

## 2017 Newsletter

Well, it's been another mild winter for those of us in most of the mid-west. We've had very little snow and temperatures have been mild enough that we've only shut-up the lambing barn a total of 7 days. Fortunately, conditions have been dry enough that humidity in the metal barn hasn't been an issue either.

My only regret this past winter is that I have had less time to spend with the sheep. I was contacted by a local high school in late January to fill-in for their Agricultural Science teacher who would be out on maternity leave until the end of the school year. I thought about the opportunity and decided it would be a new challenge and something I wanted to give a try. I now have a new appreciation for our public school teachers and believe we all owe those folks our sincere gratitude for their efforts, dedication and patience for teaching our children (past or present).

Finally, as I write this newsletter I'm on my second week of spring break and I'm spending it in Washington, DC. I'm here meeting with legislators and their staff members regarding issues facing the U.S. sheep industry. Some of those issues are bighorn sheep in domestic sheep grazing allotments and funding for both Wildlife Services and for the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station. While these may sound like "western" issues they do impact us all; they impact the entire sheep industry. Ask me sometime and I'll connect the dots and tell you how I was able to relate these issues as to their importance for Indiana legislators. My point in bringing this up is to also relate that issues or concerns within one segment of the purebred sheep business impacts all segments and generally all breeds. Whether it's an issue of the club lamb segment, the breeding sheep business or commercial production we all have "skin" in the game. Let's keep that in mind when issues that could involve a segment of our industry surfaces. Our motto, "Oxfords, Truly the World's Best", doesn't only apply to our sheep but also to the folks who raise them.

### **NAILE**

The 2016 NAILE in Louisville was a big success, especially in the Sheep Division. The show was cut by one day, yet the sheep shows didn't run terribly late into the evenings. There were 34 juniors, exhibiting 93 head of Oxford breeding sheep. The Champion and Reserve Champion Rams in the junior show were both from the late junior ram lamb class; the Champion was *A. Brockmann 1464* shown by Austin Brockmann (IL) and the Reserve Champion was *Double "O" Acres 16-040 "Derek's Deal"* shown by Derek Burns (OH). The best headed Oxford ram in the Junior Show was *Apple 1617* shown by Makayla Hitt (IN). The Oxford Junior Show Champion Ewe was the fitted yearling ewe, *Misty Meadows 0750 "Lucy Goosey"*, shown by Austin Grace (NH), the Reserve Champion Ewe was a fitted January ewe lamb, *Perzee 1607*, shown by Ty Miller (IN). An interesting side note about these two ewes is that *"Lucy Goosey"* was the Champion Ewe in the Junior Oxford Show at NAILE 2015 and *Perzee 1607* went on to be named the Grand Champion Oxford Ewe in the 2016 Mary Blome National Oxford Show at NAILE. The best headed Oxford ewe in the Junior Show was the February ewe lamb, *Sandoval 940* shown by Natalie Goodrich (HN), this ewe also went on to be named the 2016 Oxford Ewe Lamb Futurity winner.

In the 2016 Mary Blome National Oxford Show, the Grand Champion Ewe was *Perzee 1607* as mentioned in the junior show results earlier in this article. The Reserve Grand Champion Ewe was shown by Winning Ways Sheep Farm on a fitted yearling ewe, *WWSF 15-629A*. The best headed ewe was another yearling ewe, *Emerald Valley Farm Oxfords 411 "Girl on Fire"*, shown by Laura and Andy Meyer and Family (WI). The Grand Champion Ram was *A. Brockmann 1406*, a yearling shown by Austin Brockmann (IL), while the Reserve Grand Champion Ram and the Best Headed Ram was an early junior ram lamb, *Rocky Hill 1605*, shown by Luke Crome (IL). There were 123 head of Oxfords shown by 31 exhibitors in the Open Show.

For a full set of show results, go to the AOSA website ([www.americanoxfords.org](http://www.americanoxfords.org)) for a link or go directly to the NAILE website ([www.livestockexpo.org](http://www.livestockexpo.org)).

