



# THE LINCOLN LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL LINCOLN SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

## Fall 2016

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

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well it's hard to believe that a year plus has gone by since I received the news that I in fact had won the election and was to become the newest President of the NLSBA. Although we had been raising Lincolns for a number of years, my participation in the organization had been limited at best so, I had a lot of catching up to do! Many members expressed concerns regarding issues that were still on the table and I realized that I now had a starting point. The first order of business was to prioritize the concerns and then try to resolve them. Our Tax Exempt status had been revoked and many members were questioning if it could be restored. With a tremendous amount of work on Deb Vanderwende's part and the generous nature of her CPA, I am happy to say we were able to regain our status without breaking the bank. We also have a new Website as well as a presence on Facebook thanks to the efforts of Emmaline Long, Taylor Meek, and most recently Darlene Leary.

Our show year wrapped up nicely at NAILE due to all the hard work and effort put forth by Mindy Reid. Mindy managed to put together a plethora of prizes for our junior members. She also petitioned for expansion of the

Futurity program to include Yearling ewes that were purchased the previous year as Futurity lambs. Information as to how this program works will be posted on the NLSBA website.

We, the Officers and Regional Directors, have also managed to put a budget in place, hold quarterly conference calls, and compile a members Directory booklet. In the upcoming year we hope to restore the issuing of the newsletter and would like to encourage all members to consider contributing articles and/or information of interest. As the old saying goes, many hands make light work so please consider helping move this forward by telling us what's happening in your neck of the woods!

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to our organization. Over this past year, we have worked to open the lines of communication and for transparency and will continue to do so in an effort to further better the NLSBA. Planning ahead, I hope to see many of you in Wooster, Ohio at our Biennial meeting and National sale.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year and Peaceful Lambing season!

*-Robin Meek*

## WEBSITE UPDATES

Our new website has been up and running all season, with updates as they are available. Show results, workshops/webinars from around the country, and general association announcements can be found on the new

website, with a special section for junior member news. Also available are all the forms for membership and registration. To post an event or announcement on the website, please contact: ealong88@gmail.com.

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## NLSBA MEMBERS VISIT UK LINCOLN BREEDERS

BY EMMALINE LONG

Members of the National Lincoln Sheep Breeder's Association headed to the United Kingdom in September to meet with breeders and tour the countryside. The trip was held September 23rd to 30th and 18 breeders from coast to coast attended. This the third time the trip was held and provided a great opportunity to network with UK breeders and learn about their genetics and grazing practices.

The first day was spent touring the historical city of York, complete with Yorkshire Pudding and beer. We explored the York Minster Cathedral and learned about the city's history. As our tour guide taught us, "The history of York, is the history of England". On Sunday 9/25, we headed to the small town of Masham, north of York, to partake in the Masham Sheep Festival and show. Rod Dart from Illinois had the opportunity to judge the Lincoln show, and Emmaline Long from New York had the opportunity to help one of the UK breeders show. This is the town's largest festival of the year and is completely centered on sheep and wool. The sheep show is set up right in the town square and the town hall is filled with crafts. We also had the opportunity to tour the town's two breweries, one aptly named "Black Sheep Brewery".

The next several days were spent visiting flocks in Lincolnshire and Leistershire. We visited Martyn Robinson's flock in North Lincolnshire. He has a commercial flock of 300 ewes and a breeding flock of Lincolns and learned about the "stratification" of breeding sheep in the UK related to geographical region. We also visited Keith & Ro Harding's Swepstone Lincoln Longwool flock in Leicester. Keith has nearly 50 Lincolns and also raises British White cattle. Chris and Steve Higgins also joined us at the Harding's with some of their "Shadow" (Natural Colored) Lincolns. Each flock visit throughout the week included a judging contest. I think our whole group

agreed we would've taken home any of the sheep we had the opportunity to judge! Each flock visit ended with an afternoon tea with scones and delightful conversation.

We also had the opportunity to visit the Melton Mowbray Market where over 4,000 sheep were being auctioned for meat, for finishing and even as breeding groups.

