

FALL/WINTER
2016 / 17



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

Romney Ramblings

Newsletter of the American
Romney Breeders Association

President's Message

By Chris Posbergh

Thank you to everyone who came out to NAILE this year for our annual meeting and Junior Show Spectacular! It was an enjoyable meeting with breeders coming from

coast
to coast
to at-
tend.
Con-
grats to
Ethan
Kennedy
for win-
ning Jr.
Supreme
Champion
Ram
across all
breeds—
a first for
Romneys
at NAILE!
Congrats to
everyone
else for

winning various
awards in both
the Junior and
Open shows. Results
can be found later
in the newsletter.
Another thing to re-
member is that the Vet-
erinary Feed Directive

Cont. on page 11



SMILING SHEEP FARM

~2016~ WHAT A YEAR!!!!

***PREMIER WHITE AND NC ROMNEY EXHIBITOR MDSWF**

***CHAMPION NC RAM AND EWE MDSWF**

***CHAMPION WHITE EWE AND BEST HEAD MDSWF**

***PREMIER WHITE ROMNEY BREEDER BIG E**

***CHAMPION WHITE EWE BIG E**

***CHAMPION NC RAM BIG E**

***BEST FLEECE WHITE ROMNEY BIG E**

***SUPREME WHITE RAM RHINEBECK NY**

***SUPREME NC EWE RHINEBECK NY**

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR BUYERS.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING A TRUE DUAL PURPOSE ROMNEY.

CONGRATS TO MEGAN HIGGINS ON CHAPIN 185 FUTURITY LAMB!!



CHAPIN 151 "JOHN BEAR" SERVICE SIRE 2017 LAMBS

CONTACT US TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR NEW 2017 CHAPIN ROMNEY LAMB!!

LOOK FOR US AT THE NATIONAL SHOW AND SALE

HILARY, WES, COOPER AND ELLORA CHAPIN IN MILTON, NH

FACEBOOK OR WWW.SMILINGSHEEPFARM.COM OR 1-603-767-8826

Southern Adirondack show results

The Southern Adirondack Fiber Festival held its Second Annual Romney Sheep Show on September 25, at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Greenwich, NY. Romneys are a very popular breed in this, and nearby counties, as well as the neighboring state of Vermont. Fourteen exhibitors (nine of which were junior ARBA members) brought over 45 Romneys, both white and natural colored.

"Without the support of our local and regional sponsors," show chairperson, Norma Johnson-Glacy commented, "this show would not have become a reality. These competitions, for young and old, are the very essence of the enduring qualities of agricultural life."

The Show Committee offers their thanks to Geof Ruppert, from Ruppert Corriedales in Fairfield, PA, who judged the show. Geof generously complimented the Romneys he judged saying, "I was so impressed by the

quality of the Romneys this weekend, and I can see that the breed is in excellent hands as there were so many young people involved. The Romney is such a wonderful, dual purpose



breed, and so well suited to this area."

Show results:

Junior

Showmanship:

Champion—Bekah Parent; Reserve—Gabrielle Ochs.

White Romneys:

Champion Ram—Tom Graves; Reserve—Carole Foster and Abigail Henderson; Champion Ewe—Bekah Parent; Reserve—Carole Foster and Abigail Henderson; Junior Champion Ewe—Bekah Parent; Junior Reserve—Emma Lacko.

Best Head—Tom Graves; Junior Best Head—Devin Lacko; Best Fleece—Bekah Parent; Junior Best Fleece—Bekah Parent.

Natural Colored Romneys:

Champion Ram—Jane Lacko; Reserve—Josh Neumann; Junior Champion Ram—Josh Neumann; Junior Reserve—Bekah Parent; Champion Ewe—Bekah Parent; Reserve—Devlin Kennedy; Junior Champion Ewe—Bekah Parent; Junior Reserve—Devlin Kennedy; Exhibitor's

Flock—Norma Johnson-Glacy; Breeder's Flock—Norma Johnson-Glacy; Best Head—Jane Lacko; Junior Best Head—Devin Lacko; Best Fleece—Josh Neumann; and Junior Best Fleece—Josh Neumann.)

