

# ***BARBADOS BLACKBELLY SHEEP ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL***



## ***QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER, 2007***

### **MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

#### ***IN THIS ISSUE:***

- **October 2007 Message from our President**
- **Board Member Spotlight – Vice President Elaine Haas**
- **New! BBSAI Members Discussion Group on Yahoogroups.com**
- **Second Edition of the BBSAI Book of Registry**
- **BBSAI 2007 Annual Meeting Teleconference**
- **Annual Meeting Mailing Packet Sent to All Members**
- **2007 Status Reports: Memberships, Registrations, and Budget**
- **Meet the Nominees for the 2008 BBSAI Board of Directors**
- **Explanation of Proposed Changes to the BBSAI Bylaws**
- **Reminder: Annual Membership Renewals**
- **BBSAI T-Shirts For Sale**
- **BBSAI New and Renewed Members**
- **BBSAI Book of Registry For Sale**

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Greetings BBSAI Members!

It is hard to believe that yet another year is about over. With that said, we are approaching our 2007 General Membership Meeting. We have scheduled the meeting again this year as a teleconference on Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. (CST). If you would like to attend or put an item on the agenda, please contact Mary Swindell at [secretary@blackbellysheep.org](mailto:secretary@blackbellysheep.org) or by phone at (618) 893-4568 to obtain the call-in phone number and entry code.

Each of you should have received your yearly membership packet in the mail. A large part this packet reflects the countless hours the Board of Directors has spent updating and rewriting the existing Bylaws and Standing Rules. We would like to extend a special thanks to Carol Elkins for providing us with very readable document which reflects areas that were rewritten, changed, or deleted. Carol, on behalf of the Board and our 147 members, a huge thank you! Also, your General Membership packet contains a ballot to vote for the new directors and the revised Bylaws. Please be sure to return your completed ballot to the address provided. The results of the

membership vote will be recorded in the General Membership meeting in November and later published in the January 2008 newsletter.

In closing, please do not forget about the BBSAI website ([www.blackbellysheep.org](http://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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### BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*Editor's Note: To help our members get to know the BBSAI Board of Directors better, we are featuring one or more articles introducing the Board members in each newsletter issue. This month's Board Member Spotlight features Vice President, Elaine Haas.*



*Elaine Haas and Lammie*

Hello to all BBSAI members. I'm Elaine Haas and I am a board member and Vice President of the BBSAI.

I got involved in Barbados Blackbelly sheep quite by accident. We live on 143 acres in Hillsboro, Missouri. We originally moved to our farm to breed Connemara Ponies. In the process we purchased an Australian Cattle Dog (blue heeler) and discovered the world of herding trials. The cattle dog needed some sheep on which to practice herding so I went out and bought some crossbred sheep for herding.

Several years ago I went to Mary Swindell's farm for a herding clinic with the dogs. I quickly fell in love with the looks of the BB sheep. I purchased my initial sheep from her and since then have purchased more from past president Josh Weimer and recently some from Carol Elkins. I now have 22 ewes, six rams, two ram lambs, two wethers, and seven crossbred herding sheep leftover from the before BB days.

We currently have eight Connemaras of our own, and three or four boarders. We show the Connemaras in hand and compete in hunter/jumper horse shows. There are now four cattle dogs and 2 mixed breeds. We show the cattle dogs in conformation, obedience and herding trials. I have previously shown other breeds of dogs for over 30 years. The horses are my daughters' love and they have been showing horses for most of their lives (24 & 27). My husband keeps busy earning money to keep us all afloat.

I love the farm life and taking care of the animals is never (well seldom anyway) a chore. I feel I finally have a good size flock to work with and I am looking forward to producing more BB lambs in the future. I enjoy working with the other board members and look forward to helping present members, both AB & BB, and finding new members to enjoy these unique sheep.

Elaine Haas  
Board of Directors, BBSAI  
Vice President

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### NEW! BBSAI MEMBERS DISCUSSION GROUP ON YAHOOGROUPS.COM

Since members have recently expressed a desire for better communication within the BBSAI membership, this week we have initiated a new BBSAI members e-mail discussion group on yahoo.com. All current BBSAI members with e-mail addresses will be invited to join this group. It is entirely your choice as whether you sign up for this e-mail discussion group.

We welcome everyone to participate in this opportunity to share ideas, ask questions, and

voice opinions. We anticipate that most of the discussion will center around questions and topics regarding the BBSAI -- registration policies and procedures, programs, history of the AB and BB breeds, breed standards, etc. This is not intended to be a place to advertise sheep for sale, nor is it intended to be the place to ask general questions about raising sheep, although we will try to be as helpful as possible in that area. The BBSAI Board members will serve as moderator for this listserve, and the Board role as moderator will simply be to promote the free flow and exchange of ideas, while encouraging members to treat one another with courtesy and respect at all times.

