

WINTER

2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Brian Larson, President NLSBA

Harvey Warrick Appointed Eastern-Midwest Director: Harvey Warrick, Adrian Michigan, was approved by the NLSBA board of directors as new director to replace Susan Hanks. Susan has left the sheep business. Harvey will serve until the June 2011 biennial membership meeting. Welcome Harvey!

Roger Watkins Memorial Youth Fund: A NLSBA committee has been selected to review several ideas for the using the fund formed in memory of Roger for the benefit of youth and their involvement with Lincoln Longwool sheep. The committee is chaired by Donna Lein (IA, NLSBA VP), with members Diane Klingelhofer (MD, Director-East) and David Hammer (WI, ex-officio). The committee is soliciting ideas from the NLSBA membership. In addition to ideas generated by the membership during our biennial membership meeting in Spring field IL last June, Donna presented several more unique ideas to the board of directors and officers during a recent conference call. If you have suggestions for the committee, please contact one of the committee members. Donations to the Roger Watkins Memorial Youth Fund are welcomed – send them to NLSBA Secretary/Treasurer Debbie Vanderwende, 14391 Blanchard Road, Greenwood, DE 19950.

Sheep Tour and Expo Palermo Tradeshow ARGENTINA:

Enrollment deadline is March 15th for this great tour where we hope to discover some great Lincoln Longwool genetics and see the Argentina that few are able to experience. Check out our web site under 'ACTIVI-TIES' for details or contact Brian Larson at 269-623-2549 or 8291 South Cedar Creek Road, Dowling, MI 49050.

2010 NLSBA Show and Sale will be held in Springfield IL June 18 & 19. Banner Sales Management will be contacting the membership about consignments. The 2009 NLSBA biennial membership meeting decided that annual NLSBA shows & sales should be held and when no alternative site is agreed upon for even-numbered years, Springfield will serve as the default location. Currently, Springfield is the site of the biennial membership meeting, show and sale on odd-numbered years. Watch the next newsletter for details of a special membership meeting that will be held in conjunction with the show and sale.

2010 NAILE: Brian Larson will serve as new national Lincoln Longwool show superintendent, replacing Susan Hanks. The following language was approved by the board of directors and officers that will be added to rules of the show: "Lincoln sheep will be evaluated based upon breed guidelines found at www.lincolnsheep.com. Fleece length is to be a minimum of two (2) inches (exceptions may include neck, legs or belly). The NLSBA suggests that severe tail docking not be practiced. The *Continued on page 2*

COMMENTS ON LINCOLN LONGWOOL SHEEP HISTORY

by Robert Watts, LLSBA Former Chairman (now deceased)

[Adapted from transcript of talk to 2000 NAILE exhibitors; transcript provided by Donna Lein]

The history of Lincoln sheep starts before Roman times, but in England it is closely tied to Lincolnshire. Wool was the common standard of wealth in the early days that was used to build the economy and the

famous churches of Lincolnshire. Lincoln Cathedral has three acres of roof surface and Louth parish boasts the tallest church spire in England. The North Sea coast city of Boston was at one time the second largest wool center and its large cathedral is a testament to wool wealth. The central beam of the



arched ceiling has a Lincoln Longwool carved at its center as testimony that wool created Boston's wealth and growth.

English wool production was in the hands of monasteries early on where flocks grew huge in scale and wool brought them great wealth. At that time, spinning and weaving was a 'cottage' industry across England, also directed by the church. When Henry VIII became king, he declared that the monasteries had too much wealth so he took them over and generously gave them to his friends. Later, England sent wool to Flemish weavers in Belgium and Flanders who wove cloth and sent the cloth back to England for finishing into products. In the 13th century it is recorded that the most highly prized wool was from Lincolnshire. During the English revolution, there was a need for more food to eat and famous animal geneticist Robert Bakewell used the old Lincoln to make his English Leicester. The Lincoln Longwool breeders then used Bakewell's Leicester to make the new and improved Lincoln. The major difference between the old and new Lincoln Longwool was in the amount of fat 'put down', the new Lincoln being more meaty.