On Wednesday 9/28, we visited the British Wool Marketing Board where over 90% of all the wool produced in the UK is marketed! We participated in a mock auction, had a very informative presentation, and had a great tour of the facility where every fleece is graded and baled. This was truly an eye opening experience for everyone in the group, as we do not have any structure like this in the states! Following the tour, we headed to Haworth Scouring Company where wool is cleaned and carded into batts. They recycle the water to reduce water consumption, and all the washing vats are controlled with sensors to reduce detergent use. It was incredible to see scouring on such a large scale.

The trip concluded with a visit to the iconic Risby Flock of Lincoln Longwools. Along with a tour of their hillside pastures, another judging contest of nine yearling rams, wonderful cheeses and a pig roast, we were treated with gorgeous views of Lincolnshire and surrounding landscape.

This trip provided an amazing opportunity to learn the history of our breed, network with breeders from the UK, and tour the county with like-minded people. Thank you so much to all of the UK breeders for being such gracious hosts. We all ended the week with new friendships and connections, an appreciation of the Lincoln's history, and a renewed love for the breed we raise!



The whole group at the Risby Flock, plus some of the UK breeders.



Rod Dart (IL) judging the ewe lamb class at the Masham Sheep Festival.



Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NLSBA/>  
to stay current with news, shows, and events!

# THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY AND THE NLSBA

BY BRIAN LARSON

The Livestock Conservancy has been committed to preserving rare/heritage breeds of livestock and poultry for 40 years. Another way to describe their efforts is that they are guardians of our livestock and poultry genetic diversity. The Livestock Conservancy has helped prevent extinctions, expand populations, educate beginning farmers, and assist breeders in establishing new markets for their products. Livestock Conservancy programs help farmers and breed organizations maintain long-term viability and sustainability of endangered breeds.

Partnerships are vital to preserving our heritage farm animal breeds. The Livestock Conservancy works with global and national private / public groups that share this philosophy. Examples include the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (UK), sister organizations in North and South America, Australia and New Zealand, the USDA National Germplasm Program, the SVF Foundation (US) and many breeder organizations.

The rare/heritage breeds are especially important to small farmers because these breeds retain many traits that have been lost in commercial breeds. The experience of the Livestock Conservancy and its genetic advisors have recognized that these valuable traits can only be preserved by keeping strong breed standards in place. Straying from these standards due to external pressures opens the possibility that these valuable traits may be lost because of the complex genetic connections of physical traits to behavioral and productive traits.

The Livestock Conservancy is a 501(c)3 organization which means it operates with funds from membership dues, grants and donations. Visit the website: <https://livestockconservancy.org/>

Learn more about this organization that has partnered with the National Lincoln Sheep Breeders' Association and about 150 other breed organizations to prevent our rare/heritage livestock and poultry breeds from going extinct.

## 2016 LINCOLN SHOW RESULTS

Show	Champion Ram	Res. Champion Ram	Champion Ewe	Res. Champion Ewe	Best Fleece
<b>MD Sheep &amp; Wool Fest- White</b>	Day (Supreme)	Vanderwende	Wertz	Vanderwende	Day
<b>MD Sheep &amp; Wool Fest- Natural Color</b>	Leary	Leary	Vanderwende	Vanderwende	Vanderwende
<b>NLSBA S&amp;S- White</b>	Boersma	Rader	Boersma	Boersma	.
<b>NLSBA S&amp;S- Natural Color</b>	Rader	Reid	Reid	Kruse	.
<b>Black Sheep Gathering- NC</b>	North Valley	.	North Valley	.	.
<b>Wisconsin State Fair- Long White</b>	Burgener	Burgener	Burgener	Burgener	.
<b>Illinois State Fair- White</b>	Boersma	Boersma	Rader	Boersma	.
<b>Iowa State Fair</b>	Burgener	Burgener	Burgener	Burgener	.
<b>Minnesota State Fair</b>	Burgener	Burgener	Burgener	Burgener	.
<b>All-American Youth Show- W&amp;NC</b>	Hanson	Starkenbug	Hanson	Garges	Taylor
<b>NE Youth Show- W&amp;NC</b>	Leary	Blake	Leary	Joas	Joas
<b>Eastern States- White</b>	Boersma	Vanderwende	Boersma	Vanderwende	Garges
<b>Eastern States- Colored</b>	Wind Valley	Kruse	Wind Valley	Weston	Weston
<b>Eastern States Junior- White</b>	Garges	Garges	Garges	Garges	.
<b>Eastern States Junior- Colored</b>	Leary	Bombria	Cameron	Cameron	.
<b>NAILE Junior- White</b>	Garges	Campbell	Taylor	Garges	Garges
<b>NAILE Junior- Natural Color</b>	Taylor	Campbell	Anderson	Campbell	Via
<b>NAILE- White</b>	Boersma	Rader	Rader	Rader	Ungar (Ram) Klingelhofer (Ewe)
<b>NAILE- Natural Color</b>	Reid	Klingelhofer	Reid	Vanderwende	Klingelhofer(Ram) Vanderwende(Ewe)

