

BARBADOS BLACKBELLY SHEEP ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – October, 2009

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President's Message

BBSAI Members:

In the coming weeks you will read many things about our upcoming annual meeting, and election of new board members. You will each receive a letter with information about how to attend the teleconference if you desire, and even add discussion topics to the agenda for the annual meeting.

In this issue you will read the biographies of those members who are running for the Board of Directors for 2010. Please take the time to get acquainted with the backgrounds, interests and involvements of each member running.

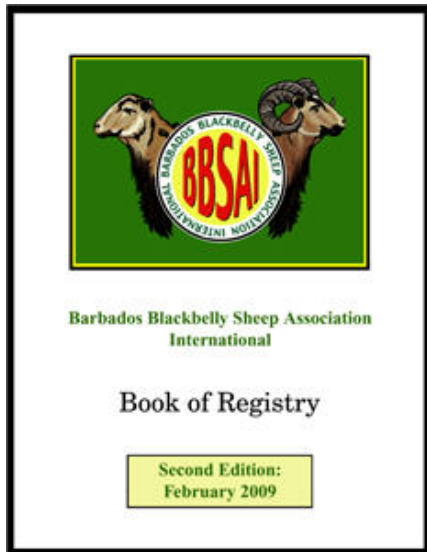
This has been a year of transition with the board, as new Directors learned new roles and took on some big jobs as Officers. In addition to the routine things, we also began work on a Mentor Program that will assist new breeders, and a Grant Program that may offer financial assistance for worthy projects such as showing lambs. But before we can begin to see our animals in shows, we have to develop awareness in this country through our Education Committee and Showing & Exhibiting Committee efforts. We are beginning to make some progress through that committee and the generosity of Joan Eubank. Good things are happening! We have made some strides.

If you have ideas or would like to see changes in a specific area, please let me know. We on the Board of Directors represent you, the membership. Let us know what you'd like to see. Let us know how you think we can improve. We look forward to your involvement! We really do need each of you to be an active part of the strategic direction of the association.



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 \$20.00. 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!

New Members	
Sid Atkinson	Spring Branch, Texas
Carrie Bourgeois	Schriever, Louisiana
Benjamin Broughton	Live Oak, Florida
Maggie Culver	Bulls Gap, Tennessee
Kevin DeLacey	Buffalo, Minnesota
Randall Harris	Pickens, South Carolina
William Richards	Morenci, Michigan
Patrick Roy	Ouyon, Quebec, Canada

BBSAI Renewed Members

We Thank YOU for staying with our flock!

- ✚ Orin Adams
- ✚ Sharon and George Adams
- ✚ Corinne Adkins
- ✚ Eldon and Cynthia Andersen
- ✚ Howard Arehart
- ✚ Claude and Lucille Bailles
- ✚ Matt Blair
- ✚ Lynn Buescher
- ✚ John Carlton
- ✚ E.J. Christiansen
- ✚ Lisa Clements
- ✚ Chad Dixon
- ✚ Maria Eaves
- ✚ Carol Elkins
- ✚ Joan Eubank
- ✚ Jeff Evans
- ✚ Mark and Barbara Fleming
- ✚ Patricia Freeman
- ✚ Dodie Green
- ✚ Shawna and Jack Gulick
- ✚ Elaine and Jerry Haas
- ✚ JoAnne Hamsher
- ✚ Lauris Hazlett
- ✚ Harold and Heather Herron
- ✚ Ken and Zhanna Holmes
- ✚ Renee Hoover
- ✚ Linda Huett
- ✚ Ronnie and Phyllis Huff
- ✚ Rudy and Shannon Kaplan
- ✚ Holly Kelley
- ✚ Lewis and Deborah Kiffer
- ✚ Gerald Krause
- ✚ Mike and Becky Lannon
- ✚ Ray Lewelling
- ✚ Lynn Magedson
- ✚ David Mansur
- ✚ Cathy and J.C. Mayton
- ✚ Mary Jo McClung
- ✚ Cheryl McLaughlin
- ✚ Bud and Marga Miller
- ✚ Donald Mills
- ✚ S.A. Napotnik
- ✚ Aurora Ortiz Enriquez
- ✚ Stephanie Parrish
- ✚ Vivian Robertson
- ✚ Maria Sans
- ✚ Tom Schmidt
- ✚ Patricia Schooley
- ✚ Dan Schuler
- ✚ Sarah Slachetka
- ✚ Sandra and Frank Smith
- ✚ Mark and Lin Storey
- ✚ Raymond Storey
- ✚ Susan Swartzfager
- ✚ Mary Swindell
- ✚ Nathan Teig
- ✚ Wendi Vance
- ✚ Gail Winnick
- ✚ Mark and Sharon Wintermute

