



# Romney Ramblings

March 23, 2022

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Spring has finally started to arrive in New England; and with it – lambs! I suspect most ARBA members are somewhere in their lambing season - whether wrapping up, in the middle, or just getting started.

For me, this is a favorite time of year – midnight trips to the barn, anticipation of how different breeding combinations will turn out....and then finally, the lambs arrive. The joy of new life, the beautiful Romney faces, and the amazing way the lambs just bounce!

Of course, as the lambs grow, there are decisions to be made: who stays and who is sold. In this edition of the Ramblings, you will find a number of perspectives regarding which lambs to keep and which to sell.

Factors that we consider at Olympia Farm include Romney characteristics like black points, fleece quality, open faces, and small felted ears. We also look for strong growth, good conformation, and twins. I'm looking forward to reading about the factors other ARBA members use to make decisions about retention.

Other things to look for in this edition of the Ramblings:

If you haven't yet renewed your membership, you can now pay online with PayPal; you will want to be up-to-date when you register your lambs

It is time to start getting ready for ARBA elections, which will be held later this spring/summer. Board participation is a great way to become more involved in ARBA and our wonderful breed.

Self-nominations are due to the president or secretary by April 10, and nominating committees will be working through the month of May to identify additional candidates for open positions.

Dues need to be paid by April 1 in order to vote in the upcoming ARBA elections

Our wonderful editor, Patty Sanville, has been gathering "Flock News" about members of the ARBA flock. Please submit your own news to keep us up to date about what is going on in your family, flock, and on the farm.

Sue Kalina and her team in Oregon are already planning for a great national show and sale at the Oregon State Fair in August! Looking forward to seeing many of you there!

I wish you all good health, strong lambs, and a successful season!

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**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:

Marie Brown (junior)  
Julia Cohen (junior)  
St. Nina Monastery

**As always, the board is no further than a phone call or email away.**

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

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

## Coming in the next Issue:

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

**Question: Now that your lambs are on the ground, what are you looking to fix or what are you looking for in your next stud ram?**

**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, high light 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  
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[patriciasanville@gmail.com](mailto:patriciasanville@gmail.com)

## Flock Record Book:

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

Price: \$3.00 postpaid.



Order now from the  
ARBA Secretary.  
secretary  
@americanromney.org

## Rambling Roads: District Director Reports

### District 1: Marianne DiTaranto:

Hopefully the snow has receded and has been replaced with puddles and mud for the last time this year. Even as I write this I can hear the cold rain coming down. I am guessing it will probably turn to wet, heavy, snow later this evening. I am looking forward to the warmer weather coming soon.

What's happening in the Northeast?

Lambing is in full swing in District One. Farms raising show stock brave the cold and shoot for birthing spring lambs as early in the year as possible. Growers raising Romneys for wool tend to lamb out in the actual spring when the weather is a bit more agreeable. Shepherds are flipping through catalogs and scrolling the internet for supplies they will need this summer and next fall. Many have been enjoying the online clinics on a variety of sheep related topics. Spring shearing, prepping fleeces for hand spinners, felters and small-scale processing has begun. The wool and fiber arts festivals which were canceled last year, due to COVID are back in operation, ready to provide wool enthusiasts with that perfect one-of-a-kind fleece or the very best workshop on a desired processing technique.

Sheep show hosts are preparing for this year's show season. This year, the Northeast is hosting the All-American Junior Show which is the largest all youth junior sheep show in the country. The Northeast Youth Sheep Show, a premier youth sheep show will be held the following weekend. Families from around the country will be staying to participate in both events.

Consider attending, vending, showing, volunteering and or sponsoring at some or all of the events in District One. The ARBA Calendar maintains a listing of all upcoming activities. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Other District 1 notes:

**Wool Collection Day for CT Blanket** - Saturday June 4th - There will be new rules in effect so please check the CT Blanket page of the website [ctsheep.com](http://ctsheep.com). Two biggest changes are drop off will be by appointment and all wool absolutely must be skirted before arrival. If you think you want to be part of the 2022 CT Blanket—email [smurray@ctsheep.com](mailto:smurray@ctsheep.com)

**2022 Blue Ribbon Forum & 4-H Sheep Day** - These events have been moved to the Fall - Date TBD - Planning is ongoing so if you have suggestions for the types of programming you would like to see please email [joe.emenheiser@uconn.edu](mailto:joe.emenheiser@uconn.edu)

### District 2: Amy Miller

The Maryland Show and Wool Festival will be back in person this year! The event will take place May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, MD. Please check out [www.sheepandwool.org](http://www.sheepandwool.org) for entry information and deadlines. Please stop by and see me in the show ring; I'm usually assisting with one of rings. I would really like to meet other folks from District 2 as well as Romney breeders from throughout the country.

How do you determine which lambs to keep, sell, and cull each lambing season?

Lambs that stay at our house are going to end up in the showing. They all need to be sound on their feet and legs and have a good mouth. The potential to have a quality fleece factors in as well, but probably not as much as soundness. Ram lambs that get shown throughout the show season usually end up as freezer lambs in the fall. If they are growing well the ewe lambs that made it into the showing cut will make it to make it into the breeding flock. Usually, we have about 3 to 4 replacement ewe lambs from each breed (we have 3 breeds at our place). If we get lucky and have an excess of quality ewe lambs we will sell the extra ones for breeding.

I cull my adult ewes hard. They must be a good mom. That is their number one job. I don't keep a ewe around and give her another chance if she was terrible with her babies. When I'm culling the adults, I also consider their udder health, how frequently they need dewormed compared to the others in the group, and how well they get their weight back on after weaning.

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

Question: How do you determine which lambs you keep, sell and cull each year?

