



# Romney Ramblings

March 29, 2021

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings!

I hope that this spring finds you all well and enjoying the sunshine and warmer weather! With all that the past year has brought us, the prospect of a more enjoyable summer, with a gradual return to "normal", gives us all reason to feel optimistic for the warmer months ahead.

Although many festivals have already been cancelled for 2021, several are still planning to operate as planned. The Board is making plans, and contingencies, for the 2021 annual meeting. The originally scheduled plan of holding the annual meeting and show in Puyallup, WA has been postponed for this year due to the uncertainty associated with the ongoing pandemic and related restrictions. However, the Board has taken steps to try to ensure that the membership does have an annual meeting, that the show rotation stays intact, and that the members across the country get the same opportunities to participate in ARBA activities.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to say a huge THANK YOU to JoAnn Mast for her years of dedication and service to ARBA. For those who have not heard, JoAnn will be stepping down as Secretary and Treasurer of ARBA later this year. She has been a tremendous asset to ARBA during her time as Secretary and Treasurer, and I know that she will continue to be a great asset for the organization and its members going forward, just in a different capacity. This association is much better for her diligent and tireless efforts!

Best,

Don Burgess

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

## 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

## Welcome to our New Members:

Joining ARBA after January 1, 2021  
Greg and Sandy Kottre Port Orchard, WA  
Jason Weinstein Enumclaw, WA  
Millie Cushwa Martinsburg, WV  
Bayer Sheep Shearing Memphis, IN  
Jennifer Farrington Jay, ME  
Elizabeth Johnston Harbor Springs, MI  
Christine Dahl Bear Lake, PA  
Michele Betit Woodbury, VT

**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](http://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.

**Coming in June Issue: Please answer the following question - Directors and all members are asked to send in replies.**

**What "could" you be doing now to get ready for the next breeding season?**

**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.

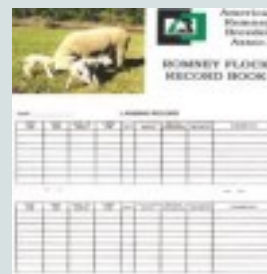
Above rates are based on camera ready copy, sized to fit the space purchased for the ad. Ads prepared by the editor will be charged at \$15 per hour, with a minimum fee of \$15.

Send all advertising information and news to: Patricia Sanville  
4637 Cap Stine Road  
Frederick, MD 21703  
[patriciasanville@gmail.com](mailto:patriciasanville@gmail.com)

## Flock Record Book:

Provides General Sheep Information and space to record lambs born and raised for 1 or several years.

Price: \$3.00 postpaid.



Order now from the  
ARBA Secretary.  
secretary  
[@americanromney.org](mailto:@americanromney.org)

## Rambling Roads: District Director Reports

### District 1: Emma Rogers:

At the time you are reading this, I hope your barns are full of healthy, adorable Romney lambs. Lambing season is always exciting, yet stressful and sad at times. We suffered an unfortunate loss during lambing of a beloved ewe. Despite our best efforts, she was unable to pull through, but I was able to save one lamb. Afterwards, I was feeling discouraged and a little down. A friend texted me and said, "It sucks a lot sometimes, but I wouldn't trade raising sheep for anything." That is exactly how I felt in that moment and I am sure we have all been there. Let's remember to keep pushing through those difficult moments to find the enjoyable ones.

2020 was full of many of those moments, and we are all hoping for a somewhat more normal 2021. As we evaluate lambs this spring, we hope they will enter the show ring, produce quality fleeces and/or make substantial gain rates for meat markets. We may have different individual goals for our Romney flocks, but we all have the same overarching goal: enhancement and progression of the Romney breed. This is important to remember as we come back together for gatherings in 2021 and move towards the future.

If you are on Facebook, be sure to like the District 1 ARBA Romney Breeders page. If there are any events or information you would like listed in an upcoming Ramblings or on the website, please let me know.

### District 2: Patricia Sanville

After inadvertently missing the first article I was responsible for as the new District 2 Director, I was determined to do a good job this time around.

I have only a few things to report at this time:

One, spring is approaching, and with that, the optimism that is felt by those who work with livestock and the land. I have seen many members in our district posting photos of their lambs and I am happy to report that mine began arriving mid-March as well.

Two, there is hope that some of the livestock events and fiber festivals will happen this year as the vaccine rollout continues. If you see changes to any of the shows listed, please let me know.

Here are the details to date –

#### Delaware –

The Delaware Livestock Expo is currently planned for September 11-12

#### Maryland –

The Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival is Virtual Only again this year – May 1-2 - There are many virtual youth opportunities being held in conjunction with The Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival this year including a Jr. Sheep, Goat and Wool Skillathon.

The Maryland State Fair is planning in person at this time August 26 to September 6

#### New York –

Rhinebeck is scheduled for October 14-17, 2021

#### New Jersey –

New Jersey Sheep and Fiber Festival has not yet made an official decision

#### Pennsylvania –

Keystone International Livestock Expo (KILE) is scheduled October 1-10, 2021

Please reach out to me if you are in my district and there are events you would like other members to know about.

### **District 3: Penny Swearingen**



**A Michigan Romney flock in grips of Winter!**

Greetings from District 3!

Our members are cautiously looking forward to the exit from the grips of winter to unfolding of spring. We are in many stages of lambing from winding down to hoping for better weather and Spring lambing. The year 2020 and beginning of 2021 has brought a lot of changes to the face of the Sheep Industry and Romney world. The one Great addition is all the folks sharing snapshots of their Romney world through Social Media, Gaggles and more traditional Magazines and Newspapers articles. Watching lambing progress and all the great pictures of new lambs, their children, faithful dogs and ARBA members has been wonderful!

As Spring of 2021 starts to unfold District 3 is cautiously optimistic that some of the Fairs and Festival's we attend will be a Go even if scaled down or with a different look to them. Later in the article there will be a summary of the Events at this time in District 3 that are a go through August. Wishing all a Great Spring and healthy happy Romney Lambs!

### **District 4: Zane VanHorsen**

The best time of the year is here, LAMBING!

Oregon has had a really interesting year even without the global pandemic. Mother Nature has really been putting us through our paces. I think everyone in our neck of the woods can agree that this year's lambs have experienced more weather before they were born than most see in their whole lives. Lambs conceived during wildfires were born during a terrible ice storm, but healthy lambs are always a blessing!

Vaccines are going out with the hope that events can possibly happen this year. We are hopeful! Currently, I believe there are at least a few county fairs planning to go forward with shows starting in July. It will be wonderful to dust off all the show equipment that was pushed to the side in 2020 and get some of these pretty lambs out strutting their stuff.

I think everyone is excited for more connection in 2021. It was great to spend a year hanging out with just our sheep, but I for one, am excited to go out and see fellow shepherds. I will say 2020 truly showed the innovation of shepherds with so many of us coming together and working with one another to promote our breed as well as make sales for our farms. I am very optimistic about the future of our breed with all of the progressive shepherds we are so lucky to have!



## **District 5: Carol Pasheilich**

Things are very quiet in District 5. Everything is on hold waiting to see what will open up in the way of sheep events. Randy Thompson and Al Schwider have been working diligently on our national meeting for 2021. I am very appreciative for the time they have already spent on this project, only to have it postponed until 2022. I refer you to Emma Rodgers' article about changes to our national meeting schedule.

Once again I urge all of the membership to read the minutes of our board meetings to find out what we do and how your board works for you. The board always welcomes input from the membership on any concern or issue. Happy spring and good thoughts and wishes for successful lambing.

## **District 6: Ken Gossard**

Its finally springtime here in the Ozarks...grass is greening up, freezing temps are behind us. As that below zero weather reminded me of my time up in Wisconsin. With spring brings new life...new lambs running around, the Canadian geese have stopped to hatch their clutches. I tend to take this time of year, to plan out the year of production. How to tweak grazing schedules, looking forward to plan when to market lambs and so on. But, the best time is spent watching new mothers and new lamb interact with each other. Its a new generation on the ground, full of new promise and to little lambs full of new things to get into.

With that, a question was posted in a Facebook group that I am a member of. The question was a very simple one at first...What are you doing to pass the craft on? Now, this group has absolutely nothing to do with sheep or agriculture. It was a musician group, mainly of people that have another profession than music. But, that question has resonated with me for over a month now. As what am I doing to pass my knowledge on to other people? This can be from community concerts that I do, to even to taking lambs into the local elementary school or even promote the virtues of the animals I raise. That question has kept popping into my head...what am I really doing to pass on a craft/interest/knowledge?

