

BARBADOS BLACKBELLY SHEEP ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – JULY, 2007

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **July 2007 Message from our President**
- **Help Us Find Our Missing Members**
- **Summary of Proposed Changes To BBSAI Bylaws**
- **BBSAI T-Shirts For Sale**
- **OSU Recognizes the American Blackbelly as a Separate Breed**
- **BBSAI New Members**
- **Board Member Spotlight**
- **Reminder: Annual Membership Renewals Due in July**
- **BBSAI Book of Registry for Sale**
- **Newsflash from Modesto, CA**
- **New Policy for the Newsletter**
- **2007 Status Report: Memberships, Registrations, and Budget**
- **Reminder: We're Here to Serve You!!!**
- **Needed: Candidates for the BBSAI Board of Directors**

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings BBSAI Members!

As in the April newsletter, 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 to those members that recently requested them at no charge. Our continued hope is to keep you informed and involved in the BBSAI.

We are excited to have our new newsletter editor, Becky Lannon, on board. Becky, a very talented person, has been a tremendous help on many different issues in the past. She is eager and ready to produce our Association's quarterly newsletters. If you have articles of interest or information that you would want to share with all of us, please contact Becky. She will do a great job and we all need to support her and the newsletter. Thank you, Becky!

If you get a chance, you may want to check out the Oklahoma State University web site as Carol Elkins, along with the help of Barb Lee, were granted permission to provide text to recognize the American Blackbelly as a separate breed of sheep. The photos used were from the recent BBSAI photo contest winners. Additionally, Carol provided new information for OSU's page on Barbados Blackbelly. Check out the article in this newsletter and the OSU web site. Great job and thank you Carol for the time and effort involved with this outstanding achievement. Currently, the Board of Directors are involved with several issues:

1. We are in the process of updating our existing Bylaws and Standing Rules. We will provide a complete listing of the Board approved changes in August to prepare for the membership's approval or disapproval for the annual meeting in November.

2. Listed in the updates, later on in this issue, are the newly detailed registry procedures for the Barbados Blackbelly sheep. In response to the moratorium placed on the Barbados Blackbelly registry, a committee was formed and has spent hours to design specific rules and criteria to register this breed. As we had mentioned in the April newsletter, this registry only affects a handful of our members.

NOTE: The American Blackbelly registry is not affected by this policy and it remains open.

3. Speaking of the membership meeting in November, we are looking for folks that are interested in helping and being involved as a member of the Board of Directors. Unfortunately, the Board just lost Scott Strickland. Scott, on behalf of the entire Association, thank you for all of your help. We wish you all the best and please stay in touch.

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

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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!

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO BBSAI BYLAWS

Recently the BBSAI Board of Directors approved several proposed revisions to the BBSAI bylaws in order to streamline and improve the way the Association works to serve its members and protect and promote the American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly sheep breeds.

These proposed revisions include:

- a guarantee of 2 votes per family membership
- the dissolution of the lifetime membership category (current lifetime memberships will be honored)
- a declaration of primary breed statement for new memberships
- announcement of two separate books of registry for the American Blackbelly and the Barbados Blackbelly breeds
- definition of the American Blackbelly registry as an "open registry" (undocumented AB sheep may be registered if they meet the AB breed standards)
- definition of the Barbados Blackbelly registry as a "closed registry" (BB sheep may be registered if they meet BB breed standards and either 1) their sire and dam are registered BB sheep, or 2) by qualifying under the "exceptions policy" (whereby registration application is reviewed by a committee)
- clarification on the naming procedure for registering sheep (protecting sheep names from being changed, and including the flock name in the sheep registered name)

- allowance for non-members to transfer registered sheep

We will send copies of these proposed bylaws changes to the entire membership this fall in preparation for our annual elections. Please contact any BBSAI Board member if you have questions or comments about the proposed revisions to the bylaws.

Mary Swindell
Secretary/Treasurer BBSAI



Just look at this little ram lamb's eyes. I watched him in his stall for about an hour as his little head bobbed back and forth and his sleepy little eyes could barely stay open. He blinked and blinked and so did I. He shook his head trying to stay awake. I smiled. Watching him reminded me of when my own children were young and the only way I could get them down for a nap was to lay in bed with them, but just for a few minutes. Oh, dear, I think I'll go to the house and take a nap, but just a short one. (Yawn)



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
- 11 - Size XL
- 20 - 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.