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By Joan Eubank

2009 BBSAI Board Member

Hi BBSAI Members.

I am Joan Eubank. I am a member of the BBSAI Board and am the chairperson for the Youth Showing and Exhibiting Committee. I also serve on the Breed Standards Committee.



In 2003, my husband, Jack, and I moved from Los Angeles, California to 10 acres near Dunnellon, Florida. Dunnellon is a small town on the west coast of Central Florida. After building our own house, we got our first tax bill. WOW! We had to do something, so we bought pygmy goats and filed for an agriculture exemption. Twelve goats were called a hobby and we were turned down. A friend told us to get sheep. I didn't want all the work of sheering, so I checked into hair sheep. I was told about a lady in the area who had beautiful brown sheep that looked like deer. We bought some. With only six ewes and one ram, we qualified for our tax exemption. Great!

Now I needed to learn more about these Blackbelly sheep. I went on line and found the BBSAI. What a wonderful source of information. I discovered I had American Blackbelly sheep. I joined the BBSAI in 2007.

I saw a photo of Mary Swindell's ram, St Lucy. I really fell in love. I had to have one of

these hornless sheep. We drove to Illinois and purchased three ewe lambs and two ram lambs from Mary and brought them home to Florida. Three months later, coyotes took two of the ewes. I was devastated. We then bought two donkeys, adopted two Great Pyrenees, and put up electric fences. We are very well protected now. Our single ewe has been bred three times. She has produced four lambs by alternating rams. Her first ewe lamb has also produced a ewe lamb, so we are now on our way with Barbados Blackbelly.

I have shown dogs in the past and love going to animal shows at the fair. I wanted to know how to show sheep. I went to a FFA show last year and got excited. Last month I went to the local high school's FFA meeting and offered three ewe lambs and sponsorship to the students. I will pay for all the showing expenses and will get my lambs back at the end of the show. My three lambs will be shown next February. The BBSAI's FFA and 4H grant program has not been established yet so I feel the only way to understand the show process and to find out about the expense is to "just do it!"



I will be documenting each step of preparing for showing, showing, and contacting others who are showing our breed. I will present my findings to the BBSAI so we can help future FFA and 4H students by awarding grants. This will introduce the Blackbelly sheep to shows nationwide and promote our breed to the public.

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Board of Directors Candidates'

Biographies

JoAnne Hamsher: My husband John and I live on a small ranch in Royse City, Texas. I raise Barbados Blackbelly sheep, Texas Longhorn cattle, Boer Goats, chickens and Anatolian Shepherds as livestock guardians. I have been raising Barbados Blackbelly for three years, and am very committed to the conservation of this beautiful breed, as well as continuing to build a strong association committed to supporting breeders of both American and Barbados Blackbelly sheep. This year, I served as President of the Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International, I have been the newsletter editor for about two years, I am serving on the Exceptions Committee, helping to develop policies for registering undocumented sheep in various scenarios, and I have enthusiastically accepted a role on the new Education Committee. I believe I can continue to make a contribution if elected to the Board again this year.

