



Romney Ramblings

July 26, 2021

A JOINT MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT:

We write to you jointly after a long and challenging year for so many people and in so many ways. We hope that you and your families and your flocks are all in good health and are ready to return to fiber shows, agricultural fairs, and the ability to meet with each other in person again.

As you may know, the board has been working throughout the pandemic – meeting electronically to make sure ARBA business continues to move forward. As part of that work, the board has been dealing with some challenging issues, and appreciates all the feedback recently shared by interested members. We have utilized that feedback to help guide our decisions, and will be sharing that information very soon. We look forward to a year of healing and growth for ARBA during the rest of 2021 and beyond.

We salute the current ARBA board members and committee members – they are committed, hard-working, honest, decent volunteers who give of their time and talents to make ARBA a stronger organization. We thank them for their time and talents, especially through this difficult year.

If you are a member from district 4, 5, or 6, and would like to be part of making ARBA stronger, please consider putting your name forward as a candidate for district director. You can do this by contacting any current board member.

Finally, we say farewell to JoAnn Mast as the ARBA secretary and treasurer. JoAnn is a long-time ARBA member, and has served as the ARBA secretary and treasurer for many years. In that role, she has provided guidance, consistency, suggestions, and stability to multiple boards. We will greatly miss her great work and her dry sense of humor, and wish her and Kathleen a well-deserved retirement!

Wishing ewe a healthy 2021 season!

Don Burgess , ARBA President
Anne McIntyre-Lahner, ARBA Vice-President

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

Mentoring Program

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

Welcome to our New Members:

If you joined ARBA after March 29th, we'd like to give you a big shout out and a warm welcome.

The board is no further than a phone call or email

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.

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

"What is one tip you would give to a potential/new Romney breeder?"

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

Advertising in the Ramblings

Full Page \$100

1/2 Page \$75

1/3 Page \$60

1/4 Page \$35

Card Ad \$20

Classified Ads—45 cents per word.

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

Send all advertising information and news to: Patricia Sanville

4637 Cap Stine Road

Frederick, MD 21703

patriciasanville@gmail.com

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

Rambling Roads: District Director Reports

District 1: Emma Rogers:

Greetings from Connecticut!! So excited that things are finally opening back up, and we can begin to have a more normal 2021. The Northeast Youth Sheep Show will occur July 15-18 at Big E fairgrounds. The used equipment auction, skill-a-thon, fleece show, clinics, team showmanship, and fun night are all events that will be occurring. Come out for a fun time both in and out of the show ring.

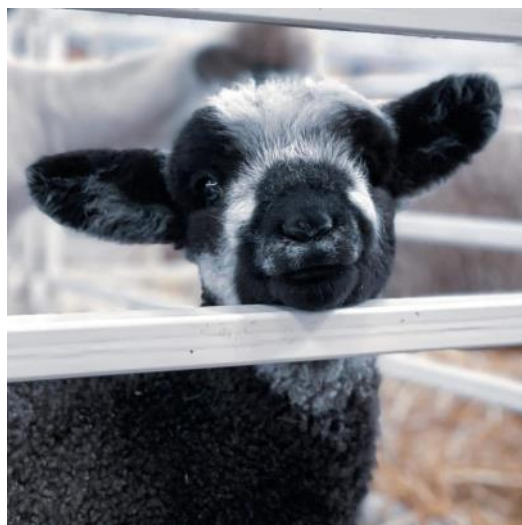
Additionally, plans are underway for the All American to come east to the Big E fairgrounds in 2022 from June 30 to July 3. NEYSS will be moving forward one weekend to allow two great shows to occur at one venue back to back. AAJSS also has a silent auction, so begin to think about items now!

The ARBA annual meeting is planning to occur in conjunction with New York State Sheep and Wool Festival on October 15 and 16. Additional information regarding a block of rooms is included in this newsletter.

