

**American Oxford Sheep Association
2019 Spring Newsletter**

Well, I think we are definitely approaching spring and warmer weather. Pastures are greening-up, pollen is in the air, and spring showers are abundant (at least here in southern Indiana). Boy, are spring showers abundant here. Seems like every time we have a warming trend, we get a big rain or even a storm that cools the temperature back down. But, I'm sure that warmer, more stable temperatures are just around the corner and I need to start getting ready for my favorite spring activity – mushroom hunting.

E-mail

While several of you are receiving this newsletter electronically, we still need email addresses for many of our members. So, if you received this newsletter via the US Postal Service and you have an email account, please share that email address with us. We won't share email addresses with any businesses or agencies/groups. But, by having your email it will help reduce expenses for your association (especially now with the increase in postage rates) and it will help us provide you with more timely information. When you renew your membership or when you send in your next registration form, please include your email address.

The Livestock Conservancy

Did you know that Oxfords are listed as a heritage breed by The Livestock Conservancy? Well, they are. The Livestock Conservancy launched ***Shave 'Em to Save 'Em*** earlier this year in an effort to make it more profitable to raise heritage sheep. This program is designed to help connect fiber artists with heritage breed sheep producers and drive sales of rare breed wool and fiber products.

When fiber artists register with ***Shave 'Em to Save 'Em*** they will get a "passport". When they purchase wool from a heritage breed shepherd, they will receive a "stamp" (sticker) to place on the appropriate breed page in the passport. The more breeds the artist uses, the more stamps they collect and the more prizes they can win – and the more wool they will buy.

The Livestock Conservancy is looking for breeders of heritage sheep who want to join the program as fiber providers. Participants will be listed in the online directory on the Conservancy's website. Stickers will be provided to all providers who participate in the program.

The program kicked off in January 2019 and continues for three (3) years. Fiber providers can sign up at any time. Want to know more? Contact Deborah Niemann-Boehle at The Livestock Conservancy at 815-341-1223 or dniemann@livestockconservancy.org

NAILE

The 2018 NAILE in Louisville basically kept the same format as in the previous year with the exception that releases returned to the procedure of 2016 and before; all open class exhibitors remained until Thursday and rather than the one Supreme Champion judge, as was used in 2017, three volunteer judges were pressed into service in 2018.

In the Junior breeding sheep show, 41 different exhibitors showed a total of 90 head of Oxfords. Bart Cardwell of OK sorted the show. Jillian Bingen (WI) had the Grand Champion Ram with Isaacson 343, an early junior ram lamb. The Reserve Grand Champion Ram and best headed ram was another early junior ram lamb, Double "A" 1822, shown by Ty Miller (IN). The Grand Champion Ewe honors went to a fitted yearling ewe, Houghtaling 17-772, shown by Danielle Houghtaling (SD). Another fitted yearling ewe, Perzee 1709, shown by Ty Miller (IN), was named the Reserve Grand Champion Ewe. Another yearling ewe, Hidden Hills 1803, shown by Makayla and Corban Hitt (IN) was named best headed ewe. The Junior Champion Ewe was first in the fitted February ewe lamb class, Ty Miller's (IN) Double "A" 1826. Margo Sturgis (OH) had the Reserve Junior Champion Ewe with Wallpe 0055 "Jackson", a slick shorn January ewe lamb.

