

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



## ***QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – July, 2010***

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### **BBSAI Announces New Youth Grant Program**

By Joan Eubank

Fairs are exciting times for the 4-H and FFA students. Their family and friends are there to watch and cheer them on as they present their animals to the judges. But getting to this point will take many, many months of hard work. One of the BBSAI's missions is to help our youth to become involved in every aspect of sheep production. One way we can accomplish this is by helping students acquire and show blackbelly sheep in their local fairs. To this end, the BBSAI has developed a new 4-H/FFA Youth Grant and Mentor Program.

Every breed of animal comes with its own show challenges. Just try to get a chicken to stand still on a table while a stranger looks it over. Or move a full-grown steer around a ring filled with other unfamiliar steers. Or move a fleet-footed pig by tapping its sides with a stick. And blackbelly sheep--well, we all raise 'em and we know that unless they've been bottle fed, they can be pretty flighty. A student who decides to enter a blackbelly lamb in a show will need support from parents and teachers and most importantly from those of us who raise the breed and know how to properly care for and handle these wily critters.

#### **I'm a breeder--How can I help?**

Be a mentor. All it will cost you is a little time. Every year, the BBSAI will award \$400 to the student who writes the best essay about their sheep and how they plan to show and promote the American Blackbelly or

Barbados Blackbelly breed. But to compete for that \$400, the student must first team up with a BBSAI member who will be their mentor. The mentor will help them submit their grant application and, if they win, will help them locate a registered American Blackbelly or Barbados Blackbelly lamb to raise for the show. The mentor will work with local 4-H and FFA groups and county and state fair boards to develop show categories for hair sheep breeds and will help students raise and show their sheep at these fairs. The \$400 prize will be used to purchase a registered American Blackbelly or Barbados Blackbelly lamb and for entry fees and feeding and caring for the lamb.

If you know a student who would be interested in applying for the grant, please consider being a mentor and helping instill in that young person the same passion for blackbelly sheep that you have. The Grant Application and Mentor Agreement are available on the BBSAI Web site at <http://www.blackbellysheep.org>. All applications must be submitted by a BBSAI Mentor to the 4-H/FFA Youth Grant Program Chairman by September 15, 2010. The winner will be chosen by October 6, 2010, and announced in the BBSAI newsletter. The 4-H/FFA Youth Grant Program Chairman will personally contact the winning student and the student's mentor.

<b>BBSAI Board Votes</b>	
4/27/2010	Vote to allot \$400 of the BBSAI Annual Budget toward funding the BBSAI 4-H/FFA Youth Grant for 2010 (4 yes, 0 no) <b>Passed.</b>
	Vote to make the BBSAI newsletter available ONLY as a download from our Web site and to announce its availability via an email that contains a link to the file. The newsletter will no longer be provided to anyone in hardcopy format. (4 yes 0 no) <b>Passed.</b>
5/5/2010	Vote to approve the new policy entitled "Visio-Exceptions Committee Policy - Too Few for a Flock.pdf" that was submitted to the Board on 4/30/2010 by Exceptions Committee Chair Carol Elkins. (4 yes 0 no) <b>Passed</b>
5/17/2010	Vote to accept the Exceptions Committee's proposed change to the Progeny Testing Policy to enable a breeder who is required to conduct progeny testing on a candidate sheep to breed that sheep to either a registered or unregistered Barbados Blackbelly sheep, as determined by the Exceptions Committee. (3 yes 0 no) <b>Passed</b>
5/25/2010	Registrar should send photographs of questionable sheep to the board for determination of registerability. (4 yes, 0 no) <b>Passed</b>
	If board determines the sheep ineligible for registration, an automatic refund of registration fees will be made, as well as an explanation of rejection to the association member. (4 yes 0 no) <b>Passed</b>
	If a member requests to withdraw candidate sheep from the Exceptions Committee Process, refund will be made for the registration fees associated with the Exceptions Committee application. (4 yes 0 no) <b>Passed</b>

**Blackbelly Sheep Exhibitors Wanted at the  
Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis, IN  
COUNTRY LIFESTYLE EXPERIENCE  
September 10-12, 2010**

For information, see  
<http://www.equinepromotions.net/cle>

**NEW BBSAI Members**  
*We THANK YOU for joining our flock!*

Colter Lanier	WY
David and Russell Freeman	LA
Garth and Florence Millard	ID
Gary Thorn	NH
James Hull	NY
Jim Mann	TX
Michelle Kirby and Mary Gibbins	TX
Roman Miller	VA
Tony Kolodgy	TX

## Classified Ads Sell Sheep!

Some smart BBSAI members are selling a lot of sheep these days. Why? Because they're posting For Sale ads on BBSAI's Classified page at

<http://blackbellysheep.org/classified.html>

BBSAI member Bud Miller advertised his 15 sheep on the Classified page in June. He wrote to say: "We sold all our lambs, thanks largely to our ad on your website. Thank you."