We are beginning a new educational piece for the Ramblings, and all members are invited to participate. This edition's question is What "could" you be doing now to get ready for the next breeding season? While it seems a bit far away, breeding season will be here before we know it. One of our biggest priorities is making sure we have all the supplies we need for breeding. Since we are in a low Selenium area, we must administer BoSe to all ewes and rams before breeding. Other supplies we order or have are raddle powder for marking, PG 600 and CIDRs for ewes we plan to synchronize, CIDR inserter, and gloves. My two most important supplies are my gestation calculator and our breeding book to track dates. Since we have jobs off the farm, we are constantly planning when to introduce and pull rams for lambing dates. I encourage all breeders to start looking now to ensure they have all supplies on hand for breeding. It is never too far in advance to plan!

I hope to see many of you in October at Rhinebeck. You can always contact me with results/information to share or just to chat about Romneys.

-Emma Rogers
District 1 Director



District 2: Amy Miller

My name is Amy Miller and I live in Keymar, MD with my husband and 2 teenage daughters. I work as a veterinary receptionist and technician at a busy mixed animal veterinary practice. Annabelle, my youngest daughter has been raising and showing Romney sheep for the past 7 years. Currently we have 8 white Romney ewes. As a family we've traveled to show at the Junior All American, the Northeast Youth Sheep Show, the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival and other local 4-H events. We also raise Natural Colored and Shropshire sheep.

I'm the organizational leader for the Montgomery County Sheep and Swine Club which is the largest 4-H club in Montgomery County, MD. I serve as the 4-H Sheep Show superintendent at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. I'm also a member of the Maryland Sheep Breeders Association, having served on their board of directors for 3 years. I am a member of the MD Sheep and Wool Festival show committee as well. I really enjoy meeting and being around sheep people.

I'm excited at the opportunity to serve on the American Romney Breeders Association board of directors.

District 2 juniors have been out and about showing at the All American Junior Show in Springfield, IL. Romneys were well represented at the show.

The question for this issue—What could you be doing now to get ready for breeding season?:

It may sound simple but taking the time to evaluate your ewe and ram body condition score and adjusting their diet accordingly can make a big difference at breeding time. You don't want to realize at the end of August when you plan to put your rams and ewes together that they are too thin. Take the time now to adjust diets, check parasite loads and get your flock on a good level of nutrition. It may make a big difference at lambing time.

Delaware –

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

Maryland –

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

There are many county fairs still planned for in person shows this summer as well

New York –

Rhinebeck is scheduled for October 14-17, 2021

New Jersey –

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

Pennsylvania –

I'd like to take a moment on behalf of not only myself, but for the entire board, to welcome Amy Miller to the position of District 2 Director. Amy was able to fill a vacancy left when I needed to step down from these duties.

So, Welcome Amy - District 2 and ARBA across the country are happy to have you! -

Patricia Sanville

District 3: Penny Swearingen

As I write this the families and some 650 juniors including over a 100 Romneys and their Kids are making their way home from Springfield Illinois and the All American Junior Sheep Show. District 3 was well represented with kids and their Romneys rolling in from Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio and Michigan. Check out all the pictures on Facebook page for American Romney Breeders Association Jr Members. I do know the Best Fleeced Romney and Reserve Romney Fleece both hailed from District 3.

Like the Junior Sheep shows as the summer unfolds so have more Fiber Festivals, Fiber Guild Activities, County Fairs and State Fairs. Not all the shows are 100% back to normal, example Michigan Fiber Fest is live but the Hands on Activities for Children will not be hosted. They will be live with the Workshops (many already sold out) Vendors, Fleece shows, Animal Shows and Demonstrations.

Likewise Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival is a Go! Vending, fleece shows, sheep shows are slated to be live. I am not positive on how they are handling their Workshops at this time.

As we finish celebrating the 4th of July and bring more normalcy to our world we can also celebrate having more opportunities to show case our Romney Fleece and Lamb in the Market place.

One such opportunity is at the Michigan Fiber Festival Wool Fleece Show and Sale. What a great way to showcase the Romney Breed and even peddle a few fleeces. Letty Klein of Kalamazoo, MI is the judge for 2021.

Penny Swearingen
District 3 Director

District 4: Vacant

District 5: Carol Pasheilich

District 5 is fairly quiet. That is if you are not trying to keep sheep alive during a severe drought, record setting high temperatures and wildfires. There is little to no pasture available in the Pacific Northwest. Hay is scarce and expensive when you find it. It is hard being a farmer in these conditions. But we all love our sheep and will do what needs to be done to make sure they have food and water.