Stephanie Parrish: Our adventure with Blackbelly sheep began in 2005 when we acquired 3 ewes from a neighbor who'd purchased them to train his herding dog, but the dog was afraid of this protective mother and her lambs. We later discovered these sheep were American Blackbelly. The endearing qualities and many positive attributes of these animals convinced us that we had found the right kind of sheep for our small, diversified family farm. We also raise Dexter cattle, American Guinea Hogs, and rare breeds of poultry. Because of our interest in rare breed conservation, we began raising Barbados Blackbelly in 2006. We continue to enjoy the beauty, hardiness, and easy care of these sheep as our flock has grown. My commitment to their survival prompted me to become involved with the BBSAI, first by helping to update our bylaws on the Bylaws Committee in 2007-2008, and then by working on the Breed Standards Committee, and as your Treasurer during the past year. As someone who has raised both American and Barbados Blackbelly and who understands that the strength of the BBSAI depends not only on the commitment but also the diversity of its membership, I have encouraged consideration of differing viewpoints when formulating policy. Just as a diverse genetic background helps to ensure survival of a breed, I believe that a diverse membership with multiple goals, strengths, and interests helps to ensure survival of an organization. There is plenty of room in this organization for all of us, and we need member input to grow so please contribute ideas and consider getting involved. If re-elected, I will continue to work to serve Blackbelly enthusiasts of all stripes so that both American and Barbados Blackbelly will have the opportunity to leap joyfully into a secure future.

Joan Eubank: My husband Jack and I live near Dunnellon, a small town on the west coast of Central Florida. I raise both the American Blackbelly and the Barbados Blackbelly. I also have Painted Desert sheep along with an assortment of other farm animals. I joined the BBSAI in 2007 and have been on the 2009 Board of Directors. I have served on the Breeds Standards Committee and chaired the Youth/Adult Showing/Exhibiting Committee. It has been my commitment to educate the public about both of our breeds through the FFA and 4H showing programs.

Jeff Evans: Hello, my name is Jeff Evans and I am a part time rancher and electronics engineer. We have been raising American Blackbelly sheep on our ranch near Auburn California in the Sierra foothills since 2002. We joined BBSAI in 2006 when we started getting more serious about commercial meat production. We also raise registered Limousin cattle for meat and are members of the NALF. Our focus has been on building a Blackbelly breeding flock large enough to sell animals for meat and breeding. We have over 50 AB's currently. Many of our neighbors raise Blackbelly sheep for meat but seem less concerned about breed standards and more concerned about keeping the grass cut and eating good meat. I am interested in serving on the BBSAI board to promote improved standards and genetics in both the AB and BB breeds.

Carol Elkins
I've been raising Barbados Blackbelly sheep for 13 years and have been involved with the BBSAI for almost all of that time. I've served on two boards of directors and have been the BBSAI Webmaster since 1998. In the intervening years, I've kept busy: Completed the original 2004 census that unveiled the critical state of the Barbados Blackbelly in the U.S. (fewer than 100 sheep at that time); Wrote the cookbook that has been BBSAI's main fundraising activity since 2004; Designed all of BBSAI marketing material, including its brochure, cookbook postcard, and tradeshow banner; Represented the BBSAI in presentations given at hair sheep symposiums in Texas and Virginia; Wrote several magazine articles to promote the BBSAI and Blackbelly sheep; Designed a poster for presentation in Australia's 2010 hair sheep symposium; Chaired the BBSAI Bylaws Committee in 2008; Chaired the BBSAI Breed Standards Committee in 2009; Chaired the BBSAI Exceptions Committee ongoing since 2008; Chaired the BBSAI Education Committee in 2009; Was appointed BBSAI Historian in 2009; Worked with the Webmaster at Oklahoma State University to include American Blackbelly on its list of hair sheep breeds; Created a presence for American Blackbelly and rewrote erroneous material about Barbados Blackbelly on the Internet Web site Wikipedia.com. From this one Web site, the BBSAI has achieved top ranking in all major search engines; Worked with the American Sheep Association to include American Blackbelly in the list of breeds represented in their Sheep Production Handbook; Work with Webmasters, publishers, researchers, and anyone else I can find to promote American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly sheep to help increase their exposure; For the past 10 years, I've hosted a public email group that has served as a valuable resource for over 350 Blackbelly breeders all over the world; In 2004, I founded the Consortium of Barbados Blackbelly Breeders, uniting the major U.S. breeders to work cooperatively toward genetic conservation of this very rare breed and to provide starter flocks of top-quality sheep for new breeders. I see a desperate need for board members who are willing to be actively involved with the BBSAI. I hope to continue the work I've been doing all these years; to excite other BBSAI members to get involved; and to continue promoting Blackbelly sheep and the BBSAI to the world via the BBSAI Web site.

