



Lone Star Bequias
DOB 04/11/2008
One of a set of quads

BBSAI NEWSLETTER

October 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

The Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Association International is a non-profit organization, which has defined the following goals as its corporate mission:

- Raise, preserve, improve, promote and publish facts pertaining to American Blackbelly (horned) and Barbados Blackbelly (polled) sheep.
- Register and keep on file all records of registrations and transfers of American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly sheep in the United States.
- Support and promote the interests of American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly sheep breeders.
- Work together and exchange information and ideas that will be helpful in raising and preserving American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly sheep.
- Improve the genetics of each generation of sheep, including artificially inseminated sheep.
- Develop better markets.

Inside this issue:

- ✓ Crossbreeding: using Barbados Blackbelly sheep for stock dog training and herding events
- ✓ Results of Milker Raffle
- ✓ Getting Acquainted, a breeder interview
- ✓ National Scrapie Eradication Program
- ✓ News about your association
 - Print certificates yourself!
 - Google group
- ✓ Welcome to new members!



Crossbreeding

**Hado Bar Farms
Nova, OH**



Get Acquainted An interview with a Breeder

**Steve Schmidt
Nine Mile Sheep, OR**

USING BARBADOS BLACKBELLY SHEEP FOR STOCK DOG TRAINING AND HERDING EVENTS



Judith Bigham Hado Bar Farm Nova, Ohio

I have been a Stock Dog Trainer since 1989. My first “working” flock consisted of Montadale and Dorset-cross sheep. Later, I added Border Cheviots. I experimented” with Romanov, Black Welsh Mountain, and Katahdin sheep. These sheep were adequate for my needs but there were issues with hot weather tolerance, parasite resistance, as well as physical and psychological “soundness.”

In 1995, a friend/fellow Herder suggested I consider integrating Barbados Blackbelly sheep into my flock, citing their natural parasite resistance, heat tolerance, and intelligence. After researching the breed on my own, my dear husband (now deceased) and I decided to buy Barbados Blackbelly sheep. The first flock of twenty-six sheep arrived at

HADO-BAR FARM in late 1995. They were striking in appearance and behavior (very “up-headed” and aware). My beloved husband said, “I wouldn’t mind having a whole flock of these.”

I soon realized that those first BBs were not well-suited for work with loose-eyed, up-standing Herding dogs (non-Border Collie breeds). They were “hyper-reactive” and would run into or jump over my four-foot fences. Also, I noticed that they had narrow “toes” which resulted in frequent lameness from being worked on hard or stony ground. In an effort to remedy those Issues, I began cross-breeding the BBs with Katahdins (less reactive) and Border Cheviots (wider, stronger “toes”). The resulting offspring were much better suited to the work here at HADO-BAR FARM. For the past twenty-plus years, I’ve worked diligently to produce sheep that are physically and psychologically “sound.” “Herders” come from far-and-wide to compete in events held here because my sheep have earned the reputation of being “sound and honest,” thereby giving competitors realistic expectations of success.

Although Herding lessons and sheep “rental” (for those advanced enough in their training to work their dogs without supervision) are offered year-round, the busy events season begins in April and extends through November. As a result, lambs must be born and weaned in a timely manner, so the flock can be at “full force” during the busy season. Only a few ewes (no more than ten) are bred, each year. The lambs are born from late-February

through mid-March. Their “moms” are back at work by mid-May.

The lambs, here, are exposed to Herding dogs from the moment they are born. The dogs are with me when I do chores every morning and night (and whenever I’m in the barn) so the lambs are accustomed to their presence. When the lambs are five-to-six weeks old, an experienced dog enters the “Nursery” with me to move and hold the ewes away from the feed bunk. The lambs move with their mothers. They are learning how to respond appropriately to pressure from the dog. The lambs are weaned at eight or nine weeks of age. They are integrated — no more than five at a time — into the Working Flock when they are around five-months old. By then they’ve been worked by well-trained, experienced dogs often enough to know how to respond appropriately and stay out of trouble!

There are two barns at HADO-BAR FARM --- the EWE BARN which houses the “Maternity Ward/Nursery” (two 6 x 12’ stalls with a common gate, usually left open) and the POLE BARN with a 48 x 52’ Indoor Arena (for safe, controlled exposure to livestock and early training of inexperienced dogs). During herding events, sheep are sorted into small groups (usually three or five) and housed in one of eleven 5 x 5’ pens, located in the EWE BARN, for the duration of the event. As handlers and dogs enter the trial field, individual groups of sheep are taken from their Holding Pen to the field by well-trained, experienced stock dogs. After the “run” (not literally

--- causing livestock to run is heavily penalized), the sheep are released from the trial field by the handler and return to their pen in the barn (most of the time, on their own --- they know the routine!) During Herding events, the sheep receive hay every morning, before the event begins, and at night. Water is always available and the buckets (one per pen) are kept filled with clean, fresh water.

