

BARBADOS BLACKBELLY SHEEP ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – JANUARY, 2008

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year BBSAI Members!

As I am writing this, we are recovering from a crippling ice storm which left us without power and water from December 9 through the 16th. So with order somewhat restored and the utilities back on, I need to submit this update for the January newsletter.

With regrets, Becky Lannon, our newsletter editor, recovering from some medical issues, has opted to step aside for now. Becky your professionalism, skills and talents will be missed. On behalf of all of us, here is to a speedy recovery and thank you, Becky. JoAnne Hamsher has

volunteered to take over the newsletter editor's duties and the Board of Directors has unanimously approved her appointment. Welcome, JoAnne. We all need to support and help her in publishing our quarterly newsletter.

As an update, the following is an update of issues that has occurred since early November when the Special BBSAI Membership Notice was issued:

1. The 2007 BBSAI Annual meeting was postponed until problems in the current bylaws can be corrected.
2. We have a newly created Yahoo group for all BBSAI members to utilize. This group offers you the opportunity to express your views and to submit suggestions, as well as to communicate with fellow breeders. You can sign up to participate in this website by using the following web address: <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/bbsai/>.
3. Breeder's Opinion Poll committee was approved by approved by the BBSAI Board of Directors and Barb Lee was selected as the chair. Barb, along with committee members, Lynn Magedson and Chad Dixon, developed this

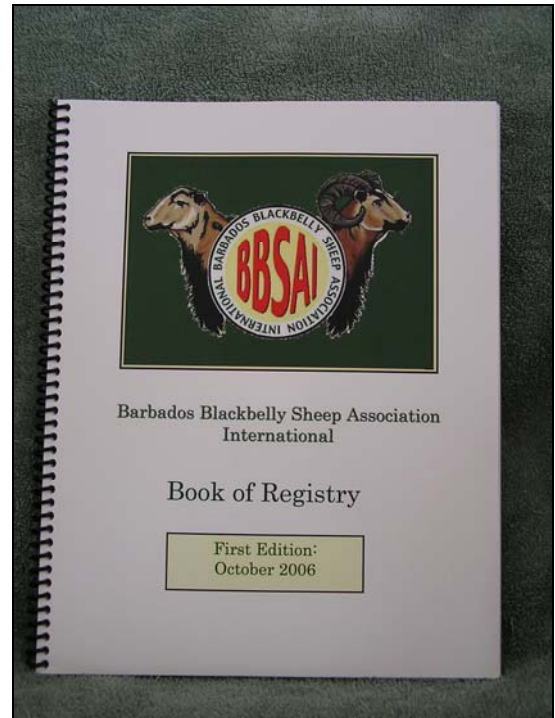
survey to help enlighten the Board of Directors of the goals and priorities of the membership. It is contained in this issue, so please fill it out and return it to Barb. The results will be reported in the April newsletter. Thank you to Barb and your committee. Their efforts will provide invaluable insight into the future needs of our breeds.

4. BBSAI Bylaws Correction committee was approved by the BBSAI Board of Directors and Carol Elkins was selected as the chair. This committee is charged with correcting issues in the current bylaws and to later seek assistance, and approval of a professional parliamentarian to prevent future reoccurrences. This committee should be up and running by the time you receive this newsletter.
5. 2008 Photo Contest committee was approved by the BBSAI Board of Directors and Barb Lee was selected as the chair. Barb did a super job last year and again she has graciously agreed manage the contest. She has created an on-line photo album and if you are interested in participating, please go to the following website:
<http://www.picturetrail.com/gid18500930> Thank you Barb and we look forward to this year's entries.

In closing, please visit the BBSAI website at: www.blackbellysheep.org. It is a wonderful resource and we encourage each of you to visit frequently. Remember, we are here to serve you and we can only do that with your help and input.

