



SEPTEMBER 2020

Romney Ramblings

Newsletter of the American Romney Breeders Association

2020 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association will be held on Saturday, October 17 at 4:00 p.m. eastern, and will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome to join the meeting, and we value member participation and input.

The Education Committee is working on programming to take place in conjunction with the annual meeting: educational presentations for all members, and one or more online activities especially for junior members—please check the website for details between now and October 17!

Due to new Zoom policies, you must sign up to join the meeting. To sign up, email ARBA vice president, Anne McIntyre-Lahner at olympiafarm@att.net. Indicate your interest in participating prior to the October 17 meeting date.

2020—The Year of Many Unusual Events

Whether you are masking up to show your sheep, meeting outside instead of inside, conducting business via Zoom or conference calls, rushing to avoid the effects of hurricanes or wildfires, wondering how to market livestock and fiber, deciding how to move forward with personal and professional obstacles, it all comes together as memories of 2020. Now, the

question is, when will it all come to a conclusion? Soon is the answer I choose.

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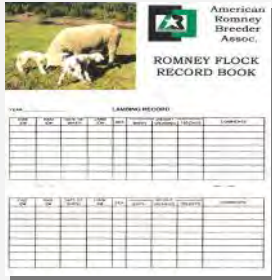
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Flock Record Book:

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

Romney Ramblings

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

Advertising in the Ramblings

Full Page \$100

1/2 Page \$75

1/3 Page \$60

1/4 Page \$35

Card Ad \$20

Classified Ads—45 cents per word.

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

Send all advertising information and news to: JoAnn Mast

58221 Lee Valley Road
Coquille, OR 97423
(541) 572-3094

soromney@wildblue.net
secretary@americanromney.org

Connecting With ARBA**Mentoring Program**

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

Welcome to our New Members

Joining ARBA after July 1, 2020

Eric Wellman

Hamilton, Colorado

Alex Tkacenko

New Egypt, New Jersey

Gracie Kuehne

Benson, Vermont

Jacen Wilinski

New Glarus, Wisconsin

Jill Markowski

Brandon, Vermont

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

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

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

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

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



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

American Romney Breeders Association

www.americanromney.org

District One—New England

Greetings from Connecticut.

I hope all of you are safe and healthy. 2020 continues to be a difficult year. I am sure all of you have heard of the cancellation of the Big E and other fairs throughout New England. At this time the fiber festival of New England plans to move forward at the Big E fairgrounds on November 7 and 8. A final decision will be announced in September.

The junior members were able to attend the Northeast Youth Sheep Show (NEYSS) the first weekend of August. The Big E fairgrounds provided them with a safe opportunity for exhibition. A special thank you should be given to the show committee for providing this event. An article can be found in this Ramblings. I want to congratulate Teresa Hromis on her Supreme Champion Ram, a Natural Colored Romney Ram selected for the show winner. Full results from the show can be viewed on the New England Sheep and Wool Growers website at nesheep.org.

While unrelated to sheep, I want to wish good luck to District 1 junior member Megan Higgins as she starts at the University of New Haven, majoring in criminal justice. Megan acquired Romneys in 2011 and has exhibited at shows throughout the country, including NEYSS, the All American, Big E, Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival and NAILE. She and her sister Cadence also sell lamb and wool products at farmer's markets and other local vending outlets. Good luck Megan!

I hope to "see" some of you soon at ARBA's virtual annual meeting. I hope you all continue to stay safe and healthy and that we can return to normal events next year. If you have anything you would like to share in the next Ramblings, please contact me.

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

District Two—Mid-Atlantic

Greetings from District 2!

Who else is relying on their sheep for sanity!? I know I am! This year has been (insert your choice of words) and I couldn't imagine life without my animals. I'm sure we have all had those times where we feel like giving up, but times like this make me extra thankful for life on our little farm.

As I write this we are actually preparing for our first and only show of the year. It is going to look incredibly different with no public, very low numbers, health screening for people instead of just the animals, and of course masks, but I am very thankful that Maryland is so supportive of our agricultural community and had made this happen, especially for the youth. I would love to know that this show season has looked like for everyone else!

Megan Higgins and Supreme Champion Ram**District 2 continued**

I hope you will all join us for our virtual Annual Meeting in October! I will miss seeing everyone and gathering for dinner, but how great is it that everyone can be involved right from home? This year I will be passing the torch onto the wonderful Patricia Sanville of Budding Creek Farm who will be your amazing new District Director. I will still stay involved and see you all around. Thank you for a great 5 years!

