



Romney Ramblings

January 3, 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Happy Holidays! Whichever holiday you celebrate this time of year, I hope it is joyful season for you!

There have been lots of positive developments during 2023, and the board committees have been busy updating current documents and projects, starting new efforts based on member requests, and improving and updating the website. Want to get involved? We'd love your participation in any or all committees. Please check out the listing of the committees to see if there is one (or more) that you'd like to join.

This year's annual meeting was held in Michigan during the Michigan State Fair – it was a great opportunity to meet ARBA members from the Midwest and to see some beautiful sheep, and a great annual dinner was arranged by District 3 Director, Penny Swearingen.

There is a lot of information in this newsletter about sheep shows and how well Romneys have been performing – and shows are important to get the word out about our breed and showcase our beautiful sheep! Many of us raise Romneys primarily for wool and/or meat - look for more information and opportunities related to meat and wool in 2024!

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous 2024 with healthy, fast-growing lambs!



Snuggle weather -
Budding Creek Farm, MD

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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:

Alivia Blum
Elsie Bonyng
Lincoln Bonyng
Braideigh Buczek-Heisey
Tim and Sarah Fleener
Betsy Fry
George Fry
Matt and Ann Fry
Ryan and Allison Halligan
Lyla Henry
Heather Lemay
Zachary Lyman
Hayley Reed
Brandy Scobee
Morgan Vining
Quinn Vining

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

If you know a Romney Breeder that isn't a member yet - invite them to join in on the fun!

WELCOME!

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.

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.

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.

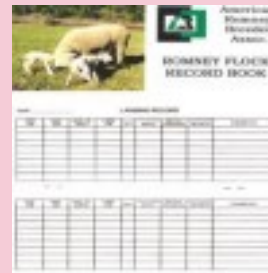
Above rates are based on camera ready copy, sized to fit the space purchased for the ad. Ads prepared by the editor will be charged at \$15 per hour, with a minimum fee of \$15.

Send all advertising information and news to: Patricia Sanville
4637 Cap Stine Road
Frederick, MD 21703

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:

Holiday Greetings from New England to all of you! Since the last publication, Romney Breeders of District 1 have been busy with late shows, fall lambing, preparing for winter including lambing, holiday fairs and markets. Here are a few highlights!

The "Big E" was held September 26th – There is an article on that later in this issue of the Ramblings.

Shout out to the District 1 participants at NAILE! Congratulations for your achievements. Please see the article on NAILE to see the results of the show.

At Winding Wicks, Teresa, Catherine, and I have been busy with wool crafts, markets and fairs. I see from Facebook that the Higgins, Schrocks, Trojanoskis, Wisharts, Walkers and many more have been working with their wool and selling woolen items, sheepskins, and meat. If you have a favorite pattern or instructions for crafting with wool that you would like to share, please contact me and I will be happy to include your note in the Ramblings under District 1.

My email address is windingwicksandwool@gmail.com.

May all of you have a peaceful and joyous holiday and a Happy New Year.

District 2: Scarlet Lamphier:

Greetings to all:

As most everyone's fall breeding season is over and looking forward to new lambs soon, ours is a different story! We just had our five fat fiber ewes sheared and looking forward to our winter stay in Florida for the month of March!

It also has been an unusually mild winter so far, with ewes still grazing on pasture, having only had one dusting of snow, and above normal temperatures.

I have enjoyed talking with many members in my District 2 that don't have computer emails, while trying to help update our membership directory. That seems impossible for some of us to survive in our techy world, but that is their way to do things!

Longtime ARBA members Stephen and Elisabeth Shafer, Anchorage Farm as of May, 2023 have a new Manager Cameron Pedigo. He succeeds Graeme Stewart, their esteemed Manager for almost 19 years. New contact information for Anchorage Farm is as follows: Cameron 845-217-1974

New farm email address: Anchorageromneys@gmail.com

Congratulations to all the exhibitors doing so well at NAILE, and all the participants in the first annual National Romney Show! Thistle Down Farm was back in full force, after 4 years out of the show ring, capturing the wins for National Champion Black Romney Ram and Ewe, as well winning Champion Flock and Premier Exhibitor! Great job Ethan on raising some truly outstanding Romney sheep!!

Another congratulations to Charlene Carlisle of Little Hooves Romneys winning 2023 National White Romney Show 1st place winter ewe lamb!

As always, please send me any news, pictures or questions you may have.
Many blessings to all this holiday season



Make it With Wool and Lead Line
Competitions are another great way to show
off our wonderful Romneys



District 3: Stacy Schmoll:

Another year is right around the corner. It's a time to look back at our accomplishments over the past year. One of those events was the NAILE this past November. District 3 was very well represented and had several families exhibit in the Wool Show, Lead Line contest, Jr Breeding Show and the National Romney Open Show. Here are a few of the highlights from the National Show:

2023 National Champion White Ram Open Show: Claire Von Behrens-IL

2023 National Reserve Champion Natural Colored Ram Open Show: Caitlin Plank-MI

2023 National Best Fleece Natural Colored: Caitlin Plank-MI

District 3 was also a spotlight in the Overall Supreme Drive, as Willis Plank-MI was honored as a Supreme Drive Judge. Congratulations on this honor.

Please continue to forward your highlights and upcoming events that our members can participate in and acknowledge in our district. The more we are able to share, the more we can learn from each other. We will gladly pass along events, festivals, and work shops that others may be interested in viewing and participating in throughout our district.

Some of us are getting ready to lamb and others are working on skirting and processing fleece. Whatever stage you are entering, we hope this next year finds you in good spirits, success, and progress forward!

District 4: Sue Kalina:

So much has happened since the last Ramblings!

The ARBA Regional Show at the Oregon State Fair went great with beautiful farm signs and pom-pom ribbons given to the exhibitors.

The Kalina Family won the white Champion Ram and Young Flock. Both went on to be named the Supreme Champion Ram and Supreme Young Flock of the fair.

Silver Creek Lambscapes won the natural-colored Champion Get-of-Sire. The flock went on to win the Supreme Get-of-Sire of the fair.

