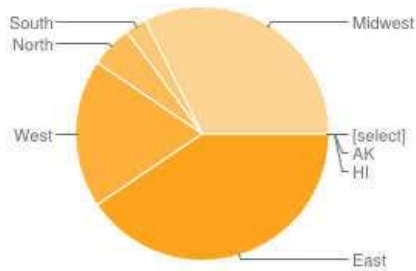


ARBA Survey Results – Spring 2012

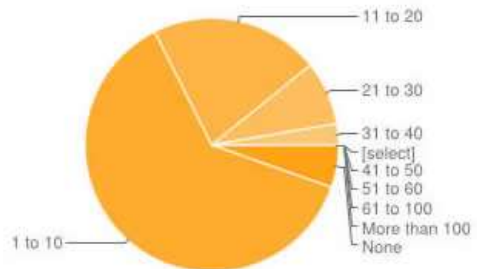
Note: In the pie charts that follow, the “[select]” item on the chart means that the question was left unanswered by the respondent.

1. First, tell us a little about your Romney operation:

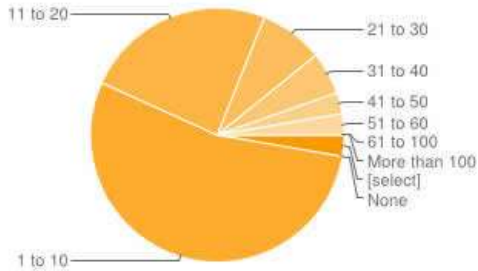
1.A. Where are you located?



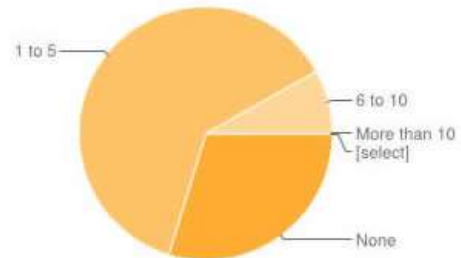
1.D. How many registered natural color ewes do you have?



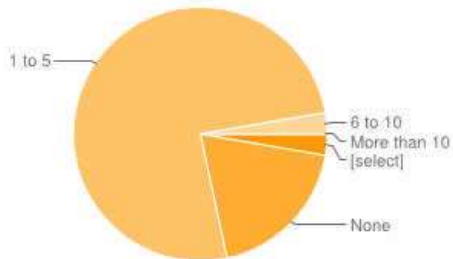
1.B. How many registered white ewes do you have?



1.E. How many registered natural color rams do you have?



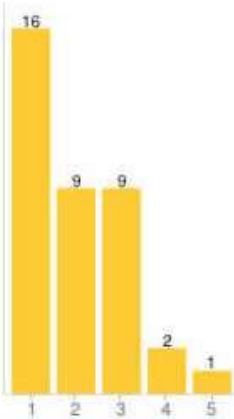
1.C. How many registered white rams do you have?



2. Rank the categories below in importance to your sheep operation:

(1= Extremely important; 2=Fairly important; 3=Somewhat important; 4=Not important at all; 5=no opinion)

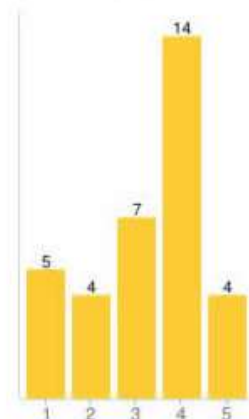
2.A. Breeding stock sales



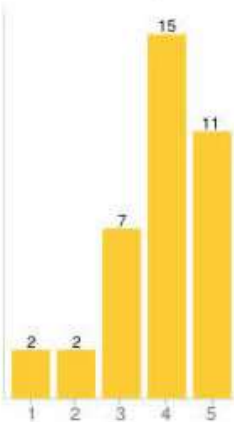
2.D. Pets (having or selling)