Speaking of NAILE, show dates for future years are:

October 31 – November 16, 2017

October 30 – November 15, 2018

November 5 – November 21, 2019

Make sure you're up-to-date on all things NAILE. Join the expo's ever-growing number of followers on social media. It's a great way to learn about deadlines, take part in surveys, enter to win rodeo tickets and more. Find and follow North American International Livestock Exposition on Facebook and Instagram.

### **Sheep Handling Video Available**

The *How to Handle Sheep* video series released by the American Sheep Industry (ASI) Association, in collaboration with Temple Grandin, Ph.D., the Livestock Marketing Association and Colorado State University, is approaching 10,000 hits on YouTube. The 3-part video details the process of handling sheep through the entire life span of the animal.

The training tool is available in English and Spanish. From producers and auction-facility workers to the transportation industry and harvesting personnel, everyone can follow Dr. Grandin as she discusses the best practices to use in handling sheep.

ASI Executive Director, Peter Orwick, strongly encourages all sheep operations to ensure their livestock workers, family members, full- or part-time employees, volunteers or neighbors are educated. "These videos are a convenient way to accomplish this goal," said Orwick. "Poorly trained or uneducated workers who help with sheep are a business liability that is not necessary with today's access to training."

The videos are available on ASI's YouTube Channel at [www.youtube.com/user/SheepUSA1](http://www.youtube.com/user/SheepUSA1)

### **National Show and Sale**

Enclosed with this newsletter is the entry information for the 2017 National Oxford Show and Sale. Again this year, we will be joined by other breeds in the barn at Springfield, IL. We will continue to publish just 1 sale catalog for all breeds so it is really important that entries be received no later than May 1, 2017. If you have questions, please contact the AOSA Office. **The National Show and Sale will be on June 16 & 17, 2017.**

### **Special Recognition / Awards / Sponsorship Opportunities**

- *Oxford Foundation Flock Award* – The foundation Flock Award is presented annually at the National Oxford Show and Sale. The purpose of this award is to help establish a new Oxford flock and breeder each year. The actual award consists of young brood ewes and /or ewe lambs and a young ram. These animals are donated by various established Oxford breeders. The deadline to apply for this award is **May 8, 2017**. If you

know of a person or family who would like to get a start with Oxfords, encourage them to apply. Justin O'Brien, chairperson of this committee, can be contacted for more information.

- *Oxford Hall of Fame Award* – The Hall of Fame Award was initiated in 2000 to recognize those people who have made significant contributions as supporters and promoters of the AOSA and the Oxford breed. A list of past honorees can be found on the AOSA's website. The application/nomination deadline for this award is **May 15, 2016**.

- *National Oxford Queen* – The AOSA has an annual queen contest for junior members who are between the ages of 16 and 21 as of December 31 in the year of application. This past year, the Association was represented by Annie Schoetmer of Indiana. If you have questions, please contact Beth Allison, Oxford Queen Committee Chairperson. The deadline to apply for the 2017 National Oxford Queen contest is **May 15, 2017**. Queen candidates will be interviewed at the National Show and Sale and the winner will be crowned at the AOSA Annual Membership Meeting on June 16, 2017.

Application information and forms for all 3 of the above programs can be found at the AOSA's website or printed copies of the information and forms can be mailed to interested persons by contacting the Association's office.

- *Best Headed Award Sponsorship* – Four Best Headed Awards are presented each year at the NAILE, two in the Junior Show and two in the Open Show. The cost to be a sponsor of one of these awards is \$30.00. If you would like to be an award sponsor, please send your sponsorship check into the Association's office.

- *Donation of Auction Items* – The AOSA Annual Membership Meeting always concludes with a spirited live auction of donated items to help raise funds for the AOSA award fees at the All American Junior Show. Please consider bringing some items for this benefit auction and plan on having some fun.

### **Ewe Lamb Futurity Program**

There were eight Oxford Junior members who participated in the 2016 Oxford Ewe Lamb Futurity Program with 10 nominated ewe lambs. The national winner was Natalie Goodrich of New Hampshire; her winning ewe lamb was *Sandoval 940* that she purchased from Augusta Sandoval (IL) at the 2016 National Oxford Show and Sale. The AOSA has a complete listing of the 2016 Futurity Ewe Lamb program results.

