

**American Oxford Sheep Association
2021 Spring Newsletter**

I believe that I speak for all of us involved in the purebred livestock business when I say that I'm sure looking forward to this spring's sale season and to summer sheep shows. I really missed all the activities last year but most of all, I have missed the person-to-person interaction with all of you. Let's hope and pray that infection numbers keep declining and states allow more group gatherings. I'm sure that there will be some restrictions and it is extremely important that all of us follow those restrictions willingly without any disgruntle or confrontational attitudes.

E-mail Addresses

I went back and reviewed past newsletters and I have found that I have asked for members' email addresses every year since I became AOSA Secretary. For the most part, you all have done a good job getting those to me; currently I have email addresses for about two-thirds of our current members. It is really important that if you change your email address, that you report those changes to the AOSA office.

With that said, here is a new email address for the AOSA office. The new AOSA email address is:

oxfordsecretary7@gmail.com

Our website will not change. You can still go to the AOSA website at www.americanoxfords.org

Oxford Ewe Lamb Futurity Program

2021 marks the 12th year for the AOSA Ewe Lamb Futurity Program. The national winner of the 2020 contest was Nicholas Monday of TN with WWSF 20-17320. Last year was a challenge for participants to get the opportunity to show and earn points. There were 38 ewe lambs nominated and 5 juniors participated in the Futurity program (some of those participants showed the maximum of 2 ewe lambs). A complete set of results from 2020 can be found at the AOSA website along with the rules and forms for the 2021 program. If you need a hard copy of the rules and/or forms, let me know and a set will be mailed to you. On-line sales as well as live sales can have ewe lambs nominated for potential Futurity participation. Remember, 100% of the nomination fees are paid-out to the participating juniors. The Futurity Program is really a win-win: The breeder wins because it's a great way to promote a breeding program and the junior participants win with the financial rewards they earn. Plus this program encourages juniors to develop a good eye at the sales, a steady hand in the show ring and add top quality breeding animals to their program.

We encourage all breeders to continue nominating their ewe lambs for the Futurity !

AOSA Office Work

If you joined us for the virtual AOSA Annual Meeting last year, you heard me report that the registration and transfer work up to that point in 2020 was significantly down when compared to 2019. What we actually ended up with for 2020 was 607 registrations and 285 transfers; that was 188 less registrations and 110 less transfers compared to the previous year.

Saying that, I really encourage breeders to go back and check your paperwork and compare it to your current flock inventory to be sure there isn't some registration papers missing or some extra papers that belong to sheep you might have sold to another breeder.

Remember that the AOSA website has about all the forms you might need for registrations, annual membership, ram leases and ram service forms. The registration form at the website can be downloaded and typed on directly from your computer.

Special Recognition/Awards/Sponsorships

Oxford Hall of Fame Award – Is there a person that has been truly inspiring and helpful to you as you have developed your Oxford flock? I'd say most of us have had mentors that have helped us throughout our lives or folks who we have looked up to and inspired us to achieve our goals in the sheep business. We encourage you to nominate that person for the Oxford Hall of Fame Award. This award is usually presented at the AOSA Annual Meeting, however in 2020 we decided to wait until we were all together again to make that presentation. We will be making the 2020 presentation as well as the 2021 presentation at the AOSA Annual Meeting in Springfield on June 11, 2021. A list of past honorees and the application/nomination form can be found at the AOSA website. Application/nomination deadline is May 15, 2021.

National Oxford Queen – Each year the AOSA selects a queen from junior members who make application for this prestigious honor to represent Oxfords at the many shows and sales throughout the year of their reign. Applicants need to be between the ages of 16 and 21. We want to thank Natasha Franzen of Iowa who has represented us at several shows, sales and general sheep events for the past two years. Natasha was the 2019 National Oxford Queen, but because of COVID-19 limitations, she agreed to extend her reign an additional year. Beth Allison serves as the Oxford Queen Committee Chairperson. The application form can be found at the AOSA website and the deadline to apply is May 15, 2020.

