President’s Message

By Chris Posbergh

Hopefully everyone in the Northeast survived the repeated nor’easters.

As we all thaw out and look towards spring, please consider making plans to come to the west coast this year. Our annual meeting will be held in Albany, Oregon, in conjunction with the annual Black Sheep Gathering. This will be a great time to meet with your fellow Romney breeders, new and old. Details can be found in this issue of the Ramblings, and on our website.

ARBA Board of Director elections are being tallied shortly. Thank you to

Continued on page 7
Lone survivor of Romney flock lives on

The following is an article printed in the December 2017 issue of The Chronicle newspaper, Lewis County, Washington.

David White still doesn’t know how one sheep managed to survive when the Chehalis River swallowed up the family ranch in Doty, back in December of 2007.

She was from a flock that traced directly back to his parents’ original stock, and White had been tending the family sheep personally since 1953. When the river rose to unprecedented levels, the other 55 sheep in the flock drowned in the barn. It took two days for the water to recede enough for anyone to return.

“When we got out there, everything was covered in mud,” remembered White just days after the 10-year anniversary of the flood passed this week. “I crawled out there to the back corner of the barn and they looked like walruses because they were all bloated and covered in mud. And then, a little white head popped out.”

White suspects the animal — which he named “Hope” in a 2012 Chronicle article but has also been referred to as “Lucky” — was forced to stand on the drowned bodies of her kin in order to keep her head above the rising tide.

“The cleanup went on and on. There’s one barn that still has mud in it,” said White. He added that he has no intention of cleaning it out either, explaining, “I’ll probably never put sheep back out there.”

Continued on page 10

Strong and Sturdy Romneys
White and Natural Colored

Raised Naturally Mostly Outdoors on Pasture or Hay

Beautiful Breed Type Exquisite Wool

Mary & Bob Pratt
654 Beadle Hill Road - Valley Falls NY 12185
518-744-3947 - elihufarm@yahoo.com
Strategic business plan in the works

The ARBA board will soon begin work on a strategic business plan for the organization. The purpose of this activity is to guide what an organization does, and why. It should also provide a clear picture of who it serves, and why it exists. An effective plan will describe where an organization will be in the future, provide a list of actions to help move forward, and include a method of determining successes and shortcomings.

A strategic plan is similar to other plans of work. It provides a means of setting goals, identifying steps or actions to achieve goals, an evaluation process, and a method of review and modification that can be conducted as needed.

Plans vary greatly, and are used at different levels within organizations. Development and updating of the strategic plan allows organizations to look to the future and to evaluate the actions taken and how they impact progress toward meeting goals.

Work by the board is scheduled to begin during the first meeting of the newly elected directors and officers.

NSIP workshops set for May 2-9

National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) workshops are being held May 2-9, 2018, in Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Getting your Genetics Right: Converting Performance Records into Relevant Decision-Making Tools is the theme of the series. Topics to be covered include: Defining and ranking of traits; How genetic information, estimated breeding values (EBV), can assist in improving performance traits; Selection for parasite resistance in pasture raised sheep and goats; Development of breeding objectives and approaches to selection of breeding animals; Fecal egg count and live ultrasound demo; What is EBV worth?; Enrolling and using the NSIP System; and Breeding soundness exams.

Speakers will include Rusty Burgett, Dr. Anne Zajac, Dr. Katherine Petersson and Melanie Barkley.

The workshops are being conducted as part of a USDA Northeast SARE project entitled New Approaches for Improving Integrated Parasite Control Strategies for Small Ruminants in the Northeast.


2018 ARBA Annual Meeting and Dinner
It will be held in conjunction with the Black Sheep Gathering in Albany, Oregon. Save the date now and plan to join other members as they participate in the sheep show, wool show, vendor booths and special events provided each year. Dates for the meeting and dinner are June 29 - July 1, 2018.

Find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Romney-Breeders-Association/104644142899461
**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**

**Prices:** color or black & white

- 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: Cindy Peterson
54656 Brady Road
Myrtle Point, OR 97458
(541) 572-5930
romneyeditor@gmail.com

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**From the Secretary’s Desk** by JoAnn Mast

The new year has certainly provided opportunities for new discoveries. ARBA has added new members, junior members are enrolling as active, voting members, and the current board members are taking on new responsibilities to keep their districts informed and engaged in the association. If you have not been contacted by phone, through postings on Facebook, or referred to the website, use these tools to stay in touch with your district directors and provide input on needs of ARBA.

