



THE LINCOLN LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL LINCOLN SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2020–2021

Upcoming Show Dates:

Virtual Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival: May 1-2

Great Lakes Show & Sale, Wooster, OH: May 29-30

West Coast Regional Lincoln Show, Black Sheep Gathering, Lane Co. Fairgrounds, Eugene, OR: June 25-27

All American Junior Show, Springfield, IL: July 1-4

If you would like to let breeders know about an event, email Blake Campbell; lincolnfuturity@gmail.com

In this Issue:

Vice President's Message	1
2020 NAILE Results	2
Meet the NLSBA Board	3-6
Recipe & Lincoln Pictures	7
Featured Flock	8
Lincoln Merchandise	9
Cull Ewe Checklist	10-11
Shave 'Em to Save 'Em	12-13
Advertising & Sponsorship Info	14
Lincoln Work Order	15
History of the Lincoln Breed	16

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY JOSEPH CAMPBELL, VICE-PRESIDENT NLSBA

What a year 2020 has been! As shepherds we know time does not slow down despite what is happening in the rest of the world. We are gearing up for winter lambing here in Ohio and the ewes are enjoying being fed in their bedded down barn every night. Although this year brought many challenges, our industry as a whole has continued to grow and excel. Our extra time on the farm this year has led to some exciting improvements. We purchased and tagged all of our flock using the Shearwell RFID data system. Now with a quick scan we can view identification and supplemental information such as treatment records and mothering ability in all of our sheep. When lambing begins, we can input data on each lamb produced from the ewe. Traceability in livestock continues to be increasingly valuable for both the producer and the consumer. The data points collected from our Shearwell system can also be used for the National Sheep Improvement Program, NSIP, data desired by Texel breeders. In addition, we started to sell wool on our new Etsy Page,

"Campbell Farms Crafts." This has been a unique and productive way to connect our farm with a new buyer audience. We hope you were able to get some projects accomplished in and around your operation this year. Fall lambing continues to be a challenge but we ended up with six lambs. We are excited to see what lambs hit the ground this winter, including 10 ewes who were Artificially Inseminated with semen from England. We are hopeful we will see many of you at sheep shows and sales in 2021. Best of luck with your lambing season and Happy Shepherding!



2020 had most of us "feeling stuck.." Cheers to a successful lambing and 2021!

2020 NAILE

The show must go on! The North American International Livestock Exposition ran November 6-20, 2020 in Louisville, KY. There were many guidelines and changes, but the Lincolns continued to be well represented. We have all of the breed results on page 2...

2020 NAILE RESULTS– WHITE DIVISION

Yearling Ram	Sando Farms 19-02	Robert Sando	Arcanum, OH
Sr. Ram Lamb	Sando Farms 19-31	Robert Sando	Arcanum, OH
Int. Ram Lamb	Campbell 003-110	Campbell Lincolns	Waterford, OH
Jr. Ram Lamb	Campbell 023-109	Campbell Lincolns	Waterford, OH
Pair Ram Lambs	Campbell	Campbell Lincolns	Waterford, OH
Grand Champion Ram	Campbell 003-110	Campbell Lincolns	Waterford, OH
Reserve Grand Champion	Campbell 023-109	Campbell Lincolns	Waterford, OH
White Ram Best Fleece	Promised Farm 1901	Jennifer Bennett	Mooreland, IN
Yearling Ewe	Lein 1974	Lein, Nathan, Lein, Donna	Arlington, IA
Pair of Yearling Ewes	Lein	Lein, Nathan, Lein, Donna	Arlington, IA
Sr. Ewe Lamb	Lein 1980	Lein, Nathan, Lein, Donna	Arlington, IA
Int. Ewe Lamb	Chaotic 2011	Ungar, Allison	Medina, OH
Jr. Ewe Lamb	Sando Farms 20-07	Sando, Robert	Arcanum, OH
Pair of Ewe Lambs	Lein	Lein, Nathan, Lein, Donna	Arlington, IA
Grand Champion Ewe	Chaotic 2011	Ungar, Allison	Medina, OH
Reserve Grand Champion	Sando Farms 20-07	Sando, Robert	Arcanum, OH
White Ewe Best Fleece	Chaotic 2011	Ungar, Allison	Medina, OH
Young Flock	Sando	Sando, Robert	Arcanum, OH
Flock	Sando	Sando, Robert	Arcanum, OH
Premier Exhibtor	Sando	Sando, Robert	Arcanum, OH