Just last week I had a local young person email me, about wanting to get a few sheep for their 4H project. After a few emails back and forth, I said...come on over and lets see what I can do for you. We set a date and time. When they showed up, the kid was FULL of questions, even a few I had to think about before answering. As this kid was thirsty for knowledge, they had done their research beforehand. Decided that they wanted wool sheep, instead of hair sheep that abound around here. As was looking for dual stream of income. The kid was about 6 or 7...I did not know what dual stream income was till high school! While they picked out a couple of ewes and their lambs. Was going to seal the deal in their words. They had their cash in hand, but at once that question popped into my head. I decided, since they had done the research and had a business plan...another thing I did not learn about till later in life. I decided, it was worth some financial loss for me, to see someone so young and willing to learn to step up to the plate. That the only way to pass on the craft was to let the younger generation step forward.

I remember when I bought my first Romney ram, from the Caulfield's in TN...many moons ago. I was still in high school at that time. They sold me their Champion Ram at NAILE for \$200. With the stipulation of to enjoy the Romney breed. I still think about that conversation with Kim, now some 25ish years ago. They could have used that ram, sold him for more money. But, they asked a fair price to someone that was starting out in the breed. Even today many generations later in the flock, most of my animals go back to that ram...Caulfield 188.

When getting the paperwork for the kid, I noticed that the pair of ewes they picked both went back to my original ewes and that ram. 25+ year later, I am still enjoying the breed, and I get to pass on the work of myself and the breeders before me that passed on their work. At times we need to remember, its not always about the money, or the ribbons/banners we have. Its about showing our craft to someone that is new, inquisitive and willing to learn. They are the ones that are going to remember those humble beginnings. That someone has passed the craft onto them, and stepped back and watched them grow.

With that, I will pose the question to the ARBA membership now...What are you doing to pass on the craft? Are you promoting the breed, by education, involvement or getting Romney sheep out in the public eye? Its spring, the new awakening of the earth. Take the time to think about how you can pass on the Romney breed.

## Director at Large: Charlene Carlisle

### Sunday Selfies!

With any kind of luck, the term “Sunday Selfies” is not new to our ARBA audience but just in case you may have missed this fun activity, let me explain. In February 2021, a new Junior experience was initiated. Our Junior members were encouraged to take selfies every Sunday and submit to ARBA’s Instagram page or ARBA’s Jr FB page. It’s not supposed to be difficult or homework, just something fun, easy and spontaneous. For anyone, not using these types of social medias or don’t have the time, but want to submit photos, please feel free to send to me and I will post for you. Most Sundays we’ve had 12- 15 photos submitted. The photos do not need to be specifically sheep related, they can be whatever one might be doing on a Sunday, whether it is cooking breakfast, studying, hanging with the family or working in the barn, whatever makes our kids tick! So far, the pictures have been so much fun and any comments from folks checking in, make them even more fun. As the weeks go by, if interest starts to decline, options might be added like, show us pics of your favorite lamb, favorite chore companion, favorite piece of farm machinery, best reading book suggestion, favorite Sunday breakfast food or favorite pair of barn boots, etc. There are so many photo topics that can be explored. This started out as a project for the juniors but a few adults have jumped on board, which makes it fun for the kids to see that we care enough to participate, comment and laugh with them. I would like to suggest that anyone who hasn’t looked at these pictures to do so when you get a chance, I think they will bring a smile to your face. Hopefully, these photos can be added to a file on the new web site so they can be enjoyed by members and visitors alike.

Anyone interested in more information or submitting pictures, please feel free to contact me at

[c.carlisle@LittleHoovesRomneys.com](mailto:c.carlisle@LittleHoovesRomneys.com)

or text to 609-760-0399. Hopefully the kids are enjoying this...all I can say is that on Sunday morning, I can’t wait to get my cup of coffee and start looking for the newest photos. **(look throughout this newsletter to see some of the selfies that have been submitted!)**



## **NEW SHOW SCHEDULE FOR ARBA**

ARBA is very excited to be bringing the next National Show to the west coast. Plans have been underway for some time for the National Show to occur at Washington State Fair in Puyallup, WA in September of 2021. Thank you to all who have been working towards this event. Unfortunately due to many unknowns of spacing, occupancy and local/state COVID guidelines, Washington State Fair is unable to host the event for 2021. After much consideration the ARBA board has voted to postpone the 2021 National Show until 2022 at Washington State Fair in Puyallup, WA. We are in the process of making plans for an alternative annual meeting for 2021 either virtually or occurring at the 2020 location of New York Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, NY. The dates are October 16-17, 2021. Mark your calendars! Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

Additionally, the decision to postpone the 2021 National Show, alters the Annual Meeting and Show Rotation Schedule. National Shows will now be held in even years instead of odd. Districts 2, 4 and 6 will have the opportunity for Regional Shows in 2023. Here is a chart of the upcoming Regional and National shows by location. We look forward to seeing many of you in September 2022 in Puyallup, WA!

## **NEW ARBA SHOW CYCLE**

	ARBA Show Cycle				
		<b>Annual Mtg/ Show Loca- tion</b>			<b>Year</b>
<b>District Shows</b>		East (Rhinebeck)/ virtual			2021
	National	West			2022
2,4,6		Midwest			2023
	National	East			2024
1,3,5		West			2025
	National	Midwest			2026
2,4,6		East			2027
	National	West			2028

## **\*\*\*\*\* New Website to Launch!!!! \*\*\*\*\***

We are pleased to introduce you to ARBA's newly redesigned website! Our official launch date is April 1, 2021. The web address will remain the same: [www.americanromney.org](http://www.americanromney.org).

While the address remains the same, you will notice different graphics and photography; a more modern look; better searchability features; dropdown tabs. There are some other exciting features coming in the future but for now – please check out the new site and let your board representative know how you like it.

Please contact Patty Sanville, web committee chairperson at [www.patriciasanville@gmail.com](mailto:www.patriciasanville@gmail.com) with any questions or if you identify any needed corrections.



## What is Moorit and what its inclusion in the registry means for the American Romney Breeder

Christian Posbergh

### Moorit = Brown

Moorit is an old Icelandic word that roughly translates to “as red as the moors”. The moorit variants result in a sheep with brown fleece, skin, nose leather, hair, etc. There are many different shades of brown ranging from a light fawn to dark chocolate, all of which generally fall under a Moorit classification. You can distinguish a moorit sheep from a black sheep by looking at the fleece, skin, nose leather, etc. Sometimes sun-bleaching of the tips of black sheep makes it appear brown but when you look at the nose/tongue/etc it reveals its true nature. While it is tempting to lump moorit in with other color patterns, such as those generated by Agouti variants, it should be thought of as the base pigment for the animal. In sheep there are only two options for pigment, black or brown.

### Two DNA variants cause Moorit in the Romney

First, a little genetics background: Every sheep has two copies of chromosomes (26 pairs plus X&Y) which are composed of DNA in specific sequences of A's, C's, T's, & G's. On these chromosomes are genes which can be transcribed & translated into proteins. Each gene can have multiple versions or choices which are known as alleles. This genetic code contributes to what we see expressed in the animal, also known as the phenotype. So, to recap: all our sheep have 26 pairs of chromosomes which contain genes that code proteins which impact how we see the animal perform and at each gene there can be different alleles present (but at most only 2 in a single individual).

The B-locus, which determines black versus brown, is known to have two alleles: *B* (or *+*) which is dominant and produces the black eumelanin and *b* which is recessive and produces the brown eumelanin when homozygous in an individual (Adalsteinsson, 1983). In brief, a Romney must have 2 copies of the *b* allele in order to be phenotypically brown. If they have two copies of *B* or have a copy of each *B* and *b*, they will be phenotypically black. In the Romney there are two DNA variants thought to cause moorit. The first is a change in exon 3 changing G base pair to a T. This exon 3 variant causes an amino acid change from Cysteine to

Phenylalanine affecting the final protein composition. The other variant located in exon 4 results in a C to T base pair change. This change introduces



a premature stop codon halfway in the TYRP1 protein, effectively reducing the final size of the protein by half! Unfortunately, because there are two variants at play contributing to brown color a brown Romney could be either of these three genotypes (exon 3 genotype, exon 4 genotype): 1. TT GG or 2. CC TT or 3. CT GT while in Finns/NC Fines it should be TT GG and in Icelandics/Shetlands it should be CC TT. No matter what genotype a brown sheep has, it needs to have two altered copies of TYRP1 to have brown coat color.

### What this means for you

Unless you have purchased ARBA registered Romneys with an M or MM designation, you do not need to make any changes to your registration protocol. Nearly all romneys in the US are black-based and do not carry moorit. ARBA has implemented a protocol for keeping track of moorit within the gene pool and is publishing recommended changes to the registration form to ensure ASR and breeders can properly track its presence in the registry. This designation on the registration paper allows you to decide if you want to breed with moorit lines or not, very similar to breeders now that choose to breed solely white Romneys or specific breeding lines.

