



THE LINCOLN LETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL LINCOLN SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2015

Upcoming Show Dates:

Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival: May 2-3

National Lincoln Show & Sale, Great Lakes Show and Sale, Wooster OH, May 23-24 (biennial membership meeting, May 23, 7:00pm)

West Coast Regional Lincoln Show, Black Sheep Gathering, Lane Co. Fairgrounds, Eugene, OR: June 19-21

All American Junior Show, West Springfield, Mass.: July 3-5

Northeast Regional Lincoln Show at the Big E, West Springfield, Mass: Sept. 24-30

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

Our **2015 NLSBA Show & Sale** will again be held in conjunction with the Great Lakes All Breeds Sale in Wooster, Ohio May 23-24, 2015. Banners Sales Management is managing the sale.

Our biennial **NLSBA membership meeting** will be held on May 23 at 7:00 PM (location to be announced).

All officers and some directors will be up for election. Candidates will be nominated at the biennial meeting and the election will again be conducted by a mail ballot to all members that have paid their dues for 2015 - **in order to vote, be sure to pay your 2015 dues!**

Positions for election are: president (currently Brian Larson), vice president (currently Emmaline Long), secretary/treasurer (currently Debbie Vanderwende); directors: East (currently Lori Shea); Indiana/Illinois (currently Pat Taylor); West-Midwest (currently Helen Swartz).

A **'breed standard'** should accurately describe breed characteristics that distinguish that breed from

other breeds. The officers and board of directors is considering a revision of our current Lincoln breed standard that may be offered for approval by the entire membership as part of the above mentioned mail ballot. This will be a discussion item for the biennial membership meeting.

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, CON'T

By ALAINA AND SABRINA RICHERT, JUNIOR MEMBERS

This is Part 2. Part 1 appeared in the Fall newsletter.

Martyn [large scale sheep producer in Scunthorpe] went to great lengths to enlighten us on how the sheep industry is structured in Britain. He had a chart showing the flow of sheep from the hilltop shepherds to the lowland shepherds that illustrated how they are all dependent on each other doing their part to survive. He also has done much research on Lincoln Longwool history and has excellent displays tracking the breed's history from the late 1700's to his champion flock today. After strolling through his large pasture behind the house, we were invited in for, you guessed it, more puddings and this time served with a perfect English summer drink, Pimm's.

That evening, the United Kingdom Lincoln Longwool breeders held a banquet for us at the Charlotte House Hotel. It was a fantastic

feast with a program on the history of Lincoln Longwools composed by Steve Higgins and presented by Louise Fairburn. We got to get to know our hosts and other guests better over dinner and dessert. The banquet concluded with the breeders presenting each visiting flock an exquisite handcrafted mug made by a local artist. A Lincoln longwool face was embellished on each one, with no two being identical. We were very touched by all the effort that went into the banquet and gifts and we all enthusiastically toasted to the "may all your Lincolns be toddlers!" toast (i.e. have a fleece that weighs at least 28 pounds).

We were rudely reminded that our wonderful trip was about to end when in the morning of day seven, we packed up and checked out of our comfortable and homey bed and breakfasts.

...Continued on Page 2

SUMMER 2014 LINCOLNSHIRE TRIP RECAP CONT...

...Continued from Page 1

It was off to Coalville, Liecestershire to visit Keith and Ro Harding and their farm. They raise the 'Shortwood' line of Lincolns along with a herd of very curious and adorable British White cattle.

Keith and Ro showed us the same amazing hospitality we had received throughout the whole trip and gave the group the grand tour through all the Lincoln Longwool and British White pastures. Keith had his dog do the leg work and bring the sheep to us. The cattle all crowded up to the fence where we were standing on their own accord. No dog needed to coax noseys in closer. After the livestock tour, it was in for yet another scrumptious bite to eat and an education about the "Ha-ha" running behind their beautiful, very old, castle-like home. (It is a dry ditch that acts as an inverted fence- animals don't cross it and your view of the pasture isn't blocked)

The very last leg of our Lincoln breeders flock tour was the most dangerous and top secret. It was to Bromsgrove to see Steve and Chris Higgins' 'Tardebigge' flock line of, shhhh, **COLORED** Lincoln Longwools!!! Thankfully here in North America there is some parity between the white and colored Lincolns when it comes to showing and selling. Not so in the United Kingdom. One would be hard pressed to find a show in which to enter their natural colored Lincoln sheep. Steve and Chris mirror our own personal Lincoln experience much closer than the other flocks. They enjoy their colored lines and try to develop them. Typically, if a colored Lincoln is born on a farm in the UK, the lamb is definitely culled and its ancestors may go onto the sale barn lorrie also.

The Higgens' flock was the first flock we visited in the UK where the flockmasters also spin and knit products from their Lincoln wool.

