sheep with black legs and faces. Everyone came to see the sheep that looked different. I think people like to see something different. The people from the nursing home waited for my Mom and I to get the sheep out and I held up the Barbado for them to pet. They seemed to like it and they took my picture.

Peso and Caleb went to the 4-H Livestock judging and came in 45th place this year. Their team placed 15th which was very good. The Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association is not the only thing going "international." After the fair, the Shaw family is going to host a foreign exchange student from Norway for awhile.



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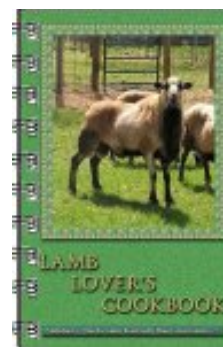
The Lamb Lover's Cookbook On Sale Now!

In Time for Your Holiday Gift Giving

Order your copy of the Lamb Lover's Cookbook, available as a wire-bound book or on CD-ROM.

\$16.75 wire-bound

\$10.50 CD-ROM



Lamb Lover's Cookbook is a compilation of over a hundred lamb recipes gathered from email groups, Internet sites, and five-star restaurants. The author, BBSAI board member Carol Elkins, is a professional writer. She collected recipes, organized, designed, and indexed this beautiful book, wanting to ensure that the BBSAI had a steady stream of income for years to come.

Instead of paying the high price to have the book mass produced by one of those "favorite recipe" cookbook publishers, Carol decided to sell the cookbook directly from the BBSAI's Web site using the services of the respected print-on-demand company, CafePress. Doing it this way frees the BBSAI from having to purchase and store its own inventory of cookbooks, and CafePress handles the shipping and credit card details. This is a great way for a non-profit organization like the BBSAI to sell items since its officers, board members, and volunteers change from year to year.

The cookbook is wire-bound so that it lies flat when open. It has a beautiful soft-bound color cover and lots of photos of Barbados Blackbelly and American Blackbelly sheep as chapter dividers. The index is fantastic, making it very easy to find recipes by cut of meat, special ingredient, ethnic origin, and recipe name.

The thing you will like most about the CD version is that it is easy to navigate around in it. You can simply click in the table of contents or index and go directly to the recipe you're interested in. But most importantly, the CD version is completely searchable. For example, if you remember seeing a recipe using orzo (that rice-shaped pasta found in many Italian and Greek recipes), you simply click the Search button and immediately see every recipe in the book that uses orzo.

This cookbook is available only from the BBSAI Web site.

Order Your Copy Now at <http://www.blackbellysheep.org>

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Livestock Guardian Dogs—Passive Predator Control

By Rhonda Muller

Hello to all you fellow Barbados Blackbelly owners. Our pasture has a few of these magnificent creatures roaming the hills. Other domestic critters include various breeds of hair sheep, Spanish goats, Shorthorn cattle, and Livestock Guardian Dogs. We ranch in the beautiful Hill Country of Central Texas where bluebonnets, paint brushes, and prickly pear all grow. The whitetail deer flourish and pets run free.

Pets running free is just one of the problems limiting the numbers of goats and sheep available to be sold. The other is coyotes. Most of you have other and perhaps larger predators that think your livestock makes a mighty tasty snack.

Our problem started here about 9 years ago when, in one night, we lost 30 goat kids each weighing around 30 pounds. The culprits were dogs. Their owners promised me that their loving pets would NEVER do such a thing and anyway their pets would NEVER leave the back porch! There were four dogs that slaughtered the kids. The mistake the dogs made was attempting another raid. In most rural areas that are being subdivided the SSSs are used for handling marauding dogs: SHOOT -- SHOVEL -- & SHUT UP!

After that we trained the goats to come to the barn at night. But what was needed was a solution to shutting

the goats up every night. So I called a cousin that lives nearby and talked to her. As it happened, she had a litter of Anatolian Shepherd pups about 10 weeks old. Jean gave me one that she said was showing too much fear of everything except his mother.

Jean filled me in on raising a good guard dog but really didn't hold out much hope for this pup. Because of what was expected of this pup, Thor became a pet. Well that didn't deter his instinct or desire to guard. And what a guard dog he was. Since Thor did so well we decided to add a couple more dogs to the herd. We bought a Maremma Sheepdog and raised her according to the book. Then we added another Anatolian male. He always stayed at the barn during the day while Katy the Maremma guarded the grazing flock.

Well, we have 5 grown dogs now (and of course a litter of pups) and each one has really earned its keep. The goats and sheep are no longer the prey of dogs or coyotes.

