



Raising sheep the EASY way!

Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International

Blackbelly Banner

It's NOT Too Late to Register American Blackbelly Sheep!

In the Summer newsletter, the BBSAI announced that it was closing the American Blackbelly registry on January 1, 2013. This means that after that date, only sheep whose parents are registered can be registered themselves.

Until that time, BBSAI members are encouraged to register any American Blackbelly sheep that meet the breed standards published at <http://blackbellysheep.org/abstandards.html>.

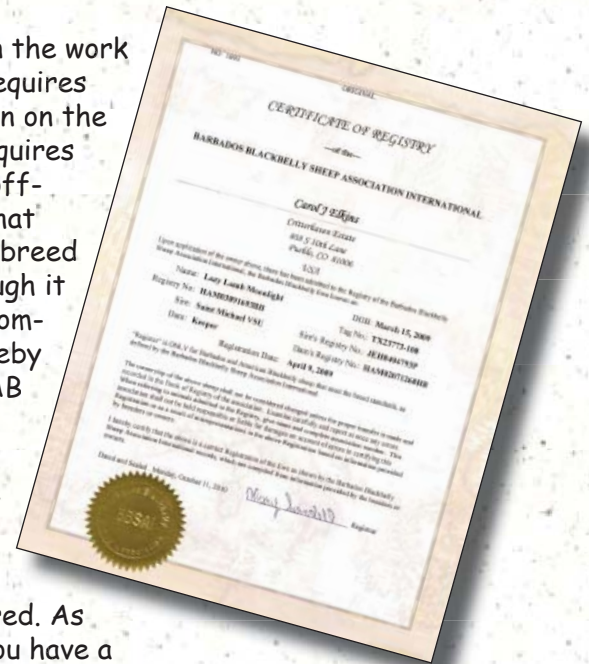
What happens if you try to register an undocumented sheep after January 1, 2013? The BBSAI registrar will forward your application to the BBSAI Exceptions Committee. The Exceptions Committee has been responsible for reviewing registration applications for undocumented Barbados Blackbelly sheep since the BB registry was closed in 2004. The Committee will extend its scope of work to American Blackbelly sheep after January 1, 2013.

There is quite a bit of scrutiny in the work this committee does. It always requires background/historical information on the flock of origin, and sometimes requires an extended period of progeny (offspring) testing to demonstrate that the animals being registered will breed true to the breed type. So although it is no easy task, the Exceptions Committee can provide a means whereby a breeder may seek to register AB or BB sheep from undocumented parents, even after the "grace period" has expired in December.

If you purchase sheep from a breeder, make sure that the sheep have already been registered. As a buyer, this is something that you have a right to expect, just as a seller has a right to expect a higher price for his registered stock.

Trying to register undocumented stock can be risky after the AB registry is closed, especially if you cannot provide historical information about the sheep's flock of origin. The Committee will want photos of the sheep's parents and a history of the parents' ability to breed true to type. If the Committee requires progeny testing, you will need to breed your sheep to a registered sheep of the same breed and produce a ram

continued on page 8 ➤



Inside this issue:

It's NOT Too Late to Register American Blackbelly Sheep!	1
BBSAI Sheep Registration Form	2
Instructions for Completing the BBSAI Application for Registration	3
More Thoughts about Closing the AB Registry	4
Ask the BBSAI	6



BBSAI Sheep Registration

IMPORTANT: Read the instructions on the back of the form before making entries.
INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.

All blanks must contain information. "N/A" and "unknown" are acceptable where applicable.

① OWNER NAME		③ FLOCK PREFIX	④ FLOCK NAME	⑤ (CHECK ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER <input type="checkbox"/> TRACK	⑥ USDA FLOCK I.D. NO.
② BREEDER NAME (IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER)					

BBSAI USE ONLY	⑦ SHEEP NAME	⑧ BREED	⑨ SEX	⑩ EAR TAG/ SCRAPIE TAG	⑪ DATE OF BIRTH	⑫ SIRE/DAM NAME AND REGISTRATION NO.	
	(Example) Rocky	AB	R	201 / 49170	04/24/11	SIRE	Heatherwood Blake HWF0504250AB
						DAM	Heatherwood Maggie HWF0203121AB
						SIRE	
						DAM	
						SIRE	
						DAM	
						SIRE	
						DAM	
						SIRE	
						DAM	
						SIRE	
						DAM	

For Tracked Sheep Only: Indicate why each tracked sheep listed above is not eligible for registration.

