



December 2020

Romney Ramblings

Newsletter of the American
Romney Breeders Association

Welcome

As we complete the 2020 calendar year, we can be hopeful that the new year will allow us to continue to promote Romney sheep, wool, fiber art, pelts and meat products. Flexibility has been tested, but in many cases has had positive results.

New members have joined ARBA, new promotional items have been produced, new board members have been elected, plans are in place for improved advertising and recruitment, and the mail is busy with renewed memberships from many. Happy Holidays and get geared up for a Happy New Year and set of healthy Romney lambs.

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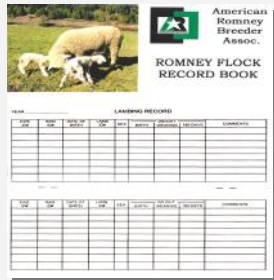


**2020
NAILE Was
A Go!!
See more
inside.**

Flock Record Book:

Provides general sheep information and space to record lambs born and raised for 1 or several years.

Price: \$3.00 postpaid.



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ARBA Secretary.
secretary
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Romney Ramblings

The Romney Ramblings is the newsletter of the American Romney Breeders Association. The purpose of the Ramblings is to provide sheep industry news, highlight the efforts of ARBA, announce events and activities, provide an outlet for promotion of your sheep and wool products and recognize the accomplishments of the membership.

Advertising in the Ramblings

Full Page \$100

1/2 Page \$75

1/3 Page \$60

1/4 Page \$35

Card Ad \$20

Classified Ads—45 cents per word.

Above rates are based on camera ready copy, sized to fit the space purchased for the ad. Ads prepared by the editor will be charged at \$15 per hour, with a minimum fee of \$15.

Send all advertising information and news to: JoAnn Mast

58221 Lee Valley Road

Coquille, OR 97423

(541) 572-3094

soromney@wildblue.net

secretary@americanromney.org

Connecting With ARBA**Mentoring Program**

Mentors are available to assist breeders with questions, discuss upcoming events, chat sheep and help promote the membership. ARBA members have signed up as mentors, and this list is posted on the website.

Welcome to our New Members

Joining ARBA after October 1, 2020

Kaysen Bauerle
Martinsville, Ohio

Ann Knowlton
Cornish, Utah

Addison Wright
Otisville, Michigan

Mary Stephens
Clinton Corners, New York

Stephen Seaward
Rochester, Washington

Claire VonBehrens
Stewardson, Illinois

Take time to introduce yourself to these new Romney breeders.
Contact information can be located on the ARBA website, membership directory. www.americanromney.org

ARBA on Facebook Check out the American Romney Breeders Association Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/americanromney>. to see events, news and reminders about the association.

ARBA on Instagram ARBA now has an Instagram account for sharing events and news about the association. Its handle is: @americanromney.

Gaggle A new online email group has been formed as a way for members to share information about their sheep, management practices, events, etc. with each other more easily and be up to date on what the ARBA Board is working on. It is hosted through Gaggle Email. For more information and how to join if you have not already received an introductory email, contact Carol Pasheilich, District 5 Director.

ARBA Website The ARBA website, americanromney.org, has information to assist with many of your association and production needs. You can advertise your products and animals, read about management tools, review animal health needs, locate members in your region, read minutes of the board meetings and keep up to date with news submitted by your directors and district representatives.



1912 - 2012 : "100 Years of Serving the Romney Breeders of America"

American Romney Breeders Association

www.americanromney.org

Rambling Roads ~ Notes from District Directors

District One—New England

Hello from Connecticut! 2020 certainly has been a year to remember. It seems that most of the year looked similar with headlines flashing of cancelled fairs, shows, fiber festivals, farmers markets, etc. We are all hopeful for a more "normal" 2021.

It was great to see District 1 members attending and participating in the Zoom ARBA Annual meeting and events. Congratulations to Sara Tomis from Connecticut for winning the senior quiz bowl division and Penelope Kemp, also of Connecticut, for winning the junior division. Thank you to all Charlene, Anne, Penny and Rick for coordinating this event allowing our junior members the opportunity to get together during these times.