We were asked what we are doing now to prepare for breeding season. The first thing on the list is to shear the rams. Most especially in the high temps, fully fleeced rams will have their sperm fried in a matter of days. Then, when it does cool down, it takes a good 90 days for sperm production to recover. So, until the shearer comes, we do our best to keep the boys cool.

We also evaluate the most recent lambs to see which pairing last fall produced the best lambs. We weigh the lambs every two to three weeks to see how well they are growing. We also check their fleece. It is too short to tell exactly what it will be like on a yearling. But we can look for consistency and a consistent fleece is very important to us.

We rarely use the same ram(s) two years in a row but the above information on this year's lambs, help us decide which families to emphasize.

We also take a dry weight on the breeding ewes. We allow our ewes to have babies as long as they are able. A girl whose weight is down from the year before, has bad scoring, and lambs that are not growing as we would want, is a candidate for retirement.

With this information, plus casual observation of behavior, help us get our breeding lists together. We put the rams in in September so information gathering is ongoing. Nothing is written in stone so we can ,and often do, make last minute changes.

Last, but not least, we have secured the above mentioned hay to get us through weaning next year or until we see green in the pasture.

Carol Pasheilich
Director, District 5

District 6: Vacant

Director at Large: Charlene Carlisle

In honor of JoAnn's official retirement from her position as ARBA's Secretary/Treasurer, I would like to acknowledge her years of service to the Romney breed.

JoAnn has been an ARBA member for 65 years, I think we would be hard-pressed to find anyone else with that dedication.

I am not certain when I first met JoAnn because the years have just blurred together but immediately her humor came through. She was just "fun" to hang with. We could laugh and talk the day away. Over the years, she made many treks across the states hauling sheep and if you were the lucky one, maybe she would end up staying at your farm overnight. Good food and good company was just an added bonus, sometimes maybe there was a tire to be fixed or manure from the top deck to be removed or god help me, when that ramp needed to be put up to get sheep on or off the trailer but we would laugh our way through it. Those blue SOR tags are quickly and easily identified and not to mention, highly coveted! It's a rare flock that doesn't have at least one blue tag, it's like eating potato chips, one is never enough. Those blue tags are a sign of stability and endurance, and I am proud to have many in my flock.

Congratulations and here's to your next set of adventures. Stay in touch, I will miss you my friend!

Director at Large: Rick Trojanoski

After being canceled last year, Eastern States Exposition is back and Romney will be one of the featured breeds of the Fleece Show this year. Online entry is open and entries must be in by August 15. Late entry is due by September 1. Fleeces can be mailed in for competition and must arrive before Thursday September 23. Judging will take place Friday morning and fleeces will be released on Wednesday September 29. Entry fee is \$5.00 and first place pays \$50.00. Go to The Big E sheep fleece show for more information.

<https://www.thebige.com/p/competitions/livestock1/fiber-products>



American Sheep Industry Update:

Several deadlines: go to sheepusa.org for details

Entries for the ASI Photo Contest are due by 5pm Mountain Time on August 2.

The Sheep Center is accepting grant applications through September 15 - grants must be used to improve the American sheep industry.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Is there something you would like the directors to answer in a future issue of the Ramblings? Just reach out to your director, the president or the editor of the Ramblings to submit your questions.



ARBA Futurity Program 2021

Charlene Carlisle, Director at Large

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

The All American Junior Show is coming to the North East in 2022!



Join us at NEYSS on Saturday at 8 am in Mallary North for our first planning meeting

ALL interested volunteers are invited to attend



Modifications to ARBA Registration Form: Repeated in case you missed it!

to Reflect White and Natural Colored Sheep to include Moorit

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

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

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

ⁱⁱFor those sheep already ARBA-registered as "M" or "MM", new certificates will be issued at no cost to the breeder

2021 National Sale Online Futurity Show (October 15th, 2021)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Premiums & awards will be offered (see below)

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

T-Shirts for all participants

Classes:

(Divided into White & Natural Colored)

Yearling Ewes

Fall Ewe Lambs

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

Spring Ewe Lambs (born Feb 16 and later)

Video/Photo Details:

Head Shot (showing ear tag and scrapie tag)

Side Profile (left and right)

Rear View

Front View

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

No filters and no editing

Class Awards:

(Divided into White & Natural Colored)

Yearling Ewes Prize

Fall Ewe Lambs Prize

Winter Ewe Lambs Prize

Spring Ewe Lambs Prize

Grand Champion \$100

Reserve Grand Champion \$50

Breeder of Grand Champion \$50

Breeder of Reserve Grand Champion \$25

Judging will be completed within 2 weeks and winners notified

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

More details to follow

ALL AMERICAN JUNIOR SHOW RECAP:

By: Emma Rogers

The All American Junior Show occurred in Springfield Illinois from July 1-4. It was the largest All American to date with 102 Romneys entered. Exhibitors ventured from a variety of states including New Jersey, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Oregon and Michigan. The 24 exhibitors were Ava Jo and Hunter Hayes, Catherine and Teresa Hromis, Megan Higgins, Morgan Fitzsimmons, Ainsley Porter, Penelope Kemp, Madison and Andrew Feehan, Thomas and Katelynn Wallace, Claire Von Behrens, Kingston Rincker, Jacen Wilinski, Anne Nichols, Caitlin Plank, Josie and Sadie Bonyng, Jackson Crisp, Annabelle Miller and Kevin Kitchen. Many were first time Romney exhibitors at the All American. New friends were made both within and outside the Romney breed. It is always a joy to see new and old friends.

Romney exhibitors competed in events in and out of the show ring including judging contest, skillathon, showmanship and wool show. Catherine and Teresa Hromis placed 2nd in their respective showmanship classes. Catherine then teamed up with Logan Averill to place first in team showmanship.

The Romney show was competitive with beautiful sheep standing in the ring. Champion Ram was won with a Natural Colored Junior ram lamb by Teresa Hromis and Reserve Champion was a white junior ram lamb owned by Ava Jo Hayes. Champion ewe honors was won by Catherine Hromis with a white yearling ewe and the Reserve Champion Ewe was a natural colored yearling ewe from Teresa Hromis. Best Fleece was won by Josie Bonyng. Congrats to all the winners of champions, individual classes and contests. Comprehensive results will be posted on the All American website. The All American awards a Top Gun to the exhibitor of each breed with the most points across breed, promotional and showmanship competitions. For the Romney breed this honor was won by Anne Nichols of Oregon. We hope to see you all in West Springfield MA in 2022!!

Several photos are sprinkled in this newsletter from the show along with the Sunday Selfies.



ROMNEY PROFILES:

Now for our Romney Profile from District 3:

Del Pike brought home his first Romneys in December of 1999. He had been teaching for a couple of years and wanted to get back into sheep. In high school Merinos and crossbred sheep, but that flock had to be sold when he went off to Michigan State University. Go Green!

The flock of all black Romneys interested him as he always liked to dabble in oddities. For several years he raised both Romneys and Cotswolds with his wife, Amy. That changed when his daughter, Ella, was born in 2008 and the family moved just north of the home farm to a smaller acreage. He kept only the Romneys because they are such an easy breed to raise.

Romneys feet are amazing. Romneys are easy to handle. Romneys stay in the fences, as long as the fences are working right! Romneys have great wool. Romney genetics include Agouti color, Dominant color, the Wishart trait, and characteristics like easy keepers, lambing ease, parasite resistance, and twinning that make studying pedigrees and production records a fun task.

The Pike Farm flock is about 30 ewes with recessive black, dominant black, and white color carrier ewes. Lambing is done on pasture in mid-April with the goal of marketing lambs at 90 pounds before hay needs to be fed. Chemical wormers are rarely used. The farm is not organic, but many organic/sustainable principles are followed.

Del enjoys experimenting with sheep, open pollinated corn and soybeans, pasture rotation and forages, or any aspect of farming. Call or email him if you would like to discuss what you are learning on these topics sometime!



