



# THE LINCOLN LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL LINCOLN SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOC.

Winter

2012

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Brian Larson, President NLSBA

**Passionate Volunteer Organizations:** Our association is made up of volunteers. Those few whose names you see in newsletter-after-newsletter, year-after-year have a passion to offer their best skills to fellow Lincoln Longwool breeders. Take time to show your appreciation towards these unselfish folks with a phone call, card, e-mail, or an encouraging word at an opportune time. No one is paid to spend the countless hours needed, nor is much said to them in passing.

In the past, we have asked for more volunteers to help and spread the task out among more people – “many hands make lighter burdens”. However, the time and financial pressures of our society makes for precious few ready and willing hands. Recognize, that without ‘many hands’ our organization will wither from lack of energy and ideas. If you recognize a need, offer a small amount of your time to correct that need. If you have criticisms, offer constructive suggestions / options for consideration. If you care about the mission of the National Lincoln Breeders Association, come to upcoming meetings or events discussed below. If you cannot attend, communicate with your officers and directors so they can bring your ideas to the membership.

### The Impact of Volunteers:

**All America Junior Show** – The Sutton-Shehab family from Delaware, a big family of kids raising Lincolns that were overseen by mom, Porter, did fund-raising activities to help support the NLSBA sponsoring the show this past year in Delaware. That enthusiasm spread across the Lincoln youth to make for a great experience for all. A photo of the Sutton-Shehab family appears in this newsletter.

**The Big E** – Breeders in the east were big supporters of the recent regional national Lincoln show in Springfield MA. This turned out to be the largest Lincoln Longwool show in the country this past year! In addition, the Meek, Haddock and Desjarlis families took it upon themselves to prepare the best Lincoln display ever – an award winner! Photos of the Lincoln display and the crew are included in this newsletter.

We must keep a high level of infectious passion for Lincoln Longwool sheep and its people that will attract those who are seeking a fulfilling experience. Passionate volunteer organizations will survive and thrive, ‘lacking passion’ is the breeds’ ‘assassin’.

**Reflections on having a Judge from the United Kingdom for NAILE Lincoln Shows:** Keith Harding, Lincoln Longwool breeder from Leicestershire UK, was the judge for the recent white and natural colored Lincoln shows in Louisville KY. Most US Lincoln breeders were excited to have an international Lincoln breeder to evaluate their sheep. After judging the first class of rams, Mr. Harding stated that he preferred to not judge ‘statues’ and dismissed all but the one handler of each sheep in the ring. Not surprisingly, Mr. Harding was very thorough in evaluating fleeces. He much preferred to see fleeces that were of a lock length permitting thorough evaluation. Also one of his important criteria was to evaluate the sheep ‘on the move’! He had initially requested of the show management that all sheep be removed

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## A TRIBUTE TO LONGTIME BREEDER FRANK MARTIN OF THE UK

by Keith Harding

*(Given at Frank's funeral in January 2012. The funeral was, as you might expect, very well attended with the congregation standing two or three deep around three sides of the church. - KH)*

Good morning. I felt very honoured when asked by Elisabeth to make this tribute to Frank..

In preparation I have spoken to some of his many friends in the sheep world. I was interested to note a common reaction when I asked them either for their memories or for words that I might use. Some found it to be an intensely personal question, however after a period of chatting they often relaxed and we spent a valuable few minutes in conversation. Others followed this up with an e mail. I hope that some members of this congregation will recognize some of your own words and phrases in what I am going to say.

We have just heard a reading from John Chapter 10 about the good shepherd and I believe that Frank was a good shepherd in both the narrow and the widest sense of that word. It is of course no coincidence that we see just outside the church some of Frank's old favourites from the Humby flock [photo display]. And then, when we come into the church we see on the order of service a picture of Frank as a 4 year old holding on to one of his grandfathers rams. These two snapshots in time span a lifetime's service and commitment to the Lincoln Longwool.

Frank was very proud of his nomination to the Association's judging panel as a junior member in 1949. This is when he would have been about 20 years old. He did, of course, remain on that panel; his last judging appointment was 6 months ago at Deeping in June of this year. He was a highly respected and sought after judge whose decisions were never challenged in the subsequent round of drinks at the bar.

