



Raising sheep the EASY way!

Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International

Blackbelly Banner

Freeze-Proof Your Livestock's Water Hydrant NOW!

By Steve Schmidt and Carol Elkins

It never fails. Some time in January, the water hydrant in the sheep corral freezes up and I end up hauling water until the next spell of warm weather. I need to replace or replumb the hydrant, and this time I want to make sure it is done correctly. BBSAI member Steve Schmidt in Burns, OR, gave me some pointers that are too good to not share with other members.

Here is a list of everything Steve can think of to prevent freezing hydrants.

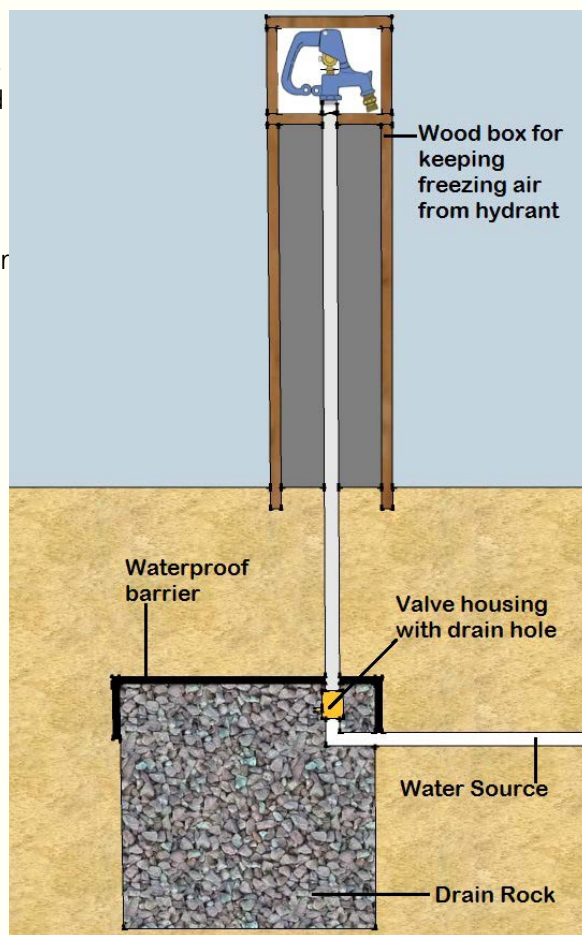
1. The water supply lines should be in a trench dug to your region's accepted frost prevention depth. Mine are at least 3 ft down. Be sure you have an easy way to turn off water to that hydrant. Inevitably it will break if you don't.

2. Use an anti-siphon hydrant. Select a length that takes into account how far above the ground you want the actual spigot. Hydrants I use are about 7 ft long—3 ft below ground and 4 ft above.



3. Brace the hydrant. I place 4×6×8 ft posts above and below ground beside the hydrant to provide support. I use pipe clamps to secure the hydrant to the post. I don't want to finish all this digging and filling only to break that plastic elbow that I screwed my hydrant into. PVC is not that strong.

4. Locate the small hole at the bottom of the hydrant. That is the drain. It is the most important part of the hydrant. If the water can't drain out of the hydrant, it will freeze.



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Using Human Baby Gadgets for Lambs

By Jane Anderlini, Prince George, B.C.

Great deals on used human baby gadgets can be found at garage sales. Often these are in near-new condition, and some can be used for lambs. Apart from using baby bottles and baby nasal syringes, we also use baby monitors and, for the first time this year, a human breast pump.

Baby Monitor

For the past 3 years, we've used a baby monitor during lambing season and would never be without one now. With a camera in the barn and a monitor with sound in the house, we can relax when we're inside because we always know what's going on in the barn.



Baby monitor camera (barn unit)

When we bought our first baby monitor, we wanted one with the farthest range possible. It was a Vtech with a range of 1,000 ft. The image we see in the house is color in the day time and black/white at night. At night, our sheep are generally really quiet so it's easy to pick up sounds, even if we're sleeping, telling us we're needed in the barn. We clearly hear ewes talking to their newborns and also those little newborn lamb sounds. If a ewe is having a difficult labor, we hear all noises that are out of the ordinary. The monitor has a zoom feature allowing a close look into various parts of pens. We have good reception when the camera



Baby monitor (house unit) showing ewe and newborn lambs

is focused on a single lambing pen and even when it's directed at a group area. Even though the camera can't be directed to all areas at the same time, it picks up sounds from the whole area.

