



THE LINCOLN LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL LINCOLN SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOC.

Summer

2013

NATIONAL LINCOLN SHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION SHOW & SALE AND BIENNIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

All Durning the Big E Wool Breeds Week in West Springfield, Massachusetts

Saturday, September 21

Show: 8:30 AM in the Mallary Arena

Sale: 7:00 PM in the Mallary Arena

Sunday, September 22

Biennial Membership Brunch and Meeting: 9:30 AM at the Storrowton Tavern

(Massachusetts Room) in Historic Storrowton Village on the Big E Grounds

The Lincoln Breed Display: We would like to put together a booklet containing a paragraph describing US Lincoln breeders' flocks and contact information (in your own words) to include in our breed display. Please send your descriptive paragraph (via email or US Mail) to Carol Haddock (69 Sawmill Road, Jericho, VT 05465, or joehaddock@comcast.net, you can call Carol at 802-899-2384 if you have questions). Also, if you have unique Lincoln-related items for the display, contact Carol. The New England group of breeders have always done a fantastic job of creating a unique display.

The Show: Sale sheep will be placed for sale order during the regular show classes and the sale sheep will be designated during each class. Sale sheep champions will be selected separately from the regular show champions. After the show, helium-filled balloons will identify the locations of the sale sheep for easy viewing during the afternoon before the evening sale.

The Sale: The sale is managed by Banner Sale Management Services. The catalog will be published in the *Banner Magazine* and hard copies will be sent to the NLSBA membership. Transportation of purchased sheep across the country will be available.

The Biennial Membership Meeting: An opportunity to have a great meal, visit with fellow Lincoln breeders and participate in discussions of future direction and NLSBA election of officers and directors. For purposes of meal planning, please let Brian Larson know if you are planning to attend (brianlarson3@me.com or 269-623-2549). We ask that each person contribute \$20 for food and meeting room costs.

WHAT IS THE BIG E?

Perhaps one of the most unique fairs that you will ever have attended. Each state in New England has its own unique building with displays and foods at their very delicious best. The fair is a cultural experience, especially for the outsider. The following is the description provided by the Big E:

"The Big E, the largest fair in the Northeast, is home to The Big E Cream Puff & Craz-E Burger. It's a New England extravaganza with top name entertainment, The Big E Super Circus, The Avenue of States, Storrowton Village Museum, animals, competitive exhibits, rides, shopping, crafts, a daily parade and a Mardi Gras parade, and foods from around the world — for 17 days each September!

It's the last blast of summer — celebrate at The Big E in West Springfield, Massachusetts!"

For sheep exhibitors, the Big E is regarded as the most 'exhibitor friendly' and 'well-run' show that they attend during the year! All the important wool breeds will be represented there along with very impressive breed/breeder displays, wool show, crafts shop, sheep shearing and sheep dog presentations. Also, if interested, you can take in some of New England's best youth and their working steers doing amazing things or see the 'Largest Pumpkin in New England' competition in Mallary Arena.

Where to stay (distance from Big E):

Springfield (2-3 miles NE, some higher priced hotels) - La Quinta, Marriott, Hilton Garden Inn, Sheraton

West Springfield (2-3 miles N, most lower priced hotels - and remember that West Springfield is a 'blue collar' town) - Days Inn, Econo Lodge, Comfort Inn, Candlewood Suites, Quality Inn, Hampton Inn, Quality Inn, Residence Inn

Enfield (6-7 miles S, mid-range prices) - Holiday Inn, Red Roof Inn, Hampton Inn

Chicopee: (6 miles S, lower prices) - Days Inn, Hampton Inn, Quality Inn, Econo Lodge

Westfield, Windsor Locks (11 miles S, Bradley Airport area, mid-range prices) - Comfort Inn, Days Inn, Clarion Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Springhill Suites, Econo Lodge, Baymont Inns & Suites, Homewood Suites, Fairfield Inn



What else to do:

The Quadrangle (food, museums, shopping, etc.), Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden, Basketball Hall of Fame, Springfield Armory National Historic Site, Springfield Science Museum, Zoo in Forest Park, Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, Titanic Museum

GO'IN TO THE FAIR by John B. Lee

(from Variations on Herb, 1993, Brick Books, London, Ontario)

We'd gather up the show flock early in the morning when the dew was still on the wool, and drive them down to the crossing, ewes and rams, wethers and lambs, all in a bunch.