For at least the past 30 years any new member of the Association would almost certainly have spoken to Frank to learn about some aspect of the sheep. When he spoke, people listened; whether this was to a piece of advice or a snippet of what is now history. I remember him telling me about when, as a lad, he used to prepare wether lambs to go to the Smithfield show held in London. He fed the sheep Demerara sugar. What he did not tell me was if these sheep won any prizes but I did note that he did not continue the practice.

He also told the story of attempting to drive a lorry load of, possibly those same sheep, up Cawkwell Hill at Scamblesby. They were heavy sheep, it was an old lorry and it just would not go up that hill. The solution of course was to reverse back. Unload the sheep, walk them up the hill on foot and then reload the lorry at the top of the hill. Try doing that today.

I thought that Frank had a dry sense of humour. Only this year he told me of a famous large flock owned by, let's call him Mr B. Now Mr B would not sell any females nor any rams to any fellow Lincoln breeder.

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# JUDGING LINCOLNS IN THE USA

by Keith Harding

(This article was written for the UK Lincoln Longwool Sheep Breeders' Association's newsletter "Clippings" and is reproduced here with the authors permission)

The North American International Livestock Exhibition claims to be the "world's largest purebred livestock show". It runs for a two week period each year and features beef and dairy cattle, mules, donkeys, a rodeo, horses, llamas, alpacas, pigs, goats and of course sheep.

None of the animals stay for the duration of the show – they each stay about 5 days but it is a major commitment both for the State of Kentucky that runs the event and the individual exhibitors. One of the Lincoln exhibitors had traveled 2,400 miles from the state of Washington on the Pacific coast to Louisville. I will never again complain about the time it takes me to get to the Great Yorkshire show (110 miles).

The sheep exhibition takes place in a vast, hangar like, building on a site similar to the NEC at Birmingham. You would recognise most of the names of the sheep breeds as many were originally from the UK. Whether you would recognise the sheep is a different matter. Some English Southdowns would be able to walk underneath their counterparts in the US and the heads on some Suffolks were easily at the chest height of some of the handlers.

If any reader is invited to judge Lincolns at this show in future please be warned – you are in for a very enjoyable but also an exhausting experience. About 90 sheep were entered in total – about 50/50 white/coloured. These were judged separately – first all of the whites then (after a bottle of water and a loo break) all of the coloured. The judging took 6½ hours all told as each section included pairs and groups. The oldest sheep that can be entered are shearlings but there are three classes for lambs – roughly those between 10 and 12 months of age, then 8/9 months and then 7 months and less. This prevented the situation that we sometimes meet in the UK of lambs in the same class being very different in age and level of finish. After each class the judge is handed a microphone to inform the audience why he had placed each sheep in its given place – it was useful here to have a member of the audience (wife, Ro) who could give a dispassionate analysis of what I was saying. ("You are mumbling" was a common report).

There are no accepted standards in the US as to how to present a Lincoln for show. The American Lincoln Association recommends that wool should be no shorter than 2 inches in length and that a minimum of two vertebrae should be evident on the tail. In the UK a judge would reject sheep with such short tails but I did not do this in the US as short tails appear to be the norm. The Lincolns were a lot better than some of the other breeds in this respect. Few sheep were presented having a full growth of wool. However if you bear in mind the differing climate conditions across the US you can see the reason for this lack of uniformity. It's a real challenge keeping a decent fleece on a sheep in a year where winter sees 20 degrees of frost together with several feet of snow being followed by summer temperatures of 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

To add to the judging challenge some sheep had been washed and some of these had had various substances added to the final rinse. In others a good length of untreated wool would have benefited from being pulled out to aid the judge.

So, after all that what did I think of the sheep? Well, unlike some other breeds, they look like their British counterparts - to the credit of the breeders they were instantly recognisable as Lincolns. The lambs were well grown and were obviously not only well fed but also well bred. The conformation was good and the sheep stood and walked well.

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## Continued from page 1 - A Tribute to Longtime Breeder...

But one day it was announced that all of this flock were to be exported to, I think, Argentina. All exported with the exception of one ram. And this was offered to Frank and his grandfather. Now Frank appeared to be very pleased about this, but I learnt that, with his stories, it often paid to probe a little deeper. I can remember asking: well was the ram any good? No, he said, it never produced anything worth keeping – that's why the Argentineans did not want it.

