



THE LINCOLN LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL LINCOLN SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOC.

SPRING

2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Brian Larson, President NLSBA

Junior Activities are the focus of this issue of the Lincoln Letter. We are announcing the NLSBA Junior Program that is being funded by the Roger Watkins Memorial Youth Fund. Details of the program are included in this newsletter. The Lincoln membership meeting in June during the national show and sale in Springfield, Illinois will review and discuss this new program. Also included in this issue is a report from the 2009 Youth Conservation Program (YCP) recipient of a Lincoln Longwool yearling ewe. Plus some great photos will introduce you to some of our junior members.

Come to Springfield, Illinois for our 2010 National Show and Sale June 18 - 19! The show is Friday late morning, Friday June 18 and the sale is Saturday mid-to late morning. There are 30 lots of quality breeding animals entered – members should have received a catalog. A membership meeting for Lincoln breeders attending will be held Friday evening from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the Candlewood Suites (2501 Sunrise Drive, 217-522-5100) in Springfield (see directions at end of this report). We will be having pizza and soft beverages (attendees, plan to contribute 'amount-to-be-determined' for meal and meeting room) and an open discussion all about Lincolns and the NLSBA.

Lincoln Show at Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival: Lincolns put on an impressive showing in Maryland in both white and natural colored divisions. A number of classes had 15 to 20 individual entries, making the Lincoln show one of the largest breed shows at the festival. Congratulations to all of the exhibitors who made for a great show. Special congratulations to Debbie Vanderwende, DE, whose natural colored ram was named Supreme Champion Best Fleeced Sheep over all breeds at the festival!

Robert Watts Memorial: A joint memorial to Robert Watts, deceased longtime chairman of the UK Lincoln Longwool Sheep Breeders' Association (LLSBA), has been established on behalf of the LLSBA and the NLSBA. The NLSBA contribution came from individual member donations. A future issue of the Lincoln Letter will have memorial details. NLSBA members can still contribute by contacting Brian Larson.

Events and Dates to Remember (NLSBA participation):

- National Lincoln Show and Sale, June 18-19, Springfield Illinois
- Northeast Youth Sheep Show, July 16-18, West Springfield, Massachusetts (Lincoln's need numbers)
- North American International Livestock Exposition; National Junior and Open Lincoln Sheep Shows, November 10 and 15, respectively.

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A TALE OF TWO MEN NAMED JOHN LEE (PART II)

by Letty Klein of Pine Lane Karakuls - Kalamazoo, Michigan

[This is a continuation from the last newsletter of an article written for the Black Sheep Newsletter and reprinted with their permission.]

John B. Lee's understanding of sheep husbandry through his uncle John C. Lee is evident in the following graphic passage from his book, **Rediscovered Sheep**, the poem entitled:

Talking: There Are No Black Flowers

*My uncle talks all evening
from his deep chair
his voice tired
in the amber pool of lamplight:*

... And then:

*"Some ewes lamb hard
their young shunting together
like a ruined puzzle.*

*Then you've got to
reach in one by one
with two lathered arms
and feel for the feet
with your blind thumb in the mouth
to bring on the head
in a slow draw
so nothing tears or breaks.*

*If you snap the cord
the lamb will die.
If you miss the feet
they'll slice the ewe inside.
If you don't hold the head
it'll bend back
and catch in the pelvis.
Any small mistake -
you're done.*

*Then you wait an hour.
Let her rest
for she'll surely twin
while you shiver in the cold
that breathes through barn-board cracks
and knot holes.*

*Then again,
full of care,
feeling nothing at first but the wooled arch
of a back
or the tail.
Work the breeched lamb round
'til you scent the nose
with your fingertips.
Read the head like living braille.
Fix your fingers just above the hocks
and pull
'til the spindly burden drops in the straw.
And you might watch a final hour
for a third.*

*Over the years you learn to sleep
on your feet like a horse."*

John B recently wrote me, "You might consider reading the passage my Uncle often quotes from Shakespeare's play, Henry VI, part II. There is a long passage where Henry compares his complicated life on the eve of a terrible battle to the simple life of a shepherd where he longs for the daily simplicity and relatively untroubled existence of the shepherd. Of course

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Visit the Lincoln Association Website for Updates and Information

www.lincolnsheep.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT... *Continued from page 1*

Directions to Candlewood Suites: From Illinois State Fairgrounds, turn left onto Sangamon Avenue and go about 2.4 miles, turn right onto I-55 and go about 3 miles south, exit at 96B and turn right onto SR-29 and go half mile (north toward South Grand Avenue), turn left onto South Dirksen Parkway and go 1.3 miles, turn right onto Stanford Avenue, then turn right onto Sunrise Drive. Total is about 7.5 miles and 15 minutes driving time.