The new year brought changes to the management of our flock, and possibly others as well. I took time to have some medical tune-ups, and intentionally backed our lambing to February. I found that by doing that, we increased the fertility of ewes and rams. Rather than a nice set of twins produced by a young, healthy ewe, we received one set of quads and eleven sets of triplets from 25 ewes. For dairies, that would be a great change from the norm, but for us, the extra lambs have added another level of feeding. The creep feeder is not only the headquarters for grain and alfalfa, but also the attack buckets that are filled and drained several times per day. I believe the rams will be in with the ewes earlier this year, and the hope will be for that nice set of healthy twins, ewes with energy and milk, and a creep feeder that is not stocked with extra milk.

Ballots for the 2018 election of board members have been mailed to those who were active members by March 1. If you sent your membership renewal in March, but did not receive a ballot, it is due to the change in voting dates. Voting must be completed prior to the annual meeting, and June is earlier than the typical fall meeting times. That meant a change in the schedule for sending and receiving ballots. Candidate statements are included in this newsletter, providing an opportunity for you to learn about your board members.

Membership directories have been printed and mailed. If you did not receive one, or if the information is not accurate, please send me a message. I try to keep the information on the membership listing updated, so any changes are welcomed. As always, a reminder that membership applications come to the secretary, and sheep registrations and transfers are processed by Associated Registries in Kansas.

The annual meeting of ARBA is earlier this year, so don’t wait until August to think about attending. The place to be is Albany, Oregon, the last weekend in June. ARBA will be meeting in conjunction with the Black Sheep Gathering, a weekend of vendors, shows, private sales, sheep breeders and many wool breeds of sheep. June 29 is the annual dinner and meeting, to be held at the Cascade Grill, which is within walking distance of the sheep and wool displays. Hotels are also available next to the fairgrounds and restaurant. Blocks of rooms have been reserved at the Holiday Inn and Comfort Inn. Use the Black Sheep Gathering, a weekend of vendors, shows, private sales, sheep breeders and many wool breeds of sheep.

I hope your year is off to a strong start, and that the sheep business or hobby is keeping you interested and ready to continue to promote Romneys to current and new breeders.

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**Deadlines for Article Submissions & Advertising**

Romney Ramblings is published in the spring, summer and fall. Deadlines for submissions of articles and advertising is the 15th of the month of publication—March 15, June 15 and September 15 (subject to change). Articles may be emailed or mailed to the editor—contact information above. Photo submissions of Romney events, awards and sales are encouraged; publication is subject to available space and quality of image.
Rambling Roads — Notes from District Directors

District 1
It has been quite a winter here in the northeast. Coming out of winter, we have our fingers crossed for a nice spring. Lambing season is finished, or winding down, and sale and show season is quickly approaching. Several New England states have upcoming wool festivals. Connecticut hosts a sheep, wool and fiber festival April 28th, and New Hampshire Sheep and Wool is May 12-13. Massachusetts Sheep and Woolcraft Fair is May 26-27. Several of these festivals have shows, and it would be great to see Romneys exhibited.

This year is also a District 1 regional show. The show will be held at the Big E with Romneys showing Monday, Sept. 24. I hope to see many of you there.

Emma Morton Rogers
District 1 Regional Director
emmamorton246@gmail.com
401-470-5306

District 2
Hello from muddy Maryland. The weather here in the Mid-Atlantic has been crazy! In the month of February, we had lambs in freezing temps, and lambs born on a day when it was almost 80 degrees! Rain, snow, sleet, wind… whatever the weather, it has mostly been muddy! I hope everyone made it through the storms without much damage and that all of your sheep and new lambs are thriving.

Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival will be here before we know it! Hope to see many of you there. If you are looking to buy some Romneys, Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival is one of the best places in our district to do so. Many breeders come from near and far, so make sure you reach out to them ahead of time to purchase sheep and make arrangements. Don’t forget, Romneys will also be part of the All Breeds Sale. The show will be Friday, May 4, and those animals will be sold Saturday, May 5. This is a great opportunity to purchase beautiful sheep and futurity nominated ewes for youth. The regular Romney show is planned for Sunday morning, starting with whites. The festival also has a fleece show and sale. The perfect place to show off and sell your beautiful fleeces. If you don’t have sheep or fleeces to bring, check out everything else there is to offer. It is about much more than just exhibiting our sheep, and I hope that ARBA members will take full advantage. So many things to learn and do. There are displays and demos (sheepdogs, shearing, fiber arts, cheesemaking, etc.), an equipment auction, lots of family activities, shepherd workshops and seminars, fiber art workshops, a lead line contest, sheep poster contest, fiber art competitions, sheep photo contest, junior sheep & goat skill-a-thon, and a junior spinning contest put together by our fellow ARBA member, Patricia Sanville.

Another upcoming event is the Frederick Fiber Festival, which is teaming up with the Mother Earth News Fair to feature local yarn dyers and spinners the first weekend in June. Visit www.motherearthnewsfair.com/maryland/ for more information.

Best wishes for your flocks this year! Be sure to visit the ARBA Facebook page and website, as well as the individual district and junior Facebook groups to stay up-to-date on events and information. As always, please feel free to call or email me with ideas, upcoming events, show and sale results, questions, or just to chat about sheep.

Allison Seyfert
District 2 Regional Director
410-804-0492
mistyrosefarm@rocketmail.com

District 3
Happy...spring??? As with so many spring seasons in the northern U.S. and Canada, this particular spring is more a menagerie of the other seasons than it is a season unto itself. Two days ago, it was nearly 80 with bright sunshine and a dry wind here in Northwest Ohio. It made me think it was almost into the heat of summer. Today, we are experiencing liquid sunshine and around 40 degrees, with the dreaded white stuff headed our way for tomorrow.

Plans are still being made to hold the 2018 District 3 show and gathering at the Michigan Fiber Festival in Allegan, Michigan, the weekend of August 17-19. There are still many details to work out, but I have several people helping me that have done a very good job of keeping things moving. As details are finalized, we will make sure that the information is made available to the membership.

As always, If you have ideas for the show and gathering, or have ideas for us as an association,
Anchorage Farm

Right: Anchorage Farm 1495: 2017 National Champion Ewe and Champion Longwool Ewe
Below: Anchorage Farm 1486: Supreme Champion Natural Colored Ram at NY State Sheep & Wool Festival

Watch for us at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, and the New York State Sheep and Wool Festival

Thank you to all who purchased Anchorage Farm Romneys, new and repeat buyers, at the farm and sales. We appreciate your faith in our breeding program.

Stephen & Lizbeth Shafer
Owners

Send Inquiries to Graeme Stewart
845-399-2379
anchorage1@earthlink.net
President’s Message  
*continued from page 1*

all who voted and sent your ballot in on time. We had a great slate of candidates ready to lead you in ARBA’s affairs. Also, if any of you are interested in serving on any of ARBA’s standing committees, please let me know. It is a great opportunity to get more involved in the association without the commitment it takes to be a director.

Happy lambing and see you at the annual meeting!  

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## Calendar of Events

### April 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28-29</td>
<td>Mother Earth News Institute, Asheville, NC. <a href="https://www.motherearthnewsfair.com/north-carolina/schedule/">https://www.motherearthnewsfair.com/north-carolina/schedule/</a></td>
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### May 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>NSIP Workshops begin. See page 3 for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Texas Wool Handling School, Comfort, TX. <a href="mailto:info@independencefarmsteadfibers.com">info@independencefarmsteadfibers.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>Maryland Sheep &amp; Wool Festival, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. <a href="http://www.sheepandwool.org">www.sheepandwool.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>New Hampshire Sheep &amp; Wool Festival, Deerfield, NH. nhswga.org/nh-sheep-wool-festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-27</td>
<td>Great Lakes Fiber Show, Wooster, OH. <a href="http://www.greatlakesfibershow.com">www.greatlakesfibershow.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-27</td>
<td>Massachusetts Sheep &amp; Woolcraft Fair, Cummington Fairgrounds, MA. <a href="http://www.masheepwool.org">www.masheepwool.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-6/2</td>
<td>Nugget All-American Show &amp; Sale, Reno, NV. <a href="http://www.cshsba.org/reno.html">www.cshsba.org/reno.html</a></td>
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### June 2018