2020 NAILE RESULTS–NATURAL COLORED DIVISION

Yearling Ram	Reid 19-57	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
Sr. Ram Lamb	Lein 1900	Lein, Nathan, Lein, Donna	Arlington, IA
Int. Ram Lamb	Reid 20-04	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
Jr. Ram Lamb	Reid 20-42	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
Pair Ram Lambs	Reid	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
Grand Champion Ram	Reid 19-57	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
Reserve Grand Champion	Reid 20-42	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
White Ram Best Fleece	Reid 20-43	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
Yearling Ewe	Reid 19-73	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
Pair of Yearling Ewes	Reid	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
Sr. Ewe Lamb	Reid 19-67	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
Int. Ewe Lamb	Reid 20-15	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
Jr. Ewe Lamb	Reid 20-35	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
Pair of Ewe Lambs	Reid	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
Grand Champion Ewe	Reid 19-73	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
Reserve Grand Champion	Reid 20-15	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
White Ewe Best Fleece	Reid 19-67	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
Young Flock	Reid	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
Flock	Reid	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO
Premier Exhibtor	Reid	Reid, Mindy	Houstonia, MO

Campbell Lincolns

TOP OF THE CLASS IN LOUISVILLE!



NATIONAL GRAND & RESERVE
CHAMPION WHITE RAM

Grand Champion
Campbell 003-110
Intermediate Ram
Lamb

Reserve Grand
Champion
Campbell 023-109
Junior Ram Lamb



BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR
QUALITY LAMBS THIS SPRING!

Joe & Bridget
Brady, Blake & Abby Campbell

17790 STATE ROUTE 339 - WATERFORD, OH 45786 - (740) 984-8769
BLAKEFCAMPBELL@GMAIL.COM - FACEBOOK.COM/CAMPBELLFARMS

MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe Haddock

Position on Board: President

Residency: Vermont

Size of Flock: 15 ewes

Why did you start raising Lincolns? Carol, my wife, wanted a more unusual and long woolled sheep.

What do you love most about Lincolns? I love their fleece, size and ease of lambing.

Where is your favorite place to display Lincolns and why? I loved attending Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival along with the Easter States Show at the Big E, great run shows with a visibility of the breed.

What would you say to encourage someone to raise Lincolns? Lincoln's are a great breed that are easy to work with along with a great community of Lincoln Breeders to help you along the way.

Joseph Campbell

Position on Board: Vice President

Residency: Ohio

Size of Flock: 35 Lincoln Ewes

Why did you start raising Lincolns? My dad had wanted to get them, we wanted something unique. That led to us purchasing our first Lincolns in 1981. Harvey Warick had the biggest impact along the way and helped us to get started.

What do you love most about Lincolns? I appreciate their disposition, most of the time they are easy-going.

Where is your favorite place to display Lincolns and why? The Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival because it has a bigger focus on the wool breeds, and what you can do with a wool sheep.

What would you say to encourage someone to raise Lincolns? Lincolns are easy to raise and unique, a great addition to your flock!

We design ads! Have an idea? Contact Blake & Abby Campbell. Check out more on page 14.

MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deborah Vanderwende

Position on the Board: Secretary/Treasurer

Residency: Greenwood, DE

Size of Flock? 60-70 brood ewes, plus replacements and rams. I inherited my daughter Dusti's Lincolns and Suffolks when she went to Vet School at NC State. The Suffolks went away, but the Lincolns stayed! Dusti and her partner now own a large animal practice primarily serving beef and dairy cattle in Florida.

What do you love most about Lincolns? I love Lincolns because of their personality, great mothering ability, and of course those unique and lovely locks!

Who had the biggest impact on your adventure of raising Lincolns? Dusti got her first Lincoln ewes from Martha Berger in MD/VA. Other influences and wonderful friends along the way include the Haddocks, Klingelhofers, Larsons and Campbells.

Where is your favorite place to display Lincolns and why? I love to show Lincolns at the wool festivals the most. There are many, many people very curious about these beautiful sheep and their easy going temperament. They are also such an important part of the world wool industry.

What would you say to encourage someone to raise Lincolns? "There is a lot to like about Lincolns" - They are truly the complete animal!



Debbie with some of her Locust Grove Lincolns!

Emmaline Long

Position on Board: East New England Director

Residency: Bergen, NY

Size of Flock? 25 breeding ewes, 40 total

Why did you start raising Lincolns? I discovered the Lincoln breed when I was in the 4th grade, at a small agricultural fair at a local museum. I hadn't yet convinced my parents at that point to let me get sheep, but several years later that was the breed I went with. At 10 years old, I was more focused on how friendly the sheep was that I met, rather than knowing anything about the breed so it was mostly fate that I ended up with Lincolns!

What do you love most about Lincolns? I love the versatility of their wool. Many people are pleasantly surprised at the texture when they purchase my wool- it isn't what they expect when they think of a "coarse wool" breed. I also love their size and hardiness.

Who had the biggest impact on your adventure of raising Lincolns? My trip to the UK with the NLSBA in 2016 had a huge impact on how I view the breed and the direction I want to take my flock. Everyone on that trip- both from the US and the UK, were incredibly welcoming and encouraging. I learned so much about where Lincolns comes from, what the wool was traditionally used for, and that experience has started to lead me in a slightly different direction with my breeding program.

