

American Oxford Sheep Association 2022 Spring Newsletter

Spring has sprung; or at least it has here in southern Indiana. Trees are in bud and lawns, pastures and hay fields are starting to green-up. After a winter of more or less inactivity on my part that closely resembled hibernation, I'm ready to start tackling some of those projects here on the farm that either I didn't get around to before cold weather set-in or things I noticed during the winter months. I'm sure each of you are the same. Here's hoping you get those jobs completed but also take some time to enjoy spring.

National Show and Sale

The 2022 National Oxford Show and Sale will be moving to Joliet, IL. Joliet Junior College will be hosting us at the Weitendorf Agriculture Education Center (17840 Laraway Road, Joliet, IL 60433). While this facility is part of the junior college it is not located on the main campus. The show for the sale will be on Friday, June 10, and the sale on Saturday, June 11.

Once again, we plan to offer an on-line component to the sale and possibly even for the show. We are still working out the details, so watch your email and the American Oxford Sheep Association (AOSA) website (www.americanoxfords.org) for more details as we get closer to the event. Information about the on-line component will also be in the sale catalog.

Brad Angus will be our on-site host for the event this year and he has done a great job working out the details so far as we plan for the event. Brad has provided us with this list of hotels they use when hosting other events at this facility; these hotels are about 10 – 12 minutes from the show/sale site.

*Holiday Inn & Suites Joliet Southeast
1471 Rock Creek Blvd., Joliet, IL 60431; 779-206-2915

*Comfort Inn Joliet West I-80
1520 Commerce Lane, Joliet, IL 60431; 815-730-1111

*Fairfield Inn by Marriott Joliet South
1501 Riverboat Center Dr., Joliet, IL 60431; 815-741-3499

*Hampton Inn Joliet – I-80
1521 Riverboat Center Dr., Joliet, IL 60431; 815-725-2424

*Towne Place Suites by Marriott Joliet South
1515 Riverboat Center Dr., Joliet, IL 60431; 815-741-2400

While there is plenty of room to park and leave stock trailers at Weitendorf Agriculture Education Center, there is no overnight camping. This practice is strictly forbidden by college policy.

Enclosed with this newsletter (or attached to this email) is the entry information and form for consigning to the National Oxford Show and Sale. The entry form is also available on the AOSA website. The entry deadline is April 15, 2022. We will continue publishing one sale catalog for all the breeds that will be joining us in Joliet. We will also be using other forms of social media to promote the sales, so sticking to the entry deadline will be extremely important. Dustin Cruit will be judging our sale show on Friday. If you have any questions, please contact me at the AOSA Office (812-256-3478) or my cell (812-987-5139) or send an email (oxfordsecretary7@gmail.com).

AOSA Annual Membership Meeting

The American Oxford Sheep Association will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, June 10, 2022, at approximately 6:30 PM (no earlier than 6:30 PM) at the Weitendorf Agriculture Education Center, Joliet, IL. The culinary program at Joliet Junior College will be catering the meal. So we can adequately plan for meals, please be sure to notify the AOSA Office in advance if you plan to attend the meal portion of the gathering. Tickets for the meal will be available at the Oxford office area at the show and sale location and at the door of the meeting/meal for you to pick-up. You may also just attend the meeting (no meal, no charge).

AOSA Director positions that will be elected at the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting are:

District 6 – Beth Allison , finishing her second term, not eligible for re-election

District 3 – Kermit Daniels, finishing his second term, not eligible for re-election

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.

New AOSA Directory On The Way

A new AOSA Membership Directory should be available soon. All the membership information has been sent to the publisher and should soon be at the printer. Ads in the Membership Directory are the ones used in the annual Oxford featured edition of The Banner. We don't print email addresses of our Junior Members in the Directory just to avoid privacy issues but we do maintain an active email list of all of our members to help with lowering mail costs and to assist legitimate inquiries concerning Oxford breeders in a specific geographic area. So, if you have email, get us the address if you haven't already and be sure to update us with changes.