An invitation to join this new BBSAI discussion group will be sent to each one of you very soon via e-mail. You may sign up for this group by following the directions on the invitation. Whenever new members join the BBSAI, they too will receive an invitation to this group if they have an e-mail address. If you have trouble subscribing to this new discussion group, please contact "bbsai-owner@yahoogroups.com" for help.

We welcome you all to ask questions, give your opinions, and share your thoughts with your fellow BBSAI members!

Mary Swindell  
Secretary/Treasurer, BBSAI

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## **SECOND EDITION OF THE BBSAI BOOK OF REGISTRY**

We are getting ready to publish a second edition of the BBSAI Book of Registry soon. We plan to print the BBSAI registry database sometime shortly after December 1, 2007. If you have sheep that need to be registered or transferred to your name, be sure to get your registration and transfer paperwork sent to the BBSAI Secretary/Treasurer on or before December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 in order to make sure those sheep appear in the new edition of the Book of Registry. This book is a source of great pride to breeders of purebred AB and BB stock. Don't be left out -- get your registrations in today!

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## **BBSAI 2007 ANNUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCE**

On November 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. CST, the BBSAI 2007 Annual Meeting will be held as a telephone conference call. This Annual Meeting conference call will last approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. During the meeting, President Mark Fleming and the Board of Directors will preside over the general BBSAI membership vote on the election of new BBSAI Board members for the 2008 year, and the general membership vote on changes to the BBSAI Bylaws. President Fleming and the Board will also recognize any BBSAI members who have requested "floor time" for their questions or discussion topics.

If you would like to participate in the 2007 BBSAI Annual Meeting teleconference on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007, please RSVP your intention to attend the event by e-mailing [secretary@blackbellysheep.org](mailto:secretary@blackbellysheep.org) or by phoning Mary Swindell at (618) 893-4568. 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 approximately \$.04 per minute.

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 Secretary Mary Swindell at (618) 893-4568 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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## **ANNUAL MEETING MAILING PACKET SENT TO ALL MEMBERS**

The last week of September, we sent the BBSAI 2007 Annual Meeting informational mailing

packet to all BBSAI members in good standing, by regular U.S. mail. In this packet is a cover memo telling about the upcoming Annual Meeting teleconference, a financial report, an introduction to the nominees for the Board of Directors, an explanation of the proposed changes to the BBSAI Bylaws, a copy of the Bylaws and Standing Rules with the proposed changes highlighted in red or green, and an orange Ballot for you to cast your vote concerning the Director nominees and the changes to the Bylaws.

Please support the BBSAI by responding with your Ballot. Cast your votes, and mail your ballot to the address indicated. Be sure to have your Ballot postmarked on or before November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 for your vote to count! And remember that if you have any questions or concerns about items in the packet, you may contact any Board member; we will be happy to discuss any of these items with you.

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

Again, we have leaped over several hurdles this year. First, the BBSAI now has 147 members in good standing throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. And we have 1,293 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. The BBSAI budget and actual income and expenses as of September 30, 2007 are as follows:

	Budgeted	Actual
Income:	\$2,310.00	\$3,133.58
Expenses:	\$2,250.00	\$1,401.80
Increase to cash reserves:	\$60.00	\$1,731.78

The BBSAI checking account balance as of September 30, 2007 is \$6,413.16. Details of the 2007 budget are included in the annual meeting informational packet which was mailed to all BBSAI members the last week in September.

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### **MEET THE NOMINEES FOR THE 2008 BBSAI BOARD OF DIRECTORS!**

*The BBSAI Bylaws require that there must be at least 5 Directors serving on the BBSAI Board. Directors serve a one-year term, and they may be re-elected any number of times. Officers are appointed from within that group of Directors. Once an officer is appointed, he/she serves a three-year term.*

*This year, there are three officers serving on three-year terms (President Mark Fleming, Vice President Elaine Haas, and Secretary/Treasurer Mary Swindell). And we have two nominees for one-year Director terms (Mike Lannon, who will run for re-election in 2008, and new Director nominee Gerald Krause, who will run on his initial one-year term).*

*Together these five individuals, if elected, will make up our 2008 Board of Directors, giving us our minimum operating requirement according to the Bylaws. We are very grateful to each of them for being willing to serve, and we hope that you, the general membership, will also express your support for them by voting to approve our two nominees for election.*

*Here are Mike's and Gerald's statements about themselves, so that you can learn a little about them:*

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.

