



Greeting BBSAI Members!

Just as we are preparing to welcome new energy and talent to the BBSAI Board of Directors, we are saddened that one of our most important members has cast off his line and set sail in other directions. We regretfully must bid calm seas and fair winds to our President, Josh Weimer, as he leaves the Board of Directors to pursue a hectic family and business life.

Josh was present and instrumental in many dramatic and positive changes in our organization over the last several years. It takes a lot of personal commitment to volunteer one's time and talent to help steer the BBSAI on a course into the future of the sheep and their place in the renaissance of small scale agriculture. Josh has left an indelible footprint in the history of our breeds. We thank you, Josh, for all you have done, and we look forward to your return when your travels bring you back to the fold. Safe journeys.

We have good reason, in this last-of-the-year newsletter, to acknowledge, and express our gratitude for, the tireless and amazingly technical expertise and energy that have woven the fabric of this organization together throughout the year. This time and expertise have been donated selflessly by members who do it solely for the love and promotion of Blackbelly sheep. It's important to note that the roster of talent lends itself to the promotion of both breeds, regardless of devotion to one or the other. This in itself is a reason for me to be very proud to be both a member of the Board of Directors, and Newsletter Editor.

Through the eyes of Carol Elkins, our breeds enjoy a window on the world through a newly updated website. You will read more about the beautiful new BBSAI website in this issue. Carol also does the true bulk of the newsletter publication. As editor, I am mostly a hunter-gatherer of information, and something of a final proof reader, as well as an occasional contributor.

Our tireless secretary/treasurer, Mary Swindell has performed more administrative work on behalf of the organization than I can even begin to recall. From acting as registrar, to preparing for the publication of the Book of Registry, to preparing and mailing ballots, to providing reports and articles for the newsletter, Mary keeps our organization humming along.

Susan Smith has taken over the responsibility of our Question and Answer feature in the newsletter via her Ask Clyde column, and has provided wonderful articles to enhance our knowledge of the American Blackbelly sheep.

Other members have picked up the slack when our numbers thinned and we sent out calls for help. The list goes on, and by no means do I intend to forget anyone who has contributed to the welfare and promotion of the Barbados and American Blackbelly sheep. It is a privilege to serve the membership and the sheep with such a remarkable

group of people.

Finally, we acknowledge and express our appreciation to the membership at large, which continues to grow and strengthen. With each committed breeder comes a more secure future for the sheep. Without the members, there would be no BBSAI.

With that in mind, we invite you to interact with us, tell us about your sheep and your farms. Help us grow the network. We want to hear from you, we want your stories for the newsletter, your presence on the Board of Directors, your ideas and your positive energy.

The first thing you can do to strengthen the organization is to show your support by returning your ballots!

We wish you all a wonderful upcoming holiday season. We hope that early lambing season will be a success for everyone, and that 2007 will see continued growth and accomplishment for the BBSAI.

Best regards,
Barb Lee
Editor

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/2006oct/bbsai2006oct.htm>

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Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International Newsletter
815 Bell Hill Road
Cobden, IL 62920
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. 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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BBSAI Annual General Meeting

Mark your calendar! The 2006 BBSAI Annual General Meeting will once again be held by teleconference on November 15, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. Central Standard Time. All members are invited to participate. In order to secure your place in the teleconference, please note the following instructions:

1. Please RSVP your intention to attend the event by e-mailing president@blackbellysheep.org or by phoning Josh Weimer at (417) 398-9500. This is required in order to reserve a phone line for you on the bridge. When your message is received, you will be provided with a telephone number and instructions about how to participate in the event. Long-distance phone charges for this event are your responsibility; the BBSAI can recommend an inexpensive resource that charges only \$.03 per minute.

2. You must reserve a spot on the agenda if you want any "floor time" for discussion. The annual meeting uses Roberts Rules of Order and this can be tricky in a teleconference where we can't see people raise a hand to ask to speak. Therefore, only folks who reserve a spot on the agenda will be called upon. Please contact one of the Directors or phone BBSAI President Josh Weimer (417-398-9500) to let us know what you'd like to talk about (or what question you'd like to ask) and how much time you require.