Steve has the corner on the colored Lincolns, but he also has excellent white Lincolns that can grow a lot of wool. In addition to his winning show sheep, he has won several Heaviest Fleece competitions with one of his clips weighing in at 48 pounds which was a new record weight. Steve has also done extensive research on the origin of the Lincoln as we know it to be today. He has many historical articles, books, and journals on the topic, and has a plethora of Lincoln history knowledge.

After oohing and ahing on Steve's flock a bit more, we finally loaded up and headed back to town where we had an excellent Indian buffet at a restaurant favored by Keith and Steve. For many of us it was our first exposure to Indian cuisine, and it was surprisingly good (I have to admit that if Keith hadn't been there encouraging us to try this and that, I would have had a whole meal of chips just to be safe). With much fuller bellies than we had before we got on the plane to travel to the United Kingdom, we said our good-byes and headed back to the Birmingham airport to get some sleep before the flight back the next day.

For our family it was the trip of a lifetime. Beautiful Lincolns, gracious hospitality of the Lincoln breeders, delicious desserts daily, warm and sunny weather, and most pleasant traveling friends. We would return in a heartbeat to visit our new - found friends across the pond.

For those of you who have missed out on the last trips to the U.K., there is another trip in the works for Fall 2016. Stay tuned!



Some of Steve Higgins' ewe labs.



One of Steve's natural colored rams.

LINCOLN ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT HONORED IN MICHIGAN

BY LETTY KLEIN, MICHIGAN SHEEP PRODUCER'S ASSOCIATION

The first of the year brings the Michigan Sheep Breeder Association's annual symposium, The Shepherd's Weekend. Held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Lansing, this event draws over 300 families from all across the state.

During the Saturday evening banquet several awards were given out to deserving individuals for their service to the sheep industry. Harvey Warrick got up to introduce the unsuspecting person awarded the Purebred Producer of the Year award, Brian Larson. It was quite the honor for him to receive this accolade especially in front of his wife Jennifer and two of his mentors from college, Dr. Donald Ely and Dr. Debra Aaron from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Ely and Dr. Aaron were the key-note speakers for the symposium.

As president of the National Lincoln Sheep Breeders Association, Brian has been instrumental preserving the qualities and attributes described in the breed standard. During his 35+ years of raising this breed he has exhibited his sheep at Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, the Big E, Rhinebeck, NY, Estes Park, CO, NAILE and Michigan Fiber Festival where his sheep have won many awards. He also orchestrated a trip to Lincolnshire, England for 16 US shepherds and was instrumental in importing Lincoln

semen from the UK. Brian was elected to the MSBA board of directors last year and this year gave a very interesting talk at the Symposium titled "Scrapie Research/Enforcement – Bias and Unintended Consequences".

Congratulations Brian and thank you for all you've done for the breed and the industry!



Brian Larson and his wife, Jennifer, receiving their award in Jan.

2014 LINCOLN SHOW RESULTS

Show	Champion Ram	Res. Champion Ram	Champion Ewe	Res. Champion Ewe	Best Fleece
MD Sheep & Wool Fest- White	Vanderwende	Garges	Vanderwende	Klingelhofer	Garges
MD Sheep & Wool Fest- Natural Color	Vanderwende	Klingelhofer	Vanderwende	Seavey	Vanderwende
NLSBA S&S- White	Estes	Payton	Estes	Rader	
NLSBA S&S- Natural Color	Boersma	Reid	Reid	Reid	
Michigan Fiber Festival- Long White	Larson	Larson			Larson
California State Fair- Wool Heritage		Estes	Estes		
Delaware State Fair	Vanderwende	Mobray	Vanderwende	Vanderwende	
Wisconsin State Fair- Long White	Burgener	Burgener	Burgener	Burgener	
Illinois State Fair- White	Rader	Rader	Rader	Boersma	
Iowa State Fair	Burgener	Burgener	Burgener	Burgener	
Michigan State Fair- Lincoln/Cotswold	Zenk	Sando	Sando	Sando	
Minnesota State Fair	Burgener	Burgener	Burgener	Burgener	
Missouri State Fair	Reid	Reid		Reid	
New York State Fair	West	West	West	West	
Oregon State Fair- NC			Jones	Jones	
Washington State Fair- White	Jones	Hordvk	Hordvk	Jones	
Washington State Fair- Colored	Jones	Jones	Hordvk	Jones	
Wisconsin Sheep & Wool	Burgener	Burgener	Burgener	Burgener	
All-American Youth Sheep Show- NE Youth Show- W&NC	Hanson	Starkenburg	Haffenbredl	Hanson	Starkenburg
Eastern States- White	Blake	Bombria	Blake	Blake	
Eastern States- Colored	Boersma	Boersma	Boersma	Kruse	Larson
Eastern States Junior- White	Reid	Reid	Reid	Reid	Reid
Eastern States Junior- Colored	Bombria	---	Moriarty	Moriarty	---
NAILE Junior- White	Blake	---	Blake	Blake	---
NAILE Junior- Natural Color	Garges	Taylor	Taylor	Garges	Richert
NAILE- White	Starkenburg	Lemmen	Starkenburg	Starkenburg	Starkenburg
NAILE- Natural Color	Boersma	Vanderwende	Vanderwende	Boersma	Boersma (Ram), Klingelhofer (Ewe)
	Reid	Reid	Reid	Reid	Vanderwende (Ram & Ewe)

A SLICE, A SCOOP AND A HANDFUL

HOW SHOULD WE PRESENT LINCOLNS "IN FLEECE"?