I will stick with what I determine is culled that are not suitable for replacements or sale as breeding stock. We make this sort at Weaning Time and again between 4 - 6 months of age. Automatic cull pen: 1) any congenital deformities like cryptorchids or parrot mouth 2) structurally unsound on feet and legs 3) pink noses, black spots on white sheep or significant Non-Romney Breed Character 4) lambs with significant health issue or basically unthrifty (weighed at weaning & 120 days). 5) Ewe lambs out of ewes that were poor mothers. 6) Ram lambs have to meet the question "Would I want a flock of ewes that look like him"? IF not, he goes!

Note even a GREAT Ram lamb that shows any sign of aggression three times is automatically culled. They make great locker lambs and pelts in October!

Now onto happenings in District 3. Across the Midwest, baby lambs are popping out all over as most folks are in the full swing of lambing, winding down or just launching. I talked to one breeder who commented they are way over triplets with an unprecedented number of ewes dropping them this year. They need some sleep! Hopefully, all the farms have great lambs, starting to romp and enjoy the sunny days that occur occasionally. As for Events, in January the Michigan Sheep Producer's Holiday Weekend was a Go. Even though overall numbers were down we did have some good representation of the Romney breed! First, the American Sheep Industry Region III Director attended the event and if you have not met Anne Crider from Illinois, she is a Romney breeder and ARBA member. See her breeder spotlight later in this issue. The youth organizers always have great activities put together for the Juniors and this year they had great times in the kitchen creating their own recipes for meat balls. I was blessed when ARBA member Del Pike's daughter offered me a sampling of hers! YUM! Now to just get her to share the recipe and join ARBA! In the Warm and Wooly department, The People's Choice Award went to a gorgeous white Aran Sweater made out of Romney. I could not track down a picture, but the honors went to Susan Schooley who purchased the white Romney Ewe Fleece and performed magic in the spinning and knitting.

Like the rest of the country we are anticipating the start of the Festival and Fair seasons. For the list of those Events in district 3 look to the Calendar later in the Ramblings. The schedule takes us through Labor Day.

### **District 4: Sue Kalina**

Cute lambs abound everywhere, and ewes are happy to be out eating green grass. The best stuff about Romneys! Great moms, milkers and grass eaters!

Very excited to be planning the National Show being held at the Oregon State Fair, August 26-27, 2022. Oregon Romney Breeders are planning the events. Donations are needed to help SHOWCASE the beautiful Romneys with open class shows, junior shows, wool shows, possible sale and the ARBA annual meeting and dinner. See enclosed donation form. Hope to see you there!

The ARBA Board is working hard to get up-to-date after transitioning to a new President and Secretary/Treasurer. Upcoming events? Please contact the editor or secretary to put on the calendar. Have a terrific spring!

### **District 5: Carol Pasheilich**

Things are quiet in District 5 while everyone is lambing and all are waiting for rain. It is dry. No pasture and the prospects are dim.

I am still in the process of looking for a District 5 director. I volunteered to serve one year after my term was up. That year will end with the National Show and Meeting at Oregon State Fair in August. If you have ever wanted to be on the ARBA board, now is the time to step up. I have been on the ARBA Board of Directors off and on since 2008. This is the most active, creative board I have been a part of, so it is a good time to check it out and get involved. You may contact me at [tawandafarms53@att.net](mailto:tawandafarms53@att.net) or contact our president, Anne McIntyre-Lahner at [olympiafarm@att.net](mailto:olympiafarm@att.net).

Happy Lambing!

## District 6: Betsy McPherson

We in the south can feel spring beginning by way of warmer temperatures, grass greening up and the birds are back! Lambing is in full swing for all of us, which I feel is a shepherd's Super Bowl! It's the time when all of the management & care we have provided to our sheep during the last year, reveals those effects on the lambs that have been produced. Then we also study and determine which ewes have succeeded in producing healthy hearty lambs along with how did their udders fare? Did a ewe lose her medial suspensory ligament where lambs had to bend down to nurse or the teats came close to the ground? Was there one side that you discover is fibrotic from a silent mastitis between last year and this year?

I have just experienced that, a ewe who I never noticed had an issue last year, developed a normal milk filled right udder, but the left side was firm, flat and dry. Luckily she had a single, but I must now contemplate culling her. Lambing is a wonderful time but also a time of reevaluating your ewes.

Fun Facts about sheep milk ;

- Sheep milk is the most nutritious milk on sale in the world today. The only other milk that can be compared with it would be that of the water buffalo.
- Sheep milk contains double the amount of butterfat in comparison to goat's & cow's milk. It's naturally homogenized therefore doesn't separate into milk and cream.
- Sheep milk is ideal for cheese production as it contains double the amount of solids compared to cow & goat milk. Where 10 liters is used to make 2.2 lbs. of gouda cheese, only 5 liters of sheep milk is used.
- Large consumption of sheep milk is thought to lead to longevity. Bulgarian shepherds are noted for their exceptionally long lives, presumably from a diet of the produce of their sheep.
- Sheep milk is a delicious alternative to cow milk and provides these health benefits- lowers cholesterol levels, strengthens bones, stimulates growth & development, reduces inflammation, fights cancer & lowers blood pressure.

Betsy McPherson  
District 6 Director  
[betsymcp711@gmail.com](mailto:betsymcp711@gmail.com)

## Vice President - Charlene Carlisle:

How does Little Hooves Romneys decide on keeping, sharing and culling lambs?

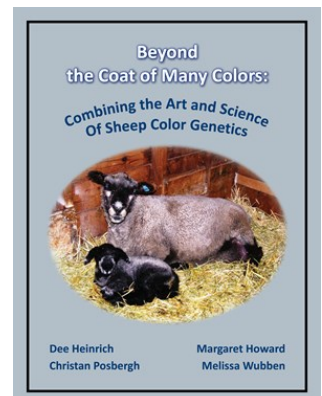
That can be a loaded question. Kenny and myself have tendencies at different times to go and sit on a bucket in the lamb pen starting when they are just tiny little things. There are always the ones that jump out at you from birth but there are so many others that bloom at their own pace. It is important to watch them walk, run and eat, to generally see how they move and interact with the flock. We both, separately, make our notes and then at evening feedings we'll walk through and discuss which ones we like and why. We both usually agree on the obvious but sometimes there can be more tension when deciding on the finer facts. Both of us are hard on good confirmation, legs and pasterns are a big deal to us, black shiny noses are of definite importance but I can be a little more forgiving than Kenny, as long as there are no other flaws. Sometimes my heart can get in the way if the lamb is out of one of my favorite old ewes but Kenny is quick to pull me back to reality and remind me that there is a feed bill at the end of my rainbow. We feel that it is important to pick your main objectives, with us it is confirmation, breed character, balance and style. Balance comes from our old dairy days and we have the tendency to judge sheep the same way. We sort by keepers for us and potential breeding stock for others (private and public sales), as well as, freezer lambs.