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Meet the Nominees for the 2007 BBSAI Board of Directors!

(Editor's note: By now you have received, and hopefully returned, your ballots! We can't overemphasize how much your vote counts. Just in case you haven't opened your envelope yet, here's another opportunity to get to know your nominees for the board of directors!)

Note: The BBSAI Board Nominees for 2007 include a wonderful slate of experienced and knowledgeable individuals, many who have already spent one or more years of service on the Board, and others who are able to add their talents and enthusiasm to the Board as first time Board members. Ballots to elect the 2007 BBSAI Board of Directors will be mailed to the homes of all current BBSAI members the last week in September. These ballots should be returned to the BBSAI postmarked on or before November 8th, 2006 for your vote to count. The election results will be announced at the upcoming BBSAI Annual Meeting, which is open to the entire BBSAI current membership, and will be held as a telephone conference call on Wednesday evening, November 15, 2006 (see details of the Annual Meeting conference call in this issue of the newsletter). Please be sure to look for your ballot in the mail soon! – Mary Swindell, Secretary/Treasurer.

Mark Fleming: Hi, I am Mark Fleming and along with my wife of 37 years, Barbara, raise American Blackbelly sheep. Six years ago we tired of mowing grass each weekend, so we fenced in 10 of our 25 acres and bought 6 blackbelly sheep. We now keep 32 ewes and a ram on hand, along with 2 guardian llamas, 3 steers, ducks, geese, cats, and our 2 dogs Betsy and Toby. We now have offspring from our flock in 10 different states. We really enjoy working with and caring for these wonderful animals. In 1987, I retired from the United States Air Force. After 20 years of being stationed in and around the world in several military occupations, I now spend my days teaching school, which I have done for the past 20 years. Along with teaching school, I also coached high school football, basketball, baseball, and softball until a medical condition put me into early coaching retirement. I am a lifetime member of the BBSAI, along with being a past Secretary/Treasurer as well. I would like to help continue to inform and be involved in preserving these sheep along with fellow breeders of both the Barbados Blackbelly and American Blackbelly breeds.

Elaine Haas: I purchased my first polled Barbados Blackbelly sheep from Mary Swindell three years ago. My small flock of sheep continues to grow. I was appointed to the

Board six months ago to fill a vacancy and have enjoyed working with the present Board since that time. I am a small breeder hoping to improve the breed and educate others about the many benefits of raising Barbados and American Blackbelly sheep. On our farm in Hillsboro, Missouri, we also breed Connemara ponies and Australian Cattle Dogs (aka blue heelers). We show the Connemaras in hand and in hunter/jumper competitions. The cattle dogs are shown in conformation and herding trials. I would be happy to continue to serve the BBSAI in whatever capacity is needed.

Mike Lannon: My wife Becky and I live on five acres in Hockley, Texas and raise BB sheep. I started with AB sheep as a way to keep the pastures down when we sold our horses after one tried to kill itself and me. We enjoyed our AB sheep, but after taking a hard look at the situation, we felt that the BB sheep needed help to be saved from extinction. We sold our AB sheep and started to search for BB sheep. We purchased starter sheep from five different people and after years of breeding and culling our flock, we have come to realize that its tough to breed good quality sheep with no horns, but it is possible. I have experience with both of our breeds, and take an interest in their future preservation and development. I will accept the responsibility of being a good steward for both our breeds, if elected to the Board as a director.

Barb Lee: Barb Lee has been a member of the BBSAI Board of Directors for the last year. She is also editor of the BBSAI Newsletter. Barb and hubby Bob keep a small flock of registered American Blackbelly sheep at their Blacklocust Farm in Oregon City, Oregon. Barb's special interest in the American Blackbelly is raising a quality meat type animal of good size and desirable conformation while maintaining the special qualities of the breed, and one day being able to offer outstanding bloodstock to other producers. In doing so, Barb makes every effort to integrate the sheep into a sustainable type of management system that benefits both the sheep and the land. As a Board member, Barb's special interest is in securing the reputation of the American Blackbelly as "more than just another color breed" in the sheep industry, and supporting the efforts of Barbados and American Blackbelly breeders alike in their efforts to improve/promote/market registered Blackbelly sheep.