While you may choose not to breed with Moorit lines, it is important to know of its existence in the gene pool so ARBA can properly track it and provide a bit more certainty that unexpected colors will not emerge at lambing.



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

### The Little Red “School” Barn

The Education Committee is happy to continue providing tools for our membership in their journey of raising one of the great breeds of sheep. In October we launched Zoom Education Sessions in conjunction with the Annual ARBA Meeting. So here is the plan we have for you over the next few months: Three exciting opportunities to learn something new.

#### **ONE: Moorit:**

A Zoom Presentation on the Moorit genetics in the Romney breed was given by Melissa Wubben for the ARBA Annual Meeting in October. That presentation is being loaded onto the Website.

Specific Requirements for Registration of Moorit's is in place and discussed further here in the Ramblings. They are also explained on the Website and you will see the change in the Registration form when registering your sheep in 2021.

#### **TWO: “Meet our Meat”, Romney the Dual-Purpose Sheep:**

Another Zoom presentation is being developed to provide the ARBA membership with some detailed information on Lamb produced by Romney's. Such information as the Ethnic Markets and Dates, Breakdown of the Wholesale and Retail Cuts, Carcass and Meat Evaluation and Working with your Butcher to provide the best product. We will post the details for this Presentation on the Website, Facebook sites and in the Gaggle format.



#### **THREE: “So You Want Romney’s?” A new Owners Guide to Romney’s**

We are starting to develop the platform for providing information to new Romney owners. This may be provided through various mediums such as the Ramblings, Facebook, Website, brochures, Magazine and Zoom education. This information will be provided directly to the new owners but also available to breeders supplying seed stock so they can help educate their new members. You will start seeing this theme in Ramblings moving forward.

### **ARBA Futurity Program 2021** **Charlene Carlisle, Director at Large**

**Update to Futurity Program:** Due to Covid restrictions last year there were no entries into our Futurity Program. This year we are going to change it up and next year we will reevaluate our goals and tweak as needed. In this issue of the Ramblings there will be an announcement regarding the National Online Sale. In conjunction with the National Sale, we will have a National Sale Online Futurity Show. This online Futurity Show will be for just ewes sold in the National Sale. If an ewe is purchased in the National Online Sale for or by a Junior, that ewe will automatically be pre-entered (with no additional fee) into this online show. The ewe will need to be prepared for the virtual showing and photos/videos submitted. They will be divided up into classes by age and color. Prizes will be offered for class winners with cash premiums being paid to the exhibitor and the breeder of the Champion & Reserve Champion Ewes of each color. It is our hope to encourage the Breeders to put in their very best and encourage our youth to show them in our Futurity Show. More specific details to follow, looking forward to a new wave of enthusiasm as we try to return to a more normal show season. Please check out the National Sale article in this edition of the Ramblings. Please feel free to reach out with questions.



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**March 1, 2021**

**California Wool Growers Association Hosts 101st Annual  
California Ram Sale**

**Sacramento, CA. – California Wool Growers Association (CWGA) is hosting the  
101st Annual**

**California Ram Sale on Saturday, April 10, 2021 at the International Agri-Center, Tulare, CA.  
More than 500 rams including Crossbred, Hampshire, Oxford, Suffolk, and White-Faced rams  
will be offered from California, Colorado, Nevada, Idaho, and Utah.**

**Ultrasound carcass measurements (i.e. loin eye area) and a Range Ram Index will be provided  
on all sale rams. The Range Ram Index utilizes ultrasound carcass data collected at the sale  
and will help to identify the potential genetic merit of those rams in passing superior genetic  
traits such as larger loin eye area or heavier carcass weights into producer flocks.**

**This years' Ram Sale Trade Show will feature a variety of sheep health and equipment  
companies showcasing products developed to address sheep production, nutritional, and health  
needs.**

**Ram Sale information including the sale catalog, schedule, lodging information, directions, etc.  
is available on the CWGA website at [www.californiawoolgrowers.org](http://www.californiawoolgrowers.org). To request a Ram Sale  
Catalog, contact the CWGA office at 916-444-8122 or [info@woolgrowers.org](mailto:info@woolgrowers.org).**

**Sale Schedule – Saturday, April 10, 2021**

**9:00 am Buyer Check-In & Ram Preview**

**9:30 am Trade Show**

**11:30 am Complimentary Buyer BBQ Lamb Luncheon**

**1:00 pm Ram Sale Auction**

**Location: International Agri-Center, 4500 S. Laspina Street, Tulare, CA 93274**

**Contributions and the proceeds from the California Ram Sale support CWGA in its continued  
efforts to deliver lasting value to support and grow all segments of the California Sheep Industry.**

**For questions, contact the CWGA office at (916) 444-8122 or [info@woolgrowers.org](mailto:info@woolgrowers.org), Wes  
Patton at (530) 514-7250 or John Olagaray at (209) 663-7322.**

**Since 1860, the California Wool Growers Association (CWGA) has been the voice of the  
California sheep industry, delivering lasting value to support and grow all segments of the  
California Sheep Industry. For information or questions about CWGA, please contact the CWGA  
office at 916-444-8122 or [info@woolgrowers.org](mailto:info@woolgrowers.org).**

## **2021 ALL-AMERICAN JUNIOR SHOW HEADING TO ILLINOIS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS 27 YEAR HISTORY**

The 2021 All-American Junior Sheep Show is going to be held at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL from July 1-4, 2021. This will be the first time the All American has visited Illinois and we are looking forward to bringing the show to a state that is a hot bed for the purebred sheep industry! The Illinois committee is hard at work, planning the show and we all are very optimistic on the show going ahead this year in Illinois. Yes, there will be COVID-19 safety protocols in place to ensure this event's happening and hopefully as the spring progresses we won't have to implement all we are gearing up for, but we will do whatever is required of us to have a safe and healthy event for all of exhibitors and their families! Special for this 2021 show only, the upper age limit has been extended to include those who are 22 years of age as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, we want to make sure that all of exhibitors have the experience of showing and knowing they are in their last All American.

The All-American is the premier and largest junior breeding sheep show in the country. The breeds participating this year are: Polled Dorsets, Horned Dorsets, Dorset Advantage, Hampshires, Southdowns, Border Leicesters, Cheviots, Shropshires, Oxfords, Montadales, Romneys, Shetlands, Lincolns, Natural Coloreds, Tunis, Dorpers, White Dorpers, Columbias, Corriedales, Katahdins, Merinos, Suffolks and Rambouillets. Two new breeds have joined the All American this year, Texels and Babydoll Southdowns will also have breed shows; and two breeds have returned, the Targhees and Cotswolds. Several meat breeds will feature slick shorn classes at the All-American and several wool breeds will be highlighted once again this year. Judges for this year's event will be Rick Klampe, OR; Neal Knapp, IN; and John Mrozinski, IN. The National Junior Southdown Show, National Junior Tunis Show and National Junior Suffolk Show will be held in conjunction with the All American Junior show this year.

If you have never attended an All-American Junior Show please make plans to attend this very special event! It is much more than just a sheep show, as there are several activities for the whole family. The show features a lamb camp for the young sheep owners, a 3-on-3 basketball tourney for the exhibitors, a sheep skil-a-thon competition with several participation awards being sponsored, a sheep judging contest, free complimentary food service for exhibitors and their families, a team showmanship competition, wool show, promotional contests for exhibitors that also features an adult age photo division, a college scholarship program for older exhibitors, a thank-you note writing booth where participation awards are given away, a fun virtual shearing contest, and a lead line and dress-a-sheep competition, plus much more!

The All American extended the show schedule by a half day two years ago and will continue to do so this year as it worked out very well for all of the attendees and staff. Sheep actually need to arrive by Thursday, July 1st at noon as all check-in will take place on Thursday. Activities actually start Thursday afternoon with the Judging Contest, Fitting Demos, Lamb Camp and Leadline & Dress-A-Sheep Contest. **Prairie Farms, Edwardsville, IL** will be sponsoring the Ice Cream Treats for everyone.

The Opening Ceremonies will kick things off on Friday morning, July 2nd followed by Showmanship Classes and some Breed Shows. On Friday night there will be the ever popular 3 on 3 three basketball tourney and the Harry & Mary Blome pizza party. The site for this year's basketball tournament will be right on site next to the Swine Barn in the Commodities Pavilion. The Illinois planning committee is still working hard on organizing some other special activities for the rest of the weekend and updates will be posted on the All American website. Come and enjoy the family fun!