### New Resource Book Available:

Written by four breeder-researchers: Dee Heinrich, Margaret Howard, Christian Posbergh, and Melissa Wubben, **Beyond the Coat of Many Colors: Combining the Art and Science of Sheep Color Genetics**, has been released.

This book walks the reader through color pattern identification and prediction, rational selection steps for flock improvement, in depth information on pigment and fleece production, explanations and uses of fleece testing results and a new and most helpful understanding of spotting.

You can find this book at: <https://tawandafarms.com/books/beyond-the-coat-of-many-colors/>





## State and Regional Association Benefits: JoAnn Mast, ORBA & ARBA Member

How can ARBA reach new members and support the current membership? Supporting state and regional organizations that promote Romney sheep, regardless of purpose, is one strategy that is working. Oregon Romney breeders have had a state organization for nearly 30 years, and have sponsored a variety of educational programs and tours, supported shows at the county and state level, held spring and fall meetings, promoted the association at public events and provide newsletters to keep members aware of past and upcoming events. State organizations have the ability to offer fellowship that is difficult to do through a national organization.

The Oregon Romney Breeders Association (ORBA) is a registered non-profit, with a specific mission and connection to ARBA. District ARBA funds are used in conjunction with ORBA funding to support junior and adult activities. Most ORBA members are ARBA members, but that is not a requirement for ORBA membership. Most ORBA members register their sheep with ARBA, but registry is not a requirement for ORBA membership.

If you are interested in promoting state and regional activities that support ARBA, look into forming an association. This could become the group that helps educate, recruit and encourage Romney breeders in your area. Being part of festivals, fairs and fiber events can do a great deal to encourage others to try Romney sheep, locker lamb and wool. Your work as a separate organization can be rewarding and can focus on the needs of your area, not the entire country. Involvement can be as low key as an annual potluck to meeting several times a year to plan a wool show, lamb sale or farm tour. Connections to ARBA can be minimal or intense, ranging from registering sheep to becoming a member and wanting to serve on the board of directors.

Having additional organizations that serve the needs of Romney sheep producers is not a threat to ARBA, but another means of educating others of the role ARBA plays in the purebred sheep industry. Setting up a display that promotes your state association and having an ARBA brochure available may be a starting point. Hosting an educational program for youth, sponsoring a wool show, coordinating a sale of sheep and/or fleeces can all be accomplished and can give breeders a sample of what ARBA can offer at the national level. Not all sheep producers are going to take part in Zoom meetings, on-line sales, and information distributed via email or the website. Those needing brochures, newsletters mailed to their homes, displays at local festivals and exhibits at county fairs may appreciate the benefits of state and regional associations.



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## SAVE THE DATE

**2022 ALL AMERICAN JUNIOR SHOW**  
**JUNE 30 - JULY 3, 2022**  
**BIG E FAIRGROUNDS**  
**WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

-Plans for the 28th Annual All American Junior Show are being finalized - the show plans on incorporating all of the AAJS special show activities with the 3-On-3 Basketball Tourney being held at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.  
-Breeding Sheep Classes and Market Lamb classes featured for 30 breeds!!  
-Special 2022 fundraising activities are being held:  
\*AAJS Raffle with Special Sales Incentive Program for Junior Exhibitors  
\*Online Ram Semen Benefit Sale hosted by Integrity Livestock Sales in May 16th  
\*Midwest Stud Ram Sale Benefit Auction held during Supreme Champion Breeding Sheep Drives on June 15th  
\*Special Gift Basket/Specialty Item Silent Auction held at AAJS Show itself  
The Northeast Youth Sheep Show will be held the following weekend July 7-10 at the exact same venue, so you can make it a real "showcation" and participate in two great junior shows!

**ALL SHOW DETAILS & UPDATES WILL BE POSTED:**  
**[allamericanjuniorshow.com](http://allamericanjuniorshow.com)**

**Check website during the spring for most recent information.**  
**ENTRIES ARE DUE MAY 25, 2022**

# Judging a Romney Fleece

*"Fleece" - The wool of a sheep, as a whole piece*



## **Uniformity:**

Most importantly, when parted, a fleece should look the same at the front, side, and hind end of a sheep. A fleece that is more uniform overall should place higher than one that changes from better to worse in places.

## **Staple Length:**

A Romney fleece should measure at least 2 inches in length when judged on the sheep. Once shorn and shown in a bag, a staple of 3-5 inches is best.

## **Lock Structure:**

Romney fleeces hold themselves in locks that resemble crinkle-cut french fries! When parted, a Romney fleece should show large, distinct locks.

## **Crimp:**

A Romney fleece should have a uniform crimp, or wave, from the bottom of a lock to the tip. The tighter the crimp, the softer, more elastic the fleece.

## **Luster:**

Luster is the term used to describe shininess in a fleece, due to the lanolin oil content and micron of the fibers. A good Romney fleece will have lots of luster, and will shine bright.

## **Handle:**

When a judge gently squeezes a handful of wool, they are judging the "Handle," or feel of the wool. It should feel soft to the touch, not dry or coarse.

## **Cleanliness:**

A fleece must be clean to score well, on or off the sheep. Exhibitors must pick out any hay, shavings, straw, or other "vegetable material," and remove any manure or dirt as best they can - without washing, as this can remove the luster and damage the lock structure. Some sheep wear coats to keep their fleeces clean.

