



Greeting BBSAI Members!

Have we ever got a whoppin' great newsletter for you this month! Everything from the informative to the fun, from helpful to humorous, and what's new and exciting for our blackbelly sheep! Keep reading, we think you'll really enjoy this issue!!

Have a great summer everyone!

**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/2006July/BBSAI2006July.htm>

## July, 2006

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Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International Newsletter  
815 Bell Hill Road  
Cobden, IL 62920  
E-mail: [secretary@blackbellysheep.org](mailto:secretary@blackbellysheep.org)  
The Association's website is:  
[www.blackbellysheep.org](http://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. 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 relate to 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 written permission of the BBSAI President or Secretary. 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 Corner

Josh is taking a break from this column while he tends to pressing business, so I will pinch hit for him.

I think that Josh would agree with me, if I were to say a special thank you to our hardworking secretary-treasurer for her numerous contributions to this issue. Just look through the newsletter for Mary's name and you will get a hint of all the work that has been humming along in the background this year. It represents an extraordinary amount of personal time and effort expended in not only running the daily affairs of the registry and treasury, but also for her work in publishing the registry database, and making the new pedigree certificates available to the membership. I have been watching Mary's progress and marvelling at her energy and commitment.

From me, personally, a huge thank you to all the contributors to this issue, and to Carol Elkins, our BBSAI webmistress, for her tireless efforts in bringing you this beautiful newsletter, and our wonderful BBSAI website.

What a team! Thank you all!

Best regards,  
Barb Lee, editor

Joshua B. Weimer  
president, BBSAI

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## New and Renewed Members

BBSAI New Members:

Jeff Evans, Meadow Vista, California  
Susan Napotnik, New Florence, Pennsylvania  
Alan Bias , Florence, Montana  
Elayne Tingey, Hailey, Idaho  
Glenn Hill, Oakland, Arkansas  
Rare Breeds Canada, Castleton, Ontario  
Cathy and J.C. Mayton, Winnemucca, Nevada

We welcome you into our flock!

BBSAI Membership Renewals:

Becky and Mike Lannon, Hockley, Texas

Thank you for staying with our flock!

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## Product Review: "Sheep Breeders Notebook"

By Barb Lee

It didn't take me long to discover that meticulous record keeping by hand, even for a small flock of sheep, was a fairly arduous task. So, when asking around for sheep-specific record keeping software, a fellow breeder came to the rescue, and as a result, I obtained a copy of Sheep Breeder's Notebook.



I am not particularly computer literate, and as I recall, I spent some time figuring out how to install the program in my computer. Once that was accomplished, there was the obligatory learning curve as I scorned the Help section and went straight to entering data.

For anybody with a reasonable grasp of computers, the Notebook is easy to use. I find the startup menu a bit backwards. One has the option of Backup the Database, Restore the Database or Launch Sheep Breeder's Notebook. Once you have launched SBN and entered your data, I find no simple mechanism for backing up the data before closing the program. You must close the program, and then reopen it to get back to the startup menu. When you have backed up your data and wish to exit, it immediately launches the program again. This is only a minor nuisance.

The program itself is capable of recording just about everything you would need to keep track of the individuals in your flock; name, breed, registration number and registry, number in birth, sex, sire, dam, etc. Health records, notes, breedings, lambings, weights, etc., are all there. It will also produce a five-generation pedigree.

Of course there is considerable work entering all your original data, but after that, updates are uncomplicated. Of course if you have a lot of sheep and want to keep careful notes on each one, you would have to update the record for each of them individually. That is, unless I have missed a feature that provides for a general flock update.

I have used it for making notes about individual sheep; such things as, losing considerable weight during lactation, etc. When you are making your culling selections, these notes certainly go a long way to jogging your memory.

On the downside there are two things that greatly annoy me about the program. The first is that when editing, the name of the animal cannot be changed. So, since the records are sorted by name, lambs must be entered immediately by name. You can't give it a number as a temporary name, then go back and rename it later, without re-entering all the data on the renamed animal as a new record and deleting the old record. The second glitch is that when printing out a general report, for some reason, it does not print out weights (birth, 2 week, etc.), even though the data is available.