There were 27 exhibitors and 64 head of sheep in the 2018 Mary Blome National Oxford Show. In the ram portion of the show, top honors went to Jillian Bingen (WI) with her class winning early junior ram lamb, Isaacson 343, the Junior Champion Ram; the same ram that was grand champion in the Junior Show. Zeke Isaacson's (WI) yearling ram, Isaacson 299, was selected as the Reserve Grand Champion. The Reserve Junior Champion Ram was the late junior ram lamb of Edwards Oxfords (IL), Edwards PHFT 1738, and the Reserve Senior Champion Ram was Kenzie Meyer's (IL) senior ram lamb, Meyer 1803. Claire Burnett's (NJ) yearling ram, Dover Genetics 1628 "Captin", was selected as the Best Headed Ram of the show. The Grand Champion Ewe was Winning Ways Sheep Farm's (IL) fitted yearling ewe WWSF 17-13321A. The Reserve Grand Champion Ewe was the Junior Champion Ewe, A.Brockmann 1519, a fitted January ewe lamb, shown by Austin Brockmann (IL). The Reserve Grand Champion Ewe was Houghtaling 17-772, the fitted yearling ewe of Danielle Houghtaling (SD). Ty Miller (IN) had the Reserve Junior Champion Ewe, a fitted February ewe lamb, Double "O" Acres 18-019. Claire Burnett (NJ) also had the Best Headed Ewe with Burnett 0061 "Saffron", a fitted February ewe lamb. Ty Miller (IN) won the Premier Exhibitor Award. The Mary Blome National Oxford Show was judged by Dan Spilde (WI).

In the market lamb show, the Champion Oxford was shown by Trace Titus (IL) and the Reserve Champion was a lamb shown by Jillian Keller (KS). Jimmy Davis (OK) evaluated the market lambs.

I'm happy to report that all blood samples pulled on Oxfords came back negative for carrier status of heredity coxondrodysplasia (spider lamb syndrome).

For a full set of show results, go to the NAILE website (www.livestockexpo.org).

Here are the dates for future NAILE's:

November 5 – November 21, 2019

November 3 – November 19, 2020

Here is the “word” on the 2019 NAILE. The following are some notes I took at the NAILE Sheep Advisory Committee Meeting on March 11, 2018.

- Approval has been given to use special Tobacco Settlement Funds to purchase 1,800 new sheep pens that will measure 6’ x 6’
- Premium funds coming from the NAILE management will be adjusted to encourage more participation in the junior breeding sheep show
- All livestock will enter the expo facility through either of only 2 gates and health papers for all animals on the load will be checked at those points of entry. All animals will have to have either individual health papers or will have to be on a group health paper. This means that transit animals will have to have health papers
- The Heartland Group will not be returning in 2019 as the NAILE Sheep Show Superintendents. The NAILE management is now receiving applications for Heartland’s replacement
- The 2019 Mary Blome National Oxford Show will be on Wednesday, November 20

Futurity Program

The Oxford Ewe Lamb Futurity Program continues to grow. In 2018 there were 74 ewe lambs nominated and 19 of them followed through with the exhibition process. The national winner was a Double “O” Acres ewe lamb (DOA 18-020) purchased by Nicholas Monday of TN. Nicholas was also one of our Foundation Flock awardees in 2018. A complete set of 2018 Futurity results can be found at the AOSA website.

The rules and procedures for 2019 are the same as for 2018. A complete set of rules and all the forms are at the AOSA website or you can contact the AOSA office and a hard copy will be mailed to you.

Ewe lambs may be nominated by consignors at 5 live auctions and nominations may also be made by consignors of ewe lambs at on-line sales. Consignors and buyers of nominated ewe lambs should read the rules for participation and be sure they follow all aspects.

All nomination fees (100%) are paid-out to the junior members who participate in the futurity program. This is a great program and a good opportunity to promote breeding programs and for juniors to get recognition for a good eye at the sales and a study hand in the showring. We encourage all breeders to continue nominating their ewe lambs for the Futurity program.

AOSA Office Work

Just a reminder about registrations and transfers. Check your records and your animal inventory and be sure your registrations and transfers are up-to-date. Avoid paying extra fees for rush work, registering animals over a year old or for transfers more than 60 days after the date of sale. Check your records now. And be sure your annual dues are current for 2019 (Senior Members-\$20, Junior Members-\$6).

While we are on the subject of registrations and transfers; at the AOSA website we now have the registration form that you can type directly on from your computer then print it out and mail it to the AOSA Office with the appropriate payment.