Registration fee: \$5.00 per head. Personal checks must be drawn on United States bank. Payment must be in US Dollars (USD).

Make checks payable to **BBSAI** and mail to: Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International
815 Bell Hill Road
Cobden, IL 62920

I want to register these sheep and I certify that they meet BBSAI breed standards. I enclose fees and a photo of each sheep. (See instructions for photos being emailed.)

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE		DATE
ADDRESS		
CITY/STATE/ZIP		
PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	

Instructions for Completing the BBSAI Application for Registration

- ① OWNER NAME The name of the person who currently owns the sheep being registered.
- ② BREEDER NAME The owner of the dam at the time of service is the *breeder* of the lamb. If you purchase or sell a bred ewe, the person owning the ewe when bred is the *breeder*, and the person owning the ewe at the time she lambs is the *owner*. Use separate applications for sheep having different breeders.
- ③ FLOCK PREFIX Three characters that you chose on your membership application; they become the first three characters of the sheep's registration number. (e.g., PAL (PAL0500250H))
- ④ FLOCK NAME The flock name that all the sheep you raise will carry. Use your surname or your farm name (e.g., Rocking H; Sweetbriar; Williamson's). Flock names are unique and limited to 14 letters, including spaces. If the name you provide is already in use by another breeder recorded in the Registry, the Secretary will ask you to choose another Flock Name.
- ⑤ REGISTER OR TRACK You may only *register* Barbados Blackbelly and American Blackbelly sheep that meet the breed standards. You may *track* other breeds or crosses that do not meet breed standards but are used as a sire or dam to produce registered sheep or are the offspring of registered sheep. Submit sheep for tracking on a separate page than used to submit sheep for registration.
- ⑥ PREMISES I.D. NO. The National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) is a mandatory Federal program that requires any farm that raises sheep for transport off of the farm premises to be assigned a nationally unique number. List in this box the flock ID number assigned by the State USDA Veterinary Services area office. Most are alphanumeric and include the State postal abbreviation followed by a number. Example: TX30451
- ⑦ SHEEP NAME The common or "pet" name of the sheep. This name will be appended to your flock name to become the sheep's official, registered name (e.g., Rocking H Magellan; Sweetbriar Rocky; Williamson's Rose).
- ⑧ BREED AB = American Blackbelly BB = Barbados Blackbelly
- If you are tracking a crossbred sheep, identify the cross (e.g., AB/Katahdin)
- Note:** See the breed standard for each breed to ensure you identify your sheep correctly. If you are registering a ram with scurs or horns longer than 1/2 in., it is PROBABLY NOT a Barbados Blackbelly sheep. Unless you are certain that a ewe has a polled sire, do not register her as a Barbados Blackbelly sheep. The certificate of any sheep registered as Barbados Blackbelly that subsequently develops scurs or horns longer than breed standard should be returned to the BBSAI for correction. Violators shall be subject to provisions stated in Article IV, item E, of the By-Laws.
- ⑨ SEX R = ram E = ewe
- ⑩ SCRAPIE TAG AND EAR TAG NO. Each sheep offered for registration MUST bear an individual identification tag or tattoo. Scrapie identification tags are free of charge from the USDA; other ID tags can be purchased from most livestock supply companies. If the sheep has a scrapie tag, enter the individual scrapie number (not the premises ID) in the blank. In addition, enter any other ear tag number assigned to the sheep. This field is required.
- ⑪ DATE OF BIRTH [Month Day Year] (e.g., 5/15/00 or May 15, 2000)
- ⑫ SIRE/DAM NAME & REGISTRATION NO. Enter the name and BBSAI registration number of both the dam and the sire of the sheep being registered. If the numbers are not known, enter "Unknown." If the parents were not registered, enter "Not Registered."

Photos

Include one photo of each sheep being registered or email the photo(s) to registrar@blackbellysheep.org. All photos become BBSAI's property and may be used in BBSAI publications without attribution.

- The photo must clearly show the face, body, and tail of the sheep and must be taken sufficiently close to the sheep so that markings are visible. The photo must not be blurry or out of focus.
- Write the sheep ID (name and/or tag number) and date photo was taken on back of each photo. If submitting digital photos, include the sheep's name and number in the file name (e.g., 0782.Rocky.jpg).
- The photo must clearly distinguish the sheep being registered from any other sheep in the photo. Both digital and hardcopy photos should be cropped so that the sheep being registered is predominant.
- If using a digital camera, we prefer photos taken at high resolution (best quality) and set to include the date of the photo. See your camera's instruction manual for details.