Where is your favorite place to display Lincolns and why? Throughout the years I have had the opportunity to exhibit my sheep at many local activities, from my local feed store's "chick days" in the spring to Ag Day on the agriculture quad at Cornell University. Being able to exhibit my Lincolns at Cornell was one of the best experiences. Lincolns aren't what people (particularly college students) think of when they picture a sheep, so many students didn't even know what species of animal they were! Being able to put yourself in front of people who have very little exposure to animals or agriculture, let alone a breed as unique as the Lincoln, is always worthwhile and leads to great conversations.

What would you say to encourage someone to raise Lincolns? While they may be a larger breed, their personalities are easy to work with and they're just unbelievably gorgeous to look at. Their lustrous curls cannot be beat!

Don't forget to pay your 2021 Dues! Tear out the form at the back and mail it in!

MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diane Klingelhofer

Position: East Midwest Director

Location: Maryland

Size of Flock: 30+ breeding ewes

Why did you start raising Lincolns? Admired Lincolns at the Shows , Called Ron Chacey in 1992 to buy 10 ewes , ended up buying the entire flock totaling 45, including a Zenk yearling ram.

What do you love most about Lincolns? I like looking at Lincoln Sheep , they are great moms, and good Lincolns are well built and sound sheep. I always tell people to buy the sheep breed you enjoy looking at because you will see them everyday . My vacations are sheep shows, enjoying the view daily. Wool, did I mention locks and dreads, luster, love it.

Who had the biggest impact on your adventure of raising Lincolns? Ron Chacey taught me well on my visit to his flock before bringing them home. Bill Guardhouse gave me goals. I met Rod Crome at Nationals in Springfield, Illinois in 1995, he moved to Maryland the next year, I was privileged to spend a lot of time with him in his lambing barn, learned so much, how lucky that was. His Uncle Richard raised Lincolns, and Rod would come by and sort lambs with me, best advice ever, made me a better shepherd, Rod told me one of his first sheep showing jobs was for Beverly Boersma with a Lincoln . Richard Crome bought many lambs from me over the years and sold me his National Champion Ram. Those two gentlemen helped me along the way and appreciated my breeding program. I don't think at the time I knew how experienced and influential they were in the purebred sheep industry .

Where is your favorite place to display Lincolns and why? Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival best place to showcase Lincolns! Love all the people and sheep the festival attracts, always say you see things you have never seen before. Sold many sheep from connections made there.

What would you say to encourage someone to raise Lincolns? I would recommend Lincolns

to any one wanting a true dual purpose breed with lots of personality, wool and more wool, great fiber and an exceptional meat carcass for local pasture raised sales. Sheep Shows will expand your friends for life, like minded kindred spirits
around.

Anita Richert

Position on Board: Illinois/Indiana Director

Residency: Indiana

Size of Flock? 40 ewes

Why did you start raising Lincolns? Being a 4th generation shepherd, sheep raising runs in my veins. My foray into Lincolns started when my daughters saw a Lincoln at the Indiana State Fair and begged and pleaded to have a sheep "with the curly wool". After lambing out their first two Lincoln ewes I never looked back. The Suffolk cross flock was phased out and replaced with Lincoln stock. Lincolns impressed me with their ease of lambing, hardiness of the lambs, docile nature, feed efficiency, and gorgeous fleeces.

Who had the biggest impact on your adventure of raising Lincolns? The two giants of the Lincoln world, Brian Larson and Harvey Warrick. They had perfected the standard Lincoln and my flock greatly benefited from their knowledge and their genetics.

Where is your favorite place to display Lincolns and why? Fiber festivals and fiber focused shows. Since 40% of the Lincoln scorecard is wool based, it is great to go to events where good Lincoln wool is appreciated both by the public and by competent judges that can score a fleece.

What would you say to encourage someone to raise Lincolns? Lincolns are a great sheep to raise if you are a beginner shepherd or a lifelong shepherd. They bond to their shepherd making them easy to handle, they are easy on the feed budget since they don't need copious quantities of grain, they are resistant to parasites and foot rot, they take care of and have an excellent milk supply for their lambs, they can lamb without assistance, they have a meaty carcass, they give you two beautiful wool clips a year, they are smarter than the average sheep and they are a Livestock Conservancy heritage breed that is worth preserving. The other benefit of raising Lincolns is the Lincoln breeders' community support. I will answer questions and support any new Lincoln breeder just as Mr. Larson and Mr. Warrick have answered and supported me while I was starting with Lincolns and they are still there answering my questions that pop up today.



MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nathan Lein

Position on Board: West MidWest Director

Residency: Arlington, Iowa

Size of Flock? 45 Lincoln ewes

Why did you start raising Lincolns? I am the second generation of the Lein family raising Lincolns. My mother originally got Lincolns because she loves animals and wanted a breed of sheep she could call her own.