Mark Fleming
President, BBSAI

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!*

Raising American Blackbelly Sheep in the Nevada High Desert

By Cathy Mayton
Leap'N Lambs

About 25 years ago, I raised American Blackbelly sheep in Arizona, the state in which I was raised. In the spring of 2006, I got a wild hair (no pun intended) to raise these sheep again. My husband J.C. and I made 2 trips to California to purchase my stock sheep from 4 different breeders. The first trip was made the last weekend in April when we traveled from Winnemucca, Nevada to Auburn, California where we picked up 3 ewe lambs from Rick Krach. Then it was on to Petaluma where we bought an adult ram that I named Jake from one breeder; and just down the road we picked up an adult ewe, a ram lamb and 2 wethers from Ed Christiansen. The following weekend, we drove from Winnemucca to Klamath River, California and purchased 3 adult ewes and a scrawny two month-old ewe lamb. So in two weekends, we had driven about 2,000 miles to purchase my starter flock.

All of our sheep that came from Auburn and Petaluma were being raised on grass and both Rick and Ed were also giving the sheep some grain as well. The sheep from Klamath River did not seem to have the ability to graze, so I am not sure just how this breeder managed her flock. However, in the high desert of Nevada, my sheep do not have the luxury of grazing on the grass. They are totally dependent on me for all of their food. When we moved to our property 10 years ago, there was nothing on the property but sage brush, tumbleweeds and cheat grass. Within a year, with the help of a drip system that J.C installed, trees and grass were planted and flourishing in our young yard. We get very little rainfall here. So if you want greenery around your home, you need a drip system which efficiently waters all the trees and shrubs. We also have a sprinkler system to water the lawn in our front yard.



This summer I culled heavily for wool. Now I have a total of 10 ewes, 3 that were born this spring. I have 3 rams. My oldest ram Zeke will be 2 years old in January; his son Indy was born March 2007; and Gambler was born May 2007. I acquired Gambler in August, when J.C. and I met Ed Christiansen on the Nevada/California border and we traded ram lambs. I also have 2 ram butcher lambs. I keep all my rams separate from my ewes unless they are being bred. Since most critters (including humans) really like a routine, I feed my critters twice a day. Feeding times are about 7:00 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. now that it gets dark by 5 p.m. I feed routinely 7 days a week. So about 7 a.m. each morning, I grain them. The girls get about 4.5 lbs. of grain split between the 10 ewes. Once a day I put garlic powder in their grain that I purchase from Allivet. We have used wheat, barley, triticale, sometimes rolled corn, and at one time, a dairy feed that even the steers really enjoyed. After the sheep finish their grain - which does not take very long - they are ready for their alfalfa hay.

Normally the ewes and rams are fed the same, but recently the rams have been switched to a wheat pellet with a bit of whole barley because I believe that my littlest ram, Gambler, is allergic to dust. J.C. has ground the wheat and barley and it is fairly dusty. Gambler was coughing during feeding time, but has since improved with the change in feed.



I don't name my ewes. However, the adult ewe I bought from Ed is called 507 to match her ear tag. Although she does not enjoy being petted, 507 is pretty friendly and will eat grain and nuts out of my hand. I also give the sheep goodies from the kitchen such as fruits, vegetables, tortillas, and chips that have become out of date. When 507 sees me with a bowl in my hand, she comes running to the feeder that she knows the goodies will be put in. She loves onions, lemons, tortilla chips, bananas, and rind from watermelon and cantaloupe. They also get potato, eggplant, lettuce, artichoke leaves, tomato, squash, cilantro and mushrooms. They

also like the pistachio shell or whatever else is being trimmed in the kitchen or has gone past its peak for us to eat. Watching 507 always brings a smile to my face whenever she runs to see what goodies she is going to get.



I used to free feed them a sheep mineral. But earlier this year, I read an article on using kelp. Once I started free-feeding the Thorvin Icelandic kelp, they no longer ate the other sheep mineral. At first, I could hardly keep the kelp in the feeder - especially with the ewes. Now they seem to require less, even though seven of them are pregnant. They also have a white salt block that is full of sheep lick dimples.



I open the gate periodically to the ewe pen to let them out to graze on the weeds and grass in our front yard and other fenced-in areas. We learned however, that we couldn't do this in the spring, because they eat all of the new growth on the trees and shrubs. They are like ping pong balls running from one plant to the next, especially if they think another has something better. They even eat the new growth on the pine trees! We also found they like to strip the bark of the smaller trees, so when they won't graze and just want to destroy plants, they get put back up. The rams of course use the trees to rub their horns on, so they don't get out in the front yard too often.