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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

It is time to enter a new year. Lambs are growing, or soon to be delivered, weather changes are being used to manage feed rations, and vacations are being planned to include (or avoid) sheep shows, sales and educational meetings.

With the new year comes your opportunity to renew your ARBA membership, or take the step to become an ARBA member. Enclosed in this issue of the Ramblings is a membership application, and in the mail is a renewal form

for existing members. Payment through Associated Registries can be done, but each membership processed

is \$2.85 taken from ARBA. Payment to the secretary allows the entire amount to be deposited in the ARBA account.

The annual meeting was held November 12 in Louisville, KY. Over forty sheep breeders gathered for dinner, the annual business meeting, and support of ARBA junior members with actions taken at the silent auction. The

junior members were in the show ring earlier in the day and shared their successes with the membership. Topping the junior show was the selection of Ethan Kennedy's Romney ram as Supreme Champion of all breeds in the junior show.

ARBA board members met prior to the annual meeting and following the annual meeting. New to the board is District 4 Director, Sue Kalina. Follow up of several issues took place during these meetings, and reports from committees indicated the involvement of the

board throughout the year. Minutes of the meetings are posted on the website, and you are encouraged to read for changes that may impact decisions you



Source: www.freedesignfile.com

make regarding your sheep herding. www.americanromney.org.

Plans for 2017 are in the making. If the National Sale is on your list, watch for details early and be prepared to attend the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival the first weekend in May. Fall will bring the ARBA board together for the annu-

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Rambling Roads — Notes from District Directors

District 1

With the annual ARBA dinner meeting being held in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition, it allowed several of us the opportunity to watch ARBA juniors compete. What a lot of nice looking Romneys! Our association can be very proud of the quality of Romneys the youth brought to this national level competition. District 1 had four youth representatives: Catherine Hromis stood 2nd in a very competitive showmanship class. There is no room for error in this class. The keen eye of judge Kathryn Kuykendall pulled out the top 10 showmen in a matter of minutes, and Catherine held a flawless show to the bitter end. Friday night's debut was the lead-line class. At the national level, if you even receive a ribbon, it's a good show! I saw a 3rd place award streaming down the back of a chair with the girls' pile of trophies. Congratulations to Megan Higgins for that, as well as a 2nd place in natural colored Junior ewe lamb. Theresa Hromis owns the reserve champion ewe of the NAILE junior show. She also received best headed ewe, and best Romney white fleece. The best Natural Colored Fleece award went to Ava Jo Hayes. They left a few awards behind for others! It was a great time to meet other youth with Romneys around the country. They were frantically trimming for their mentor, Charlene Carlisle, when I left the barn. I know they appreciated the support from the association and the numerous donations that Char-

lene collected for their trophies. They were sporting some Romney NAILE Jr. Show vests and were already planning where to hang the engraved mirrors. Thank you, again, to all who have helped support our youth.

Katherine Moore

District 1 Regional Director

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District 2

Season's greetings! From show season to breeding season, and now preparing for lambing season, what a wonderful year it has been for Romneys. Congratulations to all the exhibitors throughout the show season, and good luck to everyone in their upcoming lambing season.

This year I not only got to organize a regional show, but was also able to attend my very first annual meeting at NAILE. It was great to meet with Romney breeders and discuss raising sheep and the fu-

ture of ARBA. I look forward to helping organize the 2017 Annual Meeting, along with the National Show, that will take place at the Garden State Sheep Breeders Sheep & Fiber Festival September 8-10 in Ringoes, NJ.

Here in Maryland, we are coming up on pre-lambing shearing followed soon by ultrasounds. It took me a while to come around to shearing this time of year. It is not feasible for everyone in every climate, but our sheep have access to a nice warm barn, and by the time the harshness of January/February rolls around, they will already have some fleece back. There are so many benefits to pre-lambing shearing. It is cleaner for birthing, and easier for the lambs to find their mom's teats. Having less wool also causes the ewes to seek shelter rather than lambing out in the weather (increasing survival of lambs), and allows me to

Continued on page 11

THOMPSON ROMNEYS

Randy & Elaine Thompson
4004 50th St. Ct. E., Tacoma, WA 98443
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- ARBA Registered
- White & Natural Colored Romneys
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- Breeding Stock



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Another successful NAILE in Louisville, Kentucky

By Charlene Carlisle

NAILE 2016 proved to be a good year for Romneys. The JRs started the event off with showmanship and leadline. Both of those events are highly competitive and broken up by ages with a significant number of youth in each class. Romney Showmanship and Leadline Youth were Catherine Hromis (CT), Teresa Hromis (CT) and Megan Higgins (CT). Catherine was second in her age group for Showmanship, and Teresa and Megan placed very respectfully. These young ladies presented some beautiful clothing articles, made with great skill, as they promoted the Romney breed.