Interview With a Shepherd: by Kathleen Zappelli – June 7, 1996

Along the Southern Oregon Coast there is an abundance of wildlife. One sees deer, elk, bear, raccoons, eagles, salmon. There's so much wildlife, it's difficult to name all the varieties. On the other hand, if you travel inland through the foothills and valleys of the southern coastal area you will also see a variety of domestic animals being farmed. For me, the most intriguing of all are the ovine – or more commonly known as sheep. Their pastoral nature and passivity has mesmerized me for as long as I can remember. And so, I, having once again considered this intrigue, will attempt to learn the secrets of the flock. The following is my interview with a shepherd.

The shepherd who consented to this intrusion is actually a shepherdess who has owned a flock of sheep since she was four years old. She has lived on her family's farm for all but 19 of her 43 years and has kept sheep for all but 4 of those years away. I found her to be a sturdy woman – not without a good sense of humor. She was ready to start her morning chores in her quilted flannel shirt, jeans, and farm boots. We sat in her living room – a comfortable place – with all the amenities, TV/VCR, stereo, Lazy Boy, piano, etc., pictures of some of her sheep and flocks, and silver trays and plaques won at sheep shows. She handed me a cup of coffee when I asked, "What is the reason that sheep appear so passive?" Finding the comfortable place in her Lazy Boy, she said, "Sheep are dependent and defenseless. Unlike deer, they cannot run for any length of time. Their only ability to fight for protection is to use their front feet. And, if they are left on their side or back, they are like turtles – they cannot get up. They will die. They are easy prey. This is why shepherds are still used with sheep flocks, but not with cattle. The large bands of sheep in the desert country are still managed with shepherds and sheep dogs. This is true in south central and eastern Oregon, and everywhere in the world as far as I know."

I began to sense deep knowledge in this shepherd. I wondered and asked, "Why do you want to take care of animals that are so dependent?" She looked into her coffee cup at the steam rising, paused, and said, "I guess because they are such a docile animal, and they communicate their need for help and assistance by letting you handle them when they have sore feet – letting you treat them when they have cuts and sores. If you work with your sheep, you can assist them with lambing (birthing) difficulties. This is very unusual with other farm animals. Like with cattle, most of the time they have to be restrained in a head station – and they don't bite like hogs or horses."

Hoping I wouldn't insult the shepherdess, I gently asked, "Do you think they are intelligent?" Her answer was unexpected, "I don't think they are terribly intelligent, but they are easily trained, tamed and understood. By easily trained I mean that you can get their attention by calling them or teaching them a routine, such as coming for feed or coming in at night. Like any other domestic animal, they have different temperaments based on their breeding or genetics." She smiled, "They are also very inquisitive. They will investigate new things or people in their pasture. They can recognize their caregiver – they recognize familiar voices – they recognize family dogs and other livestock – and they recognize danger. Their only response to "fight or flight" is flight, but they have no endurance." There was a protectiveness in her voice, as though she were speaking about children of her own – a maternal instinct. I asked, "what is it about sheep that keeps you shepherding?" She answered, "Well, it's been a family tradition, and the sheep I have are a continuation of the registered Romneys my father started in the early 1940's." There was a sense of pride apparent as she continued, "I currently have one of the oldest flocks in the United States."

"Also, of the domestic animals, sheep are the most easily managed on pasture, and you can maintain a small flock on limited acreage. I suppose that even without full-time attention, I have been able to maintain a very competitive flock, although I have not always had ideal conditions for raising sheep. They are best managed on good pasture, with enough space to control parasites and diseases of the feet. When space is limited, management becomes more critical."

"Personally, I enjoy the production, the breeding, the competition of showing," she glanced at her display of silver trays and awards, "and the people that belong to the sheep associations. I like having the sheep. I enjoy having livestock near the house or on the property. Though I might be just as happy with 5 or 6 big beef cattle and their calves in the field. There are always those days when changing the irrigation pipe, looking for a missing sheep or calling the county trapper take the total joy out of being a shepherd." She looked up at me with a futility mixed with sadness in her glance.

I moved on. "So, the passive, pastoral flock that the average person sees when they drive by a field of sheep, is really just that?" I asked, and thoughtfully she replied, "Yes, as long as they are safe and out of pain, that is what you see. They are very dependent on their shepherd, but they are also very capable of surviving on grasses and browse, with supplemental feed needed only in winter conditions."

