

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



## ***QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – APRIL, 2009***

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### **Message from our President**

Another quarter has passed, and another board meeting transpired. We are excited about some of our new goals for 2009, which are still under discussion. We are currently researching and developing a couple of new ideas that will really move the BBSAI forward in the recognition and acceptance of our sheep, and will assist membership in getting involved.

We are also very pleased to get the Youth/Adult Showing & Exhibiting Committee Chair appointed, so we can begin to see some activity in that area. This is a big forward motion for the

BBSAI, and we are very excited to see what ground we can make towards having our sheep recognized and appreciated in youth exhibitions and judging, and perhaps even adult showing. Thank you, Joan Eubanks, for undertaking such an important endeavor.

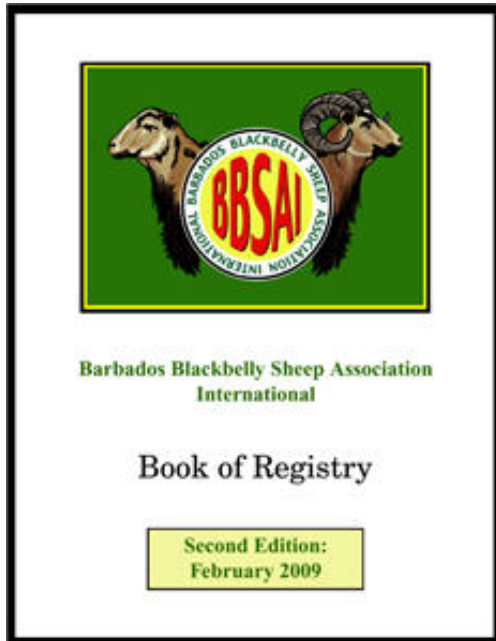
We will resume our tradition of featuring a board member spotlight in each newsletter. This helps you get to know your board members, put a face with a name, and learn what motivates them to serve in support of our association.

You will notice an interesting article in this newsletter that Mary Swindell submitted. Hopefully you will enjoy this addition, and realize that each of you have interesting little stories to tell about your farm and your sheep. I would like to be able to include one of these real-life stories and photographs in each newsletter. We all enjoy hearing funny things, or even tragic things, that occur on other breeders' farms. Please consider sharing your stories with all of us! It makes the newsletter so much more interesting, and it brings us closer as a group of dedicated breeders.

Sincerely,  
JoAnne Hamsher  
President



## Second Edition of the BBSAI *Book of Registry*



The Second Edition of the BBSAI Book of Registry is available for sale now! This new February 2009 edition of our Book of Registry lists all 1,675 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.

As with the First Edition of 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 with subsections for the AB and BB breeds, 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 website).

Like the earlier edition, the new February 2009 BBSAI Book of Registry is a wire-bound 8.5" x 11" document of approximately 80 pages, and is available for \$15.00. Please send orders for the BBSAI Book of Registry to BBSAI Registrar, 815 Bell Hill Road, Cobden, IL 62920. Please make checks payable to the BBSAI.

***Order your very own copy today!***

## Youth Showing and Exhibiting

### *Committee Needs Your Help!*

Calling all members with 4-H or FFA livestock showing experience, and also those members (and their children) who are interested in showing / exhibiting their Blackbelly sheep!

At the February 12th, 2009 Board Meeting, a new BBSAI committee was formed to "develop youth showing and exhibiting of Blackbelly sheep at regional fairs throughout the country." At the April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Board Meeting, Joan Eubanks was selected to chair this committee. Volunteers are needed to serve on this new committee.

One of the official purposes listed in the bylaws of our Association is to "Sponsor shows and sales and to involve our youth in every part of sheep production." Yet because there are usually no hair sheep showing categories at state and county fairs, and because judges have little or no experience with hair sheep breeds, it is often difficult or impossible to break into the showing and exhibiting world with Blackbelly sheep. Most showing continues to be limited to wool sheep breeds. So the new Youth Showing and Exhibiting Committee has been established to make inroads into the traditional showing and exhibiting world, to establish hair sheep categories for showing, to educate judges concerning hair sheep breeds, and to learn what we can do to expand opportunities for showing our Blackbelly sheep.