The next couple days were busy with sheep fitting for the JR Show. We had a very nice turnout this year with 41 sheep entered, and 32 actually going through the show ring. For the first time a Romney was awarded the Supreme Champion Ram, over all breeds in the Jr Show. Ethan Kennedy (NY) was the proud owner and breeder. In addition

to the honor of winning that coveted award, he also received a check for \$1000. Reserve Champion Ram went to Ethan Plank (MI), while Ethan Kennedy (NY) took Champion and Teresa Hromis took Reserve Champion Ewe. She also took Best White

Fleece and Best Head. Ava Jo Hayes (NJ) received Best NC Fleece. All were presented with unique glass etched framed mirrors. The JRs also received an appreciation award, a vest with ARBA logo stitched on it, sponsored by a loyal Romney supporter.

The Annual Dinner/Meeting was held on November 12, at a beautiful, scenic restaurant on the Ohio River, with 35 members present. Entertaining door prizes were presented by Willis Plank (show superintendent) and silent auction items were bid on to raise money for the JRs. A special award was given to Esther Kennedy for her ongoing youth support. It was really a nice evening; so much fun to talk with

old friends and meet new ones.

The Open Show came later in the week with 61 head entered and 55 going through the ring. Open show honors went to Little Hooves (NJ) with Champion White Ram and White Ewe. Reserve Champion White Ram and White Ewe went to Ethan Kennedy. Megan Higgins

received Best White Fleece, and White Premier Exhibitor went to Little Hooves. Natural Colored Champion Ram came from the Little Hooves and Reserve Champion



Natural Colored Ram was owned by Ethan Plank. The Natural Colored Champion Ewe was

owned and bred by Megan Higgins, and Reserve NC Ewe went to Little Hooves. Best NC Fleece belonged to Megan Higgins, and Premier NC Exhibitor went to Little Hooves.

Nate Trojanoski (CT) received Reserve Champion Natural Colored Fleece, and Caitlin Plank (MI) received several placings, including 1st and 2nd White Romney Fleece, 2nd NC Ewe Fleece and 3rd NC Ram Fleece.

As a side note, for the first time ever, Romneys were used in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest. Youth from 34 states evaluated and judged Romneys. This was a positive move to keep Romneys in the forefront of our youth.

Anyone following the ARBA JRs on Facebook probably noted that, after a flurry of pictures, there suddenly wasn't any. That was due to my phone taking a nose dive into a water bucket. I was afraid that all my pictures would be lost, but after some help from knowledgeable folks, the pictures were retrieved from its soggy memory. Slowly I have been posting pics. If anyone

Continued on page 7



Jr. ARBA members have great fun at great shows!

has some to share, please forward to me and I will try to get them posted online.

Many thanks to all who supported this show, whether it was financially or with your time, energy, or emotional support. All was appreciated. I am happy to report that Romneys are off probation, due to everyone help. A special shoutout to our JR members. Had they not stayed for the Open Show, there wouldn't have been one. Hope to see you all there next year.

BIG E HIGHLIGHTS

BigE is a great show. The folks that run the show make every attempt to keep the exhibitors happy. It is a fun show, and the free donuts every morning are simply the best. As always, the show is very well attended by Romneys. This northeast pocket is full of ARBA breeders and others travel to get there.

The Romneys show in the second week, typically known as "wool week". This year the wool breeds had over 1700 entries. Approximately 100,000 people went through each day, making the total for the whole BigE just a bit under 1.5 million visitors. The food and fun makes this one of my favorite shows.

