

**SUMMER
2016**



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**American Romney
Breeders
Association
website:
<http://americanromney.org/>**

Romney Ramblings

Newsletter of the American
Romney Breeders Association

Sheep and Tranquility



President's Message

by Chris Posbergh

First, I would like to congratulate the board members that were elected this spring. I also want to thank everyone that ran for election and encourage members to run for the board, or volunteer for committees, if they are interested in helping advance the breed.

This has been a whirlwind past few weeks as I have gone from teaching a course in Ithaca, to sampling sheep in

the United Kingdom, to presenting research at an international genetics conference in Salt Lake City. Because of all this, I apologize that my responses to members have been slow during the past few weeks. Despite my absence, the drought and heat in the Northeast has persisted. Hopefully we get rain soon to hold off feeding hay this early in the year.

Continued on page 14

CHRIS

ARBA President Posbergh wins scholarship

American Romney Breeders Association President Chris Posbergh was recently named the winner of the 2016 Sheep Heritage Foundation Memorial Scholarship.



The \$3,000 award will be welcomed by Chris, a Ph.D. student at Cornell University in New York where he's working on his research project: Increasing Efficiency in Sheep Production Using Genetics. The focus of Chris' research is to identify genetic variants responsible for out of season lambing, and to identify genetic variants responsible for mature body size.

Regarding the first phase of his study Chris said, "DNA markers can be developed to allow breeders to control selection for mature size earlier in a sheep's life."

The second phase of his study will be one sheep breeders will want to sit up and take notice of. Said Chris, "By analyzing lambing records from flocks selecting for aseasonality, we identified individuals that consistently lambled or failed to lamb out of season. Using these 53 individuals, we ran a Genome Wide Association Study and have preliminary candidate genes. We are currently seeking more individuals from Dorset and Polypay flocks to add to this dataset and strengthen the associations we currently have. The long term goal is to develop genetic markers that breeders can use to select for

ewes that are more likely to lamb out of season. Both of these objectives work toward increasing the efficiency of the industry by reducing maintenance costs associated with large size and increasing the productivity of ewes through year-round lambing."

At 22-years-old, New Jersey native Chris has been involved with sheep since his dad brought home a bumper lamb when he was a child, and he has since grown his flock of Dorsets and Romneys. In the fall of 2015 he became the president of ARBA where he has worked hard to promote the breed and support the members.

Most of Chris' research work has focused on animal genetics. He is currently running a crowd funding campaign to raise money for his study on *Determining the Molecular Basis for Brown Colored Sheep*. There are no current genetic tests available to identify moorit (brown

-colored sheep) carriers. The research project, proposed by Chris and Heather Huson, will strive to identify the genetic variants responsible for moorit in sheep by using a candidate gene sequencing approach. Identifying the genetic basis for moorit will provide shepherds with the information they need for breeding decisions. If you're interested in learning more

about the study, or wish to contribute to the campaign, visit the link at the end of this article.

The campaign is currently approximately one-third funded and the deadline for contributions is August 31st.

Said Chris of his future plans, "I will probably end up working for a university doing research. I want to



teach those in the sheep industry how to benefit from the use of genetics."

CTRL CLICK or copy and paste this link:
<https://experiment.com/moorit-sheep>

Age limit changed for junior members

During the July 30, 2016 meeting of the ARBA Board, discussion was conducted regarding the age range for junior members of the association. Currently, youth may remain as junior members of the association until they reach age 21. It was moved, seconded and approved to modify the age limit to read as follows: "Junior membership has all the privileges and responsibilities of an active member, except they must be under 22 years of age on show day, and they can not vote. Junior members age 18-21 may vote if they enroll as an active member and pay the appropriate membership fee."

Summer show highlights

by Charlene Carlisle

At long last I am sitting down at the computer in an attempt to reflect on my last six weeks. Time has rushed by and has left me little time to write down all the info, so please excuse any oversights, but feel free to let me know so that I can correct them. The youth shows are a lot of fun, but by the time they are finished, so am I!

The Stars and Stripes Livestock Show has been around for 14 years and takes place in Moorestown, NJ, right in my backyard, literally. It is held in my backyard—actually my side yard. This is a youth show, held on the last Sunday in June, run by a few families who wish to maintain an agricultural presence and promote livestock involvement, showing, and education to the public. We offer shows for all species and run 100% on donations. Stars and Stripes has obtained NJ Fair Status, and is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, allowing any donations to be tax deductible. Special thanks to all who help support us and our youth.

