



THE LINCOLN LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL LINCOLN SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOC.

Winter

2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Brian Larson, President NLSBA

2012 National Show and Sale - Estes Park, CO

A successful show and sale was held in conjunction with the Estes Park Wool Market on some dry and windy days in the spectacular Rocky Mountains. The Saturday show day also marked the beginning of the High Park forest fire that started just a few miles from the show grounds, which burned thousands of acres for weeks.

Judge Jim Sachse (NM) placed the classes and selected a flashy yearling ram from Donna & Jim Lein (IA) as champion ram and sold to Aniroonz Sheep Company of Wellington, CO. The upstanding reserve champion ram was shown by Harvey Warrick (MI) and sold for the top dollar (\$1,000) to EK Sheep of Grasston MN. A yearling ram shown in full fleece by Brian Larson (MI) was selected as the best white ram fleece and sold to Christine Bazant of Lebanon OR. The second high selling ram was another consignment from Harvey Warrick and was purchased by Willow Pine of Cloquet, MN for \$800. Two white ram lambs out of UK AI sires were consigned by Aniroonz Sheep Company (CO) and sold to Pat and Craig Taylor of Murphysboro IL and Harvey Warrick of Adrian MI.

Judge Sachse selected a very correct fall ram lamb consigned by Jim and Donna Lein (IA) as champion natural colored ram which also sold to Aniroonz Sheep Company, Wellington, CO. The reserve champion natural colored ram honors went to a big, dark, growthy yearling ram from Christiane Payton (OR) and was purchased by Creek Road Farms of Noblesville, IN for \$725.

In the ewe show, Judge Sachse again selected a Lein consignment for champion and best white ewe fleece, a beautiful fall ewe lamb that was purchased by Robert Sando of New Madison, OH for \$450. The reserve champion white ewe was a growthy yearling ewe from the Warrick flock (MI) that was purchased by Christiane Payton of Yamhill, OR. The high selling white ewe was from the Warrick flock (MI) and went to the Leins of Iowa for \$575. A flashy spring white ewe lamb out of a UK AI sire from Brian Larson sold to Pat and Craig Taylor of Murphysboro IL for \$400.

Jim and Donna Lein completed their sweep of champions by having their fall natural colored ewe lamb top that show. This best-fleeced natural colored ewe was the top selling ewe of the sale and went to Willow Pine of Cloquet, MN. The reserve champion natural colored ewe was a classy solid black spring ewe lamb from Christiane Payton that sold to Aniroonz Sheep Company for \$425. Christiane Payton had designated that the proceeds from this lamb be donated to the NLSBA Junior Fund. Thank you for your generosity, Christiane!

In summary, five yearling rams averaged \$685 and four fall and spring ram lambs averaged \$381. Four yearling ewes averaged \$444 and six fall and spring ewe lambs averaged \$420. Nineteen total lots averaged \$482. Thank you to all the buyers and consignors for a successful show and sale.

2013 National Show and Sale - Springfield, MA

The Eastern States Exposition, Springfield MA or better known as the "Big E" will be the site of the NLSBA biennial membership meeting

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YOUNG BREEDER PROFILE

Emmaline Long, OrchardView Farms

Emmaline (Emma) Long has always loved sheep, but it wasn't until she was in the seventh grade that she managed to convince her parents to let her have some. She started with a rather unusual breed - Lincoln Longwools - a rare and ancient breed most people wouldn't know well enough to consider.

"We were at the Genesee Country Village and Museum," said Emma, explaining how she started with Lincolns. "They have an agricultural fair in the fall, and a family there had Lincolns. I just fell in love with them. We started with a few, and now we have about 50. It's probably the only breed I'll ever have."

Many breeders prefer natural-colored Lincolns, which are seen in an array of colors, shades and patterns. "The natural-colored sheep range from light to completely black," said Emma. "That's what I like - the real dark ones - I'm trying to breed for those."



The flock at Orchard View is bred in August for January lambs. "For the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival show, all of the lambs have to be born before February 15th," said Emma. "We try to have them born as close to January 1st as possible, so we put the ram in with the ewes in the beginning of August, after the county fair." The flock is housed in a converted dairy barn during lambing, but remains on pasture most the remainder of the year. Although Emma is vigilant about the health care for her flock, she says that in their area, the meningeal worm is a problem because the white tail deer, the natural host of the worm, are prevalent.