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Moving American Blackbelly sheep from the Nevada high desert to NE Texas

By Cathy Mayton

I began my flock in the spring of 2006. In the spring of 2009, we closed our business, retired and moved from the high desert area of Winnemucca, Nevada to Pattonville Texas. We found our new home in Pattonville, which is just south of Paris and about 1.5 hours north east of Dallas/Fort Worth. We were moving 17 animals, 6 which were bred ewes due to lamb the 3rd week of July and into the first week of August.

April 2009

J.C. took the first load with his truck and flatbed trailer to the new home after we closed in April. He brought back some hay to acclimate the sheep to new hay. After J.C.'s return from that trip, we saw our local veterinarian, who drew blood on my 4 rams. Once cleared, he generated the health certificate allowing us to move the sheep from Nevada to Texas.

Making the move and summer lambing

I was on my way when J. C. called and told me that I had lost Rocky, one of my rams. So now were moving 16 sheep. I had no idea when we were going to move so I went ahead and bred 6 ewes for lambing to occur the last couple weeks of July or early August. When we arrived the first week of May, we just about drowned. It rained day after day. Then June and July were very hot and dry. The ewes were miserable through their final months of pregnancy in the heat and humidity. Around the 2nd week of July, I noticed that Molly and Sierra (twin sisters) were beginning to lose weight, but Molly at a faster rate. The other 4 ewes were miserable but doing well weight-wise. I put hay in the shed so that the ewes were not lying on the hard concrete and their water bucket was placed in the shed, as well.

I called Becky Lannon since she and Mike live in the Houston area and they are dealing with the same type of weather. Becky suggested giving Molly electrolyte solution such as *Gatorade*. I ended up purchasing electrolyte solution for infants rather than *Gatorade* since it contains high fructose corn syrup a food additive I avoid myself. I mixed some yogurt in the infant electrolyte and used a baster to give the solution to Molly. I spoke to a veterinarian in Virginia who thought what I was doing was good, but she suggested putting a fan in the shed. She also suggested taking out the hay as it conducts heat. She also suggested using *Bounce Back* (a product of Manno Pro), and Safe Guard (wormer for goats) with a dosage doubled. On 23 July, Sierra gave birth to twin ewe lambs that weighed 5.75 and 6.0 lbs at 24 hours old. The other ewes followed days after with their lambing.

Molly on deaths door

Everyday I held vigil with Molly not knowing her due date or whether she would even live. She was so weak it was all she could do to get up off the ground. I added Demerara cane sugar to her electrolyte solution to try increasing her energy level. I stayed out late with her in the shed on the 29th of July. She was very weak but continued to somehow survive.

Stormy day

On the 30th of July it was very stormy, but I went out every couple hours to check on Molly. I went out a little after 2 pm to check on the other ewes and noticed a small lamb outside the shed where Molly and Sierra were. I went into the paddock and picked up this tiny still partially wet lamb. In the shed, Molly was in the corner with another tiny lamb. She had given birth to twin ram lambs. I got towel dried the 2nd very fragile lamb and gave Molly more solution. Molly did not have one drop of milk to give her tiny lambs as she was barely alive herself. I was not able to get milk from the other ewes, so I fed these tiny lambs the Premiere 1 lamb milk replacer with colostrum. I weighed the lambs the next day and they were 4 and 5 lbs. The lambs were thin and had very little muscle in the hind limbs. The smallest lamb's hind legs would splay underneath him sending him to the ground. I was not sure he was going to make it. Since the lambs were so tiny and fragile they needed strong names. Since they were born on a day of thunder and lightning, they were named *Thor* and *Zeus*.