Addison Booren won the white Champion Ewe of the Junior Show with Bentley Brodniak receiving Reserve Champion Ewe. Austin Bennett won the natural-colored Champion Ewe of the Junior Show and Bentley Brodniak the Reserve Champion Ewe.

Wool Show – Bentley Brodniak won the open class and junior show Supreme Fleeces overall.



The Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival:

The Kalina Family OSF Supreme Ram was also the Supreme Wool Ram at OFFF.

Addison Booren's OSF Champion Ewe was the Reserve Supreme Wool Ewe at OFFF.



The ARBA Annual Meeting in Michigan: Sue Kalina and Stephanie Booren (Director-at-Large) attended the meetings. It was just fabulous to meet all the board members and talk in person. The shows were great along with the dinner. Good business was done as well as making friendships.

NAILE: Sue Kalina and her ram traveled to Kentucky to the North American International Livestock Exposition where the ram was named Reserve Grand Champion of the National Show for 2023. It was an awesome trip and I met so many east coast breeders and talked with them about their sheep.

Happy Holidays everyone and give me a buzz if you have any thoughts or questions.

District 5: Tracy Haslem:

No report at this time.

District 6: Vacant:

If you are interested in this position, please contact Anne McIntyre-Lahner - olympiafarm@att.net or Charlene Carlisle - ccshep1@aol.com.

ARBA SECRETARY-TREASURER POSITION OPEN

ARBA Secretary-Treasurer, Georgina Anderson, is moving to an exciting new career job, and will be vacating her position as ARBA Secretary/Treasurer.

The position is a part-time contracted position and requires the ability to work with Microsoft Office or Google Workspace programs, as well as basic accounting skills. Individuals interested in applying for the position can contact ARBA President, Anne McIntyre-Lahner at Olympiafarm@att.net by January 31, 2024.



Results from the Big “E” - Marianne DiTaranto

The 2023 Romney Show at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield Massachusetts was held on Tuesday, September 26 in the Mallary Building. There were 14 exhibitors of which there were 7 youth and 49 entries in total. Sara Kuykendall from Richland Center, WI was the judge.

The awards were sponsored by the following: Southern Oregon Romneys of Coquille, OR offered an award for Grand Champion White Ram. The Rogers Family of Chepachet, RI offered an award for Grand Champion White Ewe. Little Hooves Romneys, Charlene Carlisle of Moorestown, NJ offered an award for Natural Colored Grand Champion Ram. Birds of a Feather Farm, Coventry, CT offered an award for Grand Champion Natural Colored Ewe. Winding Wicks Farm, Chichester NH offered the awards for Best Headed White Romney and Best Headed Natural Colored Romney. The American Romney Breeders Association offered the awards for Premier Exhibitor and Breeder. Boot Barn offered \$50 gift cards to the Junior Show Grand Champion Ram and Ewe.

The Results for the White Show were:

The Open Show Senior Champion White Ram was won by Catherine Hromis with Winding Wicks 2219 AI and the Open Show Senior Reserve Champion White Ram was won by Catherine Hromis with Winding Wicks 2303. The Open Show Junior Champion White Ram and the Open Show Reserve Junior Champion White Ram were won by Emma Rodgers with Morton 0264 and Morton 0272 respectively. The Open Show Grand Champion White Ram and Reserve Grand Champion White Ram were won by Catherine Hromis with Winding Wicks 2219 AI and Winding Wicks 2303 respectively. The Junior Show Champion and Reserve Champion White Ram went to Catherine Hromis with WW 2219 AI and WW 2303 respectively.

The Open Show Senior Champion White Ewe was won by Emma Rogers with Morton 0243. The Open Show Senior Reserve Champion White Ewe was won by Catherine Hromis with WW 2201. The Open Show Junior Champion White Ewe was won by Catherine Hromis with WW 2343. The Open Show Grand Champion White Ewe was won by Emma Rodgers with Morton 0243 and the Reserve Grand Champion White Ewe was won by Catherine Hromis with WW 2343. The Junior Show Grand Champion and Reserve Champion White Ewe was won by Catherine Hromis with WW 2343 and WW 2201 respectively. White Best Fleece was won by Kenny Briggs with WW 2218 and White Best Headed was won by Tim and Sarah Fleener with WW 2214. The Premier Exhibitor Award was presented to Catherine Hromis and the Premier Breeder Award was presented to Emma Rodgers.

The results for the Natural Colored Show were:

Open Show Senior Champion Natural Colored Ram was Teresa Hromis with WW 2220
Open Show Reserve Senior Champion Natural Colored Ram went to Davey Peterson with Romney Haven 26, Trouble.
Open Show Junior Champion Natural Colored Ram was won by Teresa Hromis with WW 2354 Junior Reserve Grand Champion Natural Colored Ram was won by Cadence Higgins with Higgins 23186.
Open Show Grand Champion Natural Colored Ram went to Teresa Hromis with WW 2220
Reserve Grand Champion Natural Colored Ram was won by Teresa Hromis with WW 2354.
Junior Show Champion Natural Colored Ram went to Cadence Higgins with Higgins 23186.
Open Show Senior Champion Natural Colored Ewe was won by Teresa Hromis with WW 2126 Open Show Reserve Senior Champion Natural Colored Ewe went to Davey Peterson with Thistle Down 222, Emerald.
Open Show Junior Champion Natural Colored Ewe was won by Teresa Hromis with WW 2322 Open Show Reserve Junior Champion Natural Colored Ewe went to Charlene Carlisle with Little Hooves 344.
Open Show Grand Champion Natural Colored Ewe was won by Teresa Hromis with WW 2126 Open Show Reserve Grand Champion Natural Colored Ewe went to Davey Peterson with TD 222, Emerald.
Junior Champion Natural Colored Ewe was won by Cadence Higgins with Higgins 23174
Junior Reserve Champion Natural Colored Ewe went to Elizabeth Briggs with WW 2305.
Natural Colored Best Fleece and Best Headed went to Teresa Hromis with WW 2126.
Premier Exhibitor Award and the Premier Breeder Award were presented to Teresa Hromis.

In the Supreme Ram Drive, both the white ram owned and exhibited by Catherine Hromis and the Natural Colored ram owned and exhibited by Teresa Hromis were pulled for top 5. The Supreme Ewe Drive was won by Teresa Hromis with WW 2126, Neon Moon.