This year we had 84 head of sheep (from four states) which included Meat, White Wool and NC Wool divisions, as well as market lamb classes. Fitting and Showmanship was well received with 30 youth participating. Fun and learning is encouraged, with minimal pressure and lots of prizes and smiles. Our youngest participant was three-years-old, and the oldest was 21. No affiliation with 4-H or FFA is required, and sheep do not have to be registered. This year beef cattle, meat and dairy goats, poultry, rabbits and small animals made their way to our arena, and fun was had by all. Romneys were not the

only sheep present, but they held their own in the ring. The following Romney Juniors participated: Alexandra Rogers (NJ), Ava Jo Hayes, Hunter and Colton Hayes (NJ), Molly Stark, McKinley and Elijah Stark (PA), McKinley Stark (PA), Kyle Pearson and Sarah Pearson (NJ). Many pictures can be found on the Stars and Stripes Facebook page, as well as the website. Please consider this show next year for any first-time showmen, and any other youth. It gives the kids a practice show before their county shows start.

The All American Jr. Sheep Show is a spectac-

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ARBA annual meeting date set

The annual meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association will be held on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016, in Louisville, Kentucky. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the sheep show at NAILE and provide the opportunity to watch junior members of ARBA exhibit in the show ring.

Time and location details will be posted on the ARBA website when confirmed. Mark the date on your calendar now and be prepared to join the membership for dinner, conversations and an update of how the association has been working on your behalf.

Reservations for dinner will be taken, and a list of possible lodging options will be posted on the website.

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

Romney Ramblings

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

Advertising in the Ramblings Prices: color or black & white

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Full Page | \$100 |
| 1/2 Page | \$75 |
| 1/3 Page | \$60 |
| 1/4 Page | \$35 |
| Card Ad | \$20 |

Classified Ads—45 cents per word.

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

Send all advertising information and news to: Cindy Peterson
54656 Brady Road
Myrtle Point, OR 97458
(541) 572-5930
romneyeditor@gmail.com

Deadlines for Article Submissions & Advertising

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

From the Secretary's Desk

by JoAnn Mast

As the new fiscal year begins, it is time to give a few reminders to the membership. There are some details that need to be outlined, so that will follow in an order somewhat as items appear throughout the year.

Show season is happening, usually starting in April and finishing in November. This offers many opportunities both for spectators wanting to view some good looking Romney sheep, and for those that promote the breed and industry by taking time to enter, prepare and exhibit at shows across the country. The role of the association is to make sure that animals can be properly registered, and the role of owners is to file necessary paperwork in time for processing to be completed.

Becoming an active member of ARBA, whether junior or adult, is done by submitting a membership application to the ARBA secretary in Oregon. A completed form, and payment of \$10 for junior or \$20 for adult, will allow for processing your membership. The application is on the home page of the ARBA

website.

Registering and transferring ownership of animals is done by completing a work order and including the necessary forms and/or registry certificates for processing by Associated Registry in Kansas. Fees for each transaction are outlined on the work order. The work order and application for registration are located on the ARBA website in a side bar on the home page.

An annual meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association is held each year. This year the meeting will be held in November during the North American International Livestock Exposition held in Louisville, KY. The meeting is a time to hear of the work of the ARBA board, meet newly elected board members, ask questions, meet other members, talk sheep, and share your ideas regarding the work of the association.

ARBA is divided into six districts. Each district is represented with a director. Directors assist in hosting regional and national shows, sales,

Continued on page 10

From the Editor's Desk

by Cindy Peterson

Zucchini! Seriously, people—we have got to find another use for this vegetal growth!

Yes, it can be grown by anyone, anywhere, and it produces abundantly with little effort. What's not to love? Well, since you asked—"it produces abundantly"! And if you want to rid yourself of any of that abundance, you have to be a stealthy neighbor and friend. Because, the only way to find a taker for your abundance is to sneak

said crop onto the door step, into the car, or under the pillow of said neighbors and friends.

I think we need to put scientists to work finding a way to make zucchini into fuel. Or could zucchini be crossed with Himalayan blackberries (the scourge of the Pacific Northwest) to produce a vegetable/fruit that tasted delicious and could be profitable to farmers? Zucchini wine? Zucchini chucking and carving festival? Help!!!!

