

BARBADOS BLACKBELLY SHEEP ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – APRIL, 2007

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings BBSAI Members!

As you can see, we are coming to you in a new format. We are emailing many of the newsletters

as we have done in the past, but in a different format. Additionally, we are mailing a number of issues by U.S. mail to those folks that recently requested them at no charge. Our continued hope is to keep as many of our members informed and involved in the BBSAI. On a sad note, we have lost our newsletter editor and BBSAI Board member, Barb Lee who resigned her duties. Barb's talent, wisdom, experience, and gifted writing skills will be sorely missed by all of us. She did a terrific job in producing our quarterly newsletters and in performing numerous duties as a board member. On behalf of the entire Association, thank you Barb for all of your tireless efforts to the BBSAI. You will be missed! While we are in search of a new editor for the newsletter, Mary Swindell – our secretary/treasurer, has volunteered to produce and distribute the April issue. Thank you, Mary!

Currently, the Board of Directors are involved with several issues. Besides trying to find new ways to enhance our service and communication with each of you, we are:

- (1) Determining different publications to advertise and promote the association and
- (2) Issuing a temporary registration moratorium on the Barbados Blackbelly open registry. In general terms in an open registry, an owner

may registry his or her sheep without having information or registration data on the sire or dam. By closing the registry, this data would have to be produced and substantiated for the animal to be registered in the BBSAI registry. This temporary moratorium is in effect until we can have a committee put together specific criteria on how future registrations would be accepted and the rationale for closing the registry. This information would then be presented to the entire membership for a vote, which would ultimately change our current by-laws. As a reminder, this registry only affects a handful of our members – those raising Barbados Blackbelly or polled sheep. We will provide a more detailed account of this situation in the July issue of the newsletter. Any thoughts or ideas, please let us know! As a reminder, the majority of our members, including myself, raise American Blackbelly sheep and this AB registry remains open.

Please do not forget about the BBSAI website (www.blackbellysheep.org). It is a wonderful resource and we encourage each of you to visit it frequently. Remember, we are here to serve you and we can only do that with your help and input.

Mark Fleming
President, BBSAI

BBSAI New Members

Sharon and George Adams, from Palastine, Texas
Howard Arehart, from Mason City, Nebraska
Charles Gillham, from Lewistown, Illinois
John Jaster, from Portland, Texas
Kathryn Kicenski, from McLoud, Oklahoma
Fred Wood, from Burkburnett, Texas

We welcome you into our flock!

BBSAI Renewed Members

B’Beth & Will Carlton, from Fairhope, Alabama
Charles Clark, from Lake City, Minnesota

Thank you for staying with our flock!



Most Magestic Polled Ram
Photo by Helmut Lang



Most Magestic Horned Ram
Photo by Gerry Krause

PHOTO CONTEST RESULTS – HERE ARE THE REST OF THE WINNING PHOTOS!

Once again, here are the winners of the 2006 BBSAI Photo Contest:

- Most Feminine Ewe: Entry #E-002 Submitted by Beth Stamper
- Most Majestic Polled Ram: Entry #R-006 Submitted by Helmut Lang
- Most Majestic Horned Ram: Entry #R-005 Submitted by Gerry Krause
- Cutest Lamb: Entry #L-002 Submitted by Beth Stamper
- Funniest: Entry #F-005 Submitted by Susan Smith
- Open: Entry #O-009 Submitted by Helmut Lang

In the last issue, we featured our two winning ram photos, shown again above. In this issue, we add the other four winning entries, shown below. Note: To view all the wonderful entries in the photo contest, please visit the online photo album at <http://www.picturetrail.com/gid9839670> or see the new Photo Album page on our BBSAI Web Site at <http://blackbellysheep.org/photos.html> **THANK YOU** to everyone who submitted photos to the contest! And congratulations to our winners! Here are the rest of the winners:



Most Feminine Ewe
Photo by Beth Stamper



Cutest Lambs
Photo by Beth Stamper



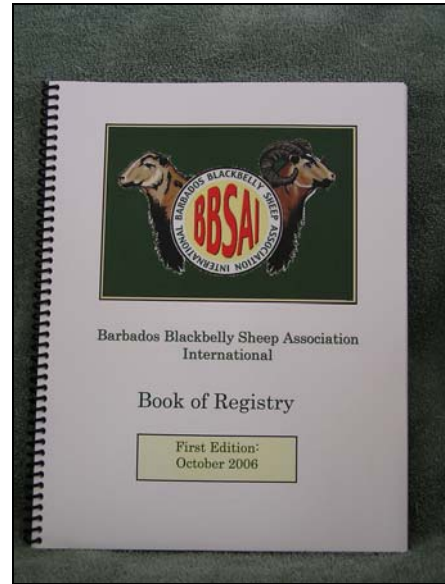
Funniest Category
Photo by Susan Smith



Open Category
Photo by Helmut Lang

The BBSAI Board would like to say **THANK YOU** to all our members who responded to our recent 2007 Member Update Questionnaire!

BBSAI BOOK OF REGISTRY FOR SALE!



The BBSAI Book of Registry is available in printed format! The Book of Registry lists all 1,050 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.

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. *Order your very own copy today!*

HELP US FIND OUR MISSING MEMBERS!

We need your help! Some of our lifetime member addresses and phone numbers are out of

date and we have lost contact with them. If you know any of these members, please ask them to get in touch with the BBSAI so that we can update their contact information and send them a copy of the Newsletter! Here are their names and last known city & state:

Roy Bell	Ore City, TX
Karen Booth	Lewisville, TX
Robert Chambers	Gatesville, TX
Rebecca & Dan Gilbert	Moore, TX
Barbara Hill	Blanchard, OK
Judy McCray	Pawnee, OK
Butch & Vicki Smallwood	Norman, OK
Beverly Smith	Terrell, TX
Gerald & Judith Strasburg	Crane, MO
Roger Williams	Pauls Valley, OK

Thanks for helping us find our fellow members!



BBSAI T-SHIRTS FOR SALE – GET ONE WHILE THEY LAST!

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. We have the following quantities and sizes available:

2 - Size L
16 - Size XL
23 - Size 2XL

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

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS (from the 2007 Member Update Questionnaire)

Several of you sent in excellent comments and questions when you returned the 2007 Member Update Questionnaire recently. We have attempted to state several of your questions/comments in basic terms and respond to them here:

Q: How can I get my name on the Breeder's Directory?

A: The Breeder's Directory (on the BBSAI Web Site) is updated 4 times per year (April 1, July 1, Oct. 1, and January 1). To add your name or change something on your listing, just write the secretary/treasurer at secretary@blackbellysheep.org.

Q: I am uncomfortable voting for Board members because I know so little about them.

A: The Board members are nominated by the general membership, and are elected each November at the Annual Meeting by the membership on a ballot which is mailed together with a biographical paragraph telling about each Board nominee. This information also appears in the July and October issues of the Newsletter prior to the November elections. The slate of Board members are elected as a group by a ye or nay vote of the membership. This is because the BBSAI bylaws require a minimum of 5 members on the Board, and (with the difficulty of finding Board nominees willing to serve) it turns out that electing a slate of nominees is the most reliable way to assure a full roster of 5 or more Board members. This year in response to our member requests, we will offer a Board Member Spotlight in each issue of the BBSAI Newsletter.

Q: We do not have access to the Internet. How can we stay in communication with the BBSAI?

A: This year the BBSAI will begin sending a free paper copy of the quarterly BBSAI Newsletter to all members who prefer a paper copy. We will no longer charge the \$10.00 annual fee for this service. We will also continue to provide the e-mail version of the Newsletter to all members with e-mail addresses. Also, each Board member will be happy to answer questions from members at any time. You may e-mail questions to

president@blackbellysheep.org, or to secretary@blackbellysheep.org. Additionally, you may phone in your questions to the secretary/treasurer at (618) 893-4568.