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>West Virginia Sheep &amp; Goat Sale, Tri-County Fairgrounds, Petersburg, WV. <a href="http://www.wvsheepandgoatsale.com/">www.wvsheepandgoatsale.com/</a></td>
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### July 2018

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>All American Junior Show, Indianapolis, IN. <a href="http://www.countrylovin.com/AAJSS/index.html">www.countrylovin.com/AAJSS/index.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>Lamb &amp; Wool Management: Sheep for Profit School, Pipestone, MN. <a href="http://www.pipestonesheep.com">www.pipestonesheep.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>Crossroads of the West All-Breeds Sheep Sale, Location TBD. <a href="http://www.bannersheepmagazine.com">www.bannersheepmagazine.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-22</td>
<td>North East Youth Sheep Show, West Springfield, MA. <a href="http://www.nesheep.org">www.nesheep.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Willamette Valley Ram Sale, Scio, OR. <a href="http://www.facebook.com/WVRES/">www.facebook.com/WVRES/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Submit events for publication in the *Ramblings* to:  
Romney editor, 54656 Brady Rd., Myrtle Point, OR 97458, or romneyeditor@gmail.com

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**Ewe Lamb Raffle**  
All proceeds to sponsor Romney Jrs at the All American and NAILE  
Tickets $5 ea or 5/$20  
Ewe lamb donated by Little Hooves Romneys  
Drawing will be held Sept. 24 at the North East Regional Show in West Springfield, MA  
For more information contact a Jr. ARBA member or Charlene at c.carlisle@LittleHoovesRomneys.com  

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**Little Hooves Romneys**  
White & Natural Colored Breeding Stock  
*The Carlisle Family*  
510 Centerton Road  856-866-1747 (home)  
Mooresstown, NJ 08057  609-760-0399 (cell)  
www.LittleHoovesRomneys.com  
email: c.carlisle@littlehoovesromneys.com
By Willis Plank

The North American International Livestock Expo held their annual livestock show last November. All species of livestock were exhibited in the famous show ring on the prestigious GREEN shavings. Thousands of spectators viewed the shows in Louisville, KY, 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. Livestock showing is more advanced than it was ten years ago.

This annual event kicked off with the NAILE Romney Junior pizza party on Friday. All of the exhibitors and their families were brought together for a meet and greet. Developing friendships and networking is a very important part of the livestock associations, and a great building block for the future. All the Junior exhibitors received a royal blue jacket with the Romney logo on it as a gift for supporting and exhibiting at our Romney show. Generous donations were received from youth supporters to help purchase the jackets and awards.

The Romney debut was the first weekend of the sheep shows. Romneys were well represented with 34 head entered. Exhibitors were: Alex Rogers (NJ), Megan and Cadence Higgins (CT), Ethan and Caitlin Plank (MI), Teresa and Catherine Hromis (NH), Ethan Kennedy (NY), Weston Pettit (OH), and Lindsey and Katelyn Schmoll (WI). Judging the youth show was Jason Heeg from Montana. Champion Ram went to Megan Higgins for her Intermediate Natural Colored ram lamb, and Reserve Champion Ram went to Ethan Plank for a Junior Natural Colored ram lamb. Champion Ewe was snagged by Ethan Kennedy for his Intermediate White ewe lamb while Reserve Champion Ewe went to Megan Higgins for her White Yearling ewe. Best White Fleece on the hoof went to Ethan Kennedy, and Best Colored Fleece on the hoof went to Weston Pettit. Best Romney Head went to Teresa Hromis for her Natural Colored ewe lamb.

In the Open Show, white and natural colored had their own divisions and were judged by Sam Wiford from Wapakoneta, OH. Grand Champion White Ram was a yearling owned by Caitlin Plank, and Reserve Champion went to Little Hooves’ Winter Ram Lamb. Grand Champion Ewe was a yearling owned by Little Hooves Romneys, and Reserve Champion Ewe was a spring ewe lamb owned by Catherine Hromis. Best White Fleece on the hoof was a winter ewe lamb owned by Ethan Kennedy. Best Flock, and Premier Exhibitor of White Romneys, went to Little Hooves Romneys.