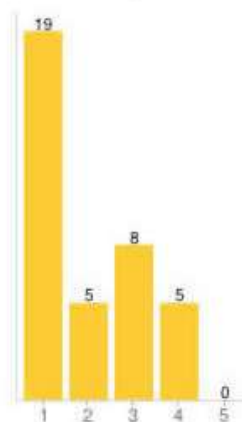
2.G. Sheep pelts



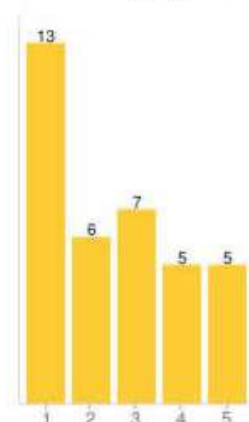
2.B. Meat wholesale sales (like restaurants/stores)



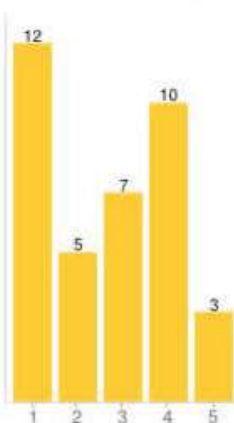
2.E. Handspinner's flock



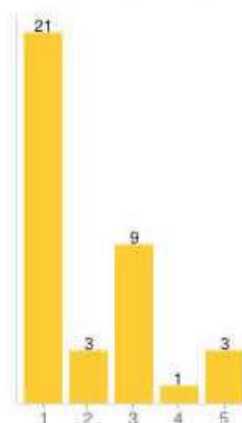
2.H. Youth projects



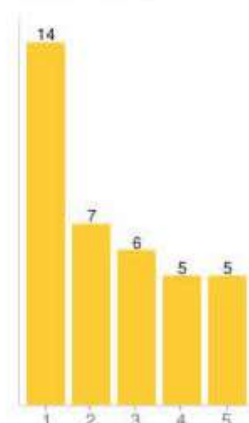
2.C. Meat retail sales (like off the farm/direct sales)



2.F. Fleece, roving, yarn



2.I. Showing



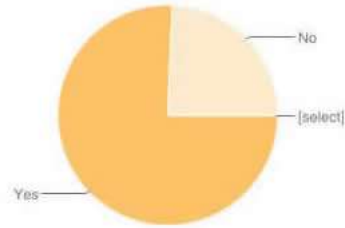
3. How can the Romney organization best serve you and your operation?

3.A. Redistrict to make the districts more even in population.

Yes: 14
No: 22
no response: 1



3.D. Mentoring program where more experienced shepherd or shepherds with an expertise share information with those with less experience.

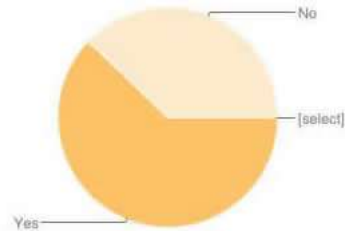


3.B. Romney wool co-op.

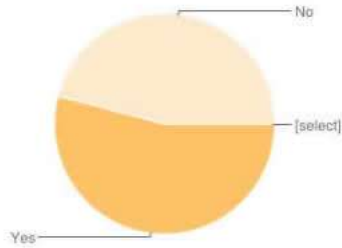
Yes: 20
No: 17
no response: 0



3.E. Romney social events at shows.

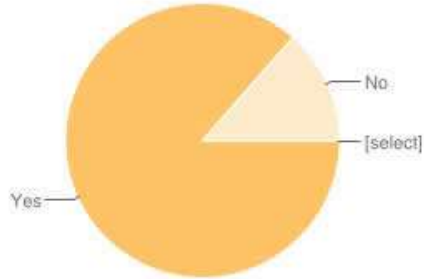


3.C. Romney blanket project.

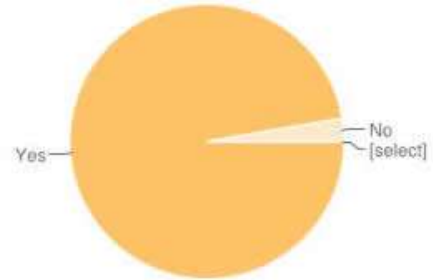


Note: The pie charts are missing for questions 3.A. and 3.B. due to a glitch in the survey software. The raw numerical results are shown instead for these two questions.