Plans are moving forward for 2021 events with a hope for return to normalcy. The Connecticut Sheep, Wool and Fiber Festival is scheduled for April 24, 2021. Massachusetts Sheep and Woolcraft Fair is planning for May 29 and 30th 2021. New Hampshire Sheep and Wool Growers Festival will plan for May 2021. The Northeast Youth Sheep Show is scheduled to occur July 15 -18, 2021.

I wish you all a safe and successful lambing season. If you would like to talk Romneys or have anything you would like to report for an upcoming Ramblings, please contact me.

Emma Morton Rogers, District Director
emmamorton246@gmail.com
401-470-5306

Serial Inventor Strong Wool Saviour

Serial inventor, 25-year-old Logan Williams has already sold four of his inventions, three to overseas companies, and is embarking on a much bigger mission – to save the strong wool industry in NZ with his new invention. It is a biodegradable material made of a combination of strong wool and corn starch to make all sorts of products as a replacement for plastic. It is called Keravos. He was named this year in Forbes' 30 under 30 2020. He joined NZ Merino Company a year ago to create a product from coarse wool. He invented the method to combine polylactic acid from corn starch with coarse wool which NZ produces in abundance.

They secured a global provisional patent a couple of months ago and have formed a company called Keravos Limited to make and market the Keravos pellets made of PLA and wool. Keravos is already producing 4000 kilograms (4 tonnes) of the pellets a day. The company is working with local firms Action Plastics and Maisie Group to make the pellets and turn them into products

through a common process called injection moulding. Furniture, pots and crockery have been made. PLA is used around the world as a plastic substitute but combining it with wool is novel. Williams is a millionaire, at 25.

Oregon Romney Breeders Gather

Members of the Oregon Romney Breeders Association met in October at the home of Bessie and Sue Kalina. We gave up the comfort of the living room, but had our business meeting and the usual fund raising raffle to keep the organization moving forward.



NAILE 2020 REPORT

ROMNEY RAMBLINGS

North American International Livestock Expo held their annual livestock show in November 2020. All species of livestock were exhibited in the famous show ring on the prestigious GREEN shavings. Thousands of spectators viewed the shows at Louisville, Kentucky and many, many more watched from home on the live-stream web cast. The internet has brought a whole new aspect to the show world.

All of the Romney Junior Exhibitors received a Farm Sign Banner with the Romney logo, this was a gift for supporting and exhibiting sheep at our Romney show. Generous donations received from Thistledown Farm and American Romney Breeder Association's Jr Romney NAILE Fund purchased the awards.

The Romney Junior Spectacular show was the first weekend of the sheep shows. The Romney's were well represented with 24 head entered and both colors showed together. Exhibitors were Madison Feehan (OH), Claire Von Behrens (IL), Caitlin Plank (MI), Lindsey and Malorie Schmoll (WI) and Morgan Fitzsimmons (WI). Judging the youth show was Ed Julian from Ohio. Champion Ram went to Caitlin Plank on the Junior NC Ram Lamb and Reserve Champion Ram went to Caitlin Plank on an Intermediate NC Ram Lamb. Champion Ewe went to Caitlin Plank with her NC Yearling Ewe, Reserve Champion Ewe went to Madison Feehan with her White Junior White Ewe. Best White Fleece on the hoof went to Madison Feehan on the Junior Ewe Lamb and Best Colored Fleece on the hoof went to Lindsey Schmoll on Intermediate Ewe Lamb. Best Romney Ewe Head went to Malorie Schmoll with her White Yearling Ewe. Best Romney Ram Head went to Madison Feehan's NC Intermediate Ram Lamb. Congratulations to all exhibitors, the sheep were well presented and of outstanding quality.