Grand Champion Natural Color Ram was a yearling owned by Ethan Plank, and Reserve Champion Ram went to Ethan Plank’s spring ram lamb. Grand Champion Natural Color Ewe was a yearling owned by Ethan Kennedy, and Reserve Champion Ewe was a winter ewe lamb owned by Little Hooves Romneys. Best Natural Colored Fleece on the hoof was a spring ewe lamb owned by Cadence Higgins. Best Flock, and Premier Exhibitor of Natural Colored Romney, went to Ethan Plank.

Overall, the Romney show had slightly lower entry numbers, but the quality was superb. The judge, Sam Wiford, was very impressed with the quality and presentation of our Romneys, and stated how much he enjoyed being the judge. 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. Two new Romney breeders showed for the first time this year, and plan to return next year. We had one new sister show this year, after her older sister exhibited last year. And two new breeders joined the Romney world after watching Romneys all week in the barn. Romneys 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 forefront with a positive image, positive press and a positive bottom line. Go Romneys!

ARBA Directory Addition

Kelly Bell
Ovis Aries Farm
129 Naylor Road
Mossyrock, WA 98564
917-446-1555
kelly@ovisariesfarm.com
Twitter: @OvisAriesFarm
CHECK US OUT

at Wlivestock.com

Selling 20 head
White & Natural Colored
ROMNEY

Mature, Yearlings
& Lambs-Ewes
Ram Lambs & Yearling Rams

AUCTION DATE:
June 13, 2018

Contact Plank’s for more information: 517-437-2984
White’s decision to abandon those lowland pastures has as much to do with the prevailing risk of flooding each year as the bad memories that linger on the farm. Part of the extensive cleanup process was the burial of his drowned flock. He said that workers came out with a backhoe and lime and trenched out a mass grave for the bulk of his family flock. The spot can be seen on the ridgeline across from the house, and White says he sometimes catches himself staring as the painful memories come flooding back.

“It happens less over time, but every once in awhile when I look across there I will think of them,” said White, who strives to maintain perspective on his losses. “Like I told the kids at the time, in some parts of the world this is how you bury your family. The pain and the grief is just too much, you dig a big hole and cover it all up.”

Immediately after the flood, White told a reporter from The Chronicle that he found consolation in the fact that at least one animal from the genetic line survived the flood.

Later, White had two more reasons to be thankful when the surviving sheep delivered a pair of twins. Those first two lambs, born exactly three months after the flood, were named Destiny and Darwin, according to a 2012 article in The Chronicle. White says the surviving sheep lived for a few years after that, although through the chaos nobody ever knew exactly how old she was.

Today, White keeps a small flock of purebred Romney sheep that are direct descendants of the surviving sheep, including daughters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters. They are tucked away safely up on Seminary Hill in Centralia where White has owned a home since before the flood of 2007.

Offering up another bit of hard earned perspective, White added, “We were lucky because we had a dry place to come back to while we cleaned up afterward.”

Reprinted with permission from The Chronicle and author Jordan Nailon, Outdoors and Ag Reporter. http://www.chronline.com/
**ARBA annual meeting in Oregon**

Oregon is the place to be for the 2018 annual ARBA meeting. The meeting will take place during the Black Sheep Gathering in Salem, OR.

It all begins Friday, June 29, with the annual dinner and meeting. Dinner reservations should be sent to the ARBA secretary (you can use the form below). Hotel reservations can be made under the block of rooms reserved for the Black Sheep Gathering.

**Schedule of Events:**
- Friday, June 29, 11 a.m. ARBA Board Meeting at Willamette Community Bank, lunch provided.
- Friday, June 29, 6:30 p.m. Annual meeting and dinner at Cascade Grill, 110 Opal Court N.E., Albany. Send reservation information to ARBA secretary.
- Saturday, June 30, 10 a.m. ARBA Board Meeting at Kalina Farm.