The family sends wool to Finger Lakes Woolen Mill for processing into batting, and sends pelts to Quakertown, PA for processing. All of the sheep at Orchard View are registered, and young animals are sold as purebreds for breeding stock. A ram lamb and a ewe lamb from Orchard View each received second place at the Maryland show, and a pair of ram lambs received first place. Orchard View also received the premier exhibitor award for exhibiting natural-colored Lincolns.

In addition to exhibiting sheep at Maryland, Emma shows her Lincolns at the Genesee County Fair and the New York State Sheep & Wool festival in Rhinebeck. She recently started showing at the Eastern States Exposition know as the "Big E" in Springfield, MA. "We shear based on our show schedule," said Emma. "We want to have about 12 weeks of wool growth, which is about two inches. To be ready for the shows, we shear in May and November/December."

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A SLICE, A SCOOP AND A HANDFUL

by Brian Larson

Structure, Function and Lincoln Longwools

Last fall, a good Lincoln breeder / friend labeled me a Lincoln “purist”! At first, I was taken aback, because “labels” during an election year never seem a positive reflection on character. But, after some thought, I believe that I do resemble that comment! I have spent about 30 years learning about the breed, its strengths and quirks - Lincoln Longwool sheep are a very complex set of shepherd-driven genes that have great need to be conserved. The shepherds that developed these genes were much more down-to-earth than Robert Bakewell. His original Leicesters have all but disappeared, while Lincolns have thrived for two centuries. A few years ago, I shared my copper toxicity experience with you in one of these letters. All my “long & tall” ewes died and all my barrel-chested “big volume” ewes survived the crisis. Over the years, I have noted that the “long & tall” ewes don’t produce as well nor survive in the flock as long as, what I call, the “big volume” ewes.

I confess to my frustration with sheep shows and especially judges that appear to know little or nothing about the breed wax eloquently about length and height of winning sheep that they have selected. An observer outside the show ring suggested that the judge appears to have laid a board over the backs of the sheep, starting with the tallest one! He called it a “2 x 4 judge”. By the way, at one national show for two years running, some of the bottom-placing individuals in classes were the heaviest weight and fleece in the class, but had a different profile and longer fleece than the judge was accustomed to seeing in show rings. The final insult comes after they review the best fleece class and select an animal with, maybe, 1.5 inches of mechanically enhanced fleece and pronounce it the best fleece in the class! A New Zealand Lincoln breeder commented a few years ago, after watching a US Lincoln show (NAILE), that it appears that US Lincolns have lost their fleece quality and are trying hard to be Leicesters, instead! What concerns me is that many new or potential new breeders and judges see these placings as a guideline for them to strive for in their breeding program or next show that they judge.

A couple years ago, a good friend in the breed that is a real honest-to-goodness pasture-based operation, purchased at public auction a very big, fancy ewe out of a highly successful show-flock oriented breeder. The breeder/purchaser was thinking of raising a stud ram out of that ewe to bring some new genetics into their flock. When pasture season arrived, the ewe had no idea what to do, had never been expected to graze on grass, and may well have died if the kind-hearted shepherd had not rescued her and hand supplemented her. I suspect that ewe may be long gone by now! Her grazing habits and rumen had never been fully developed, having never been exposed to a pasture-based diet (turns out that her fiber came from the pelleted feed she had been raised on).

Lincoln sheep have always been described as “big” sheep or the “biggest or largest” sheep breed in somewhat dated sheep breed comparisons. Today, we often associate those “big & large” comments as meaning “long and tall”. Hardly the case it seems! Based on a review of photos and descriptions of Lincoln sheep over the last 100 years or so, perhaps a better description of the breed would be that they are (or were) “big volume” sheep - they weighed up! The shearers knew they would have their hands full when it came time to clip a flock of Lincolns. Lincoln sheep were developed to consume large amounts of plentiful, high quality grass. Thus they had sturdy shoulders, wide chest floor and noticeable spring of rib. They had strong, wide muscular backs and legs. There was plenty of room for a fully functioning rumen full of forage and for their lambs to develop during gestation. They were big-footed, heavy-boned, easy-fleshing and not too long in the leg. These are not components of a profile that are popular in the show ring. They were bred to lamb and thrive on grass, ample milk rich in fat and protein, self-reliantly productive and profitable for many years. And then, there was the magnificent