Hope to see you all at the National Show and Sale!

KIDS VOCABULARY BUILDER

This issue's word is **“nutrient”**

Definition: Elements in a feed that are used for growth and production.

Fact: Nutrients are divided into five categories - Water, Protein, Carbohydrates, Minerals, and Vitamins.

Use in a Sentence: The nutrients my sheep eats makes my lamb grow bigger.

Can you use it in a sentence?

NLSBA JUNIOR PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

The Roger Watkins Memorial Youth Fund has been established by donations of NLSBA members and friends. Roger Watkins served as Secretary/Treasurer for 10 years. He was an avid promoter of the Lincoln, especially with youth. The officers of the Association, therefore, decided to use the Fund to establish a program for youth. At a recent conference call of the NLSBA board, it was recommended that the guidelines be established for three uses of the Fund: Cash for Credits, Shearing Scholarships and Memorial T-Shirts.

CASH FOR CREDITS

Any youth under the age of 19 can participate in the NLSBA Junior Program. Sheep and organizational activities can earn Cash for Credits toward becoming a NLSBA Junior member, the owner of Lincoln sheep, and/or other goals. Youth with the goal of becoming a Junior member and current members will document their credits with the Junior Programs recorder.

Promote Sheep! Opportunities for involvement are limited only by the youth's imagination and opportunity. Examples of sheep opportunities are found in the youth organizations of 4-H and FFA, fairs, festivals, shows, etc. Here are a few opportunities that earn Cash for Credits:

- Contests: Make-It-With-Wool, Lead-Line; cookout competition (with lamb); photo competitions (using sheep); judging teams (which includes sheep), etc.

- Displays: Be involved in the set-up, hosting and take-down of a sheep and/or wool educational display; take responsibility in a sheep breeds display or petting zoo, etc. that includes sheep; provide or work in an educational display involving wool fleece, pelts, garments, etc.

- Demonstrations/Instructional: Spinning, weaving, fleece preparation; fitting and showing of sheep, etc.

Serving and Leading with Sheep! Activities of service and leadership in youth organization sheep projects can earn Cash for Credits in the NLSBA Junior Program. Reporting sheep leadership activities and committee service can pay a Junior membership, help purchase a Lincoln, etc.

Exhibit Sheep! The new Junior Award program will give youth the opportunity to earn cash for fitting and showing sheep. It will also provide the means for any youth under the age of 19 to achieve credits toward ownership of a Lincoln. NLSBA Juniors can qualify for credits and cash exhibiting their Lincolns by:

- Being a NLSBA Junior member under 19 years of age (NLSBA constitution).
- Having sheep used for credits registered in the Junior's name.
- Sending the Junior Program recorder a signed form from an activity supervisor. Example: "John Doe showed 7 Lincoln sheep, 2 groups and 1 fleece at the Waldorf county fair." (Signed) Bill Smith, Superintendent.

How do you participate? Any youth participating in the NLSBA Junior Program will be able to obtain forms on the NLSBA web site's Junior Page or write to the NLSBA, 15603 173rd Ave., Milo, IA 50166. Each qualifying activity reported earns \$2 in cash. The credits may be added over the length of time determined by the youth or Junior member. The credit forms, however, should be sent to the Junior Programs recorder on a timely basis – within 6 months of activities. When deciding to turn the credits into cash, the youth can notify the recorder 30 days before an event (NLSBA or otherwise) selected for award presentations. Each Junior may apply for one credit Award and application of the credits will be on an individual basis determined by the NLSBA Youth Committee.

SHEARING SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

The Roger Watkins Memorial Youth Fund will also provide scholarship for youth wishing to attend a shearing school in their area. There are over 20 shearing schools throughout the United States. Although the cost of tuition varies, the average is \$100, which is the amount to be awarded to up to three youth each year. The award will be sent directly to the school to which the applicant enters. If the amount of the award exceeds the tuition, the balance will be applied to equipment used in shearing. The awards will be made to members of the NLSBA between the ages of 18 and 23 years.

LINCOLN LOGO / MEMORIAL T-SHIRTS

T-shirts for Junior members showing Lincolns will be made available with funds from the Youth Fund in memory of Roger Watkins. These special shirts will have the Lincoln logo, designed by Roger's wife Carol on the front (as all official Lincoln T-shirts now have unless special ordered) and on the back will be printed "Roger Watkins Memorial". Regional NLSBA directors can request these shirts for youth in their area showing Lincolns. The shirts will be provided for the Junior Show at NAILE. The Juniors are to wear the shirts while showing their sheep.