The system also works as an intercom between the house and the barn, with two-way sound. There's a fun feature of being able to press a button on the camera to play lullabies for the lambs! The best extra feature, though, is having the temperature in the barn constantly displayed on the monitor screen in the house.

The baby monitors come in really handy other times of the year, too—for hatching chicks, watching newborn rabbit kits and puppies, anywhere really. On occasion, we even use it as a surveillance camera by the house door.

We like this model so much that this spring we bought a second one to monitor another lambing area. It is possible to buy additional cameras for each monitor, but we haven't had any luck getting those yet.

Breast Pump

In our experiences, milking sheep hasn't been an easy thing to do. I came across a human breast pump at a garage sale that looked new, so thought I should give it a try on the sheep. It worked—with a glitch. The glitch was that a human breast pump is meant to be used vertically whereas sheep udders are upside down. Using the human breast pump while the ewe was standing created a lot of leakage down the pump handle. We found a way around this by tipping the ewe onto her rump and holding her in a sitting position. It pumped perfectly in this



Lansinoh breast pump box

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Baby Gadgets

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position, producing a whole cup in about 1 minute. This wasn't the best scenario, but we were able to freeze a good supply of colostrum and had the peace of mind that we'd be able to get milk in an emergency whenever we needed it.

Our model is a Lansinoh. It's very easy to take apart and put back together. It also washes up easily and has a nice little stand that helps to keep it from tipping over on a barn floor. To prevent leaking next year, we plan to add a flexible plastic tube between the suction cup and the pump to enable us to hold the suction cup upside down on the udder while we hold the pump vertically. Even if we find we have to continue tipping the ewe, though, a human breast pump is now one of our "must have" items at lambing time! 🌸



Breast pump works perfectly to milk out a ewe

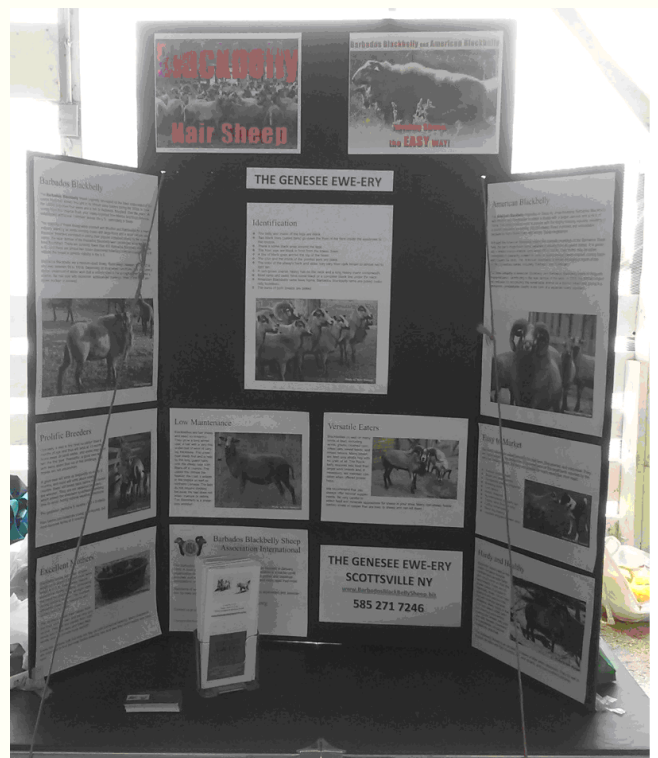
Blackbelly Sheep Exhibited at the NY Fiber Festival

By Joanne Vaughn, Rochester, NY

Nope, this is not a misprint. "But this is a Fiber Festival," you say, "and Blackbellies don't have fiber." The Finger Lakes Fiber Festival in Hemlock NY requested that a rare breed display be created to further educate the public about the importance of preserving rare breeds for the whole of the sheep industry. The BBSAI was represented by The Genesee Ewe-ery at the festival on Sept 19th thru the 20th, 2015. Educational materials about Finn, Cormo, Clun, and Shetland sheep were also presented.