## **Color:**

As much as it might play into how a shepherd or customer feels about a sheep's fleece, color does not play much of a role in judging. Fleeces are shown in categories by color (and by type) so that white fleeces and "natural colored" (a sheep with at least 60% color other than white) show separately. Bright white might be preferred over a milky white, but shades of gray are typically not discriminated against. Uniformity of color in a natural colored fleece may come into play when judging.



By: Melissa Trojanoski



## **How do you determine which lambs you keep, sell and cull each lambing season? Some breeders answers**

I have focused on specific traits that I felt needed attention in my flock. I have recorded many features, from the height and length of newborns to the number of lambs raised during life in the flock. Production, length of body, correct feet and legs, consistent fleece and black points receive attention, high headed and separation from the flock are traits that give reason for rehoming. - JoAnn Mast, Southern Oregon Romneys

This question can carry such a hurtful emotional load. Each lamb is beautiful and seems so hopeful for life. Who am I to play God? That is how I felt in my earliest shepherding year.

Two important facts saved me from this angst: my responsibility to productively contribute to the Romney breed and to productively contribute to my own farm.

Because of this dual responsibility, we came to use a multi-trait evaluation system that merges the breed standard requirements with those of our farm's business model.

The goal of this system is to identify the top 20% of each year's lamb crop. The two sexes are evaluated separately. A series of weights are taken from birth through weaning and on to post-weaning. These weights are converted to average daily gain values and those values are then adjusted for birth status (S, Tw, Tr).

As a late maturing breed, a Romney's fleece tends not to stabilize until it approaches two years of age. Thus, our lamb fleece evaluation looks for consistency, front to back.

The Romney's breed standard requirement of pigment integrity is strictly enforced as is a gentleness of temperament---especially in the ram class.

The evaluation period averages 120 days and is composed of at least ten different data points. Lambs that rank in the top 20% of these entries compose our retention/sales list. - Maggie Howard, Tawanda Farms

## **THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE WANTS TO KNOW:**

**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.**

## **Contact Us! -**

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## Member Spotlight:

### Meet Anne Crider of Illinois - District 3

A fifth-generation sheep producer who guided her children and now grandchildren into the industry, Anne Builta Crider was influenced by her first trip to the ASI Annual Convention “years and years ago.” The family’s diverse operation includes sheep, cattle, grain farming, as well as a small business known as Corner Post Farm. CPF offers a number of specialized agricultural gifts and essentials including many items featuring sheep. From the farm shop to attending agricultural events, Anne was recently found manning the store at Kentucky’s North American International Livestock Exposition.



WE LIVE IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS, where land is ideal for grain farming. We are fortunate to have pasture on our farms and pasture rental. We have a few Columbias and Romneys as well as a commercial meat flock. We run 70 to more than 100 ewes along with 20 purebred Angus cows. Our grain operation includes white and yellow corn and seed soybeans. The corn is grown for Frito Lay and other companies.

CRIDER FARMS IS A FAMILY OPERATION. Along with my husband, Dan and I, our operation includes our children and their families. Jason and his family have a Pioneer Seed operation, work with the cattle and raise sweet corn. Christopher is in management for a financial institution and his family works with the sheep and sells lamb meat off the farm. Our daughter, Rachel and her husband live in Germany. But Rachel is known to come home for weeks at a time to help with farm work. We all work together in the operation and help each other out.

WE SELL SOME OF OUR QUALITY FLEECES to weavers and knitter. The remainder of our fleeces are sold to a local shearer.

I STARTED CORNER POST FARM out with mostly sheep items in 2009. As I picked up a few events that included other farm animals and farm equipment, my inventory diversified. Some of my quality product line includes pelts, wool dusters, sweaters and socks, books, plush greeting cards, baby clothes and furniture. Engraving in wood and glass and some painting, are a part of my custom work. The business connects me with sheep people all over the country, and there are no better people than sheep people.

I WENT TO MY FIRST ASI MEETING IN SAN ANTONIO years ago and I’ve been attending ever since. Being involved with ASI has been filled with good experiences. I was asked what I wanted to get out of my experience as a regional director. I feel it is not what I get out of the position but what I do, as I have tried to do by being on Legislative Council and the Production, Education and Research Council, and passing on the information to the states I represent. The goal of promoting wool and lamb touches many facets of the industry, and I want ASI to continue improving and moving forward into a positive future.

This was taken from a series of articles spotlighting members of ASI’s Executive Board. From December 2021 Issue of American Sheep Industry

## American Romney Breeders Association On Line Sale

ARBA will be having another on line sale this year. It will be May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and will be managed by Integrity Livestock Sales. Mike Crowder is owner/operator and will be our contact person. Entry fee is \$20 per head and payable to ARBA and must be sent to Charlene Carlisle (510 Centerton Rd, Moorestown, NJ 08057) separate from the entry information. All consignment information should be sent to [mike@integritylivestocksales.com](mailto:mike@integritylivestocksales.com) and he will upload into computer. You may send pictures and/or videos. Commission will be 10% and 5% will be donated back to the association with a designated portion to be used for Juniors. He would like to have sales information up and running on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, so our deadline to get consignment info to him is May 6<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds from your sales can be directly deposited to your bank account if desired. Turnaround time is approximately 7-10 days depending on how the buyer pays (electronic versus USPS). Ewes and rams are welcome of any age but there must be at least one ewe entered for every ram. Sheep should be presented and pictured well to promote their best attributes.

Any questions please contact Charlene Carlisle at 609-760-0399 (call or text)

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

or Mike Crowder at 765-366-3135 or email

[mike@integritylivestocksales.com](mailto:mike@integritylivestocksales.com)

If seller would like to nominate to the Futurity, forms can be found on web site with instructions

Thanks, looking forward to another great Romney sale.