Congratulations to all the exhibitors for a fabulous show.

Mark your calendar for the 2024 Big “E”. The New England District will be hosting the National Show and the Annual Dinner and Meeting during the 2024 Big “E”! More details will follow soon so that you can plan ahead and participate in the show and attend the dinner.

Out On the Green Shavings (NAILE) - Willis Plank - Wool Superintendent and Breed Representative for NAILE

First off, I would like to send a 'Thank you' to all the exhibitors, Romney enthusiasts, staff, and judges for the 2023 North American International Livestock Exposition. If it was not for all of them, NAILE would not be the best breeding sheep show around.

The Junior show had a fantastic outcome with 52 sheep shown by 22 exhibitors. Some of the Junior exhibitors, it was either their last time showing in the Junior show or their first time on the green shavings. There are a lot more upcoming juniors that are joining the Romney breed. The future for the Junior exhibitor is looking bright!

The Wool (fleece) had separate classes for the Romneys (Natural/ White and Ram/Ewe). All National fleece class winners received a Mint Julep Cup on behalf of NAILE for hosting a national show in Louisville. Congratulations to the winners of the fleece show.

The National Romney Open show had 37 whites and 48 Natural Coloreds that made their way across the shavings. Again, all class winners won a Mint Julep Cup on behalf of NAILE for hosting a national in Louisville. This is the first show for the annual Romney Association national show. With that being said, we have beautiful traveling awards that will be given out every year at the National Romney Show.

As NAILE wrapped up its week-long show, there is the Supreme Ram & Ewe drive that happens once all the breeds have been shown. Judges for the Supreme Drive are judged by individuals who are still around Thursday afternoon, which get chosen by the NAILE show crew. The judges were Dale Davis (OH), Tim Fleener (PA), and Willis Plank (MI). The White Romney Ram was represented by Claire VonBehrens and the Natural Colored Ram was represented by Ethan Kennedy. Ethan's Ram got pulled as one of the top 4 Rams but unfortunately, did not win the Supreme Ram. The White Romney Ewe was represented by Catherine Hromis and the Natural Colored Ewe was represented by Ethan Kennedy. Catherine's White Ewe was one of the 5 ewes that got pulled but unfortunately, did not win the Supreme Ewe. It was a great thrill for the Romney breed to have both a ram and an ewe to be pulled out in the Supreme Drive lineup.

As NAILE has come to an end, the memories will never be forgotten. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2024! - Willis

National Romney Show - Judge: Tor Sorenson

Placings:

White Division:

Yearling Ram- 1. Clarie VonBehrens, 2. Cassidy Lobdell

Fall Ram Lamb- 1. Sue Kalina, 2. Catherine Hromis, 3. Lydia Henry

Winter Ram Lamb- 1. Caitlin Plank, 2. Claire Henry, 3. L/M Schmoll

Spring Ram Lamb- 1. Cassidy Lobdell, 2. Claire Vonbehrens

Grand Champion White Ram- Clarie VonBehrens (Yr. Ram)

Reserve Champion White Ram- Sue Kalina (Fall Ram)

Yearling Ewe- 1. Catherine Hromis, 2. Emma Rogers, 3. Tim & Sarah Fleener, 4. Catherine Hromis, 5. Claire Vonbehrens,

6. L/M Schmoll, 7. Davey Peterson, 8. Claire Vonbehrens

Pair of Yearling Ewes- 1. Catherine Hromis, 2. Claire Vonbehrens

Fall Ewe Lamb- 1. Catherine Hromis, 2. Claire Vonbehrens

Winter Ewe Lamb- 1. Charlene Carlisle, 2. L/M Schmoll, 3. Tim & Sarah Fleener, 4. Cassidy Lobdell, 5. Ryan Halligan

Spring Ewe Lamb- 1. Emma Rogers, 2. Catherine Hromis, 3. Claire Vonbehrens, 4. Catherine Hromis, 5. Ainsley Porter,

6. Catherine Hromis, 7. Katelyn Oberholtzer, 8. Charlene Carlisle, 9. Clair Henry, 10. Lyla Henry, 11. Charlene Carlisle,

12. Ryan Halligan

Pair of Ewe Lamb- 1. Catherine Hromis, 2. Claire VonBehrens, 3. Ryan Halligan

Grand Champion White Ewe- Catherine Hromis (Yr. Ewe)

Reserve Champion White Ewe- Emma Rogers (Yr. Ewe)

Best White Fleece on the Hoof- Katelyn Oberholtzer

Flock- 1. Catherine Hromis, 2. Claire VonBehrens

White Premier Exhibitor- Catherine Hromis

Natural Colored Division:

Yearling Ram - 1. Ethan Kennedy, 2. Caitlin Plank, 3. Caitlin Plank, 4. L/M Schmoll

Fall Ram Lamb - 1. Teresa Hromis,

Winter Ram Lamb - 1. Ethan Kennedy, 2. Kingston Rincker, 3. Caitlin Plank, 4. Ainsley Porter, 5. Davey Peterson, 6. Caitlin Plank

Spring Ram Lamb - 1. Caitlin Plank, 2 & 3. Ethan Kennedy, 4. Teresa Hromis, 5. Caitlin Plank, 6. Brooke Hershey

Pair of Ram Lambs - 1. Ethan Kennedy, 2. Caitlin Plank, 3. Teresa Hromis

Grand Champion Natural Colored Ram - Ethan Kennedy (Winter Ram Lamb)

Reserve Champion Natural Colored Ram - Caitlin Plank (Spring Ram Lamb)

Yearling Ewe - 1. Teresa Hromis, 2. Ethan Kennedy, 3. Davey Peterson, 4. Ainsley Porter, 5. Caitlin Plank, 6. Ethan Kennedy, 7. Davey Peterson, 8. Teresa Hromis, 9. L/M Schmoll, 10. Caitlin Plank, 11. Alexis Peterson

Pair of Yearling Ewes - 1. Ethan Kennedy, 2. Davey Peterson, 3. Teresa Hromis, 4. Caitlin Plank