Over the course of two days we saw the most beautiful fiber arts and met many interesting people while advertising our breed and our farm products. Most people that stopped were curious about why one would want sheep with no fleeces--not surprising given the venue and our climate. In general, people passed by on their way to see sheep shearing. The whole idea of yarn and meat coming from sheep was some kind of mystery to them.

The Genesee Valley Spinners Guild (<http://www.gvhg.org>) plans to exhibit rare breeds next year. Additionally our participation has contributed to the formation of the Finger Lakes Rare Sheep Breed Co-Operative, which will plan for future events. 🌸



Sheep Dewormer Chart

Reprinted from the American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control (ACSRPC) (www.wormx.info)

The chart shows the recommended dosages of drugs for different sheep weights. All dosages are for oral drench formulations, the recommended route of administration for small ruminants. The dewormer chart also provides withdrawal times for meat and milk. Extra-label drug use is restricted to veterinarians.

Important --Please read notes below before using this chart

1 ml = 1cc	Valbazen (albendazole) ORALLY	SafeGuard (fenbendazole) ORALLY	Ivomec Sheep Drench (ivermectin) ORALLY	Prohibit (levamisole) ORALLY	Cydetin Sheep Drench (moxidectin) ORALLY
Weight Pounds (lbs)	7.5 mg/kg 0.75 ml/ 25 lb	5 mg/kg 0.6 ml/ 25 lb	0.2 mg/kg 2.9 ml/ 25 lb	8 mg/kg 2 ml/ 25 lb	0.2 mg/kg 2.3 ml/25 lb
20	0.6	0.5	2.3	1.5	1.8
25	0.75	0.6	2.9	1.8	2.3
30	0.9	0.7	3.4	2.2	2.7
35	1.1	0.8	4.0	2.6	3.2
40	1.2	0.9	4.5	2.9	3.6
45	1.4	1.0	5.1	3.3	4.1
50	1.5	1.1	5.7	3.7	4.5
55	1.7	1.3	6.2	4.0	5.0
60	1.8	1.4	6.8	4.4	5.4
65	2.0	1.5	7.4	4.7	5.9
70	2.1	1.6	8.0	5.1	6.3
75	2.3	1.7	8.5	5.5	6.8
80	2.4	1.8	9.1	5.8	7.2
85	2.6	1.9	9.7	6.2	7.7
90	2.7	2.0	10.2	6.6	8.1
95	2.9	2.1	10.8	6.9	8.6
100	3.0	2.2	11.4	7.3	9.1
105	3.2	2.3	12.0	7.7	9.5
110	3.3	2.5	12.5	8.0	10
115	3.5	2.6	13.1	8.4	10.5
120	3.6	2.7	13.7	8.8	10.9
125	3.8	2.8	14.2	9.1	11.4
130	3.9	2.9	14.8	9.5	11.8
140	4.2	3.0	15.4	10.2	12.7
150	4.5	3.1	16.0	11.0	13.6

Valbazen Suspension (11.36 % or 113.6 mg/ml): 7.5 mg/kg orally; approved in sheep with meat withdrawal time of 7 days. Do NOT use in pregnant ewes in the first trimester of pregnancy.

Safe Guard/ Panacur Suspension (10% or 100 mg/ml): Note that SafeGuard is not approved for use in sheep. Sheep dose is 5 mg/kg orally; meat withdrawal time of 6 days.

Ivomec Drench for Sheep (0.08% or 0.8 mg/ml): 0.2 mg/kg orally; approved in sheep with meat withdrawal time of 11 days. Protect from light.

Prohibit Soluble Drench Powder (Sheep): (Note that this drug is also sold as Levasol and Tramsiol) 8 mg/kg ORAL dose. Approved for use in sheep with meat withdrawal of 3 days. Solution prepared by dissolving a 52 gram packet in 1 quart (943 ml) of water. This yields a solution with 49.6 mg/ml. Always make sure to follow directions on packet when preparing.