Placings can be found on their website, but a few highlights are as follows: Champion White Ram went to Little Hooves; Reserve Champion White Ram—Chapin Family (Smiling Sheep of NH); Champion White Ewe—Chapin Family; Reserve—Emma Morton (RI). The White Exhibitor's and Breeder's Flocks—Chapin Family; White Best Fleece—Ellora Chapin (NH); White Best Headed—Catherine Hromis. Get of Sire was won by Little Hooves Romneys, as

was White Premier Breeder. Premier Exhibitor went to the Chapin Family.

In the Natural Colored Show: Champion Ram—Chapin Family; Reserve—Courtney Lyman (MA). Little Hooves had the Champion NC Ewe who then went on to become the Supreme Champion Ewe over all wool breeds. Reserve Champion Ewe was owned by the Chapin Family who also took Best Exhibitors Flock, with Little Hooves having Best Breeders Flock and Best Fleece. Megan Higgins had Best Head and Premier Exhibitor and Breeder was Little Hooves.

JR Show: Champion White Ram—Megan Higgins; Reserve—Catherine Hromis; Champion White Ewe—Ellora Chapin; Reserve Champion White Ewe—Catherine Hromis. Natural Colored Ram—Courtney Lyman; Reserve Champion—Teresa Hromis; Champion NC Ewe—Cooper Chapin; Reserve Champion—Courtney Lyman.

Fleece Show: Elihu Farms (NY) secured many high placings, one of which was the Champion Handspinning Fleece. The Leadline class was well represented by our JRs. In the JR Division, all five entries were



from ARBA JR members with Ellora Chapin securing the blue. Teresa Hromis competed in the Sr Division, and Hilary Chapin competed in the Adult Division.

I tried not to leave anyone out but feel free to let me know (very gently) if I did and I will add or correct. Thanks to everyone that supported the show!

Introducing our New Stud Ram



Chapin 145
Supreme Champion White Ram
2015 New York State
Sheep & Wool Festival
Rhinebeck, New York

Anchorage Farm

A Great Ending to a Great Year!

Anchorage Farm Romneys would like to thank Wes & Hilary Chapin for making this outstanding stud prospect available to us. I know he will add a great deal to our current breeding program. We have, and do, emphasize breed character, fleece quality, structural correctness and size. We feel Chapin 145 will benefit our breeding program in all these respects. We eagerly await his lambs and will have some on the ground in February.

Please contact Anchorage Farm early for all your show and breeding needs. We will have white, natural colored and recessive Romneys available in the Spring of 2017.

To all our new buyers and repeat buyers in 2016, we thank you for your faith in our breeding program. Anchorage Farm Romneys had a great year for these buyers at the county fair level, Jr. shows, Big E and Louisville. Congratulations!

Anchorage Farm

Stephen & Lizbeth Shafer
Owners

**Watch for us in 2017 at Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival,
Great Lakes Sale, Big E, New York State Sheep & Wool Festival
and the New York State Bred Ewe Sale**

845-246-7685 - home
845-399-2379 - cell
www.anchorageromneys.com/
anchorage1@earthlink.net

Farm visits by appointment
Send Inquiries to
Graeme Stewart
Farm Manager

Calendar of Events

December 2016

9-10: Buckeye Shepherd's Symposium and Ohio Sheep Improvement Association annual meeting, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster, Ohio. www.ohiosheep.org

13-15: California Sheep Producer Forums—Dec. 13 in Hopland, Dec. 14 in Sacramento Dec. 15 in Bakersfield. Visit CAWoolGrowers.org

January 2017

3-5: Texas State Shearing School, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, San Angelo. Contact reid.redden@ag.tamu.edu or 325-657-7324.

6-8: Michigan Sheep Breeders Association Shepherd's Weekend, Lansing, MI. Email: kaercher@msu.edu <http://misheep.org/calendar/>

12-14: Utah State University Sheep Shearing School, USU Sheep Facility, Logan, UT. Email: apsteinfeldt@gmail.com or 435-813-2587.