Rambling Roads — Notes from District Directors

District 2

Hopefully everyone is surviving the summer heat. Maryland has had its share of heat and storms, with one of the hottest days being show day. It wouldn't be fair week without scorching heat or pouring rain! Our first local show, Mason-Dixon Fair, was held in mid-July. Normally there's only a small number of sheep, mostly meat breeds. This year was the largest sheep show to date, with numerous wool sheep, including Romneys, Lincolns, Fine Natural Coloreds, and Bluefaced Leicesters. I am glad to report that the Romneys were at the top in all of their classes and went home with many champion ribbons, including Supreme Champion Ram. The best part of the show was watching the youth in the show ring. Most of my summer has been spent mentoring a 4-year-old girl with her very first Romney ewe lamb. She did great at her first show, and her dedication showed in the ring. As you all participate in the shows this summer and fall, remember to take some time to help and encourage youth.

Good luck to everyone at the rest of the shows, and let's hope the heat dies off soon to allow for fertile rams as we approach breeding season.

Here are a few upcoming events throughout District 2:

September 10 & 11: Garden State Sheep & Fiber Festival, Lambertville, New Jersey. For details call 908-730-7189 or visit

www.njsheep.org/

September 24 & 25: Southern Adirondack Fiber Festival, Washington County Fairgrounds, Greenwich, NY. www.adkfiber.com/

October 15 & 16: New York Sheep & Wool Festival, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck, NY. www.sheepandwool.com/

Allison Seyfert

District 2 Regional Director

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District 4

The district four regional show was held at the Linn County Fair in Albany, Oregon. The judge was Tracy Haslem from Battle Ground, Washington. The results were as follows:

White Romney ARBA Regional Show: Yearling Ram, 1st, Southern Oregon Romneys; Senior Ram Lamb, 1st & 2nd, Kalina Family, 3rd and 4th, Anne Nichols; Junior Ram Lamb, 1st and 4th, Southern

Oregon Romneys, 2nd and 6th, Kalina Family, 3rd and 5th, Anna Rose Farm; Pair of Ram Lambs, 1st, Southern Oregon Romneys, 2nd, Kalina Family, 3rd, Anna Rose Farm, 4th, Anne Nichols; Champion Ram, Southern Oregon Romneys, Junior Ram Lamb; Reserve Champion Ram, Kalina Family, Senior Ram Lamb; Yearling Ewe, 1st & 3rd, Kalina Family, 2nd & 5th, Southern Oregon Romneys, 4th & 6th, Anna Rose Farm, 7th & 8th, Anne Nichols; Pair of Yearling Ewes, 1st, Southern Oregon Romneys, 2nd, Kalina Family, 3rd, Anna Rose, 4th, Anne Nichols; Senior Ewe Lamb - 1st & 2nd, Kalina Family; Junior Ewe Lamb, 1st & 3rd, Southern Oregon Romneys, 2nd & 5th, Kalina Family, 3rd, Anna Rose Farm; Pair of Ewe Lambs, 1st Southern Oregon Romneys, 2nd Kalina Family; Champion Ewe

Continued on page 11

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Southern Adirondack Romney Sheep Show in September

The second Southern Adirondack Romney Sheep Show will take place Sunday, September 25, in conjunction with the 8th Annual Southern Adirondack Fiber Festival at the Washington County Fairgrounds, Greenwich, NY. "We're delighted at the success we had last year, with a dozen exhibitors, and their top quality rams, ewes and lambs," commented Norma Johnson-Glacy, Show Chairperson.

This year the Romney Show location moves to the center of the Festival, giving shepherds and the public alike an excellent opportunity to easily learn about local and regional Romney sheep. It features combined Open and Junior Shows for both White and Natural Colored Romneys, and welcomes all in-state and out-of-state Romney breeders. The 2015 show proved to be very popular with Junior Romney Breeders; nine of the 12 exhibitors were Juniors.

Entry forms, available at <http://adkfiber.com>, must be postmarked by September 5, or delivered by hand to the fair office by September 7.

Geof Ruppert, from Fairfield,

Pennsylvania, will judge this year's Sheep Show. A nationally known sheep breeder, Geof has raised Corriedale sheep since 1976, and began importing Corriedale genetics from Australia in 2001. He's especially knowledgeable about breed standards, and most recently judged the Black Sheep Gathering in Eugene, OR.