Would you like to be a part of this effort? Every opportunity to display and show our Blackbelly breed in public settings will add to the public awareness and education regarding these sheep.

Join the new Youth Showing and Exhibiting Committee now, and be a part of this groundbreaking effort!

If you can help, please contact Joan Eubanks, Committee Chair. [eubankacres@aol.com](mailto:eubankacres@aol.com)

## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By David Mansur

Hello to all BBSAI Members!

With our ever expanding geographical membership it seems impossible to place a name and a face together. I'm David Mansur, the current BBSAI secretary. I have a relatively small flock compared to many of the other board members, around two dozen, but my flock is also located very close to the heart of Houston, TX near the ship channel where land is hard to come by. I spent most of my life in Orange County, California; where today there is hardly an open acre for cash crops such as strawberries any longer. Nestled between beaches and ski resorts it's hard to understand why someone might leave that area until you get a good taste of clean air, virgin wilderness, and houses that don't sit so close that you're eating breakfast with the neighbor every morning.

My family and I moved to upstate New York for about two years and then moved once again here to the South. You might imagine the culture shock for us being that this part of the country is exceptionally different - not only culture but climate as well. Now that it's been five years, we think we may have started to grow into it a bit.

When we first arrived in Texas the climate was like nothing I had ever experienced. Weeds and mold are the predominant life forms as most of the rain falls in the summer when the heat is at its worst (Semi-tropical). When we may have once enjoyed the coolness of a fresh summer rain in any other part of the country, the rain only brings what can best be described as stifling and oppressive humidity; but the weeds and grasses thrive on it. After my first year of fighting the fact that nature was successfully seizing and reclaiming my work building, I started to look for ways to manage the company property without employing a full-time gardener and purchasing large equipment. I looked at the larger chemical companies to see what they did and noticed a variety of grazing animals.

During this same time I made friends through church with a couple who live closer to the more rural area of our county limits. On our various paintball excursions I was introduced to their many cattle, geese, chickens, Arabians, hog, and assorted dogs and cats, and last

but not least, the sheep. My only experience seeing sheep, not raising them, had been with wool breeds. Considering what the heat will do to a wool sheep with all that wool, it would seem a cruel person who first thought to bring sheep to East Texas. But the Blackbelly I was looking at seemingly enjoyed the sun and I saw them laying out mid-day in the dead of summer. With no grass or weeds in sight, I found my full-time gardeners and my project was quickly under way.

Several years later I have several acres of very well maintained land and was happy to join BBSAI. I now serve with a great group of gifted individuals who really love the breeds we all own and who all make me feel very welcome. At about this same time I started my own web site project which now seems to help many new Blackbelly shepherds get started. It's the basics, but since our breeds are very forgiving it has been good way to help start off a number of small farms/ranches in the southern states. Aside from that, the web site's been a very successful way to advertise and make contacts with smaller breeders who don't belong to our association.

I'd also highly encourage our membership to stay active in the association if you're able. We have a number of ways that you can contribute including submitting articles for this newsletter on subjects that others might find of interest, joining in on the BBSAI yahoo group to discuss and help others with their sheep questions, or you might considering running for a board member position and be apart of the planning activities. If you're interested in any of these things then please contact any of the board members. Any way you look at it, it's all good and our breed will benefit by your efforts.

David Mansur  
BBSAI Secretary



## BUSTER'S SECOND CHANCE

By Mary Swindell

Last month when my Barbados Blackbelly ewe Nuisance VSU had her triplet lambs, I worried right away about the smallest one. All three were beautiful – a big 6 pound boy and a 6.25 pound girl – and then a tiny 3.5 pound boy. Right away, the mother ewe Newsy rejected the tiny boy. He wasn't up to her standards. But he was so beautiful and so eager to live! Old Newsy and I had a talk, but it didn't do any good, she had made up her mind. She butted at him and wouldn't let him nurse. So I started the little runt lamb on a bottle.