Form available at http://blackbellysheep.org/registration_application.pdf

More Thoughts about Closing the AB Registry

By Mary Swindell, BBSAI Registrar

In 2007, the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC) published a book written by Dr. Phil Sponenberg and Donald Bixby entitled "Managing Breeds for a Secure Future" (available at <http://www.albc-usa.org/store/store-conservation.php>). This book is a must-read for all blackbelly breeders, and it has given the BBSAI good guidance, especially in regards to its decision to close the American Blackbelly registry.

Dr. Sponenberg makes two major points regarding an association's decision to maintain an open or closed registry.

First, he states that some breed associations of relatively new standardized breeds may be tempted to move too quickly to close their registries, thus excluding many important genetics from the pool of registered stock, since a great number of animals in this standardized breed are possibly not yet registered, and are therefore outside the available genetic pool for that "purebred breed." He says that when only a small portion of purebred animals in a breed are registered, the closed book registry may not be a valid representation of the breed as a genetic resource.

Second, he indicates that most breed associations have made one of two choices, to either a) close their registry, thus excluding all non-registered animals in the breed, or b) keep their registry open, and use various types of criteria to determine whether an animal is representative of the breed and thus whether it can be registered.

Although Dr. Sponenberg indicates that most purebred breed associations have a closed regis-

try, he advocates an open registry for breed associations of newer standardized breeds, because it allows the possibility of continuing to include previously undocumented animals that may be truly representative of the breed. He gives four examples of the criteria that are used by associations with open registries to determine if an animal can be registered.

1. A visual inspection and blood-typing of each foundation animal, and immediate approval for offspring of registered animals, as in the Texas Longhorn association.

2. A visual inspection of every animal being registered, regardless of whether the parents are registered, as in the Navajo-Churro association.

3. A visual inspection of each foundation animal and an evaluation of its history and its population of origin, as in several of the Colonial Spanish horse registries.

4. A visual inspection of each foundation animal and photographic evidence of the stiffness (fainting posture), a genetic behavioral trait, as in the International Myotonic Goat association.

Dr. Sponenberg implies that a breed association must choose to do one of two things, either

- close the registry and not allow future registrations of undocumented animals, while allowing all registrations of offspring from registered animals (regardless of whether they truly represent the breed); or
- maintain an open registry and

conduct certain "tests" (as in the four examples above) to determine if undocumented animals (and sometimes even documented animals) are representative of the breed.

In other words, he implies that there is no way to 1) have a closed registry, and 2) at the same time determine if documented animals really represent the breed, both while 3) simultaneously allowing for representative but undocumented animals. I disagree. I believe there is a way to meet all three of these goals, and to

even meet a fourth goal (that he does not cover but that I will discuss below) at the same time.

BBSAI's cur-

rent policies for registering Barbados Blackbelly sheep (a closed registry) meet all four of these goals, as follows:

1. The BB closed registry allows registration of offspring from registered animals if the offspring meet BB breed standards.

2. The BBSAI requires a photograph showing that the animal meets breed standards. This tests whether offspring of registered animals continue to represent the breed.

3. The BBSAI allows for registration of representative but undocumented animals (the pool of purebred genetics outside the set of registered animals) through its Exceptions Committee, whereby several criteria must be met: a) photographic evidence that the animal meets breed standards, b) an evaluation of the animal's

"While legitimate reasons do exist for non-registration, in most cases the sad truth is that owners and breeders fail to register animals through laziness, selfishness, or false economy." Dr. Phil Sponenberg, American Livestock Breeds Conservancy

continued on **page 5** >

Blackbelly Banner

More Thoughts

<continued from page 4

history and flock of origin, and c) progeny testing to determine if the animal can breed true to type. These criteria are as extensive or perhaps more extensive than the four examples that Dr. Sponenberg gives in his book.

4. The other goal is to provide a place in the closed registry for animals sired by registered parents, but who do not meet breed standards themselves. In other words, for some reason they as individuals do not truly represent the breed, even though they are otherwise eligible for registration. The BBSAI calls this "Tracking" and assigns a separate type of registration number to these sheep. This option allows a sheep that is not "typy" to be documented. A Tracked sheep can be bred, and its offspring, if they meet breed standard, can be registered, because they come from two registered parents.