With all of this experience came a quiet authority and he became the ambassador for the breed. Whenever we had a photographer looking for the right shot, a journalist for the neat quotation or Adam Henson looking to fill 5 minutes on Countryfile - Frank was your man. By the way his 5 minutes on Countryfile is still on the Lincoln Longwool website.

No matter what the subject he was always interesting. In addition, and this is important, he was always interested in your views and your experience. When I returned recently from judging Lincolns in the United States Frank was keen to hear of what I had done and what I thought of the sheep that I had seen. Little did we know that that was to be our last conversation.

Frank was held in high esteem by many, but especially by a group of Americans who visited in 2009. They were captivated by this gentle man, by his knowledge and by his advice which was so freely given. I know that they have written to Elisabeth offering their condolences.

In July 2009 Frank was appointed President of the Lincoln Longwool Sheep Breeders Association. I have to say that he took a little persuading to take on this role but I understand from Elisabeth that he was immensely proud of this appointment. Those of you who run a voluntary organisation will know the importance of and how much you need a good figurehead. Frank filled that role with distinction and also had the ability to calmly lead council through some difficult decisions.

When preparing for a sale of Lincoln sheep you could always rely upon Frank to enter a good number of females. And for quite a few years now he had been talking of keeping fewer sheep. However you also knew that at most sales he would be quietly attracted to a gimmer from another flock. If he wanted it, he was certain to buy it and it was indeed a rare sale from which he went home with an empty trailer.

Last week I looked up the records and over 40% of registered Lincoln flocks now own some of Frank's stock. This is not surprising as given the number of sheep he owned Frank has for many years been the best source for people starting a new flock. Both the present Humby flock and those many sheep bred by Frank but now owned by others are true legacies to today's Association.

As you may know when Frank died he and Elisabeth were sorting out some in lamb gimmers to go to a flock in Scotland. Ladies and gentleman, we do not choose the time of our passing from this world. But I do not think that Frank would have been displeased at his manner of leaving us. He was surrounded by the breed to which he was devoted and helped by the woman that he loved.

Surely this good shepherd will rest in peace.



A photo of Frank Martin and Robert Watts taken during the tour of the UK. Both are now deceased.



Continued from page 1 - **President's Message**

from halter to allow free movement in the show ring, however the show's facilities would not allow for that luxury. Thus, he put the animals through their paces in groups of from two to four at a time. Mr. Harding stated that 'giving reasons for placings' was not done ringside in the UK, but often discussed in the local pub afterwards. While not being accustomed to microphone work, he gave interesting discussions of his placings. The acoustics were marginal for his discussions, however spectators appreciated his points of view. Irregardless of placings, most exhibitors were thrilled with the show under a UK judge. A few folks commented that the show ran a bit long for their liking and some were not thrilled with the extra exercise they got showing that day. The judge's observations given to his UK countrymen are reproduced in this newsletter.

**2012 National Show and Sale:** The Estes Park, Colorado, Wool Market, one of the larger fiber festivals in the west, will be hosting the 2012 National Lincoln Show and Sale on the afternoon of June 9th in the midst of the Rocky Mountain National Park.. Jim Sache, veteran wool breed sheep judge from New Mexico, will make the placings. What a great place to take the family for a vacation this year and see great Lincolns at the same time! If you cannot make the trip to beautiful Colorado - the board recognizes that the distance is great for many - the show and sale will be broadcast live on the internet and will make internet bidding available to anyone interested. A beautiful Lincoln ewe lamb will be donated by Christiane Payton (OR) as a fund raiser for the Lincoln junior program. A membership meeting and Bar-B-Que will be held - weather permitting in a scenic picnic area or in the Estes Park Senior Center if weather does not cooperate! More information about the show and sale will be sent at a later date along with entry information.

The **Roger Watkins Memorial Youth Fund** has been established by donations from 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 fund is available for junior members to apply for shearing school scholarships and memorial T-shirts for junior shows.

The Memorial Youth Fund will provide **three \$100 shearing school scholarships** for junior members and young senior members (up to 23 years of age) of the NLSBA 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. Send your request to any officer or director of the NLSBA for scholarship consideration.