The Open Show was held on Sunday, November 15, 2020. White and Natural Colored had their own divisions, 36 head walked over the green shaving and were judge by Roger High from Ohio. Exhibitors were Madison Feehan (OH), Claire Von Behrens (IL), Caitlin Plank (MI), Lindsey and Malorie Schmoll (WI), Morgan Fitzsimmons (WI) and Kaysen Bauele (OH). Kaysen was a first-time exhibitor at 3 year of age and she sure did enjoy the green shavings and who can forget her boots! Grand Champion White Ram was a Winter ram lamb owned by Clair Von Behrens and Reserve Champion went to Lindsey and Malorie Schmoll with the Spring Ram Lamb. Grand Champion Ewe was a Yearling Ewe owned by Caitlin Plank and Reserve Champion Ewe was on a 2nd place Yearling ewe owned by Clair Von Behrens. Best White Fleece on the hoof was a Winter Ewe Lamb owned by Caitlin Plank.

Grand Champion Natural Color Ram was a Winter Ram Lamb owned by Lindsey and Malorie Schmoll and Reserve Champion Ram went to Caitlin Plank on 2nd place Winter Ram Lamb. Grand Champion Natural Color Ewe was a Yearling Ewe owned by Caitlin Plank and Reserve Champion Ewe was on Winter Ewe Lamb owned by Caitlin Plank. Best Natural Colored Fleece on the hoof was the Winter Ewe Lamb owned by Lindsey and Malorie Schmoll.

Continued on page 5



Secretary or Registrar?

When should you send information to the ARBA secretary (Oregon) and when should you send paperwork to Associated Registries (Kansas)?

General association questions can be directed to the secretary or any board members.

Membership, futurity and fund raising monies are sent to the secretary.

Information for the Romney Ramblings and the ARBA website is sent to the secretary.

Animal registrations and transfers are sent to Associated Registries in Wamego, Kansas.

Pedigree searches and requests are done by Associated Registries.

If paperwork for the registrar is sent to the secretary, an added week or more will be added to the processing time.

Premier Exhibitor of White Romney went to Lindsey and Malorie Schmoll.

Premier Exhibitor of Natural Colored Romney was Caitlin Plank

At the ending of the week they always have the supreme show for the open breeders, all breeds are represented in the line-up stretching from end to end of the show ring. In the Ram drive the White Romney Champion Ram was pulled for the final 5 to be evaluated again, what a thrill for Clair, although he did not win the title, it was great to see the Romney Ram represented in the top of the show.

Overall, the Romney show had lower entries than 2019. Super good set of sheep from top to bottom of all the classes. In 2021, the Romney's will be showing Thursday at the end of the week, all breeds are now on a rotation in showing. The Fleece Wool show did not happen this year. Plans are for it to be back next year.

This show is the one of the few premier livestock shows in the United States. The promotion of the Romney at this event is unmeasured. Romney's are alive and well and have a lot to offer the sheep industry. It is up to all Romney Breeders to keep us in the fore front with a positive image, positive press and a positive bottom line.

Special thanks to those who made it to Louisville this year and for sticking to all the rules and regulations. If we can survive this year, we can survive anything down the pike. Looking forward to seeing you next year!

Romney Superintendent of NAILE
Willis Plank

Kalina Family

Registered Romney and Shropshire Sheep

Sue Kalina ~ 503-939-0303

skalina26@gmail.com

Stephanie and Jacy Booren ~ 503-476-5449

Bessie Kalina ~ 541-928-9865



E/C PLANK

Natural Colored Romneys

2871 W. Hallett Road
Hillsdale, MI 49242

(517) 437-2984

cwplank@sbcglobal.net
Ethan & Caitlin Plank

**"Home of the 2019 National Romney Show
Champion Natural Colored Ram & Ewe"**

From the Editor

The new year is bringing a few changes for me and the focus on projects which have kept me engaged for quite a few years. The Ramblings has been a project that has kept me connected to many of you for years. I have enjoyed the time devoted to highlighting the efforts of individuals, farms, show and sale managers, and members of the ARBA board. It has been rewarding to report the successes and obstacles. It is now time for someone else to assume the editor position, if it is the desire of the board to have it continue. Thanks to all that have contributed. Happy New Year.
JoAnn Mast, Ramblings editor