Overall, I am very happy with the program. I discovered recently that is absolutely excellent to be able to produce three pages of data – general, health records and pedigree – and be able to give them to a prospective breeding animal buyer. It is impressive and professional and a great confidence booster for the buyer. It gives me as a producer, a little extra measure of professional pride.

You can find Sheep Breeder's Notebook at [www.sheepsoftware.com](http://www.sheepsoftware.com) or Netwerx Communications, 128 Christian Road, RR #1, Bloomfield, Ontario, Canada K0K 1G0

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## Horn Shapes

By Susan Smith

If you are an American Blackbelly breeder you may be wondering where all those different shaped horns that your rams sport came

from. Rams will have differently shaped horns according to the influence of other breeds. Maybe I can shed a little light on your question and add the names of the those horns we all so delight in.

The breeds I am about to name by no means mean your ram comes from this breeding exactly, I am only stating that some of our horned sheep may have come out of these other sheep because of horn size and shape. Many horned sheep have been crossed in the past with Mouflon, Corsican Black and Yellowbellies, Rambouillet, Merino, and in some cases a Jacob or two has been thrown into the line for a different horn look. Some breeds of sheep like the Navajo Churro have been added into a line to help improve the size of the trophy rams and also to reach trophy size quicker. Mouflon influence in your ram will show large Supracervical (sweeping out and curving behind the neck) heart shaped horns. The Homonymous shaped horns are the most common on our American Blackbelly. The horns sweep outward in a spiral. These horns are then split in size and conformity by the wide spread spiral curl and the close spread curl. There are also webbed shaped horns and polycerate horns such as found on Jacobs. Variegated horns are horns of any shape but are more than one color. I like the looks of huge variegated horns on a ram.

Whatever your rams have for shapes and sizes just remember that those horns should be well balanced. Don't allow rams to continue to breed if their horn curls are too tight and are growing into their faces. This is a bad fault and will be passed on in your line.



**Supracervical—Black Hawaiian**



**Homonymous American Blackbelly**



**Web-shaped Corsican**



**Variegated—Painted Desert**

That is all for this time. Go out there and enjoy those rams' horns.

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**Ask Clyde!**

By Clyde Dancer, the Hopefully Helpful Lamb (with help from Susan Smith)

Hi Sheep Shepherds and Sheep Friends. My name is Clyde Dancer. I am a registered American Blackbelly ram lamb. I was born on March 31, 2006.

The really nice people on your BBSAI Board gave me permission to start a column in their Newsletter to answer all your sheeepy questions, well some of them anyway, that you might want to know about anything sheep related.

Now being born just this year I won't have all the answers to your questions, but nice people on the membership list with the BBSAI said they would help me with the really tough questions you might think of.

I hope you will send e-mails to my Mom with your questions, I can't reach the computer yet, and then she will read them to me and I will answer every one of them.

My e-mail address is: [DearClyde@hotmail.com](mailto:DearClyde@hotmail.com)

Dear Clyde,

I was born this year just like you. I have a twin brother who is very mean to me. He was born first and thinks he is Mom's favorite so he keeps pushing me around. What can I do to keep my brother from beating me up all the time?

Thank you,  
Little Ewe

Dear Little Ewe,

I do not have siblings to push me around but I do live in a flock of bullies. I would suggest you might want to go to the oldest and biggest ram lamb in your flock and ask him to come over and have a head to head discussion with your brother concerning his behavior towards you. Hope this helps you Little Ewe.

Your Friend,  
Clyde

Dear Clyde,

I am so glad I have someone to talk to that might help me. I am an orphan, my Mom died giving birth to me. I went to live with some humans in a beautiful house and I could do anything I wanted to do. Sadly they could not keep me so I returned to the farm where I was born. The shepherd here put me in with all the other bottle fed lambs and I find this quite disgusting because they act like, well, they act like sheep. How can I get out of this situation and back into the house?

Thank You,  
Miss Fancy Pants

Dear Miss Fancy Pants,

There is no easy way to tell you this Miss Fancy Pants so I will just say it. You are a sheep and sheep live with other sheep, so get over it.

My Best Regards,  
Clyde

Dear Clyde,

I am a shepherd of a flock of 15 sheep. One of my older lambs is limping. I have checked him all over and find soreness in his left rear leg. I do not believe this situation requires a vet. Is there anything I can give him that is all natural to help ease his pain?