Fall Ewe Lamb - 1. Teresa Hromis, 2. Ethan Kennedy, 3. Kingston Rincker, 4. Ainsley Porter

Winter Ewe Lamb - 1. Ethan Kennedy, 2 & 3. Caitlin Plank, 4. Ainsley Porter, 5. Ethan Kennedy

Spring Ewe Lamb - 1. Ethan Kennedy, 2. Charlene Carlisle, 3. Caitlin Plank, 4. Teresa Hromis, 5. Ainsley Porter,

6. Ethan Kennedy, 7. Lydia Henry, 8. Caitlin Plank, 9. Teresa Hromis, 10. Troy Doty, 11. L/M Schmoll

Pair of Ewe Lamb - 1. Ethan Kennedy, 2. Teresa Hromis, 3. Ainsley Porter, 4. Caitlin Plank

Grand Champion Natural Colored Ewe - Ethan Kennedy (Spring Ewe Lamb)

Reserve Champion Natural Colored Ewe - Teresa Hromis (Yr. Ewe)

Best Natural Colored Fleece on the Hoof - Caitlin Plank

Flock - 1. Ethan Kennedy, 2. Teresa Hromis, 3. Caitlin Plank

Natural Colored Premier Exhibitor - Ethan Kennedy

NAILE WOOL SHOW - November 15, 2023

Judge: Aaron Jennings - Texas

White Romney Ram

1 Willis Plank

2 Willis Plank

3 Penny Swearingen

4 Penny Swearingen

White Romney Ewe

1 Willis Plank

2 Willis Plank

3 Lindsey Schmoll

4 Penny Swearingen

5 Catherine Hromis

Natural Colored Ram

1 Willis Plank

2 Willis Plank

Natural Colored Ewe

1 Penny Swearingen

2 Willis Plank

3 Willis Plank

4 Theresa Hromis

Champion White Fleece – Ewe – Willis Plank

Champion Natural Fleece- Ram – Willis Plank

Overall Champion Romney Fleece – White Ewe – Willis Plank



Rhinebeck—New York Sheep and Wool Festival - (more to come in the next edition)

As always, the New York Sheep and Wool Festival was a whirlwind of people, sheep, and fiber!
And Romneys were well represented in the show ring and in fiber sales.

As of our publication date, we are still waiting for the 2023 results to be published.....but we are thrilled to share that Tim Walker (New Hampshire) took Reserve Champion Natural Colored Longwool ewe with his Romney ewe lamb – Congratulations Tim!

We hope to post all the Romney placings from Rhinebeck 2023 in our next edition of the Ramblings.



Congratulations to Tim Walker!



A lovely booth showcasing Romney products -
(Rick Trojanoski, co-owner of Twist of Fate Spinnery)

American Sheep Industry:

The annual convention will be held in Denver, CO - January 11-13, 2024. I can't wait to see some of you there!

An extension to the 2018 Farm Bill was signed into law in mid November 2023 - much work needs to be done to get a new Farm Bill drafted and signed as soon as possible - the 2018 bill was before the pandemic and before the current spike in inflation - a new Farm Bill is necessary to help farmers and ranchers in this new climate.

You can find up to date information at sheepusa.org regarding the position of ASI on all of the issues facing our industry. A united voice on these issues/ positions for our industry is vital when speaking with our elected officials - together we are much stronger than alone!

If you have any questions regarding ASI's talking points or to find out how to get more involved - reach out to the ASI Representative from your state.

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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VACANT
District Six

It's Time to Renew your ARBA Membership for 2024



2023 ARBA Memberships expire on January 31, 2024!

2024 Junior ARBA Membership dues are \$15 (same price all year).

**2024 Regular ARBA Membership dues are \$30 until February 29, 2024,
then increase to \$40 on March 1, 2024.**

Please renew your ARBA membership today!

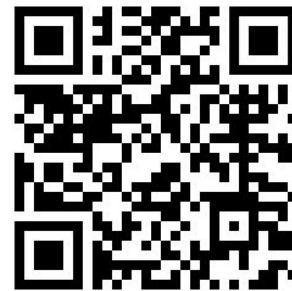
To pay **Regular ARBA annual dues** for 2024 via Paypal, please visit: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/AmericanRomney/32>

or scan this code with a QR code reader on your phone.
(Please note, a \$2 convenience fee applies.)



To pay **ARBA Junior dues** for 2024 via Paypal, please visit: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/AmericanRomney/16>

or scan this code with a QR code reader on your phone.
(Please note, a \$1 convenience fee applies.)



To pay by check, please mail check and updated membership renewal form to:

Georgina Anderson
ARBA Secretary/Treasurer
615 Lewie Road
Gilbert, SC 29054

If paying via Paypal, please email your updated membership renewal form to: secretary@americanromneybreeders.org or mail to the address above.

NAILE Sponsors Thank You – Charlene Carlisle

NAILE 2023 was a Big Success... This year marked NAILE's 50th anniversary and it was also the start of ARBA's Annual National Show (previously our National Show & Sale was every two years). They will continue to rotate but on a slightly different schedule. More details will be in the next edition of the Ramblings but look for the ARBA's National Show to be held at BigE in 2024. Mark your calendar and start making plans.

This year also marked the start of rotating trophies for the National Show Winners. This brought lots of bling and prestige to our ringside awards table. Many pictures can be found on ARBA's website, FaceBook and Instagram and in this Ramblings' edition. They were super pretty, classy, shiny and impressive. They brought much excitement to the show ring, not just from Romney exhibitors but from many other breeds that were showing there as well. All trophies were sponsored by interested breeders who know how good Romneys are and want to promote them to their best of our abilities by drawing in new breeders so everyone can "Realize Results with Romneys". The trophies, their honorees and the exhibitors who won them will be posted separately in this issue. In addition to the Champion Rotating Trophies/Plaques, there was plenty of generosity with the sponsoring of class winners.

Show placings in both the Jr Show and National Open Show will be listed in separate articles in this edition but wanted to give a shout out to those who sponsored the classes.