Susan Smith: It has been an outstanding year for BBSAI. I feel very privileged that you, members of BBSAI, have allowed me to help serve you this year by sitting on the Board of the BBSAI. This Board has made great strides for both the Barbados Blackbelly and the American Blackbelly breeds in 12 short months. Most of what has been accomplished has been behind the scenes where we all work as a well-oiled machine preserving every step of the way the high standards you and the Board have set for the BB and the AB. At this time I do not have an American Blackbelly ram and I have only a few American Blackbelly ewes, but please believe me this does not deter my love and enthusiasm for both our respective breeds. I would be honored to continue to serve you by continuing on the BBSAI Board.

Scott Strickland: Scott Strickland is a part-time farmer and rancher who makes his home on the DarkWind Ranch with his wife, Jeannie, between Bayfield and Chimney Rock, Colorado. He has enjoyed raising a variety of sheep, including Churro, Coopworth, and Finnsheep. A small flock of American Blackbelly ewes and several rams now occupy his time, along with a substantial herd of goats and fourteen very spoiled horses and donkeys. During the fall and spring, Scott teaches Business and Economics and is the Coordinator of Academic Services at Pueblo Community College Southwest Campus in Durango, Colorado.

Mark Wintermute: Hello, my name is Mark Wintermute. My family and I have been raising Barbados Blackbelly sheep on our farm near Kansas City since the year 2000. My wife Sharon and I have been members of the BBSAI since 2001. Our focus has been on building a Barbados Blackbelly commercial meat sheep flock on our 120 acre farm. We are just now achieving our goal of a 300 to 400 ewe flock. Much of our flock is not pure breed Barbados Blackbelly. But the grading up process to Barbados Blackbelly has been very interesting to observe. Using the limited bloodlines of the Barbados Blackbelly we have been working to create alternative bloodlines since 2001. As we have built our

flock we have been selecting for scrapie resistant genetics. We have done extensive genotyping of our flock to safeguard progeny from the debilitating wasting disease of scrapie. We are now producing some "RR" sheep at codon 171. I hope someday to be able to share our efforts with others by providing starter flocks of Barbados Blackbelly ewes and rams. I am very excited about the possibilities of the American Blackbelly and the Barbados Blackbelly in providing low input out of season meat lambs to consumers. Both breeds are prolific and have a thriftiness that allows them to prosper where other breeds of sheep or cattle would struggle. I look forward to the BBSAI's efforts to expand flock ownerships of both the American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly breeds!

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New Members

Eldon Merrell, Willcox, Arizona
Peter Schrag, Arkansas City, Kansas
Harry Meredith, Washington, North Carolina

We welcome you into our flock!

Renewed Members

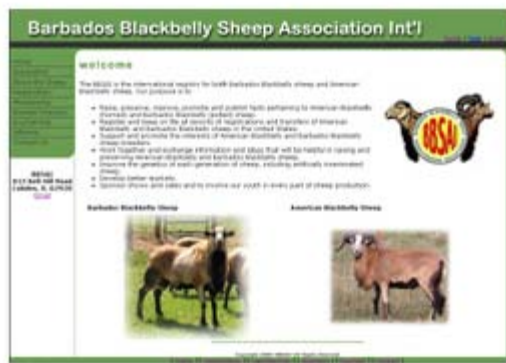
Corinne Adkins, Sahuarita, Arizona
Stephanie Ames, Newberg, Oregon
Eldon & Cynthia Anderson, Hershey, Nebraska
Diane Baker, Salem, Oregon
Robin Blakley, Germanton, North Carolina
John Carlton, Fairhope, Alabama
Thomas Frank, East Vernon, British Columbia
Elaine Haas, Hillsboro, Missouri
Bill & Shannon Keener, Agua Dulce, California
Gerald Krause, White Lake, Wisconsin
Mike & Becky Lannon, Hockley, Texas
Barbara & Robert Lee, Oregon City, Oregon
Candy Leisinger, Independence, Iowa
Cheryl McLaughlin, Willcox, Arizona
Joe & Linda Moretto, Chamois, Missouri
Raymond & Michelle Storey, Oregon City, Oregon
Scott Strickland, Bayfield, Colorado
Mary Swindell, Cobden, Illinois
Susan Young, Englewood, Florida
E.J. Christiansen, Petaluma, California
Mohan Sawh, Hollis, New York
Susan Smith, Barryton, Missouri

Thank you for staying with the flock!