Thank you,  
Concerned Shepherd

Dear Concerned Shepherd,

If you are sure the leg is not broken and you suspect a possible strain or sprain, there is a natural remedy you can use to ease the pain. My Mom uses Arnica 30 when she sees any type of pain in

us. The dosage is Arnica 30, three times a day until improvement is seen. Just be sure you believe it is just minor pain and not something worse that would require a sheep doctor. I think you should be able to find Arnica 30 at a health food store. By the way, Mom takes Arnica also after wrestling with us all day. Hope this helps.

Your Friend,  
Clyde

Clyde and your BBSAI Board hope that you all will enjoy Clyde's Column, Ask Clyde. We hope you will participate with your questions to the little lamb. The Ask Clyde section of your BBSAI Newsletter will be published in each issue. Look for your question and Clyde's answer.

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## Using Adjusted Weights as a Selection Tool

By Barb Lee and Jim Morgan

Molly, a 5 year old ewe, just delivered a big, beautiful single ram lamb. Molly's taken a year off twinning to produce this single, and he's growing like a weed and looks pretty darn good.

Dolly, a yearling ewe with great genetics also produced a single ram lamb. He's a little smaller than Dolly's lamb, but he's just about everything you'd ever hoped for in a ram.

Gee, you can only keep one. All things being equal, HOW do you decide between the two lambs?

Well, there's a tool to help you, called "adjusted weights". Simply put, adjusted weights are used to level the playing field between lambs born as singles, multiples, rams or ewes, born to young or mature ewes. It is a tool that allows you to take lamb weights around a general target date, say 60 days, and adjust ALL the lambs' weights to that date, even if you weigh them several days before or after they reach that target date.

The National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) has developed factors for various breeds, and a simple formula for applying the factors to determine a lamb's adjusted weight. Of course, no such table exists (yet) for the Barbados or American Blackbelly sheep, but Jim Morgan, NSIP Board President, believes the factors developed for the Katahdin breed will generally fit the Blackbellies better than other factors for the sheep industry in general. I will let Jim explain:

*The adjustment factors for this report were developed by Dr Dave Notter of the NSIP Genetic Evaluation Center at Virginia Tech and his research team. Some of this information in this article has previously been released by the NSIP Genetic Evaluation Center for publication in the SID Sheep Production Handbook.*

The National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) is the genetic evaluation organization

for sheep seedstock producers based in the U.S.A. NSIP provides cross-flock genetic evaluation for sheep and other small ruminant species in the USA including goats and alpacas. Breeds that submit data to NSIP receive Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs). Breeds with enough participation also release sire summaries for leading rams for weaning weight, post-weaning gain, prolificacy, milk and fiber traits.

A secondary benefit for a breed's participation in NSIP, is that the NSIP Genetic Evaluation Center will calculate breed specific adjustment factors. At this time, NSIP Genetic Evaluation Center has released breed specific adjustment factors for Suffolk, Polypay, Targhee, Katahdin and a generic set of adjustment factors for other breeds. Breed specific adjustment factors increase accuracy for calculating 60 or 120 day adjusted weight. Age at which full lactation develops for each breed occurs at different ages. Some breeds such as the Suffolk have yearling ewes that produce nearly as much milk as 3-6 year old ewes. Other breeds have ewes that have significant increases in lactation between age one to age three or four.

Adjustment factors allow sheep breeders to directly compare growth rates of a) lambs from ewes of different ages, b) lambs of different sexes, and c) and lambs raised as singles, twins or triplets. To do this, the lamb's weight gain needs to be adjusted for the "nongenetic" effects of age of the ewe, sex of lamb and the number born and raised. If a breeder selects replacement ewes for increased growth by picking the heaviest or growthiest ewe lambs at 120 or 150 days, which lambs in the crop will be the largest? Will it be the ones with the best genetics or will it typically be a single born and single-raised lamb produced by a mature ewe? Almost invariably, the largest lambs in the crop will be the big singles from a mature ewe and not necessarily the lambs with the best genetics for growth. What does that do to genetics of the flock? Over time, continually selecting the biggest lambs for breeding stock without adjusting for age of ewe, number born/raised will decrease prolificacy and slow the rate of improvement in your flock. If the flock has a high percentage of multiple births, then the lambs with the best genetics for growth are also being ignored. If the ram pen is improving each year, the best genetics will be born to the lambs of yearling and two year old ewes. By not adjusting lamb growth for age of ewe, then the yearling and two year old ewes' progeny will be ignored. On average, the single born growthy lambs from the older mature ewes, are the least profitable genetics in your flock. Keeping growthy single-raised ewe lambs is the opposite of what the majority of seedstock producers need to improve profit and provide quality breeding stock.

