Spring 2025

Dear AOSA Member;

I hope your fall and winter have gone smoothly so far and that lambing season has been upbeat with minimal loss of sleep. Looking ahead, I believe the "weatherman" is still calling for at least one more wintery blast; hopefully it won't be as intense as what we experienced in January. Either way, spring is on the way! As always, if you have questions, ideas or comments for the Association, or need assistance with your registration/transfer work or sale entries, please reach out to me (phone/text, 812-987-5139) or by email (oxfordsecretary7@gmail.com).

Sincerely,
David J. Trotter
Executive Secretary

Oxford Sales

There are several opportunities coming up to purchase &/or market Oxfords this spring. In addition to the several Oxford breeders who will be holding their own on-line sales, there will be several sales with open invitations to consignors. To learn about the breeders' on-line sales, go to the "Oxford Breeders" Facebook group.

Deadlines are coming up quickly for the open consignment sales, so please check those out closely.

National Oxford On-Line Sale – Once again, the American Oxford Sheep Association (AOSA) will be sponsoring a National Oxford On-Line Sale on the Breeders World on-line platform. This on-line sale is scheduled for April 22, 2025. The sale will run from 12:00 noon to 8:00 PM (Eastern Time). April 15 is the deadline for consignments. Check-out the information at the Association's website at the Documents/Forms tab.

Indiana Premier Sale – This sale is held at the Hancock County Fairgrounds in Greenfield, IN. The dates are April 25-26; with a consignment deadline of March 12. In addition to Oxfords, several other breeds will be offered at this sale (Hampshires, Lincolns, Cheviots and Southdowns); this sale also features the National Shropshire Sale and the Midwest Regional Katahdin Sale. The sale will be simulcast live and with online bidding with Harmeyer Auction & Appraisal Co. (https://harmeyerauction.hibid.com). For more information contact Mike Elsbury (317-498-5861).

Ohio Showcase Sale – Select Livestock Services will once again manage the "Big" sheep sale weekend in Greenville, OH (Darke County Fairgrounds). The sale dates are May 8 – 10 with a consignment deadline of March 25. Go to the sale management's website (https://www.selectls.net) or call Pat (937-935-1975) or email her (pat@selectls.net).

National Oxford Sale – This annual live show/sale will be on June 6-7 at the IL State Fairgrounds in Springfield. The deadline for consignment entries is April 15. The show and AOSA Annual Meeting will be on Friday, June 6, and the National Sale will be on Saturday, June 7. Again this year, we will be joined at the sale by the National Cheviot Sale, as well as, sales featuring Tunis, Suffolk and, hopefully, a few more breeds. Breeders world will provide the on-line bidding component for folks who can't attend the sales in person. The National Oxford Show and Sale entry form (and other information) is available at the Association's website at the Documents/Forms tab. An important note, this year we have added 3 slick sheared classes.

Remember, the AOSA Board of Directors changed their previous rule regarding wool fitting/animal presentation for shows and sales and that change was in effect last year. Oxfords may now be offered for sales and shown in full fleece, slick shorn or slick shorn to the hips.

If you have questions or need hard copies of the entry forms for the National Oxford On-Line and/or National Live Sales, let me know.

NAILE Photos

At the 2024 NAILE in Louisville, the AOSA contracted with Morgan Hauger and *Showring* magazine, to do our photography work for both the Junior and Open Shows. If you would like to see the pictures and/or order prints, please go to www.simplicity.creative.com or contact Morgan at 765-541-1932.

AOSA Directory

A new Association Membership Directory was published last fall. If you didn't get a copy, please let me know so I can get one to you.

Futurity Programs

Information, rules and forms regarding the 2025 Oxford Yearling Ewe and Oxford Ewe Lamb Futurity programs can be found at the AOSA website (www.americanoxfords.org) at the Documents/Forms tab and results for 2024 can also be found at the website at the Show & Sale Results tab, Futurity Winners. Yearling ewes nominated at the upcoming 2025 sales (live and on-line) by breeders, as well as, ewes that were nominated as ewe lambs at the 2024 sales are eligible for the yearling ewe futurity. We strongly encourage live sale consignors to have their nomination forms completed when they check-in at the sales.

Oxford Hall of Fame

Nominations are now being accepted for the Oxford Hall of Fame Award. This award will be presented at the AOSA Annual Meeting on Friday, June 6, 2025. The nomination/application form can be found at the AOSA website. If there is a person who has inspired, encouraged or just plain helped you in the Oxford business, please consider nominating them for this honor. The deadline to receive nomination/application forms in the AOSA Office is May 15. The

application form can be found at the AOSA website, Documents/Forms tab under Miscellaneous Forms.

