



Greeting BBSAI Members!

Barb Lee here, your new newsletter editor! I am stepping in for James Harper, who along with Carol Elkins, has set a pretty tough standard for me to live up to! I have no experience with publishing electronic newsletters, but I have done it "the old way" in the past. With Carol's capable supervision, I hope to continue to provide you with the same wonderful quarterly publication. James gets my heartfelt appreciation for the terrific job he has done, and for the work he continues to do for the BBSAI.

THANKS JAMES!

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/2005/April/BBSAI_newsletter_April2005.htm

Everyone: Please add "Barbados_Blackbelly_Sheep_Associ@mail.vresp.com" to your address book, friends list, or white list.

April, 2005

[In This Issue...](#)

- [Membership Information Notice](#)
- [From the President](#)
- [2005 Annual Meeting and Workshop](#)
- [Member Spotlight](#)
- [New Members/Membership Renewals](#)
- [Calendar of Blackbelly Events](#)
- [Got Horns?](#)
- [Questions and Answers](#)
- [Lambing Pens for Blackbelly Sheep](#)
- [Tubing Lambs](#)
- [Spend \\$25 to Get \\$100 Off Transporting Your Sheep](#)
- [Telling How Old a Sheep Is](#)

Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International Newsletter
1156 NE 50th Road
Lamar, MO 64759
(417) 398-2526 or (417) 398-9500
E-mail: secretary@blackbellysheep.org
The Association's website is:
www.blackbellysheep.org

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

BBSAI Officers
Joshua Weimer, President: president@blackbellysheep.org
Mark Fleming, Secretary/Treasurer: secretary@blackbellysheep.org

Regional Directors
Carol J. Elkins: celkins@criterhaven.biz
James E. Harper: jharper53@erols.com
Mary Swindell: mwindel@siu.edu

Advisors
Susan Schoenian, Sheep and Goats Western Maryland
Research and Education Center—Marketing Advisor

Webmistress
Carol J. Elkins: webmistress@blackbellysheep.org

- [Consistent State Status](#)

President's Corner

By Josh Weimer

The start of a new year has brought about some new and exciting events. One such event is the re-evaluation of the breed standards of the Barbados Blackbelly and the development of the breed standards for the American Blackbelly. Committees have been formed to develop drafts of each breed's proposed standards. If you would like to share your thoughts, please send them to me before June 1, 2005 at president@blackbellysheep.org and I will get them sent to the correct committee. I would like to encourage each of you to get involved by sending me your opinions. I assure you they will be taken seriously.

I would also like to ask that if you have any photographs of your animals, please take a little time and send the BBSAI a photo, especially you American Blackbelly folks. The association is in dire need of quality photos for promotional items, the second edition of the BBSAI's cookbook, our website, etc. I would like to remind you that all photos sent in will not be returned and the BBSAI will retain all rights to your photo for future use.

If you are using a digital camera, photos should be taken with the highest resolution possible to ensure that the photo will print clearly. The best photos are shot in a natural setting such as your pasture. They should also be shot as close to the animal as the animal will allow. If you have some pictures just laying around or just needed an excuse to go take some new ones, show your support for the BBSAI by sending us a few of them. Thanks!

[Back to Top](#)

BBSAI 2005 Annual Meeting and Workshop

This year, the BBSAI is going to split its Annual Meeting apart from the Workshop. By special invitation from Virginia State University (VSU), the BBSAI will participate in VSU's Hair Sheep Workshop to be held June 21-23, 2005, at Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia. The BBSAI Annual Meeting will be held by teleconference in October, 2005. You will receive more

information and a ballot in September.