In her I felt a need for being needed – her sense of fulfillment. Also, there was a guarding of her deeper feelings about shepherding and her charges. It seemed truly personal. I asked, "Are you dependent on them in any way?" Slightly smiling without looking at me, she confidently said, "I continue to have them because of the challenge, and because of the goals I would like to reach in my breeding program," then grinning in her look at me she impulsively went on, "and because I like to kiss the babies every spring." We both laughed as she got up to get us more coffee.

Thinking about all the work she faces each day I had to ask, "What motivates you to do all the chores and upkeep it takes to care for the flock?" There was silence for a moment, then, "I grew up being a farmer," came the answer from the kitchen, "and I've maintained that as a hobby while I've done other jobs. One day I'll be able to be a farmer again. This is my God-given gift, and it touches my soul. While these animals need my care, I will give up other things to be their shepherd." This question had struck a note in the heart of my shepherdess that could be heard in her voice, and as she returned from the kitchen, could be seen in her moistened eyes. "Now, I must go out and feed my sheep and new baby lambs." She said.

When I left, I watched her with her three dogs trotting happily around her. Her shoulders sloped by the weight of the great buckets of grain she was carrying. Her lambs were baaing at the sight of her, and the arrival of their breakfast. The picture left me in awe of such a gentle spirit, with such a purpose in life. It was at this point I began to understand that seeing sheep in their peaceful, pastoral setting is really the work of the shepherd and God, who carefully and patiently paint the scene together.



Export to Canada: Explained (from a U.S. perspective) by Margaret Van Camp, Pitchfork Rance, Swartz Creek, MI (Editors note: - This was written regarding Blue Faced Leicesters, but the content also relates to Romneys)

Of late, our breed has been catching the eyes and the interest of our good neighbors to the north. BLU currently has five Canadian flocks as members, and doubtless there are more flocks that have BLU-registered sheep in them that are not (yet!) members. With inquiries about exporting BFLs to the Great White North on the rise, I have been asked to help demystify this rather intimidating process.

Our farm here in Michigan has been export certified by the USDA since 2017. Our proximity to Canada was the main driving force behind this decision, and it was not made lightly. For certain, export is not for everyone. The additional record keeping, replacement of ear tags (BFLs wiggle out of them at an alarming rate) and, of course, the unpleasant task of removing and submitting heads of dead ewes are daunting, not to mention the annual inspection. It took us five years in the "export monitored" category before we became "export certified" and able to export our first ewe across the border. However, the payoff is that we have added an entire country to our potential market, and the border is only ninety minutes away.

We have exported both rams and ewes every year since certification, and are fielding Canadian inquiries at an increasing rate. As a result, I feel comfortable in explaining what the process looks like, typical costs and what needs to happen on both sides of the border to make the export / import happen.

First, we need to make a distinction between the requirements for rams versus ewes. Fortunately for Canadian breeders, the import of rams from the U.S. is much less restrictive in terms of the flock of origin. Due to the fact that scrapie is passed in birth fluids and milk, rams are not identified as vectors for the disease by the USDA. So the origin flock in the U.S. does not have to be in the export certified program. However, they must have a premise number registered with the USDA, and the ram must have permanently affixed a USDA approved scrapie ID tag with that premise number for traceability purposes. He must also have "USA" tattooed in his right ear (don't worry if the green ink does not show up on the black skin of the ear—they will use a black light to read it). RFID chips can also be used as permanent ID, but the chip would have to be compatible with the chip reader at border station where you intend to cross.

The ram must be genotype tested by a USDA-approved lab. Allowable results are: codon 136AA 171RR or 136AA 171QR. We use Genecheck in Greeley, Colorado. They have a nifty ear-sampling system that lets you avoid collecting blood or having to ship a high-rate refrigerated overnight package. It takes a sample of tissue from the ear, leaving a tiny hole. A normal padded envelope will hold dozens of them. Each sample cup is \$3-\$4, and the test itself is \$11 per head. The applicator needed to take the sample is around \$30, a one-time expense. Here is the link to Genecheck : <http://www.genecheck.com/> The turnaround time with this company is quite short - usually within 2-3 days of receiving the samples. The test results have to be submitted with the importer's application for an import permit from the CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the equivalent of the USDA). If the ram in question tests QQ at 171, or is untested, he can still be imported but the Canadian breeder must have been enrolled in the Canadian scrapie eradication program for at least a year and had at least one inspection. There lots of other restrictions on the Canadian side involved with a QQ / untested ram, so it's much easier just to test and select a ram with the correct genotype. We routinely test all the ram lambs we intend to sell, so we do not charge the buyer for this testing. If you want to read rules yourself, here is a link to the latest CFIA requirements for import of small ruminants (sheep and goats) from the U.S. into Canada: <https://www.inspection.gc.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/imports/import-policies/live-animals/2007-5/eng/1321032703935/1321032839418>