Not only is wool a highlight of the Lincoln Longwool, but Lincolns have been named overall champions at many shows in England. Notably, no other breed has taken the overall championship as often as the Lincoln. According to Watts, the Lincoln is the most highly developed sheep genetics in the world. When this is not realized, the Lincoln sheep is often misunderstood. The Lincoln stands head and shoulders above the less developed primitive breeds – it has wool of great length, strength and weight which has taken thousands of years to develop. Unfortunately the *Continued on page 3*

Visit the Lincoln Association Website for Updates and Information www.lincolnsheep.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT... Continued from page 1

industry-recommended dock length is no shorter than the distal end (farthest point from the body) of the caudal fold, equivalent to having three (3) full coccygeal vertebrae in place." **2010 NAILE Junior Show** championship and class winner award donors are needed. Please contact Longwools@mei.net if you are interested in providing awards or donating for an award in the name of your flock.

Web-Site Refreshing: The web site has been refreshed with new pages and pictures. PDF files have been added for all recent newsletters, new registration forms, and work orders to registrar. The junior pages have been expanded with photos. In addition, there are plans to have junior photo and caption contests, and a junior blog. We will soon add current brochures (color and black & white versions) and constitution and by-laws for membership reading and printing, plus an events calendar. More photo pages will be added – if you have interesting photos, please contact longwools@mei.net.

Memorial to Robert Watts: The NLSBA is joining hands with the UK Lincoln Longwools Breeder's Association to develop a fitting memorial to their former chairman – Please send yours to NLSBA Secretary/Treasurer Debbie Vanderwende, 14391 Blanchard Road, Greenwood, DE 19950.



Enclosed in this Letter you will find a new Association Work Order and Fee Schedule

Please Note the PRICE CHANGES and use this new form when mailing in work for 2010! You can also find one posted at **www.lincolnsheep.org**

TAILS WAG THE SHEEP!

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has scored many victories and no losses in ballot initiatives around the country to enforce their animal welfare agenda. These successes have emboldened the HSUS to negotiate directly with state legislatures to further their agenda. When state legislatures balk, on comes the ballot initiatives. The HSUS is consistently able to garner about two-thirds of the votes. In the California initiative, agriculture did a magnificent job of raising funds – dollar-fordollar with HSUS. The result – agriculture moved the vote 2% in their direction, but lost by over 30 percentage points! Now, HSUS does not have to do another ballot initiative in California – they negotiate/dictate ruthlessly.

Thus far, the HSUS has been aiming at confinement chickens, gestation crates for sows, and tail docking in dairy cows – all areas that get non-farm voters excited – whether for right or wrong reasons!

The few successes by animal agriculture to preserve essential management practices have come by negotiation from a solid, common-sense, industry-united positions.

The sheep industry is on the HSUS list and one of their priorities will be tail-docking, especially a practice known as 'extreme tail-docking'. American animal agriculture is a proud and independent lot. Many farm folks are 'mad-as-hades' about the seemingly arbitrary HSUS intrusion into our animal management practices. The reality is that we need to adopt defensible and unified positions – positions that will resonate with all of our industry supporters and have a chance of surviving the HSUS attacks. The sheep industry-recommended dock length is no shorter than the distal end (farthest point from the body) of the caudal fold that is equivalent to having three (3) full coccygeal vertebrae in place. The caudal fold is a flap of skin attached to the underside of the tail near the rectum that is clearly visible when the tail is lifted.

With preservation of sound animal management practices in mind, the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) developed a resolution urging that sheep be docked no shorter than the above-mentioned tail length and groups such as the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners, the American Sheep Industry Association and the American Farm Bureau Federation support the resolution.