Norma commented, "The Romney Show is especially convenient for exhibitor participation because the sheep can arrive as late as 8 a.m. on show day, September 25, and leave at 5 p.m.

Sheep exhibitors are also welcome to enter the Fleece, Hand Spun Skein and Fiber Arts Shows. Entry deadline is September 9. Lisa Merian, Sunny Bixby (a Romney breeder), and Mary Jeanne Packer will judge these shows on the evening of Sept. 23. The best Romney entries will receive a \$25 award.

Carole Foster, another show committee member, is delighted at the community support. "We extend a huge "thank you" to the 15 local businesses who have sponsored the show, and to the American Romney Breeders Association for supporting the Junior Show."

The Washington County Fairgrounds, easy to reach from Interstates 90 or 87, is about 45 minutes north of Albany, and 20 minutes east of Saratoga Springs, NY. "If exhibitors spend the weekend," Norma said, "they can enjoy the entire festival, which features a number of new, high-quality vendors, book signings, workshops, and a variety of musical entertainment. Camping is available at the fairgrounds, or they can check out the lovely inns and bed and breakfasts in Washington County's rural countryside, or its charming villages," she added.

Visit www.washingtonnycounty.com for lodging, dining and shopping information. Washington County is sandwiched between Saratoga County and western Vermont, both of which offer opportunities for lodging, dining and touring in Saratoga Springs and Manchester, Vermont.

Look for news at <http://americanromney.org> and <http://adkfiber.com>. Or contact Karin Kennedy at Ensign Brook Farm, 518-796-0346, karin.battenkillfibers@yahoo.com) or Norma Johnson-Glacy at Crazy Legs Farm, 518-638-8132, crazyleggsfarm@gmail.com



Southern Adirondack Romney Show Ring, 2015.

Calendar of Events

AUGUST 2016

- 17-21: Michigan Fiber Festival, Allegan County Fairgrounds, Allegan, Michigan. www.michiganfiberfestival.info
- 25-30: Oregon State Fair Sheep show, Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem, OR.
- 27: Spooner Sheep Day, Spooner Agricultural Research Station of the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, Spooner, WI. fyi.uwex.edu/wisheepandgoat/

SEPTEMBER 2016

- 8-11: Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival, Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson, Wisconsin. www.wisconsinssheepandwoolfestival.com/
- 10-11: Garden State Sheep & Fiber Festival, Lambertville, New Jersey. For details call 908-730-7189 or visit www.njsheep.net/festival
- 15-18: Tunbridge World's Fair, Tunbridge, Vermont. Sheep and goat shows, fiber crafts, fleece show. www.tunbridgeworldsfair.com/
- 16-18: California Wool & Fiber Festival, Mendocino Cty. Fairgrounds, Boonville, CA. www.fiberfestival.com
- 16-28: The Big E, West Springfield, Mass. <http://www.thebige.com/p/competitions/473>
- 17-18: "A Wool Gathering," Midwest Festival of Fibers, Yellow Springs, Ohio, <http://my.voyager.net/~nfisher/>
- 24-25: Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival, Clackamas Cty. Event Center, Canby, OR.