When not being worked, the sheep free-graze the various training and competition fields (there are six of different dimensions). The sheep have access to water, at all times, in buckets in the POLE BARN ARENA which is where they spend their “indoors time” during the day and at night. They are fed hay (mostly mixed grass) every morning and night because the fields don’t provide much good grass (too much “wear-and-tear” from Herding activities). The flock receives grain with their hay after every Herding event (they KNOW that’s their “reward” for working hard and they EXPECT it) and, of course, during winter. Bred ewes get grain beginning in the last four weeks of gestation and through lactation. The flock also receives SPRINGTIME granulated garlic mixed into their trace mineral/salt, twice weekly, at a rate of, approximately, five ounces per pound, to improve resistance to external and internal parasites.

Since converting to a primarily Barbados Blackbelly-based flock over twenty years ago, HADO-BAR FARM has become a premier stock dog training and events facility, due, in large part,



I’m sure, to the physical and psychological soundness of the sheep that live and work here. Over the years, I’ve heard such comments as, “I didn’t know Barbs could WALK! All the ones I’ve ever seen just run and jump fences!” (a Herding judge from California) --- “HAIR SHEEP? Never knew there WAS such a thing!” --- “Goats?” --- “They look so ... EXOTIC!”

I’m so glad I listened to my friend and fellow Herder those many years ago --- I love my Barbs!

By the way --- all seventy of the sheep in my current flock have names, and yes --- I know my sheep!



Maggidan Milker Raffle results:

Karen Batt was the lucky winner of the free Maggidan Milker in our raffle drawing. There were only 4 entries. That is, only four BBSAI members took the time to submit their flock census numbers in order to enter.

If anyone would like to give your Board ideas about how to increase member participation in such a census, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

If so, please send an email to:

newsletter@blackbellysheep.org



Get Acquainted: An interview with a Breeder

Steve Schmidt

Nine Mile Sheep

Burns, Oregon

When and how did you begin raising Barbados Blackbelly sheep?

My parents found out about Barbados Blackbelly sheep in 2006 and purchased a starter flock from Mary Swindell. There was a lot of work to be done on the bare land that became Nine Mile Ranch, and my father was in declining health, so unfortunately not much was accomplished with the sheep in the early years. In 2012, my father passed away and I took over finishing the ranch and the sheep. The breeding program and the learning started that spring slowly with limited success, but each year has gotten better. This year, with my Mom's help, we are expecting 20 to 25 lambs from two main genetic lines and a third somewhere in the middle. We were lucky

enough to get some great stock from Mary that has produced some great looking sheep with decent size. Now we are just trying to continue our early success, while still learning.

What animals do you have now?

By the time this interview is published, we will be into our 7th lambing, and when done we will have a guesstimated 70 head. Our foundation animals came mainly from the Teddy and Ulysses lines, with one ram from the St Lucy line. That ram was Bellwether Atticus. So our two main genetic lines are now what I call our Atticus line, and the other is our Non-Atticus line. The Non-Atticus line consists of Teddy and Ulysses animals to give us both rams and ewes to cross with our Atticus line. One animal that is noteworthy along with Atticus is a ewe named Bellwether Ursula. I truly believe she made a significant contribution to the size of our sheep. If we are lucky with this year's lambing, we may be able to base a line on her as well.

So some notable animals in our current flock would include Nine Mile Cian, and Nine Mile Liam who our both in excess of 180lbs. Cian's first ram lambs are almost a year old so we will find out soon what he is producing, so far they look good. Liam's first lambs are due this summer and we are very excited. Amongst our ewes Nine Mile Cadhla and Nine Mile Muirgheal are two beautiful gals that I think will have a great impact on the breed not only for looks but also for size.

What is your philosophy about breeding your sheep?

My knowledge about Barbados Blackbellies began just a short time ago. The sheep at Nine Mile Ranch have produced 45 new animals since 2012. So really I'm still evolving my philosophy, but this is what I have developed so far. These sheep have evolved over the last 400 years. They have developed a set of attributes that we all love. They are hardy animals, prolific and great mothers. Their meat is lean, and tastes great but they are also small. My goal with these animals are to keep their existing standards and attributes while increasing carcass size and quality. Because our sheep numbers are

so small, genetics still plays the most dominant role in breeding choices. As my flock size grows, I look forward to being able to include other factors in those choices and ultimately producing larger, better animals that are more prolific, hardier, and even more hands off than they are today.