Oxford Ewe Lamb Futurity

In 2021, we had a record number of ewe lambs nominated at the various live and on-line sales for the Oxford Ewe Lamb Futurity program (65 head). Which was awesome. We also had a record number of those ewe lambs actually purchased by Juniors and entered into the program for the summer and fall show season (20 head). The national winner of the 2021 program was Jarod Neumeister of IN with WWSF 21-19. District winners were: District 2 – Jillian Bingen, WI with D.Hall 222; District 3 – Lydia Pool, IL with WWSF 21-52; District 4 – Paisley Sprowl, OH with Edgebrook 0494; District 5 – Jarod Neumeister, IN with WWSF 21-19; District 6 – Chad Hoover, PA with D.Hall 215. A complete list of the results of the 2021 program can be found at the AOSA website or you can contact the AOSA for a hard copy. Rules and forms for the 2022 program are also at the website; if a hard copy is needed, please let us know and a copy will be mailed. Remember, both live sales and on-line sales can have ewe lambs (fall and spring born) nominated by breeders for this program. And 100% of the nomination fees are paid-out to the participating juniors. This is a great way to promote your breeding program and to reward our Juniors and encourage them to add top quality breeding stock to their flocks.

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

Foundation Flock

We want to welcome our newest Oxford breeding stock owners; the 2021 Foundation Flock recipients: Kendrick Campbell of Ohio, Kyla Lamm of Illinois, and Hannah Wieboldt of New York. We also want to thank all the breeders who have donated to this program. 2022 marks the 16th year of the Foundation Flock program. Watch social media and our website for the announcement of the 2022 recipients. You can go to the AOSA website for a listing of past recipients and the list of breeders who have donated to this program. Also, at the website is information about the program and how to apply; if you know of someone who would like to have an Oxford starter flock, be sure to tell them about this great opportunity to get started in the Oxford business.

Special Recognition

Oxford Hall of Fame Award – Is there a person who has been inspiring and helpful to you as you have developed your Oxford flock? Probably most of us have had mentors that have helped us throughout our lives or people we have looked up to 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 Membership Meeting. Last year, Ed Bowman of TN was the recipient. A list of past honorees and the application/nomination form can be found at the AOSA website; deadline is May 15, 2022.

National Oxford Queen – Annually, the AOSA selects a queen from junior members who make application for consideration for this special 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 thank Suzanne Shields of Indiana for her service as National Oxford Queen in 2021. Beth Allison serves as the Oxford Queen Committee Chairperson. The application form can be found at the AOSA website; deadline is May 15, 2022.

Thank You

A big thank you to all the folks who provided support to the AOSA in 2021 as sponsors and donors of the various awards and shows, as well as, those who donated to the various silent auctions with items and purchases. We also want to thank all the folks who provided financial support and those who provided volunteer help at the 2021 All American Junior Show in Illinois. Each year, there are at least 8 sponsorship opportunities for the Oxford shows at NAILE. Thanks go to the three breeders who sponsored awards at NAILE in 2021: Duncan Averill & Family – Best Headed Ram and Ewe NAILE Jr. Show; Ed Bowman – Res. Champ. Ewe at NAILE Jr. Show; and Bill Buckland and Family, Double “A” Oxfords – Best Headed Ram and Ewe Mary Blome National Oxford Show. Contact the AOSA office to learn more and become a sponsor.

NAILE Update

Here are some show highlights from the 2021 NAILE; a full set of results can be found at a link provided on the AOSA website and at the NAILE website.

Junior Oxford Show – judged by Dustin Cruit of Illinois

*Grand Champion Ram – L.A. Farm S-2105 “Skyy” (Late Jr. Ram Lamb) – Logan Averill, ME

*Res. Grand Champion Ram and Best Headed Ram – WWSF 21-94 (Early Jr. Ram Lamb) – Austin Brockmann, IL

*Grand Champion Ewe – Double “A” 2022 (Fitted Yrlg. Ewe) – Ty Miller, IN

*Res. Grand Champion Ewe – Double “A” 2115 (Fitted Jan. Ewe Lamb) – Ty Miller, IN

*Best Headed Ewe – L.A. Farm W-2105 (Fitted Jan. Ewe Lamb) – Logan Averill, ME

Mary Blome National Oxford Show – judged by Evan Snyder of Pennsylvania

*Grand Champion Ram – WWSF 21-1104 (Sr. Ram Lamb) – Winning Ways Sheep Farm, IL

*Res. Grand Champion Ram – Edwards PHFT 2104 (Early Jr. Ram Lamb) – Bill Edwards, IL

*Best Headed Ram – Edgebrook’s 0500 “Fortune” (Early Jr. Ram Lamb) – Natalie Goodrich, MD

*Grand Champion Ewe – Double “A” 2022 (Fitted Yrlg. Ewe) – Ty Miller, IN

*Res. Grand Champion Ewe – WWSF 21-1993 (Sr. Ewe Lamb) – Winning Ways Sheep Farm, IL

*Best Headed Ewe – Weber 1020 (Fitted Jan. Ewe Lamb) – Isaac Erickson, WI

*Premier Exhibitor – Bill Edwards, IL

In the balloting for the 2022 Mary Blome National Oxford Show judged, Jeff Held was the first choice of the 2021 exhibitors. Dates for the 2022 NAILE are November 3 – 17. At this point the actual show schedule for the various breeds hasn’t been posted; keep an eye on the AOSA website, social media and the NAILE website for that information.