The VSU Hair Sheep Workshop is an event that you won't want to miss! "Big names" in hair sheep research will be there. Check out what they plan to talk about:

Wednesday, June 22 - AM & Thursday, June 23 - AM

- Historical perspective of hair sheep in the U.S.—Dr. Eric Bradford, University of California
- Performance of hair sheep in different environments
 - Tropics—Dr. Robert Godfrey, University of the Virgin Islands
 - Eastern farm flocks—Dr. Niki Whitley, University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Dr. Stephan Wildeus, Virginia State University
 - Southeastern U.S.—Dr. Joan Burke, USDA-ARS, Arkansas
 - Range environment—Dr. Dan Waldron, Texas A&M University
- Use of hair breeds in integrated systems—Dr. Kreg Leymaster, USDA-ARS, Nebraska; Dr. Dave Thomas, University of Wisconsin
- Contributions of hair sheep to control parasitism—Dr. James Miller, Louisiana State University; Dr. Anne Zajac, Virginia Tech
- Carcass quality, composition, and palatability of hair sheep—Dr. Susan Duckett; University of Georgia; Dr. Scott Greiner, Virginia Tech
- Grazing performance of hair sheep—Dr. Mike Brown, USDA-ARS, Oklahoma; Dr. Joan Burke, USDA-ARS, Arkansas
- Accelerated and out-of-season breeding with hair sheep—Dr. Duane Keisler, University of Missouri; Dr. Stephan Wildeus, Virginia State University
- Opportunities for genetic evaluation of hair sheep—Dr. Dave Notter, Virginia Tech
- Marketing hair sheep and hair sheep products—Dr. James Morgan, KHSI; Susan Schoenian, University of Maryland
- Posters will be on display throughout the workshop, with authors available during a designated viewing session. Copies of posters and abstracts will be included in the workshop materials

Registration Fee: \$75

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged as space at the workshop is limited.

Registration deadline is May 20 (after May 20th, registration increases to \$90)

Registration fee includes conference materials, reception/dinner (jointly with scientists from the NCR-190 regional research project 'Increased Efficiency of Sheep Production'), lunch (2), coffee breaks (3), transport between hotel and meeting site

Download a registration form from the BBSAI Web site at <http://www.blackbellysheep.org>

[Back to Top](#)

Member Spotlight—Dan and Beth Lockwood

Hello from Idaho! Our names are Dan and Beth Lockwood, and we own Desert Moon Farm, located about 25 miles east of the Oregon border in the southwest corner of our state. We have just a small acreage—about 3 acres—and we run 25-30 ewes every year. We breed in

early spring, and only breed once a year. Even though the blackbellies are polyestrous, we feel it is just too hard on our girls to breed them more than that—they deserve a rest from those kids occasionally!

Our background in sheep? I was in 4H sheep projects most of my life, and was also on the sheep show team at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. When we were first married, we had wool sheep—primarily blackface crosses, with a few whiteface thrown in. We lived in western Oregon at the time, and found that the wool sheep didn't seem to be as hardy or disease-resistant.

When we moved to Idaho, we were introduced to the American Blackbelly breed, and obtained our first 7 ewes about five years ago from a local farmer. Since then, we have aggressively culled out those ewes which do not twin, or have had any trouble lambing (a rare thing) or do not meet the breed standard. We still have a couple of ewes which are not perfect examples of the breed, but who raise twins every year and are excellent mothers. We recently sold our ram, and will be heading over to Oregon next month to obtain 2 registered rams to sire our next group of lambs.

Although we are just starting to register our ewes, I feel that registration of good breeding stock is important for continued improvement of our breed. The reason we have held off registering until this point is because I did not feel that many of our previous ewes were of high enough quality to be registered. I do not believe in registering every individual just because they meet the minimum of our breed standard, but instead prefer to register those that are a good example of the breed. To this end, I am also involved in the group developing the breed standard for the American Blackbelly.

My short-term goals are to develop my entire flock to the point where I feel that they are all legitimate candidates for registration. Long-term, we hope to put more emphasis on the Blackbelly breed in our area, and make consumers aware of the high-quality, lean meat product that we are producing, without hormones or antibiotics. I feel aggressive marketing is key to creating a higher demand for our Blackbelly breed of sheep.