**Honor Show Chows** has become a major show sponsor and will be back with us in Illinois. **Weaver Leather** is also a major show sponsor providing embroidered wether blankets for the champion and reserve champions market lambs as well as an AJJS hanging show box for our new junior raffle ticket selling incentive program. **Kalmbach Feeds** is returning as a Major Show Sponsor for the show in Illinois. We also have two new major Corporate Show Sponsors: **Diamond D Ranch**, Warner, OK and **Ewe-Nigue Gifts**, Lake Geneva, WI. Welcome them to the All American Family and thank-you! **Sydell** has generously donated the hydraulic trimming stand for the All American Raffle fundraiser and **Hopkins Southdowns** has donated the wireless Bose headphones for the raffle. **Tractor Supply** will be providing prizes for the ever popular exhibitor thank-you booth and has also become a general show sponsor. The **American Lamb Board** will be donating some of the thank-you notes for the booth. **Finder Hampshires** will be donating the halters for lamb camp. **Willoughby Livestock Sales, Profiles Show Supplies, Stockyard Style and Corner Post Farm** are also on board as general show sponsors. **Novel Designs** is donating their services as the AAJS web site host and thank-you to them for doing a great job. **Theisen Designs** will be at the show once again doing our show apparel. They donate back a portion of their proceeds directly to the All American Junior Show, thank-you!

The AAJS will once again be hosting a benefit Ram Semen Online Sale Auction on May 17, 2021. The sale hosting services and organization has been donated by **Integrity Livestock Sales**. Please contact Mike Crowder directly at 765-366-3135, email: [mike@integritylivestocksales.com](mailto:mike@integritylivestocksales.com) with your consignments. We are looking for 2-5 straw lots donations of stud rams to be sold with all benefits going to the AAJS. If you want to support the All American and don't necessarily have ram semen to sell, other items can be consigned also.

At the Midwest Stud Ram Sale, Sedalia, MO during the Supreme Champion Show on Wednesday, June 16, the AAJS Benefit Auction will be held and this year we will be auctioning off some very exceptional items! **Ketcham Sheep Equipment** has donated an A-Frame 10' Feeder and Mineral Feeder, **Reproductive Specialty Group** has donated an ET flush and transfer surgery and 5 LAI surgeries, **Banner Magazine** has donated a one color page ad, **Mumm Sheep Equipment** has donated two folding gates, and **Premier 1 Supplies** has donated a pair of their new cordless shears. Specifics and details on all items can be found on the AAJS web site. Thank you to **Heartland Group** for allowing us to do this special benefit at the sale as this has become a major fundraiser for the show. Please be on hand or contact the AAJS show committee to bid on these special items!



Our Illinois host committee is being organized by Melanie & Darrell Hall, Brian & Jill Mohr, Jeremy & Cassie Crouch, Lanny & Jami Bowman, Brad & Julie Angus and other fellow Illinois sheep breeders. A big thank-you also goes to all the Illinois sheep families involved in the local planning committee. Several local sheep breeders and youth supporters have stepped up to the plate to organize events and volunteer to help out. It is thanks to all of you that this show will be a special All American for our junior sheep exhibitors and their families.

The Illinois planning committee is in the middle of fundraising for the show. To date they have gotten the following sponsors: **Legacy Grain Cooperative, Stonington, IL; Sloan Implement, Assumption, IL; Illinois Farm Bureau, Bloomington, IL and the Brockmann Family, Garden Prairie, IL.** Thank-you to them for their support! We look forward to getting more local Illinois supporters on board this spring. If you are interested in supporting the Illinois show contact Melanie Hall: 217-454-5751, [bliff2011@gmail.com](mailto:bliff2011@gmail.com)

Room blocks have been reserved at the following area hotels:

**Hotels with Group Rates:**

Northfield Inn (70 room block)

3280 Northfield Drive

Springfield, IL 62702

(217)523-7900

Standard Rooms at \$104.00 (non-smoking, double queens)

Group Name: All American Junior Sheep Show, cutoff date for group rate 5/31/2021

Ramada Springfield North (25 room block)

3281 Northfield Drive

Springfield, IL 62702

(217)523-4000

Standard Rooms at \$104.00 (non-smoking, double queens)

Group Name: All American Junior Sheep Show, cutoff date for group rate 5/31/2021

Holiday Inn Express (25 room block)

2050 S. Dirksen Parkway

Springfield, IL 62703

(217) 529-7771

Standard Rooms at \$99.00 (non-smoking, varying hotel room types)

Group Name: 2021 All American Junior Sheep Show, cutoff date for group rate 6/2/2021

Residence Inn Springfield South (25 room block)

2915 Stanford Avenue

Springfield, IL 62703

(217)527-1100

Studio Suites at \$114.00 (non-smoking, king size bed & pull out sofa with kitchen & living room)

Group Name: All American Junior Sheep Show, cutoff date for group rate 6/9/2021

Candlewood Suites (30 room block)

2501 Sunrise Drive

Springfield, IL 62703

(217)522-5100

Studio Suites at \$89.99 (nonsmoking, varying room types)

Group Name: All American Junior Sheep Show, cutoff date for group rate 6/9/2021

**Camping:**

Illinois State Fairgrounds (actual show site) (Note: the State Fair is planning on opening the campground as of May 1<sup>st</sup> and showers will be open in June & July for onsite events.)

Camping rate is \$25.00 per night for campers and \$15.00 per night for tents. Campground is located in the southwest corner of the fairgrounds which is just downhill from barns. Campground includes some electricity, water, restrooms with showers, some sewer hook-ups and dump station. The Illinois State Fairgrounds Camping Supt. or Security will issue all camping permits. No reservations required, pay when you arrive at fair campground.

**Entries close: MAY 25th, 2021.** There will be a higher entry fee for any late entries submitted after the deadline date and post entries at the show. Check out the All-American Website: [www.allamericanjuniorshow.com](http://www.allamericanjuniorshow.com) for entry and further information.

The All-American Junior Show Committee has four major fundraising activities that are held to help raise funding for this special junior show. Following is information on these activities and the show would certainly appreciate your support in these fundraising efforts:

## **AAJS RAM SEMEN ONLINE BENEFIT AUCTION**

Sale will be held on May 17, 2021 on Integrity Livestock Online Sale Site at:  
[www.integritylivestocksales.com](http://www.integritylivestocksales.com)

Please support this major fundraising event by bidding on semen lots, and some specialty items will also be offered.

All proceeds will go directly towards the All American Junior Show.

## **ALL-AMERICAN GIFT BASKET & SPECIALTY ITEM SILENT AUCTION**

Gift Baskets and specialty items will be on display during the duration of the All-American Show for bidding. Bidding will close on Sunday, July 4th at noon. Basket and item donations would be greatly appreciated. Just bring them to the show in East Lansing!

## **ALL-AMERICAN JUNIOR SHOW RAFFLE TICKETS**

Cost \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00

1st Prize: \$1000 Cash Prize

2nd Prize Sydell Hydraulic Trimming Stand (\$530 value)

3rd Prize: Bose Quiet Comfort 36 II Wireless Bluetooth Headphones (\$279 value)

Tickets are available at the Continental Dorset Club Office, P.O. Box 506, North Scituate, RI 02857. Many sponsoring breeds mail out raffle tickets with their office work and annual dues notices so when you see them PLEASE lend your support! Junior show exhibitors also have raffle tickets to sell and they will be trying to be top salesman in our popular ticket incentive program so help them out by buying tickets from them! Final drawing will take place on Sunday, July 4th. Need not to be present to win. The high selling raffle ticket juniors will be receiving some great prizes!

## **ALL-AMERICAN JUNIOR SHOW BENEFIT AUCTIONS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021 (During the Midwest Stud Ram Sale Supreme Champion Show) EARLY EVENING, SWINE BARN MISSOURI STATE FAIRGROUNDS, SEDALIA, MO**

Ketcham Sheep Equipment has A-Frame 10' Feeder and Mineral Feeder  
Reproductive Specialty Group had ET Flush & transfer surgery and LAI surgeries  
Banner Publications has donated a one page color ad in "The Banner"  
Mumm Sheep Equipment has donated two folding gates  
Premier 1 Supplies have donated a set of cordless electric shears.





## Moorit Romneys: Innovation Through Color

By Cara Nixon

They're dual-purpose, sturdy, colorful, unique, and have exquisite fleeces – these are Moorit Romney sheep. Over two decades ago, Kirsten Holbo brought this unique color pattern from New Zealand to the United States, revolutionizing the American sheep industry.