The sponsors for ARBA's National Show Class Winners' are as follows:

White Ram Classes (total of 5) - all sponsored by the Pettit Family
White Yearling Ewe and Pair Class - sponsored by Robin Patnode
White Ewe Lamb & Pairs (total of 4) - sponsored by Emma Rogers & Jill Morton
White Flock Class - sponsored by Alan Huntley
NC Yearling Ram - sponsored by Fonke Farms
NC Fall & Winter Ram Lamb - The Fry Family
NC Spring Ram Lamb - Emma Rogers & Jill Morton
NC Pair Ram Lambs - Olympia Farm
NC Ewe Classes (total of 6) - sponsored by Troy Doty
NC Flock - Alan Huntley

National ARBA Wool Show (off the hoof) Sponsors.

Overall Best White Romney Fleece - The Henry Family
Overall Best NC Romney Fleece - The Henry Family
Overall Grand Champion Romney Fleece - Sheep Thrills LLC / The Rogers Family

The Sponsors for ARBA's Junior Romney Show are as follows:

Champion Romney Ram - Dusty Rincker (IL)
Res Champion Romney Ram - Sheep Lady Charms / The Kalina Family (OR)
Champion Romney Ewe - Southern Romney Oregon (OR)
Res Champion Romney Ewe - Southern Oregon Romneys (OR)
Best Headed Romney Ram - Hayley Reed (KY)
Best Headed Romney Ewe - Lobdell Stock Farm (WI)
Best White Romney Fleece - Sheep Lady Charms / The Kalina Family (OR)
Best NC Romney Fleece - Theresa Walker / Great Bay Wool Works at Liberty Hall Farm (NH)



Perpetual Trophies - Charlene Carlisle

The National Champion White Romney Ram Trophy The Lynn Barnes Memorial Cup, a perpetual trophy, presented to the National Champion White Romney Ram. Lynn Barnes was an early pioneer in the American Romney Breeders Association. He recognized early on that genetic diversity was a necessity. Lynn imported semen and rams from New Zealand and traveled there often. Lynn died in 2017 at the age of 98. He was still active and managed his large flock of White Romneys until the end. This trophy was sponsored by Thistle Down Farm/the Kennedy Family of Canandaigua, New York.

The National Champion White Romney Ewe Trophy The JoAnn Mast Honorary Trophy presented by the American Romney Breeders Association to the National Champion White Romney Ewe. JoAnn's contribution to the Romney breed, to the association, and its membership by producing good, sound genetics and then providing transportation to both coasts. JoAnn's mentoring and hauling has kept the breed in the public's eye. She has been involved with Romneys since the age of 3 with her first bottle lamb, until present time. Her genetics (Blue SOR tags) have been spread coast to coast and there are very few flocks that haven't felt her presence. This perpetual trophy was sponsored by Little Hooves Romneys from Moorestown, New Jersey.

The National Champion Natural Colored Romney Ram Trophy The Larry & Gaylia Bullock Cup is presented by the American Romney Breeders Association to the National Champion Natural Colored Romney Ram. This award was given to honor a Romney breeder who has made a significant impact on the breed throughout the years. The Bullock's early AI genetics were well sought after, and their show ring presence was undeniable. This award was sponsored by Winding Wicks Farm from Chichester, New Hampshire.

The National Champion Natural Colored Romney Ewe Trophy The Ed and Helen Julian Honorary Trophy was presented by the American Romney Breeders Association to the National Champion Natural Colored Romney Ewe. This award acknowledges their significant contribution to the breed by putting the Romney front and center after capturing the first Romney Supreme title at NAILE in 2004. Ed and Helen encouraged our youth to participate in showing Romneys and they provided a positive boost to the breed. Their fitting and showing style set a precedent that others would strive to achieve. This perpetual trophy was sponsored by the Hayes Family of New Jersey.

The National Champion White Fleece Plaque The National Champion White Fleece Plaque was presented in memory of Jack Kalina. This perpetual plaque honors Jack's commitment to the breed by promoting Romneys and their fleeces in and out of the show ring. Jack was a member of ARBA for almost 40 years, and his family continues to show. This plaque was sponsored by the Kalina Family from Oregon. The National Champion Natural Colored Best Fleece Plaque This award was presented by ARBA to the National Champion Natural Colored Best Fleece in memory of Morris Culver. Morris was well versed on wool and was always eager to share his knowledge with others. He was responsible for registering the first Natural Colored Romneys in the US. This perpetual plaque was sponsored by Cheryl Dunlap of Old Orchard Romneys from Ohio.



National Trophy and Plaque Awards – Charlene Carlisle

Many thanks to the folks who sponsored ARBA's newly added perpetual/rotating trophies and plaques for our National Shows.

Four trophies and two plaques were added this year to serve as National Champion Show awards and were designated to honor important Romney Breeders that have influenced the breed. Although there have been many influential breeders over the years, we chose these as having the most impact. These trophies also came with a carrying box to assist in safe transfer from one show to another every year.

The Champion White Romney Ram was given in memory of Lynn Barnes and sponsored by Thistle Down Farm/The Kennedy Family (NY) and was won by Claire VonBehrens (IL) with her white yearling ram.

The Champion White Romney Ewe was given in honor of JoAnn Mast of Southern Oregon Romneys and sponsored by Little Hooves Romneys (NJ). Catherine Hromis of Winding Wicks Farm (NH) won this trophy with her white yearling ewe.

The Champion NC Romney Ram was given in honor of Larry & Gaylia Bullock and sponsored by Winding Wicks Farm (NH). This trophy was won by Ethan Kennedy/Thistle Down Farm (NY) with his NC winter ram lamb.

The Champion NC Romney Ewe was given in honor of Ed & Helen Julian and sponsored by The Hayes Family (NJ). This trophy was also won by Ethan Kennedy/Thistle Down Farm (NY) with his NC spring ewe lamb.

The White Best Fleece was given in memory of Jack Kalina and sponsored by the Kalina Family (OR). The winner of this plaque was Katelyn Oberholtzer (PA).

The NC Best Fleece was given in memory of Morris Culver and sponsored by Cheryl Dunlap/Old Orchard Romneys (OH). Caitlin Plank/E/C Romneys (MI) was the winner of this plaque.