Sponsorships – We want to thank the four breeders who sponsored the Best Headed awards at NAILE this year: Winning Ways Sheep Farm, Double "A" Oxfords, Isaacson Oxfords and Daniels Oxfords. We also thank Ed Bowman Family for their continued support and sponsorship of the award for Res. Champion Ewe in the NAILE Junior Oxford Show. Each year, there are at least 8 sponsorship Oxford award sponsorships during NAILE. Contact the AOSA office to learn more and become a sponsor.

Benefit Ram Semen Sale

The All American Junior Sheep Show (AAJSS) will once again be hosting a benefit Ram Semen Online Sale Auction on May 17, 2021. The sale hosting services and organization has been donated by Integrity Livestock Sales. Please contact Mike Crowder directly at 765-366-3135, email: mike@integritylivestocksales.com with your consignments. They are looking for donations of 2-5 straw lots from stud rams. All proceeds will go to the AAJSS. If you want to support the All American and don't have ram semen to sell, other items can be consigned also. Be sure to go to the Integrity site on May 17 and bid on the ram semen and other items.

AAJSS Support and Volunteers

Our own Melanie Hall (217-454-5751; bliff2011@gmail.com) is serving as the IL contact person for the 2021 All American Junior Sheep Show. If you could help, even a short time, with one of the activities at the show or if you would like to contribute financially, please contact Melanie. This will be a huge event and many volunteers are really needed to make the show a success.

National Show and Sale

We definitely are planning on having the 2021 National Oxford Show and Sale **live** in Springfield, IL this summer. We are also planning to add a new component, we are going to add an on-line bidding opportunity to this year's sale. Buyers will be able to bid from the comfort of their home and watch the animals go across the auction block on their computer screen. We are planning to broadcast all four breed sales (Oxford, Cheviot, Montadale & Tunis) via the Willoughby Sales Live Bidding Services. This will add some expense to the sales but, your Oxford Board of Directors saw the expanded number of bidders that came with last year's on-line National Sale and feel that attracting more buyers is worth the extra expense. We will still have the live auction going on at Springfield and the animals will be sold one at a time by our on-site auctioneer, Bob Johnson. We are just expanding the buying opportunity. Even with this added expense, we aren't adding to the expense of our consignors; consignment fees and commission fees will remain the same as in past years. Dates for this year are June 11 and 12. Enclosed with this newsletter (or attached to this email) is the entry information for the National Oxford Show and Sale. The entry form is also available on the AOSA website. The entry deadline is April 15, 2021. We will continue publishing one sale catalog for all the breeds that will be joining us in Springfield. Willoughby Sales will also be helping us promote the sale on their website and through their extensive "mailing/contact" list; so sticking to the entry deadline will be very important. If you have any questions, please contact the AOSA Office (812-256-3478) or send an email.

AOSA Annual Membership Meeting

The American Oxford Sheep Association will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, June 11, 2021 at approximately 6:30 PM (no earlier than 6:30 PM) at the Illinois State Fairgrounds (Springfield) in the Sale Barn 26 building (same location as the 2019 Annual Meeting). So we can adequately plan for meals, please 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 sheep barn and at the door of the meeting for you to pick-up. You may also just attend the meeting (no meal, no charge). **AOSA Director position that will be elected at the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting is:**

District 5 – Rex Decker, finishing his first term, eligible for another term

Don't forget about the special benefit auction that will be held following the Annual Membership Meeting. Proceeds from the benefit auction go to help pay the Oxford costs of the All-American Junior Show. So be sure to donate your items for the auction and be in attendance to bid on some great things. And have some fun supporting our youth.

NAILE Update

As most know, they were able to hold the North American International Livestock Expo last fall in Louisville. While this show was considerably modified and spectators were limited, the use of the internet to watch the shows virtually was widely used. I know that is how I watched both the Oxford Junior Show as well as the Mary Blome National Oxford Show since I was under quarantine at home due to a close-contact with a person who tested COVID positive just before the show was to begin. So, I really think we owe a big Thank You to the NAILE management for having the foresight many years ago to live broadcast the shows at NAILE and have this process really fine-tuned for this past year.

Here are some show result highlights. A full set of results can be found at the AOSA website and at the NAILE website.