Tue May 17 2022

**American Romney Breeders Online ...**

## Spring is here and it is time to renew your membership



ARBA

Registering and promoting Romneys since 1912, and  
excited to continue promoting and registering  
Romneys in 2022!

Go to [AmericanRomney.org](http://AmericanRomney.org) and click

**Join ARBA Now!**

to find the membership renewal form. Dues can be  
paid by mailing a check or by PayPal.

The February 2022 issue of “Sheep Industry News” had a really great article on fasting sheep ahead of shearing. We thought we would share it here for those that missed it.

## Sheep Should Fast Before Shearing for Many Reasons

Whatever your thoughts on fasting sheep, there's no doubt your shearer will thank you for keeping the flock off feed and water before shearing. More importantly, your sheep will thank you, too. While there are various views on fasting, the benefits to sheep and shearer are significant, and backed by research.

The ASI *Code of Practice for the Preparation of Wool Clips* and even ASI's *Sheep Production Handbook* don't go into much detail about why fasting is important, but both call for sheep to be penned anywhere from four to 12 hours before shearing. And both recommend keeping sheep off feed and water while penned before shearing.

So, why is it important? First and foremost, for the health and safety of both the sheep and the shearer.

If the gut of a sheep is full, it can add significant weight to the sheep, placing additional downward pressure on the sheep's organs when in the shearing position and causing discomfort and stress to the sheep. In turn, this often causes the sheep to not only be uncomfortable, but to kick and struggle more, leading to even more stress to the sheep.

Also, if sheep urinate or defecate on the shearing floor, there is an increased risk of the sheep slipping when it stands up from being shorn. A slippery shearing surface is also a significant hazard for the shearer.

The goal of fasting is for sheep to urinate, defecate and empty their digestive tracts before entering the shearing facilities. The minimum and maximum times off feed and water will depend on the sheep's stage of production (see table below). The minimum fasting times ensure that the gut is emptied, while the maximum times ensure the health and welfare of the sheep.

It's important to note that sheep should not exceed the maximum time off feed and water, which can happen on long (or multiple) shearing days. Keep in mind that if all sheep are penned at the same time, the last sheep sheared will have fasted for longer than those shorn first.

A secondary reason for fasting is to improve the quality of the wool clip. Eliminating the possibility of sheep urinating or defecating on the shearing floor means a cleaner surface for harvesting wool. And clean wool generally translates to a better, more valuable wool clip.

"A year is spent growing the product, while only a few minutes are required to harvest it. It is in this brief harvest period that quality is often adversely affected," according to ASI's *Code of Practice for the Preparation of Wool Clips*.

For more information, visit [WorkSafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/agriculture/working-with-animals/working-with-sheep/fasting-of-sheep-prior-to-shearing-gpg/](https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/agriculture/working-with-animals/working-with-sheep/fasting-of-sheep-prior-to-shearing-gpg/).

	Minimum Number of Hours W/O Feed	Maximum Number of Hours W/O Feed	Minimum Number of Hours W/O Water	Maximum Number of Hours W/O Water	Special Considerations
EWES (& ADULT MALES)					
Non-pregnant, non-lactating	20	32	12	24	Exceeding these maximums may induce metabolic problems and/or clinical diseases. Where practical, unweaned lambs should remain with their mothers until ewes enter the woolshed.
Early – mid pregnancy	18	30	12	24	
Late pregnancy and lactation	12	24	8	20	
HOGGETS					
Non-pregnant, non-lactating	18	30	12	24	Use special care when handling pregnant hoggets. Exceeding these maximums may induce metabolic problems and/or precipitate clinical diseases. Where practical, unweaned lambs should remain with their mothers until the hoggets enter the woolshed.
Pregnancy and lactation	12	24	8	20	
LAMBS					
Pre-weaning	6	24	6	20	Exceeding these maximums may precipitate clinical diseases.
Weaned	12	24	8	20	



## **Support our youth members - win great prizes!**

American Romney Breeders are planning a fundraiser to support two National Romney Junior Shows, the All American Jr Sheep Show and the North American International Livestock Show. One hundred percent of the proceeds will go directly to these shows. We will be raffling three items.

The first is an original piece of art work done specifically for this occasion and donated by artist, Bridget Brown. The painting is stunning. It depicts three Romneys in full fleece on an oak slab with hanger attached. Bridget is a fiber artist who spins, felts and weaves with a background in fine art. She combines her passion for art with her love of sheep and wool and creates stunning art. Bridget has experience with a variety of breeds of sheep and other fiber animals and has built a fiber mill on her farm, located in Summit Point, WV. For more information on Bridget please check out her website [www.headspringfibermill.com](http://www.headspringfibermill.com) and her Etsy Shop, Bridget's Farm Cart.



The second item is a quilt made specifically for the All American Jr Sheep Show, and donated by Rosemary Acker of Maple Shade, NJ. She is a long-time quilter and friend that knows the importance of youth and agriculture. One side is a star pattern rich in red, white and blue and the other side is a crazy, quirky sheep pattern. The quilt can be used as a wall hanging or on your bed, it's beautiful and fun for kids or adults.



The third item (newly added) is a gift box full of fun and interesting items but the most exciting is a set of hand made cards and a diz. The gift box was donated by Chris Richard of Celestial Farms located in Jefferson, Oregon, in the heart of the Willamette Valley. Their farm is multi-dimensional and are makers of fiber tools and so much more. The box includes soaps, creams, essential oil insect repellent bar, soap saving exfoliating bag, moisturizing salve, bath milk, and it smells so delicious when you open the shipping box. He can be found on FB under Celestial Farms or on Instagram as CF Merchantile.