MEET NLSBA JUNIOR MEMBERS...



KELLY AND ERIC FROEHLICH ARE FROM GRASSTON, MN. KELLY IS PICTURED WITH HER LAMB NAMED "YODA".



TAYLOR MEEK IS FROM HARMONY, RI AND IS PICTURED AT THE NE YOUTH SHOW.



SOME NLSBA JUNIOR MEMBERS SHOWING LINCOLNS IN LOUISVILLE AT THE 2009 NAILE.



JUNIOR MEMBERS FOCUSING ON THE DETAILS DURING THE NE YOUTH SHEEP SHOW.

ASHTON SHEA, COLUMBUS, NJ, AT THE 2010 NE YOUTH SHEEP SHOW.



HALEY YUNKER IS FROM ST. CROIX FALLS, WI. HALEY IS PICTURED WITH HER RAM NAMED "BERT".



NE YOUTH SHEEP SHOW FUN AND SUCCESS!



A PROSPECTIVE JUNIOR MEMBER IN COLORADO.

ALSO, A PHOTO ENTITLED "PRINCESS & PEA" FROM OREGON.



SLICE, SCOOP & HANDFUL

WHAT IS A LINCOLN LONGWOOL?

by Brian Larson

History: Longwool sheep appear to have ancestry from white-fleeced sheep imported to England from the European continent during the Roman occupation. Evidence of this body-type of sheep with similar fleece exists as figurines from the continent dating to the second century. The next evidence comes from Lincolnshire, appearing as a detailed illustration in the 'Luttrell Psalter' written between 1320 and 1340. In approximately 1460, a brass memorial with a curly-fleeced sheep was placed on the Northleach Church, Gloucestershire. The 'old' Lincoln was first identified and depicted in the 1700's. Robert Bakewell (1725-1795), a famous livestock breeder, used the 'old' Lincoln with other native stock while creating his 'new' Leicester sheep, subsequently using inbreeding to 'perfect' his breed creation. Later, Lincolnshire sheepmen used the 'new' Leicester rams on 'old' coarse-wool Lincoln ewes to begin development of the 'improved' Lincoln using selective crossbreeding. The distinctly hardy 'improved' Lincoln evolved during the 1800's toward the dual-purpose breed we have today. The 'improved' Lincoln combined more quality meat with a higher quality of wool than the 'old' Lincoln. Although the wool was of a finer diameter =, it took dye very well and retained its strength for the combing and worsted spinning processes used at that time. It was this 'improved' Lincoln that led to the accumulation of great wealth in Lincolnshire and surrounding counties for nearly a century. In the latter 1800's, the value of using the Lincoln in crossbreeding programs was recognized. Lincoln breeding sheep were exported worldwide for upgrading local breeding stock. Breeds eventually developed by using Lincoln parents included Corriedale, Polwarth, Columbia, Bond, and Panama.



Breed standards follow for both the US and UK. Combined, these standards give good perspectives on what Lincoln Longwool breeding goals should be to keep the breed distinctive. Each set of standards has a unique approach, however, the perspective of the Lincoln Longwool unites with both versions of the breed standards.

NLSBA (US) Breed Standards:

Breed Character (20%) - The Lincoln Longwool is an impressive, multi-purpose, heavily-built, rugged, adaptable sheep with a calm and gentle disposition. The Lincoln yields a very long lustrous, coarse, strong wave, common or braid fleece. The ideal Lincoln should have a broad-based head with wide-set nostrils; an open face with a well-defined forelock. Masculine wrinkles on the head of the ram are acceptable. Ears should not be pointed too forward or lopping. Solid black hooves are preferred. White hooves and excessive wool below the eyes are objectionable. The white fleeced Lincoln should have blue-skinned ears, with dark spots on the back being desirable. Objectionable characteristics are light pink noses; brown color, rust or smut on legs, ears or face.

Wool (40%) - Distinctive, lightly yoked, uniform in wave or curl with loft, luster and density. Emphasis should be placed on fleece uniformity. Strong, well-defined, braid-type crimp with braid no finer than low quar-

ter (46s). Wool should be fast growing and heavy-yielding by weight. The white Lincoln should be free of colored wool. A small black spot on lower leg is not a disqualification. More or larger black spots are objectionable. The colored fleece is acceptable in any single color or variation of natural colors.

Conformation (40%) - Standard for desirable sheep conformation should be applied in judging the white and colored Lincoln Longwool.