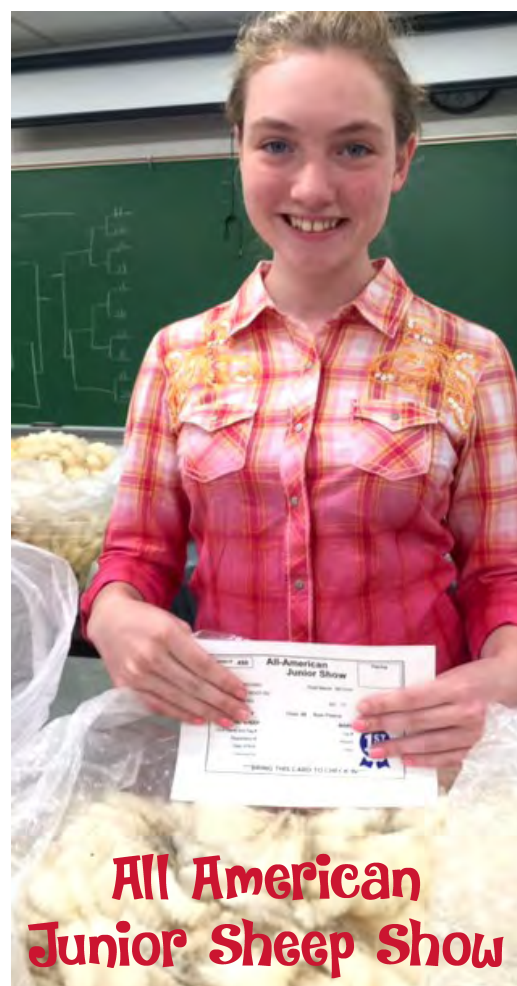
www.flockandfiberfestival.com/

- 24-25: Northern Michigan Lamb & Wool Festival, Ogemaw Cty. Fairgrounds, Michigan. www.lambandwoolfestival.com/
- 24-25: Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival, Clarke Cty. Rurit an Fairgrounds, Berryville, Virginia. www.shenandoahvalleyfiberfestival.com/
- 24-25: Southern Adirondack Fiber Festival, Washington County Fairgrounds, Greenwich, NY. www.adkfiber.com/

OCTOBER 2016


- 1-2: Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival, Tunbridge Fairgrounds, Tunbridge, VT. <http://vtsheepandwoolfest.com/>
- 1-2: Fall Fiber Festival & Montpelier Sheep Dog Trials, Montpelier Station, Virginia. www.fallfiberfestival.org/
- 5-9: Trailing of the Sheep Festival, Ketchum & Hailey, Idaho. www.trailingofthesheep.org/
- 15-16: New York Sheep & Wool Festival, Dutchess Cty. Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck, NY. www.sheepandwool.com/

Submit events for publication in the Ramblings to: Romney editor, 54656 Brady Rd., Myrtle Point, OR 97458, romneyeditor@gmail.com, or call 541-572-5930.



**All American
Junior Sheep Show**



NEYSS  2016



Secretary's Desk

Continued from page 4

meetings and events sponsored by ARBA. They will also be asking for sponsorships to assist in making these projects successful. A contribution is a method of providing support, if you are not able to attend but want to make certain opportunities continue to be made

available. Directors also contribute to the Ramblings newsletter, post information on the website and contribute to the association notes printed in the Banner magazine.

At the end of the calendar year, membership renewal notices are mailed. All memberships expire on January 31, so renewals are encouraged prior to that date. Active, adult members are included

in the election of new board members, if they have become a member or renewed their membership by April 1. Ballots are sent to those on the active list as of April 1.

Membership updates are also

encouraged to maintain your account for processing registrations, transfers and special tasks with Associated Registry. Work will be completed without a membership, but the charge is double per item on the work order.

Advertising is accepted throughout the year, in the Romney Ramblings newsletter, in the membership directory, and on the website. Rates for the Ramblings are listed in the newsletter, which can be viewed online at the website, or when sent to you via email. The directory is published each spring and card ads are placed in the publication for \$20.

Perhaps the greatest thing to remember is that memberships are sent to the ARBA secretary/treasurer, and that animal registrations and transfers are sent to Associated Registry in Wamego, KS. When work is sent to the secretary, it may take an additional week for it to reach Kansas. The ARBA secretary is also a sheep producer, and at times is on the road to sheep events or vacation. This delays the processing of your work, and may create problems with meeting deadlines.

JOIN ARBA

Annual dues members are \$20/year for adults (\$25 after 1/31) and \$10/year for Junior members.

For an application form, contact Secretary JoAnn Mast at soromney@wildblue.net

Make checks payable to ARBA. Mail to: ARBA, 58221 Lee Valley Road, Coquille, OR 97423

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Rambling Roads

Continued from page 5

& Supreme Champion Ewe, Kalina Family, Yearling Ewe; Reserve Champion Ewe, Southern Oregon Romneys; Young Flock, 1st, Kalina Family, 2nd, Southern Oregon Romneys; Get of Sire, 1st, Kalina Family, 2nd, Southern Oregon Romneys, 3rd, Anna Rose Farms, 4th, Anne Nichols; Flock, 1st, Kalina, 2nd, Mast; Best Pair, 1st, Kalina Family, 2nd, Southern Oregon Romneys, 3rd, Anna Rose Farm, 4th, Anne Nichols.

