



# THE LINCOLN LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL LINCOLN SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Fall 2014

## Upcoming Show Dates:

NYS Sheep and Wool Festival: October 18-19

NAILE: Youth Show- November 16, Open Show- November 20

*If you would like to let other breeders know about an event in your area, email Emmaline (ealong88@gmail.com)*

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*If you have any ideas for articles in future issues, email Emmaline Long at ealong88@gmail.com.*

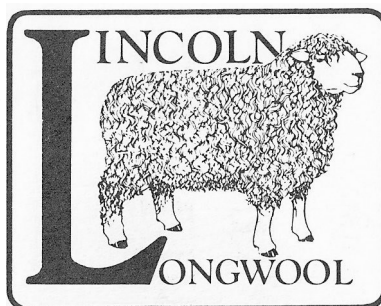
## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By BRIAN LARSON, PRESIDENT NLSBA

**Branding Lincoln Products:** An enthusiastic group of Lincoln breeders met for dinner and discussion while at the Big E in Massachusetts in September. The primary mission was to get organized for the National Eastern Regional Lincoln Show at the Big E in 2015. The discussion centered around what we can do to promote Lincolns at the Big E and beyond. Of particular interest was the idea of several that we need to 'brand' our products (meat & wool)! The Merino breed has done a magnificent job of doing just that. Their customers have come to believe that anything 'Merino' is better. The end point of that discussion was that we, as members of NLSBA, should be encouraged to use and promote usage of our Lincoln Longwool 'logo' on Lincoln products. Thus, our 'logo' will be placed on our web page in 'jpg' format for anyone to download and use on

product labels and advertising, if they wish to promote the breed.

**Registry Location Change:** The AHSA Board of Directors have announced that the American Sheep Registry has relocated to Wamego, KS as of the end of September. New staff has been hired and were trained by the prior staff in Iowa to learn about the registry. If you have any questions about this transition please call Jeff Ebert, AHSA Executive Secretary at 785-458-9174.



New registry address:

PO Box 231, 305 Lincoln, Wamego, KS 66547  
785-456-8500 - phone, 785-456-8599 - fax

## SUMMER 2014 LINCOLNSHIRE TRIP RECAP

By ALAINA AND SABRINA RICHERT, JUNIOR MEMBERS

*This is Part 1. The rest will appear in the Winter newsletter.*

Warm sunshine, gorgeous, large Lincolns with lustrous long locks, gracious hosts serving delicious 'puddings' with pimms, not a mosquito to be found, and Suffolks that are as tall as your kneecaps. Sounds dreamlike doesn't it? This past July, it was reality for 17 Lincoln Longwool breeders from 'the States' and Canada. The National Lincoln Longwool Association's trip to England was truly a dream like experience.

After arriving at the Birmingham airport and getting the rental cars, which were all stick shift (like most UK cars) with the steering wheel on the right side, we headed out to the countryside. It was at that moment when the chant started in our vehicle that endured throughout the whole trip, "LEFT! LEFT! GET LEFT!" Much thanks goes out to our drivers for taking on this daunting task and the van full of terrified back-seat drivers. It isn't easy to overcome decades of staying right side of the road.

On the first day in the UK we found the three

bed and breakfasts we were staying at, and then previewed the 147th Heckington Show grounds. (<http://www.heckingtonshow.org.uk/gallery.html>) The second day found us back at the show for the livestock judging. The show is the largest village show in Britain and was filled with exhibits of flowers and garden produce, antique tractors, grandstand shows and concerts, jousting (not something you come across everyday), athletic competitions such as cycling, running and tug of war, archery contests, "car boot sale" (aka flea market) tents, food and fantastic livestock shows. Horse events ranged from draft horse shows, to plowing and to show jumping. The cattle show had unique double muscled cattle breeds unlike any you will spot in North America. They looked like big furry pigs. The poultry and rabbit shows were very similar to shows here at home, but the sheep show was a sight to be seen! Texel is a pretty common sheep in the UK, but their "Suffolks" and "Oxfords" looked like they were from a scene in the movie 'Honey I Shrunk the Sheep'.

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## SUMMER 2014 LINCOLNSHIRE TRIP RECAP CONT...

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Then there were the Lincolns! The Lincoln show was one of the biggest breeds in both number and size of sheep. They had these beautiful fleeces that swept along the ground as they paraded about the show ring being halter lead by the showman in a white jackets. It is serious business and these are exemplary specimens. No one envied the job that Bill Gardhouse had as judge sorting through the classes. First place was awarded a red ribbon, second place a blue, yellow for third and green for fourth. Eventually they were all placed and the champion from each breed of each species was paraded in front of the grandstand for the Grand Parade. After the parade, the sheep shearing commenced followed by the sheep auction. If you are interested in how a British auction is conducted, watch the opening scene from "The Phantom of the Opera" Broadway play. It is exactly the same, just no ghosts or singing.

The next day started with a proper English breakfast of runny side up eggs, sausage links, cooked tomato, fried mushrooms, back bacon and beans. Yes, beans as in pork and bean beans. On the side was toast, jellies, fruit, and yogurt. It was a good start for our big day in the village of Lincoln. Most of the group spent the majority of their day at the Lincoln Cathedral (<http://lincolncathedral.com/building/history/>) that was commissioned by William the Conqueror in 1092. No, that is not a typo, the original opened in 1092, rebuilt after a fire in 1141, repaired after an earthquake in 1185 which was when it was given its Gothic style. From 1307 to 1549 it was the tallest building in the world. Even if it still doesn't hold that title, it is an amazing building to see, especially from the roof. Some very brave Lincoln breeders opted to take the roof-top tour which as the title proclaims, takes you literally up to the roof, and you stand there looking across all of Lincolnshire feeling a bit woozy. Even the roof trusses are amazing. They are gigantic oak timbers cut from Sherwood forest.