Little Hooves Romneys

White & Natural Colored
Breeding Stock

The Carlisle Family

510 Centerton Road 856-866-1747 home
Moorestown, NJ 08057 609-760-0399 (cell)

www.LittleHoovesRomneys.com
email: c.carlisle@littlehoovesromneys.com



More photos on page 7

ARBA Annual Meeting

As with many events, the annual business meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association was done a bit differently this year. Board meetings and the annual meeting were conducted via ZOOM. This was an opportunity to connect with meeting goers from across the country while relaxing in your home, field or barn.

Saturday, October 17, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time was set as the start time for the meeting. Meetings of the board were held on Saturday, October 17, 2020 at Noon Eastern Time and Sunday, October 18, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Saturday was the meeting of the existing board and Sunday was the first meeting which included newly elected officers to the board.

Several members participated in the meetings and educational programs offered during the weekend. Youth participated in the FlipGrid interviews and the Quiz Bowl. Photos from several of the events can be viewed on Facebook, and educational programs may be available by contacting Anne McIntyre Lahner.

FlipGrid & Quiz Bowl

ARBA wants to give a big shout out to all Juniors (and Board Members) who participated in the FlipGrid activity and Virtual Quiz Bowl this past weekend. The videos were awesome and we had 20 returned, 11 from our youth membership and 9 from our Board members. The Quiz Bowl was held on Sunday where it was divided up into Juniors (13 years & under) and Seniors (14 – 21 years). Questions were drawn from 3 categories, general sheep knowledge, ARBA/Romney specific knowledge and information from videos submitted. It was fun and entertaining. All participants received a \$25 gift certificate to Twist of Fate Spinnery, with an additional \$5 added by Twist of Fate to bring it to a total of \$30. The first person to answer 5 questions correctly in each age group was declared the overall winner. Those 2 folks will receive a black back pack with ARBA logo in addition to the \$30 gift certificate. The following youth participated: Junior Division consisted of Sadie Bonyne (IL), Ava Jo Hayes (NJ), Hunter Hayes (NJ), and Penny Kemp (CT). Overall winner went to Penny Kemp. Senior Division participants were Catherine Hromis (NH), Teresa Hromis (NH), Annabelle Miller (MD), and Sara Tomis (CT). Overall winner in this age group was Sara Tomis (CT). Congratulations to all of you for playing along and supporting us adults as we waded through unfamiliar territory while working on this activity. The biggest comfort that we adults had, was just knowing that if we got stuck, you guys would help us out because your experience is more vast than ours... and we thank you for that! Special thanks to Anne McIntyre-Lahner (VP), Penny Swearingen (District 3 Director), and Rick Trojanoski (Director at Large), your help was immeasurable plus lots of fun!

Charlene Carlisle
Youth Committee
Director at large





ARBA Awards and Recognition at NAILE

Signs such as the ones above can be ordered for promotion of your sheep, farm or sponsored awards. Read below and contact Charlene Carlisle for more information and ordering option.

With 2020 coming to an end, we have much to look back on, both good and bad. COVID-19 has affected so many aspects of our lives that we tend to wonder if it will ever end. Our show schedules or lack thereof, combined with our social disconnect, has been disheartening. At the time of writing this article, Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival has just announced that 2021 will be virtual with hopes of a face-to-face in 2022. With that being noted, the face of optimism wants to spread a little cheer.

In November, many thought that NAILE would be cancelled, but with many restrictions the sheep show portion went forward. The Romney Show was well attended (details in another article here in the Ramblings). This year when searching for awards and participation prizes for the Juniors, a company new to me was happened upon, Benchmark Graphics. After some discussion regarding ideas and price points, they developed vinyl banners for each youth exhibitor. They took the ARBA logo and "perked" it up a bit and added a Romney profile to each side. At bottom, each young breeder had their name scrolled in a banner and if they had a farm name, it was placed on there as well. The gifts appeared to be well received and I know one has already been hung in a college dorm room and several have graced bedroom walls until the return of show seasons in the future.