Fair day
early in the morning
the fog is like candle snuff
floating cool and wet on the pasture grass
so your trousers will stain dark to the knee
and your boot felt soak
down through your sock to the ankle
as if you were walking a pond.
The mist chills your skin
in the swish of the clover
where the sheep trails flow
like narrow rivers.
You climb the gate so it leans with your weight
and look where the trees rise from the mizzle
while in the distance the town
is asleep and still in the milky light.
And you call the sheep then
'Here nan-nan-nan-nan-nan-nan'
knowing they'll come
bleating from the ghost of their clumsy run
till you hear the erratic rhythm
beating on the field
then see them one, two three, five, seven
shaking their heavy fleece
and sorting themselves into a file
so they can follow the worn path to the trough
and they nuzzle the oats
half quiet and bunching together
letting you squeeze in and pick the best ones
grabbing their chops wool
feeling how they want to surge back
with the jump of their brisket
and the pump of their hearts
the saw of their jaw bone in your hand
and the pathetic 'baaa'
as you set them away from the flock
and out in the lane.

There they trace the fence line
dumb as something you've spilled against an edge
moving back and forth like tipped liquid.
After you've got the four you want
you can drive them to the barn
watch them gather together and shag their wool
like housewives flapping dust mops on the stoop.
Funny how sheep run
twenty yards ahead of a man.
A cow you have to hit with a stick
or she might stop dead
and graze wherever she is,
a pig'll race
zig-zagging, turning, doubling back,
nosing under a fence, jumping a low gate,
tearing along till she rips away from the seam of things
and loses you for an hour. She's like a dangerous future
always just a little out of reach,
but sheep'll end up exactly where you want them.
A gypsy moment from now
you'll find them waiting
like slow smoke that settles
low and curls in on itself
above a smolder.
Pigs are pure flame.
You can touch a sheep without burning your hands.



RECENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

All-American Junior Show for Lincolns:

Over 50 Lincolns were entered by junior members to make this the largest Lincoln junior event in recent history. The show was held on the weekend after July 4th at the Michigan State University Livestock Pavilion near East Lansing. Over 1,400 sheep were entered from all breeds and the juniors were busy with many sheep-related activities.

Here are the results:

Champion Ram - Haley Yunker, St. Croix Falls, WI
Reserve Champion Ram - Sabrina Richert, New Haven, IN
Champion Ewe - Haley Yunker
Reserve Champion Ewe - Nathan Hanson, Hillsbore, WI
Best Fleeced Overall - Haley Yunker
Best Fleeced Ram - Sabrina Richert
Best Fleeced Ewe - Laila Shehab, Hopewell, NJ
Champion Lincoln Fleece - Sabrina Richert
Skil-A-Thon - Senior - 1st - Haley Yunker
Skil-A-Thon - Beginner - 5th - Tayler Garges, Telford, PA
Judging Contest - Senior - 9th - Rebecca Starkenburg, Deforest, WI
Judging Contest - Intermediate - 4th - Alaina Richert, New Haven, IN
Judging Contest - Junior - 8th - Rockwell Shehab, Hopewell, NJ
Judging Contest - Beginner - 5th - Elaina Lemmen, Ossian, IN
Top Gun Winner for Lincolns - Rockwell Shehab

A big THANKYOU to the Garges Family of Telford, PA for underwriting the cost of the Lincoln Show at the recent All America Junior Sheep Show. You helped us have the best show ever at the All American!

Attention Lincoln Juniors and Parents!

The 2014 All America Sheep Show will be held in Kansas. The NLSBA board will need to know what level of interest there is in attending a show in Kansas in order to decide about sponsoring a Lincoln Junior Show in that location. Previously, there was high interest in Delaware and Michigan locations, however there was low interest in the Missouri and Iowa locations. Contact Brian Larson know if you are planning to attend (brianlarson3@me.com or 269-623-2549).

2013 NAILE Junior Lincoln Show:

Due to low entries in 2012, this show is again on probation. Please consider supporting this show with your entries. Entries are due by October 1, 2013 for the show on Sunday, November 17.