In addition to our small flock, we also have a guardian llama that does an excellent job of keeping an eye on our girls. Also, we have 2 Border Collies and an Aussie who help us with our flock and help us reduce our workload. When we have any free time, we enjoy walking and bicycling, and are huge NASCAR fans.

If you would like to contact us, we can be reached at misscudo8@aol.com, or at our home address:

Dan and Beth Lockwood
14750 Willis Rd
Caldwell, ID 83607

[Back to Top](#)

New Members

- Rockie Peterson - Neosho, MO
- John Carlton - Fairhope, AL
- Gerald Krause - White Lake, WI
- Jason Archer - Aurora, TX
- Joseph & Linda Moretto - Chamois, MO
- Fred & Jan Mancuso - Sulphur, OK

- Geoff Horn - Deer Park, 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

- Mark and Lin Storey - Nehalem, OR
- Mary Swindell - Cobden, IL
- Mark Fleming - Lamar, MO
- Jesse & Donna Morgan - Big Spring, TX
- Raymond & Michelle Storey - Oregon City, OR
- Mike & Becky Lannon - Hockley, TX
- Tony & Karen Maeder - Bonham, TX

Thank you for staying with our flock!

[Back to Top](#)

Calendar of Blackbelly Events

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

North American Hair Sheep Symposium and Sale
San Angelo Fairgrounds San Angelo, TX
October 6,7,8 2005
Contact Philip Glass
325-465-4267
email: dorper@wcc.net

World's largest—all breeds Hair Sheep Sale
September 3-5, 1005—Bethel, MO
Seminars, workshops, exhibits, supplies, equipment
Featuring 10 meat, dairy, and trophy breeds, including Katahdin, Red Russian, Dorper, Tasmanian Spotted, Black Texas Dall, Barbados, Mouflon, Painted Desert, St. Croix, Wiltshire Horn.

For information, contact

Hair Sheep Research Center
Box 207
Bethel, MO 63434
573-588-4536 evenings

If you know of any upcoming events in which American Blackbelly or Barbados Blackbelly Sheep are participating, e-mail lee@ccwebster.net.

[Back to Top](#)



Got Horns?

By Barb Lee

Hey there, American Blackbelly breeders, owners and admirers! Great news!

Ever since last fall, when WE voted to name our horned sheep American Blackbelly, the American Blackbelly Breed Standards Committee has been working to create our own breed standard for our regal critters.

The groundwork is being laid, not only for the present, but for the future of the breed. We have challenging ideas in the works to shepherd the American Blackbelly into the exciting new markets that are opening up for lean, robust, quality – not to mention beautiful – hair sheep.

What do the new standards mean for you and your sheep? We would like for YOU to tell US! A unique opportunity exists to have a hand in shaping the future of this livestock breed. Rarely does an individual get the chance to buy in to such an opportunity.

Aside from the incomparable beauty of the blackbelly sheep, both horned and polled, this opportunity is profoundly attractive to me, and is one of the reasons I am so honored to be a part of the team that is shaping the new standards.

Unlike their polled parent stock, American Blackbelly sheep, both registered and unregistered, exist in the thousands around the country. They are typically called Barbado, sometimes Corsican, but almost certainly, the majority of people who are generally acquainted with them call them Barbados Blackbelly. "American Blackbelly" doesn't yet roll off the tongue, and we have a lot of work to do to familiarize the world with the new name. The new name gives our sheep a permanent identity of their own.

The critical value of the new Registry lies in the division of opportunities that exist in breeding horned versus polled stock. While the polled breeders must concern themselves with building numbers of quality animals with a fragile gene pool, the American Blackbelly breeder, with a much broader genetic resource base, is free to develop animals to suit his target market, confident that as he works to establish his/her own genotype within the parameters of the breed standards, he/she will be able to find the animals that are suitable for his breeding program.

What the new American Blackbelly standards do for us as breeders, is help us maintain our focus on the key elements that define our breed, while allowing the flexibility of creating a "custom" animal for our own specific markets.