Website/Social Media

In several places in this newsletter, we mention postings and information/forms available at either the AOSA website (www.americanoxfords.org) or on social media. By social media, we are primarily referring to the Oxford Breeders Facebook Page. If you do need hard copies of any of the forms and you don’t have access to these sources, just let me know and I’ll send it via USPS.

2022 All-American Junior Sheep Show (AAJSS)

The 28th Annual AAJSS will be going to the Big E facility in West Springfield, MA; June 30 – July 3, 2022. This is the third time in the shows history to be at the place where the annual 3-on-3 basketball tourney is played at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. If you have never been to the great facility, you owe it to your family to join us in New England this summer. If you have been there before, you know the excitement around both the Big E fairgrounds and the basketball hall of fame. Another feature of this year's AAJSS is that at the Big E facility a week later, the Northeast Youth Sheep Show will be held (July 8-10). Sheep can remain in the facility between the 2 shows and all youth (not just those from the Northeast) are welcome and encouraged to stay and make New England your family 2022 "Showcation". Arrangements are being made for some special activities for the stay-over families between the shows. There will be 26 breeds participating in the AAJSS this year. Judges for the AAJSS will be Dustin Cruit of IL, Troy Longenecker of PA and Nick Miniter of CT. Again, we will have a Lamb Camp for the young family members, the 3-on-3 basketball tourney, sheep skill-a-thon, sheep judging contest, team and individual showmanship contests, wool show, and promotional contests. New to the show this year will be the Supreme Champion Ram and Ewe drive on Sunday afternoon. Entries close May 25, 2022; with a higher entry fee for any late entries submitted after the deadline date and post entries at the show. Check out the All-American website (www.allamericanjuniorshow.com) for entry and further information, as well as, the show catalog.

The AAJSS has 4 major fundraising activities to help raise funds for this special junior show. Following is information on these activities and the show would certainly appreciate your support in the fundraising efforts:

*AAJSS Ram Semen Online Benefit Auction – Sale to be held on May 16, 2022 on Integrity Livestock On-Line Sale Site (www.integritylivestocksales.com). Please support this major fundraiser by bidding on semen lots, and some specialty items will also be offered. To donate ram semen, please contact Deb Hopkins (401-647-4676).

*All-American Gift Basket & Specialty Item Silent Auction – This fundraiser happens at the AAJSS and donated items will be on display duration of the show for bidding. Bidding closes on Sunday, July 3rd at noon. Basket and specialty item donations are greatly appreciated. Just bring them to the show.

*AAJSS Raffle Tickets – Cost is \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. 1st Prize - \$1,000 cash, 2nd Prize – Sydell Hydraulic Trimming Stand, 3rd Prize – Bose Quiet Comfort 45 Wireless Bluetooth Headphones. Tickets are available from the American Oxford Sheep Association. Please lend your support by purchasing your tickets. The juniors selling the highest number of tickets will be getting some great prizes too!

*AAJSS Benefit Auctions – During the Midwest Stud Ram Sale (at the Supreme Champion Show) in Sedalia, MO (Wednesday, June 15, 2022) several donated items will be auctioned off and all proceeds go to the AAJSS. Items donated to date are: Ketcham A-Frame 10' Feeder, ET Flush & Transfer Surgery and LAI Surgeries by Reproductive Specialty Group, One Page Color Ad in "The Banner", Two folding gates from Mumm Sheep Equipment, Cordless electric shears from

Premier 1 Supplies, and an Air Express Mini Blow Dryer for Sullivan Supply. If you are going to be at the Midwest Stud Ram Sale, be sure to help out the AAJSS and bid on these items. Can't be at the Stud Ram Sale, contact me (812-987-5139) with your bids; I'll be there and can represent you and make arrangements to get your purchases to you.

North East Youth Sheep Show

This event will be held at the Big E facility in West Springfield, MA; July 8 – 10, 2022. AAJSS participants are invited to stay over after the All American and show in this show as well. Entry deadline is June 10; Entry fee is \$15 per head. Complete show and entry information can be found at: www.nesheep.org/north-east-youth-sheep-show

They also have a Used Sheep Equipment Auction in conjunction with the North East Youth Sheep Show. Contact Becky Peterson (413)624-5562 or shropsec@hotmail.com for more details.