The idea behind these vinyl banners were so the youth could have farm signs to hang at sheep shows that were all their own, that were separate from parents or siblings, so that they could be proud of their own accomplishments. They are so nice, that several requests have been received to have more done for either other kids that didn't show at NAILE or other ARBA members that want farm signs.

I wanted to let everyone know, that ARBA will be placing an order through Benchmark Graphics for additional vinyl banners. Depending on number of orders, price could come down. These are the details as are known now: Vinyl Banners (30x30 on 15 oz. vinyl) with hemming & grommets for hanging, ARBA picture/logo (photo attached to this article), individual's name and farm name. The price is not set-in stone as total number ordered and shipping will have some effect but it should be approximately \$35. I am accepting pre-orders (no money yet please) just to get a feel for how many people are interested and then I will get a confirmation on pricing. Please feel free to contact me by email c.carlisle@LittleHoovesRomneys.com or text/call 609-760-0399.

Benchmark Graphics also made our Champion & Reserve Champion Awards for the Junior Show at NAILE. They were pretty impressive and uniquely done on metal (please see attached photo). As a shout out for small agricultural businesses, this one is an easy A+. I would recommend for any show down the road!

Happy Holidays and stay safe my friends.

Charlene Carlisle
Director at Large

Thompson Romneys

Randy & Elaine Thompson
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- **Good Temperament**

**Current Stud Rams: Aurora 240/12
Aurora 138/17 & Ram Hill 224/14**



Thompson Romneys

Contact Information American Romney Breeders Association

Don Burgess, President
23960 Township Road 56
Ada, OH 45810
president@americanromney.org
(330) 317-3327

**Anne McIntyre-Lahner
Vice President**
2577 Boston Post Road
Guilford, CT 06437
olympiafarm@att.net
(203) 458-3070

**Charlene Carlisle
Director At Large**
510 Centerton Road
Moorerstown, NJ 08057
c.carlisle@littlehoovesromneys.com
(856) 866-1747

**Rick Trojanoski
Director At Large**
81 Young Street
East Hampton, CT 06424
hopehollow@hotmail.com
(860) 759-9334

**Melissa Wubben
Director At Large**
9034 G14 Hwy
Norwalk, IA 50211
OakCreekSheep@yahoo.com
(515) 460-2172

**JoAnn Mast
ARBA Secretary/Treasurer**
58221 Lee Valley Road
Coquille, OR 97423
secretary@americanromney.org

**Associated Sheep
Registries**
P.O. Box 231 420A Lincoln
Wamego, KS 66547
(785) 456-8500

**Romney Ramblings
Editor**

District Directors

Emma Morton
District One
385 Cranberry Bog
Road
Danielson, CT
06239
Emmamorton246@gmail.com
401-470-5306

Patricia Sanville
District Two
4637 Cap Stine Rd
Frederick, MD
21703
patriciasanville@gmail.com
240-357-1437

Penny Swearingen
District Three
8280 Cranberry
Lake Road
Jonesville, MI
49250
Pswearingen@dmcibb.net
517-610-1421

Zane VanHorsen
District Four
35179 Riverside
Drive S.W.
Albany, OR 97321
Zane@ironwater.com
541-979-5180

Carol Pasheilich
District Five
935 Lichens Rd
Montague, CA
96064

Tawandafarms53@att.net
530-459-0966

Ken Gossard
District Six
18222 Hwy AZ
Willow Springs, MO
65793
Kgossardkc@gmail.com
417-252-3846





COVID-19 Promoter of Lamb

Lamb sales have seen increases as the need to quarantine was introduced. The sale of loin cuts increased 13% from last year and a 12% increase was realized for rib cuts. The north-east saw an increase of sales at 10% and the state of California reported a 17% jump. These numbers, reported by the American Lamb Promotion Board, reflect only supermarket lamb sales.