NEW POLICY FOR THE NEWSLETTER

This is just a reminder that we are now 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. So let us know if you would like to receive a paper copy of the BBSAI Newsletter !

We will also continue to send the Newsletter by e-mail to all members with an e-mail address.

**OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
RECOGNIZES THE AMERICAN
BLACKBELLY AS A SEPARATE BREED**

After petitioning Oklahoma State University for recognition of the American Blackbelly as a breed distinct from the Barbados Blackbelly, Carol Elkins was granted permission to provide text for a new page on OSU's Hair Sheep Breeds web site. With the help of BBSAI member Barb Lee and photos from BBSAI's recent photo contest winners, a fairly comprehensive page of information is now available to Internet visitors eager to learn more about the breed.

<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/sheep/american%20blackbelly/index.htm>

In addition, Carol Elkins provided new information for OSU's page on Barbados Blackbelly to help visitors understand the difference between the breeds.

<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/sheep/barbadosblackbelly/index.htm>

OSU is generally regarded as the most authoritative site on the Web regarding sheep breeds. It gets tremendous traffic, and enjoys top ranking in most of the search engines. Their inclusion of the American Blackbelly on their site validates the legitimacy of the new breed name and gives American Blackbelly breeders even more reason to be proud of their magnificent sheep. Hopefully, these two new pages of information about AB and BB sheep will reduce the amount of confusion that people have when they acquire their first Blackbelly sheep.

BBSAI New Members

- Adam Peairson, from Bryan, Texas
- Joan Eubank, from Dunnellon, Florida
- Rhonda McNeely, from Jasper, Texas
- Maria Sans, from Hereford, Texas

We welcome you into our flock!

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. This month's Board Member Spotlight features Director, Mike Lannon.



Thanks for letting me visit with you in the July newsletter. My wife and I met while on the job. We found that we had a common interest in animals and their health and training, we became best friends and the rest is history. After 23 years of marriage we have learned to compliment each other in the running of the day-to-day duties at Lone Star Farm. My wife, Becky, does all the important things like paying bills, keeping our sheep records and being the editor of the BBSAI Newsletter!! I do the rest of the stuff like haul feed, muck out the barn, and chase sheep around the pastures. Division of labor is a good thing.

Our place is not large. We have five acres, and normally keep about twenty-five to thirty head of Barbados Blackbelly sheep. We felt like we were going a little bit backwards when we sold our AB sheep that we had worked so hard on to produce large horns. Now we are constantly checking to be sure that our BB sheep have no horns. Go figure!

We also have four little “wolves” that we affectionately call Jack Russell Terriers; Vern, Cecil, Mouse and Mardi. We have four Cotton-patch geese that sound the alarm whenever its necessary, even when they’re the only ones who know what’s so alarming. And last but not least, we have a half dozen hen-fruit machines. They had brothers, but the neighbor’s cows got them jobs at Chick-Fil-A and that was the last we saw of them. As you can see we have a lot of fun with the serious and the not so serious aspects of our sheep hobby and hope that all of our membership can see the fun and rewards in keeping our AB and BB sheep down home on the farmstead or small ranch as they were meant to be.

Now with all of the work and effort that the board of directors have put forth to keep the AB sheep horned and the BB sheep polled and all of the other breeds of hair sheep out of the pedigrees of both on paper, as a board member I hope that we will all continue to work together to improve their quality in our breeding plans. I also hope that any of your concerns and inquiries will be a good reason for us to talk one on one at your convenience. I’m always open to talk sheep.

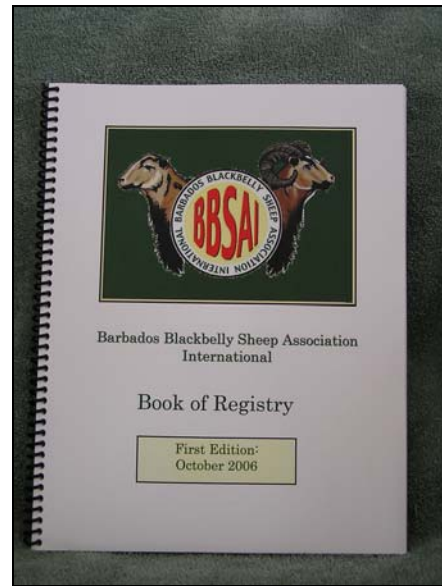
Mike Lannon
Board of Directors, BBSAI

**REMINDER:
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
RENEWALS DUE IN JULY!**

We will soon be sending reminder notices to all annual members of the BBSAI to remind you that your BBSAI annual membership renewal is due on July 15, 2007. Be sure to look for your membership renewal reminder in the mail!