Here the livestock guardian dogs really are the other alternative. There is no need for snares, traps, or poisons. Without realizing it at the time, by choosing a passive form of predator control, we made a positive choice for the environment. That means a coyote is welcome here as long as it stays out of the herd. AND IT WILL. That means that the coyote must hunt in order to eat. Deer and rabbits have become prey once more. We have a benefit that we hadn't even counted on, a healthier deer herd.

Rhonda Muller (rbmuller@tstar.net)

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BBSAI Silent Auction a GREAT SUCCESS!

The Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International (BBSAI) would like to thank members, friends, and vendors for their generous donations to our Silent Auction. Their donations helped us achieve our goal for this important fund-raiser for our Association.

Below is a list of members, friends and vendors that made the 2004 BBSAI Silent Auction a great success!

American Livestock Breeds Conservancy
Bellwether Farm
Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International
Becky and Mike Lannon
Crittterhaven Estate
Carol Elkins
Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc.
Intervet, Inc.
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Sheep Breeders Notebook
Susan Smith
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The Shepherd's Journal
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Blackbelly in the News

At Mason County Fair in West Virginia, Caleb Shaw at 11 years of age won two 4-H Blue Ribbon awards. Peso, a Barbados Blackbelly ewe, earned a Blue Ribbon and Reserve Champion. Dodge, a Barbados Blackbelly ram, earned a Blue Ribbon and Grand Champion. Congratulations to Caleb, Peso, and Dodge!!!

The Orange County Virginia Fair was held at James Madison's historic Montpelier home from Friday July 23 through Sunday July 25, 2004. James Madison was the fourth President of the United States and the father of the Constitution. This is the third year that the County Fair held their Heritage Breed Expo. To the right is a photo of two Barbados Blackbelly sheep at the Orange County Fair. There were many other breeders displaying their rare breeds, but these were the only Barbados Blackbelly sheep.



The Chesterfield County Fair in Virginia was held during August 27 through September 4, 2004. Trouble and Worrysome were also displayed along with other rare breeds. On Monday, August 30, 2004, the tent displaying the rare breed animals collapsed from the weight of a heavy rainfall. All animals were removed without injuries, although Furgy, a Gloucestershire Old Spots piglet, enjoyed the rain and mud so much that she did not want to leave. All animals returned to the fair on Wednesday, September 1, 2004, and remained on exhibit until the fair ended.

Among the rare breeds at the Virginia State Fair, Barbados Blackbelly sheep were displayed for the third year in the Rare Livestock Breed Exposition. The dates of the Virginia State Fair were from September 23 through October 3, 2004. We thank Lorene Blackwood, Senior Director of Programs, and Carey Padgett, Jr., Livestock Manager, for supporting this Rare Livestock Breed program.

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Is Exposure Necessary for Barbados Blackbelly and American Blackbelly Sheep?

By James Harper

As a member of BBSAI, do you feel the Barbados Blackbelly sheep and/or the American Blackbelly sheep need more exposure? If your answer is YES, then as a member, breeder and/or producer get your sheep in front of the public!

1. Contact your state and county fairs boards and write about your registered sheep and include a photo of them. Explain to them the wonderful attributes of our breed. Encourage the fair board each year to have your registered sheep displayed at their fair.
2. Register your sheep before you sell them.
3. Encourage buyers purchasing your registered sheep to join the BBSAI.
4. Encourage buyers to also display their registered sheep at the fair grounds and explain the need to inform the public why we should keep our breed pure.
5. Contact your county extension 4-H and FFA offices in writing about our breed and include photos of your registered sheep. Explain to them the wonderful attributes of our breed. Encourage 4-H and FFA officials and members to visit your farm for a personal tour and to explain first hand information on our breed. (Note: One 4-H parent told me wool sheep did not interest their family because of all the shearing needed throughout the year and necessary for showing at the fair. Now that they know about hair sheep our breed is very appealing!)

Exposure of our breed through the state and county fairs, 4-H, and FFA will generate interest with the public and this may transform into immediate and/or future sales of your sheep. I am a living testimony of this! Happy raising sheep the EASY way, and one day I hope to see your sheep displayed and/or shown at the fair.

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Want to make sure that you never miss a new classified ad posted to the BBSAI Web Site?

There have been 47 Wanted ads posted since January 2004, and each ad was a potential sale that YOU could have made. People post ads looking for American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly sheep, knowing that the BBSAI is the best place to find them. LET'S NOT DISAPPOINT THEM!