If you have not already done so, please join our Facebook group, American Romney Breeders Association District 2. This is a great place to share information, stories, ideas, events, photos, Romneys for sale, etc. Feel free to post! I hope you are all staying well and finding joy in the craziness.

Allison Seyfert, District Director
MRFsheep@gmail.com
410-804-0492

District Three—Midwest

Greetings to ARBA members from District 3!

As the Year 2020 continues to present challenges to our members across the country, one thing is a constant for us with Romneys—breeding season is upon us or soon to be. Call us crazy, but there is some tenacity and hope to a group of people so willing to throw the dice and bank on a future for the next year by putting our stud rams, holding back replacement ewe lambs or even fall lambing out ewes that we synced in the midst of all the chaos. For all those who are holding steady, face to the storm God Speed!

Continued on page 4

District 3 continued

Now for happenings in the Mid-West and Dakotas: The Schmoll girls and Morgan Fitzsimmons have been participating in some shows in Wisconsin and Indiana with their sheep. I have seen a couple of one day shows in Ohio as well, but not sure if we had Romneys out there. There are several more coming up with the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival hosting both an Open and a Junior Show in September. I hear there will be some Romneys there. Currently the Michigan State fair is running their Virtual Youth Scholarship Program and Show for the Labor Day Weekend. I saw a picture of a Romney in process of being fitted for the Sheep Showmanship, Good Luck Caitlin Plank! For those posting pictures and sharing on Facebook, thanks, it is so nice to see.



For those of us who have been reluctant to extend our sheep world onto the Bid Wide "Cloud" we are getting indoctrinated in a hurry. We are learning how to make Live videos and Publish! The Michigan fiber Festival just completed the Virtual on-Line Sale and there is Romney fiber moving through the Monthly facebook Sales by the Wool and Fiber Arts Group which has a following as of this past weekend of 9k strong. Folks are buying roving, dyed locks, yarn, finished items, equipment, tools, materials and fleeces. Fleeces are moving all across the country. This is a scary time for wool people to

learn how to best and honestly represent their fiber without the ability to put hands on and demonstrate. We are seeing folks who have never used Romney wool try it and people just starting into fiber Arts experimenting and working with Romney fiber. For those of you pioneering this new world, Thank You and Congratulations on successes.

Next, I would like to thank the three individuals from District 3 who threw in their hats and ran for the Director At Large board position, Stacy Schmoll, Cassidy Lobdell and Melissa Wubben. All three were great candidates and I hope they will continue to be active in the Romney breed association.

Penny Swearingen, District Director
 pswearingen@dmcibb.net
 517-610-1421

From the Secretary

Thank you to all who have inquired about the safety of Romney breeders in Oregon. We are blessed to live in a part of the state that has been filled with smoke, but not on fire. A 350 acre fire between Coquille and the coast burned for several days, destroying grassland and timber and doing minimal damage to structures. The irrigation sprinklers are keeping the area around our home damp and green, but there is timber very close that would be a threat. Our main farm is serving as a relocation site for animals needing to be evacuated.

I look forward to seeing many of you as we meet for the annual meeting, and really appreciate not heading to New York.



Edison—stud ram of Penny Swearingen, ready to work.
 Photo on left: Fleece from Penny's ewe Agnes, highlighting locks and crimp of the Romney breed.

District 4—Oregon

Hello from Oregon's Willamette Valley,
 To all my Oregon members it is my greatest hope that you and your flock are staying safe during the Oregon Wildfires! For those unaware, the west coast has been experiencing devastating effects from wildfires that raged out of control because of high winds on Tuesday, September 8th. The west coast has been socked in with hazardous air quality because of the ash and smoke from the fires. Many people have lost everything during these fires.

It warms my heart to have seen so many Romney breeders jump to the front lines to help those affected by these fires. I've seen and heard of our breeders helping evacuate livestock, opening their farms to displaced animals and donating much needed supplies. Thank you all for helping your communities during this devastating time.

For those who have been displaced our hearts go out to you. If you are in need of assistance please reach out, there are many hands ready to help.

Welcome to Zane Van Horsen, our newly elected District 4 Director. Zane will assume her position on the board during the annual meeting of ARBA.

Nicole Murray, District Director
 coveredbridgefiber@gmail.com
 541-900-0038

Secretary or Registrar?

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

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

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

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

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

Pedigree searches and requests are done by Associated Registries.