Tell us about your facilities (barns, sheds, fencing, and livestock guardian animals)

We are pretty lucky out here in Eastern Oregon. We don't have any predator problems. Coyotes are the most present predator in the area, but they don't bother us much. The ranch sits on 240 acres of sagebrush, and the sheep are in 5ft 2x4 no climb fencing fairly close to the house. We have two main pens and a third semi temporary pen for breeding in winter. Each of the main pens has a roughly 12x12 shelter, which on the girls side doubles as our lambing jug space come May. We can accommodate all the animals we currently have nicely for now, but we will be expanding with a third permanent breeding pen with a third 12x12 shelter for more lambing space soon. We do not have any LGD's currently, but we do have 6 horses, 5 of which are Mustangs, and 2 burros that roam the property. That seems to help keep the coyotes farther out.

What about management and feeding?

Because of where we are, grassy pasture is not an easy thing to get or maintain. So for feeding we rely on locally grown alfalfa/grass hay for feeding. We feed the horses and sheep the same food which we source from our neighbor in 3x3x8 ft. bales. In the spring, we do get plenty of grass in the sagebrush for some limited pasture feeding, but since we do not let the sheep out of their pens overnight they don't get much of that until we get more 2x4 no climb perimeter fence up. As far as other flock management, we keep a hands off approach. Sheep only get shots if they need it due to injury or illness. These sheep are hardy animals, and we want them to stay that way.

Breeding (What timing for lambing? What are your selection criteria for sires and dams?)

Right now the main criteria for breeding is genetic lineage. We are trying to maintain separate lines with limited inbreeding. We are quickly getting to a point where we have enough animals where we can start to exclude animals from the breeding program based on breed standards or other attributes such as size, or ease of husbandry. We breed once a year starting in early December so that we lamb starting in May to keep lamb mortality due to weather at a minimum. We typically have three groups extending our lambing through to August.

What climate conditions work for or against you (heat, snow, too wet, too dry, etc?)

Winter in Eastern Oregon can vary greatly. The sheep have survived here in -30 deg. weather, and in snow up to 3ft deep. So we wait until late spring to lamb, and the rest of the work such as foot trimming for summer and fall.

What makes you unique?

I'm not sure we are doing much to make us really different from other breeders right now. If I had to pick something, I'd say we have some of the bigger sheep around currently. Although breed standards say that average sheep weigh up to 130lbs, my smallest breeding ram is around 120lbs and my largest breeders are around 180lbs. Soon we will find out if the larger size continues in offspring, and if it does, if their carcass size and net meat per live weight also goes up.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I feel real fortunate to be involved in conserving a breed that was nearly lost in the US. Given its historical significance as a breed of livestock that was created from the same circumstances that helped to create the United States, I think these sheep have a good story to tell. As this country evolves and changes, maybe these sheep can continue to play a role in how it's people raise and eat their own meat.

National Scrapie Eradication Program

Last Modified: Aug 6, 2018

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/ani](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/sheep-and-goat-health/national-scrapie-eradication-program/ct_scrapie)

[malhealth/animal-disease-information/sheep-](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/sheep-and-goat-health/national-scrapie-eradication-program/ct_scrapie)

[and-goat-health/national-scrapie-eradication-](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/sheep-and-goat-health/national-scrapie-eradication-program/ct_scrapie)

[program/ct_scrapie](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/sheep-and-goat-health/national-scrapie-eradication-program/ct_scrapie)

You Are the Key to Declaring the U.S. Free of Scrapie

Scrapie is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) affecting sheep and goats. The presence of classical scrapie in the U.S. sheep and goat population affects industry economically through production losses, lost exports, and increased production and disposal costs. Public health concerns related to the transmission of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) to humans have resulted in efforts to eradicate all TSEs in food-producing animals.

Surveillance for scrapie in the United States is conducted through the National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP), a cooperative State-Federal-industry program. The surveillance components of the NSEP include:

1. Regulatory Scrapie Slaughter Surveillance (RSSS);
2. Non-slaughter surveillance (e.g., trace investigations, on-farm testing); and
3. The Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program (SFCP).

The program's goals are to eradicate classical scrapie from the United States and to meet World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) criteria for disease freedom. Since 2002, the prevalence of scrapie has decreased significantly through existing eradication efforts,

largely a result of effective slaughter surveillance.

Since slaughter surveillance started in FY 2003, the percent of cull sheep found positive at slaughter (once adjusted for face color) has decreased 99 percent. However, in order to declare the U.S. "scrapie free", we must be able to prove to the world that we have conducted testing in all sheep and goat populations. This is why your submission of samples from sheep/goats over 18 months of age found dead or euthanized on your farm is extremely important. Without your help, we will not be able to declare the US free of scrapie, costing the sheep and goat industries approximately \$10 to \$20 million, annually.