LLSBA (UK) Breed Standards: The Lincoln Longwool is not only the biggest breed of sheep, it also carries the greatest weight of wool. The quality of this wool is of paramount importance and the balance between size and wool quality is the challenge all breeders face. (Following developed for rams, but should be applicable to breed. Photo of Dudding ram attached and is promoted as a goal)

1. **GOOD SYMMETRY:** Shoulders well back with head up, must stand straight and level on hocks and fetlock - 10 points

2. **SIZE:** The Lincoln is essentially a big sheep, but this is not to mean length of leg only - 10 points

3. **LENGTH and GIRTH:** Length of body consistent with deep ribs and wide sprung - 10 points

4. **HEAD and EARS:** A masculine head with deep wrinkles on forehead (rams); a clear bold eye; wide nostrils, blue-skinned not pink. Ears long and well-placed not too forward or 'lopping', white ears objectionable, color should be a blue-gray mingled with darker spots - 10 points

5. **BONE and SUBSTANCE:** A Lincoln needs strong bone to carry the weight - 10 points

6. **ACTIVITY:** Must walk freely and gaily - 10 points

7. **MEATINESS:** Deep, firm-handling flesh along back, a wide loin, no hardness of touch on top of shoulder, a good wide leg well let down - 20 points

8. **FLEECE:** Of great importance. Great weight of strong, dense wool without courseness; with a broad, clean staple of fine luster, closely covering skin and with a wavy appearance in the lock. Soft, or what is termed 'mossy' wool objectionable. No harsh straight, hairy wool of thighs. Breast and inside thighs to be wool-covered - 20 points

KIDS FUN FACT #1

One sheep produces anywhere from 2 to 30 pounds of wool annually. The wool from one sheep is called a fleece, from many sheep, a clip. The amount of wool that a sheep produces depends upon its breed, genetics, nutrition, and shearing interval. Lambs produce less wool than mature animals. Due to their larger size, rams usually produce more wool than ewes of the same breed or type.

SVC TO BRING WASHABLE WOOL PROCESSING EQUIPMENT TO U.S.

By Amy Trinidad, Sheep Industry News Editor

[Article pulled from the online version of the Sheep Industry News, May 2010, Volume 14, Issue 15. American Sheep Industry Association - 9785 Maroon Circle, # 360 - Englewood, CO 80112-2692 - Phone 303 771 3500 - amy@sheepusa.org]

(May 1, 2010) The Sheep Venture Co. (SVC), the American Sheep Industry Association's wholly owned for-profit company, received approval of its loan application by the National Livestock Producers Association's (NLPA) Sheep Loan Fund Committee to purchase manufacturing equipment for the United States that will allow wool products to be machine washed and dried without shrinking.

The continuous wool-top chlorine/polymer shrink-resistant treatment equipment line will be able to alter the fiber in wool products, allowing them to be washed and dried without shrinking and will meet "Total Easy Care" standards for consumers. This manufacturing line will be used to fill both military and commercial wool product orders. At this time, more than 2 million pounds of wool is shrink treated overseas in the commercial market.

"Currently, this wool shrink-treatment process is only available overseas, which increases costs, delivery times and eligibility for military wool products. Of concern is that our domestic mills are less competitive without this process and it will prohibit the use of washable wool products by the military, which is American wool's largest domestic customer," says Margaret Soulen Hinson, president of the SVC, explaining that if all processes/products are not entirely of U.S. origin they cannot be used by the Department of Defense (DOD).

The equipment will be housed at Chargeurs Wool USA in Jamestown, S.C., the one remaining topmaking facility in the United States, which will allow various companies to apply the washable treatment to many different U.S. wool products. With the arrival of the equipment this fall and installation and commission through early winter, it is anticipated the equipment will be at full-production capability by the beginning of 2011.

"Domestically processing U.S. wool from sheep to garment will lead to increased demand for U.S. wool products, which in turn will increase domestic demand for our wool," says Hinson, also relaying that the process will help build new business and eliminate the risk of losing current military knitwear business due to the lack of a dependable shrink process in the United States. "We appreciate the NLPA committee assisting with the financial package so that in the coming years, the industry will be able to pay off the loan by simply using the equipment."

copy can be found at <http://sheepindustrynews.org/>

KIDS FUN FACT #2

Long wool sheep usually produce the heaviest fleeces because their fibers, though coarser, grow the longest. Hand spinners tend to prefer wool from the long wool breeds because it is easier to spin.

Medium wool sheep, raised more for meat than fiber, produce the lightest weight, least valuable fleeces. Medium wool is usually made into blankets, sweaters, or socks or it is felted.