wool of the Lincoln. Wide, distinctive locks of a heavy, strong wool that had a bold crimp to be remembered and gleamed after the rains. When you collected a Lincoln fleece off the shearing floor, you knew you had a real fleece in your hands - heavy, lustrous, lanolin-gilded locks. This was not the light, cute-curly, fluffy stuff that we see in the show ring today. The lambs were developed on grass, their digestive tracts were highly developed factories for forage nutrients and they grew very well.

I had a phone call last year from a prominent (a former president of ASI) western commercial sheepman whose father had used Lincoln and Suffolk rams to cross on their western white-faced ewes. He commented nostalgically that his father had praise each year for the Lincoln-cross lambs because they weighed at least 10 pounds more than the Suffolk-cross lambs when they were brought in from Federal lease mountain pastures for shipping to feedlots.

Yes indeed, I am a purist, or well on my way to becoming one!

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and the 2013 National Lincoln Show and Sale. The biennial membership meeting will be held Friday evening, September 20th on the exposition grounds (location TBA). The national show will begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday, September 21st in the Mallary Complex and the national sale will begin at approximately 7:00 PM, also in the Mallary Complex. The sale will be managed by Banner Sales management. Sale entries must be entered in the Big E white or natural colored Lincoln shows. (<http://www.thebige.com/fair/agriculture/agriculture.asp>). More information will be available in the next Lincoln Letter.

National Junior Lincoln Futurity

See specific information with this newsletter about a new Junior Futurity. Briefly, Lincoln breeders can designate public auction sales ewe lamb consignments with an entry fee that goes towards eventual futurity premiums and junior member purchasers’ report placings from shows and premiums are paid after the last show of the season (NAILE).

All American Junior Show - Lincolns - Lansing MI

Yes, there will be Lincoln classes at the All American Junior Show to be held at the MSU Livestock Pavillion in Lansing, MI.

Dates are July 4 thru 7th. Entries are due June 1, 2013.

See: www.allamericanjuniorshow.com

NE Junior Sheep Show - Lincolns - Springfield, MA

Lincoln entries are needed to maintain this show - entries due in early July (see <http://www.nesheep.org>) and show is July 21st.

NAILE Junior Show - Lincolns - Louisville, KY

This show is on probation due to less than the 25 required entries in 2012. Entries are due October 1st. See: <http://www.livestockexpo.org>

Youth Conservation Program - Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival

This program promotes the conservation of unique sheep breeds by interested youth. Youth are eligible across the nation to be selected to receive a yearling ewe after submitting an essay and references. Our junior membership has substantially benefitted from this program. Lincoln Longwools are in high demand, but our members need to step forward as donors. If interested contact myself at brianlarson3@me.com or Elaine Ashcraft, coordinator, at: tankewe_cr58@yahoo.com

Annual NLSBA Breeders Directory

Our annual breeders directory is attached to this newsletter. It is the individual breeder members’ responsibility to pay their annual dues in order to be listed, plus report changes of addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and web page changes to the registrar.

NATIONAL JUNIOR LINCOLN FUTURITY 2013

The National Lincoln Sheep Breeders Association will sponsor a Lincoln ewe lamb futurity 2013.

In effort to get junior members more interested and involved NLSBA has decided to sponsor a Lincoln Ewe Lamb Futurity. The Futurity will make it beneficial for breeders to consign their very best animals to sales and motivate junior members to purchase high quality breeding stock.

The rules of the Futurity are as follows. Junior members purchase a ewe lamb at one of the designated sales, exhibit the lamb at the shows you normally attend and then submit your results on the point record form. In addition to adding a top quality female to his or her flock, junior members are eligible to win a sizable premium.

Designated sales for 2013 are The Illini All Breeds Sale in Bloomington, Illinois; the Great Lakes Sale at Wooster, Ohio; the New England Sheep Sale, Springfield, Massachusetts; or any other public sale where Lincolns can be sold at auction and Futurity fee collected. Ewe lambs purchased privately or via online sales are not eligible for the futurity.