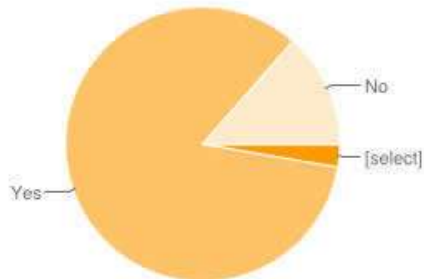
3.F. Educational workshops at regional shows.
(1) On breed standard.



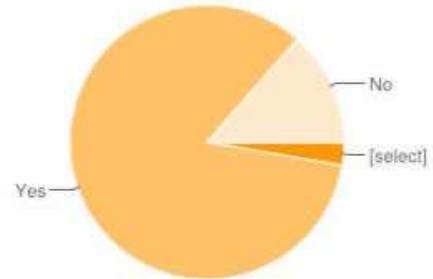
3.G. Education of judges regarding breed standard.



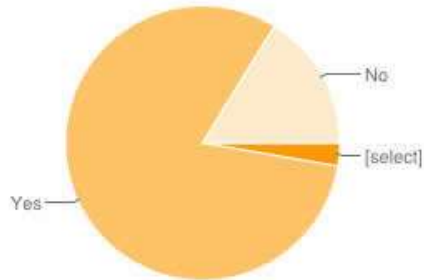
(2) On fiber related topics.



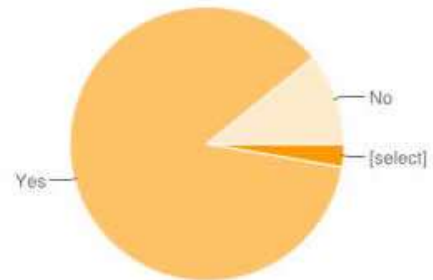
3.H. More articles in Ramblings on sheep management.



(3) On sheep management



3.I. More articles in Ramblings on fiber.



3.J. Other:

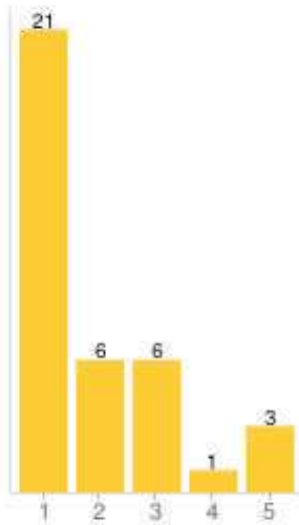
All answers for this question

4. How do you feel the organization is working for you?

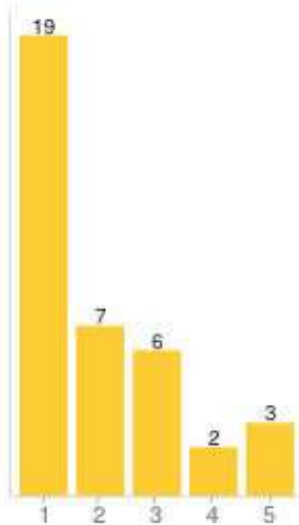
(1=Strongly agree; 2=Agree; 3=No opinion/neutral; 4=Disagree; 5=Strongly disagree)

4.A. How well is ASR (Associated Sheep Registry) serving the membership?

(1) Professionalism?



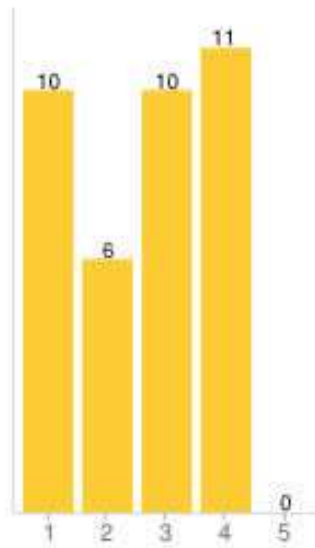
(2) Accuracy?