Day 1

Molly was very weak, but I continued to give her the electrolyte with the cane sugar. My husband J.C. suggested adding the lamb milk replacer as she probably needed more fat intake. The feed store suggested rice bran, so recommended MoorGlo - a product for horses. The rice bran came either as small pellets or flakes, but I purchased the pellets. I would soak and add a small amount of the pellets to the electrolyte/lamb replacer solution. She tolerated me giving her the solution twice a day via the baster. I continued giving Molly the solution with the rice bran, although one night, I must have added too much rice bran. Molly had diarrhea so loose it was pouring from her, so I did not give her any that day hoping to calm down her intestines. The next morning, she was nibbling on grass.....a good sign.

Weeks 2, 3

Molly continued to make slow progress. She was nibbling on grass but was not much interested in grain. Molly was now grazing pretty well and began to push her head into the grain bucket.

Week 4

Day by day, Molly is getting stronger, grazing well and eating her grain too. She runs from me now thinking I want to catch her.....a great sign!!

Moving American Blackbelly sheep from the Nevada high desert to NE Texas **(Continued)**

The lambs are getting stronger and they now follow me down to the sheep pens, which is about 350 feet from the house. A big walk for little Zeus who's legs are getting stronger all the time.

Week 5

Molly is doing really well, eagerly eating her grain and being an aunt to Sierra's twin ewes. The condition of her hair still looks bad but she is putting on weight and runs easily now. The boys now will take long walks around the property, and are getting more independent.

At week 6, Molly is progressing nicely and doing great. Sierra is raising two very fat and sassy ewe lambs. Sierra can use more weight as well but that will probably come after I wean the lambs. At the time of article submission, Molly is steadily gaining weight and her hair is looking really good now that she is shedding. In addition, she grazes well and eats her grain. Thor and Zeus are growing at a steady pace, so all is well.



Lamb weights:

Week 1 - Thor	6 lb	Zeus	5 lb
Week 2 - Thor	8 lb	Zeus	6 lb
Week 3 - Thor	10 lb	Zeus	8 lb
Week 4 - Thor	14 lb	Zeus	10 lb
Week 5 - Thor	16 lb	Zeus	12 lb
Week 6 - Thor	17 lb	Zeus	14 lb

I don't know why - out of all the sheep moved - Molly and Sierra lost weight. The factors that must have contributed are: sheep were now grazing on grass, drinking pond water, dealing with the heat and humidity, or maybe a worm bloom after all the rain, since goats were in the pens before.

I will keep you posted on the progress of mom and lambs.

Cathy Mayton

Leap N' Lambs

crystalwolf@windstream.net

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BBSAI Board Votes Update	
(A summary of BBSAI Board of Directors voting issues since last newsletter)	
<p>08/06/09</p> <p>At Bi-Monthly Board Meeting teleconference</p>	<p>Vote to approve change in BBSAI bylaws (subject to later approval of the general membership at the 2009 Annual Meeting vote), changing Article VI, Section D, Composition and Election of Board, Item 1, from "<i>The number of Directors shall be five.</i>" to "<i>The number of Directors shall be not less than five, and not more than nine.</i>" 08/06/09. (8 yes, 0 abstain, 0 no). Passed.</p> <p>Vote to approve renewal of the BBSAI's Business Card Advertisement in the ALBC Bi-Monthly Newsletter for the July 2009 - July 2010 period, at cost of \$172.80 per year. At Bi-Monthly Board Meeting teleconference 08/06/09. (8 yes, 0 abstain, 0 no). Passed.</p>
<p>09/21/09</p> <p>Voted via e-mail on BBSAI Board Yahoo group</p>	<p>Vote to replace Photograph Policy #2 (approved by Board 06/16/09) with the new Photograph Policy #2, which states: <i>When necessary for the purposes of promoting the BBSAI in print or online, the Board may allow a designated individual to review photos submitted by members as part of their registration packet. If a photo is chosen for inclusion in such a promotional vehicle, permission for use must be obtained from the person holding copyright to the photo. When possible, attribution shall be given to the copyright holder and to the BBSAI.</i> (7 yes, 1 abstain, 1 no). Passed. Note: <i>This policy will be added to the BBSAI Standing Rules.</i></p> <p>Vote to replace Photograph Policy #3 (approved by Board 06/16/09) with the new Photograph Policy #3, which states: <i>Photographs submitted to the BBSAI as part of a photo contest or otherwise made voluntarily may be used by the BBSAI without incurring royalty fees and without obtaining photographer's permission. Copyright shall be retained by photographer and photos will not be returned. When possible, attribution shall be given to the copyright holder and to the BBSAI.</i> (7 yes, 1 abstain, 1 no). Passed. Note: <i>This policy will be added to the BBSAI Standing Rules.</i></p>