BY BRIAN LARSON, PRESIDENT NLSBA

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

If we are serious about making improvements in Lincoln fleece quality, we need to think about presenting them to others with integrity. Whether under consideration by a judge or a potential buyer, what they see and feel should be a true representation of the animal's potential. The best way to evaluate the fleeces of a flock is to visit the breeders' farms and see the Lincolns in their everyday management. That is not always possible, so we have exhibitions/fairs to show off our flocks' representatives. Each flock's management situation is different, so how do we arrive at a reasonable comparison?

Fleece length, by NLSBA guidelines should be a minimum of two inches on the body. Exceptions are made if one wishes to trim the underline more closely. However, based on how locks form as the fleece length increases, if you are serious about Lincoln fleece quality, you will exhibit them in longer fleece.

In keeping clean fleeces, rain (naturally soft water) and the great outdoors are the Lincoln fleece's best friends. In modest amounts, rain leaves the fleece brilliant (lustrous) and a vibrant to the hand. The longer the fleece, the more rain it can tolerate, especially if good quality locks are forming. Locks are a protective mechanism of the traditional Lincoln fleece that holds the yolk, keeps out dirt and organic matter while shedding excess water quite well. Simulating rain with a sprinkler nozzle on a hose or a quick dip in a tank of fresh water will do a nice job if rain has not done your cleanup for you. If you are dealing with manure stains, use of a light soap (blue Dawn, for example) application to the affected area may be needed. However, if you think about the overall fleece characteristics mentioned above, soap, fabric softener and coloring agents (bay rum, for example) are not good options to use for whole-animal fleece cleanup and preparation.

The highest quality fleece on a Lincoln grows on the chest and shoulders and usually grows at a faster rate than the rest of the body. This may give the 'appearance' of heavy shoulders and a shorter body. There is a temptation to trim that wool to give the appearance of balance 'front-to-rear' and give greater 'neck extension and length' (a common 'show ring' mentality), but if you are interested in Lincolns and fleece quality, trimming that wool is defeating the purpose for a Lincoln. Folks that do trim the neck and shoulders are then 'obligated' to trim the belly or the 'balance' effect is lost. Those who choose to leave the neck, chest and shoulder wool in its natural state should consider 'not' shearing the underline but rather trimming errant tips on the underline profile to keep the 'balance' of longer fleeced animal.

Unfortunately, once you start trimming on the body of the Lincoln fleece, as mentioned above, the temptation to continue sculpting the fleece to achieve a desired body type is unavoidable! So, before you start trimming, ask yourself what is your goal?

If you choose to not 'sculpt' your Lincoln for the show ring, spend your preparation time with the locks. With shorter

wool (2 - 4 inches) you can simply fluff up the locks (perhaps misting with water) with an upward movement of your hands (mimicking when a sheep shakes its fleece when rained on). The wool on the leg can present a dilemma because the lock formation often appears to be different. This is because sheep use that portion of their body for leverage to rise up and to lay down, those locks get a squished look because they continually get more force applied to them. That area needs a more intense moistening and fluffing by hand to allow locks to resume their natural state. Sometimes that wool is more coarse and will not improve substantially until you use a ram that has a more uniform fleece.

When the wool is longer (5+ inches) lock definition should be increasing. With the longer fleece, you may need to 'work the locks', separating the naturally-forming locks, going from top to bottom, from front to rear; then going from front to rear lifting the locks, top to bottom. The more lock-forming genetics in your sheep that you have you have, the easier the task becomes. The end result is a beautiful Lincoln fleece presentation.

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- \$8.00

Hats- \$10.00

Travel Mugs- \$8.00

Messenger Bags- \$20.00

All items are cobalt blue in color.

Contact Debbie Vanderwende if interested:

302-349-4240



NATIONAL JUNIOR LINCOLN FUTURITY 2015

The National Lincoln Sheep Breeder's Association will sponsor a Lincoln ewe lamb futurity 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 (National Sale), Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, and others as announced.

Consignor Rules

1. The Futurity is open to all ewe lambs born between September 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015.
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 consigner 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% Forth- 15% Sixth- 5% Seventh- 3% Eight- 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
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.

LINCOLN EWES LAMB FUTURITY POINT RECORD FORM

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

NLSBA Registry Number _____, USDA scrapie number _____.

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

_____ division of the following show: _____ on the date of _____.

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

Sheep 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

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

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