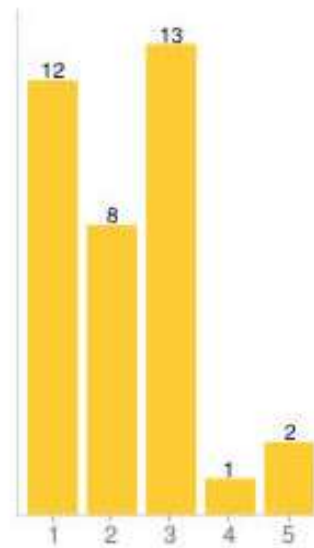
(3) Timeliness?



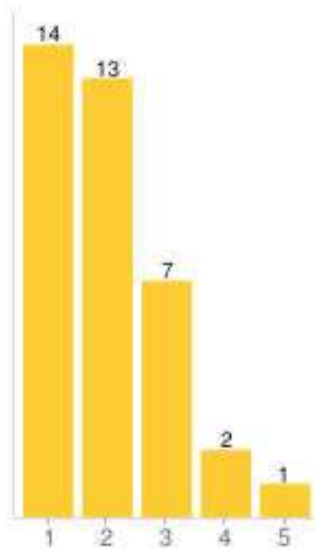
4.B. How well does the ARBA board communicate with the membership by way of:
(1) District Directors



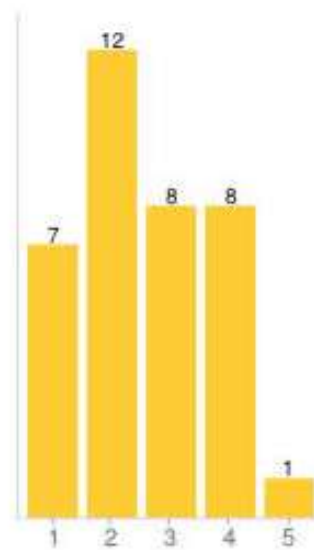
(3) Web site



(2) Ramblings

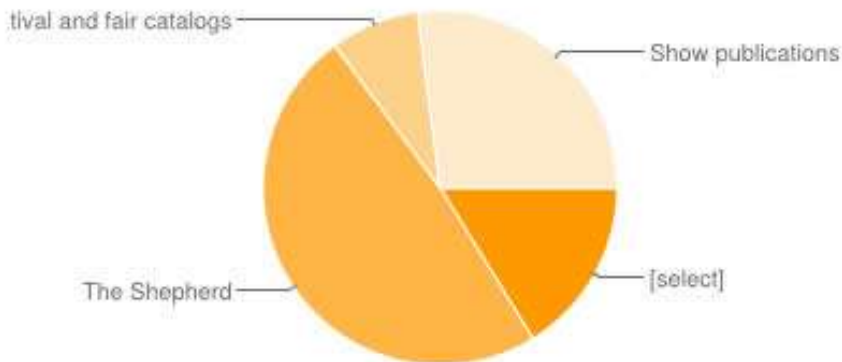


(4) Mailings

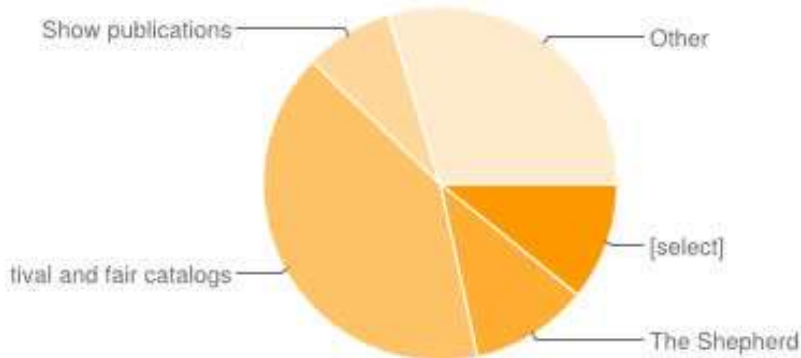


4.C. How well is advertising Romney being accomplished?