The Ewe Lamb Futurity program will be in its 9<sup>th</sup> year in 2017. A complete set of rules and all the forms are at the AOSA website or a consignor or junior participant may contact the AOSA office and hard copies will be mailed to you. Ewe lambs may be nominated by consignors at 5 live auctions and, **new in 2017, nominations may also be made by consignors of ewe lambs at On-Line Sales**. For on-line sale animals to be eligible for nomination, a consignor must submit nomination forms and nomination fees to the Association office so it arrives the day before the auction begins. Consignors must also include a "head shot" of nominated ewe lambs to verify Scrapie Tag information.

Consignors and buyers should read the rules for participation and be sure they follow all aspects. An important point of interest is that point forms must be sent to the AOSA office within 14 days of the shows date. All nomination fees (100%) are paid-out to the junior members who participate in the futurity program. This is a great program and a good opportunity to promote breeding programs and for juniors to get recognition for a good eye at the sales and a study hand at the shows. We encourage all breeders to continue to nominate their ewe lambs for the Futurity program.

### **AOSA Annual Membership Meeting**

The American Oxford Sheep Association will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, June 16, 2017 at approximately 6:30 PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2801 West Street, Springfield, IL 62707. Be sure to

notify the AOSA Office in advance if you plan to attend the annual meeting; tickets for the meal and meeting will be available at the fairgrounds and at the door. You may also attend the meeting only (without taking part in the meal; no charge). Minutes of the 2016 Annual Membership Meeting are enclosed with this newsletter.

*AOSA Director positions that will be elected at the 2017 Annual Meeting are as follows:*

*District 2-Jay Franzen will be completing his 2<sup>nd</sup> and last eligible term*

*District 3 – Laura Meyer will be completing her 2<sup>nd</sup> and last eligible term*

*District 5 – Stacey Gadsby will be completing her 1<sup>st</sup> term and is eligible for re-election*

### **All-American Junior Show**

The All-American Junior Sheep Show (AAJSS) will be at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI this summer (June 30 – July 2, 2017). See the enclosed special news release on this great event. You can find entry information at the All-American website: [www.allamericanjuniorshow.com](http://www.allamericanjuniorshow.com).

Don't forget those donated items for the live auction at the AOSA Annual Membership meeting. The funds generated at that auction will be used to pay the Association's assessment of premiums for the show. Contact one of the directors of the Association or David Trotter to make those donations, or better yet, bring your auction items to the Annual Meeting.

Another way you can help support the All-American Junior Show is to purchase raffle tickets. The enclosed news release tells what the raffle prizes are and enclosed in each of the Senior member's newsletter are a few raffle tickets for your opportunity to be a supporter. Junior members will get their tickets from the AAJSS office. If you decide to purchase the tickets, complete your contact information on the ticket stub and return them with payment to the AOSA Office (make checks payable to AAJSS). Stubs will be placed in the drawing at the show, you don't have to be present to win. If you would like more tickets, just let us know.

### **Classic Scrapie**

In the January 2017 National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) report, the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) conveyed that no new positive U.S. classical scrapie cases have been reported in either sheep or goats in fiscal year 2017, which runs from Oct. 1, 2016 through Sept. 30, 2017. Also, no new infected or source flocks have been identified in fiscal year 2017.

In fact, the last case of classical scrapie was reported in April 2016. This is the longest period without a positive case since the beginning of the NSEP.

The January report is available at

[www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_diseases/scrapie/downloads/monthly\\_scrapie\\_report.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/downloads/monthly_scrapie_report.pdf)

### **AOSA Office Work**

Just a reminder, check your records and your animal inventory and make sure your registrations and transfers are all up-to-date and current. Do you have all those 2016-born lambs that you plan to keep registered? What about sheep you have sold to other folks; have you sent in transfers so the new owners are now recorded owners? Avoid paying extra fees from rush work (double the regular fees), registering animals older than a year of age or transfers sent in more than 60 days after the sale date. Check your records and animal inventory now. And remember, be sure your annual dues are current for 2017 (Senior Members - \$20, Junior Members - \$6).