For Sale ads are a member "perk," and only members can post them. However, anyone in the world can post a Want ad on BBSAI's site. It's one of the ways that the BBSAI creates business opportunities for its members. For instance, today there were 15 Want ads. Imagine...15 people desperately wanting to buy blackbelly sheep.

### **You can sell sheep if you watch those Classified ads!**

We make it easy to track the ads. There's a sign-up service right there on the Classifieds page that will email you every time a new ad is posted. You don't have to remember to check the Web site—it reminds you!

Are you taking advantage of this free Classifieds service? Let us help you sell sheep. That's one of the reasons you belong to the BBSAI.

## ALBC Census Data

Every year or two, the BBSAI submits to the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC) the number of registered sheep, broken down by breed and gender. The ALBC uses these data to help determine the status of the breeds on its Conservation Priority List. In 2004, the Barbados Blackbelly sheep breed was listed as "Watched." In 2008 the breed was elevated to the status of "Recovering." (You can learn more about the criteria for each category at [http://albc-usa.org/documents/CPL\\_Livestock2010.pdf](http://albc-usa.org/documents/CPL_Livestock2010.pdf).)

Registrar Mary Swindell compiled the 2010 census data for the ALBC, shown in **Table 1**.

Mary compared the 2009 data with data from an earlier census taken in 2007. Here are some observations she would like BBSAI members to think about.

1. Total living registered animals have increased by over 300 animals. However, the total living registered BB animals have doubled, whereas the total living registered AB animals have not increased at all.

2. Ratio of females to males being registered is dropping slightly, from roughly 3:1 in 2007 to roughly 2:1 in 2009.

3. Ratio of AB sheep to BB sheep being registered has reversed since 2007. In 2007, 62% of registrations were AB and 38% of registrations were BB. In 2009, 60% of registrations were BB and only 40% of registrations were AB.

**Conclusion: Over this 2-year period (from 2007 to 2009), the number and proportion of AB registrations has declined, and the number and proportion of BB registrations has increased.**

Breed	Year	Annual Registration Numbers	Intact Purebred Males	Purebred Females	Total Living Population Inside the US
American Blackbelly (horned)	2009	80	28	52	811
Barbados Blackbelly (polled)	2009	122	40	82	700
Total (American Blackbelly plus Barbados Blackbelly)	2009	202	68	134	1511

## Livestock Swap and Youth Grant Fundraiser

By Joan Eubank, Show Committee Chairman

I work at Tractor Supply, a farm and feed store, and am associated with a group called The Backyard Chickens. The Backyard Chicken group holds monthly chicken swaps at a different member's farm each month. One of the members asked if my boss would let them have a swap in the Tractor Supply parking lot. With "Livestock Swaps" being the latest trend, of course he said yes. I organized the swap by making flyers, talking to the customers and going to the local newspaper.

The newspaper announced the swap on the front page. It was advertised on the Backyard Chicken Web site and other local websites. The June 26<sup>th</sup> swap had a huge turnout (over 1500 people) and featured not only chickens but horses, cows, pigs, geese, turkeys, and more.

The store manager provided gift cards and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbons for the best presentation. He also gave me a small air compressor to raffle for a fund raiser. After contacting the BBSAI Board for advice and approval, I chose to use the raffle donations to provide a local BBSAI Youth Grant. This grant will be in addition to the nationwide grant that the board has already established. I set up the same display that I did at the Youth Fair (see page 6), and I was able to raise \$68.00! Another Tractor Supply in our district plans to have a livestock swap and I'll be there with my raffle tickets to raise more money for the BBSAI grant.

If you want to raise money to provide an additional BBSAI Youth Grant for your local youth, think about doing some kind of display and fund raiser at your local swaps. Contact one of the BBSAI board members with your ideas.

### Is Our Advertising Working for You?

BBSAI advertised in 13 different publications this year, drawing readers to the Breeders Directory to help you sell your sheep. We advertised in

- ALBC Breeders Directory
- ALBC Newsletter
- Countryside Magazine
- Hobby Farms Magazine
- Hobby Farms special hair sheep issue
- Sheep! Magazine
- Sheep Industry News
- Shepherd Magazine
- Small Farmers Journal
- Stockman Grass Farmer
- Small Farm Today

