



# THE LINCOLN LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL LINCOLN SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

**Spring/Summer 2014**

**Upcoming Show Dates:**

All-American Junior Show: July 3-6

Northeast Youth Sheep Show: July 18-20

UK Lincolnshire Tour: July 25-August 1

The Big E: September (date TBD)

NYS Sheep and Wool Festival: October 18-19

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

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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*

Based on the recent **NLSBA Show & Sale in Wooster Ohio** on May 25th, demand for Lincolns is strong! The unofficial results were: three white rams averaged \$708, six white ewes' average was \$870, five natural colored rams averaged \$460 and seven natural colored ewes averaged \$653. The champion white ram (yearling) was entered by Mona Lisa and Ryan Estes (CA), the reserve champion white ram (yearling) was entered by North Valley Farm (OR). The champion white ewe (yearling) was entered by Mona Lisa and Ryan Estes (CA), the reserve champion white ewe (spring lamb) was shown by Rader's Lincolns (IL). The champion natural colored ram (yearling) was exhibited by Boersma Ranch (IL) and the reserve champion natural colored ram (spring lamb) was shown by Wyncrest (MO). Among those sales, five futurity ewe lambs sold for an average of \$520! Thomas Day (IN) purchased the natural colored Lincoln sketch donated by Mindy Reid (MO) and the proceeds went to the Lincoln junior fund.



**Three Junior Lincoln shows** are scheduled this year. The All-American Junior Show will be in

Hutchinson KS July 3 - 6, the Northeast Youth Sheep Show will be held July 18 - 20 in West Springfield MA and the NAILE Junior Lincoln Show will be held Sunday, November 16 in Louisville KY.

The **2014 NAILE** open class white and natural colored Lincoln shows will be held Thursday, November 20, 2014 beginning at 8:00 AM in Louisville KY. Mindy Reid (MO) has agreed to take the position of the Lincoln shows superintendent and new member of the NAILE Sheep Advisory

Committee, replacing Brian Larson.

Sixteen US and Canadian Lincoln breeders will participate in the **UK Lincolnshire Tour** July 25 - August 1, beginning at the big Heckington show on the first weekend. All species of livestock will be on exhibition and Heckington is the largest and final Lincoln show of the year and includes their annual sale and, fleece shearing and fleece evaluation. The group will be visiting 8 flocks of Lincoln Longwools at six locations during the week. Also on the itinerary are several Lincolnshire historical sites and a visit to the Melton Mowbray livestock market, one of the largest sheep markets in the UK.

## ALL-AMERICAN JUNIOR SHOW SUPPORT

This year's All American Junior Sheep Show will be held July 3rd-6th at the Kansas State Fairgrounds. This is a well-done show that provides youth with the opportunity to not only show, but participate in skill-a-thons and contests, and meet others from around the country at a pizza party and basketball tournament! The NLSBA has provided support to fund the Lincoln show at this annual event for several years, but in order to keep the Lincoln show

running at this annual event, we need your help! If you are interested in supporting this show, please send any donations to:

Debbie Vanderwende  
14391 Blanchard Rd.  
Greenwood, DE 19950

*Thank you for supporting our youth members!*

# A SLICE, A SCOOP AND A HANDFUL “LOCK”-IN LINCOLN FLEECE QUALITY

BY BRIAN LARSON, PRESIDENT NLSBA

*Disclaimer: The following is the author's opinion and does not reflect positions of the NLSBA.*

About five years ago, I decided to take all top ewe and ram prospects that I raised to yearlings with a 12-month growth of fleece. I shear the lamb fleeces in May and then shear the yearling fleeces the following May. The developing yearlings are kept outside the whole time - no barn time! The reason I did this was based on what I heard from Canadian, British and New Zealand Lincoln breeders about the importance of lock structure in Lincolns and how we in the US have neglected our fleeces.

Very early in my Lincoln breeding I had several opportunities to be 'educated' by John Lee of Canada. He and Bill Gardhouse had kindly come to our Kentucky place during the NAILE to look over our Lincolns. When I showed him a ewe lamb that I was quite proud of, he said "you may want to learn more about Lincoln fleeces!" Ike Williams of New Zealand commented that the Lincoln fleeces he saw in most US flocks in an earlier visit were 'Leicester' fleeces. "If you want Leicester fleeces, then you should breed Leicesters, not Lincolns!" While on a business trip to Europe about 10 years ago, I took a side trip to England and toured Lincolnshire flocks with the late Robert Watts. I asked for an education on Lincoln fleece and that's what I got. At every flock, we looked at fiber density (# fibers per area), fiber strength, luster, crimp, yolk (lanolin secretion) and organic matter - all these characteristics were familiar to me. "But, most important of all is the lock formation in a Lincoln, they should be bold, broad locks - that's what distinguishes the Lincoln from all

others!", Watts and others said.

What I have learned over the past five years is that the more bold and broad the lock formation, the better the fleece condition all the way to 12 months growth. And the fleeces are much easier to manage. Early on in the 12-month fleece project I learned that our US fleeces go out of condition and become 'cotted' before the 12 month mark was reached, usually about 1-2 months before shearing. The more that I have focused on 'traditional' lincoln fleece genetics, I have found that it is pretty easy to get to the 12-month mark without the fleece going out of condition. The other benefit is that fleece density and weight has improved steadily.

The good news and the bad news are the same - fleece and wool characteristics are highly heritable. If you do not pay much attention to the fleece, you can lose it quickly! However, if you are careful in ram selection, you can get the "Lincoln fleece" quality back in a generation or two.



*12 month Lincoln locks.*

It is true that 12-month fleeces (10-14 inch locks) do not fit into our fiber market as it exists today. I'm not proposing that we do that routinely! However, you should consider paying more attention to breeding traditional Lincoln fleeces because you will find them much easier to manage and you will help keep the Lincoln breed distinctly wool-Maintenance-free in the 'longwool' category!



*Before and after shearing a yearling ram with a 12 month fleece.*



# LINCOLN BREEDER SURVEY

BY EMMALINE LONG, VICE PRESIDENT NLSBA

Many of you who are long-time breeders may remember that a membership survey was conducted in 2000. This survey helped give the Association a good idea of how many Lincolns are out there and what the priorities were of breeders.

With many new breeders, changes in technology and changes in locations of large flocks, the Board felt that it was time to conduct another membership survey.

Please go to the "Survey Monkey" link below to take a membership survey highlighting: your flock information, the future of our breed & shows, and technology/social media/breed promotion. It

should take about 30min. of your time and will really help the Board in making future decisions regarding location and time of the National Show and Sale, use of social media and other promotional materials, improvements of the website and newsletter, and also will help get a count of what the US Lincoln population looks like.

The link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DKPKDXB>

Please take the survey by July 5th. There should be plenty of space for open-ended comments, but if you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact Emmaline Long at [ealong88@gmail.com](mailto:ealong88@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).*



Harvey Warrick (MI) showing off his Lincoln wig at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival.

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"Lincoln Ladies" at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. L to R: Diane Klingerhofer (MD), Debbie Vanderwende (DE) and Emmaline Long (NY).

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Christiane Payton's (OR) dog Penny watching over her flock.

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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) 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 re 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 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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