Speaking of that permit: this is the first official paperwork that has to be completed to get the export/ import ball rolling. It must be applied for at the CFIA by the importing (Canadian) breeder. At last check, the cost was \$35 CDN. The US breeder will need to supply the following information for each sheep to be imported - to the Canadian breeder for the application: birth date, breed, color, gender, farm tag number, Scrapie number, and a copy of the genotype report. More than one sheep can be listed on the permit. The permit can take up to a month to be issued, but two weeks is typical. Take it from me: do not depend on federal or provincial offices to work speedily just because you need them to. If you have a hard deadline, begin the process at least 3 months ahead. The permits are good for ninety days. Here is the link for the CFIA: <https://www.inspection.gc.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/imports/permit-application/eng/1374511671189/1374511696513>

Once you have the ram tagged, tattooed, and tested, and the Canadian breeder has received the permit and sent you a copy, you can now make an appointment with your vet to issue the international health certificate. The vet can inspect the animal(s) before having the permit number, but they can't issue the certificate without it. Vet charges vary, of course, but most charge more for international versus interstate certificates because the form is longer. For us, this is a pass-through expense for the importer. On our last export, this cost was \$90 (\$65 for the farm call, \$25 for the papers - for one ram. Added animals would have been \$10 each.) With the CFIA permit, ram genotype results and international health papers in hand, you can now make an endorsement appointment at your local USDA office. The USDA has to look over all the paperwork and mark it as approved before the animal can enter Canada. Yes, this can be accomplished by mail. However, my experience strongly suggests that appointments are handled in a much more timely manner than mail-in requests. And you have a pre-determined date when you know the paperwork will be completed, because, barring any missing info, you will walk out of the office with all the paperwork needed to get the boy across the border. The fee for this service recently (October of 2019) jumped from \$52 to around \$120, with no difference in service (or explanation) provided. I don't blame the people who work in the office ... they are not told anything, either. At any rate, this expense also passed on to the buyer. Here is a link to USDA office locations: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/service-centers-endorsement-offices>

Export continued:

Alrighty, if you are still with me, the next step is to set up the actual exchange of the animal. First, collect all the documents that must accompany the animal across the border:

- 1 - CFIA permit (with USDA endorsement)
- 2 - international health certificate (with USDA endorsement)
- 3 - a copy of the ram genotype results
- 4 - bill of sale
- 5 - Optional: signed-off registration (if balance is paid)
- 6 - double check to make sure all ear tag numbers in the documents match the actual tags
- 7 - If you have neglected to tattoo "USA" in the right ear, now is your last chance

There are several options here, but the buyer coming to the farm of origin to see the setup there is the best way. One could also offer to meet the buyer on the U.S. side of the border and transfer the animal(s) there. Some buyers opt to hire a professional transporter. I do not suggest driving the animal across the border for the buyer to pick up on the Canadian side. There is a lot more hassle for a U.S. citizen trying to get an animal into Canada than there is for a Canadian, even if all the paperwork is in order. Whichever party is taking the animal across the border needs to set up an appointment with the vet at the border crossing they intend to use. The phone number of the Canadian customs office at the crossing point can be found by Googling it. There is no fee for customs or the vet inspection at the border. The vet will check the animals for obvious signs of illness and make sure all the tag numbers and descriptions match the paper work. When entering the border crossing, the transporter should go to the animal inspection area first rather than just lining up to cross, as the customs agents will simply send them there anyway. When making the appointment with the vet for the inspection, it's a good idea to ask him or her about the best way to go about it.