Then I gave the Depolo family in Murphysboro a phone call. "Laura?" I said. "I know you and Dave did such a good job with your bottle lamb Daisy last year...do you think you might be interested in taking another one? He's a healthy boy, but just very small, and his mama has rejected him." "Laura said, "I'll talk to Dave and call you back." It didn't take them long to make up their minds. They came over the same afternoon, and took the tiny lamb home with them. "Do you need more bottles, more nipples", I asked? "No, we've got all that stuff", they chimed excitedly as they left. "Whatcha gonna call him?" I hollered as they drove away down the driveway.

Later, the phone call came. I was worried that it would be bad news. It was Laura. "Buster – I guess that's it – Buster", she said. I exhaled with relief. "I wanted 'Duke' but Dave won out. So it's Buster! He runs everywhere – he's like a speeding bullet, and we can't keep up with him! He likes Callie (the yellow Labrador). But Daisy (the yearling bottle lamb) hates him. We're feeding him with an eyedropper." I shuddered, but remembered that he was, in fact, very small. I told them to try to get about 4 ounces of milk down him at least 3 times per day, and to let me know if they were having trouble.

Laura said they had a neighbor who would help feed Buster at midday while Laura went to work.

In a few days, I got another phone call – again I held my breath when I realized it was Laura.



Had Buster died? Laura said, "Well, we can't get him to take the bottle and he's not getting much milk, and we cannot possibly leave him with the neighbor. We have to go to a wedding upstate this weekend, so we've just decided to take Buster with us to the wedding!" And I thought – ROAD TRIP!! Do they have a baby seat for this little guy? At the end of the weekend she called again to say that it was a very successful trip and that Buster stole the show and won everyone's hearts at the wedding. And he had definitely decided to take his bottle! Whew, that's a relief!

In a few more days Laura called again to say that Buster was doing great, drinking about 6 ounces of milk per feeding, and that he has bonded with Dave. The two are inseparable, and everyone at both Laura's and Dave's jobs have heard about Buster. She said Buster has gained weight and probably weighs about 5 pounds now. Buster is now the little clown of the family, running circles around everyone in the yard, jumping straight up into the air like Gerald McBoing-Boing, and of course being the prima donna of everything. And, just to make sure he has covered all his bases, Buster has been flirting with Daisy! He has tried to nurse from her, and rumor has it that Daisy likes it and apparently has



decided that he might make a good friend after all.



Buster and Daisy now live in the backyard greenhouse that Dave built for Daisy (I mean, for the whole family) last year. Daughter Lindsey (also an animal lover) has helped to welcome Buster into the household, and to document the whole thing on film for the rest of us.

Buster will soon have his lamb vaccinations and will be banded so that he'll remain a gentle and sweet wether lamb as he grows.



The Depolo family has generously agreed to share their photos of Buster and the family, so that other Blackbelly sheep breeders can smile at the wonderful second chance that Buster has been given in life with his adopted family. Thank you Depolo family, for adopting a Barbados Blackbelly bottle lamb!



## **BBSAI Board Votes Update**

(A summary of BBSAI Board of Directors voting issues since last newsletter)

**4/14/2009**

### **(Bi-monthly board meeting teleconference)**

Vote to establish the purpose of the Breed Standards Committee is to provide a better defining of the BB breed standards by clarifying the definitions and terms without too narrowly defining the breed standard or changing it. (8 yes, 1 abstain, 0 no). Passed.

Vote to approve the addition of Mary Swindell and Joan Eubanks to the Breed Standards Committee. Vote to increase committee size to 5. (8 yes, 1 abstain, 0 no). Passed.

Vote to establish a BBSAI sponsored Mentor Program. (8 yes, 1 abstain, 0 no). Passed.

Vote to accept Joan Eubanks as Chair, Youth/Adult Showing & Exhibiting Committee. (8 yes, 1 abstain, 0 no). Passed.

### **BBSAI New Members**

**Matt Blair** , February, 2009  
Watertown, Minnesota

*We welcome you into our flock!*

### **BBSAI Renewed Members**

**George & Sharon Adams** , February 2009  
Palestine, Texas  
**Terry Callahan** , February 2009  
Edgar Springs, Missouri

*Thank you for staying with our flock!*

## BBSAI 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 BBSAI Secretary at 3607 Scenic Valley Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345.

The Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International is a non-profit organization registered in the State of Missouri.

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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, 3607 Scenic Valley Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345.

BBSAI

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