Sheep producers and youth show officials in states that have implemented these industry-recommended tail docking policies include Ohio, Maryland, West Virginia, California, Wyoming and Washington. Enforcement and compliance has been less than perfect. A vocal minority of our own sheep folks have made the conversion to the industry standard difficult. If the HSUS see's the opportunity of a divided 'sheep shed', they could easily force the precedent-setting UK animal welfare standard on the U. S. sheep industry – a tail length about 3 inches longer than what the USAHA has proposed – or perhaps no tail docking what-so-ever!

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A TALE OF TWO MEN NAMED JOHN LEE (PART I) by Letty Klein, Pine Lane Karakuls - Kalamazoo, Michigan

One in a lifetime perhaps, you may meet a person who has a profound effect on your life. For me, two of these unforgettable people are named John Lee.

I met John C. Lee back in 1996 at NAILE in Louisville, Kentucky; he was 78 years old. He had accompanied well-known Lincoln breeder, Bill

Gardhouse, whose sheep were penned near mine. This man was highly respected by the other Lincoln breeders present, with his opinion valued and his knowledge endless. I wrote an article about our conversations ("If Wool Be Thy Care . . ". The Shepherd Magazine, Volume 45, No. 9, September 2000, pp11-13) which culminated in a visit to Leeland Farm near the town of Highgate in southeastern Ontario, Canada. There I saw for myself the famous weathered black barns high on



a hill that John C called home and the historic flock of white Lincoln sheep that had been in the family since 1889.

John C loved to recite a passage from the Roman poet Virgil's The Georgics, art of husbandry, written in 29 BC. His father, Herbert M. Lee, gave this poem to him when he was a small boy to not only memorize but learn its meaning. Herbert was a man who believed in and adhered to the fundamentals of livestock breeding.

If wool be thy care, let not thy cattle go where bushes are, where burrs and thistles grow. Neither in too rank a pasture let them feed and of the purest white select thy breed. Perchance a snowy ram thou dost behold, select him not in haste as husband to thy fold. Yeah! Search his mouth and if a swarthy tongue beneath a humid palate hung, reject him! Lest he darken all thy flock and search out another from thy numerous stock . . .

Then six years later, in September of 2003, I received a note: "Dear Letty, I came across your web site in which you quote from both Virgil's Georgics and my Uncle John. I'm the nephew you referred to as the 'poet' who helped his uncle trace the origins of the poem." John B. Lee is indeed "one of Canada's best new poets" as per Rolling Stone Magazine and he is the 5th generation John in the Lee family. In 1990 he left the teaching profession to become a full-time writer. He has authored over 30 books, a recent one "The Farm on the Hill He Calls Home" (Black Moss Press -Settlement Series, 2004) is about his life, and his father's life and death; and the end of the legacy of the farm on the hill.

John B wrote my favorite collection of poems entitled "Rediscovered Sheep" (1989, Brick Books). The picture on the cover is of John's father as a young man of 16, holding a Lincoln ram lamb for the camera on their farm circa 1938. This, often brutally explicit, book of poems is dedicated to John C. Lee, "for Uncle John, the best shepherd I have ever known." John B's understanding of sheep husbandry is evident in the collection of poems.

To be continued in next newsletter...

COMMENTS ON LINCOLN HISTORY ... Continued from page 1

Lincoln, of all breeds, has been relegated to 'critical' status by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. Quite honestly, there is a lot more to save of genetic value in the Lincoln and other long wool breeds, than there is in the short wool 'down' breeds.

Lincoln Longwool associations began in England, United States, and Canada in the 1890's. The Argentinians began buying England's best Lincolns at that time. They paid up to 500 guineas for a top ram, amounting to 1,000 week's wages for an average farm laborer, which was an example of the considered value of Lincoln genetics over 100 years ago. Shepherds were paid more than the foremen, horsemen, or gardeners which brought on a continual strife among farm laborers. Henry Dudding, a prominent Lincoln longwool breeder from north Lincolnshire at the time, noted that Lincoln sheep would bring a great deal of money and the Argentinians at times bought entire flocks up until the 1920's.