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New Facelift for BBSAI Web Site

BBSAI Webmistress Carol Elkins reports that the long-overdue facelift for the BBSAI Web site is finally complete. You can see the new and improved site at <http://www.blackbellysheep.org>.



The new site has much-improved navigation and handy links to the registration and membership forms. And if you haven't checked out the archive of great articles, take a moment and browse the list at <http://www.blackbellysheep.org/articles.html>

If you would like to be listed in the Breeder Directory at <http://www.blackbellysheep.org/directory.html>, please contact Secretary Mary Swindell at secretary@blackbellysheep.org.

Don't forget that all BBSAI members can post Classified ads for sheep or sheep-related items at <http://www.blackbellysheep.org/classified.html>. If you have sheep to sell or are looking to buy some, these ads get tremendous Internet exposure. You can be alerted to any new ads by signing up on the free ChangeDetection service there on the page. Even if you're not looking to buy or sell right now, these alerts help you stay informed about current prices and demand.

The BBSAI is always eager to provide good value for your membership dollar, so if you have suggestions for how we can improve the Web site, please let Carol know at webmistress@blackbellysheep.org.

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BBSAI Photo Contest

The BBSAI photo contest has been extended to November 1, 2007! This is the best opportunity ever to display your sheep to other serious Blackbelly breeders! Members, please do not miss out on this fun event. We have quite a nice "flock" of pictures in the Photo Contest album! Please be sure to visit TODAY!

<http://www.picturetrail.com/gid9839670>. Contact Barb Lee, newsletter@blackbellysheep.org, to receive a copy of the contest guidelines. It's FREE! What a great opportunity to advertise your stock AND win valuable prizes!

Breeders, even if you don't want to participate in the contest itself (we can't imagine why you wouldn't!) we very much need new photos of both Barbados Blackbelly and American Blackbelly sheep to populate the photo album on the newly updated website! Please contact Barb at the above email address if you can contribute to this effort.

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Resistant Parasites Causing Problems in Sheep and Goats

By Colleen Schreiber

(This article is reprinted with kind permission from the author.)

FREDERICKSBURG - Internal parasites in sheep and goats are becoming increasingly difficult to control as many of the parasites are now resistant to available dewormer products.

Veterinarian David Pugh, with Fort Dodge Animal Health, told the more than 200

producers attending an educational meeting here that deworming alone may not be effective in controlling internal parasites. An integrated parasite control program which incorporates specific management practices along with deworming must be used for an effective parasite control program, he explained.

"Deworming on a regular basis ultimately means you're selecting for genetically super resistant worms," Pugh told listeners, "as dewormers will not kill all the internal parasites, leaving the ones not killed to breed and lay eggs. This results in genetic selection for superior parasites."

He noted that only 20 percent of the animals harbor 70 to 80 percent of the parasites. "The ones that lay the eggs, the ones that you didn't kill, those are the ones that are going to proliferate the species of parasites," he reiterated.

Haemonchus contortus, more commonly known as the barber pole worm, is the primary parasite that plagues sheep and goats. In sheep the life cycle of *Haemonchus*, takes 28 days, and in goats it's typically 15-18 days, 10 in some parts of the country. "If you're deworming, you're getting a tremendous turnover in genetics, and if you're deworming regularly you're selecting for super genetic worms," he reiterated. "Worms adapt, improvise and overcome."

The level of success of dewormers varies to some degree based on locale, Pugh said. For example, in the wetter climates of the Southeast where internal parasites are almost always a given, the various classes of dewormers have become useless for all practical purposes. "Where I live in Alabama we've got a problem with parasites because very few dewormers work anymore. We've created an unreal amount of resistance in the deep South," Pugh commented.