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

District 5—Pacific

Carol Pasheilich, District Director
tawandafarms53@att.net
530-459-0966

District 6—South

Fall is slowly arriving as the days are getting shorter and the evenings are feeling cooler. Breeding has begun for most of us with the promise of the new lambs to come and also the beginning of a better new year! At this moment NAILE is still planning to take place November 3rd-19th. There will be an Open and Junior Romney Sheep Show. Good luck to all who participate!

On a personal note I would like to say that I've enjoyed being the District 6 Director for the last 5 years. The best part of being a member of ARBA is the wonderful fellow breeders that are there for each other, to answer a question, or give you advice about a particular issue or your flock as a whole. I want to thank all of those who have done that for me, as I have learned so much!

Let me introduce Ken Gossard from South Central Missouri who will be replacing me as Director. He had been a die hard Polypay breeder, but in 1992 he bought three Romney ewes and start to see the value in raising them. In 1995 he bought his first Romney ram and then in 2001 he went to new Zealand to study and while there he boarded with a commercial Romney breeder who ran 8,000 ewes with no outside help! He said, "I learned the reason that the majority of the National flock was Romney blood. The ease of care, sheep with good constitution, ewes that take care of their lambs...the Romney ewe knows her job and does it well." Ken has converted others to the Romney breed and has shown them there is a profit with a "hobby breed". Welcome aboard Ken!

Betsy McPherson, District Director
 loveewefarm@gmail.com
 804-883-5078

Kalina Family

Registered Romney and Shropshire Sheep

Sue Kalina ~ 503-939-0303

skalina26@gmail.com

Stephanie and Jacy Booren ~ 503-476-5449

Bessie Kalina ~ 541-928-9865



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From the Editor

The Ramblings has taken on a few changes in 2019-2020. There are now four issues posted and distributed each year. This is the third edition of the year, and the final issue will be published in December. If you want to continue or start an ad in the newsletter, please contact me. If you want to submit an article, introduce yourself to the membership, give your view of how the association is helping you, please send those items to me for inclusion in the winter, spring, summer or fall issues. Thanks to all who have assisted with interviews, placed ads or sent pictures.

JoAnn Mast, Ramblings editor



Romney lamb with moorit color genetics owned by Melissa Wubben. Several years of using bloodlines to develop the color, and time spent studying the genetics have led to the birth of lambs such as this.

Spotlight on a District 3 Member: Melissa Wubben

Melissa Wubben is the newly elected Director At Large board member to fill the position to be vacated by Scott Culver. Melissa hails from District 3's Iowa.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you, the ARBA membership, for giving me the opportunity to serve on our board, and to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me. My husband and I own a small farm with roughly 60 head of sheep in south central Iowa. When we bought our first sheep in 2012, I had a whole lot to learn, as I'd never raised sheep before.

Having grown up on a farm in the northern part of Iowa and being very active in 4-H, I had background in raising livestock. I was excited to get back into farming when we bought our acreage, and I wanted to try something new. We settled on sheep because I liked the idea of having a dual purpose animal, and I particularly liked the concept of using wool as a renewable resource and natural fiber. A conservationist at heart, I enjoy promoting the eco-friendly qualities of wool, as well as implementing sustainable practices in our farming and life.

After researching various breeds, and making a few missteps, I settled on Romney and Romeldale-CVM sheep. I loved the long, lustrous wool of the Romneys, and the conservation status of the Romeldales appealed to me. Since that time, I have come to love both breeds and the unique qualities they each have to offer. The wool types between the two breeds produce a nice continuum from fine wool to long wool, overlapping in the medium range. With my interest in wool, I became involved in fleece showing across the Midwest, and I was fortunate to also attend and show at the Black Sheep Gathering in Oregon. As I continued to learn more about wool, I eventually became the fleece show superintendent at the Iowa Sheep and Wool Festival, giving me the opportunity to expand my involvement in the wool industry. Ultimately, I plan to become proficient enough in the various aspects of wool production and processing that I can begin judging shows.

Both of my breeds produce many shades of natural color, along with the range of wool types. Romeldales are known for the wide variety of color patterns they possess, and my interest in diversifying the shades in both of my breeds led me to develop a strong interest in the genetics behind the color. I have been active in researching color genetics and patterns in my flock and teaching color genetics basics to beginners, and I was excited to attend the World Congress on Coloured Sheep in Italy in 2019. When I was offered the opportunity to help develop the moorit color within the Romney breed, I was naturally excited about the idea, and I have been enjoying working with this project in my last two breeding seasons.