A TALE OF TWO MEN NAMED... *Continued from page 1*

the pastoral idyll date back to Biblical times and true shepherds know differently."

John B's favorite aspect of his uncle's useful shepherding involves the baby monitor he had in his bedroom, bleating like a midnight radio tuned into sheep. You could hear the monitor bleating during supper in the dining room. John B would joke that it was crying "Jooohnn, Jooohnn, heelp, maaa, baaa, coome we need you nooow, maaa".



Sadly the legacy of shepherding on Leeland Farm has come to an end. Above is a photo of some of the last Lee ewe lambs. As both John C and John B have told me, there is no one to carry on. Gone is the prizewinning herd of Shorthorn cattle and the pigs. More recently the great flock of Lincoln sheep has been sold. Meeting John Lee makes me wonder what stories I'll be able to tell when I'm in my 78th year. Will we still be adhering to the fundamentals of livestock breeding as told by the poet Virgil in 29BC, the shepherd John C. Lee in 1997, and finally the poet John B. Lee in 2004?

If you are interested in getting some of John B's works, check out the following web sites (in order of sheep and farm interest): www.brick-books.ca, www.blackmosspress.com, www.amazon.com

ATTEND THE NATIONAL LINCOLN SHOW & SALE

Selling Both White & Natural Colored Lincolns

June 18 & 19th, 2010
State Fairgrounds - Springfield, Illinois

SHOW: Friday late morning
following the Shropshire Show
Judge: Judy Moore - Eagle, Michigan

SALE: Saturday morning
following the Shropshire Sale
Auctioneer: Tyler Lobdell - Lena, Illinois

MY LINCOLN LONGWOOL EXPERIENCE IN THE 2009 YOUTH CONSERVATIONIST PROGRAM

by Madeline Zimmermann, age 13, Hancock, NH

In the Youth Conservationist Program I wrote an essay on WHY I SHOULD WIN A SHEEP. I applied in March of 2009. I answered this question by telling about my shelter and how I can take care of the sheep. I went down to Maryland for the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. There I saw a procession of sheep and heard descriptions about them. Afterward the YCP winners for that year entered the ring. There one by one we were awarded our sheep. I was awarded the sheep by Brian Larson and Jennifer Garrett of Dowling, Michigan. We then had to wait in line to get our pictures taken. During that period of time the Larson's and I talked. I learned a lot about the Lincoln breed and how they did in the show that day. I also learned that my sheep's name was JoAnn. A photo is attached of JoAnn, Jennifer Garrett, myself, and Brian Larson.

I took JoAnn to lots of fairs. I went to Barnstable County Fair in Massachusetts on July 23rd. She placed 2nd in A. O.B. Wool (all other wool breeds). We went to Cheshire Fair in New Hampshire on August 3rd. She placed 1st in A. O.B. Wool. She also won Champion ewe. We went to Belknap Fair in New Hampshire on August 8th. She placed 1st in A. O.B. Wool and won champion ewe. We also were in lead line, we placed 1st. Lead line is where you lead a sheep on a halter and wear a wool garment. My garment was a purple plaid skirt, jacket, and purse. I made them all. We went to Cornish Fair in New Hampshire on August 21st. She placed 1st in A. O.B.

Wool. We went to Brooklyn Fair in Connecticut on August 31st. She placed 2nd in A. O.B. Wool. We won lead line. We went to Woodstock Fair on September 6th. She placed 4th in A. O.B. Wool and in Lead line. We Went to Hillsborough County Fair in New Hampshire On September 13th. She placed 1st in A. O.B. Wool and lead line she also won champion ewe. We Went to Deerfield Fair in New Hampshire on October 1-4th. She placed 1st in A. O.B.

Wool. We also won lead line. We went to Fryeburg Fair in Maine. JoAnn placed 1st in A. O.B. Wool and in Open Show. The judge was Dave Cook of New London, Ohio. JoAnn got champion Lincoln ewe in the open show. We went to Sandwich Fair, our last fair. She placed 3rd in A. O.B. Wool.

Throughout the show season we kept in touch with Brian Larson and Jennifer Garrett. We bred her during the year and are expecting in late February. With JoAnn and her lambs, I am planning to build up a large flock and sell, show, and breed quality natural colored Lincolns.

For more information check Ohio State University's website and find the page about the Youth Conservationist Program. To submit an essay applying for a sheep, send it to Elaine Ashcraft, 46118 CR 58, Coshocton, Ohio 43812 by April 1, 2011 along with a letter of recommendation.

*(Reprinted with permission from the
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