Accurately evaluating productive ewes is much easier when lamb weights are adjusted for age of ewe, sex of lambs and number raised. Not only evaluating the performance of the lambs, but also the performance of the producing ewes can be more accurately done if weights are adjusted. If a ewe raises twin ram lambs that are 5 pounds heavier than the twin ewe lambs raised by another ewe, how does the shepherd relate growth of these lambs? With adjustment factors, a breeder can rank lambs in the flock and account for age of ewe, sex of lamb and number born/raised. When ranking, it is only fair to directly compare ewes and lambs raised under the same conditions in the same pasture/pen and on the same day.

The SID Sheep Production Handbook available from the American Sheep Industry (see contact information for 'AIS at the end of the article) provides information on using adjustment factors and the formulas needed. Many state cooperative extension services provide publications that explain how to use adjustment factors and the equations.

The breed specific adjustment factors are presented in Table 1. The breed-specific adjustment factors correct for age of ewe, number born, number raised and sex of lamb. The lamb weights are adjusted to standardize to a single ewe lamb raised by a mature ewe (4 yrs old). Typically, most sheep producers in the USA adjust to 60 days of age.

Table 1. KATAHDIN BREED-SPECIFIC ADJUSTMENT FACTORS								
Lamb Sex	Ewe Age (Yr)	BIRTH TYPE - RAISE TYPE						
		1-1	1-2	2-1	2-2	3-1	3-2	3-3
ewe	1	1.17	1.43	1.31	1.49	1.35	1.60	1.81
ewe	2	1.03	1.23	1.13	1.27	1.17	1.30	1.45
ewe	3-6	1.00	1.14	1.05	1.17	1.08	1.23	1.38
ewe	>6	1.01	1.20	1.10	1.23	1.13	1.25	1.44
ram	1	1.06	1.30	1.19	1.36	1.23	1.46	1.65
ram	2	0.94	1.12	1.03	1.16	1.06	1.18	1.32
ram	3-6	0.91	1.04	0.96	1.06	0.98	1.12	1.26
ram	>6	0.92	1.09	1.00	1.12	1.03	1.14	1.31
wether	1	1.12	1.37	1.26	1.43	1.30	1.54	1.74
wether	2	0.99	1.18	1.08	1.22	1.12	1.25	1.39
wether	3-6	0.96	1.09	1.01	1.12	1.04	1.18	1.32
wether	>6	0.97	1.15	1.06	1.18	1.08	1.20	1.38

*From the editor:* The formula for determining a lamb's adjusted weight is as follows: Start by selecting a target date. Let's say 60 days. Your lamb is 54 days old. He was born to a 3 year old ewe. He is a single lamb, raised as a single. His birth weight was 7 pounds. His actual weight at 54 days is 25 pounds.

To arrive at his adjusted 60 day weight, first subtract his actual weight from his birth weight: 18 pounds. Now divide by his actual age, 54 days: .34 Now multiply .34 x 60 days: 20.40. Go to the chart above and you will find that his multiplication factor is 0.91 (single ram lamb, 3 year old ewe). Multiply 20.40 x .91, and you come up with a 60 day adjusted weight of 18.57 pounds.

You can do the same with all the lambs in a "contemporary" group; that is a group of lambs all raised in similar conditions, and compare their weight gains on a basis of genetic probability.

I have been doing adjusted weights on my lambs this year, and find that the Katahdin table actually tends to enhance the actual weights beyond what we might actually expect from a Blackbelly lamb. Still, I feel that if I had a significant number of lambs, and I wanted to select only the cream of the crop for registration and future breeding, the adjusted weight concept has great potential to help me judge all the lambs more or less equally.