(1) I have seen ARBA advertising in/at:

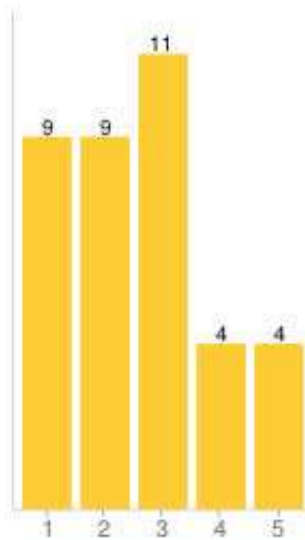


(2) I would like to see more ARBA-sponsored advertising in:



(3) I think the ARBA-sponsored advertising is attractive and effective.

(1=Strongly agree; 2=Agree; 3=No opinion/neutral; 4=Disagree; 5=Strongly disagree)



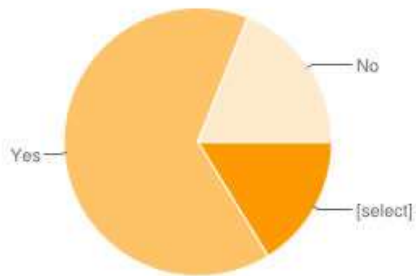
5.A. If there is a topic or an issue we have not addressed that you feel is important, please describe it below, and how the board might go about resolving it.

All answers for this question

5.B. Please tell us how well you feel your directors are serving you, both district directors and at-large directors.

All answers for this question

5.C. Would you consider volunteering to help ARBA accomplish any of these goals or other goals?



5.D. Why do you raise Romneys?

All answers for this question

5.E. Thank you very much for your feedback. You are welcome to provide additional comments below:

All answers for this question

Following are the “text box” survey responses:

3. How can the Romney organization best serve you and your operation?

3.J. Other:

- More show results in Ramblings
- I think Romneys offer a great alternative for shepherds looking for a low labor flock. Can the association promote this more with a little less emphasis on showing?
- Do a spotlight on a different member every month or quarter where that person gives in depth details about their setup and how they manage their flock. It is always interesting to know what others do
- More formal youth projects - like starter flocks
- Just read the conference call minutes from Feb 2012. Unfortunate to see the three letters from "complainers" that were sent in. Sounded like all three had a case of sour grapes and are just trying to stir the pot....The organization would better serve by not even printing those letters.
- Less show info in Ramblings. DNA test stud rams. On farm inspections.
- Big yes on educating judges. But we also don't want to be pests... hard to shift judges values in the show ring. Either way I know I love my girls.
- Stories on special lambs or ewes a person owns and vet comments on things to look for in your herd and how to treat them.
- I just have a feeling that much is discussed and decided upon by those on the west coast. Would like to see more discussion and activities in the Ohio-Michigan area.
- Let's stay friendly with each other, whether we want recessive or dominant sheep, long necks or short, or whatever. Staying friendly is really, really important. In regard to my answers above, I don't go to shows, but I think any friendly education/socialization is really important. Our little "niche" Romneys may be a tremendous asset to the breed someday, so let's all stay friends!
- Promote as dual purpose breed
- Articles geared to the small flock farmer; would definitely like to see more fiber related contests/ classes at regional shows

5.A. If there is a topic or an issue we have not addressed that you feel is important, please describe it below, and how the board might go about resolving it.

- Being a non-show person, I sometimes struggle to find Romney rams being selected for the type of system I have (fine wool, low input, pasture lambing). In fact, that may end up being why I leave the purebred version of the breed.
- A Jr. Board. I think this would give the kids a chance to be herd but also to learn how to run an association because they are the next generation that will someday be the leaders of the romney breed. Also I think that every year there should be a national show and a national sale to help improve the romney image from a spinners breed to a breed that can be very competitive in the show ring at all levels.
- teach the registry people what constitutes a "bb" and "bw" designation on reg. paper I have had several papers made wrong
- More production testing, i.e.: lambing percentages, weight gains, fleece weight.
- Breed purity needs more attention. ARBA has to educate members about the breed standard. The shows have become the worst place to learn about the Romney breed. ARBA is dominated by show jocks. There's not much participation by small breeders.