I am always open to hearing from other Romney breeders, so please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns, and I will do my best to represent you as I serve on our board!"

Melissa Wubben, Oak Creek Farm

Submitted by District 3 Director, Penny Swearingen

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ARBA Annual Meeting

As with many events, the annual business meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association will be done a bit differently this year. Board meetings and the annual meeting will be conducted via ZOOM. This can be an opportunity to connect with meeting goers from across the country while relaxing in your home, field or barn. Registration will be needed, so that you can be included on the invitation list. Save the date now, and watch for details as we draw nearer to the meeting date and have an agenda to share.

Saturday, October 17, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time has been set as the start time for the meeting. Meetings of the board are to be held on Saturday, October 17, 2020 at Noon Eastern Time and Sunday, October 18, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Saturday is the meeting of the existing board and Sunday will be the first meeting which includes newly elected officers to the board.

Questions relating to the use of Zoom can be directed to Anne McIntyre-Lahner and other board members. It is not difficult to use, and some added features can be incorporated for you to be interactive and/or for you to save information from the meeting and educational presentations. Looking forward to seeing many of you on the screen October 17. Anne McIntyre-Lahner: olypiafarm@att.net to reserve your meeting spot.

ARBA Dates

October 17-18
Annual Meeting
via Zoom—register
to participate.

November 3-19
NAILE with

Region 6 spon-
sored wool show
Info— Willis Plank

November 14
All Breeds Ewe
Sale at NAILE

Entries due
October 5.

December 10
Mailing ARBA
membership re-
newals for 2021.
Promoting calend-
ar of events for
activities and
elections.



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



CONTACT KIRSTEN HOLBO:
(541) 979-5180
or
kirsten@ironwater.com

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We are family-owned with a commitment to growing exquisite sheep with beautiful fleeces that thrive on grass and are highly functional in our environment. With a focus on fleeces, customers are guaranteed to be satisfied when buying wool from our happy, healthy flock.

IWR is also the originator of the moorit color pattern for the incredible Romney breed in the U.S., and we are proud to have kept a closed flock, importing from New Zealand for over 20 years.



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SEPTEMBER 2020

Junior Member—Oregon

Addison Wolff, Brownsville, Oregon and her yearling ewe “Cinderella” won Champion Romney Ewe and Reserve Supreme Ewe at the 2020 Linn County Fair. The contest was held as a virtual show.

The dam of Cinderella was purchased from Kalina Family two years ago and the sire from Anne Nichols. Addison lambed the ewe and raised the lamb, showing as a spring ewe lamb last year and yearling this year.

Great job Addison! Looking forward to seeing you at youth events and sheep shows in the Pacific Northwest next year.

Submitted by ARBA member Sue Kalina



ROMNEY RAMBLINGS



Northeast Youth Sheep Show (NEYSS)

Junior members had a safe show opportunity for exhibition at the NEYSS, which occurred July 31-August 2 in West Springfield, Massachusetts with 10 junior exhibitors from 5 states showing their Romney sheep. These exhibitors were Cadence and Megan Higgins (CT), Catherine and Teresa Hromis (NH), Helena Kagan (NY), Penny Freeman Kemp (CT), Courtney Lyman (MA), Annabelle Miller (MD), Julia Cohen (CT) and Emily Wildes (CT).

NEYSS offers great opportunities for youth members in and out of the ring. While many of these were reduced or altered this year, exhibitors were able to participate in skill-a-thon, wool show and showmanship.



Matt Best was the judge for the Romney show. Show results are as follows: Catherine Hromis won Champion White Romney ram, ewe, and best headed. Megan Higgins had Reserve Champion White Ewe and Penny Kemp had Reserve White Ram. Emily Wildes won White Best fleece.

Teresa Hromis won Champion Natural Colored Ram, ewe, reserve champion ram and best Natural Colored fleece. Courtney Dracut had Reserve Champion Natural Colored ewe.

In showmanship, Helena Kagan placed first in the 16 year old division as did Cadence Higgins in the 13 year old division. Teresa and Catherine Hromis won senior team showmanship.

Helena also won Reserve Champion fleece with a white Romney fleece. Cadence Higgins also won first place in junior skill-a-thon.

Teresa Hromis went on to win Supreme Ram with her natural colored Romney. Photo on page 1. Photos on left of youth participants at NEYSS.

Article and photos submitted by Emma Rogers.