CONSIGNOR RULES

1. The Futurity is open to all ewe lambs born between September 1, 2012, and March 31, 2013.
2. The nominated ewe lamb must be properly identified, according to its registration certificate. The scrapie tag number will be recorded and the lamb paint branded or identified with an **F before entering the sale ring**.
3. A nomination fee of \$20 will be collected by sale management from the consignor and remitted to The National Lincoln Sheep Breeders Association.
4. Each ewe lamb must conform to and abide by the rules and regulations of the individual sale to which it is consigned. All entry and commission fees will apply.
5. The NLSBA is not responsible for and shall be held harmless for any disputes and/or disagreements between buyers and sellers.

EXHIBITOR RULES

1. Membership in the Junior Lincoln Breed Association must be paid up to date.
2. Futurity ewe lambs are to be registered in the member's name; no family, farm, partnership, or joint registrations will be accepted.
3. Juniors must be at least 5 year old. Maximum age is 21 years of old at NAILE in November.
4. Ewe lambs and associated Futurity points may not be transferred to another person. Likewise, Futurity points may not be transferred from one lamb to another.
6. Futurity entrants are limited to two ewe lambs of each color. Total points earned by two ewe lambs may not be combined into one lamb's total.
7. Junior members must exhibit their own lamb within a class. If they have two lambs in the same class, another junior member may exhibit the second lamb.
8. If the owner of a Futurity nominated lamb is not present at a respective show, Futurity points are not eligible and may not be submitted.
9. The natural color and white Lincolns will show separate for futurity points and will be paid separately.
10. Futurity premiums will be paid using a percentage of the total money collected for Futurity entries.

PAYOUT PERCENTAGES

First – 25% Second – 22% Third – 18% Fourth – 15% Fifth – 10% Sixth – 5% Seventh – 3% Eighth – 2%

Premiums and awards will be presented in November at NAILE after the Junior Lincoln Show.

Additional recognition for the exhibitors and breeders will appear in the Lincoln newsletter and on the Lincoln Website.

POINT SCORING

1. A point card must be filled out for each show and submitted to Mindy Reid ,11152 Reid Rd. Houstonia, Mo. 65333. **Cards must be post marked within 14 days of the show to count.** The card must be signed by the superintendent of the appropriate show. Point cards can also be scanned and e-mailed to wyncrest2003@yahoo.com
2. At each individual show, the ewe lamb may earn Futurity points from the open division, the junior division, or from both (when a different judge or day is involved) except at NAILE, where only the junior show placing will be counted.
3. One point is awarded for showing the ewe lamb and one point for everyone you beat, up to 10 points per class. Ten points is the highest number of points that can be awarded per class.
4. Double points are awarded at the All American Junior Show and the National Jr. Show (at NAILE in 2013). The higher placing lamb at NAILE in Louisville will break ties.
5. Ewe lambs can compete at an unlimited number of shows and the exhibitor may submit as many cards for each lamb as they choose. Points for each ewe lamb will be accumulated separately. In the end, however, the five highest point cards will be used to determine cash awards.

POINT SCALE

# in class	placing in class																			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	1																			
2-3	3	2	1																	
4-6	6	5	4	3	2	1														
7-10	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1										
11-15	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1					
16+	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