All trophies and plaques will be cherished by the above exhibitors until the next National Show. At this time, they will be returned with their name engraved on a metal plate, secured to the trophy/plaque and then passed on to the next National winner.

What an honor for these exhibitors, and what generosity from our sponsors to honor the breeders that gave so much of themselves to the Romney breed. The future of the breed is in the hands of the next generation, and I look forward to watching them forge forward. The future looks bright with these exhibitors and breeders of today who will be our leaders of tomorrow



NAILE Photos – Charlene Carlisle

Still wrapping up loose ends from NAILE where we had a great National Show. Lots of participation from across the US. There were 24 exhibitors in the ARBA National Open Show and 20 youth exhibitors. Approximately 100 head went through the Open Show and 52 through the Junior Show. There was plenty of bling on our awards table with the sponsored trophies, plaques and silver mint julep cups. Thanks to all the generous donations that pulled this National Show together on such short notice. In fact, we raised enough money to provide a photographer for champion and class winners' photos. Katherine Kykendall (KAK Images) was kind enough to be in our ring snapping the ultimate photos! The links are attached. These are yours to use in any way for social media, private prints, etc. So post away and remember to thank all of our sponsors.

<https://kakimages.smugmug.com/NAILE-2023/Open-Show/Romneys-White/Class-Winners-Champions-Association-Use/n-TZszhL/>

<https://kakimages.smugmug.com/NAILE-2023/Open-Show/Romneys-Natural-Colored/Class-Winners-Champions-Association-Use/n-7HND7t/>

ARBA Needs YOU -

How can YOU help us?

District 6 is looking for a director – if you know someone willing to fill those shoes – please have them contact us! Reach out to either Anne McIntyre-Lahner at olympiafarm@att.net or Charlene Carlisle at ccshep1@aol.com.

Membership Directory – The membership committee is working hard to get the directory updated and published. How can you help? Everyone should make sure their information is correct on the website and confirm this information with the ARBA secretary, Georgina Anderson at secretary@americanromney.org. Please do this ASAP to avoid having your information published incorrectly.

Advertising committee: Rick Trojanoski, Advertising Committee Chairman

The advertising committee is looking for opportunities for free advertising and opportunities to submit free association news articles in sheep related publications.

A few other programs are in the works:

We are working on the development of a American Romney recipe brochure, feel free to submit your favorite lamb recipes with us for this project.

We are also in the feasibility/assessment stage of an American Romney blanket. This project has many obstacles that need to be worked out, but we are hopeful that we can get board approval and can start collecting wool for this project this spring. The way it would work is that producers would provide the needed weight of wool per blanket plus the cost to process the wool and at the end of the project they would receive back the blankets that they ordered. Please let us know if this is something you would be interested in doing.

If you have any input on these programs or if your state has produced a blanket and you have advice, please reach out to me - Hopehollow@hotmail.com.

ARBA Secretary/Treasurer Position Open

ARBA Secretary-Treasurer, Georgina Anderson, is moving to an exciting new career job, and will be vacating her position as ARBA Secretary/Treasurer.

The position is a part-time contracted position and requires the ability to work with Microsoft Office or Google Workspace programs, as well as basic accounting skills. Individuals interested in applying for the position can contact ARBA President, Anne McIntyre-Lahner at Olympiafarm@att.net by January 31, 2024.

Also: consider joining one or more ARBA Committees:

ARBA committees are created by and report to the Board of Directors. Member participation is valued and is currently being sought. If you see a committee that interests you, or you think we could be doing better in a particular area, please consider joining one (or more) of our committees. When you identify the committee(s) you'd like to join, please reach out to the committee chair of that committee; you can find a listing in the "About ARBA" section of our website. We value member input and would love to have you join a committee!

Ad hoc Document Control: Penny Swearingen, chair

Advertising Committee: Rick Trojanoski, chair

Education Committee: Penny Swearingen, chair

Website Advisory Committee: Stephanie Booren and Charlene Carlisle, co-chairs

Youth Committee: Charlene Carlisle, chair

AI/ET Committee: Marianne DiTaranto chair

Bylaws Committee: Penny Swearingen and Marianne DiTaranto, co-chairs

Policies & Procedures Committee: 2023 chair to be determined

National Show Rotation: Stephanie Booren, chair

Ways and Means Committee: Sue Kalina, chair

Membership Committee: Rick Trojanoski, chair

Calendar of Events:		
EVENT	DATE	NOTES
MI Sheep Producers Assoc. Shepherds Weekend	Jan. 5-7	Lansing, MI - samaludl@gmail.com
ASI Convention	Jan 10-13	Denver, CO - sheepusa.org
MI State University Birth Management Course	Jan. 10	https://events.anr.msu.edu
NC Small Ruminant Improvement Program Webinar	Jan. 16	go.NCSU.edu/webinar_breeding
MI State University Birth Management Course	Jan. 17	https://events.anr.msu.edu
UT State University Shearing School	Jan. 18-20	Wellsville, UT - Eventbrite.com/e/usu-sheep-shearing-school-2024-registration-722911155727
ND State University Extension Lambing Workshop	Jan. 20	Carrington, ND - NDSU.edu/agriculture/extension/events/ndsu-extension-lambing-workshop
MI State University Birth Management Course	Jan. 24	https://events.anr.msu.edu
3Q Advanced Shearing Clinic	Jan. 26-27	SD - Call Mike Hagens - 701-220-6636
MI State University Birth Management Course	Jan. 27	https://events.anr.msu.edu
3Q Advanced Shearing School	Jan. 31– Feb. 1	MT - call Brent Roeder - 406-980-0719
3Q Advanced Shearing School	Feb. 5-8	OR - call Michael Estes - 541-788-4682
NC Small Ruminant Improvement Program Webinar	Feb. 13	go.NCSU.edu/webinar_nutrition
MD Sheep Shearing School	Feb. 16-17	mdsheepshearingschool@gmail.com
IN Shearing School	Feb. 24	West Lafayette, IN - Indianasheep.com
WA State Sheep Producers Lambing School	Mar. 2	Mabton, WA - wssp.org
NC Small Ruminant Improvement Program Webinar	Mar. 5	go.NCSU.edu/webinar_genetics
MO Extension Shearing School	Mar. 6-7	Jefferson City, MO - BruemmerJ@LincolnU.edu - 573-681-5540
NY Shearing School	Mar. 8-9	East Meredith, NY - Doug Rathke - 320-583-7281
Ozark Highlands Sheep & Fiber Festival	Mar. 22-23	Glenallen, MO - mestameadows.com/fiber-festival
Shepherds Farm Market	Apr. 6	Frederick, MD - patriciasanville@gmail.com
Shepherd's Cross Shearing School	Apr. 11-13	Claremore, OK - shepherdscross.com/sheep-shearing-school-asi.html
CO Sheep Shearing School	Apr. 12-14	Craig, CO - megan.stetson@colostate.edu
WA State Sheep Producers Lambing School	Apr. 13	Lamont, WA - wssp.org
Shepherd's Cross Shearing School	Apr. 15-17	Claremore, OK - shepherdscross.com/sheep-shearing-school-asi.html
Frederick Fiber Fest	Apr. 27	ddayoff@newspost.com
CT Sheep and Wool Festival	Apr. 27	ctsheep.com
MD Sheep and Wool Festival	May 4-5	West Friendship, MD - office@sheepandwool.org
American Romney Breeders Assoc. National Sale	May 9-11	Greenville, OH -
NH Sheep and Wool Festival	May 11-12	Deerfield, NH - nhswga.org
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 Sale - Charlene Carlisle