- Ensuring that the Romney breed stays free of crossbreeding by evaluating large breeders that sell breeding stock.
- honesty
- Resolve conflict.
- There seems to be a lot of focus on showing, yet unlike in other species (like goats), sheep judges are not trained in the breeds they judge. This is something ARBA could take the lead on - we have a breed standard and know how Romneys should be judged. Isn't it time that our shows reflected this?
- In order to continue to produce top quality dual purpose sheep, there needs to be some discussion on breeding for sound conformation, daily gain, multiple births and the elimination of endtropion.
- ARBA needs to welcome new members more extensively - talk to Carol Paselich about her idea of a new member welcome notebook
- I wish they would do a newsletter more often and include in it visits to Romney farms and how that farmer is raising his herd and what they produce. Also a section where people can sell rovings and fleeced and lambs and replacer ewes.
- Just keep us all friendly. From my limited little spot (I don't show), everyone seems very nice, so I have no complaints--But we hear rumblings. . .
- Romney should be The breed in the U.S. The meat should be the meat of choice in restaurants and the fleece should be used to make military uniforms. The board needs to promote the breed in other ways than the show ring.
- How about a judging clinic/ standard breed class for those new to breed? Also, please address the two types of romneys out there- the monsters and the short/ stout "heritage" type; where is breed standard going?
- I believe we need a more stringent breed standard to avoid the problem of having show flocks that do not meet real world needs. The show romney often appears like a Corredale rather than a romney.

5.B. Please tell us how well you feel your directors are serving you, both district directors and at-large directors.

- Most of what I hear about from the Directors is in the Ramblings, and the emphasis is on showing which I don't do.
- they do a good job.
- very well
- My directors have done and continue to do a good job
- The Region 3 Director is totally absent, now and for a couple of years
- Our Directors have a large job and that mostly has to do with the politics of the organization and the Board itself. That leaves little time to work with the membership. Our Board members get ground down and become ineffective. They are a great group of people for the most part but we need to get out of this funk we are in and think more about the sheep we raise.
- excellent job - seems like we have a few complainers in the membership out there that are trying to put a negative spin on the association and the directors - don't let those few negative folks get in the way - keep doing the great job you have done so far.
- doing a good job
- It seems the focus is showing which I'm not interested in doing. I read the minutes but as a pretty much production person I feel pretty isolated.

- Too much time taken up by planning for and putting on shows, which benefit only a small portion of the breeders. Ramblings columns are boring.
- not
- Fine
- Never heard from any director.
- Their work is directly related to what ARBA supports. A regional show, notes for the Ramblings, attending the board meetings.
- Our directors are very supportive and friendly! I am working with directors now to organize youth events.
- having been a District Director I know how much time/effort is spent on shows - it leaves very little time to interface/serve all the members who do not show - perhaps we need 2 directors for each region - one to handle shows and one for other projects
- I do not know who my at large director is.
- I have no idea who my directors are or what they are doing. Better communication would be a good thing. Why can't the district director email all the people in their district to let people know they are there and what they are doing? There is no cost to this, just time.
- I don't show and do not have contact with directors. Not enough Romneys in my area.
- I am a former district director, and understand how difficult it is for directors to get information back from membership. It is a difficult balance. I think at-large directors should have additional responsibilities.
- They have been really personal and responsive, as well as just plain nice, when I have contacted them for any reason.
- My District Director seems to have his finger on the pulse of his district. He knows the members who voted him in and serves them.
- Ok- ramblings give good info; maybe an email as to what they are doing or have planned. Anyway we could work together more on a regional basis?

5.D. Why do you raise Romneys?