**Hotel options:**
- Holiday Inn Express 541-917-6144 $139.
- Comfort Suites Inn 541-928-2053 $129.

**Pipestone Lamb & Wool Facility Tour**

The Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program, dedicated to changing sheep production to make it more profitable for producers, is excited to offer an idea-filled sheep facility tour. This tour is offered every other year, and this will be the sixth tour. The purpose is to give producers an opportunity to see various types of sheep facilities, including the latest innovations in sheep buildings, handling systems, feeding systems and facility layout.

The tour will be a full day visiting four lamb and wool producers with new and remodeled facilities. All of these operations have devised their buildings and feeding systems to reduce labor and enable them to run larger numbers of ewes with the same labor. Lambing barns, hoop barns, remodeled buildings and various feeding systems designed to reduce labor and minimize feed waste will be viewed. Participants will also hear the philosophy of sheep production from successful sheep producers.

For more information or registration information, visit [www.pipestonesheep.com](http://www.pipestonesheep.com) While there you can also view pictures of tour locations. You can also contact the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Management Program, Minnesota West Community and Technical College, P.O. Box 250; Pipestone, MN 56164, (800) 658-2330. Or for email, contact Philip Berg at philip.berg@mnwest.edu or Laurie Johnson at laurie.johnson@mnwest.edu
Megan Higgins announced as 2017 Futurity winner

American Romney Breeders are proud to announce the winner of their 2017 Futurity. First place was secured by Megan Higgins, of Coventry, CT. Megan did an awe-some job of raising and showing this Fall Ewe Lamb. The lamb was purchased at the Romney National Sale held at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival in May 2017.

The Futurity program is held annually. Youth are encouraged to check into, and consider being, part of the program. Breeders support this show by nominating ewe lambs in public, or online sales. Youth who purchase those lambs gain points by participating in shows. At the end of the year, the money is split, by percentages, between participants based on points earned.

It is hoped that this incentive will assist our youth in purchasing livestock to better their flock.

Congratulations, Megan, and thanks for participating in our Futurity program.

Megan Higgins from CT won first place honors in ARBA’s Futurity 2017.

Flock Record Book Available
Flock Record Book: Provides general sheep information and space to record lambs born and raised for 1 or several years. Price: $3, post-
Rambling Roads, continued

Continued from page 5

please do not hesitate to contact me by email or phone, or on our District 3 Facebook page.

Don Burgess
District 3 Regional Director
330-317-3326
don.w.burgess@gmail.com

District 4

Cute Romney lambs are bouncing around my farm. I hope they are at your farm as well.

An upcoming meeting to put on your calendar is the ARBA annual meeting set for June 29, at the Black Sheep Gathering. Come support Oregon Romneys at that event by showing, watching or buying, connecting with fellow Romney breeders at the meetings.

Anne Nichols will be traveling to Indiana in July to compete in the All-American Junior Show. Go Anne, and Go Romneys!

Sue Kalina
District 4 Regional Director
541-928-9865
skalina26@gmail.com

District 5

I am the newly appointed director for District 5. I come with a little experience on the board having been Director-at-Large for six years. It is always interesting to see what the board is up to and aiming to accomplish.

I have started making phone calls to the people in my district to see what their interests and concerns are for ARBA. If I have not talked to you yet, stay tuned. You will be getting a call from me in the near future. I think it’s important that the concerns of every member are heard by board members, and acted upon, if possible.

The most active thing going on close to home is the annual meeting being held at the Black Sheep Gathering this year. Also, this year will be a new venue for BSG, so in many respects it will be brand new and exciting. It will be held at the Linn County Fairgrounds in Albany, OR, June 29 through July 2. It will be a good time for everyone in District 5 to attend BSG, whether you go every year or this will be your first time.

The District 5 show will be held at Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Washington over Labor Day weekend. Al Schwidder and Greg Hordyk have very graciously agreed to organize and manage the whole show. I am very grateful to them for handling it. There will be more details posted on the ARBA website as the date draws nearer.

Some of you might remember several years ago I talked about a breed-specific yarn featuring Romney wool. It is called Heirloom Romney, and it is distributed by Fancy Tiger Crafts in Denver, CO. If you have Romney fleeces taking up space in your attic or barn, and would like to sell it for more than any wool pool in the United States offers, you may contact the producer of Heirloom Romney. Her name is Jeane deCoster, and her email address is jeanedecoster@elementaleffects.com She will happily give you the specifications of what she needs and requires of your fleece. She does not take junk, or the skirtings. She wants what you can’t sell or don’t want to market to hand spinners. There are now several breeders on the west coast and in the Midwest who contribute to this great yarn. If you would prefer to talk to me about her product, or anything else ARBA related, please feel free to call me at 530-459-0966.