2012 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	Larson	Garges	Vanderwende	Larson	Larson
MD Sheep & WF – natural color	Mombourquette (Supreme)	Larson	Shea	Mombourquette	Mombourquette
NLSBA S&S – white	Lein	Warrick	Lein	Payton	Larson/Lein
NLSBA S&S – natural color	Lein	Payton	Lein	Payton	Lein/Lein
Delaware State Fair – white longwool	Vanderwende				
Delaware State Fair – natural color longwool	Vanderwende	Vanderwende	Vanderwende	Vanderwende	
Wisconsin State Fair – white longwool	Burgener		Burgener		
Wisconsin State Fair – NC longwool	Burgener (Res. Supreme)		Burgener		
Illinois State Fair	Boersma	Rader	Boersma	Crome	
NE Youth Show	Belleavoine	Belleavoine	Belleavoine	Belleavoine	Belleavoine
Michigan Fiber Festival – white longwool	Larson			Swearingen	
Wisconsin Sheep & WF – white	Lein	Lein	Burgener	Burgener	
Wisconsin Sheep & WF – natural color	Burgener	Lein	Lein	Burgener	
Iowa State Fair	Lein	Burgener	Hammer	Burgener	
Minnesota State Fair – Lincolns (W&NC)	Froelich	Lein	Lein	Burgener	
Missouri State Fair – natural color longwool	Reid			Reid	
Eastern States – white	Kruse	Boersma	Kruse	Boersma	Kruse
Eastern States – natural color	Mombourquette	Haddock	Haddock	Long	Long
Western Washington Fair – white	Johnson	Johnson	Hordyk	Hordyk	
Western Washington Fair – natural color	Hordyk	Hordyk	Hordyk	Hordyk	
NY Sheep & Wool Festival – white longwool	Larson (Supreme)	Larson			
NY Sheep & Wool Festival – NC longwool		Larson			
NAILE Junior – white	Lamb		Lamb	Garges	Richert
NAILE Junior – natural color	Richert	Richert	Lamb	Lamb	Richert
NAILE – white	Crome	Boersma	Vanderwende	Estes	Vanderwende/Estes
NAILE – natural colored	Vanderwende	Reid	Burgener	Vanderwende	Vanderwende (both)

LINCOLN EWE LAMB FUTURITY POINT RECORD FORM

I, _____ have exhibited Lincoln ewe lamb (Name, ID), _____,

NLSBA Registry Number _____, USDA scrapie number _____.

This ewe lamb placed _____ in a class of _____ fall/junior ewe lambs.

This lamb was shown in the _____ division of the following show:

_____ on the date of _____.

This placing is verified by the superintendent/management of the above listed show.

Sheep Supt. Signature

Sheep Supt. phone number

Please fill out form completely, accurately and Mail to Mindy Reid within 14 days.
Incomplete forms will be invalid.

Mindy Reid
 11152 Reid Rd - Houstonia, Mo 65333
 Phone: 660-281-1003

2013 LINCOLN BREEDERS DIRECTORY

This membership directory includes members who paid dues in 2012. It is updated once a year.
also available on the web at www.lincolnsheep.org

CALIFORNIA

MARY JEAN ABATTI
259 E Teft
Nipomo, CA 93444
805-929-5397

GREG BEARD
BEARD'S LINCOLNS
807 San Pasqual Rd
Lompoc, CA 93436
805-735-7957

MIKE CLIFFORD
CLIFFORD SHEEP CONNECTION
807 San Pasqual Rd,
Lompoc, CA 93436
805-735-7957

MONA LISA & RYAN ESTES
9823 E Belmont
Sanger, CA 93657
206-999-6886
petterssonfarms@hotmail.com

COLORADO

NANCY IRLBECK & STEVE MUSICK
ANIROONZ
50059 WCR 15
Wellington, CO 80549
970-222-5820

CONNECTICUT

KATHY BOMBRIA
11 Cards Mill Rd
Columbia, CT 06237
860-228-3376
kebfarm@yahoo.com

AMY COREY
99 Miller Rd
Canterbury, CT 06331
860-456-1997
j_corey@att.net

DEBBIE DESJARLAIS
69 Bricktop Rd
Windham, CT 06280
860-456-0590

DELAWARE

DEBORAH VANDERWENDE
LOCUST GROVE, INC
14391 Blanchard Rd
Greenwood, DE 19950
302-349-4240
lincolnfleece@gmail.com

ILLINOIS

BEVERLY BOERSMA
72 Hank's Lane
Murphysboro, IL 62966
217-620-3601

RICHARD CROME
4881 W State St
Charleston, IL 61920
217-345-3437 217-549-2534
rkcrome@eiu.edu

BOB HEGGEMEIER
7750 Monroe Rd
Nashville, IL 62263
618-327-3709 618-327-4072

STEVE KRUSE
15056 N Monocot
Effingham, IL 62401
217-342-3702

TERESA KRUSE
JONATHAN KRUSE
132 S Water St, STC 545
Decatur, IL 62523
217-433-8820

HANNAH LAMB (JR MEM)
5112 E 900th Ave
Oblong, IL 62449
618-554-4275
hlamb3@verizon.net