Natural Colored Romney ARBA Regional Show:

Yearling Ram, 1st, Kathleen Zappelli, 2nd, Anne Nichols; Senior Ram Lamb, 1st, Anne Nichols, 2nd, Hailey Amero; Junior Ram Lamb, 1st, & 2nd, Anna Rose Farm; Pair of Ram Lambs, 1st, Anna Rose Farm; Champion Ram, Kathleen Zappelli, Yearling Ram; Reserve Champion Ram, Anne Nichols, Senior Ram Lamb; Yearling Ewe, 1st & 3rd, Anne Nichols, 2nd, Anna Rose Farm; Pair of Yearling Ewes, 1st, Anne Nichols; Senior Ewe Lamb, 1st & 2nd Anne Nichols; Pair of Ewe Lambs, 1st, Anne Nichols; Young Flock, 1st, Anne Nichols; Get of Sire, 1st, Anne Nichols; Flock, 1st, Anne Nichols; Best Pair, 1st, Anna Rose Farm, 2nd, Anne Nichols.

Junior Showmanship:

Champion: Hailey Amero; Reserve Champion: Anne Nichols.

A special thanks to all of the show sponsors: Premiums - ARBA, Awards - Nichols Livestock, Kalina Family, Anna Rose Farm, Eweberry

Farm, The Pine Farm, Wetland Wool and ORBA members John and Linda Morrison.

Congratulations to Thompson Ranch for Champion Romney ewe at the Black Sheep Gathering in June.

The Oregon State Fair open sheep show will be held August 25th through 30th. The Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival will be held in Canby, OR, at the Clackamas County Event Center on September 24th and 25th. This year will be the 20-year celebration.

Karen Nichols

District 4 Regional Director

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District 6

Hello from Virginia! Our district has experienced an oppressive heat wave (98-100 degree days) as I know most of the country did is as well. Last year I had an electrician hang two fans up high in a shed that we have in one of our pastures. My husband made fun of me at the time and said, "What are we going to do next.....put in a Coke machine for the sheep?" Smarty pants! This summer we needed those fans more than ever, and every day when I turn them on, I swear I've seen a couple of sheep smiling!

Fall is around the corner, which means lots of fairs and festivals. Here is a list of what will be happening in the south-mid Atlantic states:

September—Tennessee State Fair—Sept 9-18th; Mountain State Fair (Fletcher, NC), Sept. 9-18th; Shen-

andoah Valley Fiber Festival (Berryville, VA), Sept 24-25. October—Fall Fiber Festival & Montpelier Sheep Dog Trials (Montpelier Station, VA), Oct. 1-2; Southeastern Annual Fiber Festival (Ashville, NC), Oct. 28-30. November—North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE), Nov. 1-18.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and getting ready for breeding season!

Betsy McPherson

District 6 Regional Director

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Director-at-Large

Multiple breeders from a number of districts have contacted board members about the ARBA breed standards, sharing their concerns about the current standards as compared to earlier versions, and whether the standards are being followed by judges in the show ring.

In response to those concerns, a group of board members has been reviewing current and past standards and has made a series of recommendations to the board for consideration.

These recommendations will be posted on the ARBA website for member review and comment through early September. The board will review member feedback as part of the process.

Please visit the website, and share your comments about the proposed recommendations.

Anne McIntyre-Lahner

Director at Large

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SHOW HIGHLIGHTS**Continued from page 3**

ular event that happens every year around the July 4th. This year it was held in Michigan, at MSU (East Lansing). The university and the All American staff go out of their way to make this a fun, family event. Visit their web site for all of their activities, too many for me to mention here. This year there were 372 exhibitors from 25 states; 1,667 head of sheep from 19 different breeds. The Romney Show consisted of 10 juniors and 29 head. I would encourage kids to attend this show to make friends, have fun and network. The following Romney youth attended: Alexandra Rogers (NJ), Ethan Kennedy (NY), Caitlin and Ethan Plank (MI), Annabelle Miller (MD), Catherine, Teresa and Julie Hromis (NH), Megan Higgins (CT), and Emma Rogers (SD). Top awards were: Champion Ram,

Champion Ewe, Reserve Champion Ewe, Young Flock and Best Four Head: Ethan Kennedy; Reserve Champion Ram: Alexandra Rogers; Best Fleece, First and Second Ewe Fleece: Emma Rogers; Third for Ewe Fleece and First and Third for Ram Fleece: Megan Higgins; Second for Ram Fleece: Caitlin Plank. Youth participated and received awards in many other contests. The website has the complete list.