National Show and Sale

Enclosed or attached is the entry information for the 2019 National Oxford Show and Sale. This form is also located on the AOSA website. Entry deadline is April 15, 2019. We will continue to publish one sale catalog for all the breeds that will be joining us in Springfield, IL on June 21 – 22. If you have any questions, please contact the AOSA Office.

All-American Junior Sheep Show (AAJSS)

The AAJSS will be going back to Hutchinson, Kansas this year. We were at this location a few years back and we are really looking forward to that great hospitality from the folks in the Sunflower State. Dates are July 2 through July 7. The three judges will be Tim Hall, Ryan Hendricks and Matt Scramlin. We will be adding a lead line competition and a dress a sheep class to the show this year. Also, the National Junior Suffolk Show will become another breed in the AAJSS line-up. You can find show and entry information at the All-American website: www.allamericanjuniorshow.com

Don't forget those donated items for the live auction at the AOSA Annual Membership Meeting. The funds generated at that auction are used to pay the Association's assessment of premiums for the show. Contact one of the directors of the AOSA or myself to make those donations, or better yet, bring your auction items to the Annual Meeting.

Another way you can help support the All-American is to sell or purchase raffle tickets. Raffle prizes are: 1st- \$1,000 cash, 2nd-Hydraulic Trimming Stand from Sydell, 3rd-Fire HD 10 Tablet with Red Case. Those of you who receive this newsletter via regular mail are also receiving a couple of bundles of raffle tickets. If you decide to purchase the enclosed tickets or sell them, complete your contact information on the ticket stub and return that portion with payment to the AOSA Office (make checks payable to AAJSS). For the rest of you, just let me know if you want raffle tickets and I'll get them to you. I'll also have tickets at the spring sales and at the National Oxford Show and Sale.

Special Recognition/Awards/Sponsorships

Oxford Hall of Fame Award – The Hall of Fame Award was started in 2000 to recognize folks who have made significant contributions as supporters and promoters of the AOSA and the Oxford breed. A list of past honorees and the application/nomination form can be found at the AOSA website. Application/nomination forms need to be submitted by May 15, 2019.

National Oxford Queen – Every year the AOSA selects a queen from junior members who apply for consideration. Applicants need to be between the ages of 16 and 21. This past year, Hannah Watson of Ohio represented us in this position. If you have questions, please contact Beth Allison, Oxford Queen Committee Chairperson. Application deadline is May 15, 2019. Check the website for more information about applying.

Special Sponsorships – Each year we look for folks to sponsor various awards or programs that the Association conducts. Some of those opportunities are: Champions and Res. Champions in the Junior Show at NAILE, Best Headed Ram and Ewe at NAILE in Junior and Open Shows, Class Awards or general sponsors at the All-American. If interested in being a sponsor, please contact the AOSA Office or one of the Directors.

AOSA Annual Membership Meeting

The American Oxford Sheep Association will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, June 21, 2019 at approximately 6:30 PM **at a location yet to be determined in Springfield, IL.**

Last year we used a new caterer that I believe everyone was very pleased with who would prepare lamb as one of our meat choices but the folks at the hall where we have held the meeting for many years were upset that she was not on their preferred caterer list so they lost a "kick-back" from the caterer in addition to the \$515 we paid for the use of the hall. I'm in the process of trying to find a new location that will not limit our choice of caterer but am having some difficulties. So, we will have to let you know later, as soon as we secure a suitable location. In the meantime, be sure to notify the AOSA Office in advance if you plan to attend the annual meeting and banquet; tickets for the meal and meeting will be available at the fairgrounds and at the door. You may also attend the meeting only (no meal, no charge). Minutes of the 2018 Annual Membership Meeting are attached (enclosed) with this newsletter. **AOSA Director positions that will be elected at the 2019 Annual Meeting are:** District 4-Kermit Daniels finishing his first term, eligible for another term
District 7-Beth Allison finishing her first term, eligible for another term