25-28: American Sheep Industry Association Annual Convention, Denver, CO. www.sheepusa.org www.sheepusa.org/About_Events_Convention

February 2017

2-4: The 25th Annual Grazing Conference, Wisconsin Dells, WI. <http://grassworks.org/?110340>

4: Indianhead Sheep Breeders Shepherds Clinic. Indianhead Technical College, Rice Lake, WI. Email: tim.jergenson@co.barron.wi.us

18: Kentucky Small Ruminant Grazing Conference, Hardin County Extension Office, Elizabethtown, KY.

<https://rcars.ca.uky.edu/event/2017-small-ruminant-grazing-conference>

7-23: Illinois Certified Livestock Manager Training Workshops held in various locations in Illinois. <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/lfmm/downloads/66958.pdf>

March 2017

12-15: Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School, Albany, OR. Visit NLFA-Sheep.org for more information

25: High Desert Wool Growers Annual Fiber Market Day, Prineville, OR. www.highdesertwoolgrowers.org

April 2017

2-5: Mother Earth News Institute, Seven Springs, PA. www.motherearthnewsinstitute.com

May 2017

6-7: Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. www.sheepandwool.org Email: office@sheepandwool.org

21-27: International Heritage Breeds Week. www.heritagebreedsorg

June 2017

23-25: Black Sheep Gathering, Eugene, OR. www.blacksheepgathering.org

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.

You can call me "Dorm Mom"

by Charlene Carlisle

It seems that the year flew by with the seasonal cycles going faster and faster. I feel I can hear my grandmother saying this exact thing. As a kid, time was endless; now it's a blur at warp speed. I guess ageing has something to do with all of this, and the alternative is not a viable option. So we make the obvious choice and keep on hacking away at what we do. Most of the shepherds I know are young at heart, after all, 70 is the new 40. So I figure I am just about ready to turn 30.

I discovered a new approach this year to showing. I talk a lot about the youth, and being a good mentor, and how important they are to our future. Most of you who know me know that I travel alone to a

lot of the shows, simply because someone has to be at home to run the farm. So, about a year ago I decided to take two teenage sisters with me to NAILE. Not only did it give me company, but it gave the girls the opportunity to show in a setting they had never been able to participate in before. They are great kids and participated in everything they could while they were there. They helped me with chores, fitting and showing. It was a test run; taking someone else's kids is very different from taking your own, and who knew if it would work out. Maybe they wouldn't be as great as I hoped, or maybe I wouldn't provide what they needed while being gone from their families. We all went in

with the thought that, if it didn't work out, at least we had tried and no hard feelings. So let me tell you, I had a great time with them, and that is what keeps us young at heart. You need to stay connected, listen to their thoughts, ask what they want in the sheep world. They have opinions and ideas, and they are good ones. We laughed, we worked, we ate, and then we laughed again. It's the laughter that keeps us interested; the work, food and friends just adds the extra sparkle so we can keep on laughing. So, would I take these two sisters again? Let me just say that when the truck and trailer pulled out for NAILE, I had four young shepherds riding with me.

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Rambling Roads

Continued from page 5

watch their body condition better and increase feed, if needed. If they get sick, it is also easier to treat them. Better fleeces are another huge benefit, as any weaknesses caused from the stress of lambing and lactation will be at the tips rather than possibly causing breaks in the middle. Most shearers also prefer shearing before lambing because they are in better condition (less likely to cut them), and they don't have to worry about shearing around an udder. After shearing, we'll be doing ultrasounds and splitting the ewes into different feeding groups based on body condition and expected number of lambs.

Thank you to all the members for allowing me to serve as your District 2 Regional Director. I would really love to hear about all of the Romney activities happening around our district, as well as any ideas for ARBA. Please call or email me with ideas, upcoming events, show & sale results, or just to chat about sheep.

Allison Seyfert

District 2 Regional Director

410-804-0492

mistyrosefarm@rocketmail.com

District 4

Howdy, all ARBA members, and especially to Oregon members! Thank you for electing me as your district representative. I have just returned from a great trip to NAILE in Louisville, KY, attending the annual meeting and sheep shows. My mom, daughter, and I enjoyed the southern hospitality. I am a new board member with 50+ years of ARBA experience, so hope

I can lend some knowledge, but also be ready for the exciting future. I hope to see you at the Oregon Romney Breeders Assn. meeting on Dec. 10. Let me know if you have any ideas to pass along. With a national show and national sale on the east coast next year, I hope we will have a trailer going so we can participate.