In our county, southwestern Oregon, the waiting list to have animals processed has grown to several months and hunters wanting deer and elk prepped for their freezers were turned away. The demand for farm direct sales saw an incredible surge. I believe some was related to the health issues being reported and some was a direct result of more home cooks spending extra hours in the kitchen. Regardless of the reasons, my meat lambs were sold out early and I had new customers this year with little or no local advertising.

Welcome new lamb consumers.

Lamb Added to Food Assistance Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service has purchased 119,700 pounds of lamb rack roasts in response to a September 1 solicitation. The racks will be delivered between October 16 and December 31 for use in child nutrition and other related domestic food assistance programs.

NAILE Entries

Entries for the 2020 sheep show at NAILE show that numbers were down, but that several breeds had good numbers. Topping the list was the Junior Southdown Show with 351 entries received, followed by the Junior Hampshire Show with 285. Romney breeders were at the show, but with 27 sheep entered in the junior show and 37 in the open division.

These numbers are for entries only, not the real numbers that made the trip to Louisville.

The Open Division Wool Show coordinated by the Romney breeders was cancelled this year, but plans remain to keep this project alive for next year.

For details related to the Romney Sheep shows at NAILE, read the report from Willis Plank on pages 4-5 of this newsletter.

ASI Annual Convention

The annual convention of ASI will be held January 28-29, 2021. The officers and staff will meet in Denver with the audiovisual firm to coordinate the virtual convention and two days worth of presentations, panels and speakers.

To review the schedule and prepare to register, go to info@sheepusa.org or Sheepusa.org.

CFAP First Round Results

Final numbers from the first round of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program payments are being collected, and have provided \$68.9 million to American sheep producers. The second round of funding is in progress, with a due date of December 11 for filing.

Payments for lambs, yearlings and sheep consisted of a single payment based on the number of animals sold between January 15 and April 15. Payment was based on a per head rate. Payments for wool were figured on 50 percent of a producer's 2019 total production or the 2019 inventory as of January 15, 2020.

Information regarding this program can be viewed on the ASI website, or by dropping in at your local Farm Services Agency.

Chicago Store Opens

Faribault Woolen Mill Co., established in 1865 and maker of handcrafted blankets, decorative throws, apparel and accessories, opened its first-ever Chicago store in the Shops at North Bridge on November 1.

The Faribault Woolen Mill is located in Faribault, Minn., and is one of the longest standing woolen mills in the country, where fifth-generation craftspeople take raw wool through a 22 step process to make blankets and other items.

In addition to the Chicago store opening, the company plans to expand its retail footprint in other American cities in 2021.

Livestock Hauling Bill

U.S. Senator Deb Fischer of Nebraska recently introduced the Haulers of Agriculture and Livestock Safety Act to increase safety and flexibility for the transport of agriculture and livestock products.

The Bill would:

Eliminate the requirement that hours of service exemptions only apply during state designated planting and harvesting seasons.

Amend and clarify the definition of "agricultural commodities".

Authorize a 150 air-mile exemption from requirements on the destination side of a haul for ag and livestock haulers..

American Romney Breeders Association
58221 Lee Valley Road
Coquille, OR 97423

From the Secretary

Membership renewal letters were mailed recently and some have returned and been processed. To verify that your letter was received, you should have an email with membership card attached to serve as receipt of payment. The website membership directory should also include your listing.

Renewals received by February 1 will ensure that you are included in the upcoming edition of the membership directory. Renewals and new memberships received by April 1 will allow you to vote in the annual election for officers and board members. If you need a membership form, one can be secured from the website americanromney.org on the sidebar to the right of the main text.



Southern Oregon Romneys

JoAnn Mast & Kathleen Zappelli
58221 Lee Valley Road
Coquille, OR 97423
(541) 572-3094
soromney@wildblue.net

White and Natural Color Breeding Stock
Locker Lamb, Fleeces, Pelts