Raffle tickets will be sold by ARBA board members and anyone else who would like to help our cause and support our youth shows. Social media (FB & Instagram) and website will carry information. Anyone interested in selling or buying tickets can contact any board member or Charlene Carlisle at [c.carlisle@LittleHoovesRomneys.com](mailto:c.carlisle@LittleHoovesRomneys.com), via FB or Instagram, or text 609-760-0399. We will be selling tickets now and throughout the National Show in Oregon. The drawing will be held at the Oregon State Fair, August 2022, exact date to be determined. Tickets will be \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

Please share our excitement for these three generous donations and support our youth by either buying or selling raffle tickets. Without financial support our youth might not be able to continue to experience these shows. Thanks in advance.

Youth Committee (Charlene Carlisle, Emma Rogers, Amy Miller, Willis Plank and Stacy Schmoll)



American Romney Breeders Association  
2022 National Romney Show  
Oregon State Fair

Donations are an integral part of the event for awards and to showcase Romneys in the sheep industry. The champion awards are being made by Amy Wolf with gorgeous wool fibers. I have had a sneak preview!

Pendleton items will also be a part of the awards, continuing to showcase the great Northwest Sheep Industry.

If you would like to help support the event which includes:

White Romney Show  
Natural Colored Romney Show  
Romney Junior Show  
Wool Show  
In-Person Animal Sale at the Fairgrounds  
Annual Meeting and Dinner

Please enclose a check made payable to ARBA.

Send to Sue Kalina  
35586 Oakville Rd. SW,  
Albany, OR 97321

For your consideration, the champion awards are \$50 and class awards \$25.

Please let me know:

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you so much for your support and please come visit the events!  
Sue

## **The BEST of the WEST**

White & Recessive Romneys  
Gentle Temperaments  
Beautiful Fleeces  
Fiber Micron Value, Color Pattern and Birth Photos Available



### **WE WELCOME YOUR INQUIRIES**

Pre- and Post-Sale Support  
Tawanda Farms  
[www.tawandafarms.com](http://www.tawandafarms.com)  
530-459-0966  
[tawandafarms53@att.net](mailto:tawandafarms53@att.net)

# MAY 1ST

**WILLOUGHBY**  
**SALES**



# Little Hooves Romneys



# ONLINE SALE

## Flock News: the human side of things

### Passing of Ray Gavin -

In 1974, Ray Gavin, with his wife Marlene started a dream of farming with two Romney ewes in Clarkston, Michigan. Two sheep quickly developed into Skyview Farm, a flow of 100 plus, best in class, registered Romneys.

Ray found his passion and jumped right into traveling to the major shows in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Oregon and

Maryland, supporting the Romney breed. Active in Oakland County

4-H, Ray also took on the role of sheep superintendent for the Genesee County Fair.

In 1998, he stepped into the role of ARBA vice president and represented the breed at the New Zealand Royal Show in 1999. He was elected president 2000-2001 and returned to New Zealand to represent the Romney Association at the World Wool Congress.

Ray and Marlene were named the Michigan Outstanding Purebred Producer in 2003.

Ray Gavin was a genuine, kind man, always there to help, lived out his dream of farming and enjoyed each person he met along the way. He will be missed deeply.

The full obituary can be found at:

<https://www.sharpfuneralhomes.com/obituary/Raymond-Gavin>



## Grandparent warning - just kidding - we all love baby pictures!!! Send us more!

ARBA board member and District 4 Director, Sue Kalina, has a new grandson.



Welcome to the flock  
Jaxon Che' Booren.

Born on July 19th, 2021 to  
Stephanie and Jacy.

Congratulations to big sister  
Addison as well - you're going to be  
an amazing big sister!







**Congratulations and best wishes** to Romney breeders Melissa (Cunningham) and Nate Trojanoski, who were married in an evening ceremony on October 2, 2021.

Their son, Everett, and his grandparents, Alison Trojanoski and ARBA board member Rick Trojanoski joined the celebrations.

Cheers to you all!



### **Michigan Sheep Producers Honor Romney Breeder Penny Swearingen (3 L&S Farm) as 2022 Michigan Purebred Breeder of the Year.**

Penny Swearingen did not grow up in Michigan. She is a native of Illinois. During her college days, attending the University of Illinois, she was part of the livestock and meat judging teams. Sheep were and have been a part of her life. Starting out with Hampshire and Crossbreds, she slowly added Romneys to her flock. Approximately 20 years ago she moved to Michigan and only the Romneys made the trip.

Through the years, she has marketed sheep to new breeders with starter flocks. She's supplied sheep to spinning flocks and other purebred breeders as well. Penny has sold sheep in live sales, online sales, and at fiber events.

Exhibiting sheep at shows is a normal practice. While at these shows there is always a display around her pens promoting Romneys and wool. Penny also spends a great deal of time on her spinning wheel, while answering questions of passing visitors at the shows.

The wool has always been a focus of hers, but over the last couple of years, it has taken on a more prominent role. The wool has taken on a new direction in marketing. Due to Covid and the cancellation of livestock and fiber shows, the internet had become a necessary means to market her products. Social media has given her a larger audience for sales. She offers weekly sales of raw, washed, spin, bats, rovings, also finished products of lamb pelts to her followers. She believes that there is value in all the sheep.

In 2021 Penny took on the role of being wool superintendent of the Michigan Fiber Festival which is the largest and oldest fiber event in Michigan.

Penny currently serves on the American Romney Breeders board as the district 3 Representative and has vowed to keep the Romney breed true to its breed standard.