It is amazing the creativity that our youth have, and the projects they can complete. All of the extra areas of competition earn points towards the Top Gun (buckle) award, which this year went to Ethan Kennedy.

The last show I attended was the Northeast Youth Sheep Show, held in West Springfield, MA. This is also a very well run, fun show for youth. Romneys are the second largest breed shown, with 85

head signed up, and 22 kids. This show is usually held around the third weekend in July. Each day is packed with things to do. Participants this year were Ethan Kennedy (NY), Tim Walker (NH), Megan and Cady Higgins (CT), Phebe Alley (NY), Teresa, Julie and Catherine Hromis (NH), Bekah Parent (VT), Cooper and Ellora Chapin (NH), Ava Jo Hayes (NJ), Courtney Lyman (CT), Alexandra Rogers (NJ), Nate Trojanoski (CT), Megan Dion (NY), Meghan Malloy (CT), Melissa Wydra (CT), Brandi Babcock (NH), Penny Freeman Kemp (CT), Catherine Primavera (CT), and Cassandra Sebas (CT). Skillathon is divided up by age groups (not breeds), and two of our Romney breeders were first in their age groups: Megan Higgins in the Junior Group, and Cady Higgins in the Novice Group. These sisters also placed as Supreme Showman in their age groups. In the fleece show, Bekah Parent had Grand Champion Fleece and Nate Trojanoski had Reserve Grand Champion. Most of the fleeces exhibited were Romneys. Show ring placings were: Champion White Ram, Champion and Reserve Champion White Ewe: Ethan Kennedy; Reserve Champion White Ram: Megan Higgins; Best White Fleece: Phebe Alley; Champion

ROMNEY RAMBLINGS

Natural Colored Romney Ram: Tim Walker; Reserve Champion Natural Colored Ram: Nate Trojanoski; Champion Natural Colored Romney Ewe: Ethan Kennedy; Reserve Champion Natural Colored Ewe: Cooper Chapin; Best Natural Colored Fleece: Ethan Kennedy. The grand finale of the day was a revolving trophy for Best Headed Romney. The award was presented by Graeme Stewert, in honor of his wife Sue. The recipient was Ellora Chapin. Her white yearling ewe is a beauty and ironically, the ewe's name is Princess Sue. Every year Smiling Sheep Farm donates a pair of hand shears to a youth who mentors and promotes our industry and our youth. This year it went to Phebe Alley, a very deserving young adult!

Please continue to support our youth. They are a great asset to our breed and industry.

Remember, the Romney Junior Spectacular Show will be held at NAILE in November, and we need to rally our breeders, Open and Juniors. We are on probation this year. If we don't make our minimum numbers, we will be out. NAILE is the largest and most prestigious sheep show in the world. If you have been thinking about coming, this is the year.

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ARBA Science Advisory Panel formed

In response to recent events, and member concerns, the ARBA Board of Directors has unanimously approved the formation of a Science Advisory Panel.

This panel will work to advise the Board of Directors on scientific matters such as genetics, reproduction, nutrition, growth, etc. The panel will be composed of ARBA members from across the country with expertise in these fields to provide an up-to-date scientific perspective and information to guide the Board in making the best decisions for the breed.

The current members of the panel include: Jane Caulfield, Dee Heinrich, Margaret Howard, Al Schwider, and Stephen Shafer.

The first task this panel will work on is reviewing the Board's decision regarding moorit in Romneys. They will provide a recommendation to the Board of Directors to maintain the current decision or revise the decision and implement

a different solution. The membership will be notified of any updates.

ed decisions once the Board makes its decision.



**All American
Junior Sheep Show**



2015 National Romney Show
1st Place Yearling Ewe
and Best Headed

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2015 National Romney Show
Grand Champion Ewe

ARBA District 2 & 6 Regional Show Results

By Betsy McPherson &
Allison Seyfert

ARBA districts 2 & 6 held their combined regional show in early May at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival. It was a quality Romney show that showcased the American Romney, and the phenomenal breeders who raise them!

Tracey Sands of Wooly Wonders farm organized a memorial celebration of the life of Sue Stewart who was very involved with our ARBA youth. An ice cream social was the perfect way for those who knew Sue to gather and share their wonderful memories with

her husband Graeme.

Romneys did great this year in the sheep sale and attained higher sale prices than last year. The average prices were \$525 for white, and \$562.50 for natural colored.