Q: The web site needs to be updated with pictures and updated communications to help us promote our sheep.

A: The BBSAI Web Site has recently been given a face lift and has a new Photo Album page at <http://blackbellysheep.org/photos.html> which includes all the wonderful photos sent in by our BBSAI members this winter. Take a look!

Q: We need a stud book to trace bloodlines and the quality of stock.

A: The new BBSAI Book of Registry was completed in October and is for sale now for only \$15.00! Just contact the secretary/treasurer to get your copy of this important reference tool!

We thank you again for your great comments, and sincerely hope that the above answers help with some of your questions. And meanwhile, keep those questions and comments coming!!

Mary Swindell
Secretary/Treasurer, BBSAI

NEW POLICY FOR THE NEWSLETTER

After several discussions during the past few months, the BBSAI Board has determined that we can best serve our membership by providing free paper copies of our quarterly BBSAI Newsletter by regular U.S. mail, to all members who request a paper copy. We will no longer charge the \$10.00 fee for such paper copies, and we will refund the fee for this service which has been paid by all those members who have renewed their annual membership for the July 2006 – July 2007 year.

So get ready to enjoy your reading your BBSAI Newsletter at the breakfast table with your coffee, if you request a paper copy!

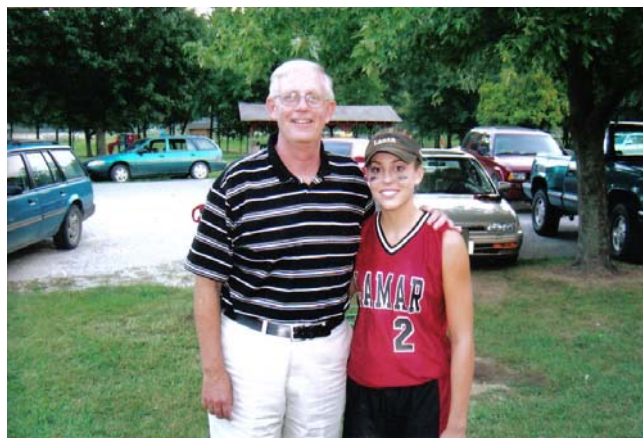
And for those of you who prefer to save some trees and continue receiving your newsletter by e-

mail, we're with you on that and we'll continue to send out the e-version!

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Editor's Note: To help our members get to know the BBSAI Board of Directors better, we will feature one or more articles introducing the Board members in each newsletter issue. Our first Board Member Spotlight features our BBSAI President, Mark Fleming:

Greetings from Lamar, Missouri! Before moving here to help care for my mother-in-law, my wife Barbara, our two daughters, Heather and Tracy, and I lived in Tipton, Oklahoma. There, I retired from the Air Force after spending twenty years working in military occupations in Air Pararescue, Air Transportation, and Education and Training Technology. After retirement in 1987, I went into teaching and coaching in The Tipton Public School system for nine years. Now after 11 years in Missouri, I am nearing a second retirement, completing my twentieth year in teaching. Through my years in education, I have taught math, science, social studies, and communication arts in grades 5 through 12, while coaching high school football, basketball, baseball, and softball.



Coach Mark Fleming with scholarship winning Lamar High School ball player

On the home front, we live in a rural setting in Missouri and raise American Blackbelly sheep. Seven years ago we tired of mowing grass all weekend long. We were told that we need to buy Blackbelly sheep as they are very easy to care for, would become great lawn or field mowers, and

did not require sheering. However, we were very skeptical and concerned about caring for these animals. I was raised in a city environment on the east coast and knew nothing about these animals. But, we decide to give it a try. We fenced in 10 of our 25 acres and bought 6 sheep in an exotic animal auction in Gas, Kansas We now have 30 American Blackbelly ewes and a ram; a black Lincoln ewe(Feather); Suffolk ewe(Jaime); and two guardian llamas, Buddy and Toot. Additionally, we have ducks, geese, cats, and our two watchdogs, Betsy and Toby.