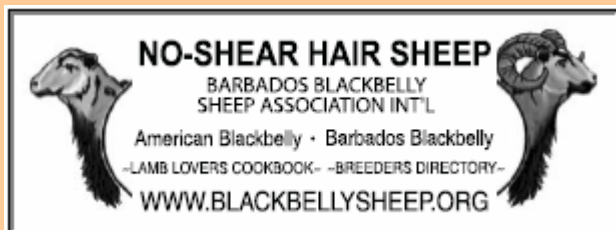
**Is it working?**

***Ask your customers where they heard about you.***

**Let us know.**

If you'd like us to advertise in a specific magazine, just email us at

**advertising@blackbellysheep.org**



## Board Member Profile

Hi all,

My name is **Stephanie Parrish** and I'm the BBSAI treasurer. I have been involved with the BBSAI for about 5 years, first as simply a breeder/producer of Barbados Blackbelly sheep and more recently as a member of the Bylaws and Breed Standards Committees. One thing led to another and I eventually was asked if I'd like to run for office. I became Treasurer in 2009.

I'm a 1983 graduate of the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. After spending many years working as a veterinarian in large and small animal private practice and in industry, I was finally able to fulfill my lifelong dream of owning a small farm. I still work as a veterinarian in small animal practice and farm in my "spare" time. My husband, son, and I started our initial farm in Frederick, MD, but urban expansion encroached, so we moved to western South Carolina. In addition to Barbados Blackbellies, we raise other heritage breeds including Dexter cattle, and American Guinea Hogs. We also have Araucana and Dominique chickens that we keep for egg production as well as guinea fowl to help with bug control and provide comic relief. Our livestock is protected by guardian dogs; we have four Maremmas in the various sheep pastures and a Great Pyrenees that runs the perimeter. The fun doesn't stop there though. We

have at least four pet dogs at last count and several neighborhood dogs that hang around, a couple of barn cats and a couple of house cats, four parrots, two rats and a tank full of fish. So, like many of you who also work full time while managing a small farm, when we're not working, we're working!

While we are not certified organic, we try to use natural and chemical-free methods of keeping the stock healthy. As the Southeastern US has the perfect climate for intestinal worms, this has been a challenge of late. BBSAI President, JoAnne Hamsher, recently introduced us to the concept of using an environmentally safe household soap product (Basic H by Shaklee) as a dewormer. After three months of use, it appears to be working in the midst of worm season! Here is a photo of me drinking from the trough to see if the treated water tastes "off". I think it tastes great. The dogs aren't so sure...







**BBSAI Exhibit  
at the  
Southeastern Youth Fair  
Marion, County, FL  
Hosted by Joan Eubank**





**Southeastern Youth Fair  
Marion, County, FL**



**Chelsea Dominey & Eubank Acres Ozelle,  
Dunnellon High School FFA**



**Kylie Chapman & Eubank Acres Onieda,  
Dunnellon Middle School FFA**



**Sumter County Fair  
Wildwood Middle High School FFA  
Susan Swartzfager, Ag Teacher**

## BBSAI's Wish List

The BBSAI has lots of great ideas on how to better serve its members. But we are sorely short on talent and time. Here's our wish list of members who, by volunteering a little of their time, could bring some great services to the BBSAI membership.

- A **database/Web programmer** who can add to our Web site the ability to join and renew online, including paying dues.
- A **graphic designer** who can create fun artwork for t-shirts and other products we sell. (See <http://blackbellysheep.org/giftshop.html>)
- **Cub reporters** who can track down interesting information for the newsletter. How-to articles, farm updates, hair sheep industry news. Write articles yourself or find online and get copyright permission.
- A **lawyer or paralegal** who can occasionally help with legal questions.
- A **marketing or PR expert** to help with advertisements, membership campaigns, promotions, fundraising
- A **SEM expert** who can keep the BBSAI's Web site at the top of the search engines.
- A **YouTube guru** who can help produce short how-to video clips that teach viewers sheep-related tasks.
- An **HTML code jockey** who can troubleshoot some rather annoying problems with BBSAI's Web site.
- A **desktop publisher** who'd like to format the newsletter.
- A **veterinarian** who can answer sheep health questions posed by BBSAI members.
- A **teacher** who can help develop educational materials for adult and student shepherds.
- A **4-H/FFA leader or county/state fair board member** who can advise regarding strategies for developing hair sheep categories in state and county fairs.

If you have any of these skills or experience and would be willing to give us a little of your time, please contact

Carol at [secretary@blackbellysheep.org](mailto:secretary@blackbellysheep.org) or JoAnne at [president@blackbellysheep.org](mailto:president@blackbellysheep.org)

### Regarding the Special Vote concerning revisions to the Barbados Blackbelly breed standard:

**Total ballots sent: 50**

**Total ballots received: 30**

**Number of votes required to pass: 16**

**Yes = 26**

**No = 4**

**Not Voting = 20**

**Measure passed.**

**Submitted this 6th day of June, 2010**

**Carol Elkins  
Secretary**

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.

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

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