We don't plan to sit back on our accomplishments when we have established the Standards. After all, this work only defines the minimum acceptable characteristics for registry. We are aiming much higher than that! In the coming months and years, the BBSAI and the American Blackbelly Breed Standards Committee will be inviting breeders to step up to the challenge of never ending improvement of the breed until it is a mighty contender in today's competitive markets.

We want to hear from our American Blackbelly breeders! We want pictures! We are excited

about unveiling our progress and our plans for the future. We are proud of our spectacular animals, and we want to share the pride!

Look for progress reports in upcoming issues of the newsletter. We as a committee are proud to serve the interests of our American Blackbelly Sheep breeders and excited to be a part of the breed's future.

If you would like to talk about your American Blackbelly sheep, especially if you would like to write an article about them for our newsletter and/or share photographs of your flock, please contact either the committee Chairman, Mark Fleming, softball@tri-lakes.net, or myself, Barb Lee, lee@ccwebster.net.

Welcome to the future of the American Blackbelly Sheep!

[Back to Top](#)

Questions and Answers

What is Mutton Busting?

"Mutton busting" is a rodeo event for small children (4 to 7 years old, under 50-60 pounds) who ride a sheep bareback from the chute to the other end of the arena. While the sheep don't buck much, the ride dislodges most riders. The goal is to ride the sheep for six seconds. Youngsters hang onto the sheep's wool. The kids wear helmets for protection.
Susan S.

For more Questions and Answers visit <http://www.blackbellysheep.org/faq.htm>

[Back to Top](#)

Lamb Pens for Blackbelly Sheep

By Mary Swindell

Introduction. Several sheep breeder friends have asked about the lambing jugs that they saw at my farm during the 2004 BBSAI Annual Meeting. These versatile 5-foot wide portable wooden panels can be put together in a variety of ways, including a basic 5-foot square lambing jug (pen), a set of such pens connected in a row, a portable zigzag fence, or a portable round corral. All of these configurations will stand alone, with no posts needed. I have two sets of these panels—the first set is 36 inches high, and the second set is 50 inches high.



The first lamb pens I built were the set of short 36-inch high panels, made more or less according to the Midwest Plans for sheep housing and equipment. I made 7 of those panels (6 regular panels and one specialized panel, with a stanchion gate built into it). The stanchion gate is also known as a "head-catcher" gate, whereby you can hold a ewe inside the pen with her head and neck protruding through the adjustable vertical slats, and



thereby force her to accept an orphan lamb in the pen.

Secondly, I built a set of six 50" tall panels (also 5 feet wide). These were built after a particularly flighty Blackbelly ewe would continually jump out of the 36" tall lamb pens, leaving her newborn lambs alone until I happened to come out to the barn to find her outside her pen. The taller panels worked very well to stop the mother ewe from escaping. These taller panels are also great to use for housing sick or injured sheep. The sheep are much calmer if they don't think they could possibly jump out of the pen. They sense that there is no way they can clear this height from close quarters, so they relax and don't worry themselves trying.

I have been using these two sets of panels as follows:

Lamb Pen Configuration. 3 sides of the pen are tall (50" H) panels. The fourth side (front side) is a short (36" H) panel. That way, I can reach in over the front to change water, feed grain & hay, and easily climb in to inspect mother and babies. The security of the 3 tall sides usually calms the ewe and they do not tend to jump over the shorter front panel, even though I guess they could. I have never had a ewe jump out of this configuration. Of course with a nervous or jumpy ewe, you could always switch to a higher front panel if needed.



The panels can be set up side by side in a row, sharing side panels if you need to have more than one pen set up at the same time. The back pieces can be linked together with the hinge pen so that 3 panel pieces are joined in a "T" formation. That way, I can set up 3 total lambing pens side by side and utilize only 7 tall panels for the backs & sides of all 3 pens. Then I would simply need 3 short panels for the 3 front gates. These front panels, too, can be interjoined so that 3 pieces fit together. You can fit three panels together with a single hinge pin because of the way the hinge heights are staggered (low, medium, or high on the various panels). It is best to set up your lamb pen(s) in the warmest part of the barn, clearly out of a draft. And it is a good

idea to put newborn lambs together with their mother in these pens for about 3 – 5 days.