What do you love most about Lincolns? Hardy lambs that get up and nurse.

Who had the biggest impact on your adventure of raising Lincolns? My parents.

Where is your favorite place to display Lincolns and why? I like showing people on the farm because our Lincolns do not have to be doctored up or cut out to look great and people can see just how easy keeping they really are.

What would you say to encourage someone to raise Lincolns? I would point out their docile nature, hardiness, and superior taste of meat compared to other breeds of sheep.

Christiane Payton

Position on Board: West Coast Director

Residency: Rural western Oregon outside of the town of Yamhill

Size of Flock: 50

Why did you start raising Lincolns? I fell in love with their personality. I knew I wanted a dual purpose breed, but their intelligence and strong personalities made me love the breed more than any other.

What do I love most about Lincolns? I love how smart, tough and thrifty Lincoln sheep are (I know - that is three things!) But I think they go together. I remember standing with Delbert Kessi in the valley where his farm was located in Oregon's coastal range and he told me that his Lincolns figured out that cougars would drop on them from the trees, so they moved into the middle of the pasture at night rather than seek cover. His Romneys had been decimated and never changed their behavior.

Who had the biggest impact on your adventure of raising Lincolns? Carolyn Wedberg had the greatest impact on me as I started my Lincoln adventure. She was a weaver and shepherd from southern Oregon and we got to know each other through Romney's back in the early 2000s. But she took me aside one day and asked me if I had ever thought about Lincolns. She and her friend Michelle Montgomery had some stock from Delbert Kessi and they were getting ready to retire from sheep. So I bought those first animals and never looked back. Carolyn

was a very kind woman who was very good at both working with sheep as well as working with wool.

Where is your favorite place to display Lincolns and why? I have loved showing Lincolns at the Black Sheep Gathering over the years, particularly during is hay day when it was held at the Lane County Fairgrounds in Eugene, OR. There was an energy and vibe to that show like none other. The chaos of the vendor area flowed over into the sheep barn (they were attached.) There were 1,000 sheep shown over a 2 day period and the bleachers were packed with breeders but also people who had come to shop for fiber related items as well as to see the sheep. I loved that component - that there were a lot of people in the audience who had never seen a sheep show before. They brought their children and walked through the rows and rows of pens to look at all the sheep.

What would you say to encourage someone to raise Lincolns? I would say that Lincolns are a great dual purpose breed that are raised from the west coast to the east coast of the US and everywhere in between. That shows how well they can adapt and thrive in various climates and regions. They are tough, hard working, intelligent sheep that can produce wonderful fiber as well as a good carcass lamb. And of course they do it all while having a fun, inquisitive personality. Life is indeed better with Lincolns.



Christiane with a lovely Lincoln lamb!

**We're now seeking sponsors for
2021 events! Contact Debbie
Vanderwende To get involved!**

ROAST LAMB WITH POTATOES

INGREDIENTS

1 (2-lb.) boneless lamb shoulder roast, tied with butcher's twine
4 cloves garlic, minced
1 tbsp. freshly chopped rosemary
2 tsp. fresh thyme leaves
3 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
2 lb. baby potatoes, halved if large

and pepper. Rub all over lamb. In a 9"-x-13" baking dish, toss potatoes with remaining oil and season with more salt and pepper. Place lamb on top of potatoes and roast until internal temperature reaches 145°, about 1 hour. Let rest 15 minutes, remove twine, then slice roast and serve.

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 450° and place oven rack in lower third of oven. In a small bowl, mix together garlic, rosemary, thyme, and 1 tablespoon oil and season generously with salt



Have a recipe you love? A favorite picture of your Lincolns? Send it to lincolnfuture@gmail.com for your chance to be featured in a next issue!

LINCOLN PICTURES



FEATURED FLOCK!

Prado de Lana Sheep Farm

Name: Amanda and Alberto Barcenas
Farm Name: Prado de Lana Sheep Farm
Location of Farm: Tyringham, MA
Size of Flock: 70 total (We raise Romneys and Romeldale/CVMs, 12 Lincolns at the moment)

Lincolns can be a tough breed to raise and keep their fleeces so nice, how do you manage raising your Lincolns and keep their fleeces in a nice condition.

This is a great question, as we raise our Lincolns mostly for their wool. So, their fleeces need to remain in great condition to be spun by the mill. We only shear once a year, so it can be challenging. But I think excellent nutrition is the number one goal in keeping their fleeces beautiful. We feed out multiple types of minerals: a protein mineral tub, selenium, and cobalt. We have found that fleeces suffer when the mineral balance is off. Also, we feed hay off of the ground. It helps keep vegetable matter to a minimum.