If we trim shrubs or trees, we throw that in their pen and let them strip everything until they are satisfied all the good stuff has been removed. Even our neighbor gave them a tree branch that was broken by the wind this summer. At the end of summer, we pull up the dying sunflowers and they eat just about the entire plant. So the end of summer brings a plethora of goodies for them: expired tomato plants, sunflowers, and other vegetable plants killed by the frost. When the girls do get to come out for awhile, they love the fallen leaves. They especially enjoy the willow leaves.

As you can see in the pictures, the country is pretty desolate without a water source. It is hard to believe that the cattle ranchers raise their cattle on this land. The area the ewes are in did have quite a few weeds and a lot of cheat grass. But as you can see, their field is now barren.



I have looked at several web sites of BBSAI members like Barb Lee and Mary Swindell whom I have been in contact with, and think how wonderful it would be to have all that green grass. It is so pretty in the pictures and the sheep seem so content. They also get to rest in the cool shade of large trees. How dreamy.....however, my sheep have adapted well to this climate and their arid conditions.

2008 BBSAI Membership Survey

The BBSAI Survey Committee, composed of American and Barbados Blackbelly breeders not currently holding office in the Association, is pleased to present the 2008 BBSAI Membership Survey. This survey will help the Assn. understand what is most important to members of the BBSAI. No official action will be taken based on the results, but the survey may reveal opportunities to create future programs and incentives to help breeders meet their personal goals.

Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary. Please answer as many questions as you wish, and skip any questions you do not wish to answer. Please return the survey by February 15, 2008 to Barb Lee, Survey Committee Chair, at the address below. The results of the survey will be published in the April, 2008 newsletter.

I. GENERAL FLOCK INFORMATION

The following questions are intended to reveal general trends in flock size and distribution. If the survey shows that flock size tends to be small, uniting breeders may broaden the opportunities for each breeder to locate other flocks with the genetics they are seeking, so as to realize their goals more quickly.

1. Which breed do you raise? (*Some questions will be more relevant to one breed or the other*)

_____ Barbados Blackbelly (Polled rams)
_____ American Blackbelly (Horned rams)

2. On average, how many breeding ewes do you keep? _____

3. On average, how many breeding rams do you keep? _____

4. Where are you located? (*This information will help to generate a map of flock distribution*)

City _____
State _____

5. How long have you been raising Blackbelly sheep? _____

6. What do you like best about Blackbelly sheep? (*Please include marketing assets*)

7. What do you like least about Blackbelly sheep? (*Please include marketing problems*)

8. Do you raise other breeds of sheep/livestock?
Yes _____ No _____

II. MARKETING PRIORITIES

This question is intended to obtain consensus on the markets that are of most importance to breeders. Answers may help establish where the breeds are heading and what the BBSAI should be focusing on for the future.

1. Please rank your top five breeding/marketing priorities, with "1" being your top priority (please select as many as are relevant to your operation.)

_____ Sale of Breeding Stock
_____ Breed Conservation
_____ Meat Production
_____ Sale of Herding Stock
_____ Sale of Game Ranch Stock (or game ranching)
_____ Pets/Hobby
_____ Biological weed control (commercial)
_____ Pasture Improvement
_____ Co-Species Grazing
_____ "Club" lambs (4-H/FFA)
_____ Other

III. ESTABLISHING VALUE OF INDIVIDUAL ANIMALS

An ongoing concern of many breeders is how best to establish the dollar value of their breeding stock, versus valuing slaughter stock. In fact, how best to enhance the value of breeding stock can be a concern. Please help us determine what breeders value most in their Blackbelly breeding stock. This information may some day be the basis for programs and incentives which will help breeders capitalize on the breed assets they value most to help build extra value into Blackbelly breeding animals.

