

Dear Oxford Breeders,

I am writing to you to thank you for the opportunity to serve all of you as your 2008 National Oxford Sheep Queen. I attended several shows this year and assisted with the awards presentation at some of the larger shows as your National Queen. I have been a working queen, so if I had sheep in the Championship drive I would wait for the judge to go back the microphone and hand over my sheep to my leg setter, put my tiara and sash on and assist with the award presentation. I was fortunate enough to attend some really great Oxford Shows this year.

At the Empire Youth Classic Show, Cayuga County, New York, the Oxford show was the second largest of the 12 breeds shown and an Oxford was Supreme Ewe.

At the Northeast Youth Sheep Show in West Springfield, Massachusetts we had 51 Oxfords exhibited by 11 kids. It was a great show and a super weekend.

The Ohio State Fair Oxford Show had 100 head shown. What a sight to see 8 full flocks of Oxfords in one show ring. Rebecca Sharrock (the Ohio State Oxford Sheep Princess) and I shared duties. I wore my Ohio State Oxford Sheep Queen sash and my National Queen tiara!

At the Dutchess County Fair here in New York (my home fair), we had 4 Oxford exhibitors. One of my fellow 4-H members, Steve, helped me show my Oxfords. He liked the Oxfords so much I got him started with a small flock of his own. He now owns a ram lamb, "Yankee Pride", a ewe lamb and two bred ewes (a yearling and a three year old). Steve is looking forward to buying a Futurity ewe lamb and maybe a yearling next year. Look for Echo Valley Farm Oxfords in 2009!

As the sole Oxford breeder at the Columbia County Fair, Chatham, New York, I promoted the Oxford breed with a display about Oxford sheep, the Foundation Flock, the new website and the Futurity program for next year.

At The Big E (Eastern States Exposition), West Springfield, Massachusetts there were over 60 Oxfords shown with 6 flocks competing and 10 different exhibitors from 4 states. AT the Big E, breeders were invited to promote their breed with a display. Awards were sponsored by the Big E and *Banner* magazine. All of the displays looked terrific with two Oxford displays garnering prizes for their efforts.

Keystone International Livestock Expo (KILE) in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania had another banner year of Oxford exhibitors in both the Open and Junior shows. There were 12 exhibitors in the Open Show and 9 exhibitors in the Junior show. Fifty Oxfords were shown in the Open show and 46 were shown in the Junior Show. The entire weekend was busy, but a lot of fun!

I was invited to participate in the Breed Display barn with my Oxfords at the annual NYS Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, New York. Not only did the Oxfords get a great deal of attention, the Oxford display won 1st place out of 23 breeds! The display promoted the breed, the website and the opportunities available with Oxfords! The NYS Sheep and Wool Festival is on the same par (or very close) to the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival in size and attendance.

It is always a thrill to attend the shows at the North American (NAILE). Not only did I show my Oxfords, but I also handed out ribbons at both the Junior Show as well as the Open Show. I enjoyed seeing many Oxford breeders there and made some new friends too! The Junior Show had 18 juniors showing 63 sheep while the Open Show boasted 17 exhibitors with 84 sheep and 4 flocks.

As you can see, I was very busy not only showing my Oxfords, but promoting our breed as well. I look forward to seeing many of you at the sales this spring and summer! Don't forget to look into our NEW Futurity Ewe Lamb program for 2009, either plan on buying one or nominating one of your own lambs to either the Ohio or National Sales! Again, many thanks for choosing me as your National Oxford Sheep Queen, it has been my pleasure.

Sincerely,
Megan Fimbel
Willow Tree Farm Oxfords
Millbrook, New York