Mark Your Calendar ARBA's National Sale is scheduled for May 9 - 11, 2024 in Greenville, Ohio. We will be participating in the Ohio Showcase Sale. This will be our first year and plan to have this serve as our National Sale on a yearly basis. So make your plans now to participate. We need to have a nice selection of consignments for prospective buyers. There should be plenty of transportation options as sheep come to this sale from all across the US. There will be no limits on ram or ewe consignments and codon testing is suggested but not required. More details will be forthcoming but for now just mark your calendar and plan to participate in our First Annual ARBA National Sale, managed by the Ohio Showcase Sale, in Greenville, Ohio.

Flock News: the human side of things:

If you have any news related to members or their families - please forward to: patriciasanville@gmail.com.

Too Cute not to share!!!!

Distracted Driving – watching Mickey Mouse on the phone while driving a Cozy Coupe, you might run into a very large Romney Ram! Good thing Romneys are so gentle



The Secretary of Agriculture, Thomas J. Vilsack, appointed ARBA breeder and Ramblings Publisher, Patricia Sanville, (me) to the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, (NSIIC), for a three year term.

I am very honored to serve our industry in this capacity.

(Tooting my own horn is, however, not something I am very comfortable doing.)





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Let's Learn Something! - from the education committee

Preparing a Fleece for Show

Fleece shows are a great way for shepherds to learn about their wool product, market their fleeces, network with other wool growers, and generally have some fun. For a new shepherd, or for a shepherd who has not previously shown fleeces, it can be intimidating to get started at shows, but it doesn't need to be. By following a few basic guidelines in fleece selection and preparation, shepherds can jump in with some confidence and enjoy the show.

While genetics, nutrition, general health, and flock management all play significant roles in wool production, these are topics for another time. This article will focus on selecting the best fleeces for show from any given year's wool harvest and preparing them in a way that best exhibits their quality. The selection and preparation can start at shearing.



Even the best shearers will have some second cuts, and the best management practices can leave fleeces open to some contamination with some dirt and hay. At shearing, a shepherd can minimize further contamination by keeping the shearing floor clean and doing a brief skirting before bundling fleeces. By removing belly wool, heavily contaminated head and neck wool, and manure tags before bundling a fleece, a shepherd can prevent the majority of that debris from getting into the clean portions of the fleece. Shearing is a busy time, so this should be kept to a minimum. Fleeces should be individually bundled to prevent cross contamination of fibers.

After shearing, skirting and evaluation can begin in earnest. Skirting is the process of cleaning up a fleece by removing second cuts, other debris, and damaged or unusable portions of a fleece. When skirting, the fleece may be laid out on a table. Generally, a fleece will be sheared off of the sheep in one piece. By laying the fleece out with the cut side down, a shepherd may be able to see the neck, legs, and dock. Any heavily contaminated wool that wasn't removed at shearing should be taken off of the fleece at this point. The remaining fleece should be cleaned of as much debris as possible by picking out second cuts and other contaminants. Once the outside of the fleece is clean, portions of the fleece should be folded over to display the cut side. In this way, the same process of picking out debris can proceed on the cut side of the fleece without turning over the entire fleece.

Throughout the process of skirting, the shepherd should evaluate fleeces. Evaluation for sales or for the purpose of improving flock management will differ some from evaluation for show. While much can be learned and utilized from thorough and proper evaluation, the focus here remains on evaluation for the purpose of showing. All fleeces have a use, but they may not all be appropriate for show. In selecting a fleece for show, one must consider two primary questions: Is this fleece consistent throughout, and is it a good representation of the breed.

In regard to the question of consistency, a show fleece should have consistent staple lengths throughout the fleece. Shorter portions (such as in the animal's "armpit" or areas where second cuts noticeably impacted the length) may be removed if they are relatively small and do not significantly impact the integrity of the fleece. Show fleeces should also reflect consistency in crimp, both throughout the fleece and over the length of the staples. Again, small inconsistent portions can be removed. Most judges will look for fleeces of a size that reflects the expected production of any given breed, so removal of too much of a fleece for the sake of consistency is not advised. These fleeces are best sold, rather than shown in competition, and inconsistencies can be left in the fleece, or sold separately.

Breed representation is the second selection question. A show fleece should be a good representation of the breed, meaning that it should fit the breed standard and have the characteristics expected from the breed. Judges may evaluate fleeces against the breed standard, and they may be judging a fleece against other fleeces of the same breed. Again, there may be beautiful fleeces in a flock that don't quite reflect the breed. This can happen for a variety of reasons, including animal age or nutrition. These fleeces would not be good candidates for competition.