Research work done in 2001 by Mortenson in Georgia and South Carolina and published in 2003 in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medicine Association* illustrates the real problem. This study, Pugh said, found that in 14 of the 15 randomly selected goat farms, albendazole (included in this family would be Valbasin, Panacur, Safeguard, Synantic, others) was no longer effective in parasite control. "I haven't been able to use the white dewormers for the last eight years in the Auburn area," he noted. "Perhaps they still work in certain areas in Texas."

Additionally, ivermectin no longer worked on 17 of 18 goat farms and levamisole no longer worked on 6 of the 18 farms studied. "Levamisole is still a good wormer," Pugh added. "If you stop using it for two or three years, it starts working again because the worms may lose their resistance. With other dewormer families, once you've built up resistance, that lasts for life."

In this same study, researchers found that on farms that used ivermectin and albendazole concurrently or in a rotation scheme, neither dewormer was effective on 14 of 15 cases. "When you get resistance in a family, eventually all of the dewormers will quit working," he reiterated. "So once you get resistance to Ivomec, resistance to Dectomax follows quickly." Finally, on farms that used all three products, albendazole, levamisole and ivermectin, parasites in goats were resistant to all three dewormers on 5 of 15 farms.

Another study conducted by J. Morgan and published in *Sheep Industry News* in December 2005 found that in the southern part of the U.S., 90% of the goat farms studied had resistance to ivermectin. "I actually thought that was pretty high, having it work 10% of the time," Pugh commented, "because it hasn't worked for me at Auburn, Alabama, for a long time, and again that's because all we did was deworm goats and we didn't include any kind of management program."

Another study at the University of Arkansas using 42 mixed breed stocker heifers on trial for 56 days looked at the efficacy of Ivomec versus generic ivermectin. They found that the generic ivermectins didn't work nearly as well. Pugh cautioned against using

and depending on generic products.

He also mentioned briefly what he termed "natural, holistic or new wave" parasite control measures. These controls include such things as onions, garlic, and diatomaceous earth. "They don't work," Pugh stressed. "They have no value in controlling internal parasites. People think that if you use diatomaceous earth it scarifies the outside coat of the worm. The problem - it doesn't hurt the mucous membrane of the mouth.

It doesn't work," he reiterated.

Pugh switched gears to focus more on the management side of the equation. He reminded listeners that parasite problems are likely to be more prominent in small ruminants when animals are concentrated on small areas.

Additionally, when sheep and goats graze together, he said, goats tend to magnify parasites in the sheep. In fact, goats tend to magnify parasites in many animals. "If you use guard llamas for sheep and goats, you're going to get wormy llamas," he pointed out.

"Cows don't share parasites with sheep and goats except for one, and that particular worm doesn't cause many problems. Horses only share one worm with sheep and goats and that worm, again, doesn't cause significant problems. Llamas, sheep, goats and deer share parasites."

Parasite problems, Pugh noted, also tend to be magnified around parturition. "There is also an increase in parasite eggs per gram of feces at this time." Worm problems, he noted, also tend to increase in young animals at weaning and at times of stress.

Pugh also said that Angora goats tend to have more problems with internal parasites, followed by the Boer goat and then the dairy breeds. In another research project, Boer goats had more problems with worms when compared to straight Spanish goats while the Boer/Spanish crosses had the least problems.

Hair sheep, he said, also tend to be more resistant to worms than the wool breeds. But, Pugh stressed, there are groups or sub-groups in these types of breeds that have more or less parasite resistance.

Pugh pointed out again that sustainable internal parasite programs can only happen by incorporating selective deworming with valid management practices. "Don't deworm everything on the farm unless a serious parasite burden exists. Instead, deworm females before parturition," he stressed.

"Also, deworm tactically around the rainfall. A great time to deworm is when it does rain. Ten days or so after a rain, there will be a bloom of grass and an explosion of parasites on that grass.

"Any time you have weather that is not conducive to parasites and then it changes - say it's dry, hot weather and then it rains - deworm then. Or when it freezes and then warms up, deworm then," he reiterated. In between times, only the animals that need deworming should be treated.