*To have a specific show included in this coming year's results, please email results to [ealong88@gmail.com](mailto:ealong88@gmail.com) following the show.*

# 2017 YOUTH CONSERVATION PROGRAM

BY ELAINE ASHCRAFT

The Youth Conservationist Program is preparing for the 2017 Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. They are seeking breeders of Heritage breeds of sheep who would be willing to donate a yearling ewe of retainable quality and to mentor the youth that receives this ewe for the upcoming year. We are also looking for youth between the ages of 9 and 18 years of age who are interested in receiving one of these sheep and in doing so, help to promote their breed of sheep by fulfilling all of the requirements of the YCP.

This program was developed to promote young breeders selecting rare and heritage breeds of sheep, of which the Lincoln Longwool is one. Rare breeds are part of our national heritage and represent a unique piece of the earth's biodiversity. Over 200 youth have been recipients of sheep through the YCP program since its onset. The recipients receive their ewes each year at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival in May.

The program is seeking Lincoln Longwool breeders interested in donating a registered spring ewe lamb for this program. Donors will choose the recipients of the ewes from the submitted essays. If interested, please contact Elaine Ashcraft at [tankewe\\_cr58@yahoo.com](mailto:tankewe_cr58@yahoo.com).

## Do you know of any youth interested in applying? The 2017 Youth Conservationist Program applicants must:

- Be between 9 and 18 years old.
- Submit an application postmarked by April 1, 2017 that includes an essay which introduces the applicant, the applicant's experience with animals, and where the animal will be kept and what the applicant's responsibilities will be if the animal will not be residing at applicant's home. The essay should also explain the applicant's interest in sheep and should also explain, "Why I would like to preserve a heritage breed of sheep."
- The applicant should indicate if they wish to be considered for a particular breed, or for any of the breeds available.
- A letter of recommendation from their 4-H advisor, veterinarian, teacher or clergy. The total application/essay should be no more than 2 pages in length.
- The application must include address, phone and, if available, email address.
- Interested youth should contact Elaine for an updated list of breeds available, then submit their letter of application/essay to: Elaine Ashcraft, 46118 CR 58 Coshocton, OH 43812 [tankewe\\_cr58@yahoo.com](mailto:tankewe_cr58@yahoo.com)

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## WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THAT WOOL?

BY CHRISTIANE PAYTON

Lincoln wool is great for spinning, weaving, needle felting and wet felting. Although we sell the majority of our clip to fiber artists, we still have plenty to play with when the opportunity arises. Below are some examples of things made with our sheeps' wool.

Yarn: Lincoln brings some very unique and advantageous traits to the table when it comes to spinning yarn. The luster and curl of Lincoln wool can be used to make an attractive yarn with lots of shine and liveliness. Handspinners like to use Lincoln for "tailspinning" which involves creating a highly textured yarn by spinning from the butt end of the lock and flicking out the tip ends. The longer and wavier the staple length of the fiber, the better. The yarn pictured above is an example of tailspun yarn.