<b>Calendar of Events:</b>					
<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>VIRTU- AL</b>	<b>IN- PER- SON</b>	<b>CAN- CELLE D</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
The Fiber Expo - Anne Arbor, MI	Apr. 9-10				Fiberexpo.com
The Fiber Event—Greencastle, IN	Apr. 15-16				Thefiberevent.com
Shepherd's Cross Shearing School	Apr. 21-23				Shepherdcross.com
Tennessee Sheep Producers Shearing School	Apr. 22-23				Tennesseesheep.org
Great Smokey Mt. Fiber Fair - Townsend, TN	Apr 22-23				Gsmheritagecenter.org
Washington County Fiber Tour - NY	Apr 23-24				Washingtoncountyfibertour.org
Scotchtown Fiber Fest. - Beaverdam, VA	Apr 23-24				Cvfg.org
CT Sheep, Wool & Fiber Festival	Apr. 30				Ctsheep.org
Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival	May 7-8				Sheepandwool.org
Solomon Farms Fiber Arts Fest. - Ft Wayne, IN	May 13-14				Visitfortwayne.com
NH Sheep and Wool Festival	May 14-15				Nhswga.org
Middle TN Fiber Fest. - Dickson, TN	May 27-28				Tnfiberfestival.com
Massachusetts Sheep & Woolcraft Fair	May 28-29				Masheepwool.org
Great Lakes Fiber Show - Wooster, OH	May 28-29				Greatlakesfibershow.com
Hoosier Hills Fiber Festival - Franklin, IN	June 3-4				Hoosierhillsfiberfestival.com
Wool Collection Day for CT Blanket	June 4				Ctsheep.com - CT blanket page - Email - smurray@ctsheep.com
Maine Fiber Frolic	June 4-5				Mainemade.com
All American Junior Sheep Show	June 30-July 3				Allamericanjuniorshow.com
Northeast Youth Sheep Show	July 8-10				Nesheep.org
Ohio State Fair	July 27-Aug. 7				Ohiostatefair.com
Michigan Fiber Festival - Alleghen, MI	Aug. 17-21				Michiganfiberfestival.info
Oregon State Fair	Aug. 26-Sept. 5				See below re: National Wool Show 2022
Maryland State Fair	Aug 26-Sept.6				Marylandstatefair.com

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.

### **National Wool Show 2022**

As the calendar year slips away, don't let the opportunity to enter the National Romney Wool Show slide by. Plan to save and send those fleeces to Oregon for judging and exhibition at the Oregon State Fair, site of the 2022 National Romney Show. Details are in the making, but more information will be provided as it becomes available.

The Ramblings, ARBA website and Oregon State Fair website will serve as communication lines. Specific questions regarding those sources can be directed to JoAnn Mast or Kathleen Zappelli. Mark your calendar – ship fleeces to Oregon – late August, 2022 show.

# NOTICES, REMINDERS AND EXPLANATIONS: - Worth Repeating!

## Notice to ARBA Members Regarding Registration of Moorit Romneys:

In the spring of this year, a question was brought before the ARBA Board of Directors (BOD) concerning the registration status of two imported rams (semen). The two rams in question are Rosebank 86/03 and Rosebank 59/03. Associated Registry (AR), the registrar for ARBA, reports that there are multiple owners/breeders of moorit or moorit carrier Romney sheep, including progeny from the two rams referenced above; however, current staffing issues at Associated Registry are preventing the timely development of a list of breeders who have purchased progeny from multiple generations of these two rams; therefore, this message serves as notification to all potentially impacted breeders.

The BOD has conducted a thorough investigation and has determined that, in fairness to breeders whose pedigrees include one of these rams, **all progeny that have been registered, or will be born by the end of 2021 and subsequently registered, will remain in the Romney flock book as purebred Romneys. Progeny born after 12/31/21 that are not directly sired by Rosebank 86/03 or Rosebank 59/03 will also be eligible for registration.**

The BOD's investigation also concluded that, at this time, there is no paperwork indicating the two rams in question were purebred and registered through the Black and Coloured Sheep Breeders Association of New Zealand (BCSBANZ), which is the organization that registers natural-colored Romneys in New Zealand where the rams originated. This does not mean those animals were not purebred Romneys; rather it means that after repeated requests by the ARBA Board of Directors requesting appropriate documentation from the breeder/owner of the semen, no documentation has been received. Further, the BCSBANZ reports the two rams in question were never registered with the BCSBANZ. Based on this information, no **direct** offspring of either Rosebank 86/03 or Rosebank 59/03 **born after December 31, 2021** will be allowed to be registered in the Romney flock book.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please feel free to contact your District Director. The BOD welcomes all questions. It is important that you feel confident of your breeding stock and the Romney breed as a whole.

To reiterate, if you own a registered Romney with moorit in its pedigree, your animal, and its offspring, will remain in the Romney flock book. Future offspring from your animal will also be eligible for registration in the Romney flock book.

## UNDERSTANDING THE COLORS OF ARBA REGISTRATION PAPERS

Have you noticed that registration papers come on different colored paper? Here is what the different colors mean:

**Cream**-colored paper is used for white ewes.

**Yellow** paper is used for white rams.

**Pink** paper is used for b-factored (which includes BW at the front of the registration number) and natural-colored (which includes BB at the front of the registration number) ewes.

**Blue** paper is used for b-factored (which includes BW at the front of the registration number) and natural-colored (which includes BB at the front of the registration number) rams.

To help ensure clear identification of moorit and moorit carriers, the BOD determined that all moorit registrations (which includes MM at the front of the registration number) and moorit carrier registrations (which includes one M at the front of the registration number) will be issued on **green** paper for both rams and ewes.

**If your current M or MM registration is not on green paper and you wish it to be changed now, you can submit the registration to AR for reissuance at no cost to you.** When registrations of moorit or moorit carriers are transferred, the registration will be reissued on green paper.



**AT Wlvestock.com**

APRIL 27, 2022

Yearling Sale and Livestock Scales  
(Trucking available to Maryland Sheep and Wool)

JUNE 8, 2022

Spring Lamb Sale  
(January and February Lambs)

Selling: White and Natural Colored Rams and Ewes

Contact: E/C Plank - Willis Plank

Home 517-437-2984

Cell 517-462-5675

Email: Plankcage@outlook.com

2871 W. Hallett Road

Hillsdale, MI 49242

# ARBA Futurity 2022

The American Romney Futurity Program is up and running. Just waiting for nominations to come in. It is our hope that breeders selling ewe lambs to our youth will help the kids and our program by nominating the ewe lambs and/or yearlings to the Futurity. It costs \$20 per ewe and can be paid for by the seller or self-nominated by the buyer. Rules can be found on the website or in this edition of the Ramblings. Any youth buying ewes this year (either in public sale, online or private treaty) can participate. The purpose of the Futurity Program is to encourage youth to buy quality livestock, thereby improving their flock and being successful with their goals. When attending shows with Futurity nominated ewes, you will need to fill out proper forms (also located on web site) and submit to Charlene Carlisle. Points are gathered during the show season and at the end of the year all proceeds are paid back to the kids. Hope to see you at the shows or on social media. Don't forget to share any fun sheep happenings around the farm, barn or showing to our ARBA JR FB page.