In summary, the BBSAI has found a way to provide

- a closed registry for documented BB sheep who represent the breed;
- an exceptions policy to allow representative but undocumented animals meeting certain criteria, thus expanding the gene pool to include a greater percentage of the actual population; and
- a tracking place for non-typy (non-representative) but documented BB sheep that allows the possibility that they can still be used to create future representative and registerable BB sheep.

I mentioned above that Dr. Sponenberg says that when breed associations move too quickly to close registries on local American standardized breeds, it can have

the disadvantage of excluding large numbers of animals from the roster of "purebred genetics" for the breed. It is well known that in our American southwest, there are large numbers of undocumented "barbado" sheep that look very representative of the American Blackbelly breed and that should ideally be included in our BBSAI roster of "purebred American Blackbelly genetics." If we shut the door on this by closing our AB sheep registry with no alternative way for breeders to register their undocumented AB sheep, I agree with Dr. Sponenberg that we would be doing a disservice to this breed.

Because the BBSAI decided to use the same closed registry policy for AB sheep that we adopted for our BB sheep, I believe we have successfully covered all the bases; that is, 1) we can require that AB sheep have registered parents and meet AB breed standards in order to be registered themselves, but 2) we have an exceptions policy for undocumented but truly representative AB sheep, and 3) we also have a tracking option for documented AB sheep who are not representative of the breed but who are capable of producing offspring that are registerable.

Why not just leave the AB registry open? Well, the bottom line is exactly as Dr. Sponenberg states (page 173):

"A perplexing minority of breeders fail to register purebred stock, and then at a future date these breeders will appeal to breed organizations to register animals after a lapse of a few generations of registration. In some cases, this can rise to the level of genetic blackmail. The rationale for including these

lapsed but purebred animals back into registered stock is compelling on the biological level, but on the political level is unsavory because it rewards irresponsible behavior on the part of those who let registrations lapse. While legitimate reasons do exist for non-registration, in most cases the sad truth is that owners and breeders fail to register animals through laziness, selfishness, or false economy."

Hopefully, closing the AB registry will motivate AB breeders to recognize that they must register their breeding stock each generation in order to avoid the complications and extra work that go along with trying to register undocumented animals under the requirements of a closed registry.

Because the AB breed has matured from a phenotypically recognizable sheep created from various American crosses to a well-established standardized breed, it is now time to support that breed maturity by closing the AB breed registry to protect and anchor what the breed has become. Our breeder members have said, "This is what the American Blackbelly breed is." Now we need to secure that breed for the future. ✦

New BBSAI Members

Sid & Becky Atkinson	Spring Branch, TX
Bradford Brookins	Blanchardville, WI
Allen Councill	Chestertown, MD
JF Holloway	Boyd, TX
Julie Kinsel	Manhattan, IL
Vickie & Gordon Oldakowski	Crivitz, WI
Jon Oldenburg	Wilton, CA
Judson & Dean Parnell	Vancleave, MS
Todd & Austin Robinson	Farr West, UT
Maddie Shannon	Oklawaha, FL
Dan Skowronski	Tomah, WI
Kenroy & Cynthia Teague	Montgomery, NY
Stan & Ryan Watts	Greenfield, IL
Don Williams	Bogalusa, LA

Ask the BBSAI

Questions sent to info@blackbellysheep.org are answered by BBSAI Registrar Mary Swindell.

Because this issue of the newsletter is focused on the closure of the American Blackbelly registry, we believe it is worthwhile to share an email conversation that Mary had with a person who asked the BBSAI about how to register sheep if she wasn't sure of their breed.

Q: I have a ewe and two lambs. I am 99.9% sure they are Barbados Blackbelly, but they have no papers so I assume they get registered as American Blackbelly. I'm not sure what dad was—horned or polled—but I recently acquired two barbados from Texas sight unseen. They look like barbados but have a light tan belly instead of a black belly. Can these be registered as American Barbados?

A: Before I begin, I should let you know I'm assuming that you are talking about two groups of sheep: 1) the ewe and her two lambs, which you mention first, and 2) the two Texas sheep without the black bellies, which you mention second.

First, I'll answer the question about your two sheep from Texas with no black on their bellies. These two sheep cannot be registered, either as American Blackbelly or as Barbados Blackbelly, because they do not meet the breed standards of either breed since they do not have the black belly. You can view the American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly breed standards on the "About the Sheep" page of our BBSAI web site at www.blackbellysheep.org.