Our regional show was comprised of open exhibitors along with juniors. Below are some of the results:

White Romney Champion Ram, Megan Higgins (Birds of a Feather); Reserve Champion Ram, Hilary Chapin (Smiling Sheep); Champion Ewe, Ellora Chapin (Smiling Sheep); Reserve Champion Ewe, Charlene Carlisle (Little Hooves); Best Fleece, Megan Higgins (Birds of a Feather). Black Romney

Champion Ram, Hilary Chapin (Smiling Sheep); Reserve Champion Ram, Maria Rooney (Silver Creek); Champion Ewe, Hilary Chapin (Smiling Sheep); Reserve Champion Ewe, Charlene Carlisle (Little Hooves); Best Fleece, Maria Rooney (Silver Creek), went on to win Supreme Best Fleece. Junior White Romney Champion Ram, Megan Higgins (Birds of a Feather); Reserve Champion Ram, Ellora Chapin (Smiling Sheep); Champion Ewe, Ellora Chapin (Smiling Sheep); Reserve Champion Ewe, Cooper Chapin (Smiling Sheep); Best Fleece, Megan Higgins (Birds of a Feather); Best Head (in memory of Sue Stewart), Ellora Chapin (Smiling Sheep). Junior Black Romney Champion Ram, Colton

Hayes; Reserve Champion Ram, Alexandra Rogers (Harmony Valley); Champion Ewe, Cooper Chapin (Smiling Sheep); Reserve Champion Ewe, Callie Burgess (Circle B Family); Best Fleece-Cooper Chapin (Smiling Sheep); Best Head (in memory of Sue Stewart), Colton Hayes.

President's Message

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The board and committees have been hard at work looking at the breed standard and planning for the annual meeting at NAILE with a Romney Junior Show Spectacular!

A Science Advisory Panel was created to be sure the Board of Directors has the most up-to-date information on topics that require a scientific perspective, such as genetics, nutrition, reproduction, and others. You can read more about the panel in this issue of the Ramblings.

I look forward to seeing you all at the annual meeting in November.

Romney Items Available on Website

Flock Record Book:

Provides general sheep information and space to record lambs born and raised for 1 or several years. Price: \$3, postpaid

ARBA Logo Decals:

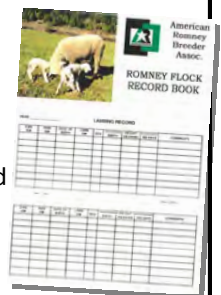
good for indoor/outdoor use to promote the association and you as a member and breeder of registered Romney sheep. 4½-inch decal - \$3, 6-inch decal - \$4, postpaid. White or black lettering.

To order visit

www.americanromney.org



Soon to be 5-year-old Adeline Skidmore, Fairhill Farm of Aberdeen, MD, with her very first Romney, Pearl, a birthday gift from her grandmother.



Moorit designation in the Romney

by Chris Posbergh

As some breeders may have noticed at the Black Sheep Gathering this year, there were Moorit Romneys exhibited. These sheep originate from semen imported from New Zealand Romney breeders, and passed inspection prior to importation several years ago. They were registered in ARBA via the amnesty program, which only waived late fees, and at that time it was not known to the board that they were moorit.

At this time, these sheep will remain registered as Romneys through ARBA. Moving forward, there will be a designation at the beginning of the registration numbers to keep track of moorit within the American Romney population. This designation will be an 'M' or 'MM' at the beginning of the registration number. 'M' designates a moorit carrier and an 'MM' designates a moorit individual. At the present time, this will affect a small percentage of the population; nearly all flocks will continue

to register Romneys as they always have using the 'BB' & 'BW' designations for natural colored or white with natural colored in its pedigree. Below are some examples of what registration numbers for individuals with moorit will look like: MM 123456 BB = a natural colored moorit individual; M 123456 BB = a natural colored black individual that carries moorit; M 123456 BW = a white individual with natural colored ancestors that carries moorit.

To repeat, nearly all Romney flocks will continue to register sheep as they always have, using the suffix designation (BB & BW) for color. The moorit

allele is at a very low frequency in the population.

If you think you may have moorit in your flock, I encourage you to take photos of your lambs soon after birth to determine this.



Talking to the judge at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Show.

Looking very much like a flock of sheep grazing on an Oregon hillside, these Romneys actually hail from the Higher Bridge Farm operated by Angela & Roger Doughty in CREDITON, United Kingdom.



UK Romneys



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