What are the goals of your farm? Our goal has always been to raise healthy sheep as naturally as possible. We want to continue to raise and educate about rare breed sheep.

Tell me more about the yarn shop you have open? We were lucky enough to find a retail space in our town of Stockbridge, MA. We really wanted our shop to be farmer and flock focused, filled with as many breeds of wool as possible, traceable and ethically sourced, and small batch. And that's exactly what we've done. All of our yarns and wool products found in the shop are coming from small flock owners or have been sourced from small flocks. As of the last time I counted, we have 16 different breeds of wool here. I think that's amazing because I really just want every person who walks in to know that every type of wool has a purpose.

How and where have you sourced wool from? Honestly, we know every single flock owner or yarn producer. We have thoughtfully curated what we offer in our shop. We have also started sourcing wool from other farms and have started a separate yarn line called Ovejas. It's just another way to support shepherds who may not have an outlet to sell their products or want to front the money to have it processed. What role have you played in the Livestock Conservancy? We have been participants in the Shave Em to Save Em program and members of the Livestock Conservancy.

Emma said you represented Lincolns at NY Sheep and Wool Festival, how did that go? Yes! The past three years we have brought a couple of our Lincolns to be a part of the Breed Display. It's a really great way to talk to folks about Lincolns and rare breed sheep. Lincolns are so docile and sweet, they love getting all of the attention. I also do a breed talk during that weekend that goes into a little more detail about the breed and raising them. Oftentimes, there

are people who are very interested in raising Lincolns. So it's been great to have conversations with them and to answer any questions.

What is the number one thing a producer of Lincolns should know to keep their fleeces in the best condition possible for when it comes to shearing? I would go back to my previous answer, nutrition is the best way to keep fleeces in beautiful condition. The wool seems to be the first thing that suffers if something is off nutritionally. Also, we remove feed the night before shearing to make sure that their rumens are empty and so they don't add to any more possible vegetable matter.

How do you promote your business/the Lincoln breed? Social Media (IG and FB) have been wonderful outlets to reach people who we may not normally be in contact with. It's the easiest, quickest, and most economical way to spread the word about what we do. Who is your target consumer/consumer of wool? Honestly, I want to get wool in as many hands as possible. I'm finding that more and more younger people are very interested in fiber arts and more so local, farm yarns.

What makes the Lincoln breed unique and why is it special to you? Lincolns are a very special breed just in the mere fact that there aren't many of them. Conservation and genetic diversity is so important to continue to maintain. We love them for their lustrous, sturdy wool. Their temperament makes them easy to manage and handle. We appreciate their hardiness and excellent mothering. And let's just face it, they're simply beautiful to look at.



Betsy & Begonia enjoy the sunshine at Prado de Lana Sheep Farm!

LINCOLN MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

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

Items include:

- 1/4 Zip Sweatshirts— \$35.00
- Tee Shirts— \$10.00
- Back Pack— \$20.00
- Plush Travel Pillow and Blanket— \$25.00
- Travel Mugs (Thermal Tumbler)— \$8.00
- Cinch Sack— \$20.00
- Large Beach Towel— \$20.00
- 25th Anniversary NAILE Tote—\$20.00
- Messenger Bag—\$25.00

All items are cobalt blue in color. Can transport to shows or will ship.
Contact Debbie Vanderwende if interested: 302-542-2088



Need to Contact Associated
Registry? P.O. Box 231 Wamego,
KS 66547
P: 785/456-8500 F: 785/456-8599
asregistry@gmail.com



Follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/NLSBA](https://www.facebook.com/NLSBA) to stay current with news, shows, and events!

CULL EWE CHECKLIST

PUBLISHED BY BRADEN CAMPBELL, PROGRAM COORDINATOR, OSU SHEEP TEAM

A cull ewe is a female within the flock that is no longer benefiting your operation. This ewe may have failed to become pregnant (open) or has some other underlying issues that are not allowing her to perform to her greatest potential. With feed costs accounting for approximately 75% of a livestock enterprise, culling nonproductive and attention needing ewes may be in your best interest this year before you begin to put an abundance of resources into these ewes.

Now I have heard some producers say, "Well, I want to keep my cull ewes until market prices are up" and "I am going to hold onto my culls to put some more weight on them before I sell." In moments like these, I can't help to think to myself, what is the value of a cull ewe?

To answer that question, I have been following the current market and pulled some old market reports to determine when is the best time to sell cull ewes. After compiling market reports over the course of the past 12 months the average price for cull sheep at Mt. Hope is \$0.76/lb. Other livestock sale barns from across the eastern U.S. (Mt. Vernon, OH; New Holland, PA; and Nashville, TN) show ranges of cull ewes being valued at \$0.67 – \$0.91/lb. depending upon the time of year. Two trends that I have noticed are that there is a higher premium offered for rams (~\$0.95/lb.), which we won't discuss in this piece, and that there is a slight increase in demand for cull ewes from January through April.