The Moorit color pattern is recessive and displays as a brown pigment. Moorits can range in color from light taupe to deep chocolate brown and are typically born dark, with some lightening with age.

Holbo was born in Nevada, moved around during her childhood, and eventually ended up in Albany, Ore., where she has now resided for over 30 years. She attended nearby Oregon State University for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees, in animal science and agriculture and resource economics, respectively.

Though she grew up with sheep, Holbo did not truly realize their value until she witnessed innovative sheep raising as a junior in college in 1984. That year, she participated in a life-changing exchange trip at Lincoln College in New Zealand through OSU. It was there that Holbo experienced the entirely different New Zealand sheep industry and also saw her first Moorit colored fleece and fell in love.

On that same trip, Holbo stumbled into an artesian market and found a beautiful booth with wool weavings. The woman running the booth was expert spinner and author Anne Field.

"I didn't realize meeting her would be so profound for me," Holbo said.

Field's kindness, generosity, and knowledge inspired Holbo's life-long love of wool.

Two years later in 1986, now with her own ranch, Iron Water Ranch, Holbo reached out to Field for advice. Holbo started out raising Romneys and Dorsets, but the Romney wool won her over, and after seeing the beautiful Moorit fleeces on Romney sheep in New Zealand, she wanted to improve the limited Natural Colored Romney genetics in the U.S. Field put her in touch with the main fiber suppliers of Ashford Wheels and Looms and owners of Tally Ho Natural Coloured Wools, Don and Janet Peel.

Don and Janet were able to help Holbo with her dream of improving the Romney breed by providing her with pure-bred Natural Colored and Moorit Romney rams to import to the U.S. Although the Moorit color pattern was a goal, the increased genetic diversity of U.S. Romneys was always the primary objective.

Rather than shipping rams from New Zealand to the U.S., Holbo wanted to import semen straws. This is because rams which are shipped long distances often die or are infertile when they arrive at their destination, due to differences in climate and stress on the body. Importing rams takes a great deal of time and money, so selection of the semen straws is an important and long-term task.



*An IWR Moorit Romney.*

After correspondence with Peel, in 1996, Holbo imported the first Natural Colored Romney straws from the Norham Park stud in New Zealand to the U.S. In 1998, she imported two more, a Tally Ho and Woollyn. After



that, every two years, Holbo imported more and more stud ram straws, including from the Hi-View, Mana, Viewhill, Tresco, Edenbank, Aurora, Rosebank, and Offord flocks.

Holbo ended up in contact with Julia Aspinall, an incredibly skilled laparoscopic AI tech, of Genetic Gains Ltd. in New Zealand who also worked with Holbo in the selection of high quality Romney rams to import. Aspinall also travelled to the U.S. to perform LAI on Iron Water Ranch's Romney ewes.

"Performing AI on the level that Julia does is really something," said Holbo, "She is so skilled and calm with the sheep. After the first time I saw her work, I knew I wanted her to be a part of my venture."

It took years of trial and error to start getting Moorit lambs, but the lambs sired by these New Zealand rams were something completely different than those Holbo had seen before. The lambs were immediately vigorous after birth, wool production increased, and survivability in grass seed fields skyrocketed. The hybrid vigor of using top quality, entirely unrelated Romney rams increased the quality of Holbo's flock by leaps and bounds and made the inherent expense immediately worth it.

Holbo, with the help of her three children, spent many years making sure to avoid inbreeding their Moorit Romneys—and all of their breeds—by using a variety of bloodlines and taking their time with import selection. Iron Water Ranch said this is because they value genetic diversity in their flock. Progeny are expected to meet the higher standard breed expectations; those that don't meet those standards are excluded from the breeding program.

In 2001, the first Moorit patterned lamb was born: a little ewe lamb, named "Pineapple" by Holbo's children, who would set the precedent for what was to come.

"We've got the metrics on these animals, regardless, of color before we ever import them for their functionality as sheep," Holbo explained, and the ranch continues to keep metrics on their offspring in the U.S.

Essentially, though Iron Water Ranch loves Moorit sheep for their color, they are still expected to meet the highest standard set forth for the breed, have excellent wool growth, as well as sound mothering abilities and all of the positive traits expected of the Romney breed.

Iron Water Ranch also monitors production values on all of their sheep. All of the Romneys are tested for disease, rate of gain, and more before they arrive.

Iron Water Ranch now breeds Romneys, Bluefaced Leicesters, Columbias, Merinos, Corriedales, Romeldales, and Jacobs due to her children's interests, but Romneys still hold a special place in Holbo's heart. Her favorite part about breeding them is holding them when they are born strong and healthy and working with their wool. "That really makes me happy," Holbo said. "It's so fun. Nothing beats it."



*Holbo holds an IWR Moorit Romney lamb.*

Though the importing of Romneys benefits her and her ranch significantly, Holbo said she didn't import them only for her personal gain. In fact, she believes the improvement of this breed has advantages for the U.S. network of sheep breeders, the sheep industry in general, and the progress of agriculture.

"I believe that it's the responsibility of those in agriculture to be constantly innovating and looking to the future of our industry," Holbo said. "And I believe Moorit Romneys are the next step in all the incredible things innovators and Romneys can do."



## **Modifications to ARBA Registration Form:**

### **to Reflect White and Natural Colored Sheep to include Moorit**

Please be advised that the ARBA "Registration Application" form is being modified in the following ways:

1. New column—the ARBA "Registration Application" form has been modified to include an additional column that must be filled in for all sheep being registered, not just moorit or carriers. The column will reflect whether an animal is a moorit carrier (M), a fully moorit sheep (MM), or has no known Moorit genetics (N/A). The column must be filled in by any breeder who registers a sheep with ARBA, regardless of moorit genetics.
  - a. In the case of breeder error in the new column, AR will automatically carry a designation of "M" on the papers of any animal descended from a registered "M" or "MM" animal.
  - b. An "M" designation will NOT be added to any registration where neither parent is registered with an "M" designation. An animal that is incorrectly identified as moorit cannot be registered as such when it does not come from parents registered as moorit or moorit carriers.<sup>i</sup> (An "M" designation WILL be added to any registration where at least one parent is registered with an "M" designation.)
  - c. The designation between "M" or "MM" is the responsibility of the breeder. AR cannot determine if an animal displays moorit coloring ("MM") or does not display moorit coloring, but is a moorit carrier ("M") without visual confirmation.
2. New color of registration certificates for moorit Romneys – Registration certificates for moorit sheep registered with ARBA will be colored green.<sup>ii</sup>

<sup>i</sup>For those rare circumstances where a Moorit sheep is produced by two non-Moorit parents, the ARBA science committee will develop a protocol to determine how to appropriately register such sheep.

<sup>ii</sup>For those sheep already ARBA-registered as "M" or "MM", new certificates will be issued at no cost to the breeder

## **2021 National Sale Online Futurity Show (October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021)**

This will be for ONLY ewes sold in the National Online Sale on 5/18/2021

Juniors must be 21 years or younger as of Jan 1, 2021

A picture of front and back of registration paper must be provided

All Romney Ewes sold in the National Sale (to Juniors) are pre-entered, no additional entry fee is required

The new owners will be required to send in photos/videos for each entry

It is recommended that sheep and the youth prepare for the photos/videos as if they are actually entering the showing in person (both the sheep and the exhibitor should be show ring ready)

The Jr owner must hold the head but may have another Jr to set feet, and photographer can be adult or Jr

Premiums & awards will be offered (see below)

Unlimited entries (but must have been purchased on National Online Sale)

T-Shirts for all participants

### **Classes:**

#### **(Divided into White & Natural Colored)**

Yearling Ewes

Fall Ewe Lambs

Winter Ewe Lambs (born between Jan 1 – Feb 15)

Spring Ewe Lambs (born Feb 16 and later)

### **Video/Photo Details:**

Head Shot (showing ear tag and scrapie tag)

Side Profile (left and right)

Rear View

Front View

Wool Shot in 3 areas (Shoulder, Mid Side and Hip)

No filters and no editing

### **Class Awards:**

#### **(Divided into White & Natural Colored)**

Yearling Ewes Prize

Fall Ewe Lambs Prize

Winter Ewe Lambs Prize

Spring Ewe Lambs Prize

Grand Champion \$100

Reserve Grand Champion \$50

Breeder of Grand Champion \$50

Breeder of Reserve Grand Champion \$25

Judging will be completed within 2 weeks and winners notified

Winners will be announced in Romney Ramblings, ARBA web site, FaceBook & Instagram

More details to follow

## American Romney Breeders National Online Sale for 2021

This year due to Covid issues and the uncertainty of what fairs may actually be opened and operating, it has been decided to have our National sale online. This will be a new format for us as an association and for most of us on a personal level. The sale will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and managed by Integrity Livestock Sales. Integrity Livestock Sales comes with a very good reputation and has been working with other associations to handle their annual sales as well. Basically, it operates as follows: The consignor will complete a basic template (excel sheet) and return to Mike Crowder at Integrity ([mike@integritylivestocksales.com](mailto:mike@integritylivestocksales.com)). If the column on Excel sheet doesn't apply to you, just leave it blank. There is a comment column so feel free to write a descriptive statement regarding your specific consigned animal. Codon is not required but recommended. It is up to the consignor to take the pictures and send in with consigned lot to Mike. The information needs to be to Integrity by May 3rd, 2021 so they can get it uploaded and available to the public. Entry fee can be sent to Charlene Carlisle, 510 Centerton Rd, Moorestown, NJ 08057. Integrity takes a 10% commission but will return 5% to ARBA with a portion to be given back to the Juniors. Premium checks should be back to the consignor within 14 days after the sale.