Other Configurations. The panels can also be linked zigzag style in a single row to make an instant fence. If one or both ends are connected to a stable wall or fence, this portable fence will be freestanding.



Additionally, they can also be connected in a big circle to make a portable holding corral. Again, this configuration will be freestanding if it is not too big. I have used all 13 panel pieces to make a corral circle and found it to be very stable. And I didn't have to put any posts in the ground!

It is amazing how helpful these panels are for such uses. I have often pulled them out in a hurry to create a little alleyway when I needed to lead sheep to a new area (or to a loading ramp) where there was no fencing. When not in use, these panels can be stacked together out of the way. And possibly you readers will think of even more interesting configurations for these versatile panels on your own farms!

Construction Details. Here is the construction detail on both types of pen panels.

SHORT PEN PANELS — 36" High x 60" Wide

2 vertical boards—1"x 4" x 36" each

4 horizontal boards—1"x 4" x 60" each

1 horizontal board (on bottom)—1"x 8" x 60"

1 diagonal board—1"x 4" x approx. 63" (diagonal between the two verticals)

Spacing of horizontals:



(top)
3.5" board
5" space
3.5" board
4" space
3.5" board
3" space
3.5" board
2.5" space
7.5" board
(bottom)
Total: 36"

TALL PEN PANELS — 50" High x 60" Wide.

2 vertical boards—1"x 6" x 50" each

6 horizontal boards—1"x 6" x 60" each

1 diagonal board—1"x 6" x approx. 69" (diagonal between the two verticals)

Spacing of horizontals:



(top)
5.5" board
4" space
5.5" board
4" space
5.5" board
3" space
5.5" board
3" space
5.5" board
3" space
5.5" board
(bottom)
Total: 50"

Assembly details (for both heights). Assemble with galvanized deck screws (1.5" max.)

Hinges: 1/8" thick strap metal, 1.5" wide and 10" long (for 36" panel) or 11" long (for 50" panel). Bend into a U-shape 1 5/8" wide. Drill hole through metal and wood to hold hex nuts & bolts (bolts 3/16" diam. and 1 7/8" long). 1 bolt per hinge. 4 hinges per panel (1 upper and 1 lower per edge). Important: Hinges must be positioned at carefully calculated low, medium, or high heights, so that each panel will coordinate with other panels and hinges can inter-fit with hinges of other panels.

Hinge positions for 50" panels: High (bottom of top board). Medium (top of 2nd board). Low (Bottom of 2nd board). Bottom hinge can correspond as desired.

Hinge rods: 1/2" rebar, 40" long (for 36" panel) or 54" long (for 50" panel). Bent at angle so 36" (for 36" panel) or 50" (for 50" panel) is vertical and there is a 4" L-shaped handle at top. These are easily removable and can be slid down edge of panels to connect 2 or 3 hinged panels together.

Tubing Lambs and Kids

One of the most useful items to have around the barn is a stomach tube, also called a feeding tube, lamb reviver or saver, or weak kid syringe. Tube feeding is the simplest, safest, and quickest way to feed any lamb or kid that can hold its head up and sit up under its own power.

Albeit, it's somewhat intimidating the first time you tube feed a lamb or kid. I know how I felt; I was convinced I was going to put milk into



the lamb's lungs and drown it. Now, I wouldn't hesitate to tube feed a lamb or kid that needs it. While it's possible to insert the tube into the animal's windpipe, it's not very likely. The lamb will let you know if you're doing it right.

Measure the tube on the outside of the lamb so you can see how far to insert it. Lay the tube along the lamb from the tip of its nose, along the neck and side, so the tip lies at the last rib. Mark the tube at the nose and this will show the length to insert.