I am a lifetime member of the BBSAI, along with being a past Secretary/Treasurer. As the President, I would like to help continue to inform and be involved in preserving these wonderful animals along with fellow breeders of the Barbados Blackbelly and American Blackbelly breeds. Thank you,

Mark Fleming

THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROUS DONATION TO THE BBSAI!

Recently the Board of Directors received a polite note and a generous donation check from BBSAI lifetime member Pat Freeman. Pat stated that she knew postage and other costs were going up and thought that the BBSAI could use some help to cover expenses. Thank you Pat, from the entire Board of Directors for your generosity to the BBSAI!

MASS STARVATION OF BLACKBELLY SHEEP IN CRAIG COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

By now, many of you have heard the tragic news concerning the starvation deaths of hundreds of blackbelly sheep in Craig County, Oklahoma. In one of the largest cases of criminal animal abuse in U.S. history, Craig County officials seized 1250 surviving barbado sheep, 300 cows and 12 horses on January 17 and January 23 after finding more than 800 dead and dying sheep on properties owned by Oklahoma rancher David Bradley Bell. Donations are being requested to cover estimated costs of \$100,000 required for food, veterinary care and shelter to help restore the health of the

surviving animals. For those interested in finding more about this situation or making a donation, you may contact the Craig County Sheriff's Office at (918) 256-6466. They have an account set up to receive donations, and can possibly refer you to sources for further information on this situation.

TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON REGISTRATION OF UNDOCUMENTED BB SHEEP

As a part of the new focus and vision of our 2007 BBSAI Board, close attention is being paid to protecting the rare and endangered polled Barbados Blackbelly bloodlines which are closely related to original Island of Barbados genetics. For over 10 years, The BBSAI has been accepting open registrations of polled BB sheep, regardless of whether the parents are known and/or registered BB sheep.

In 2004, the BBSAI registry was split into the horned American Blackbelly sheep, and the polled Barbados Blackbelly sheep. This action enabled the BBSAI to work for two parallel goals: 1) to support the newly standardized breed, American Blackbelly, and help this breed to develop and gain respect in the U.S. and the world, and 2) to separately identify the polled Barbados Blackbelly in the hope of preserving Island bloodlines and protecting them from being crossed with other lines and breeds.

In recent times, registrations of previously undocumented polled BB sheep have dwindled. Today it is generally thought that almost all of the unregistered polled BB sheep have been identified, and that there are virtually no remaining flocks of polled BB sheep from previously unknown bloodlines in the United States needing to "come in" to the registry.

For this reason, the BBSAI Board would like to switch its focus from "bringing in" more polled bloodlines, to "protecting" the bloodlines that have already been identified and registered. There is danger that crossbred genetics may be registered under the current open registration policy and that although these percentage BB sheep may meet visual standards of polled BB sheep, they may not breed dependably true

offspring, and they may not contain the important unseen attributes which represent the important genetic resource that we expect this breed to be.

The Board recognizes that our BBSAI bylaws and our current open registration standards do not provide enough protection for the BB breed to keep crossbred and percentage sheep from being registered as polled BB sheep. Therefore, in February 2007 the Board voted to support a one-year temporary moratorium on the registration of previously undocumented polled BB sheep, while we identify weaknesses in the BBSAI bylaws and registration policies, and prepare an updated set of policies to present to you, our general membership for consideration this fall as an item on our Annual Meeting election ballot.

We will keep you informed over the spring and summer through the BBSAI Newsletter while we work to prepare the proposed new policy package. In September, we will send an informational package to our entire membership, together with a ballot on which you may cast your vote concerning whether to permanently close the polled BB registry.