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- **Good Temperament**

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



Contact Information American Romney Breeders Association

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COVID-19 ASSISTANCE

American sheep producers are eligible for financial support through the Coronavirus food Assistance Program. All sheep are eligible, lambs through aged ewes. Wool is also being provided added dollars for sales conducted in 2019 and 2020.

Applications can be completed on-line or by visiting your local Farm Service Agency to submit forms. The documentation needed is not extreme and the amount of time needed to complete the process is minimal.

Some of the added funds are to improve the total revenue collected for sheep and wool sales and some are based solely on the number of animals in your flock.

Producers who have filed will receive 80% of their total, then will be paid the additional 20% at a later date. Persons applying now will receive the full 100% due them in one payment.

Flock size and sale totals are not used as criteria to apply. All producers are eligible to submit the forms and be compensated for losses incurred due to the corona virus limitations in 2020.

Stars of Louisville All Breeds Bred Ewe Sale Entry Form

Show & Sale Date: Saturday, November 14, 2020, 2:00 PM EST

Location: NAILE, Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, KY

Ewes Only – Lambs to 5 Years

Entry Fees are Nonrefundable: All Ewes = \$30.00 per Head

Entry Deadline: October 5, 2020

Farm Name _____ Owner Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Breed _____ Flock Name/Number _____

S TW TR Date of Birth _____ Reg. Number _____ DNA _____

Sire _____ Reg. Number _____ DNA _____

Dam _____ Reg. Number _____ DNA _____

Service Sire _____ Reg. Number _____ DNA _____

Comments _____

Number Entered _____ x \$30.00 = _____ Amount Due with Entry Form

Health Papers for Sale Sheep must include a Kentucky Permit Number. To obtain a Permit Number, have your Veterinarian contact the Kentucky State Veterinarian's Office at 502/782-5901. If you do not get the Permit Number, you will be responsible for the costs of obtaining it at the Sale.

Please have Two (2) copies of your Health Papers for each Entry.

Make Checks Payable to NTSRI and Mail Entry to: **Susan B. Anderson, 515 Carpenter Creek Road, Hustonville, KY 40437. 606/346-3916.**

All Ewes Yearlings and Older Must Sell as Exposed or Bred. Service Sire Information and Breeding Certificates Must Accompany Registration Papers at Check In.

One task I still do as part of the family farm is dedicated to sale day of lambs. It starts early with moving lambs off pasture to the corral, sorting off the ewe lambs that will be retained for replacements and then loading the trailers for transport to the livestock scales 20 minutes away. Five trailer loads got the job done and my volunteer day of sheep handling, hauling, weighing and working at the scale was complete. Our livestock association supports this sale process, processing about 900 sheep and lambs each year.



My brother's lambs in the corral, sorted and loaded for the local sheep and lamb pool. Center photo is group of ewe lambs, not leaving. I use this pool for extra market lambs, usually in June or July. JoAnn Mast



Off the trailer and moved to the livestock association scale. On the scale for sale weight. Lambs are marketed to a local buyer and transported to pasture on the Oregon coast. Three sales are conducted each summer, one each in June, July and August. I promote the sale, weigh the lambs and assist in hauling for our family lambs. All sheep and lambs are accepted and prices are announced prior to sale day. Photos below are lambs being held prior to loading out by buyer. Lambs are loaded onto lower deck, then moved to loading chute to fill the upper deck. This pool serves producers from around the county, most needing to haul about 3 hours to other selling options at livestock sales in the Willamette Valley.



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

STARS OF LOUISVILLE ALL BREEDS EWE SALE

The National Tunis Sheep Registry, Inc. is coordinating an all breeds ewe sale to be held during NAILE. The sale will be conducted on Saturday, November 14th at 2:00 PM EST. Entries for the sale are due October 5. A sale entry form is located on page 10 of this newsletter and the full announcement and entry form is posted on the ARBA website, americanromney.org.

Information relating to the age of sheep eligible for entry, status of breeding, registration papers, health papers, DNA disclosure, floor bids, no sales, settlement of payments and late entries can all be found on the website.

Questions regarding the sale can be directed to Kathy Niese, NTSRI Executive Secretary, at (419) 969-0783 or Susan Anderson, Sale Organizer, at (606) 346-3916.

Prior to the sale, a sale catalog will be posted on the Tunis website (www.countrylovin.com/NTSRI) A printed sale catalog will be distributed to prospective buyers.

As with all events, visit the NAILE website for the status of the show before entering the sale.