Here's how you do it: Find yourself a comfortable place to sit; a bale of hay or straw will do. Hold the lamb or kid on your lap. Another technique is to hold the lamb between your legs. Support the lamb's head with your hand and extend its neck slightly to give the tube a more direct path to the stomach. Lubricate the tube in warm water or milk before inserting it. If you encounter a bump when inserting the tube, back up and try again. If cool air is felt coming out of the empty tube after it has been inserted, remove and try again. Reposition the lamb if necessary.

Measure the tube on the outside of the lamb so you can see how far to insert it. Lay the tube along the lamb from the tip of its nose, along the neck and side, so the tip lies at the last rib. Mark the tube at the nose and this will show the length to insert.

The lamb should show no signs of discomfort as the tube slips down the esophagus and reaches its stomach. It will chew on the tube, but should lie quiet when the tube is in place. If the lamb coughs, rolls its eyes, struggles and calls out as you are inserting the tube, then withdraw it immediately; you've probably put it down the windpipe by mistake. The length of the tube should indicate whether or not the stomach has been reached. Most tubes are of the length such that there will be 2 to 3 inches sticking out of the lamb's mouth once the tube is fully inserted.

You should have a full syringe attached to the tube. Empty it to a slow count of 20. The plunger is not needed if the syringe is being used in a vertical, upright position. To prevent milk from getting into the lamb's lungs, you should pinch the end of the tube when withdrawing it. Don't worry if the lamb coughs a little after you remove the tube; a drop of milk may have entered its windpipe upon removal of the tube.

Lambs and kids should receive 20 ml (cc) of colostrum per pound of body weight. Feedings should be given four hours apart. The smaller the lamb, the more frequent the feedings should be to avoid overloading the lamb. Most lambs are underfed. According to the Pipestone (Minnesota) Veterinary Clinic, a large lamb requires 50 oz. of colostrum the first 24 hours. Extra large lambs require even more.

You should only tube feed lambs that can swallow. Never tube a lamb that is unconscious. A semi- or unconscious lamb cannot swallow and will not react if the tube is inserted incorrectly. Lambs that are so weak and cold that they cannot lift their heads should receive an intra-peritoneal (in the abdomen) injection of glucose.

It is better to tube feed a chilled lamb than to feed it on a bottle as it is less likely to choke this way. It is also better to tube feed a lamb that you plan to graft onto another ewe as a bottle-fed lamb is less likely to nurse a ewe than a lamb that was tube fed. Tube feeding also helps to prevent lambs from bonding with humans.

I've found tube feeding to be a great labor saver. We've all struggled with small or orphan lambs, trying to get them to nurse from a bottle, only to throw our hands up in total

frustration. With tubing, you can be assured the lamb is getting the colostrum that it needs.

A number of commercial tubing devices are available. The simplest is a 60 cc (2 oz.) syringe and catheter. Tubing should be 14 to 18 inches long (long enough to extend from the lamb's last rib to its mouth plus approximately another foot, 18 gauge, and preferably rubber, like that used for surgical procedures. If you're a little unsure about tube feeding a lamb, don't hesitate to contact an experienced shepherd or veterinarian for assistance.

Reprinted with permission by Susan Schoenian
Editor, Maryland Sheep and Goat Producers

[Back to Top](#)

Spend \$25 to Get \$100 Off Transporting Your Sheep

By Carol Elkins

Ron Keener has a solid reputation in the animal transport industry. In what can only be described as one of the most generous offers I've ever witnessed, he has donated to the American Dairy Goat Association unlimited \$100 discount certificates that you can purchase for a mere \$25 each.

You can purchase these certificates and redeem them any time during his 2005 and 2006 calendar transport trips. You do not have to be a member of ADGA to purchase certificates. There is no limit on certificate purchases, but only one certificate per farm/ranch can be used per transport trip.