The basic distinguishing characteristics of American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly sheep

(the black belly, the black badger stripes on the face, and the black legs) are strongly inherited traits in purebred AB or BB sheep. I would disagree with what the seller told you about black bellies being rare in Texas. If you mate two purebred AB (or BB) sheep together, it is extremely likely that the babies will have a black belly, since this trait is so strong in AB and BB sheep. As a breeder of BB sheep myself for 12 years, I have never seen a lamb without a black belly when two BB parents are mated together. So I think the seller is wrong in this case.

Rather, many times when we see sheep without these important markings (such as the lack of a black belly) it is because they actually have the blood of some other hair sheep breed in them, such as Katahdin, St. Croix, or Dorper. For instance, it is possible that your two Texas sheep are a cross between an AB sheep and a Katahdin sheep. Or it is possible that the sire and the dam of these two Texas sheep looked like they were AB sheep, but one of the parents was really half Katahdin, and the breeder didn't know it. This type of crossbreeding often results in an AB-looking sheep without a black belly.

Second, I'll try to answer your question about your ewe and two lambs. The situation is tricky and I'll try to explain why. First, the BB registry (for polled Barbados Blackbelly sheep) is a closed registry, meaning that BB sheep must have two registered parents in order to be registered. The AB registry (for horned American Blackbelly sheep) is still an open

registry, but will close on December 31, 2012, after which it will become a closed registry like the BB registry.

Although it is possible to register undocumented AB sheep until December 31, 2012, the American Blackbelly registry is NOT simply a catch-all for any blackbelly-type sheep that can't fit into the Barbados Blackbelly registry just because its parents have no papers. The AB registry has standards to uphold, just as the BB registry does.

One of these important AB standards is that rams should be able to grow large horns. To do this, the sire and dam of all AB sheep must have those "horned" genetics in them. The rams of both breeds make their polled or horned genetics evident, but BB ewes and most AB ewes are polled. Therefore, without knowing the flock of origin, you cannot tell the genetics of your ewes by looking at them. Your ewes may not carry horned genetics and thus may not be AB.

Therefore, it is important to make sure that a ewe is truly an AB ewe before registering her as an AB ewe. If you register an unknown ewe as an AB ewe and it turns out that this ewe carries the polled BB genetics instead of the desired AB genetics, it will degrade the AB breed as a whole. You will contaminate your flock's genetics and the genetics of your customer's flocks.

So what is the most responsible thing you can do as the owner of an unknown blackbelly ewe and

The American Blackbelly registry is NOT simply a catch-all for any blackbelly-type sheep that can't fit into the Barbados Blackbelly registry.

continued on page 7 >

Blackbelly Banner

Ask the BBSAI

<continued from page 6

lambs? During the remaining six months of our AB "open registry period" you should do as much research as possible regarding the parents and background of the blackbelly sheep you want to register. Find out what kind of sheep were kept at the farm where you obtained these animals. Were any of the rams horned rams? Were there rumors of any horned ewes? (Sometimes AB ewes have such strong horned genetics that they themselves will have tiny horns, even though they are female. That is a good sign that they are truly AB ewes.)

If after you check into as many of these things as possible, you feel strongly that this ewe and her two lambs are most likely AB sheep, and if she and her lambs meet the AB breed standards, then you may register her and her lambs as undocumented AB sheep if you do it before December 31, 2012. You must become a member of BBSAI in order to register sheep.

Q: About these guys from Texas, if I "record" them, how does that work? It is often hard to find registered sheep of a "rare" breed when the few breeders in this area don't believe in registration because of the paperwork hassle.

A: The "record" process for your Texas rams is now called the "tracking" process. To "track" an



Unregistrable barbado ram—no black belly

AB sheep that does not meet the AB breed standards, you should fill out a separate sheep registration application, but check "track" instead of "register." You must put sheep being tracked on a separate page from sheep being registered. You must list on the form the reason why they cannot be registered (what trait is it that disqualifies them). The price for tracking a sheep is the same as registering them (\$5.00 per animal). A tracked sheep will receive a tracking certificate and will be recorded as a tracked animal in the BBSAI registry database. A tracked sheep can never be changed to a registered sheep, but it may be able to produce a registerable lamb if bred to a registered sheep.