Sue Kalina

District 4 Regional Director

541-971-4324

skalina@willamette

communitybank.com

District 6

Hello from District 6! I attended ARBA's board and annual meetings at NAILE in Louisville, KY. It was my first time attending, and for those of you who don't know the history of The North American International Livestock Exposition, here are some very interesting facts:

NAILE is the largest, all-breed, purebred livestock event in the world. It has nearly 30,000 entries, in more than 140 competitions within 10 livestock divisions. Participants come from 48 states, spanning over 17 days. The show builds up to the sale of champions where the global industry standards are established, with breeders merchandising bloodlines and genetics to local and international interests.

NAILE TIMELINE:

1974—It began featuring beef cattle only

1975—Sheep division was added with 1,443 entries with 12 breeds competing

1977—Swine and dairy cattle added

1978—Quarter Horse Show was introduced

1979—North American Champion-

ship Rodeo joined

1983—Draft horses added

1988—Dairy goats added

1992—Llamas and alpacas added

2000—Boer goats added

2007—Mules and donkeys added

If you have a chance to go next year, do it! It was fascinating just seeing the numbers of animal pens, families, the youth involved, the huge country store and, of course, the beautiful and interesting breeds of sheep.

Happy Holidays and Happy Lambing to you all!

Betsy McPherson

District 6 Regional Director

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betsymcp711@gmail.com

President's Message

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will be taking effect January 1st. Make sure you read up on the antibiotics that will no longer be available over the counter. An infographic summarizing the changes can be found at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/jq9h9k3>

Next year the annual meeting will be held at the Garden State Sheep Breeders Festival in September. More details to follow as we get closer to the date.

I hope to see you all next year! Happy Holidays and Happy Lambing to everyone!

CHRIS

DORM MOM, continued from pg. 10

For two of them, it was their second year participating in the largest livestock show in the world. For the other two it will be their first year attending, so who knows what next year will bring, but it certainly feels very positive to me. This was a win-win experience for all of us, and I think I might have a new name: Dorm Mom.

Mark your calendars with ARBA's 2017 events

Mark your calendars, and be involved in the activities of your breed association.

December/January: Renew your membership, gift new memberships

Early January: Board meeting to plan the year

January 31: All memberships from 2016 expire, time to renew or be removed from active list

March/April: Watch for information regarding the National Romney Sale at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival the first weekend in May. Check Banner Sales website and the ARBA website.

April 1: Membership deadline for voting in the annual election of officers. All active members will be

provided ballots.

April: Board meeting to prepare for election of officers, finalize sale information, promote National Show and annual meeting.

May 6: National Romney Sale – Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival, West Friendship, MD.

May 27-28: Romney Specialty Sale, Great Lakes Sale, Wooster, Ohio.

May-October: Sheep and Wool Festivals, County and State Fairs, Purebred Sales

May: Election of board members – please vote and return ballots.

August: Board meeting to prepare for annual meeting.

September 7-10: National Romney Show and ARBA Annual Meeting, Ringoes, New Jersey. In

conjunction with the Garden State Fair.

October: New York Bred Ewe Sale, Fiber Festival and Sheep Show, Rhinebeck, New York.

November: North American International Livestock Exposition, Louisville, Kentucky.

December: Renew your membership!

Secretary's Desk

Continued from page 4

al meeting and National Romney Show in New Jersey, September 7-10, during the Garden State Fair in Ringoes. Think about taking part in the show and having your sheep on display and in the ring. More details on the show, sale and meeting will be available as the dates get closer.

Help support the association, register more animals, and encourage others to become members. The board members have projects pending, and all require funding to complete and put into action.