Gerald R. Krause: I recently retired after being with the Federal Natural Resources Conservation Service for 35 years. My career included the opportunity to work in 13 States and Washington DC. My academic background includes graduate and undergraduate work in Agronomy at the University of Wisconsin. I was reared on a dairy farm – mink ranch which included a few wool sheep and hogs. As I neared retirement my wife Pamela and I started raising a small flock of American Blackbelly sheep 5 years ago. We have enjoyed promoting the breed and have placed sheep with 8 families new to the breed. Two families included 4-Her's receiving Blue Ribbons at their local fairs. In addition to raising Blackbelly sheep we enjoy our Grandchildren, raising chickens, hunting, gardening, and fishing. If elected to the Board of Directors it would give me an opportunity to learn from other Directors, enabling me to do a better job in promoting the breed.

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## EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BBSAI BYLAWS

The BBSAI Board has worked very hard during this past year to update and rewrite some of the existing Bylaws and Standing Rules. This work was done in response to requests from our membership to help further protect the American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly breeds, and also in response to efforts by our officers to streamline and improve the operations of the BBSAI Association. This work was begun in December 2006, and continued through June 2007. The Board voted in June to approve our proposed Bylaws changes. In the July Newsletter, we provided a summary of these changes. Now in the October issue, we will try to give a little more detail into these matters.

We have provided the Board's thinking and rationale for each of these changes, in the following paragraphs. Board rationale is shown in *italics* after the change. The proposed changes have been grouped into four groups. These groups are in the order that they actually appear in the Bylaws, and also are related by subject.

The changes are also presented in this grouping on the Ballot for voting purposes.

### 1. Proposed Changes to Bylaws – General (Types of Membership, Directors, etc.)

Article III.G. Deletes Association purpose involving sponsoring youth shows and sales. *No one in our membership has ever been interested enough to develop this issue, so we finally removed it from our mission statement.*

Article IV.C. Sets member's Primary Breed. They may vote on all general matters and matters pertaining to their primary breed. *To concentrate the voting influence on any specific breed issues, among those who actually raise that breed..*

Article IV.D.1. Deletes the Lifetime membership category, and grandfathers in all current lifetime members. *To cap the relative high cost of inactive lifetime members, and help keep a good cash flow from annual membership dues payments.*

Article IV.D. 2. Increases Family membership category voting eligibility from one vote to two votes per family. *To correct the error on our Bylaws whereby couples were paying more for a family membership (\$45 versus \$30), but did not get two votes.*

Article VI.C. Requires each Director to have at least one animal registered with the BBSAI. *To assure that each Director is actively involved in raising either AB or BB sheep in order to serve on the Board.*

### 2. Proposed Changes to Bylaws – Book of Registry

Article X.A. Allows separate books of registry to be maintained for each sheep breed (AB and BB). *This is already being done, and this update is to formalize it in the Bylaws.*

Article X.B. Defines the AB's open book of registry. *To recognize that the AB registry will continue to be "open book"; that is, an AB sheep can be registered even if its parents are not documented (no change for AB sheep).*

Article X.C. Defines the BB's closed book of registry. A BB sheep may be registered if

1. the sheep meets BBSAI breed standards for BB sheep, and either
2. its dam and sire are registered BB sheep, or
3. upon written petition to the Board under the "exceptions policy".

*Requires that BB sheep now must have registered BB parents in order to be registerable themselves. To protect the rare BB breed from further subtle crossing-in of other breeds, including AB stock or percentage crossbred stock which may be able to pass a visual test but which have unknown parentage. After 10 years of identifying and carefully preserving known BB bloodlines, and 10 years of progeny testing, this is the step that is needed to protect the BB lines that have thus far been found, recorded and proven. An "exceptions policy" will still allow "found flocks" from unregistered parents, under certain circumstances.*

Article X.F. Tracked Sheep. Rewritten to specify separate AB and BB tracking policies:

1. AB sheep can be recorded as "tracked" based on the AB open registry policy.

*Continues the AB sheep tracking policy as in the past.*

2. BB sheep can be recorded as "tracked" if they are from two registered BB parents.

*Establishes the BB sheep tracking policy in accordance with the new BB closed registry.*

### **3. Proposed Changes to Bylaws – Registrations, Ownership, Transfers**

Article XI.B. Breeder. Certificate of Ram's Service no longer required. *The BBSAI has not been requiring this for many years. This update corrects the Bylaws to reflect this fact.*

Article XI.C. Ownership. Proof of ownership no longer required for registration. *The BBSAI has not been requiring this proof of ownership for many years. This update corrects the Bylaws to reflect this fact.*

Article XI.E. Registration Numbers. Rams registered before 01/01/07 may have a "P" or "H" after their number. *To update the Bylaws in order to recognize this past numbering practice (the indication used nowadays is "BB" or "AB" instead of "P" or "H").*

Article XI.F. Registered Name. A sheep's original registered name cannot be changed in the registry. *To stabilize the BBSAI Registry in order to prevent errors/misunderstandings concerning parentage and pedigrees of sheep in the Registry.*