Additionally, there may be a requirement to check if taxes are owed on the purchase of the animals. My experience has been that this is simply a paperwork formality and that taxes are not collected. I admit I am not as familiar with this aspect of the crossing, but anyone who has brought a purchased animal back across the border can shed more light on this. I can provide references in this respect.

As far as payment goes, we usually ask for a good faith deposit of at least 20% of the purchase price to hold the animal and commit to the export protocol. We always ask that the buyer pay the balance in U.S. dollars cash or money order, in advance. And viola! You are done! Au revoir, mon ami ram! Easy peasy, right?

OK, so, maybe not. But it is certainly doable; you don't need superpowers or friends in high places, and if you live within an easy drive of the border, it could open up a new market for your ram genetics.

And what about the ewes? Well, there is good news and bad news about the ewes. The good news? No genotype testing is required export from the U.S. to Canada. Other than that, the procedure for ewes is exactly the same as described above. The bad news? Female small ruminants can be imported only from flocks enrolled in the USDA's Scrapie Flock Certification Program that are determined to be "negligible risk premises" – which is defined as Export Certified. If the previous information has not scared you off, here is a link to a document describing what it takes to become an Export Certified flock: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/downloads/standards_current.pdf

Clearly, exporting sheep to Canada is not for everyone, just as importing them from the U.S. does not make sense for every Canadian flock. But the demand is there and growing, and if you want to possibly provide cornerstone ram(s) for motivated BFL breeder(s) in Canada, this is your chance.

I am hoping that a Canadian breeder who has experience importing from the U.S. will provide a similar guide from the Canadian perspective. I am reasonably sure that information provided here is correct – at least this is what I will be operating on for 2020 until I discover differently. If you have questions, you can contact me via email (mavaca@usol.com) or cell (810-814-3408).



2021 Election of Board Members:

The results are in!

Congratulations to the newly elected officers and directors.

President: Anne McIntyre-Lahner

Vice President: Charlene Carlisle

Director At Large: Emma Rodgers

District 1 Director: Marianne DiTaranto-Hromis

District 3 Director: Penny Swearingen

The new term begins at the Annual Meeting which is scheduled for October at Rhinebeck.

Again, best wishes!!!



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EC Plank Facebook

Anchorage Farm Romneys

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

Pitchfork Ranch, Michigan
Supreme White Ewe 2019 New York State Sheep & Wool Festival Anchorage
Bloodlines Breeding

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

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

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

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

Kylee Cole, New York
Reserve Champion Natural Colored Longwool Ewe at Dutchess County Fair

Contact us early for all your show and breeding needs!

Owners
Stephen & Lizbeth
Shafer

To Our Romney Friends
Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year

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

Anchorage Farm 8 Mynderse Street Saugerties, New York

Calendar of Events:					
EVENT	DATE	VIRTU- AL	IN- PER- SON	CAN- CELLE D	NOTES
Deleware State Fair	July 22-30		yes		
Ohio State Fair	July 27-Aug 8		See note		Closed to public—exhibitors/competitors in person
Indiana Livestock Junior Expo	July 28-Aug 1		yes		location pending -possible Reg. Romney Show
Michigan Fiber Festival	Aug 18-22		yes		Allegan - Michigan - Allegan Fairgrounds
Maryland State Fair	Aug 26-Sept 6		yes		
Wisconsin Sheep and Wool	Sept 10-12		yes		
Delaware Livestock Expo	Sept 11-12		yes		
Eastern States Expo (the Big E)	Sept 17-Oct 23		yes		Sept. 27 @ 3pm Romney Show
Champaign Sheepman's Fall Frenzy	Sept 25-26				Champaign County Fairgrounds - Ohio
Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival	Oct 2-3		yes		
Rhinebeck	Oct 14-17	Hybrid	Hybrid		Check website regarding specific details https://sheepandwool.com/
Keystone International Livestock Expo	Oct 1-10		yes		
Fiber Fest of New England	Nov 6-7		yes		
NAILE	Nov 13-18		TBD		Planning in person—but will determine closer to event

Please forward any missing show dates or any changes to the listed shows to the editor - the show schedule is always subject to changes due to state and federal guidelines. Check websites or social media for the most up to date information.



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