Weavers like Lincoln because of its length, luster and durability. One can create a very strong and stable yarn with long stapled Lincoln which guarantees the ability to withstand wear and abrasion over time.

Needle felters love Lincoln for its texture. Much of our white clip goes to fiber artists who create Santa Claus figures in the lead up to the winter holiday season. Some of these pieces are very involved fiber sculptures



which take days to make and sell for hundreds of dollars or more. Only the best, longest and unstained fibers go to these end users. Pictured to the left are some needle felted figures that a 9th grade student of mine made using Lincoln locks as embellishment.

I have also used some of our dyed Lincoln to decorate wet felted pieces such as these slippers.



The combination of our wet western Oregon winters and my sheep in longer fleece like to remind me that Lincoln wool doesn't require much agitation (or rubbing against other sheep!) to effectively wet felt. One can use either lamb or adult Lincoln wool to make very durable felt using warm water, soap and a little elbow grease.

Selling or using the wool from our flock of sheep helps us to bring in money when other income streams from meat and breeding stock sales are slow, particularly during the winter months. Fiber quality is enhanced through management practices that emphasize the wool clip's cleanliness. And the internet brings buyers and sellers together from all over the country as well as other parts of the world. So grab some Lincoln wool and explore the possibilities!

# SHEEP SEMEN IMPORT FROM EUROPE STOPPED

BY BRIAN LARSON

After years of negotiations between the USDA/APHIS and DEFRA (European Union animal regulatory division), the prospects of sheep semen importation was opened again in mid-summer 2016. The new regulations imposed extensive health testing, and a new 60 day isolation period for rams prior to collection of semen. In addition, the regulatory paper trail was increased by about two-fold. The result of the new regulations negotiated was a 4-fold increase in the cost of importing a straw of semen.

The primary US interest in semen importation revolves around minor/rare breeds of sheep in the United Kingdom. A coordinated effort by AB Europe (Animal Breeding Europe, a private company), the UK sheep industry and potential US sheep genetics breeders/importers resulted in about 18 UK rams being extensively tested for any health concerns and were about to be placed into the 60 day isolation period. At this point, the US importers had invested about \$1,000 per UK ram before being placed in 60-day isolation.

The USDA/APHIS then (remember, after 4 years of negotiations) notified DEFRA that the isolation time MUST be doubled to 120 days! As a result, all UK rams were withdrawn from the semen collection program because the US had violated the negotiated agreement. The US-based breeder/importers were left with about a \$1,000 expense and no semen to show for their efforts.

It appears that the decision by USDA/APHIS was prompted by one TB-positive beef steer crossing the US border into Montana for slaughter. This incident appears to have instilled panic in APHIS disease control officials, prompting the sheep semen importation shutdown. Since, there have been published stories (Feedstuffs Magazine) of possible mass cattle eradication in Canada in order to prevent a total border shutdown of the market cattle trade.

This is another example of punishing the US sheep industry for cattle 'sins'. The Canada border was originally shut down due to the BSE scare in cattle. Due to economic considerations, the market cattle trade was eventually allowed to resume between the US and Canada, but sheep trade is still blocked.

The UK sheep industry will be meeting sometime in the next few months to decide how to react to the USDA/APHIS arbitrary change in the isolation requirements.

Fortunately, the Lincoln Longwool Sheep Breeders' Association (UK) had decided to wait one year to assess the functioning of the new semen export program before sending rams into the semen collection program. In addition, the UK Lincoln breeders wanted the extra time to ensure that the best quality Lincoln rams could be made available to the US Lincoln breeders.