Just think—you can purchase a \$25 certificate and offer it as incentive to your customers to purchase your sheep. It's like giving them a free sheep and all they have to do is pay for transport! Or buy a certificate to help reduce the cost of bringing that prize ram you want to purchase (the one that lives 1200 miles from you).

If you are interested in purchasing one of these transport Gift Certificates, please contact the folks listed below for more information or send payment to the address listed below. These folks will also accept Pay Pal (which is a way to do credit card transactions). Just use PayPal to send your payment to

cactus@ucinet.com

Michelle Osborne, Pamela Haney, Debbie Patnode
Co-Chairs, West Coast Nationals Association
PO Box 927

Irrigon, Oregon 97844

<http://www.cybergoat.com/CactusPointNubians>

**Contact Ron Keener at cactus@ucinet.com for fee and schedule information only. Or subscribe to his Yahoo group to learn more about his route and track him as he drives his critters across the U.S. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TravelWithRonK/>

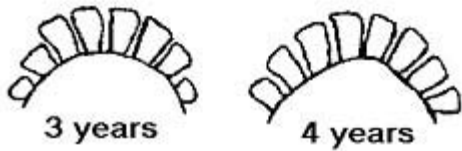
[Back to Top](#)

Telling How Old a Sheep Is

You can tell approximately how old a sheep is by looking at its teeth. Sheep have four pairs of incisors on their lower jaw, a dental pad (no teeth) on their upper jaw, and grinding teeth on the back part of their jaw. When lambs are born, they have four pairs of baby or "milk" teeth. When they are approximately one year old, the middle pair will be replaced



by a pair of permanent incisors. When they are two years old, they will have two pairs of permanent incisors. By age 4, they will have four pairs of permanent incisors. After age 5, their teeth will begin to spread apart, break, then fall out. Teeth problems are one of the reasons ewes may be removed from a flock. A sheep with no teeth (approximately 10 years of age) is called a "gummer."



Reprinted with permission by Susan Schoenian
Editor, Maryland Sheep and Goat Producers

[Back to Top](#)

Consistent State Status

Obtaining Consistent State status is an important link in the chain of steps taken toward scrapie eradication in the United States. As of Feb. 15, 2005, 18 states had the required regulations in place, 22 states had submitted work plans and specific timelines to implement the regulations, while 10 states had not submitted complete work plans.

Back in August 2001, all states were given two years in which to complete Consistent State status with a grace period also added to this deadline.

"Now the grace period is coming to an end," says Diane Sutton, the National Scrapie Program coordinator. "States have just one legislative cycle left to implement their program and achieve Consistent State status." If they by-pass the timeframe and fail to do this, other measures which are described in the rule will be implemented.

If a state does not meet the status requirements, that burden falls to the producers. Individual producers who wish to move sheep over state lines from a non-compliant state will be required to enroll in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program and the flock will have to be inspected annually. Producers in these states may face time delays in moving sheep out of the state.

Jim Logan, Ph.D., health committee chairman for the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI), encourages producers to contact their state veterinarian to check where their particular state is in the Consistent State status process.

"Ask the state vet where they are in the process," says Logan. "He or she will know what has to be accomplished before the state reaches Consistent State status."

The fastest way to eradicate scrapie in the United States is for every state to reach Consistent State status. The 18 states that have the required regulations include: Ala., Ark., Ariz., Calif., Fla., Ga., Iowa, Idaho, Ill., Mich., Neb., N.J., Nev., Ore., Texas, Va., Wash. and Wis.

American Sheep Industry Association

Reprinted with permission by Writer/Editor: Judy Malone
E-mail: cactus@ucinet.com

[Back to Top](#)

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](#)

You are receiving this email because you provided BBSAI with your email address when you became a member. If you do not wish to receive newsletters or other email communications from the BBSAI, you can unsubscribe. To do so, reply to this email with "unsubscribe" in the subject or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

This message was sent by Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association Internationa using VerticalResponse's [iBuilder™](#).



BBSAI
552 NE 100th Lane
Lamar, MO 64759
USA

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.