- Their temperaments, mothering, adaptability to low input, meat flavor, wool.
- To be able to raise sheep that produce both high quality carcasses as well as quality wool.
- their nature they are a great breed especially when you compare them to some of the other breeds
- They are great!!!
- I love them - I love their personalities, fiber, meat. They are a great breed of sheep and do well in the west. I am getting older and I need to downsize but it breaks my heart to think of not raising Romneys!
- wool products and show animals
- Because of the lovely fleece and calm temperament
- They are a good dual purpose sheep which can produce a significant income from both lamb and wool. They are easy to handle and not too large.
- I like the breed. I've raised Romneys for a long time. If you want help from people taking this survey, how will you accomplish that if this survey is anonymous? BTW, is it possible to go from library to library to stuff the ballot box>
- As a hobby flock, for fleece and lamb sales. I also show them at local fairs.
- Tradition, fun, profit. Easy care, dual purpose, docile, hardy.
- Love the breed and fiber

- Family project that I chose to continue.
- I originally chose the breed because they were dual purpose (and cute!), but have come to love them for their temperament with kids (we do a lot of showing with 4H), and fleece - I am a spinner, and love the versatility of my girls' fleeces.
- Because they are a dual purpose breed, have excellent temperaments and are good mothers.
- Romneys have excellent temperament, are truly dual purpose and have a large gene pool
- I love walking out to the barn and being greeted by sheep that always seem to smile at you.
- I am a handspinner and love Romney fleeces. 2) I like the variety (white and natural color) 3) I like the gentle nature of my Romneys 4) I like the dual-purpose nature (fiber/meat) of the breed.
- I saw the picture and her narrative in Paula Simmons book in the early 1980's-don't laugh, I've had many customers tell me the same thing!
- They are lovely to look at and work with and offer both meat, wool and I have met many other Romney breeders who are great people.
- Dual purpose, easy to handle, wonderful fleece to spin, knit, weave. Great weed eaters.
- Their beauty, disposition, wool, and dual purpose nature. They look the way a sheep is supposed to look. (Please let's keep it that way!!)
- They suit my climate, they are quiet and not too large. They have good tasting meat. The wool is very marketable and I enjoy spinning and felting with it.
- Fleece, joy, models for my artwork. They top the breed charts for disposition, which is very important to me. I sell the lambs for meat, (though we don't eat much meat ourselves), and I know it is very good. These sheep can pretty much support themselves, because of these three characteristics: disposition, fleece, meat.
- They are wonderful gentle animals who produce a very delicious meal as well as fiber to keep us all warm and looking beautiful. I consider them to be THE breed.
- Popularity, personality, fiber
- I sell fleeces, roving, spinner's flocks and pets. We also show, but only within our state.
- dual purpose, temperament, hardiness

5.E. Thank you very much for your feedback. You are welcome to provide additional comments below:

- I love the improved website it is certainly more useful
- You should have said that there was only one survey per person but by limiting to IP address - one should be able to go to another computer on a different network and take the survey again. Trust me - there are those members that will cheat!!
- Thank you for conducting this survey
- I am very discouraged at what has happened to ARBA in recent years. The good people on the Board need an injection of courage. It's become dominated by people whose only goal is to win in shows and sell breeding stock of questionable breed type. Some breeders seem prey on junior members. It's becoming harder and harder to buy breed-standard stud rams that haven't been contaminated by outside genetics. I'll write this again, require DNA testing of stud rams. Or figure out some way of saving this wonderful breed from going the way of so many other so-called pure breeds.
- I think some of the questions didn't fit well in the format and should be rewritten. I would not have known about this if Mary had not mentioned it on 'the list'. Not everyone shows. Those of us who do not are kinda left out of a bunch of social things that the rest of you do.

- Thank you for conducting this survey. This is a great opportunity for people to give feedback. Regarding the ASR questions.....they are doing an outstanding job. What an excellent service they provide to ARBA. They are professional, fast, and a pleasure to deal with!
- Thank you for doing this survey!