\*\*\* sale info goes to Integrity via email \*\*\* entry fee goes to Charlene via snail mail \*\*\*

### Basic Sale Information

All sheep must be registered with ARBA

Yearlings and lambs can be entered, both rams and ewes. To enter a ram you must also enter one ewe, if you wish to enter a 2<sup>nd</sup> ram, then you must enter 2 additional ewes.

Entry fee is \$20 per head, this \$20 will also enter your ewe into the 2021 Futurity Program (which is slightly different this year). Please make check out to ARBA but send to Charlene Carlisle, 510 Centerton Rd, Moorestown, NJ 08057. Please see article regarding Futurity Program in this edition of the Ramblings.

Health papers will need to be provided by the consigner. Should a ram (or ewe) be sold to a state that requires special testing, it is expected that the seller and the buyer will mutually work together to meet state regulations. It is important to network for transportation options. Assist new buyers in securing rides especially if they are new to the breed or sheep in general. There are plans to have some shows in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri in May, June and July, so there should be trailers heading east and west.

All ewes sold to youth members will be entered in the Futurity Online Show with a scheduled date of October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The purchased ewe must be put in the new Junior owner's name at the time of the sale, cannot be transferred to another youth or owner at a later date to participate in the Futurity Online Show.

No limit on entries but enter the best quality that you can for our National Online Sale

## American Sheep Industry Update:

CFAP totals as of February 7<sup>th</sup>. This is not a final number, as data is still coming in on this program. In addition, the USDA will be reopening sign-up for CFAP 2 for at least 60 days beginning on April 5, 2021.

	2/7/2021
<b>CFAP 1.0</b>	
Lambs <2Yrs	\$ 49,957,272
Sheep >2Yrs	\$ 15,135,218
Wool NonGraded	\$ 2,670,009
Wool Graded	\$ 1,592,257
Total	\$ 69,354,756
<b>CFAP 2.0</b>	
Sheep	\$ 87,132,765
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 156,487,521</b>





## ROMNEY PROFILES:

### Now for our Romney Profile from District 3:

Morgan Fitzsimmons graduated this Fall from Junior Member to Adult membership and is continuing her involvement in the Romney breed.

#### Morgan Fitzsimmons-

"I grew up in Mineral Point, Wisconsin, on a dairy farm. I currently attend Iowa State University and study Agriculture Education – Communications Option. My career goals and plans include working in marketing and communications within the animal ag industry. I am looking forward to an animal marketing communication internship with Cargill this upcoming summer.

I have shown market lambs and Southdowns through 4-H, and after meeting my boyfriend, Casey Lobdell, I became more involved in showing more breeding sheep. Casey has a flock of fitted Dorset ewes that we enjoy showing. His cousin, Cassidy Lobdell, had recently started her Romney flock, and after being exposed, we chose to purchase a natural-colored ewe lamb. I am very thankful to Cassidy for getting me started and guiding me while buying the start of my flock. Casey and I have indeed worked together to grow our small flock to a total of 10 natural colored Romney ewes. We are focused on producing sound, functional ewes with high-quality fleeces. Our goal is to maintain high-quality females that will work in our operation and others.

Our real reason for our ewe flock is to raise quality individuals for the show ring. We are looking forward to selling top quality breeding and show stock. Unfortunately, not every ram or ewe can make the show ring. The Romneys have been great to sell into local ethnic markets. Being very close to Chicago and Milwaukee, we have robust demand for this market. I am looking forward to being able to market the fleeces from my ewes as well.



## 2021 Purebred Producer of the Year



The  
Plank  
Family

Hillsdale, Michigan

### Celebrating ARBA Members Honored with Michigan Sheep Producers As- sociations

**"2021 Purebred Producer of the  
Year"- Willis Plank Family**

from Michigan Shepherd News by Karen  
Scovill

"Willis, Christine, Caitlin, and Ethan Plank are the recipients of the MSPA Purebred Producers of the Year. They raise Romney and Cheviot sheep in Hillsdale.

"It has been a pleasure to watch the Plank family's flock grow and become one of the top Romney flocks in the nation", the nominator wrote.

This past November, the Planks had three of the four Supreme Champions in the Open Romney show at Louisville. Caitlin and Ethan have both shown at the "All American Jr. Sheep Show". Their Romneys and Cheviots have both received awards on the local, state and national levels. It is a true family flock as Willis grew up raising sheep and passed that love on to the rest of his family. The Plank family have also been big supporters of the "All American Jr. Show" not only through showing, but by serving on the Michigan committee since 2006. "

## Another Romney Profile this time from District 4:

### Introduce yourself and your farm:

My name is Nicole Ferguson. I am a 24 year old shepherd living in western Oregon in the heart of Romney country! My farm's name is Covered Bridge Farm which is named after the large number of covered bridges that are found in our area. I co shepherd my flock of sheep with my mom, LaVonne Murray. We raise white and natural colored Romneys, white and natural colored Horned Dorsets, and my husband and I raise Khaki Campbell ducks.

### How long have you had Romneys & why did you pick the breed?

I have been raising Romneys since 2007 when I purchased my first Natural Colored Romney ewe as the start to my sheep 4-H project. When I started my 4-H project my mom wanted me to explore the sheep industry beyond the breeds that were most commonly seen at the youth shows and county fairs. I chose Romneys, with some guidance from my mom, because of their mild temperament, their tolerance of wet climates and hoof rot resistance, both of which are very important in western Oregon as we have heavy rain here over half of the year. The fleece producing aspect of the Romney breed was also a big influence. I was interested in learning to spin at the time and had already learned to needle felt and knit during my first year of 4-H.

### What is your favorite Romney memory?

I know the show ring is not everyone's cup of tea but my favorite Romney memory is my biggest accomplishment in the show ring!

A little background first. I have never been a big winner in the show ring. We have some very well known breeders in our area who have been raising Romneys for decades, which makes the competition very steep! A good day in the show ring for me is when I am consistently in the middle of the pack. Fleece shows have always been where my flock has been most competitive.

In 2009 I attended my very first Romney National Show. I brought two ewe lambs. One of these ewe lambs was a Natural Colored Romney ewe lamb out of my first Romney ewe. There was a huge turn out for the Spring ewe lamb class that year and that little ewe lamb had the honored distinction of being placed 26 out of 26!

Fast forward to 2017. At the Oregon State fair there are some special awards that the wool sheep breeds compete for. They are known as the Golden Fleece Awards. In 2017 I had a young flock of Natural Colored Romney lambs that were all grandchildren of that ewe lamb who got 26 out of 26 at the 2009 Romney Nationals. This young flock had received best fleeced young flock during the Romney show so they were eligible to go back into the ring to compete against all of the best fleeced young flock. I was really excited to be even going back into the ring for this award but didn't expect much to happen. We were all blown away when we received the 2017 Golden Fleeced Young Flock Award! We didn't even remember there was a trophy for this award until we were out of the ring as it was not at ring side during the judging. It was a big accomplishment for us as we had never had a win like that before!

### What innovations would you like to see or have seen in the sheep industry?

During my time in the sheep industry I feel that I have really seen the rise of social media in connection with small farm promotion and added value product marketing.

When I started raising Romneys and selling added value wool products there were a handful of sheep producers who were using their online presence to build a community and market their added value products.

When I first started my flock, blogging was the media of choice along with Facebook. Then Instagram really took off and seemed to change the game. It was easy to post a pretty picture with a nice caption or story and reach a much larger audience. The use of social media expanded the ability to reach people across the world but still made those people feel a connection to your farm and the sheep, even though they might never have the chance to visit you in person.