KAYLI MOHR
MOHR LINCOLNS
5941 Old Peoria Rd
Danvers, IL 61732
309-963-6392
mohr@frontiernet.net

MARISSA RADER (JR MEM)
20779 N 350 E Rd
Danvers, IL 61732
309-963-4223 309-531-3616

ERIK SHEPPELMA (JR MEM)
NIKKOLE SHEPPELMA (JR MEM)
ANTHONY SHEPPELMA (JR MEM)

14476 Twin Grove Rd
Bloomington, IL 61705
309-963-5509
jnsheppe@ilstu.edu

PATRICIA R & CRAIG TAYLOR
371 Pasture Lane
Murphysboro, IL 62966
618-684-4401

DONALD WOODS
RR 1 Box 9, 222 County Rd
Ellery, IL 62833
618-445-2842

INDIANA

DAVID DAY
CREEK ROAD FARMS
19860 Creek Rd
Noblesville, IN 46060
317-727-7793

ELAINA LEMMEN (JR MEM)
WOOLY ACRES
6262 N100 E
Ossian, IN 46777
260-622-4567

ALAINA MARY RICHERT (JR MEM)
SABRINA ANN RICHERT (JR MEM)
LINCOLN HWY
16134 Lincoln Hwy E
New Haven, IN 46774
260-749-2061 260-249-4764
richertdr@aol.com

DEE & JOEL ROPER FAMILY
12515 E 256th St
Cicero, IN 46034
317-984-4821 317-385-1139

BRIANDA TOWELL
COUNTRY PARADISE FARMS
2640 Ballinger Rd
Martinsville, IN 46151

KAYDI TOWELL (JR MEM)
2640 Ballinger Rd
Martinsville, IN 46151
765-516-0473

IOWA

JIM & DONNA LEIN
7295 I Ave
Arlington, IA 50606
563-425-4262

MAINE

DANIEL & DONNA FLINT
OAK RIDGE FARM
16 Oak Ridge Rd
Sanford, ME 04073
207-324-1582
donna.flint@maine.edu

JOE & JUDY MILLER
RIVERCROFT
182 Olde Ferry Rd
Starks, ME 04911
207-696-8203
rivercroft99@yahoo.com

MARYLAND

ELENA BODE
ANYA BODE (JR MEM)
MAX BODE (JR MEM)
9885 Ironsides Rd
Nanjemoy, MD 20662
301-246-4957
thebodes@verizon.net

BARBARA GRAYBEAL
3675 Jennings Chapel Rd
Woodbine, MD 21797
410-489-6040
grayewe@gmail.com

DIANE KLINGELHOFER
4023 Wards Chapel Rd
Marriottsville, MD 21104
410-655-7577 443-277-8109
mslincolnsheep@aol.com

BRIETTA LATHAM (JR MEM)
7438 Sundays Lane
Frederick, nD 21702
301-898-2010

JOAN MOORE
1300 Crouse Mill Rd
Taneytown, MD 21787
443-277-6292
wdrancho1300@gmail.com

MASSACHUSETTS

WENDY CAMERON
RYAN CAMERON (JR MEM)
128 Plymouth St
Middleboro, MA 02346
508-947-4031

MICHIGAN

K BENJAMIN
129 E Grand River Rd
Owosso, MI 48867
989-729-8830
kjkj@earthlink.net

JENNIFER GARRETT
CLOVER BOTTOM LINCOLNS
8291 Cedar Creek Rd
Dowling, MI 49050
269-623-2549
longwools@mei.net

MARK & KATHY HARDEN
991S Kane Rd
Webberville, MI 48892
577-223-5918
shrtmr@hughes.net

2013 LINCOLN BREEDERS DIRECTORY CONTINUED...

MICHIGAN CONTINUED...