Remember: Educate, Report and Submit

- **Educate** yourself on the clinical signs of scrapie.
 - Visit the [Scrapie Disease Information Page](#)
- **Report.** Contact your [State Veterinarian](#) or the [USDA Veterinary Services Office](#) for your state if your sheep or goat, older than 12 months, exhibits clinical signs of scrapie. Testing clinical suspects is the most cost effective way to find scrapie infected animals.

For more information contact the Designated Scrapie Epidemiologist (DSEs) and Contact Information (pdf 92kb) for your State.

- **Submit** samples or whole heads from sheep and goats over 18 months of age that die or are euthanized on your premises. Additional information is available on how you or your veterinarian can submit samples or whole heads for scrapie testing.

Visit the [Scrapie Sample Submission](#) Page for information about Scrapie Testing

September 27, 2018, Washington, D.C. – Throughout FY 2018,

APHIS provided metal serial or flock ID ear tags to sheep and goat producers free of charge. Due to significant increases in the cost of metal tags, Veterinary Services will only provide metal serial tags in FY 2019 and limit the number of free tags available to producers in order to keep costs within budget.

Producers and other entities may receive up to 100 metal serial tags every 2 years. Markets will continue to get the number of metal serial tags they require.

In response to industry's request to have the metal tags stand out better on white ears, APHIS will provide orange metal serial tags (versus white) going forward. Slaughter-only metal serial ear tags will continue to be blue.

APHIS remains committed to animal disease traceability and rapid response when scrapie outbreaks occur. These changes allow APHIS to continue equitably distributing metal tags to sheep and goat producers, and the markets, within available funding levels. Limiting the funds spent on ear tags allows APHIS to maintain the surveillance essential to eradicating this fatal degenerative disease.



BSAI NEWS

Print your own certificates now

In response to members' requests for speedier certificate delivery, your Board of Directors commissioned our contractor to allow you to print your own registration certificates and **NOW YOU CAN!!!** No waiting for certificates to come in the mail! You may now view or print your registration certificates from the Members Area of the website.

After logging in to the Members Area, click the link to "View the list of sheep you own" then click the info button (**which is a green square with an i in it**) for one of the sheep in the list to go to the info page for that sheep, then click the Certificate button to bring up the certificate. Then print the certificate if you wish.

This is also how you will print certificates when you register sheep online. You register the sheep by putting in the information, uploading a photograph, and paying the fee online. When the Registrar sends you a notification that your sheep have been registered (typically within a week), you can print your own certificates!

The new certificates look different from the old certificates but they have the same information. The sheep photograph does not appear on the new certificate, but it's in the database and you can see it.



New Members Welcome!

Alden Caldwell	OR
Julie Moore	IA
Matthew Roberts /	TN
Brittany Jones	
Jason Deppen	CA
Gary Pearson	MO
George Bobo / Joyce	SC
Benton-Bobo	
Katharyn Cagle	GA
Philip Quebe	VA
Sonja Bussiere	FL
Margaret Davey	CO
Jim and Diane	WA
Millington	
Erin Lynes	BC
Gina Shaver	GA
Jeffrey and Kathy	TN
Kucko	
Karl Mcelwee	LA
Tracy and Sylvia	AB
Schmidt	
Crystal Smith	BC

New Google Group for all members:

BSAI offers members an opportunity to communicate with each other via an exclusive members-only Google group. The group's purpose is to encourage and facilitate the free flow of communication between BBSAI members and Board of Directors.

We welcome all members to participate in this opportunity to share ideas, ask questions, and voice opinions. We anticipate that most of the discussion will center on questions and topics regarding the BBSAI — registration policies and procedures, programs, history of the American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly breeds, breed standards, etc. This is not intended to be a place to advertise sheep for sale, nor is it intended to be the place to ask general questions about raising sheep, although we will try to be as helpful as possible in that area. The BBSAI Board members will serve as moderator for this list serve, and our Board role as moderator will simply be to promote the free flow and exchange of ideas, while encouraging members to treat one another with courtesy and respect at all times.

To access this group, go to

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#%21forum/bbsaiforum>

Question:

Do any of you have opinions about smooth coat vs. wavy coat in lambs? That is, do you see a correlation between lamb and adult coats? Do you have a preference? If so, why? Do you think it affects shedding in adults?



If so, please send an email to:

newsletter@blackbellysheep.org

BBSAI NEWSLETTER

EDITOR

4330 Springwood Drive
Free Union, VA
22940

The BBSAI Newsletter is a benefit of membership in the BBSAI and is published quarterly. Articles, photographs, and business cards that relate to American Blackbelly and Barbados Blackbelly sheep are welcome. Submit your contributions to newsletter@blackbellysheep.org

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 BSBSAI.

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