Note: All first-year BBSAI annual memberships submitted after March 31, 2007 will expire on July 15, 2008.

**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!*

*** * * NEWSFLASH * * ***

This was certainly exciting news out of Modesto, CA. On May 22, an American Blackbelly owned by Reed Smith gave birth to five, yes I said five, live lambs from one pregnancy! The runt was too weak to make it, but the other four are all still being taken care of solely by their mother ten days after their birth. Reed thinks that the secret to his success is the super food that he feeds his sheep. The region is a big almond producing area and the cull almonds and shells are devoured with relish by his sheep. They seem to thrive on this highly nutritious food and are showing multiple successes in the production department. Reed has mentioned that he may apply to the Guinness Book of World Records for most multiple births by a hair sheep. Good luck to the proud shepherd on a breeding season very well done.



(Photo used with permission given by Reed Smith)

Mike Lannon
Board of Directors, BBSAI

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NEW POLICY FOR THE NEWSLETTER

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**2007 STATUS REPORT:
MEMBERSHIPS, REGISTRATIONS, AND
BUDGET**

We have leaped over several hurdles this year. First, the BBSAI now has 138 members in good standing throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. And we have 1,214 registered American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly sheep in the BBSAI registry.

There is more good news in the BBSAI Budget. We are running each year on a balanced budget, and even have a small but growing surplus each year. For 2007, the BBSAI budget is as follows:

Estimated income:	\$2,310.00
Estimated expenses:	\$2,250.00
Estimated increase to cash reserves:	\$60.00

The BBSAI checking account balance as of June 16, 2007 is \$5,125.20. Details of the 2007 budget as well as plans for the 2008 budget are included in the annual meeting informational packet which is mailed to all BBSAI members each fall.

Mary Swindell
Secretary/Treasurer, BBSAI

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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!

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WE WANT EWE!



NEEDED: CANDIDATES FOR THE BBSAI BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

We need your help! The BBSAI Board of Directors is actively seeking volunteer members to run as candidates for the Board of Directors in the upcoming annual elections in November. Board members serve a one year term, and can be re-elected for an unlimited number of terms.

The BBSAI Board of Directors consists of at least 5 Board members, but may include more. Board members are required to be BBSAI members in good standing, and are required to own at least one registered American Blackbelly or Barbados Blackbelly sheep.

The Board communicates on a regular basis by e-mail to solve problems and work on various projects for the BBSAI. It is important for Board members to have access to a computer and e-mail in order to discuss Board business and vote on various issues. Also, the Board meets once each month or every other month by telephone conference call. Each Board member pays his/her own long distance charges for these conference calls, however we have an inexpensive long distance access number which helps cut costs for everyone.

Board members do not have to be experts in raising sheep, but should be supportive of both the American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly breeds, and should be willing to work to support the BBSAI mission and purpose.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for the Board of Directors (or if you would like to nominate a member friend) please contact BBSAI President Mark Fleming at president@blackbellysheep.org.

2007 SPRING LAMBS



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, jhr@aol.com

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

Directors:

Jeff Evans, jeffe23@gmail.com

Mike Lannon, dogdaddy5@peoplepc.com

Mark Wintermute, wintermute@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor: Becky Lannon, beckylannon26@peoplepc.com

Marketing Advisor: Susan Schoenian, WMU Sheep and Goat Res. Ctr.

Webmistress: Carol Elkins, webmistress@blackbellysheep.org

SUMMERTIME - AND THE LIVIN' IS EASY



Ask this old girl and she will probably tell you a different story. With the heat and humidity also come the added concerns of heat stress, pneumonia, and parasites. Remember to watch your sheep more closely on those hot and humid days. If you see them standing around with their heads hanging when they would normally be napping, pneumonia could be starting. The old and the young are more susceptible. As the grass gets shorter, if you see bottle jaw or pale third eye lid its probably time to deworm. Something as simple as changing their water twice as often can be the small thing that will help control summer time stress.

BBSAI
815 Bell Hill Road
Cobden, IL62920