I hope to see all of you at Black Sheep Gathering. Carol Pasheilich
District 5 Regional Director
tawanda@farms53@att.net
530-459-0966

District 6

Happy Spring from District 6. I hope everyone had a wonderful, and successful, lambing season! We are all waiting for the warm weather to arrive, even in the south. But in spite of the chill in the air, the lambs are running and playing together!

On the front cover of the Ramblings you’ll see a picture similar to the one I saw while reading the latest edition of Vogue Knitting. That photo was captioned: “On the farm at Virginia’s Solitude Wool”. I knew the picture was taken on the farm of Gretchen Frederick, who is a District 6... Continued on page 15
Regional Director applications—Get to Know the Candidates

While elections are over for ARBA District Directors, we wanted to share the candidate applications to give you an opportunity to know some ARBA members.

DISTRICT 2 – Allison Seyfert:
First, I would like to thank you for letting me represent ARBA District 2 since 2015. It has been a busy time as my husband and I bought our own property in Maryland and have been building the farm ourselves from the ground up. We raise both white and natural colored Romneys with a focus on maintaining the breed standards that made me choose the Romney breed almost 20 years ago. In my time as director, I have had the pleasure of planning a regional show at Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival and coordinating the 2017 National ARBA show and meeting at the Garden State Sheep and Fiber Festival, with the great help and support of fellow board and ARBA members. I also started a Facebook group to bring district members together, and provide a place to share information, stories, pictures and advertisements. My plan, should I be reelected for another term, is to have a social/educational gathering of District 2 in 2018-19, begin planning for the 2020 regional show/events, and become more involved in the Policies and Procedures and Youth committees. I have enjoyed serving as your District 2 Director and hope that I am selected to continue doing so.

DISTRICT 2 – Ethan Kennedy:
My name is Ethan Kennedy and I am running for the District 2 board member position. I got my first Romneys in 2007 and have grown to have a flock of about 30 brood ewes. Some of you may know me through my active involvement in the showing side of the Romney breed over the last 11 years. I am running for office because I have had a true passion for Romneys from the very beginning. I would truly love the opportunity to help the board promote what we all love about this breed: everything from fiber and meat productions, to showing and genetics. I want to help the Romney breed be recognized all across the country as a true dual-purpose breed that provides many different avenues of enjoyment for anyone interested. My other main goal would be to continue to help grow the Junior association, and increase involvement of youth. By incorporating more educational events at shows, and continuing to encourage programs like the national futurity program by selling high quality animals, I have no doubt we can increase our youth numbers and safeguard the future of the Romney breed. I think it is time to unify the Romney breed, to celebrate the unique diversity that we have within in the breed, and to show the rest of the sheep industry why we all chose to raise Romneys. For these reasons I am asking for your vote in electing me the next District 2 Director.

DISTRICT 4 – Sue Kalina:
I am the current District Director for Oregon, and enjoy being a part of the ARBA Board. I have raised and loved Romneys for 50+ years. Kalina Family is a three-generation operation with my mom and daughter as partners. (Fourth generation is on the way!) We raise our Romneys for breeding stock, showing, wool and locker lambs. I am also the Secretary/Treasurer of the Oregon Romney Breeders and Oregon Purebred breeders. My daytime job is an Agricultural Loan Officer, but 24/7 I am a shepherd. I have attended ARBA meetings since I was little, with my parents involved with ARBA over 50 years. I am active on the current board with arranging the 2018 annual meeting at the Black Sheep Gathering in June, and am a member of the nominating and Policy and Procedures Committees. I actively use the ARBA director funds to support the Oregon youth at junior shows. I enjoy traveling to the board meetings, as I believe it is important to work with fellow breeders on a personal level around the United States.