The BBSAI is pleased to introduce you to a free notification service to help you keep informed of new ads posted on the Classifieds board. Every day the ChangeDetection service will check to see if the BBSAI bulletin board has been changed. If so, you will receive an e-mail to let you know. At any point you can turn off monitoring ("unsubscribe") by simply following the instructions in the email you receive. This service is 100% free.

To sign up for this service, simply visit the Classifieds area of the BBSAI Web site at <http://www.blackbellysheep.org/sale.htm>, enter your email in the box you'll find there, and click OK. THAT'S IT! It is that simple!

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Ewe Lamb Sign-Up Open

The U.S. Department of Agriculture informed the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) on Monday, Oct. 25, that producers could sign-up for the ewe-lamb replacement and retention program. With this information in hand, ASI authorized the mailing of more than 21,000 postcards designed to notify sheep producers of the launch of the ewe-lamb application period.

Contact your local County Farm Service Agency (FSA) to request an application. The program requirements are essentially the same as in previous years where producers will receive direct payments for ewe lambs purchased or retained during the eligibility period which ran from Aug. 1, 2003, to July 31, 2004.

American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) President Guy Flora encourages producers to file their paperwork by mid November. "We expect the application period to close in several weeks and are asking for prompt attention to this sign-up period in anticipation that payments can be made in December of this year."

"The Bush Administration committed \$18 million in funding for this final year of the ewe-lamb program, which is a cornerstone of ASI's initiative to stabilize and build the U.S. sheep industry," stated ASI Executive Director Peter Orwick. "We commend them for providing this valuable program to sheep producers."

For further information, contact Danielle Cooke (Danielle.Cooke@wdc.usda.gov), 202-720-1919

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Who Said I Can't Read?

Hmmm, this says, "Raising Sheep the EASY Way!" Those humans just do not realize it is not easy keeping track of all our lambs, and then there is the nursing...only two teats and all those hungry mouths to feed. What's easy about that!

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Calendar of Blackbelly Events

Barbados Blackbelly Sheep are being displayed and/or advertised at the following sheep and wool festivals:

- **Wool Festival of the Southwest:** November 13 - 14, 2004 (<http://www.woolfestivalsw.itctv.com>)

If you know of any upcoming events in which Barbado or Barbados Blackbelly Sheep are participating, e-mail jharper53@erols.com.

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All-New Products Coming Soon to the BBSAI Gift Shop!

Warm up your holiday gift shopping with these new products coming in November!

- Holiday Ornaments
- Fleece Hooded Jacket
- Fleece Hooded Jacket w/ Sweatpants Set
- Sweatpants
- Toddler's Raglan
- Unisex Ringer Tee
- Pillow (black w/ white center)

Visit the Association's gift shop now at <http://www.blackbellysheep.org/store.htm>

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Classifieds



The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy

Saving heritage breeds from extinction since 1977. Joint effort to conserve over 100 breeds of horses, cattle, sheep, goats, swine and poultry. Annual membership of \$30 includes the bimonthly *ALBC News*. Send \$2 for an information packet and sample newsletter.

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Reward: Two free Certificates of Registry from the BBSAI for every published article that you send. Rewards are good for up to one full year from the date that your article is published. The subject matter in the article must be between 400 and 600 words about members' experiences with American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly Sheep. We will not accept articles from previously published sources without written permission from the copyright holder. The President and Editor will have final approval of each article that is submitted.



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YSPA sponsors:

- VA-NC Shepherds' Symposium (January)
- Commercial Bred Ewe Lamb Sale (January)
- Shearing School (April)
- Eastern Stud Ram Show & Sale (June)
- Ram Lamb Performance Test and Sale (sale in August)
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Contact Scott Greiner, VA Tech, 540-231-9163.

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New Consortium of Polled Breeders. If you raise polled Barbados Blackbelly sheep and can document at least two generations of the polled bloodline, please contact me to learn more about the Consortium of polled breeders that is forming. Be part of the effort to save this breed from disappearing in the U.S. Participate in ram sharing, artificial insemination programs, semen storage and dissemination, and other efforts to preserve this breed. See <http://www.critterhaven.biz/coop.htm> for details and contact Carol Elkins at 719-948-3773 or email her at celkins@critterhaven.biz if you would like to participate in this group's efforts.

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Thank you for being a loyal BBSAI member. We value your membership and will continue to strive to be a good resource for you. Please let us know how we are doing and share with us any ideas you may have about what the BBSAI can do for you.

[Send an Email to the Association](#)

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