Just before the year 2000, "Lincolnshire Land Longwools & Legends by Mary Steele was published. It is the story of Lincolnshire's productive land and its livestock of great size and quality, notably the Lincoln Longwool which is still the biggest sheep with the heaviest weight of lustrous wool of any breed. The book was published to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the new improved Lincoln. In the book, Steele states that after the second world war, artificial fibers and overproduction of meat broke the back of the longwool sheep industry. It took a strong and determined man like Phillip Watts to save the Lincoln from extinction. He was one of the few big breeders who was prepared to follow his instincts to revive the Lincolns. It was he who knew how to secure the sales of sheep to cold countries such as Russia, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Poland, China, and Belgium. [The last newsletter article by Frank Martin, current Lincoln Longwools Association Chairman, explained how Phillip and Robert Watts helped save the breed from extinction in England.]

A second book, "Lincoln Longwool - The Versatile Fleece" was also compiled and edited by Diana Wilson. This book covers spinning, dying, weaving, rug making, felting, knitting, crocheting and other craft procedures using Lincoln wool.

The World Lincoln associations have lost a valuable resource of Lincoln Longwool history and leadership. Robert Watts will be most keenly missed in the United Kingdom where he long served as their association chairman. The National Lincoln Sheep Breeder's Association is encouraging donations for a memorial to Watts. Those donations will be sent to our colleagues in the Lincoln Longwool Breeder's Association to secure a fitting memorial. Send your donations to Brian Larson, 8291 South Cedar Creek Road, Dowling, Michigan 49050.

Kids Vocabulary Builder

This issues word is "purebred"

<u>Definition</u>: Designating and animal belonging to one of the recognized breeds of livestock. Fact: There are over 1,000 purebred breeds of sheep worldwide and over 50 in the United States and Canada.

Use in a Sentence: My family raises purebred Lincoln sheep. Can you use it in a sentence?

CONGRATULATIONS 2009 LINCOLN LONGWOOL SHOW CHAMPIONS

National, Regional, and State Shows Included in Listing Below

Show	Color	Champion Ram	Res. Champion Ram	Champion Ewe	Res. Champion Ewe Bes	t Fleece
MD Sheep & Wool Fe	estivalWhite	Mohr	Mohr	Larson	MohrLa	rson
MD Sheep & Wool Fe	estivalNat. Colored .	T/M Livestock .	Shea	Shea	LarsonLa	rson
NLSBA Show & Sale.	White	Kruse	Boersma	Boersma	PetterssonCl	ifford
NLSBA Show & Sale.	Nat. Colored .	Pettersson	Reister	Pettersson	KrusePe	ttersson
Wisconsin State Fair.		Burgener	Hammer	Burgener	Burgener	
		0		0	e	
NE Youth Show		Shea	Shea	Shea	SheaSh	ea
Wisconsin Sheep & V	Nool Festival	Mohr	Mohr	Mohr	Lein	
		0				
Eastern States	White	Kruse	Larson	Kruse	KruseMo	eek
Eastern States	Nat. Color	Kruse	Meek	Haddock	MombourquetteKr	use
	White					
Oregon State Fair	Nat. Color	Pettersson		Pettersson	Pettersson	
	White					
	Nat. Color					
	White					
Delaware State Fair .	Nat. Color	Vanderwende	Vanderwende	Vanderwende	Vanderwende	
	White					
NAILE Junior	Nat. Color	Shea	Bayer	Shea	MohrSh	ea
	White		2			
	Nat. Color					
	White					2
	Nat. Color					

SLICE, SCOOP, HANDFULL - HAS LINCOLN WOOL CHANGED IN 100 YEARS?

by Brian Larson, President NLSBA

The Powerhouse Museum in Sydney Australia has an extensive collection of wool samples from fleece that is over 100 years old. Of these samples, 8 to 10 are listed as Lincoln Longwool. The picture on page 2 of this newsletter (Prince Tom, 1893) is one of the samples. Other pictures (also on page 2) are representative of current Australian and New Zealand Lincolns.