DISTRICT 4 – Nicole Murray:
My name is Nicole Murray from Scio, Oregon. As long as I can remember, sheep have been a part of my life. Some of my earliest memories go back to time spent in the barns and fields taking care of our family’s sheep. At the start of my 4-H/FFA career, my mom helped me decide what breed of sheep I wanted to raise, which led to the purchase of my first Romney ewe. The following year I was honored to receive the Oregon Romney Breeders Association starter flock, and these ewes make up the foundation of my flock today. Since then my flock has grown to about 30 ewes, both white and natural colored. I have participated in national and regional shows, and have continued to exhibit my Romneys as an open exhibitor. I am a student at Oregon State University majoring in animal science. I currently serve as a board member for the Oregon Romney Breeders Association, and I’m a proponent of high quality fleece production while maintaining the dual-purpose nature of the Romney breed. I look forward to the future of the Romney breed and this organization.

DISTRICT 6 – Betsy McPherson:
I have been a District 6 director for Continued on page 15
Rambling Roads, continued

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member. She lives in northern Virginia and produces beautiful yarn for her company Solitude Wool. You can learn more about that at www.solitudewool.com

Editor’s Note: Upon further investigation, we learned the rest of the story from Gretchen.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS, cont.

the past 3 years. I live in Montpelier, VA, with my husband Kevin, and have now raised Romneys for 5 years. Being a member of ARBA, and meeting fellow sheep producers, has brought the added inspiration and education that I have valued so much! I have enjoyed representing our south-mid Atlantic states and being a participating member on the ARBA board. In April I will represent our district at the Powhatan Festival of Fiber with a booth to promote our wonderful breed. If re-elected, I look forward to attending the annual meeting that is taking place in Oregon in June at the Black Sheep Gathering.

DISTRICT 6 – Phillip Simmonds:
I am currently a college student studying pre-med, and involved in many different groups and organizations. I am a Romney breeder in the north eastern corner of Kansas. I also raise Anatolian Shepherds and Romeldale/CVMs. I first started raising sheep in middle school. By the time I was 16, I had a herd of 120 ewes of nine different breeds. In 2015 I purchased my first Romneys. After two years, I decided they were the sheep for me. So I sold out of the commercial herd, keeping my smaller flock of Romneys. I currently have 25 head. In 2017 I purchased another 15 Romneys from a couple who were retiring, doubling my flock size. This addition has allowed me to bring in some wonderful genetics, as well as wonderful sheep! I love watching genetics produce different outcomes and that is something very easily seen in the Romney breed. I have made some great contacts within this breed, and met some wonderful people. I still have a lot to learn, but I’ve enjoyed every minute of raising my Romneys.

Director-at-Large –Charlene Carlisle:
My family lives in New Jersey where we operate Little Hooves Romneys. We have raised Romneys for 24+ years, and have been farming for most of our lives. We have 130 brood ewes and grow crops on 300 acres. Currently we sell breeding livestock, lamb to local restaurants, specialty stores and farmers’ markets, as well as wool products and pelts. As in the past, I continue to recognize the importance of our youth and the part they play in our association. I have worked hard on establishing the Youth Futurity Program and strive to grow the youth shows at NAILE and the All American Junior Show. Without the youth we have no future, they will be the next “us”. We must cultivate and maintain their interests. I feel strongly that these youth shows and activities are important to promote our breed and keep us in the public eye. Romneys are marketable and can fill many niche market, including the show ring, dining table, spinning guild and the back yard hobbyist.

When Tanis Gray wrote the book “Knit Local,” we were one of the farms that was profiled. I provided A LOT of photos to the publisher (Vogue), many of which they used, and obviously kept on file. I agreed they could use them at no charge, but did ask that I get photo credit. Nope. They credited my photos to another photographer. And, when the photo appeared in Vogue Knitting last month, they still have it attributed to the other photographer. Oh well. At least they did get Solitude Wool in there!” Thanks, Gretchen, for filling in the details.

Here are the spring festivals coming up in the south: The Powhatan Festival of Fiber will be held April 28 in Pohatan, VA. District 6 will have an ARBA booth there to promote Romneys. Any member who want to participate in displaying their Romney products are welcome to come and join me. The Kentucky Sheep and Fiber Festival in Lexington, KY, will be held May 19-20, and the Middle Tennessee Fiber Festival, Dickson, TN, is set for May 25-26.

Betsy McPherson
District 6 Regional Director
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