SHEEP PRODUCTION HANDBOOK is available from the American Sheep Industry Association in Englewood, Colorado. Now includes a CD-ROM. This reference handbook, covering the basics of sheep production, is for beginner and experienced sheep producers alike. Topics include Sheep Breeding, Forages, Handling, Health, Management, Marketing, Nutrition, Predator Control, Quality Assurance, Reproduction, Sheep Care, Wool, and Contact Lists for State Extension Personnel, State Extension Veterinarians and State Animal Health Officers. Price: \$74.45 each (Includes shipping and handling). Call (303) 771-3500, extension 32, or go to [www.sheepusa.org](http://www.sheepusa.org) "Order Materials" page.

James Morgan raises commercial and registered Katahdins in NW Arkansas and direct markets lamb and mutton at the Fayetteville Farmer's Market. He works for Katahdin Hair Sheep International, is President of the Board of the National Sheep Improvement Program and serves on the Administrative Council of the USDA Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program. You can contact Jim Morgan about NSIP at (479) 444-6075 or [jlmm@earthlink.net](mailto:jlmm@earthlink.net) or contact Alan Culham (517) 521-4870, [ovineepd@aol.com](mailto:ovineepd@aol.com) Jim has contributed the bulk of the information contained in this article.

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### Book Review: "A Conservation Breeding Handbook"

By Barb Lee

I have just received, and have been reading voraciously, the American Livestock Breed Conservancy's [A Conservation Breeding Handbook](#), written by Dr. Phillip Sponenberg and Carolyn J. Christman.





For anyone who shares my visceral fascination for these sheep, be they Barbados or American, this book is a must-have.

I will be bold and say that I believe all our few polled Barbados breeders are already thoroughly engaged in conservation breeding efforts, with an eye to stabilizing and increasing a fragile population. For breeders of American Blackbellies, our breeding priorities may not be so crystallized. True, our sheep are the result of efforts to breed trophy rams, but their utility on this planet does not dead end there. As it happens, the creature comes equipped with so many other virtues, they are difficult to enumerate.

Which is why I believe that every breeder of American Blackbellies should strive to elevate the breed from the "just another Corsican/Color Breed/Trophy ram" reputation by which it is sometimes judged.

The Handbook emphasizes that although we may be selecting for certain characteristics, such as behemoth horns, every single one of our breeding decisions impacts the entire animal – thus the entire breed. If you select ONLY for horns, you may end up with a population of animals which has lost its fecundity, its value as a market animal, perhaps its maternal instincts or its environmental adaptability. If you select ONLY for larger size, you may end up with longer breeding intervals, lengthier finishing times (which we DEFINITELY don't need) and difficult births.

The book describes what a "breed" is, and how each came to be. Our American Blackbellies appear to fall into the "Landrace" breeds category. They are populations of animals that are consistent enough to be considered breeds, but are more variable in appearance than are "standardized" breeds. While we get the typical coloration of the Barbados, we still get white, and the size and overall body conformation can, in my experience, vary wildly.

But the split in the BBSAI registry, creating the American Blackbelly, with its breed standards, was the first step toward becoming a standardized breed. "Standardized breeds are what most people think of when they consider purebred livestock. Human selection has played the primary role in the development of standardized breeds, though natural selection has sometimes played a part as well. The breed standard defines the breed, and it is this criterion by which individual animals are evaluated. Breeding to a standard emphasizes a relatively narrow range of variation, usually less than the variation found in a landrace."

Thus, the vital role of the parent breed organization and registration of purebred stock begin to be revealed. If you are not yet convinced, there is more in the book that will persuade you.

Many of us entered the breeding of Blackbelly sheep as a hobby. In order to be successful we MUST love the animals and the responsibilities of caring for them. If you want to add value to your experience, you can embrace the very truth, that what goes on in your flock represents the future of livestock in general. These two breeds, the Barbados AND the American, call out for conservation breeding. Our Blackbellies are like uncut diamonds. The hand of the master creates the facets and irreversibly fixes the future.