### What would you like to see happen to the future of the Romney breed?

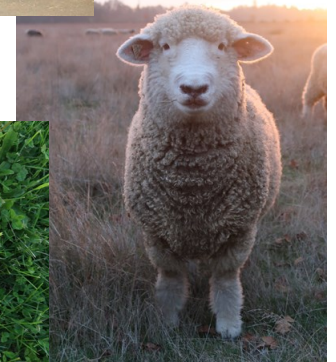
As someone who grew up as a Romney youth to now having a future Romney youth something I would like to see is an increased interest in Romneys and a stronger youth community for those Romney youth here on the West coast.

There are a small handful of youth raising Romneys on the West coast. Many I have seen leave Romneys behind after a few years or they are only seen at county fairs. As a Romney youth myself I had no connection with my Romney peers of the Mid West and East coast. I knew a few names but that was about it. I had no idea about the Romney youth community until I served as a district director the year following my last year as a Romney youth.

I am not sure how this can be changed or remedied as the western states have some disadvantages to our mid west and eastern peers.

On the West coast our states are so large that I hardly ever saw the Romney youth from the surrounding states. To put the scale of our states into perspective here in Oregon we are ranked 10th for most square miles of all the US states. The West coast also doesn't have any shows that compare to NAILE or the All American Jr Show. If a youth wants to compete at a youth show out West the only opportunities are Jackpot shows. In order to get to shows like NAILE and All American it is very expensive for a youth to haul sheep. I never had the opportunity to go to either of these shows even though I dreamed of going. The popularity of the club lamb shows also is a big draw as parents seem to be overwhelmed by all the wool and the youth enjoy the competition and big wins and awards of the club lamb shows.

This is something I hope can be remedied so that there will still be Romney producers out West in the years to come.





## From the Secretary:

**JoAnn Mast, ARBA Secretary/Treasurer**

This year is certainly moving forward quickly. The ARBA board met in January, set goals and committees worked to prepare reports and updates for the meeting in early March. The outcomes of this work can be reviewed by reading the minutes posted on the website: [americanromney.org](http://americanromney.org).

Membership renewals have been arriving since the end of November, with over 120 members sending in dues to remain active in 2021. Most paperwork is being sent to the secretary, rather than Associated Registries, where the animal registrations and transfers are submitted. Please continue to send all membership forms and payment to the secretary. Watch for an address change the first of July, when Chris Posbergh will become the ARBA secretary.

Elections for association leadership and directors is coming soon. The nomination process is underway and ballots will be mailed to all active members in May. If you want to be a voting member, you must be an active/senior member, not junior member, and have a paid membership for 2021. All voting is done via mailings, and turn around time is short. Be sure to open, vote and return ballots soon after they arrive. If you have an interest in serving in one of the vacant positions, please contact one of the Directors at Large. All contact information can be found on the ARBA website.

Plans for ARBA hosted events are uncertain, so please use social media, the website, Ramblings newsletter and calls to your District Director to confirm whether or not events will be taking place. The annual meeting, national show and sale, and other activities regularly supported by ARBA are still on hold until decisions relating to COVID-19 are made.

Continue to promote and enjoy your Romney sheep and sheep breeders in your part of the country. The breed and the association both have qualities that are worth supporting and promoting. Be part of keeping this organization moving forward.



Online Sale May 2, 2021

<https://www.wlivelstock.com/auction/12383>

Select group of White & NC Romneys  
Rams & Ewes will be offered

 Little Hooves Romneys



## 2021 Election of Board Members: Are you ready to join the board?

The process of electing officers to serve on the board of ARBA is in progress. Positions to be filled this year include president, vice president, director at large (1), and district 1, 3, 5 directors. All active/senior members with memberships paid by April 1, 2021 will be provided mail in ballots. All candidates must be current members of ARBA. Listed below is the schedule for nominating and electing officers.

March 10 – April 10 submit self-nominations to president

April 1 – May 1 solicit and submit names for positions to president

May 15 candidate statements due to ARBA secretary (200 word biography)

May 25 ballots mailed to active membership list

June 10 ballots returned to ARBA

July 1 ballots counted and results sent to president

July 25 results of election announced by president

### DISTRICT DIRECTOR DUTIES:

The primary duties of the District Director are as follows:

1. Act as the contact point for breeders within the District
2. Ensure district members are familiar with resources on the ARBA website
3. Oversee district promotion and administer the district promotion budget
4. Represent the district at all meetings of the Association
5. Supervise the District and National shows held within the district

6. Participate in the nomination process for other board members per bylaws
7. Compose District update columns for each edition of the Romney Ramblings, and compose one article each year for a national sheep publication determined by the board (ex. The Banner)
8. Serving on one or more board committees

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE DUTIES:

The primary duties of the Director at Large are as follows:

1. Act as a contact point for Romney breeders within the ARBA membership region.
2. Assist breeders in using information included on the ARBA website.
3. Assist District Directors in your area with ARBA sponsored district events.
4. Present information and questions from members/breeders at ARBA board meetings
5. Assist with planning, promoting and presentation of National shows, sales and fund raising
6. Assist with planning, promoting and presentation of the ARBA annual meeting
7. Participate in the nomination of District Directors per by-laws
8. Submit items for the Ramblings, Website, and Publications to promote the work of ARBA
9. Serve on one or more board committees

If you have an interest in serving on the board, submit your self-nomination to Don Burgess, president, or to one of the directors for your self-nomination or to be nominated by the committee securing names for the ballot. Candidate statements, 200 word summary of your interests and experiences, are due to the secretary by May 15. This information will be included with the ballots.

## Contact Us!

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Supreme Champion Ewe & Supreme Champion Fleece  
2019 Michigan Fiber Festival



**Quality Romneys  
Quality Fleeces**



Reserve Champion Wool Breed Fleece  
2019 North American International Livestock Expo

[www.3landsfarms.com](http://www.3landsfarms.com) 3L&S Farms on Facebook [pswearingen@dmcibb.net](mailto:pswearingen@dmcibb.net)

**Penny Swearingen**

**8280 Cranberry Lake Rd, Jonesville, MI 49250 517-610-1421**



**AT Wlivestock.com**

**Selling 20 head  
White & Natural Colored  
ROMNEY**

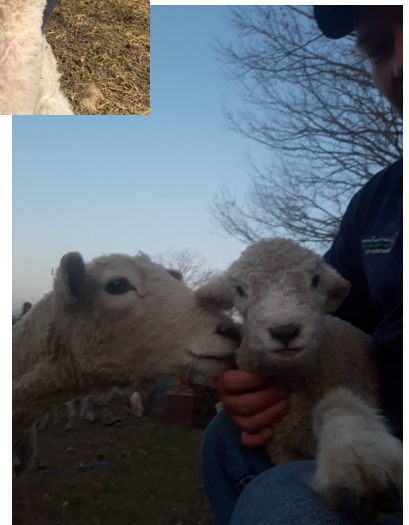
**2 & 3 Yr. Mature Brood Ewes**

**Yearlings Ewes**

**Lambs-Ewes & Ram**

**June 8, 2021**

Contact Plank's for more info 517-437-2984  
or [Willis@lucky-buck.com](mailto:Willis@lucky-buck.com)  
EC Plank Facebook



## Happy Trails

JoAnn Mast

I have many great memories, have received much aid and assistance, been greeted warmly and shared many lively stories during my time serving as the editor of the Ramblings and as the ARBA Secretary and Treasurer. As with many things, the time seemed right for sharing these opportunities with others. Whether it was timing, or the desire of others to see me hit the trail, all looks good for the future. I have enjoyed doing both jobs but am happy to move on to other projects.

I will continue in the secretary/treasurer position through June 30, 2021. It will then be filled by Chris Posbergh, Romney breeder, ARBA member and past president. Chris and I worked together as he served on the board and as president. He indicated an interest in the secretary/treasurer position, so the time seemed right to follow up on that interest. I appreciate his interest and desire to serve in this position, and to make my retirement a reality.

The Ramblings has a new editor and is also moving forward in good hands. Patricia Sanville has assumed the job of editor. This edition is her first newsletter for ARBA, but not her first publishing effort. Continue to offer input, ads and photos to assist Patricia in promoting ARBA, Romney sheep and Romney producers.

I have enjoyed meeting breeders from across the country, hauling sheep to places as remote as mine, and seeing the support for youth and adults at shows, festivals and sales. Hauling will be more of a Pacific Northwest adventure, and the show ring is probably best left as a pre-COVID activity. Thanks for all the help given to my roles, and please provide support of those taking over.

## New Beginnings – Challenge Accepted!

Patricia Sanville

I am honored to be trusted to follow in the footsteps of JoAnn after her many years of service to our membership in so many ways. I am going to “try” to be as competent as she has been at producing a newsletter we can all be proud of.