However, we would assume that these cull ewes receiving a premium (\$1.00 – 1.10/lb.) during the beginning of the year are in good condition. Thinking of time, space, and resources, could you as a producer justify keeping a ewe during lambing season just to have the potential to receive another \$0.25/lb.? Some may answer 'yes' to this question, but this situation may change depending based upon why the ewe is being culled from the flock. If the ewe is being culled for issues other than being open, you may think twice about keeping her around to chase a potentially small premium. Below are some of the most common culling criteria that would warrant removal from the flock.

Age:

According to the USDA APHIS Sheep report (2011), which reports data for 2001 and 2011, age is the #1 reason for culling sheep in the United States. Ewes are most productive between 3-6 years of age. Data from the western sheep flocks show that the average culling age of a ewe is 5-6 years of age. Thinking about the production systems here in the east, ewes may be able to be productive for a longer period of time due to availability of resources (i.e. feed) and the conditions that they are exposed to (i.e. small pastures, dry lots). However, ewes can also be productive beyond this age, but the proportion of these ewes decreases as age increases. One issue that may arise as ewes age is a loss of teeth. Ewes with few to no teeth have difficulty foraging and therefore lack proper dietary intake. When inspecting your flock and evaluating thin ewes, be sure to take a look in their mouth for any teeth issues.

Production History:

Production records are a useful tool that every producer should have on hand at all times. These tools are very objective, stating exactly how the ewe and her offspring performed each year. For example, an aged ewe with no records would represent an unproductive ewe. Simply stated, unproductive ewes should be culled. Other reasons include ewes that lambed but due to a difficult birth, the lambs are either born dead or lambs survive and are unthrifty and small. Even if these lambs live beyond the first few days of life, they will be slower growing than their thrifty counterparts.

Also, it is important to check for other criteria relating to lambing rates. For example, ewes that continuously give birth to triplets, but only weans a single or twins will be less efficient overall when compared to a ewe that gives birth to and weans twins. It is important to track lamb health and performance according to the ewe such as number of lambs born, raised, weaned, and marketed.

CULL EWE CHECKLIST CONT.

Structure:

Although not something that can be found in the pedigree, structure plays a huge role in ewe longevity and therefore productivity of an operation. Ewes that have mouth issues (over or under bite) should be culled in order to keep this defect out of your flock. Ewes that have issues lambing (dystocia) due to a smaller pelvis width should also be culled as these ewes require more time and effort and potentially less in return if the lambs are not able to be saved. Ewes with poor leg structure (i.e. feet, toes, pasterns, legs) should also be culled. Animals that are not able to walk properly tend to have issues keeping on weight as they do not keep up with the rest of the flock. Those ewes with a poor Body Condition Score (BCS) should also be considered for culling. All of these structural traits can effect ewe longevity in the long run.

Health and disease:

Animal health should rank high on your list of priorities, therefore it make perfect sense to cull ewes based upon their health status. Ewes that are ill thrift or have some other type of health issue should be culled from the flock, especially if the condition is contagious.

To point out the obvious, if a particular ewe in the flock has had repeated instances of health issues, these ewes should be culled. Ewes that have issues regarding udder health and structure such as: mastitis, blue bag, teat size and placement can all result in poor milk yield which negatively effects lamb performance. Ewes showing signs of lameness due to foot scald or foot rot should also be culled.

Other issues such as disease status and internal parasite status should also be considered when culling in your flock. In addition, ewes that have a history of prolapsing (rectal, vaginal, or uterine) should be culled from the flock. Ewes with these condition can be managed, but will continue to be problems if they and their offspring remain in the flock. In order to reduce issues associated with this I recommend that all animals experiencing issues with prolapse be culled.



Behavior:

Many shepherds may not consider this, but behavior is certainly a culling criteria! Ewes that are hard to manage due to their behavior can create other problems down the road. Some ewes may be reluctant to care for their lambs (poor mothering), others may know where the weak spot in your fence is at and because sheep follow, your entire flock could be on the loose. Regardless of the situation, don't think that behavior is not an acceptable reason, because it most certainly is!

Now that you have looked at all of your ewes and have ran them through your checklist, how many did you find that didn't make the cut? Some of you may say too many, but the reality of this is that the average culling rate in the United States according to the 2011 USDA APHIS Sheep report is 14%. Therefore, if you have a flock of 100 sheep, it will take approximately 7 years to turn over the entire flock. This matches well with the productive life cycle of a mature ewe.

The bottom line is don't keep ewes that don't lamb. Ewes that continually present themselves as problems or are in a poor state of health should also be culled. Seems pretty simple, right? Therefore, I challenge you that the next time that you call your ewes in to feed, which will more than likely be tonight, start thinking about this checklist to see if all of your ewes meet the criteria to remain on your farm.