Melton Mowbray Livestock Market <http://www.meltonmowbraymarket.co.uk> was our morning destination on day five (day one was lost due to the time change). The town of Melton Mowbray has been known for its markets for over a thousand years. In the 1086 Domesday Survey it was recorded as Leicestershire's only market. We knew we were getting close when we started seeing a steady parade of "lorries" otherwise known as trucks in the states. Although we were close, we were lost. Thankfully one of our hosts, Keith Harding was standing along the street looking for us. The lead car stopped, threw open the door, pulled Keith in the car and we arrived at the market shortly thereafter. The market had something for everyone, a meat vendor, car boot sale buildings, small animal and large animal sales. We learned there is a white face sheep market

premium. They are finer boned and yield a higher percentage of meat than the black face Suffolk type.

The afternoon found us at our first flock visit near Grantham. Michael and Julie Coney graciously hosted us at their home which is surrounded by pastures filled with picturesque Lincolns. Michael tied his yearling rams to the fence for our group to get hands on. It was thrilling to part the locks and peek inside the beautiful fleeces to see the structure and lock composition. Michael explained how to evaluate the fleece and what characteristics are genetically tied. He tirelessly answered our numerous questions and shared how he would rank the ram selection. Next he led us to his sheep handling station where he ran his ewe and ram lambs through his chute so we could truly get a 'feel' of his Lincolns.

The sixth day of our adventure found the group about as close to heaven on earth as one can get. Our first farm visit was to Ian and Louise Fairburn's castle on a cloud. After a steep climb up a very long lane, you arrive and are treated to wonderful hospitality and a breathtaking view of the countryside with the flock contentedly grazing on the hillside pasture (we pondered who has to go get the mail everyday at the bottom of the hill). If you have Lincolns there is a pretty solid chance you have seen Ian and Louise's wedding picture. Yup, she is the one wearing the wedding dress made out of Lincoln locks that went viral online.

Upon arrival, we had a presentation by Henry Dudding's grandson, Peter Addison. He recounted memories of the days when the British Lincoln Longwool was the premier sheep of England and beyond. People would come from around the world to attend an annual livestock auction just to have a chance to purchase some Lincoln sheep. In 1906 a Lincoln ewe sold for 1,450 guineas to a buyer from South America. That same year 6,928 Lincoln sheep were exported with a flock of 1,000 going to Argentina. Today 300 guineas is a very respectable price. After the presentation we were treated to puddings and elderflower juice. It was here where I met my first Pavlova, a meringue base topped with whipped cream and fruit. I never wanted to eat any other food ever again. It was as beautiful as the view and ever so tasty. (See <http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/1614633/pavlova-mary-berrys-recipe>) On the way down the long lane, we stopped by the various pastures to get a closer look at their prize winning flock.

For the afternoon flock tour, we headed to Martyn and Rosemary Robinson's farm. Martyn is a large scale sheep producer in Scunthorpe. He has several breeds and intensively manages his flock for prime production. His Lincolns are excellent specimens and he has Texels along with production-bred crossbreeds. Violet, his dog, rounded up the Lincolns from the back of the pasture and drove them up to our feet for inspection. She loved to run, was faster than lightning, and the sheep kept a very close watch of her.

*To be continued ...*



Back, L to R: Rod Dart, Illinois; Bill Gardhouse, Ontario; Porter Sutton, New Jersey; George and Pat Schudel, Ohio; Mark Richert, Indiana; Harvey Warrick, Michigan; Deb Vanderwende, Delaware; Carol and Joe Haddock, Vermont.  
Front, L to R: Alaina, Sabrina and Anita Richert, Indiana; Ann Moffat, Ontario; SaeJin Trombley, New York; Jennifer Garrett and Brian Larson, Michigan.

# LINCOLN MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

The Lincoln Breeder's Association is now selling merchandise with the Lincoln logo.

Items include:

1/4 Zip Sweatshirts- \$30.00

Tee shirts- \$8.00

Hats- \$12.00

Travel Mugs- \$8.00

Bags (laptop, tote)- Price depends on style

All items are cobalt blue in color.

Contact Debbie Vanderwende if interested ([lincolnfleece@gmail.com](mailto:lincolnfleece@gmail.com))



## SNAPSHOTS

*IF YOU HAVE PHOTOS OF LINCOLN BREEDERS, SHOWS, WOOL PROJECTS, OR ANYTHING "LINCOLN-RELATED", PLEASE SEND THEM TO EMMALINE LONG AT [EALONG88@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ealong88@gmail.com).*



Yearling rams at the Coney Farm, Grantham, England.



The champion Lincoln ewe, who was Reserve Champion Overall Lincoln, at the Heckington Show. She belongs to the Risby Flock.



Bill Guardhouse (Ontario, CA), judging at the Heckington Show, England.

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



## LINCOLN LONGWOOLS FOR MANY REASONS!

- Long lustrous fleece • Muscular, sturdy body
- Attentive mothers • Environmentally adaptable
- Good milk production • Calm, gentle disposition
- Multiple births • Long productive lives
- Outstanding crossbreeding
- Strong, long lasting teeth • Excellent feet, rot resistant
- Genetically no scrapie

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National Lincoln Sheep Breeders Assoc.  
PO Box 231, 305 Lincoln  
Wamego, KS 66547

Visit the Lincoln Association Website for updates and information

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

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