If dosing lambs, it is safer to dilute further (1 packet in 2 quarts of water), and then administer twice the amount listed on the chart. The larger volume administered will provide a wider margin for safety if there are small errors in dosing.

Cydetin Sheep drench (1 mg/ml): 0.2 mg/kg orally; approved in sheep with meat withdrawal time of 14 days.

Additional Notes:

1. This chart was developed by Ray M. Kaplan, DVM, PhD and Lisa Williamson, DVM, MS (University of Georgia). It is provided as a possible guideline for anthelmintic (deworming) dosages for sheep. Producers should always consult their veterinarian for advice on their specific management situation for determining which dewormer(s) are best to use in their flock, and the proper dosages for their flock. Meat withdrawal times should always be strictly adhered to.

2. Drug resistance in parasites of sheep is extremely common. The effectiveness of a particular dewormer should always be tested before being used by performing either a Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT) or DrenchRite larval development assay (contact Dr. Kaplan's laboratory [706--542-0742] for more information about the DrenchRite test).

Frost-Free Hydrant

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5. How well your ground drains water will determine how big the hole below the hydrant should be. The water needs to drain down as quickly as possible. If your water cannot drain from the hydrant then you will have a pipe full of water above ground that can freeze. If the pipe above ground freezes, then the freezing can travel down the pipe to the very fragile PVC connector. That connector is usually what breaks when your hydrant freezes. So that is why you want plenty of space for water to go.

Here in the Oregon desert, I can fill a 3 ft hole with water and the water will sit there for 24 hr with little draining. Therefore, I dig big drain holes. If you fill a hole with water and it's gone in an hour, then you won't need as big a drain.

Remember that this hole receives the drained water from the hydrant when you turn it off. It might also need to hold drain water from the entire hose that connects to it. (Disconnect the hose immediately after turning off the water.) And if you forget to remove the hose from the water tank after filling and turn off the hydrant, the entire tank of water could siphon back into the drain hole. You will probably only do this once.

6. Fill the hole with drain rock that contains no fines. I use 1.5 in. to 3.0 in. rock in my holes. The smaller the rock, the less drain space you have in the hole. Crushed rock, "crusher run," or river gravel may be what is common in your area. Make sure the rock you choose provides a stable base and can't move around much. It must provide ample space between the rocks for water to drain through. Don't use sand! Fill the drain hole with rock to a level 6 in. above the drain.

7. Cover the drain rock in the hole with visqueen or poly plastic (or splurge on geotextile) to prevent dirt from sifting down into the rock.

8. Now you have a working hydrant. I recommend that you build a frost box around it. Basically you want to cover up that bare pipe. Air is the best insulation available, so create an air pocket around the hydrant. My boxes are about 1 ft square and come up to just below the actual spigot. I put a top on one of my boxes to completely cover the hydrant when not in use. Sink the base of the box below soil level a little to allow heat from the ground to fill up that space. I use 2×12 pressure-treated lumber or 2×2 frames made with 3/4 in. plywood to make my boxes. The thicker the wood the more insulation you have from the cold.

9. If you have horses and sheep that might consider the hydrant a dandy scratching post, add additional protection.

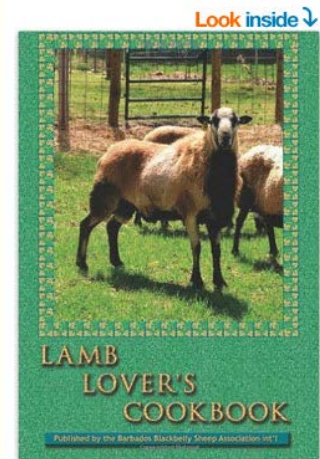
10. Don't wait until winter to do this. You don't want to dig in frozen soil. ❄️

TIP: During freezing weather, limit the amount of water that drains into the drain hole by not shutting the water off at the hydrant until you are totally done with it. The water in the hydrant will drain every time you turn off the hydrant. If you have a lot of water-on-water-off chores, just let the water spill onto the ground rather than filling up your drain hole prematurely.

Holiday Gift Ideas Under \$15

It's hard to think about the holidays when we're hardly into October, but these gift-giving ideas will help you ease into the spirit gently. There are hundreds of blackbelly products available from the BBSA Giftshop at <http://www.blackbellysheep.org>.