Braden serves as the Program Coordinator of the OSU Sheep Team, you can learn more and subscribe to his blog at <https://u.osu.edu/sheep/>

THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY'S SHAVE 'EM TO SAVE 'EM PROGRAM PROMOTES HERITAGE SHEEP CONSERVATION

Since 1977, The Livestock Conservancy's mission has been to protect heritage breeds from extinction. The genetic diversity revealed in distinct breeds plays a vitally important role in agricultural biodiversity. The Livestock Conservancy safeguards the irreplaceable genetics of more than 150 breeds of donkeys, cattle, goats, horses, sheep, pigs, rabbits, chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys.

Shave 'Em to Save 'Em (SE2SE) is a Conservancy program that began in February 2019 to promote the 23 breeds of sheep on The Livestock Conservancy's list of endangered livestock.

Here's how it works:

Fiber providers register for SE2SE with The Livestock Conservancy and provide a list of the breeds they have and the fiber products they wish to sell – like fleeces, roving, yarn, etc. Providers request stickers that are used to provide “proof of purchase” to buyers that the product came from a participant in the program.

Fiber artists register with The Livestock Conservancy, as well. When they do, they receive a “Passport” that includes a page of information for each breed. With every purchase of at least four ounces of fiber from a participating provider, the artist receives a sticker for their passport. As the artists complete projects for five, ten, and fifteen breeds, they qualify for a free item from The Livestock Conservancy's online catalog (like fiber wash, a book or pattern).



So, how does this project benefit shepherds?

First and foremost, SE2SE means grassroots support for heritage fiber sales. The program provides a large network for shepherds to interact directly with several thousand fiber artists. Some shepherds who had never sold wool before said they've been able to sell all of their wool through the SE2SE groups on Ravelry or Facebook. Fiber providers are also listed in The Livestock Conservancy's printed and online Breeders Directory, which many fiber artists use to find wool when searching for specific breeds.

Many shepherds have reported new fiber sales due to the SE2SE program. “I have rarely sold raw fleeces in the past, primarily due to time and coordinating getting to festivals. Within a month of shearing I have sold eight of my nine raw fleeces I decided to offer this year,” said Linnzi F.

There are currently **863** fiber providers participating in the program. *In a recent survey, 37% of providers reported that they had sold 50-200% more wool during the SE2SE program than in previous years.*

Charis Bennett Walker has a small farm in an economically depressed market within Appalachia. Her Ohio location makes marketing fiber particularly challenging, but SE2SE is changing her outlook. “This program has allowed me to sell all of my roving, yarn, and fleeces within two weeks,” explains Walker. “This program has been a game-changer for my flock, too. When I started three years ago, I was concerned about how I would sell my fiber, considering I wanted to raise at least 20 brood ewes to make a difference in conservation efforts to preserve Tunis sheep (a unique U.S. breed on our TLC Watch List). That's quite a bit of fiber!

continued on page 7...

THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY'S SHAVE 'EM TO SAVE 'EM PROGRAM PROMOTES HERITAGE SHEEP CONSERVATION

With the advent of this program, I think it is possible to increase my flock size, given the strong demand for my fiber. This program has exceeded my expectations and allows me to promote the breed more effectively. The backing and active promotion of a national organization lends credibility and increased visibility to my efforts."

The Livestock Conservancy is working to make sure these accomplishments and growth in sales can be built upon for the future. "I've had 50 Etsy sales just for Shave 'Em to Save 'Em," explains Garrett Ramsay of Winslow, Illinois. "In addition, many of those people are repeat customers who have come back for more product, raw fiber or breeding stock! It's had a huge effect. Forty fleeces are reserved, and I haven't shorn the sheep yet! Truly incredible program."

Shave 'Em to Save 'Em means promoting the value of the often undervalued fiber component of sheep production. The program rewards the shepherds raising heritage breeds with new market opportunities and financial incentives for making fleece production a greater priority in their operation. The demand for rare breed wool has never been greater. Even shepherds with hair sheep have been selling fiber to the most creative fiber artists!

What are fiber artists saying?

Shave 'Em to Save 'Em officially launched in February 2019, and the response has been overwhelming. Three hundred fiber artists signed up within the first two weeks, and enrollment climbed to more than 2,100 by November 2020, with more continuing to sign up daily. Many artists are reporting that they have discovered new favorite wools. The SE2SE Facebook group has nearly 5,000 members, and more than 800 people are active in the online Ravelry group. Shepherds post updates on their flocks and news about fleece availability and connect with their customers.



Fiber artists also share photos of items made with wool from rare and endangered sheep, often with a note about the farm that supplied the fiber. Many fiber artists have told us that they were unaware of the plight of rare breeds of sheep, and they are happy that their fiber hobby can be used for good. "I love that I am doing my part to bring awareness and hopefully encourage shepherds to increase flocks to bring numbers up," said spinner and weaver Lori P.