Article XI.H. Transfers. Clarifies that sheep can be transferred by non-BBSAI members. *The BBSAI has always allowed sheep registrations to*

*be transferred to non-BBSAI members, and this update formally recognizes that fact.*

### **4. Proposed Changes to the Standing Rules – Fees, Charges, Procedures, etc.**

SR Article III. Newsletter Fees. Members may now receive the BBSAI Newsletter by U.S. Mail, free of charge. *Establishes free BBSAI Newsletter mailing by regular U.S. mail for all BBSAI members who want to receive a paper copy of the quarterly Newsletter in addition to their e-mail copy.*

SR Article IV.A. Books of Registry. Defines procedure for sheep registration, under the BB sheep exceptions policy. *Lists details of information which will be required by the "exceptions policy" committee for registration of undocumented BB sheep.*

SR Article IV.B. Fees for BB sheep registrations under the BB sheep exceptions policy shall be \$5.00. *To establish the same registration fee for BB sheep under the closed registry "exceptions policy" as the regular sheep registration fee.*

SR Article IV.C. Members must pay for reissued registration certificates, unless BBSAI has made error on original certificate. *Establishes a fee for reissued registration certificates which are done at owner's request.*

Still have questions? Please contact any BBSAI Board member if you want to know more about the proposed revisions to the bylaws.

Mary Swindell  
Secretary/Treasurer BBSAI

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### **REMINDER: ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Reminder notices were sent to all annual members of the BBSAI as reminders that BBSAI annual membership renewals were due on July 15, 2007. To maintain your membership benefits, please renew as soon as possible if you have not done so already.

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



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**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. T-shirts come in the following sizes: L, XL, and 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](mailto:secretary@blackbellysheep.org). Mail your payment, making checks payable to: BBSAI, 815 Bell Hill Road, Cobden, Illinois 62920 USA.

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**BBSAI New Members**

- Lynn Buescher, from Rocklin, California
- Chris DeLisle, from Templeton, California
- JoAnne Hamsher, from Mineral Wells, Texas
- Todd Mortimer, from Hillsboro, Wisconsin
- Frank & Denna Nick, from Spokane, Wash.
- Sondra & Tom Schmidt, from Burns, Oregon
- Harold & Heather Herron, from Robards, KY

*We welcome you into our flock!*

**BBSAI Renewed Members**

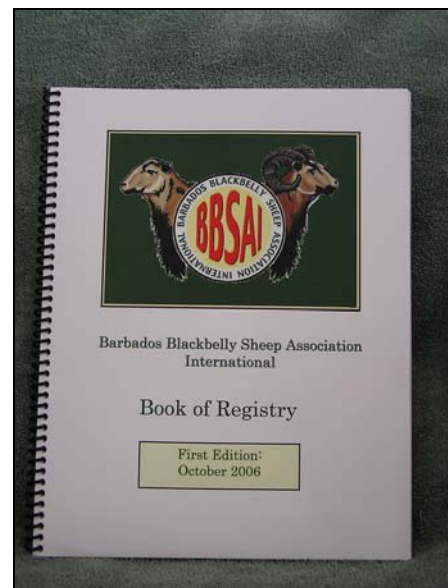
- Corinne Adkins, from Sahuarita, Arizona
- Stephanie Ames, from Newberg, Oregon
- Eldon & Cynthia Andersen, from Hershey, NE

- Howard Arehart, from Mason City, NE
- Diane Baker, from Salem, Oregon
- Robin Blakley, from Germanton, North Carolina
- John Carlton, from Spanish Fort, Alabama
- E. J. Christiansen, from Petaluma, California
- Charles Clark, from Lake City, Minnesota
- Breigh Cox, from Chandler, Arizona
- Elaine Haas, from Hillsboro, Missouri
- Glenn Hill, from Oakland, Arkansas
- Gerald Krause, from White Lake, Wisconsin
- Mike & Becky Lannon, from Hockley, Texas
- Barbara & Robert Lee, from Oregon City, OR
- Tony & Karen Maeder, from Bonham, Texas
- Cathy & J.C. Mayton, from Winnemucca, NV
- Cheryl McLaughlin, from Willcox, Arizona
- Harry Meredith, from Washington, NC
- Stephanie Parrish, from Westminster, SC
- Mohan Sawh, from Hollis, New York
- Sandra & Frank Smith, from Wichita Falls, TX
- Beth Stamper, from Powell Butte, Oregon
- Raymond & Michelle Storey, Oregon City, OR
- Mary Swindell, from Cobden, IL
- Elayne Tingey, from Hailey, Idaho
- June Wilharm, from Whitewater, Wisconsin.
- Fred Wood, from Burkburnett, Texas

*Thank you for staying with our flock!*

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**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!*

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BBSAI  
815 Bell Hill Road  
Cobden, IL62920

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 non-profit organization registered in the State of Missouri.

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