Ram Shields

By David Mansur

About six months ago, I was browsing the web and came across something I thought many of you might find interesting and useful - Ram Shields. A ram shield (as you can see from the pictures) is really nothing more than either a sturdy piece of leather or ridged cloth strapped to the face of either a polled or a horned ram. This nifty little attachment prevents the ram from seeing straight ahead once he lowers his head to butt or ram objects. Since he can't see, he either forgets what he's mad about (low I.Q. sheep) or he's simply afraid of getting hurt by making poor contact. But even though the ram can't see forward, the shield allows the ram to easily see down and to the sides. Once they learn to work with it you may even notice the ram lifting his head high in the air just to look across the pasture. At this point some I hope some of you might already be saying to yourself, "Hey, I'm tired of that ram hitting me all the time" or "I'm tired of my gate looking like a pretzel." Well, if that's the case then this might be just the gadget for you to try out.

In truth, I was somewhat skeptical of the shields at first. But since one of my rams has recently been picking up the habit of attack my gates, barn, and wood-slat paddock area just for fun, I decided to give these a try - since they're cheaper than all the repairs I've had to do. This last month, I'm just finished with breeding for very early spring lambs. My last batch of weaned lambs is ready for the move back to the flock, and it's time to pull the rams into their own pasture for the winter. This is the best opportunity I have.

I ordered two shields (one for each large ram). Admittedly it was a bit tricky to attach these at first. The quick snaps were easy enough but a 2 year old ram can put up a pretty good fight, especially when you're putting something over his face and horns. Each of my rams is a different size, and adjusting the straps on-the-fly was much harder than initially slipping it on (which also wasn't too exciting). I had two issues with the fitting. Once I tightened the muzzle too tightly, choking the ram as if he had swallowed too much feed; and once, the muzzle was too loose, allowing the ram to free himself twice by slipping it over his muzzle before I realized what was wrong. Keep these problems in mind and remember to keep the ram/s in a confined

area for a few hours for observation so you can catch them quickly for adjustments if needed.

After fitting both rams, I rounded up my newly weaned 5-6 mo. old ram lambs and the two lead rams. I threw them all together in the same pasture. As expected, the two rams saw each other and advanced, but then stopped short, nudged each other a bit like two boys punching each other in the arm. The rest was simply too boring to watch. That was it. No excitement! No worries! No problems!

I found the shields with a simple internet search using "Ram Shields" as key words and browsing through the various sites. I found them imported from several countries as well as the U.S. made, and for a very broad price range from around \$17 - \$50 each (including shipping). I'd suggest you look around for the less expensive shields made of leather and sturdy nylon quick-disconnect strap. If you find a manufacturer with large and small sizes, I found that the small size worked for standard American Blackbelly. A full set of instructions should come with the shield, but please remember that you'll need a shield for EACH ram in the same pasture. If you don't do this then you're putting one ram at a serious disadvantage and risk.



David Mansur
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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:

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April Issue – March 15

July Issue – June 15

October Issue – September 15

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

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, 3607 Scenic Valley Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345.

BBSAI
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