1. Please choose your top five or more priorities for a breeding animal (#1 being highest priority)

- Registration Papers (pedigree)
- Adherence to BBSAI breed standards
- Secondary sex characteristics:
- Big horns on rams (American Blackbelly)
- Smooth poll on rams (lack of horns/scurs)
- Records maintained by breeder (verifying breeding suitability)
- Breeder reputation (when searching for replacements)
- Conformation – phenotype
- Conformation – meat type
- Conformation – foraging/free-ranging type (good legs, teeth, etc.)
- Coat quality (wool quantity/shedding)
- Mature size
- Scrapie resistance
- Family (pedigree) History of mothering ability (including lambing without assistance.)
- Family (pedigree) History of milking ability (demonstrated by lamb gains)
- Family (pedigree) History of multiple births
- Family (pedigree) History of out-of-season breeding
- Rams – scrotal circumference
- Verifiable parasite resistance
- Carcass/Meat quality and flavor
- Temperament
- Environment adaptation – heat/cold tolerance
- All of the above with the single most important indicated above.
- None of the above
- Other, please explain _____

What venues most influence the prices you set on your breeding stock?

- Value added by breeding for exceptional replacements
- Classified ads/what others are charging
- What the local market will bear
- Other, please explain _____

What obstacles stand in the way of meeting your personal goals for your breeding program?

- Difficulty obtaining value for high quality breeding stock.

- Difficulty obtaining value for slaughter stock sufficient to offset cost of raising.
- Difficulty finding the genetics that will enhance my breeding program (breeder isolation, etc.)
- Lack of personal time
- Lack of readily available info relevant to raising hair sheep
- Difficulty marketing finished product (breeding stock, meat, show lambs, pelts, etc.)
- Lack of qualified labor
- Insufficient return on investment
- Local ordinances
- Limited space/acreage

IV. YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE OF OUR BREEDS

We thank you once again for taking time to participate in our survey, and we hope that the results will someday be crafted into programs and incentives that benefit YOU our breeders! If you like, please take a moment to share your thoughts on the future of our breeds and offer suggestions on concerns that have not been addressed in the survey.

Please return the completed survey by 2-15-08 to:

*Barb Lee, Survey Committee Chair
18555 S. Lyons Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045-8611*

BBSAI Photo Contest!

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

An on-line photo album has been created especially for this contest. Be sure to visit regularly, as we will be posting all the photos as they are received. Just go to <http://www.picturetrail.com/gid18500930>.

Send in your photos today!

Contest guidelines:

1. All submissions become the property of BBSAI and may be used for in BBSAI publications without attribution.
2. Eligibility is limited to BBSAI members and photos should be taken by them. Please do not submit copyrighted photos without the written permission of the copyright owner.
3. Photos should be no more than five years old.
4. Regular photos should be a minimum of 4" x 6" and should not be mounted on cardstock, etc. Digital photos should be of highest possible resolution.
5. Submit photos via email to: lee@ccwebster.net Please, one photo per email. Include name of photographer, name of sheep, date of photo (approx) and any comments.
6. Submit regular photos to: Barb Lee, 18555 S. Lyons Rd., Oregon City, OR 97045-8611. Please attach name of photographer, name of sheep, date of photo (approx) and any comments to each photo.
7. Address inquiries to Barb Lee at above email, or 503-631-2862
8. Deadline for submission of photos: 11/1/08. Note: If you submit a photo but happen to take a better one before the deadline, we WILL exchange it. Please, only one exchange per category.
9. A total of two photos per category may be submitted by each BBSAI member.

Categories:

- a. Most Majestic Ram - Polled
- b. Most Majestic Ram - Horned
- c. Most Feminine Ewe - Polled or Horned

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

Judging Criteria:

Entries will be judged by a panel of impartial judges on clarity, content, composition and appeal.

Awards:

Two free registration certificates will be awarded to winners in each category. One free registration certificate will be awarded to a runner-up in each category. Winners, runners-up and honorable mention will be announced in the January 2009 newsletter. The photo contest album will remain available for viewing throughout 2008 and 2009.

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

BBSAI New Members

- Alan Clark, from Jonestown, Ohio
- Leslie Robinet, from Veneta, Oregon
- Sharon Martin-Holm, from Gladewater, Texas

We welcome you into our flock!

BBSAI Renewed Members

- Terry Wereb, from Painesville, Ohio

Thank you for staying with our flock!

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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Web mistress: Carol Elkins, webmistress@blackbellysheep.org

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. Mail your payment, making checks payable to: BBSAI, 815 Bell Hill Road, Cobden, Illinois 62920 USA.

BBSAI
815 Bell Hill Road
Cobden, IL62920