The tracking process can be done for undocumented AB animals only for the next 6 months. After the 12/31/12 deadline when the AB registry is closed, there will no longer be any tracking allowed for undocumented AB sheep. After that point, only documented AB animals (AB sheep with 2 registered parents) may be tracked, if they have some flaw in their markings, etc., and therefore do not meet AB standards.

Additionally, I should also mention that the BBSAI does not support any concept of "grading up" to "nearly purebred" by successively breeding a crossbred animal back to a purebred AB animal and then doing the same for its "more purebred" offspring until a high-percentage lamb is finally obtained a couple of generations down the road. Some other breed associations support and have a place for this "grade-up" policy, but the BBSAI Board has always rejected this concept in reference to AB and BB sheep. This is because the BBSAI was originally established

to protect and preserve AB and BB sheep from that very concept of "crossing in" other breeds, rather than "enhancing the breed by allowing the crossing in of outside breed genetics." In fact, the crossing in of other breeds is the very thing from which the BBSAI wishes to protect our purebred sheep and our genetic pool.

In conclusion, I am not telling you that the BBSAI will absolutely not support your request to track an undocumented AB ram that also does not meet the AB breed standards; but I am saying it will probably be an uphill battle. In the past, individuals have tried to use the BBSAI's "tracking" system as a way to "grade-up" non-purebred AB sheep into the BBSAI database so that their offspring can obtain "purebred" status and qualify as registerable stock. These individuals discovered that this effort is rarely successful.

The BBSAI is very dedicated to protecting and preserving the AB and BB breeds, and as such, we are obligated to vigilantly monitor the registration and tracking of these sheep. Our genetic pool for the AB and BB breeds is only as good as the genetics of each sheep in the database, and only as good as the integrity and dedication of each of our current and future member breeders.

Yes, breeders of registered stock are often hard to find. We often see folks traveling hundreds of miles, often cross-country, to purchase registered AB or BB sheep. Nevertheless, you may be less frustrated if you purchase registered AB stock instead of starting from scratch with undocumented, non-standard stock. ❄

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



Raising sheep the EASY way!

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 Web sites, or used in any manner without written permission of the BBSAI.

Issue deadlines are

January Issue – December 15

July Issue – June 15

April Issue – March 15

October Issue – September 15

Please send changes of address to
BBSAI
808 30th Lane,
Pueblo, CO 81006

or email

newsletter@blackbellysheep.org

BBSAI Officers:

Mark Fleming, President
Patrick Kahn, Vice President
Carol Elkins, Secretary
Stephanie Parrish, Treasurer

Directors:

Sandra Hession

Newsletter Editor: Carol Elkins

Registrar: Mary Swindell

registrar@blackbellysheep.org

Registration Deadline

←continued from page 1

lamb that, at 5 months old, clearly meets breed standard. It will take at least 11 months and perhaps longer before sufficient data can be collected on the progeny.

Breeders submitting a single animal to the Exceptions Committee will automatically be required to submit the animal to progeny testing. The reason for this is that the BBSAI bases a sheep's potential genetic value on the genetics of its flock of origin. An animal coming from a well-established flock of good-looking animals is likely to carry quality genetics itself. The BBSAI defines a "flock" as consisting of at least three ewes and a ram. This definition is based on a recommendation provided by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy. The ALBC believes that a group of sheep smaller than three ewes and a ram cannot really tell us much about the population it came from.

The BBSAI wanted to ensure that the American Blackbelly gene pool contained as much representative genetic material for the breed as possible before it closed the AB registry. The open registry allowed breeders to bring undocumented stock into their flocks, register them, and thereby add

those genetics to the breed's global gene pool. But many breeders have taken advantage of the open registry to register single animals they may have picked up at an auction or acquired without information about the animal's background or breed legitimacy. There comes a time when a breed association must decide when the advantage of genetic diversity is no longer worth the risk of genetically contaminating the gene pool.

By closing the American Blackbelly registry, the BBSAI is stating that there is sufficient genetic diversity within the population of registered sheep to sustain the breed. It is closing its doors to breeders who do not document their sheep or who want to register sheep that "look like" an American Blackbelly without proof of the sheep's genetic heritage. The BBSAI believes this move will better support those breeders who demonstrate a commitment to quality breeding and will help stabilize the breed's phenotype and improve the overall quality of the breed.

If you have sheep that you plan to register, please play it safe and submit their registration applications before December 31. ❄