Read the book. [www.albc-usa.org](http://www.albc-usa.org) , or The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, P.O. Box 477, Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312

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**Announcing BBSAI Photo Contest!**

By Barb Lee

Grab your cameras and your photo albums BBSAI members! We are having a photo contest! Don't miss this opportunity to show off your beautiful sheep to other breeders and the world! We will be giving out valuable prizes, so be sure to participate!

An on-line photo album has been created especially for this contest. Be sure to visit regularly, as we will be posting all the photos as they are received. Just go to <http://www.picturetrail.com/gid9839670> Note: do NOT use the slideshow feature or it will be more difficult to read the text. Be among the first to get your photos in the album! Send in your photos today! Bookmark the site and visit frequently as all photos will be posted as soon as possible after submission.

Contest guidelines:

1. All submissions become the property of BBSAI and may be used in BBSAI publications without attribution.
2. Eligibility is limited to BBSAI members and photos should be taken by them. Please do not submit copyrighted photos without the written permission of the copyright owner.
3. Photos should be no more than five years old.
4. Regular photos should be a minimum of 4" x 6" and should not be mounted on cardstock, etc. Digital photos should be of highest possible resolution.
5. Submit photos via email to: [newsletter@blackbellysheep.org](mailto:newsletter@blackbellysheep.org). Please, one photo per email. Include category, owner, breeder and photographer names, name of sheep, date of photo (approx) and any comments.
6. Submit regular photos to: Barb Lee, 18555 S. Lyons Rd., Oregon City, OR 97045-8611. Please include info as in #5 above. Address inquiries to Barb Lee at above email, or 503-631-2862
8. Deadline for submission of photos: 11/1/06. Note: If you submit a photo but happen to take a better one before the deadline, we WILL exchange it. Please, only one exchange per category.
9. A total of two photos per category may be submitted by each BBSAI member.

Categories:

- Most Majestic Ram – Polled
- Most Majestic Ram – Horned
- Most Feminine Ewe – Polled or Horned
- Cutest Lamb(s) – Polled or Horned
- Scenic – Photographs of blackbellies outdoors (photos entered in this category cannot include people)
- Kids and Blackbellies – Photographs of blackbellies with youth 18 years of age or younger.
- Open Category: Photographs of blackbellies with other farm animals and pets, i.e. cats, dogs, llamas, donkeys, dogs, cats, chickens, or pictures of blackbellies taken indoors (without people) such as in a barn, shed, etc.
- Funniest – Blackbellies caught in the act of being completely silly!

Judging Criteria:

Entries will be judged as soon after entry deadline as possible by a panel of impartial judges on clarity, content, composition and appeal.

Awards:

Two free registration certificates will be awarded to winners in each category. One free registration certificate will be awarded to a runner-up in each category. Winners, runners-up and honorable mention will be announced in the January 2007 newsletter. The photo contest album will remain available for viewing throughout 2006 and 2007. Entries will be sprinkled throughout future newsletters!

Hurry! The sooner you get your photos submitted, the BETTER our photo album will be!!

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### **BBSAI T-Shirts Now Available!**

Get your official BBSAI T-Shirt while limited supply lasts!

These are top quality, 100% cotton shirts, the kind you love to live in. The T-Shirts are white, with a large, full color BBSAI logo on the back, and a small one on the front. You can see the logo at the top of your newsletter! We have the following quantities and sizes available:

2 ea. size Large  
16 ea. size Extra Large  
23 ea. size 2X Large

Available to members for \$10.00 each + \$2.55 1st class postage per shirt. You may order by e-mail . Mail your payment, making checks payable to: BBSAI, 815 Bell Hill Road, Cobden, Illinois 62920 USA.

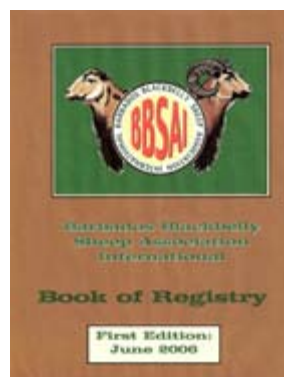
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### **BBSAI 2006 Book of Registry Now Available!**

By Mary Swindell

The BBSAI Book of Registry is finally available in printed format! The Board of Directors is proudly announcing our first edition of the Book of Registry, which will go on sale as of July 2006. The Book of Registry lists all registered and recorded American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly sheep together with sire and dam information, enabling breeders to cross-reference and track heritages of registered stock throughout the United States and surrounding countries. From its inception in the mid-1990s to the present date, the BBSAI has registered approximately 1,050 American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly sheep. These are all included in the Book of Registry.