BRIAN LARSON
LARSON LINCOLNS
8291 Cedar Creek Rd
Dowling, MI 49050
269-623-2549 314-982-3576
longwools@mei.net

JANE LINK
1010 E Tyrell Rd
Bancroft, MI 48414
989-277-7021
rrovings@tds.net

HARVEY WARRICK
8700 Hoddinott Rd
Adrian, MI 49221
517-263-4167
hwarri@verizon.net

MINNESOTA

THOMAS FOSTER
WILLOW PINE II
383 Koski Rd
Cloquet, MN 55720
218-391-6859

KELLY & ERIC FROELICH
FROELICH FARM
1202 Pokegama Lake Rd
Grasston, MN 55030
763-533-2521
hydrosun@msn.com
froelichfarms@eksheep.com

BLAKE KOMIS (JR MEM)
19503 St Anna Dr
Avon, MN 56310
320-845-2094

STACEY YORK
JOSEPH HOFFMAN-YORK (JR MEM)
MACKENZIE HOFFMAN-YORK (JR MEM)
TYLER HOFFMAN-YORK (JR MEM)
VINCENT HOFFMAN-YORK (JR MEM)
20232 121st Ave
Spring Valley, MN 55975
507-346-1822 507-272-6401
info@kindredspiritfarm.com
www.kindredspiritfarm.com

MISSOURI

MINDY REID
11152 Reid Rd
Houstonia, MO 65333
660-879-4447
wyncrest2003@yahoo.com

BJ ANDERSON (JR MEM)
9470 North Farm Rd
Ash Grove, MO 65604
417-751-2696

NEW HAMPSHIRE

MADDY ZIMMERMANN (JR MEM)
58 Willard Pond Rd
Hancock, NH 03449
603-525-3832

NEW JERSEY

ASHTON, KIERNAN, & LORI SHEA
SHEA BROTHERS
PO Box 378
Columbus, NJ 08022
609-291-0635

PORTER SUTTON-SHEHAB & FAMILY
S LAILA SHEHAB (JR MEM)
SPRINGHILL FARM
101 W Prospect
Hopewell, NJ 08525
609-333-1266 917-693-5657
portcns@verizon.net

NEW YORK

MOLLIE HARTNAGEL
8318 Old Poland Rd
Barneveld, NY 13304
315-896-4426

RICHARD LONG
EMMALINE LONG
JENNALYN LONG (JR MEM)
ORCHARD VIEW FARMS
7643 Lake Rd
Bergen, NY 14416
585-494-1069
rlong3@rochester.rr.com

DAVID POPIELINSKI (JR MEM)
ROCKY KNOLL ACRES
283 Schad Rd
Alden, NY 14004
585-547-3576

JOSEPH & JOAN SEAVEY
529 Pollock Rd
Canton, NY 13617
315-386-3363

SAE JIN, CANDYCE & TONY TROMBLEY
SHEEP FOO YOU FARM
PO Box 65
175 Rte 22B Pleasant St
Peru, NY 12972
518-643-8024

EMILY WEST
6637 E Swamp Rd
Conesus, NY 14435
585-402-2119
emombourquette@yahoo.com

NORTH CAROLINA

JOYCE & GERALD COGGINS
AND FAMILY
HALLELUJAH FARMS
1084 Bell Mtn Rd
Zirconia, NC 28790
828-697-7665 828-606-4975
NCsheep@aol.com

OHIO

CAMPBELL BROTHERS
17790 St Rt 339
Waterford, OH 45786
740-984-8769 740-984-3463
jfcampbell@aep.com

ROBERT SANDO & FAMILY
4204 Hursch Rd
Arcanum, OH 45304
937-996-0117
rsando_shrop@hotmail.com

OREGON

CHRISTINE BAZANT
MISSING CREEK FARM
36449 Hwy 34
Lebanon, OR 97355
541-259-5052
c.bazant@centurytel.net

AARON JOHNSON FAMILY
94436 Mustonen Rd
Brownsmead, OR 97103
503-458-6398

KRIS & HANNAH JONES
KRISTIE LINCOLNS
246 NE McKay Dr
Prineville, OR 99754
541-416-1461
krjones@crestviewcable.com

CHRISTIANE PAYTON
DANIELLE PAYTON (JR MEM)
MAYA PAYTON (JR MEM)
12775 NW Oak Ridge Rd
Yamhill, OR 97148
503-662-4249
christiane@northvalleyfarm.com

ELIZABETH WELLS (JR MEM)
24895 SW Oberst Rd
Sherwood, OR 97140
503-625-6890

PENNSYLVANIA

DANIEL McCAFFERTY, MD
418 Old Newburg Tpke
South Gibson, PA 18842
570-903-0220
danjmccafferty@aol.com