Lamb Lover's Cookbook



T-Shirts, Water Bottles, & Mugs for Both Breeds





A special invitation to BBSAI Members

Dear breed association member,

The Livestock Conservancy deeply values our relationship with you and recognizes that you and your members are an essential part of saving and promoting heritage breeds of livestock and poultry. In an effort to expand our support of the on-the-ground conservation work that association members are doing, the Conservancy would like to extend a special invitation to members of breed associations that support breeds on the Conservation Priority List, to be listed in America's most comprehensive directory of heritage breeds for just \$10.

Get Listed. Get Noticed. Get Customers.

Why list?

- Get noticed on the website of a well-established, respected organization with a stellar reputation in the heritage breed community
- Become a part of the extensive breeder network The Livestock Conservancy has spent nearly 40 years developing
- Expand your reach: the online directory is the third most visited page on The Livestock Conservancy's website, which receives millions of views per year.
- Expand your customer base: put your farm or business in front of thousands of rare breed enthusiasts looking to improve, increase, or get started with rare livestock and poultry through the print directory distributed nationwide.
- Benefit from promotion that reaches participants with other breeds and species, greatly broadening the reach of your listing.
- Manage and update your listing 24/7 through online access when it's convenient for you

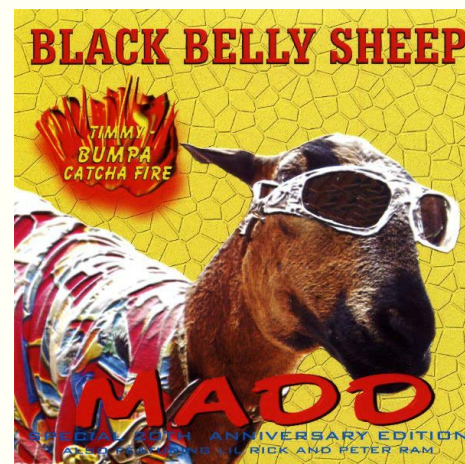


This special invitation is only for members of breed associations to list breeds that are currently on the Conservation Priority List

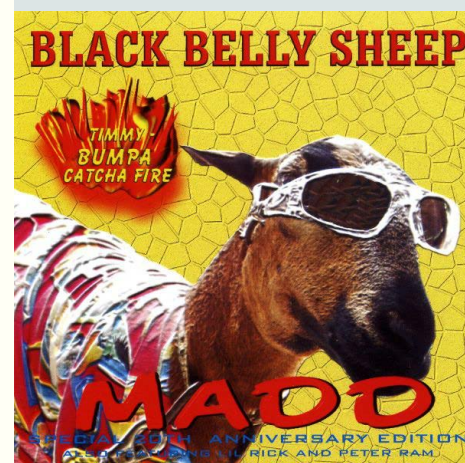
\$10 for a 1-year listing

Signup is only available through the exclusive link below.

<http://www.livestockconservancy.org/index.php/heritage/internal/breeders-directory-participant>



MADD is a Bajan musical comedy group that is very popular in Barbados. They release a new album every year for the Crop Over Festival. This was their 2003 release. The music may not be to your liking, but the CD cover is priceless.



New BBSAI Members

Johanne Buckland	N.D. Lasalette, QC
Rebecca Campbell	Clearlake Oaks, CA
Hanna Carpenter	Homosassa, FL
Carl and Lara Croft	Dallas, TX
Barry Derrick	Brooksville, FL
Bridgett Leslie	New Waverly, TX
Nikki Olton	Wallis, TX
Gary Sallee	White Mills, KY

Ask the BBSAI

Q: How can two purebred American Blackbelly sheep sire twins of different colors?

A: Color genetics are not well understood in Barbados Blackbelly and American Blackbelly sheep. We know that the black markings are very persistent, even when crossbred, but that occasionally white spots show up. Purebred breeders cull sheep with white markings and select against those sheep that do produce offspring with white markings. However, occasional genetic match-ups occur that we simply cannot explain. I know of one person who bred two purebred Barbados Blackbelly sheep with perfect pedigrees going back several generations and had a lamb with an entirely white rear quarter. But I've never seen a lamb with as much white on it as yours.