Annual Dues

Check your records to see if you have paid your annual AOSA dues. At this time, very few folks have sent in their 2025 dues. Just a reminder, annual Junior dues are $20 and annual senior dues are $30. As a help to update contact information, please include a completed membership form (found at the AOSA website) with your dues payment.

Oxford Foundation Flock

Once again this year, the AOSA will provide at least one person with an Oxford Foundation Flock to someone wanting to get a start in the Oxford breed. The deadline to apply for the award is March 15, 2025. The Foundation Flock has been awarded annually to help establish a new Oxford Flock and breeder. The award consists of quality Oxford ewes and one year's breeding service along with flock consultation by a prominent Oxford breeder in the award recipient's district. The ewes will range in age from lambs to young brood ewes. Application information can be found at the AOSA website(Documents/Forms tab, Miscellaneous Forms). The award recipient will be announced by April 15 and the award flock presented to the recipient at the National Oxford Sale weekend, June 6-7, 2025, in Springfield, IL. For more information, please contact Laurie Majchrzak (nhgirl603@hotmail.com).

National Oxford Queen

The coordinators for the National Oxford Queen program are Karen and Suzie Shields from Indiana. Interested applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 21 as of December 31, 2025 and they need to be current members of the AOSA. The role of the National Oxford Queen is to represent and promote the Oxford breed as an ambassador and as positive role model at shows, sales and other events.

An application form can be found on the AOSA website (Documents/Forms tab, under Miscellaneous Forms) or an application can be requested by contacting the AOSA office. The deadline for submitting a completed application is May 1, 2025.

New Website

Reference to the AOSA website has been made several times in this newsletter and I hope you will take a moment to visit the newly designed site. The address (URL) is the same as the old site but that is about the only thing that has remained from the previous website. Again, go to www.americanoxfords.org to check it out. We appreciate Novel Designs for all their work getting the new website up and going.

AOSA Annual Membership Meeting

The American Oxford Sheep Association (AOSA) will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, June 6, 2025, at approximately 6:30 PM (Central Time) at the IL State Fairgrounds in Sale Barn 26 building in Springfield, IL. A catered meal before the meeting will be offered but a person doesn't have to buy a meal ticket in order to attend the Annual Membership Meeting. We will be joined by the Cheviot folks (and perhaps some other breeders as well) for the meal and then we will divide-up for our respective annual meetings. Meal cost will be $10 for kids 10 years old and younger, $15 for everyone else. So we can plan for meals, please drop me a note (email/text) or call me to let me know if you plan to enjoy the meal. It would be helpful for me, and the caterer, to know your intentions by June 1. Tickets for the meal will be available at the Oxford office area at the show/sale as well as at the door of the Annual Meeting. You may also just attend the Annual Meeting portion (no meal, no charge).

AOSA Director positions that will be elected at the 2025 Annual Membership Meeting are:

Region 3 – Austin Brockmann, finishing his first term, eligible for re-election

Region 6 – Laurie Majchrzak, finishing her first term, eligible for re-election

Don't forget about the special benefit auction that will be held at the evening's event. Proceeds from the benefit auction go to help defray the Oxford costs of the All-American Junior Sheep 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.

We will make arrangements for a special room rate at the Ramada Springfield North (3281 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL). Check with me later to learn about this lodging option during the National Sale and AOSA Annual Meeting.

2025 All-American Junior Sheep Show (AAJSS)

The 31st Annual AAJSS will be held at the IL State Fairgrounds in Springfield July 3 – 6, 2025. This should be a big, big event as it was one of the largest we have ever had the last time we were at this location. Besides entry fees, there are other fundraising opportunities. There will be a pre-show raffle ticket sales program that will make the sellers eligible for preferred penning, digital tickets will be used this year and they are now available at https://allamericanjuniorshow.com The AAJSS Benefit Ram Semen On-Line Sale will be one of the fund-raisers that will be back in 2025 (if you would like to donate semen, please let me know); watch the Oxford Breeders Facebook group and the AOSA website for information on this on-line sale. Other fundraisers include the benefit auction at the Midwest Stud Ram Sale and the Gift Basket & Specialty Item Silent Auction at the All-American.

Go to the All-American Junior Sheep Show website for more details including schedules and a listing of lodging options at Springfield. If you have never been to the All-American, make 2025 the year you check it off your list. We are always in need of volunteers for the All-American. This

year our own Melanie Hall is coordinating the Illinois effort and you can contact her to express your interest in helping with the event. Here is the AAJSS website: https