

BARBADOS BLACKBELLY SHEEP ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER –January, 2010

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President's Message

BBSAI Members:

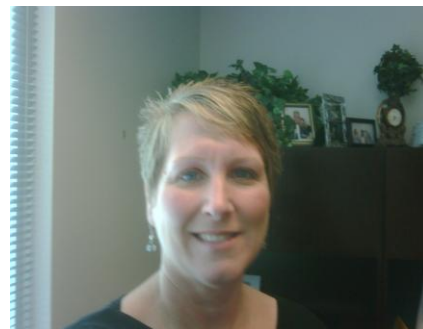
It looks like I will be here, as President, another year! I am proud to honor these amazing sheep through dedication and hard work for you fellow breeders and this association.

Other dedicated individuals who will serve on the board and as officers this year are Jeff Evans, Stephanie Parrish, Joan Eubank, and Carol Elkins. Stephanie will serve again as Treasurer, offering continuity in our financial obligations and budget control. Joan has stepped up to a new role as Vice President this year, and Carol Elkins serves for the first time as Secretary. I hope you will offer

support and encouragement, as these are often roles with a heavy work load.

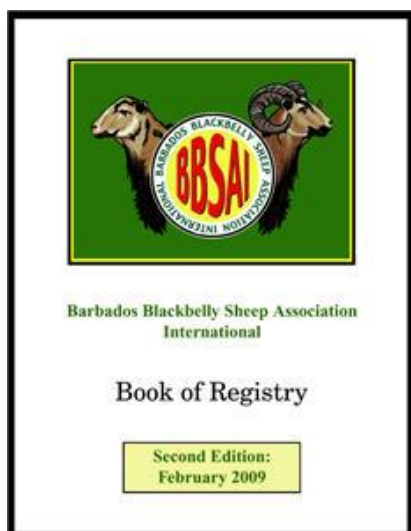
We have established some nice goals for 2010, and hopefully we will be able to move forward with growing this breeders association, increased marketing and educating the public about the breed. We expect to expand the participation of the American Blackbelly breeders this year also, as this Association needs strong commitment from both breeder groups.

As we call for participation on various committees, I hope that you will come forward and volunteer your time and talents. This association will only thrive with active participation from its membership. Some roles are longer-term, but others are short-term and will not consume a burdensome amount of time. You in the membership are needed. Consider how you might get involved in 2010.



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!

BBSAI Renewed Members

We Thank YOU for staying with our flock!

-  James Beam – Harrah, Texas
-  Jerry Tadlock – Whitewright, Texas

BBSAI Board Votes Update

12/1/2009 At Bi-Monthly Board Meeting teleconference	Vote to approve advertisements in 11 publications for 2010, at a total cost of \$1,894.80. Per detailed advertising chart submitted and discussed at monthly board meeting teleconference. Decision was to advertise in many more publications than we've been currently in to increase our visibility. (8 yes, 0 abstain, 0 no). Passed.
1/19/2010 At Bi-Monthly Board Meeting teleconference	Vote to approve JoAnne Hamsher as President of BBSAI Board of Directors for 2010. (5 yes, 0 abstain, 0 no). Passed.
	Vote to approve Stephanie Parrish as Treasurer of BBSAI Board of Directors for 2010. (5 yes, 0 abstain, 0 no). Passed.
	Vote to approve Joan Eubank as Vice President of BBSAI Board of Directors for 2010. (5 yes, 0 abstain, 0 no). Passed.
	Vote to approve Carol Elkins as Secretary of BBSAI Board of Directors for 2010. (5 yes, 0 abstain, 0 no). Passed.
	Vote to approve Mary Swindell as Registrar of BBSAI for 2010. (5 yes, 0 abstain, 0 no). Passed.
	Vote to approve Carol Elkins as Web-mistress and Historian of BBSAI for 2010. (5 yes, 0 abstain, 0 no). Passed.
	Vote to approve JoAnne Hamsher as Newsletter Editor of BBSAI for 2010. (5 yes, 0 abstain, 0 no). Passed.

BBSAI NEW Members

We Thank YOU for joining our flock!

-  Tempest Donnelly - Mead, Colorado
-  Marc Even - St. Petersburg, Florida

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS

Annual Ballot Count

Board Members

JoAnne Hamsher – votes: 30

Carol Elkins – votes: 29

Joan Eubank – votes: 29

Stephanie Parrish – votes: 28

Jeff Evans – votes: 26

Proposed Revision to Bylaws

It was proposed to revise the BBSAI Bylaws, Article VI, Section D, Composition and Election of Board, Item 1, from “The number of Directors shall be five” to “The number of Directors shall be not less than five, and not more than nine.”

This proposal was approved by the BBSAI Board of Directors on August 6, 2009. It was submitted to the voting membership of the BBSAI for approval. The percentage of approvals necessary to approve this revision to the Bylaws is a majority (50% plus 1) of those voting.

Approved

Votes: 29 approve, 1 disapprove



Photo submitted by Tempest Donnelly



Photo submitted by Tempest Donnelly

Board Announcement:

We will be sending out a special ballot for vote by member breeders of Barbados Blackbelly. This vote will involve the newly revised Breed Standards developed by the Breed Standards Committee. Look for this important ballot in your mailbox soon!