Ewe lambs on pasture, Risby Flock of Lincoln Longwools, September 2016

## 2017 SHOW & SALE SCHEDULE

Show/Sale	Date	Entry Deadline
Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, Frederick, MD	May 5-6	March 15
Great Lakes All-Breeds Sheep Show & Sale, Wooster, OH	May 27-28	March 15
Black Sheep Gathering, Eugene, OR	June 23-25	-
All-American Junior Show, Madison, WI	June 29- July 2	-
Northeast Youth Sheep Show, West Springfield, MA	July 14- 17	June 15
The Big E, West Springfield, MA	Sept. 15- Oct. 1	-
New York All-Breeds Bred Ewe Sale, Rhinebeck, NY	October 20-21	August 22
N.A.I.L.E. Suffolk Sale, Louisville, KY	November 11	October 3

# 2016 LINCOLN FUTURITY RESULTS

This past show season was a great year for youth! We had one participant for the futurity white division and five entries for the natural colored division. Futurity nominated ewe lambs are sold throughout the spring at designated sales. The youth show the ewe lambs throughout the year at county and state fairs, wool festivals, and other shows to gain points. Points are based on placement at shows and youth have the opportunity to win a premium at the conclusion of the show season at NAILE. Please consider consigning a ewe lamb this coming spring and encourage youth to be involved!

For the 2017 show lamb, yearling ewes that were purchased as a futurity lamb can be shown for points toward the program.

For questions on the futurity program, please contact:  
Mindy Reid- wyncrest2003@yahoo.com

## White Division:

1st: Laurie Baughman – Radar 448 – Rader’s Lincolns, IL

## Colored Division:

1st: Laurie Baughman – Radar 444 – Rader’s Lincolns, IL

*We would love to see this program grow for the 2017 year, so encourage youth in your area to purchase futurity nominated ewe lambs to participate! Shows with futurity nominated lambs will be announced on the website and Facebook.*



Laurie Baughman with her first place white and natural colored ewe lambs.  
Congratulations!

## SHOUT OUT TO SUPREME CHAMPIONS! CONGRATULATIONS!



Creek Road Farms, The Day Family  
Supreme ram, Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival



Lloyd Burgener  
Supreme Ewe, Wisconsin State Fair

# NATIONAL JUNIOR LINCOLN FUTURITY 2017

The National Lincoln Sheep Breeder's Association will sponsor a Lincoln ewe lamb futurity again this year, in an effort to get junior members more interested and involved in the Lincoln breed and NLSBA. This makes it beneficial for breeders to consign their very best animals to sales and motivate junior members to purchase high quality breeding stock.

How it works: 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 ewe to his/her flock, junior members are eligible to win a sizable premium.

Designated sales are: the Great Lakes Sale at Wooster, OH, the National Show and Sale (location TBD), Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, and others as announced.

## Consignor Rules

1. The Futurity is open to all ewe lambs born between September 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017.
2. The nominated ewe lamb must be properly identified, according to its registration certificate. Scrape tag number will be recorded & lamb identified with an "F" before entering the sale ring.
3. A nomination fee of \$20 will be collected by the sale management from the consignor and remitted to the NLSBA.
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.

## Exhibitor Rules

1. Membership to 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 years old. Maximum age is 21 years 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. The natural color and white Lincolns will show separate for futurity points and will be paid separately.
9. Futurity premiums will be paid using a percentage of the total money collected for Futurity entries.

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

First- 25%      Second- 22%      Third- 18%      Fourth- 15%      Sixth- 5%      Seventh- 3%      Eighth- 2%

## 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 emailed to [wyncrest2003@yahoo.com](mailto: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, except 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.
4. Double points are awarded at the All American Junior Show, Northeast Youth Sheep Show, and National Junior Show (NAILE in 2015). Higher placing lamb at NAILE 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 they choose. Points for each ewe lamb will accumulate separately, but only the five highest point cards will be determined for awards.

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

## LINCOLN EWES LAMB FUTURITY POINT RECORD FORM

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheep Superintendent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheep Superintendent Phone Number

**Please fill out form completely, accurately and mail Mindy Reid within 14 day.  
Incomplete forms will be invalid.**

Mindy Reid  
11152 Reid Rd- Houstonia, MO 65333  
Phone: 660-281-1003  
[wyncrest2003@yahoo.com](mailto:wyncrest2003@yahoo.com)

# 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)**