Happy Lambing!

southern Oregon Romneys



**Ewe lambs from these genetics are available now.
Reserve your 2017 lambs soon**

JoAnn Mast & Kathleen Zappelli

58221 Lee Valley Road, Coquille, OR 97423

541-572-3094 (home) 541-290-2103 (cell) soromney@wildblue.net OR southernoregonromneysonline.com

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

American Romney Breeders Association Breed Standard Updated

By Anne McIntyre-Lahner

At the request of multiple breeders from a number of districts, the ARBA board agreed to review the Breed Standard. The board consequently posted a series of recommendations for ARBA membership review and comment. A number of members provided feedback to the board, and the feedback was reviewed and where appropriate, was incorporated into the final draft recommendations. The board reviewed, and on 11/11/16 unanimously approved the recommendations with member feedback. The approved version of the breed standard is the first phase of a multiple phase project that includes adapting the standard for natural colored and moorit Romneys, updating the scorecard, and providing educational materials for members and judges.

The updated version of the breed standard will be posted on the ARBA website after 12/11/16. This initial version is based on a unified standard and focuses on white Romneys. The next phase of work will identify variations for natural colored Romneys, followed by variations for moorit Romneys.

Feedback from mem-

bers that was incorporated includes: maturity of the animals at 2-3 years; black points as the standard, with mottling allowed; pigmentation in the fleece and hair; stronger definitions regarding fleece, fleece quality, and the neck; and disqualifications.

In addition, the board adopted "Standard of Excellence" language and a "One Breed, One Standard" approach, both of which are described below:

Standard of Excellence underscores the aspirational nature of a breed standard: in effect, the standard describes the ideal animal.

It should be understood that many worthy animals within a flock will not possess all of the characteristics of the ideal animal. It should be further understood that there will be a range in the number and percentage of those characteristics found across individual flocks, and across flocks within ARBA. Unless specifically noted as a disqualification, pure-bred Romneys, possessing a majority of the characteristics in the breed standard, should be considered as worthy animals.

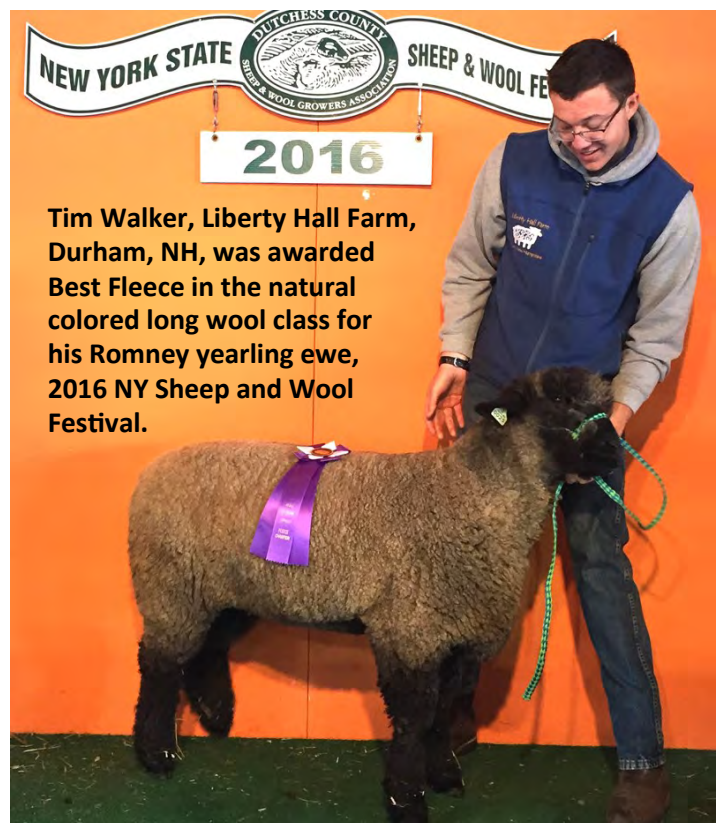
Similarly, an individual breeder may choose to

emphasize one trait or characteristic over another: breeders raise Romneys to meet varying local conditions. A variety of types of Romneys have been developed to adapt to the climate, feed, location and type of soil on which they are grown.

When choosing which Romneys to register, show, and use for breed-

ing, members should refer to the standards to determine if an animal is worthy of registration, and whether the animal should be used for breeding. There is no inspection requirement as part of the registration process, and all ARBA members rely on the integrity of other breeders to en-

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Tim Walker, Liberty Hall Farm, Durham, NH, was awarded Best Fleece in the natural colored long wool class for his Romney yearling ewe, 2016 NY Sheep and Wool Festival.