Here's how to join:

Members of The Livestock Conservancy can list their heritage fiber products and order stickers online for free. Non-members can join the SE2SE providers group for \$10 and begin selling their products to program members as soon as they receive stickers.

Visit RareWool.org to learn more and to sign up. Also check out the Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SE2SE/>

This article was reprinted with the permission of The Livestock Conservancy.

SHARE YOUR MESSAGE WITH NLSBA!

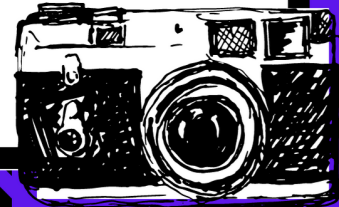
Display Ads:

1 Page Ad: \$75 | 1/2 Page Ad: \$45 | 1/4 Page Ad: \$25 | 1/8 Page Ad: \$15

Spring Newsletter Deadline: April 9th, 2021

Send Ad Payments to Debbie Vanderwende:
14391 Blanchard Rd. Greenwood, DE 19950
302 - 349-4240; lincolnfleece@gmail.com

Send Ads to Blake & Abby Campbell
lincolnfuturity@gmail.com



WE NEED YOU... TO BE A SPONSOR!



Sponsorships are available for 2021 shows! Or consider donating to the Futurity Program!

Contact Debbie with questions. Please make checks to NLBSA.
Donations may be mailed to Treasurer, Debbie Vanderwende:
14391 Blanchard Road, Greenwood, DE 19950

Stop by the Lincoln Pens at our National Show and Sale to support our youth exhibitors and the Futurity Program. If you would like to donate an item for the auction, please contact the Futurity Committee!

Contact Blake Campbell: lincolnfuturity@gmail.com;
740-434-3253 or Robert Sando: 937-459-8224



Meeting Minutes and Back Issues of The Lincoln Letter are available online at Lincolnsheep.org

NATIONAL LINCOLN SHEEP BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION WORK ORDER AND FEE SCHEDULE

Phone: 785-456-8500 • PO Box 231, 420A Lincoln - Wamego, KS 66547 • Fax: 785-456-8599 • Email: asregistry@gmail.com

Name _____ Membership # _____

Address _____ Website _____

City, State, Zip _____ Date _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____ E-mail _____

Check one of the following:

Senior/Active Member
 Junior Member (until age 19)
 Non-Member
 New Member Applying

	Quantity	Member Price	Non-Member Price	Total Cost
A. MEMBERSHIPS				
1. New Senior Member _____		25.00	XXX	
2. Annual Senior Dues _____		25.00	XXX	
3. New Junior Member <small>(date of birth ____/____/____)</small> _____		Free	XXX	
4. Junior Dues <small>(date of birth ____/____/____)</small> _____		10.00	XXX	
B. REGISTRATIONS				
1. Animal under 12 months _____		5.00	10.00	
2. Animal over 12 months _____		6.00	12.00	
C. TRANSFERS				
1. Under 60 days <small>(from date of sale)</small> _____		5.00	10.00	
2. Over 60 days <small>(from date of sale)</small> _____		6.00	12.00	
D. DUPLICATE CERTIFICATE _____				
		5.00	10.00	
F. RUSH FEE <small>(per each registration & transfer)</small> _____				
		<i>Double Fees</i>	<i>same</i>	
G. EMERGENCY FAXES <small>(per page - not including cover)</small> _____				
		3.00	<i>same</i>	
H. SPECIAL HANDLING				
1. UPS Overnight Delivery _____		<small>Call to order... Must provide credit card number for direct payment to UPS</small>		
2. Postal Overnight, USPS <small>(two-three day delivery)</small> _____		26.00	<i>same</i>	
3. Priority Mail, USPS <small>(four-five day delivery)</small> _____		8.00	<i>same</i>	
J. NAILE <small>(per head entered)</small> _____				
		5.00	<i>same</i>	
N. OTHER FEES _____				

TOTAL FEES FROM ABOVE.....\$ _____

Previous Balance Due (please return invoice).....\$ _____

Previous Credit Due (please return invoice)\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE\$ _____

PAYMENT BY CHECK # _____ OR CREDIT CARD # _____

EXPIRATION DATE ON CARD _____ THREE DIGIT CODE ON BACK OF CARD _____

ZIP CODE OF BILLING ADDRESS _____ SIGNATURE OF CARDHOLDER _____

All credit card transactions will be charged a 15 cent transaction fee and a 3.5% convenience fee on the total amount.

• **ALL WORK** requested **MUST HAVE** accompanying **PAYMENT TO PROCESS** •

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 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

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

Editors:
Blake & Abby Campbell
Email future article ideas to:
lincolnfuturity@gmail.com
Phone Number: (740) 434-3253