**T-shirts for Junior members showing Lincolns** will be provided with funds from the Memorial Youth Fund. These shirts will have the Lincoln logo designed by Carol Watkins on the front and "Roger Watkins Memorial" printed on the back. Regional NLSBA directors can request these shirts for youth in their area showing Lincolns. The shirts will be provided for the North East Junior Show and the NAILE Junior Lincoln Show. The Juniors are to wear the shirts while showing their sheep.

**2012 Youth Conservation Project - Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival:** If you would consider donating a Lincoln Longwool yearling ewe to a youth applicant, please contact Brian Larson. Lincoln Longwool ewes have been donated to youth for many years through this program. If you know youth who would wish to apply for a ewe in this program, contact: **Elaine Ashcraft, 46118 CR 58, Coshocton, OH 43812 or 740-622-1573 or tankewe@tusco.net.**

**Applications are due April 1, 2011. More information at:**  
[http://www.sheepandwool.org/events\\_detail.php?eid=81](http://www.sheepandwool.org/events_detail.php?eid=81)

**Lincoln Promotion Items:** Lincoln breeder, Shari Swanson of Minnesota has great logos for Lincoln enthusiasts. She is a talented entrepreneur

## LINCOLN'S FROM THE 2011 ALL-AMERICAN



**CHAMPION RAM**  
1st Feb Ram Lamb - *Caitlin Plank*



**RESERVE CHAMPION RAM**  
2nd Feb Ram Lamb - *Ashton Shea*



**CHAMPION EWE**  
1st Feb Ewe Lamb - *Ethan Plank*



**RESERVE CHAMPION EWE**  
1st Yearling Ewe - *Kallan Lantham*



*Sutton-Shehab Family Fun at the AAJS*



*Relaxing after a Busy Show Day*



*Bowman Kids with Zion's Best Fleece*



*Waiting for their turn in the Showring*

neur and will be happy to supply your Lincoln promotional embroidery on a broad array of high quality clothing. The NLSBA is sponsoring this venture to fill the gap in availability of good Lincoln promotional items. Contact Shari to develop ideas for the promotion of your flock.

Shari is also selling a number of items that are sheep/spinning related. Someone may be interested in the items - included is a loom/spinning package that would be an exceptionally good deal for a young person to acquire if they have that as an interest. Shari also has a framed, signed black & white print. For more information, contact Shari Swanson at 218-374-3121 (home/work north), 763-753-1863 (home SF) or 763-238-0777 (cell) or seelyebr@aol.com.