"Again, if you deworm them all on a routine basis with no relation to the weather or production status of the animal, you're selecting for the super worms," Pugh reminded. "By deworming only those that need to be dewormed you save money, and secondly you dilute the genetic change on the farm in the goats and sheep."

The FAMACHA system, developed in South Africa, is one technique that is being used more and more in sheep and goats to selectively determine which animals need to be wormed. It was designed for the *Haemonchus* worm in sheep and goats. Pugh has been using the tool in sheep and goats for seven years and he finds it quite effective. He

recommended working through a local veterinarian if interested in this technique, as training is necessary.

The technique uses a FAMACHA card to match the color pattern of the eye to determine if the animal has anemia, one of the symptoms of a severe *Haemonchus* infection.

He also noted that FAMACHA must be used in conjunction with a complete parasite control program. For example, regular fecal exams are still a must. Pugh noted that it can be labor-intensive as animals must be checked every couple of weeks.

Animals that are dewormed should be identified, as culling should be part of the program as well. "If you have to deworm them twice based on FAMACHA alone, you need to sell them," Pugh stated.

Other management techniques that enhance a parasite control program include such things as proper grazing. "Worms have the ability to crawl four to six inches up on the grass," Pugh noted, "so the closer you graze to the ground, the more trouble you will have with parasites."

Proper supplementation also helps. "Proper feeding not only enhances reproduction, it enhances productivity and the animal's ability to fight off infections. They also bounce back quicker after deworming." In fact, he said, some research suggests that feeding supplemental protein helps suppress parasitism. One of the best protein supplements for sheep and goats is soybean meal, Pugh commented.

Additionally, browse plants with high levels of tannins also help suppress a parasite's ability to survive.

A good mineral mix is important as well. Pugh stressed the importance of developing a mineral program that is adapted to the local area and specifically adapted for goats or specifically for sheep. "Don't feed a sheep mineral to goats and vice versa," he said.

Phosphorus, he noted, is a macro mineral and is particularly critical in dry-winter forages, crop residues, etc. Phosphorus is expensive, Pugh added, and often is not included in mineral mixes, so the producer should check for it in feed and supplements.

Copper is the one of the most deficient of the micro minerals in the U.S. "Sheep are more prone to copper toxicity than goats.

Pugh also suggested ensuring adequate vitamin intake, including Vitamin A, during severe dry times when there is no green feed available. "Vitamin A is associated with immunity. It takes about two months for cows, goats, sheep and horses to have complete loss of Vitamin A stored in the liver when consuming diets deficient in it. When that happens, the animal is increasingly susceptible to all diseases, including parasites."

Other management techniques that help with parasite control include such things as quarantining all new animals upon arrival. "You pay a lot of money for that animal, but the worms come free. If that animal is from a farm with parasites that have a genetic resistance to a particular dewormer, then you just brought that genetic resistance to your farm," he stressed.

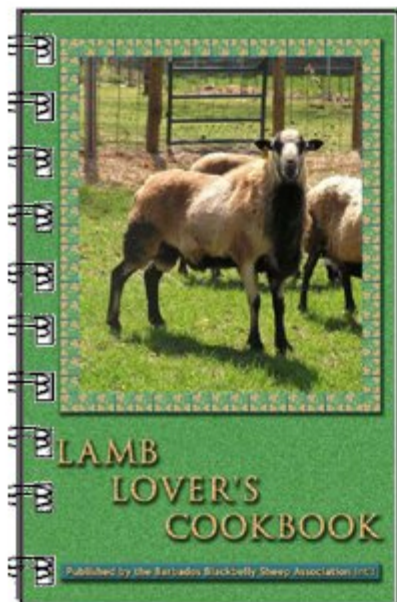
Proper dosing is also critical. "Don't dose based on averages. Dose based on per animal or dose based on subgroups, and base the dose on the largest animal of that subgroup. Also make sure they're getting all the medicine in them."

He also said that when possible, keeping animals off feed for 24 hours prior to using oral dewormers, particularly the white dewormers, may improve efficacy. And he cautioned against using cattle pour-on products orally in sheep or goats. "By keeping them off feed you decrease rumen fill and you get a better mixing and better application of the dewormer. Obviously, fasting should not be done on sick, late pregnant, or

debilitated animals."