Here are some questions that we can ask to start trying to understand what might have happened here:

~Are both the sire and dam of your lambs purebred and registered so that we could trace their pedigrees?

It would be interesting to breed the white sheep to a purebred mate and see if the white is genetically passed to the offspring. Some breeders developed an offshoot of the American Blackbelly breed called the Painted

Desert sheep (see <http://www.painteddesertsheepsociety.com>) They value these "flashy" color combinations. Their breed standard requires horns on the rams.

Q: I currently have three American Blackbelly sheep, one male and two females. The male and one female are twins, the other female is half sister to them. The male is wethered. If I introduce another unrelated intact male to the group for breeding purposes will the two males fight and, if so, would it be to the point of being detrimental to the health and well being of the group?

A: If your male blackbelly sheep was wethered as a baby, it is unlikely that he will pick a fight with a new ram. The new ram might, however, pick a fight with the wether. If the new ram has horns and the wether does not have horns, the wether is at risk. However, it has been my experience that rams and wethers are able to coexist in the same flock.

When you introduce the new ram, put him and the wether in the smallest area you have, e.g., the stall of a horse trailer or barn. Leave them there for 24 hours and see how they get along. The small space prevents them from getting enough back-up room to do much damage if they charge and butt. Let them sort out their pecking

order for a few days before you introduce the ewes to the two males.

Q: My ewe has a lump under her jaw. Should I deworm her?

A: Before you treat her for something, make sure you correctly identify what the problem is. A lump under a jaw could be

- milk goiter (a harmless lump on nursing lambs)
- bottle jaw (indicating an infestation of barber pole worms)
- a goiter (an abnormal enlargement of the thyroid gland caused by iodine deficiency)
- Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL), a contagious infection of the lymph gland

Milk goiter is a soft enlargement of the thymus gland and occurs on both sides of the neck just under the jaw line. It is a natural and common condition in lambs that is



Small milk goiter; photo by Pam Hand, Free Union, VA

associated with abundant and rich ewe milk. A milk goiter will appear when the lamb is about 1 week old, grow in size to about 4 months old, and then shrink and disappear by the time the lamb is 6-9 months old.



Purebred American Blackbelly twins

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 business cards 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.

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BBSAI
808 30th Lane,
Pueblo, CO 81006

or email
newsletter@blackbellysheep.org

Back issues can be downloaded from
<http://www.blackbellysheep.org/association/newsletters/>

BBSAI Officers:

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Director:

Eileen Breedlove

Newsletter Editor: Carol Elkins
Registrar: Eileen Breedlove
registrar@blackbellysheep.org

Ask the BBSAI

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Bottle jaw; photo by Susan Schoenian, www.sheep101.info

Bottle jaw is a swelling further up on the chin on the jaw itself. It is a sign of severe parasite infestation. It too is soft. The sheep must be dewormed immediately to prevent death. Bottle jaw usually happens in adult sheep, not lambs.

Goiter is a swelling of the thyroid gland, generally seen in newborn lambs. They have a swollen throat, are weak, and often die. Goiter is caused by iodine deficiency in the pregnant ewe's diet. It can be prevented by providing iodized salt.



CL abscess; photo by Susan Schoenian, University of Maryland Extension Small Ruminant Program

CL is often detected by the presence of a hard lump, usually about the size of a quarter, located in the area of a lymph gland. It can, however, be much larger. Left untreated, it will abscess and drain. CL is very contagious and incurable and requires veterinary culturing of the pus. ☒

Blackbelly Banner Article Index Now Available

BBSAI newsletters are always available for download on our Web site at <http://www.blackbellysheep.org/association/newsletters/>

However, if you remember reading a specific article or want to know if the BBSAI has ever published an article about a specific topic, we've made it really easy to find them.

Have a look at our new **Index of Articles** at

<http://www.blackbellysheep.org/about-the-sheep/articles/>

Articles are handily indexed under these topics:

- Breeding
- Buying
- Care
- Genetics
- Health and Disease
- Import/Export
- Lambing
- Management
- Marketing
- Recordkeeping
- Reference
- Registry/Registration
- Tools