Junior Oxford Show – judged by Aaron Crome of Illinois

Grand Champion Ram – A.Brockmann 1612 (Early Jr. Ram Lamb) – Austin Brockmann, IL
Res. Grand Champion Ram – Meyer 2034 (Late Jr. Ram Lamb) – Kenzie Meyer, IL

NAILE Update continued

Junior Oxford Show

Grand Champion Ewe – Perzee 1936 (Fitted Yearling Ewe) – Ty Miller, IN

Res. Grand Champion Ewe – A.Brockmann 1610 (Fitted January Ewe Lamb) – Austin Brockmann, IL

Best Headed Ram – Meyer 2034 (Late Jr. Ram Lamb) – Kenzie Meyer, IL

Best Headed Ewe – LA Farm S2002 (Fitted March & Later Ewe Lamb) – Logan Averill, ME

Mary Blome National Oxford Show – judged by Mark Johnson, IL

Grand Champion Ram – A.Brockmann 1612 (Early Jr. Ram Lamb) – Austin Brockmann, IL

Res. Grand Champion Ram – Houghtaling 19-873 (Yearling Ram) – Danielle Houghtaling, SD

Best Headed Ram – A. Brockmann 1612 (Early Jr. Ram Lamb) – Austin Brockmann, IL

Grand Champion Ewe – Perzee 1936 (Fitted Yearling Ewe) – Ty Miller, IN

Res. Grand Champion Ewe – LA Farm S2002 (Fitted March & Later Ewe Lamb) – Logan Averill, ME

Best Headed Ewe – Perzee 1936 (Fitted Yearling Ewe) – Ty Miller, IN

Premier Exhibitor – Austin Brockmann, IL

In the balloting for 2021 Mary Blome National Oxford Show Judge, Evan Snyder was the first choice of the 2020 exhibitors. Dates for NAILE 2021 are November 2 – 18.

2021 All-American Junior Sheep Show (AAJSS)

The 2021 All-American Junior Sheep Show is going to be held at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield from July 1 – 4. This will be the first time the AAJSS has visited Illinois in its 27 year history. The Illinois committee is hard at work planning the show, finding volunteers and securing funds for extra activities and support. We are optimistic about the show going ahead this year but, we are also realistic as we know there will be COVID-19 safety protocols in place to ensure this event's happening and hopefully as the spring progresses we won't have to implement all we are gearing up for, but be assured, we will do whatever is required of us to have a safe and healthy event for all the exhibitors, families and volunteers.

Special for this 2021 show only, the upper age limit has been extended to include those who are 22 years of age as of January 1st of this year.

There will be 27 different breeds participating at the AAJSS this summer. Three breeds (Southdown, Suffolk and Tunis) will hold their national junior shows in conjunction with the AAJSS. Two breeds (Texels and Babydoll Southdowns) will be joining the AAJSS for the first time and two breeds (Targhees and Cotswolds) will be returning after an absence in their participation. Judges for this year's event will be Rick Klampe, OR; Neal Knapp, IN; and John Mrozinski, IN. Entries do close May 25, 2021 with higher entry fees for any late entries submitted after that deadline. The show catalog and entry forms are available on-line at the AAJSS website:

www.allamericanjuniorshow.com If you don't have computer access, a hard copy of the entry information can be mailed to you; contact the AOSA office and I'll mail that out to you.

Besides entry fees and breed support dollars, the AAJSS has 4 major fundraising activities:

*AAJSS Ram Semen On-Line Benefit Sale; May 17, 2021 on Integrity Livestock On-Line Sale site. More information can be found on Page 2 of this newsletter.

*AAJSS Gift Basket & Specialty Item Silent Auction; Happens at the show; Basket and item donations would be greatly appreciated from families, businesses and others; just bring those items to Springfield.

*AAJSS Raffle Tickets; Drawing at the show; 3 prizes drawn (\$1,000 cash, Sydell Hydraulic Trim Stand, and Wireless Bluetooth Headphones); tickets purchased last year are still good, additional tickets available from the AOSA office; Top salesmen awards will be given as well.

*AAJSS Benefit Auction at the Midwest Stud Ram Sale (Sedalia, MO) just after the Supreme Champion Drive on June 16, 2021.