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Important considerations for marketing decisions

By JoAnn Mast

You breed and raise sheep, but not all are able to remain in the flock forever. Your task is to determine how many ewes, rams and replacement ewes your facilities and finances will support. The other piece of this project is to have a marketing plan that allows for sales of animals and products produced by the animals. This may be as easy as loading lambs for a trip to the local auction barn shortly after weaning, and before they are shorn, or as detailed as preparing for a purebred sale that requires several days of transport to attend.

The marketing of weaned lambs at a local market may work well, and knowing the current market trends can help you determine when to load up and make the sale. Co-op sales in some regions may allow for the sale of animals as a group, to a designated buyer. This may be an opportunity to sell weaned lambs, cull ewes and rams, and, in some cases, excess breeding animals.

Direct marketing of animals can also be an option for producers. Classified ads in tabloids, ag papers and magazines, posting on bulletin boards, and the use of social media, are all ways to share

what you have grown and announce when it is available. To enhance your sales, know what your competition is selling and how it is priced. Offer services that others may not want to take on, such as shearing animals and sending the fleece along, or offering to make arrangements for the processing of meat lambs. These choices may be the reason you sell lambs while others are seeking out buyers.

Farmer's markets and festivals may also be an avenue for sales with higher financial return. The factors that add value need to be considered. Rental space may need to be secured weekly, or regular participation may be part of a contract for participation. Having enough inventory to meet the market demand is important, and being prepared to guarantee sale quality may be necessary.

Selling breeding stock may be the most involved. Word of mouth among local producers may be one way to sell production animals, but attending sales and man-

Continued on page 15



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58221 Lee Valley Road
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☐ Renewal

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Please accept my application for membership renewal to the American Romney Breeders Association. I agree to abide by the Bylaws and Rules of the American Romney Breeders Association.

Signature: _____

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Continued from page 14

aging a farm website may also be means of targeting buyers. Regardless of the method, breeding stock sales should follow certain guidelines not needed for selling market lambs. Breed standards, sound conformation, and records to support production, should be guidelines to follow. Purebred sales may require DNA testing, and transportation to the sale may need a health certificate provided by your veterinarian. All sales will require the transfer of ownership, with certificate of registry sent to association registries. Buyers may also want information on the wool. If micron testing has been done, the information is ready to share. If not, testing may be need-

ed. When buyers are shopping from your website or social media posting, they may request pictures, weights, measurements and specific tests needed to confirm a sale. Transportation expenses may also influence sales. Local delivery may be included, but transfer from the farm to a trailer heading to a final destination may need to be factored into the price. Transport on commercial trailers, or with breeders attending shows and sales, should be priced out in advance and not be the final reason not to complete a purchase.

Shows are also a place to shop for animals and wool. Watching animals being evaluated in the show ring may be a great way to

identify top quality prospects. Fleece shows may have a sale option, or you may be able to see fleeces from animals that you are considering buying.

ARBA has ways to assist in the marketing process: classified ads can be placed on the website, breed standards can be obtained, the membership directory can help you locate Romney breeders in your region, and the calendar of events will announce shows and sales in your region. Information regarding registrations and transfers are also included on the website. The Romney Ramblings newsletter is also a helpful resource, sent to you via email and posted on the ARBA website.

ARBA Breed Standard Updated, continued from page 13

sure quality stock, and the future of the breed.

One Breed: One Standard The Board has adopted a one breed, one standard approach. Whether a Romney is white, natural colored (black) or moorit (brown), the animal is first and foremost a Romney, and, as such, should share the traits and char-

acteristic that define the Romney breed. The ARBA board has adopted a unified breed standard; and where variation from the general standard is required based on color, those variations will be specifically identified. This initial version is based on a unified standard, and focuses on white

Romneys. The next phase of work will identify variations for natural colored Romneys followed by variations for moorit Romneys.

This initial version, approved on 11/11/16, focuses on the White Rom-

ney. The Education Committee of the Board is currently working on language to incorporate natural colored (black) Romneys, followed by moorit (brown) Romneys.

The Board anticipates this work will be completed during the spring of 2017.



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