Finally, Pugh told listeners that if no dewormers work, use two classes of drugs together. "Use them at a regular full dose at the same time. You have to give the full dose; if you give half a dose it won't work, and you must do it three to five days in a row. Then move to new ground."

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Ask Clyde

By Clyde Dancer (With a little help from Susan Smith)

Hi Sheep Shepherds and Sheep Friends, Some really nice folks from BBSAI membership wrote to ask me a couple questions for this newsletter. I do hope you find the answers informative and maybe even helpful. I hope you will send e-mails to my Mom with your questions, (I can't reach the computer yet) then she will read them to me and I will answer every one of them. My e-mail address is: DearClyde@hotmail.com

Dear Clyde,

I am a new breeder of American Blackbelly sheep. I had my first lambs born about two weeks ago. They are so much fun to watch play and learn from their mothers. My question is, when do lambs begin to have cud?

Thank you, New Shepherd

Dear New Shepherd, Congratulations on your new venture into the world of the American Blackbelly sheep. Generally speaking a lamb will become a full fledged ruminant about 45 days old. You should not wean a lamb before it is eating solid food well whether it be grain, hay, or grass. If milk is taken away as a source of food before the lamb has adequate rumen development, it will suffer a variety of problems. The change from being a single-stomached animal to a ruminant only takes place as a result

of the lamb eating increasing amounts of solid food. Lambs are ready to be weaned when they are bringing up cud and chewing it. Hope this helps you.

Your Friend, Clyde

Dear Clyde, Does your Mom have a way of treating bloat in her sheep that she might pass onto your readers?

Thank you, So far a bloat free flock

Dear So far, It is good to hear that you have been "bloat" free so far in your flock. My Mom has not been that lucky. She wanted me to tell you that if you could keep baking soda out for your sheep (even lambs will nibble at it) that they will eat it when they need it and this will help prevent bloat in your sheep. My Mom's problem with bloat has been in the lambs that required bottle-feeding. She says she has never quite figured out why some will bloat and some won't, even when they are all being bottle fed at the same time with the same formula. (It must be a sheep thing.) Anyway, she told me to pass on this formula to you and cut it down for little lambs.

Mix: ½ cup of water with a ½ cup of cooking oil, add to that 2 tablespoons of baking soda and mix it very well. For the adult sheep try to get a cup of this down them. Then place a stick in the sheep's mouth like a bit in a horse's mouth. This makes the sheep start to chew and hopefully begin belching. Mom tries to get at least ¼ cup down a lamb. My Mom also said to tell you that her vet was aghast when he heard she used this formula on week-old lambs. He said he would not have told her to do it that way. But since it worked just fine it must be ok for her to use on her sheep.

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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Stewardship Responsibilities

By American Livestock Breeds Conservancy

Reprinted with kind permission of American Livestock Breeds Conservancy Newsletter

(As you know, BBSAI has joined the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy in hopes that we may work within their organization on behalf of the Barbados Blackbelly, as well as open – or reopen as the case may be – discussions regarding the listing of the American Blackbelly as a "Study" breed. –ed.)

ALBC's mission is the conservation and promotion of endangered breeds of livestock, poultry and rabbits. Effective conservation works to ensure the continuing existence of viable populations. At the heart of live animal conservation is the private agricultural effort of individual farmers and breeders. Farmers have developed and maintained our rich array of breeds by being good stewards – carefully and responsibly managing the animals entrusted to their care by their predecessors. The responsibility of stewardship passes to all who choose to work with endangered animals, ensuring their long-term survival and the diversity of the species.

Before acquiring animals it is important to consider the following issues:

A conservation breeder must have the skill level and facilities appropriate for keeping and managing the breed. More critically endangered breeds require greater knowledge and experience than those that are less endangered. Losses and management mistakes take a greater toll on the overall population of the more endangered.