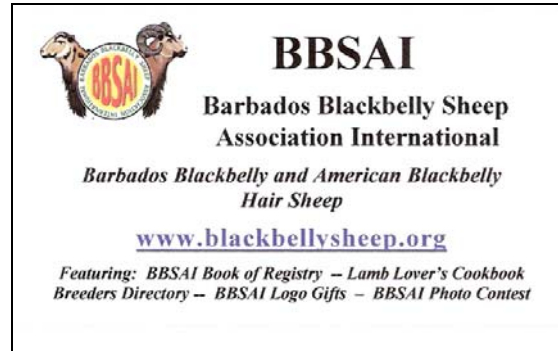
What would it mean to “close the polled BB registry”? If the polled BB registry is closed, then polled BB sheep may only be registered if their sire and dam are already registered with the BBSAI. However, there will need to be some exceptions to this policy, and the Board is currently working to determine what those exceptions should be.

Please note that nothing in the above discussion pertains to the horned AB sheep registry. The BBSAI is still actively taking in registries of new and previously unknown horned AB sheep. We welcome further open registries of horned AB sheep, and we are enthused about the growth of our AB registry. Although there may come a time in the future when it is appropriate to consider closing the AB registry, there is general feeling on the Board that the time for that has not yet come.

Please do not hesitate to give any Board member your feedback on these issues! We welcome your input and we will eagerly await your comments.

Mary Swindell
Secretary/Treasurer, BBSAI

OUR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN – ADVERTISING THE BBSAI AND OUR SHEEP TO THE WORLD



We are excited about making 2007 the year in which the BBSAI advertises itself in several well-known magazines and journals throughout the country, in order to get the word out about our wonderful American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly sheep! Soon, we will have business card sized ads appearing in Sheep! Magazine, the Record Stockman, Hobby Farmer, and several other publications. We have a friendly business card ad shown above, which will hopefully help us and our sheep become more of a household word. Please get in touch with any Board member if you have suggestions for ways that the BBSAI can advertise and publicize our association and our sheep to the world!

REMINDER: WE'RE HERE TO SERVE YOU!!!

We want to make sure you know that your BBSAI Board of Directors works continuously throughout the year to serve you, our general members. We communicate via e-mail on a daily basis to work on issues and solve problems. And we have a formal monthly Board meeting via telephone conference call. If you want to suggest agenda items or topics for the Board to consider, please get in touch with any Board member and let us know your concerns. We love hearing from our members!

Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International Newsletter

The BBSAI Newsletter is a benefit of membership in the BBSAI and is published quarterly. The BBSAI Newsletter welcomes articles, photographs and classified ads that relate to American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly Sheep. Publication of articles or advertisements does not necessarily constitute 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 are:

January Issue – December 15

April Issue – March 15

July Issue – June 15

October Issue – September 15

Please send changes of address to the BBSAI, 815 Bell Hill Road, Cobden, IL 62920. Phone: (618) 893-4568.

The Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International is a 501C non-profit organization. All contributions to BBSAI are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

BBSAI Officers:

Mark Fleming, President, president@blackbellysheep.org

Elaine Haas, Vice-President, jhrc@aol.com

Mary Swindell, Sec/Treasurer, secretary@blackbellysheep.org

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Jeff Evans, jeffe23@gmail.com

Mike Lannon, dogdaddy5@peoplepc.com

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Mark Wintermute, wintermute@earthlink.net

Advisors:

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

Webmistress: Carol Elkins, webmistress@blackbellysheep.org

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LAMBING SEASON IS UPON US!



The BBSAI wishes all our members a safe and happy lambing season!

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ABOUT THE BBSAI NEWSLETTER

The BBSAI Newsletter is being sent free of charge by e-mail to all BBSAI members, and also free of charge by U.S. mail to all BBSAI members who request a paper copy. Please let the Secretary/Treasurer or any Board member know if you wish to receive a paper copy of the Newsletter. We'll be glad to send you one!

BBSAI
815 Bell Hill Road
Cobden, IL 62920