This invaluable tool for serious breeders of AB and BB stock contains three sets of data: 1) the Registry sorted by registration number, 2) the Registry sorted by breeder name, and 3) the Breeder's Directory (containing names and contact information of all BBSAI member breeders who have authorized their names to appear in public on the BBSAI web site.

The BBSAI Book of Registry is a wire-bound 60-page 8.5" x 11" document, and is available for \$15.00. Please send orders for the BBSAI Book of Registry to BBSAI Secretary/Treasurer, 815 Bell Hill Road, Cobden, IL 62920. Please make checks payable to the BBSAI.

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### **Multi-Generation Pedigree Certificates Now Available!**

By Mary Swindell



The BBSAI is happy to announce that three-, four- and five-generation pedigree certificates are now available for all sheep registered with the BBSAI. These official pedigree certificates are printed from the BBSAI Registry on bordered paper with the

raised BBSAI gold seal, and will list all ancestors shown in the Registry database for as many as five generations. The sample above shows a three-generation certificate. The Registrar will be able to determine which certificate is appropriate, based on how many registered generations show in the database for the particular sheep that you request.

These pedigree certificates will be available for \$3.00 each beginning July 1, 2006. To order your pedigree certificates, please list sheep name, breeder, current owner, and BBSAI registration number for each certificate desired. Make checks payable to the BBSAI, and send your order to BBSAI Secretary/Treasurer, 815 Bell Hill Road, Cobden, IL 62920.

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### **Call for Nominees for BBSAI Board**

By Mary Swindell

Time flies, and once again it is time to call for nominees to run for the BBSAI Board of Directors. Our BBSAI Annual Meeting will take place in mid-November, at which time the 2007 Board of Directors will be elected by mail-in ballot, which will be sent to all current BBSAI members in October.

We are looking for BBSAI members who are interested in becoming actively involved in work to preserve and promote these wonderful American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly sheep. We need your fresh ideas and your enthusiasm! Prospective Board members should own AB or BB sheep, should have a computer with internet and e-mail capability, and should be prepared to interact with other Board members on a regular basis via e-mail or phone to work on projects, discuss issues and solve problems together.

If you would like to nominate someone (including yourself) as a candidate for the Board of Directors, please submit your nomination by e-mail to the Search Committee, BBSAI at [secretary@blackbellysheep.org](mailto:secretary@blackbellysheep.org), or by regular mail to BBSAI Secretary/Treasurer, 815 Bell Hill Road, Cobden, IL 62920, or by telephone to Mary Swindell at (618) 893-4568.

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### **BBSAI Membership Renewals – Due July 15, 2006!**

By Mary Swindell

This is a reminder that all annual BBSAI memberships are due on July 15, 2006! Membership renewal forms have been sent out to all annual BBSAI members this month as a reminder. Please be sure to take a moment to fill out and return your membership renewal form and mail in your check to ensure continuance of your membership and the great values associated with it! Note: If you joined the BBSAI as a new member after April 1st, your membership is not due for renewal until July 2007.

Don't forget, the great advantages of your BBSAI membership include:

Our excellent BBSAI Newsletter, published quarterly with updates and information about our American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly breeds

Free advertising for your farm in our Breeders Directory on the BBSAI's web site at <http://www.blackbellysheep.org>, read nationally and internationally

Free classified For Sale and Wanted to Buy advertising on the internet at the BBSAI

web site

The new BBSAI Book of Registry, to be published in July, a valuable resource for serious breeders

The new BBSAI Pedigree Certificates (3, 4, and 5 generations), available beginning in July

An organized board of officers and directors working on behalf of our membership for wider recognition of the AB and BB breeds

Networking with with other breeders across the United States and internationally through the power of an organized breed association

Also, please remember that now is a good time to consider upgrading your membership to a Lifetime membership. No matter what type of membership you choose, we are happy to have you as fellow members of the BBSAI. Your membership helps our efforts to promote and enhance the American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly breeds!

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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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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](#)

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