Conservation breeding means animals must be selected and bred. ALBC's objective, and

yours as a breed steward, is to increase the numbers of animals while preserving the genetic diversity that exists within the breed. Failing to regularly and thoughtfully select and breed stock reduces their opportunity to contribute in a significant way to the survival of their kind.

If you do not wish to breed, choose animals that cannot breed or are not considered integral to the breed population's diversity. Animals that don't meet the requirements of breeding stock and altered males are ideal for those not wishing to breed. These animals can be excellent ambassadors for the breed.

More intact males may need to be retained by stewards of rare breeds. This is necessary to maintain genetic diversity within the breed and because fewer males may be locally accessible. Additionally, semen for artificial insemination may not be readily available. Assess your ability to successfully keep and handle intact males.

Once you own an endangered breed, be intentional in your stewardship:

Register breeding stock so that these animals can remain active in their breed's documented gene pool.

Actively participate in the breed association. Associations facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge, breeding stock, and efforts toward common goals.

Produce purebred offspring. Use females only for bearing purebred offspring. Males may be used for crossbreeding on females of breeds that are not endangered.

There will be a time when you need to disperse your animals:

Have a plan. Change is a part of life. As a steward, you have the responsibility to disperse stock to future stewards. If you find yourself facing difficulties in maintaining your breed, transfer your stock to others who will assume the responsibilities of a breeder.

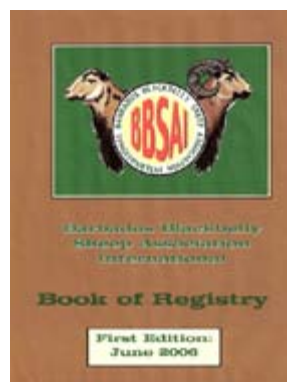
Make your wishes known to your family. Make provisions in your Will for the future of your animals with knowledgeable individuals that will maintain responsible stewardship for the breed. Many valuable animals have been lost because no provisions were made for them. Make decisions now to assure that the animals are passed along into good care.

Throughout history, agriculturalists have been stewards of the genetic legacy passed to succeeding generations. What took centuries to develop can be lost in our lifetime. If lost, it cannot be recreated. Only a commitment to stewardship will protect this genetic legacy for future generations.

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BBSAI 2006 Book of Registry Now Available!

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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BBSAI Accomplishments During the 2005 – 2006 Year

By Mary Swindell

Your Board of Directors has been very busy this year! Here is a list of the Board's accomplishments during the past 12 months:

Decided to improve our independent contractor registrar arrangement, which had been initiated last year. Researched alternative independent contractor registrars nationally in search of an improved independent registrar arrangement for our registry.

Resumed handling the registry internally through the BBSAI secretary/treasurer's office, after last year's trial basis outsourcing to an independent contractor registrar.

Developed a 5-generation pedigree certificate document available to all BBSAI members at a price of \$3.00 per certificate.

Published the BBSAI Book of Registry, first edition, containing the complete listing of all registered Barbados Blackbelly and American Blackbelly sheep since the inception of the BBSAI, sorted by breeder name and registrarion number, and including a breeder's directory. This Book of Registry is available to members and non-members for \$15.00 per copy.

Affiliated with the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC), as an organizational member.

Started a dialog with the ALBC about the status of the American Blackbelly and the Barbados Blackbelly breeds.

Continued sales of the BBSAI Lamb Lover's Cookbook, as well as other custom-designed BBSAI products, sold through the CafePress store, and bringing a profit from sales to the BBSAI.

Implemented a BBSAI Photo Contest including 8 categories of photos submitted by BBSAI members, with a photo submission deadline of November 1st, 2006, and to be judged by a panel of independent judges. The contest winners will have photos published on the BBSAI web site and in the BBSAI newsletter, and will also receive valuable prizes.

Developed a question and answer article for the newsletter to stimulate interaction with our BBSAI member newsletter readers. Discussed and considered other possible plans to increase member involvement.

Worked with researchers of the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) to lay groundwork for establishing statistical "adjusted weights" to set up weight and growth criteria for American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly sheep. These base weights and base growth statistics, if available can help AB and BB breeders in the future to judge whether they are achieving an improvement in the quality of our sheep through successful breeding and husbandry.

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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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