## 2022 ARBA Futurity Contest

### \*Nomination Form\*

**Must be postmarked by October 1, 2022 to be eligible for this year's futurity contest**

Please fill out all the following information to nominate a Romney Ewe Lamb or Yearling Ewe

Check appropriate line:

<input type="checkbox"/> White owned yearling ewe	<input type="checkbox"/> NC owned yearling ewe
<input type="checkbox"/> White home-raised* yearling ewe	<input type="checkbox"/> NC home-raised* yearling ewe
<input type="checkbox"/> White owned ewe lamb	<input type="checkbox"/> NC owned ewe lamb
<input type="checkbox"/> White home-raised* ewe lamb	<input type="checkbox"/> NC home-raised* ewe lamb

\*"Home-raised" shall be defined as when the dam is owned by youth member when futurity nominated ewe was born

Breeder Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Flock Tag # \_\_\_\_\_ USDA Scrapie Tag # \_\_\_\_\_

ARBA Registration # \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Address \_\_\_\_\_

Nominating person's signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make sure all above information is complete and correct, and this form is signed.**

☒ Enclosed is the \$20.00 nomination fee (make check payable to "ARBA")

Mail Nomination Form and check to Charlene Carlisle, 510 Centerton Rd, Moorestown, NJ 08057

# **AMERICAN ROMNEY BREEDERS ASSOCIATION**

## **2022 Futurity Contest**

### **CONTEST RULES**

1. All Junior members 21 years and younger as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of current year with paid membership are eligible.
2. All ewes must be registered with ARBA and nominated by breeder/seller and fee of \$20 per ewe paid by same; unless re-entering as a yearling ewe, then the current youth/owner will pay the fee. Nominations must be postmarked by October 1<sup>st</sup> of current year.
3. Divisions offered are:
  - A. White owned yearling ewes
  - B. Natural Colored owned yearling ewes
  - C. White home-raised \* yearling ewes
  - D. Natural Colored home-raised\* yearling ewes
  - E. White owned ewe lambs
  - F. Natural Colored owned ewe lambs
  - G. White home-raised\* ewe lambs
  - H. Natural Colored home-raised\* ewe lambs

\*"home-raised" shall be defined as when the dam is owned by youth member when futurity nominated ewe was born

4. "Owned" futurity ewe lambs or yearlings may be purchased through public sales, on-line sales or privately.
5. Ewes must be solely and individually owned by the youth member.
6. Points are not transferable to any other ewe or person.
7. Futurity nominated ewes must be exhibited/shown by the youth-owner to receive futurity points. If a youth has two futurity ewes entered in the same class, the second ewe must be exhibited by another youth.
8. Point Record Form must be completed and signed by the Superintendent or Secretary of the show and forwarded by the youth exhibitor to Charlene Carlisle, 510 Centerton Rd, Moorestown, NJ 08057 within 14 days of the show. This is the youth exhibitor's responsibility. Point cards can also be scanned or emailed to [c.carlisle@LittleHoovesRomneys.com](mailto:c.carlisle@LittleHoovesRomneys.com)
9. A futurity ewe may earn points from both open and junior shows at the same fair when a different judge is involved or the shows are held on different days.
10. The futurity ewe may compete in an unlimited number of shows and the youth is encouraged to send in all Point Record Forms from all shows; however, only the top 5 point cards will be used for each futurity ewe to determine the final score for the placing in this contest. In case of a tie, the sixth highest scoring Point Record Form will be counted.
11. Futurity premiums will be paid using a percentage of the total money collected for Futurity entries.

Payout Percentages : First – 25%, Second – 22%, Third – 18%, Fourth – 15%, Fifth – 10%, Sixth – 5%, Seventh – 3%, and Eighth – 2%.

Point program runs from January 1 to December 31 of current year. Additional recognition for the exhibitors and breeders will appear in the Romney Ramblings, Banner Magazine, Facebook and Website.



Futurity Rules continued:

- 12. When a futurity ewe lamb becomes a yearling, she may be re-nominated by the junior member/owner as a futurity nominated yearling ewe. The fee is \$20 per head with the same divisions as the ewe lambs. (See #3 above)
- 13. ARBA is not responsible for and shall be held harmless for any disputes and/or disagreements between buyers and sellers.
- 14. If the owner of a futurity nominated ewe is not present at a respective show, futurity points are not eligible and may not be submitted.
- 15. The Natural Colored and White Romneys (with exception of NAILE's Jr Romney Show) will show separate for futurity points and will be paid separately.

16. Futurity point scale:	# animals in class	Placing in class									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1		1									
2		2	1								
3		3	2	1							
4		4	3	2	1						
5		5	4	3	2	1					
6		6	5	4	3	2	1				
7		7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
8		8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
9		9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
10		10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Any Questions? Contact Charlene Carlisle @ 609-760-0399 or [c.carlisle@LittleHoovesRomneys.com](mailto:c.carlisle@LittleHoovesRomneys.com)



FYI -  
“Sunday Selfies”  
are back!  
Post your pics to the  
American Romney  
Breeders Association  
JR Members page on  
Facebook to join the  
fun.



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

# southern Oregon Romneys

**JoAnn Mast & Kathleen Zappelli**

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**[jmast1952@gmail.com](mailto:jmast1952@gmail.com)**

**[www.southernoregonromneysonline.com](http://www.southernoregonromneysonline.com)**