Recently, the OFDA 2000 technology was used to describe these wool samples for the sheep industry's use. Representative wool samples were taken from two US flocks (4 ewes and 5 rams) and one animal each from the UK (Robert Watts) and NZ (Ike Williams, www.waidalerams.co.nz). Additional animals are being tested in the UK under guidance of Steve Higgins (www.tardebiggelincolns.co.uk/). When those additional animals' data are available, the information will be shared with NLSBA.

This table does not include enough samples to be used to form conclusions, however the impression is that fiber diameter has not varied greatly over time or geographic area. Keep in mind that this information does not consider fleece weight, fiber density, lock width, or crimp frequency.

LINCOLN LONGWOOL FLEECE COMPARED TO 100 YEAR OLD SAMPLES FROM AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Location	Gender (number)	Fiber Diameter, microns	Standard Deviation, microns	Coefficient of Variation, percentage	Comfort Factor, percentag
US	Ewes (4)				16.7
US	Rams (5)				11.3
UK (Watts)	Ewe (1)		9.0		17.2
NZ (Williams)	Ram (1)				8.5
NZ (100 years)	Ram (1)		7.5		16.7
NZ (100 years)	Ewes (2)				
AU (100 years)	Rams (5)				

Testing of current samples by OFDA 2000 at Montana State University and testing of 100 year-old samples in Australia. The average **fiber diameter** of the tested sample expressed in microns. It is the average fiber diamnumber individual fiber measurements. It is the major factor that determines the wool's end-use. **Standard Deviation** (micron) is a statistic which measures the distribution of measurements around the average fiber diameter. The smaller the SD, the more uniform the diameters of the individual fibers measured. About 2/3 of all fibers measured, fall within the average fiber diameter plus or minus one SD. **Coefficient of Variation** of fiber diameter is a measure of the variation in fiber diameter within a fleece sample, relative to the average (or mean) fiber diameter. The higher the CV, the more variable the sample. This statistic is useful when comparing the variances between two lots of wool with differing means. **Comfort Factor** is the percentage (%) of fibers equal to or less than 30 microns. This data is of interest because it shows the coarse edge that determines the final use of the fiber. Fabric from wool with 95% or more of the fibers 30 microns or less will not be scratchy.

2010 LINCOLN BREEDERS DIRECTORY

This membership directory includes members who paid dues in 2009. It is updated once a year. also available on the web at **www.lincolnsheep.org**

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2010 LINCOLN BREEDERS DIRECTORY CONTINUED...

<u>Оню</u>

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LINCOLN BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

A society of Lincoln breeders was started in England in 1796 and the present Lincoln Longwool Sheep Breeders' Association was founded in 1892.

In the United States, the National Lincoln Sheep Breeders' Association (NLSBA) was started in Michigan in 1891. By 1900 the membership con-

sisted of approximately 150 members of which one-third were Canadian. Registration of colored Lincolns in the U.S. began in 1984.

The registry maintained by the American association is open for offspring of animals recorded in Lincoln breeders' registries from other countries. For example, animals that have qualified for registration and are recorded in the Canadian Livestock Records can be transferred and recorded in the American registry.

Lincoln Longwool judging guidelines, reflecting desirable characteristics of the breed, were updated in

1993. The registry and generation of registration papers were computerized in 1997 to offer a standard three-generation pedigree (with a five generation option) and to identify the fleece color phenotype as "white" or "colored".

During odd numbered years, at a central location, the NLSBA holds a biennial meeting, white and colored sheep and wool shows, breeding



sheep sale, and election of officers and directors. Officers include president, vice president, secretary-treasurer and director regions including eastern, mid-eastern, mid-western, western and one at-large. In alternating locations through out the U.S. on even-numbered years, the association holds a membership meeting, shows and sale. Youth activities are conducted nationwide.

Visit the Lincoln Association Website for Updates and Information

ww.lincolnsheep.org

NATIONAL LINCOLN SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOC. 15603 173rd Ave Milo, IA 50166