# 2011 LINCOLN LONGWOOL NATIONAL, REGIONAL & STATE CHAMPIONS

<i>Show</i>	<i>Champion Ram</i>	<i>Res. Champion Ram</i>	<i>Champion Ewe</i>	<i>Res. Champion Ewe</i>	<i>Best Fleece</i>
MD Sheep & WF – white .....	Klingelhofer .....	Larson .....	Mohr (Supreme) .....	Mohr .....	Klingelhofer .....
MD Sheep & WF – natural color .....	Shea .....	Packer .....	Mombourquette .....	Mombourquette .....	.....
NLSBA S&S – white .....	Pettersson .....	Larson .....	Boersma .....	Pettersson .....	Larson .....
NLSBA S&S – natural color .....	.....	.....	Mohr .....	Reid .....	Mohr .....
All-America Junior Show .....	Plank .....	Shea .....	Plank .....	Latham .....	Bowman .....
Delaware State Fair – white longwool .....	Vanderwende .....	.....	Vanderwende .....	.....	.....
Delaware State Fair – natural color longwool .....	Vanderwende .....	Vanderwende .....	.....	Vanderwende .....	.....
Ohio State Fair – AOB wool breeds .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Sando .....
Wisconsin State Fair – white longwool .....	.....	Burgener .....	Burgener .....	Burgener .....	.....
Wisconsin State Fair – natural color longwool .....	.....	Burgener .....	Burgener .....	.....	.....
Illinois State Fair .....	Boersma .....	Mohr .....	Rader .....	Crome .....	.....
NEYouth Show .....	Shea .....	Belleavoine .....	Shea .....	Shea .....	Shippee .....
Wisconsin Sheep & WF – white .....	Lein .....	Burgener .....	Yunker .....	Lein .....	.....
Wisconsin Sheep & WF – natural color .....	Burgener (Res. Supreme) .....	Lein .....	Burgener .....	Burgener .....	.....
Iowa State Fair .....	Mohr .....	Lein .....	Burgener .....	Lein .....	.....
California State Fair – wool & fiber heritage .....	.....	Pettersson .....	Pettersson .....	.....	.....
Kentucky State Fair – natural color longwool .....	.....	Cermola .....	.....	Cermola .....	.....
Minnesota State Fair – AOB wool breeds .....	.....	.....	.....	Burgener .....	.....
Missouri State Fair – natural color longwool .....	.....	Reid .....	.....	Reid .....	.....
State Fair of West VA – AOB .....	Bowman .....	Bowman .....	Bowman .....	.....	.....
Eastern States – white .....	Haddock .....	Cameron .....	Larson .....	Haddock .....	Vanderwende ..
Eastern States – natural color .....	Haddock .....	Mombourquette .....	Mombourquette .....	Meek .....	Vanderwende ..
Western Washington Fair – white .....	Reister .....	Johnson .....	Johnson .....	.....	.....
NY Sheep & Wool Festival – white longwool .....	.....	Larson .....	.....	.....	.....
NY Sheep & Wool Festival – NC longwool ..	Vanderwende (Supreme) .....	Larson .....	.....	Vanderwende .....	.....
NAILE Junior – white .....	Mohr .....	Mohr .....	Mohr .....	Yunker .....	Mohr .....
NAILE Junior – natural color .....	S. Richert .....	A. Richert .....	Lamb .....	Lamb .....	A. Richert .....
NAILE – white .....	Larson .....	Larson .....	Pettersson (Supreme White) .....	Vanderwende .....	Larson/Pettersson .....
NAILE – natural colored .....	Reid .....	Larson .....	Reid (Supreme NC) .....	Lamb .....	Reid/Reid .....

## LINCOLN'S AT THE 2011 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION





# 2012 LINCOLN BREEDERS DIRECTORY

This membership directory includes members who paid dues in 2011. It is updated once a year.  
also available on the web at [www.lincolnsheep.org](http://www.lincolnsheep.org)

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## 2011 BIG E LINCOLN DISPLAY



*The Display Crew,  
thanks for your hard work  
in putting together a  
great display!*

## Continued from page 2 - Judging Lincolns in the USA

The teeth were good - I saw only one poor mouth. I would have liked to see some two shear rams as, in general the shearlings did not seem to carry through the potential seen in the lambs. The wool was, as I say above, difficult to calibrate. It had less crimp than we are used to seeing and it was difficult to gauge the weight of wool that individual animals would produce.

All things considered I was impressed with the quality of sheep that I judged. Ro and I certainly enjoyed our visit and our sincere thanks go to the American members for their invitation and excellent hospitality.

## FUN SHEEP FACT: *White House Woolies*

*President Woodrow Wilson grazed sheep on the White House South Lawn. The wool obtained from the sheep was sold to raise money for the Red Cross during World War I. The flock included "Old Ike," a tobacco-chewing ram.*

# 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 consisted 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, midwestern, western and one atlarge. In alternating locations throughout the U.S. on evennumbered years, the association holds a membership meeting, shows and sale. Youth activities are conducted nationwide.

## *National Lincoln Sheep Breeders Association*

*PO Box 51, 222 Main St.*

*Milo, IA 50166*

## **LINCOLN LONGWOOL FOR MANY REASONS!**

Long Lustrous Fleece • Muscular, Sturdy Body • Attentive Mothers  
Environmentally Adaptable • Good Milk Production  
Calm, Gentle Dispositions  
Multiple Births • Long Productive Lives  
Outstanding Crossbreeding • Strong, Long Lasting Teeth  
Excellent Feet, Rot Resistant  
Genetically No Scrapie

**National Lincoln Sheep Breeders Assoc.**

**PO Box 51, 222 Main St.**

**Milo, IA 50166**

Visit the Lincoln Association Website for Updates and Information

**[www.lincolnsheep.org](http://www.lincolnsheep.org)**

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