2013 NAILE Open Lincoln Shows:

The show date is Thursday, November 21, entries are due October 1. Judge is Craig Packer, Corriedale and Lincoln breeder from Dry Run, PA.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Sheep to Warn of Wolves via Text Message

Swiss sheep could soon be texting shepherds for help when they are being stalked or attacked by wolves. A Swiss biologist is developing a collar that can monitor a sheep's heart rate and spot when it is distressed. The collar will call a shepherd if it spots that the heart rate of an animal has increased for an extended period. Sheep are increasingly coming under attack by wolves in Switzerland and even those that survive often break fences and run miles as they escape. Sheer panic!

Early prototypes of the collar, employing heart rate monitors similar to those used by runners to fine-tune their training, have been tested on 12 Swiss sheep. The tests, carried out in the Bernese Alps above Les Diablerets, involved scaring the sheep with two muzzled Czechoslovakian Wolfdogs. This revealed that the resting heart rate of a sheep of about 60-80 beats-per-minute rises almost threefold when the animal is stressed.

Wolf expert Jean-Marc Landry from Swiss carnivore research group Kora came up with the idea for the collar in a bid to limit the number of sheep lost to wolves reaching Switzerland from Italy. Growing numbers of sheep are being eaten by wolves, especially among small flocks owned by farmers who cannot afford a sheepdog. Even those that are not eaten trample down fences and flee long distances when being hunted.

Dr. Landry said the first collars would be produced in the autumn and he was considering three different techniques to help protect the sheep. The collars could be fitted with a mobile chip that alerted a shepherd via text message when the sheep were stressed. Alternatively they might play a loud noise or spray a chemical repellent to frighten off the wolf. Other countries such as France and Norway have shown interest in the collar project.



No Reason to be Sheepish About Paternity

Figuring out which lambs are the offspring of which sheep can be guesswork for sheep producers. A new, low-cost DNA test to verify sheep parentage could soon help breeders worldwide to record accurate pedigrees and maximize the genetic potential of their flock.

A team of Australian and international researchers has identified an ideal set of genetic markers that enable highly accurate parentage testing across all breeds of sheep. CSIRO project leader, Dr. James Kijas, said it is important for producers to know the pedigrees of their animals. "This information helps them select the best rams for mating to make sure the best genes are passed on to the next generation," Dr Kijas said.

"We believe this test will help producers in the way they manage their animals to make full use of their genetic potential, while saving money on infrastructure and labour."

Funded by Meat & Livestock Australia, the test is being developed through the Cooperative Research Centre for Sheep Industry Innovation (Sheep CRC), Sheep Genetics – a national genetic information and evaluation service, and CSIRO. Presenting the research at an international conference in Cairns, Dr Kijas is proposing to the International Society of Animal Genetics that the genetic markers become the global standard for accredited DNA-based parentage testing in sheep.

Traditionally, stud breeders wanting to know the paternity of lambs use the practice of single-sire mating where only one ram is allowed access to a group of fenced-in ewes. To determine maternity, they can choose to 'mother up' lambs to ewes soon after birth based on their proximity in the paddock. However, 'mis-mothering' is a common and often undetected problem that DNA testing can solve.

With DNA-based parentage testing, producers will get close to 100 per cent accurate assignment of both paternity and maternity without the need for resource intensive practices such as single-sire mating and mothering up.

Dr Kijas said DNA testing has not been widely adopted by the sheep industry due to the cost of currently available technologies. "A major advantage of the DNA markers we have identified is that they work through a technology that's cheap to deliver. Our objective is a test that costs less than \$20 per animal while providing much higher accuracy than any other approach," Dr Kijas said. "This is still some way off, but what we have right now is a set of robustly tested DNA markers that will work efficiently not only in common Australian flocks, but in any sheep breed. The wide applicability of the DNA markers should keep the cost of using them low."

Large-scale trials of the logistics of industry-wide testing will take place over coming months through the Sheep CRC, which will be leading work to commercialize the test. "As well as aiding long-term breeding goals for improved sheep products, the DNA markers could also open the door for reliable international product trace-back," Dr Kijas said.

The pilot project to identify and assess the genetic markers for sheep parentage has been facilitated through the International Sheep Genomics Consortium and funded by Meat & Livestock Australia and CSIRO. Pre-commercial testing has been facilitated through the Sheep CRC and Sheep Genetics.

*New Zealand
Lincoln
Longwool
genetics
being added
to breeding
program of
Christiane
Payton of
North Valley
Farm in
Oregon via
Why Did
850-06 from
Ike Williams'
flock*



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

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Visit the Lincoln Association Website for Updates and Information

www.lincolnsheep.org