Sheep Newsletter



Out Of Season Gene Is Discovered in Sheep

Dr. J.D. Bobb

Just as many sheep producers have discovered the value associated with testing their sheep for Scrapie resistance using Codon testing, now researchers at Cornell have discovered the gene that codes for out of season breeding. The discovery of the M allele indicates the ability to breed out of season, the M stands for a receptor for melatonin.

Melatonin is a hormone released by the pineal gland (found at the base of the brain) in response to darkness. This is the hormone responsible for seasonal breeding, due to the fact that in the spring and summer when days are long, the ewe releases very little melatonin, and in the fall as days get shorter and the nights are longer, the ewe releases more melatonin. Australia has had access to a melatonin product for years that can be used to make the ewes behave like fall breeding, and many researchers have experimented using a darkened barn for 16 hours a day over 6 to 8 weeks to make ewes come into estrus.

The identification of this gene by researcher, Raluca Mateescu, may be a first step into an answer for one of the major limiting factors in year around lamb production. If we can identify this gene and correlate its presence with the ability of a ewe to breed year around and select for this trait in a large population of sheep it would have an enormous economic impact in the sheep industry. We have always known that there are breeds as well as family lines that tend to breed more readily out of season, perhaps now we can use the M allele to help identify the presence of this gene.

There are perhaps many genes controlling the ability to breed out of season, but this is the first and perhaps the break through research that will lead to more genetic answers. It is very exciting to think that in the future we can select for sheep that will lamb year around based on their genetic makeup and not have to rely on the use of synchronization products.

Due to the diverse circumstances that sheep are raised under the ability to breed and lamb without the seasonal restrictions would level the marketing and production of the sheep industry. Mateescu is now at Oklahoma State University and is continuing his research in this area.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By Jeff Evans

2010 BBSAI Board Member

Hi BBSAI Members.

Greetings from the Sierra Foothills in Northern California! I'm Jeff Evans, and I have served on the Board of Directors since 2007. We live in Meadow Vista which is located above Auburn at an elevation of about 1,800 feet in the Bear River Canyon in the heart of the gold country amongst oaks and pines.

I grew up in the San Francisco bay area in San Jose but my mother's family lived in Rexburg, Idaho. As a child I spent many weeks and a few summers at my grandparent's 300 acre farm. They grew potatoes, alfalfa, and raised dairy cattle, horses, pigs and chickens. They also had a huge summer vegetable garden each year. I always envied their lifestyle and loved the rodeos and country fairs they took me to. As a toddler I once rode a pig and later several horses.

After graduating from high school, I followed a dream and moved to Portland, Oregon to work for a company making rail cars and oil tankers. I worked as a warehouseman for one year to gain state residency so that I could afford to attend college at the University of Oregon in Eugene. In 1981, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics and returned to California to find a job as an engineer. For the next 20 years, I worked in the Silicon Valley for various companies as an electronic engineer.

In 2002, I was offered an opportunity to work in Roseville near Sacramento and we moved to the Sierra Foothills. We purchased a 4.3 acre mini-ranch that came ready-made with a flock of ten black bellied sheep grooming the grass and protecting against wildfire. We couldn't get near any of them they were so wild and high strung. At times I think I saw them fly as they went bounding down the hill away. Over the next few years we learned how prolific the breed was as well as how cruel living in a rural setting can be. We lost many young lambs and a few adult ewes and even a large ram to overnight coyote attacks and finally a mountain lion. Meanwhile, I secured the property with improved fencing and we bought some cattle. The sheep and the cattle got along instantly and the attacks stopped. There is something threatening about a 2,000 lb steer or bull snorting at you. Over the years the sheep became spoiled with alfalfa, corn, salt and molasses. They would eat, sleep, and graze with the cattle. We have also raised some pigs and have always had chickens and cats.

Our flock exploded from a dozen or so sheep to 30 and then 50 animals in a few short years. We were getting ten and then twenty new born lambs each winter. I started thinking about selling them. We took some to the livestock auction in Roseville and they sold quickly as *Barbados* after all the other sheep and goats. I began to wonder if there was an association dealing with these black bellied sheep. The previous owner had told me they were *Barbados* sheep so I started searching online and found the BBSAI. After reading much of the online content I became impressed with the association and its goals and decided to join.



Within the first year as a member I was contacted about the opportunity to serve on the board. Over the last three years I have learned a lot about the breed and had an opportunity to contribute towards protecting it, as well as a chance to interact with other breeders in the association. I am looking forward to 2010 as being especially bright as breed expert Carol Elkins joins the board and more resources are devoted to promoting the BBSAI with community outreach efforts. The board strives to represent all of its membership and needs your input and support, so please feel free to contact me regarding any issue, concern or suggestion.

Best wishes,
Jeff Evans
Director

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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:

January Issue – December 15 April Issue – March 15
July Issue – June 15 October Issue – September 15

Please send changes of address to BBSAI at 4756 County Road 2656, Royse City, TX 75189.

BBSAI Officers:

JoAnne Hamsher, President, joanne@lazylamb.biz
Carol Elkins, Secretary, celkins@criterhaven.biz
Joan Eubank, Vice President, eubankacres@aol.com
Stephanie Parrish, Treasurer, birdherd@wildblue.net

Directors:

Jeff Evans, jeffe23@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: JoAnne Hamsher, joanne@lazylamb.biz

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

Web mistress: Carol Elkins, webmistress@blackbellysheep.org

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 are available in the following sizes: 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, 4756 County Road 2656, Royse City, TX 75189.

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