JoAnn has assured me that she will be available for questions and to lend me a hand if I should need it. I appreciate that so much.

Now, a bit about me.

I began my journey as a shepherd when we moved to Maryland in 2009. I had always had an attraction to sheep, ever since I saw them in Williamsburg, VA, as a little girl, just 4 years old.

We almost bought sheep in 2003 while living in PA on a 3-acre property. I was just missing a few things like fencing and know how.

I’m glad we didn’t do it then. Our next stop was RI where we lived 6 minutes from the beach, and I spent every day walking up and down the shores looking for beach glass and homeschooling our youngest 2 children.

My husbands career took us next to MD. Here we settled on a property with a house and a shed and lots of open space. This was my moment. Four months later I bought my first sheep at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. Just one sheep. A Natural Colored Romney/Corriedale cross. She was lovely. Jet black. Wild eyes. The owner was kind enough to bring her to the farm for us. When they pulled in, they realized that we only had this one sheep, some chicken wire, wood lattice, and t-posts with a million zip ties holding all of it together. The kind gentleman informed us that we could indeed put her in that space, but she would likely be gone by morning looking for a flock to be with.

I spent the night in the garage with Pepper. We bonded. I cried, she cried, she knocked over bicycles and trashcans and nearly broke a mirror that had yet to be hung in our new home. I had no idea what I was doing, and she was non-judgmental of that fact. The next day we bought 2 more lambs, purebred Romneys and they began their friendship in that very field. Never once escaping. I learned so much from those original three sheep.

Things have changed a lot in the almost 12 years since then. My current involvement reads as such:

I am on the board of Directors for the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association, I am President of Frederick County Sheep Breeders Association (MD), I am Maryland’s Executive to the American Sheep Industry (ASI), I am on the Legislative Action Council for ASI, I am the ARBA District 2 Director, I am a 4-H leader and volunteer, I am co-chair of the Ag-Education Committee at the Great Frederick Fair, ...

... And now I am the editor for the Ramblings Newsletter.

Please let me know if you have any ideas for improvement as I move forward as your new editor. I won’t take it personally – I promise.



# Anchorage Farm Romneys

**RECESSIVELY COLORED**

**WHITE**

**DOMINANT COLORED**

**"We do not show anymore.....but our genetics sure do"  
Congratulations to the following Romney breeders for their  
faith in our breeding program!**

**Pitchfork Ranch, Michigan**

**Supreme White Ewe 2019 New York State Sheep & Wool Festival Anchorage  
Bloodlines Breeding**

**Melissa Cunningham, Connecticut**

**Supreme Fleece 2019 Big E on a fleece from "Jake"  
Supreme Ram at Goshen and Durham Fairs awarded "Jake"  
Sire of "Jake" is Anchorage 1421**

**Courtney Lyman, Massachusetts**

**Lyman 1801—Best Nat. Color Fleece 2018 NAILE Junior Show  
Lyman 1802—Champion Nat. Color Romney Ewe NEYSS & Sussex, NJ  
These twin ewes are out of an Anchorage ewe**

**Tabitha Westermann, New Jersey**

**Champion & Res. Champion Romney Ewe - 2019 Sussex, NJ 4-H Show  
Champion Romney Ram - 2019 Sussex, NJ 4-H Show  
These three Romneys are all Anchorage breeding**

**Penny Freeman Kemp, Connecticut**

**Champion Ram and Best Fleece with Anchorage Farm 1661  
at 2019 New Jersey Sheep & Fiber Festival  
Champion Ram at local 4-H Show, also AF1661**

**Kylee Cole, New York**

**Reserve Champion Natural Colored Longwool Ewe at Dutchess County Fair**

**Contact us early for all your show and breeding needs!**

**Owners  
Stephen & Lizbeth  
Shafer**

**To Our Romney Friends  
Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year**

**Inquiries To  
Graeme Stewart  
845-399-2379  
anchorage1@earthlink.net**

***Anchorage Farm 8 Mynderse Street Saugerties, New York***

Calendar of Events:					
EVENT	DATE	VIRTU- AL	IN- PER- SON	CAN- CELLE D	NOTES
Washington State Lambing School	Apr 3 & 17				Lamont - Washington WSSP.org
Fiber Expo	Apr 10-11		yes		Washetenaw Fairgrounds - Ann Arbor, MI
Shearing School at Shepherd's Cross	Apr 15-17				Claremore - Oklahoma Shepherdcross.com
Illini All Breeds Sale	Apr 16-17				Bloomington - Illinois (309)785-5058
Bakersfield Ram Sale	Apr 23 (1 day)				Bakersfield - California
National Dorper Show and Sale	Apr 23-24				Duncan - Oklahoma (860)539-7592
Indiana Premier Sheep Sale	Apr 24 (1 day)				Greefield - Indiana (317)498-6932
Connecticut Sheep, Wool and Fiber Expo	Apr 24 (1 day)	yes			
Washington County NY Farm & Fiber Tour	Apr 24-25		yes		washingtoncountyfibertour.org
Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival	May 1-2	yes			virtual only - lots of online competitions
Scarlet and Gray Jackpot Show	May 8 (1 day)				Madison County Fairgrounds - Ohio
Solomon Farms Fiber Arts Festival	May 13-14		yes		Fort Wayne - Indiana
Kentucky Fiber Festival	May 15-16				
Mid-Ohio Lamb Classic	May 22 (1 day)				Holmes County Fairgrounds - Ohio
Massachusetts Sheep and Woolcraft	May 29-30	TBD			will decide by April 1
Great Lakes Fiber Festival	May 29-30		yes		Wooster - Ohio
All American Junior Sheep Show	July 1-4		yes		Springfield - Illinois - Illinois State Fairgrounds
Hoosier Hills Fier Festival	June 4-5		yes		Franklin - Indiana Fairgrounds
Hancock County Jackpot	June 5 (1 day)				Hancock County Fairgrounds - Ohio
Old Washington Breeding Sheep Show	June 12 (1 day)				Guernsey County Fairgrounds - Ohio
Chasing Banners Lamb & Goat Jackpot	June 13 (1 day)				Crawford County Fairgrounds - Ohio
Buckeye Livestock Expo	June 26 (1 day)				Holmes County Fairgrounds - Ohio
Northeast Youth Sheep Show	July 15-18				
Fiber U (Missouri)	July 17-18				
Deleware State Fair	July 22-30				
Ohio State Fair	July 27-Aug 8				Ohio Expo Center
Indiana Livestock Junior Expo	July 28-Aug 1		yes		location pending -possible Reg.Romney Show
Michigan Fiber Festival	Aug 18-22		yes		Allegan - Michigan - Allegan Fairgrounds
Maryland State Fair	Aug 26-Sept 6				
Delaware Livestock Expo	Sept 11-12				
Champaign Sheepman's Fall Frenzy	Sept 25-26				Champaign County Fairgrounds - Ohio
Rhinebeck	Oct 14-17	TBD			
Keystone International Livestock Expo	Oct 1-10				
NAILE	Nov 13-18				
Maine Fiber Frolic				yes	



American Romney Breeders Association  
4637 Cap Stine Road  
Frederick, MD 21703

### New Year - Same Message - this was worth repeating!

Marketing Strategies Requested As events are cancelled and postponed, the usual way of doing business has been impacted. Don Burgess, ARBA president, asked board members (last year) about methods they have successfully used to promote products and secure buyers. If purebred sales, wool festivals, county and state fairs, auction barns and regional gatherings have been part of your plan, you made need to adjust. If you have been able to do business without the above list, and are willing to share, please send information to the secretary for posting on the website. Any ideas will be accepted, so please take time to help with marketing. These same challenges still exist a year later.

Transport of sheep may be greatly affected as shows and sales are not taking place as usual. It is hard to quote prices, locate haulers and have animals prepped to move across state borders when there are no destinations in sight. If you or anyone you know is planning to move animals across country, it is quite possible there are breeders with sheep to move. Letting members know your plans could help off-set the normal expenses of travel, and get sheep to new owners.

An advantage of being in the agricultural business is that most producers can continue to purchase supplies and do business as usual. However, there will be those not able to utilize farmer's markets or be able to afford items needed for conducting business. If your usual employment ends, your management will be impacted. If you have purchase agreements pending, whether as buyer or seller, flexibility may be needed to finalize the plan.

Please consider sharing your ideas and staying alert to new strategies used by others. On-line sales are an option, the classified listing on the ARBA website is available, farm and personal websites are used by many and the ARBA Directory has a listing of many breeders across the country. Good luck with all you have planned to achieve, and don't hesitate to share.