TAYLER GARGES (JR MEM)
600 Schoolhouse Rd
Telford, PA 18969
267-372-2779

RHODE ISLAND

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MAYBE TOMORROW FARM
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khop4811@aol.com
www.maybetomorrowfarm.com

MEEK FAMILY
TAYLOR MEEK (JR MEM)
BALLY DUFF FARM

PO Box 473, 96 Farnum Rd
Harmony, RI 02829
401-949-2167
ballydufffarm@yahoo.com

AMBER SHIPPEE (JR MEM)
942 Chopmist Hill Rd
North Scituate, RI 02857
401-793-6819

TENNESSEE

NORMA & EDGBERT SCARLETT
SCARLETT HOLLOW FARM
195 Ron Marks Ln
Fainesboro, TN 38562
931-268-0841
thescarletts@twlakes.net

VERMONT

JOSEPH & CAROL HADDOCK
69 Sawmill Rd
Jericho, VT 05465
802-899-2384
haddock@comcast.net

2013 LINCOLN BREEDERS DIRECTORY CONTINUED...

WASHINGTON

VICKI BRATTON

PO Box 1264
Ephrata, WA 98823
509-754-1273
tumbelle@nwi.net

BILL & DIANE DUBRAY

22440 SE 419th St
Enumclaw, WA 98022
360-825-1634
sheepone@msn.com

EILEEN HORDYK

SANDHILL FARMS

9906 Arlington Hts Rd
Arlington, WA 98223
360-435-2285
ghordyk@aol.com

BOB & MARILYNN MALLETT

PO Box 41
Ravensdale, WA 98051
360-886-1753

LINDSEY REISTER

PO Box 403
Washougal, WA 98671
360-835-9613

WISCONSIN

GRACIE ADSIT (JR MEM) HANNAH ADSIT (JR MEM)

17146 Co Hwy NN
Richland Center, WI 53581
608-647-3035

LLOYD & PHYLLIS BURGNER

18081 Schauer Ln
Richland Center, WI 53581
608-604-3580
ramlin@mwt.net

DAVID HAMMER

6738 Hilldale Rd
Cuba City, WI 53807
608-759-4304
hammersheep@mhtc.net

STEPHER REDMAN

PO Box 133
Wilmot, WI 53192
847-812-4495
srednab91@gmail.com

JAWGER STAEVEN (JR MEM)

22462 Hickerson Rd
Grantsburg, WI 54840
715-463-2172

HALEY YUNKER (JR MEM)

2252 260th St
St Croix Falls, WI 54024
715-483-3727
haley2012@centurytel.net

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WORD LIST

BAA	WOOL	FLOCK	SHEARING
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HAIR	FLEECE	RAMS	SHEPHERD
LAMB	DOMESTICATED		HIDES
LIVESTOCK			HERBIVORES

Continued from page 1 - Young Breeder Profile

Emma says that the main market for her flock's wool is raw fleeces sought by spinners and wool artists. Although most lambs are sold as purebreds to other breeders, some are sold to the local ethnic market.

As she was growing up, Emma was active in 4-H, and she remains involved in both her county and in collegiate 4-H at Cornell University. She's also on the New York State 4-H Foundation Board. Emma was an agricultural science major at Cornell and graduated with a bachelor's degree last spring. She is currently a graduate student at Cornell pursuing a master of science degree in agronomy. She'd like to work as a crop consultant, perhaps through cooperative extension, after she's finished with school.

Emma is a lovely, smiling, outgoing gal when you meet her. Her bright red hair is an indication of her tenacious persistence in producing the best Lincoln Longwools!

Visit OrchardView Lincoln Longwools on Facebook.

[Some of this article's content was extracted from an article written by Sally Colby in the 14 May 2012 edition of Country Folks - Western Edition (Vol. 38, No. 29) published by Lee Publications of Palatine Bridge, NY - the managing editor did not respond to my inquiries requesting permission]



SHOTS FROM THE 2012 NATIONAL SHOW & SALE



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
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Genetically No Scrapie

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Visit the Lincoln Association Website for Updates and Information

www.lincolnsheep.org