Preparing a Fleece for Show continued:

Once a fleece has been skirted, evaluated, and selected for show, it must be prepared for judging and display. The fleece should be folded loosely into thirds and rolled from dock to shoulder so that the cut side of the fleece is visible. A clear plastic bag should be used for competition, as this allows the full display of the fleece, and it is generally required for shows. Choose a bag that is correctly sized for the fleece so that the fleece is neither smashed nor falling out of position as it is shuffled about in transit or at the show. Place the fleece in the bag in a way that best presents the fleece. Initial impressions can be important in a fleece show.

By following these guidelines for preparing a fleece for show, shepherds can enjoy friendly competition, while marketing and promoting the breed and their wool!



What are the Juniors up to? Charlene Carlisle



Hoagie Fest:

ARBA Juniors, their families and all Romney breeders had a hoagie fest between shows at NAILE. Some had to grab their hoagies and keep on trucking, others had a few minutes to spare and hang out. Willis Plank, Romney Show Superintendent, gave a welcome to all, a show update and what to expect, and a general time line. Ethan Kennedy (Thistle Down Farm) presented the vests to all of our Juniors and then we all consumed an endless supply of hoagies! They sure were tasty. Many thanks to Little Hooves Romneys, Troy Doty and Heidi Riessland/Pleasant Valley Creations with their donations that covered all the costs.



Junior Vests:

Look at this fine group of Junior ARBA members. Junior show days are always so busy since many kids help in several different breed classes and yesterday was no different. We did manage to grab this photo (but yet a few are missing) as they traveled between show rings. You might notice their sporty new ARBA vests that were provided by Thistle Down Farm / The Kennedy Family! They are pretty fancy and each Junior exhibitor received one. Many thanks to the Kennedy Family.



Sunday Selfies:

Sunday Selfies is a fun event we have been doing for 4 years and will resume this year on the first Sunday in February (2/4/2024) this year. It was started as a way for the youth to stay in touch over the winter months and during covid times. After a short time, some of the adults started joining in and now it's for everyone. They are a lot of fun and folks look forward to them. I even know of a 96-year-old grandmother who looks forward to them every week. The pictures can be of anything fun on the farm, work that you are doing, new lambs, or maybe a side of you that we don't know and may not be farm related at all. Who plays golf, bakes, studies, reads, belongs to 4H or FFA, or maybe you play the trombone, anything that makes us smile, laugh, ponder, or makes us miss you. It's always great to see those faces. It's great just to see what's happening in different regions of the US, show us your barns, your tractors, something wild and crazy. Response has been very good, but I challenge you to make it even better. So far, we average about 12-15 per week, let's aim for 20 this year! The selfies are posted on the American Romney Breeders Association JR Member's page and on the ARBA Instagram page (American Romney). If you haven't checked this fun topic out, please review the older posts. Our kids, grandkids, their friends, and members are pretty interesting. You won't be disappointed. Our Sunday Selfies will end the last Sunday in April (4/28/2024) as the show season will be starting and life will get even busier. Please post your pics or send to me and I can post for you. I look forward to hearing from you. Charlene Carlisle - ccshep1@aol.com or 609-760-0399



More Junior News - this time from NAILE

NAILE Romney Junior Spectacular Show – Willis Plank

November 11, 2023

Judge: Jacob Reister - Washington

Senior Ram Lamb- 1. Catherine Hromis, 2. Lydia Henry, 3. Thomas Wallace

Intermediate Ram Lamb- 1. Ainsley Porter, 2. Claire Henry, 3. Lindsey Schmoll 4. Kingston Rincker, 5. Caitlin Plank, 6. Alivia Blum, 7. Brook Hershey

Junior Ram Lamb- 1 Caitlin Plank, 2. Claire VonBehrens

Champion Ram- Catherine Hromis (Sr Ram)

Reserve Ram- Lydia Henry (Sr Ram)

Best Ram Head- Claire Henry

Yearling Ewe- 1. Thomas Wallace, 2 & 3. Catherine Hromis, 4. Claire VonBehrens, 5 & 6. Ainsley Porter, 7. Claire VonBehrens, 8. Lindsey Schmoll, 9. Madison Feehan, 10. Bronwyn Wolfe, 11. Caitlin Plank

Senior Ewe Lamb- 1. Catherine Hromis, 2. Kingston Rincker, 3. Ainsley Porter

January Ewe Lamb- 1. Caitlin Plank, 2. Ainsley Porter, 3. Tomas Wallace, 4. Elizabeth Briggs

February Ewe Lamb- 1. George Fry, 2. Lindsey Schmoll, 3. Catherine Hromis, 4. George Fry, 5. Lydia Henry, 6. Lyla Henry, 7. Clarie Hennry, 8. Katelyn Oberholtzer, 9. Kenneth Briggs, 10. Tomas Wallace, 11. Brooke Young, 12. Alivia Blum, 13. Caitlin Plank, 14. Alivia Blum

March and Later Ewe Lambs- 1. Ainsley Porter, 2. Catherine Hromis, 3. Ainsley Porter, 4. Catherine Hromis, 5. George Fry, 6. Caitlin Plank, 7. Claire VonBehrens, 8. Lindsey Schmoll

Champion Ewe- Thomas Wallace (Yearling ewe)

Reserve Ewe- Catherine Hromis (Yearling ewe)

Best Ewe Head- Lyla Henry

Best White Fleece on Hoof- Catherine Hromis

Best Natural Colored Fleece on Hoof– Elizabeth Briggs



Awards Thank You!

Special shout out to Heidi Erickson-Riessland of Pleasant Valley Creations for creating wonderful award gifts for our ARBA juniors. Thanks Heidi, the kids were so pleased. If anyone needs awards for youth shows, 4H, FFA or livestock shows in general, please reach out to Heidi. She is very friendly and easy to work with and super creative! Heidi can be easily found on FB under her name or business. Those award boxes were super cute!



ANCHORAGE FARM ROMNEYS



Photo credit: Cameron Pedigo

Flock founded 1981. Registered breeding stock: white, agouti-recessive natural-colored and extension-dominant natural-colored... Growing emphasis on “carbon farming” through grass feeding, silvopasture and adaptive paddock management.

Elizabeth and Stephen Shafer
Cameron Pedigo, Manager 845-217-1974

anchorageromneys@gmail.com

www.anchorageromneys.com

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