Chief Shepherd's Message
Walter R. Threlfall, DVM, MS, PhD, DACT
Falling Tree Ranch

Lambing has either ended, commenced or is anticipated! The weather in Ohio is always interesting. This year that implied snow, sleet, zero degrees, 65 degrees, too much rain, flooding, wind up to 50 mile per hour and otherwise very typical and obviously well suited for lambing! Of course, all this can occur within a 24-hour period. That is why Buckeyes live in Ohio. Remember the buckeye is a worthless nut! No offense to the natives as I and four generations (starting in 1842) before me have called this state home. We love the weather surprises.

Hopefully all has gone well and you had the lamb numbers per ewe you wanted and the correct ratio of ewes to rams. It is nice to see the lamb market holding well and the demand is up. Now if we could really stimulate more shepherds to have a sincere interest in Finns, life would be great! We have to concentrate on educating other shepherds of the virtues of the Finn. Some may wonder why all of us need to promote Finns. The reason is it helps all of us. The more Finns are discussed and promoted the more people will become interested in them and hopefully want to learn more. The more they learn the more they will want to determine if the Finn may “fit” into their sheep operation.

I welcome comments from all of you in regard to how the officers of your association can serve YOU and Finns better. Any idea may help us achieve our objective. So when you are watching a ewe lamb or watering your sheep, think what can we do to make others aware of the value of YOUR sheep. Please relate the values you see in your sheep to us and others. How have the Finns made your sheep production unit more profitable? It does not matter if you have one ewe or one hundred ewes. Let’s work together on promotion as we are the only ones which can and must save the Finns in the United States.

Please remember if you are close to Wooster, Ohio or can be on May 25, 2019 please attend our (Finn Breeders Association) annual meeting at the Best Western Motel at 7:00 PM.

Hope to see you there!
Plan to attend the Finnsheep Breeders Association annual meeting in person or by telephone. The location will be the same as last year, the Best Western Hotel in Wooster, Ohio, just outside the Great Lakes Fiber Show. The meeting will start promptly at 7 p.m on the Saturday, May 25.

If you cannot attend in person, you will be able to join in via teleconference: Dial: 1-800-582-3014

After the prompt enter the Participant Pass Code: 031097008#

Be sure to add the # sign or you will not be added. You will hear a tone as you are added to the teleconference.

The FBA has reserved a block of rooms at the Best Western. Call 330-264-7750 or 866-264-2057. A discount rate is available until April 26, 2019.

**AGENDA FOR 2019 MEETING**

Opening and Welcome

Roll Call

Secretary’s Report

Treasurer’s Report

Old Business

1. Promoting Finnsheep: Old and new ways to inform interested parties about the value of Finnsheep including Fiber Festival and Sheep Show participation; writing for magazines; brochures through Vistaprint; and Facebook have been discussed and in many cases executed. How do we capture a younger audience? How do we get kids involved in Finnsheep?

2. International Finnsheep Registry: A representative from the IFR will be invited to discuss the future projections of their registry

New Business

1. Annual Meeting Venue Change: We are seeking input to accommodate the most breeders for the Annual Meeting. Would a different location and/or time of year be better for a larger audience?

2. Breed Standards: The current standard for the Finn would benefit from being revisited and assessed.

3. Election of new members to the Board of Directors: Nominations and Vote for Board of Directors: There are two (2) director positions open. Nominations are also accepted from the floor.
Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their party.

By Mary O’Malley Short Tales editor

Anyone else remember typing that in typing class? But— I date myself. It is one of those classic lines that has stuck in my brain and pops up whenever there is a need for “more hands on deck”. I hope no one is offended and considers it a “sexist” statement.

There will be two openings on the FBA board of directors this year. Have you ever considered running for the Board? Perhaps, you think…. “Oh, I’m not qualified”, or “I don’t have time.” The most important qualification is an interest in promoting and preserving Finnsheep. And as for time….well…. we all have 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Consider writing for Short Tales….or any sheep magazine. Your experiences, successes, trials and errors are of interest to your fellow breeders! Send pictures or articles for Short Tales to me at maryfinnsheepbreeder@yahoo.com or 1600 Ednor Road Silver Spring, MD 20905

BOARD OF DIRECTOR CONTACT LIST

President: Walter Threlfall (2019, 1st term)
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614- 581-6602
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Director and Secretary (2021, 2nd term)
Joanna Porter Bullock
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Director and Treasurer:
Grant Blackburn (2019, 1st term)
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540-461-2054
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Director:
Kerry Mower (2020, 1st term)
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Stanley, NM 87056
kerrymower@gmail.com

Vice President: vacant

Director: Elizabeth H. Kinne Gossner (2020, 1st term)
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De Ruyter, NY 13052
(315) 852-3344
stillmeadowfinnsheep@frontier.com

Director:
Siri Swanson (2021, 1st term)
363 Fisher Road
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781-264-0430
dancingmoonvt@gmail.com

Secretary and Treasury duties assisted tremendously by the folks at
Associated Registries
PO Box 231 305 Lincoln  Wamego, KS  66547
Phone:785-456-8500
Naomi Leith Culkin Smith

Longtime Finnsheep Breeder, Naomi Leith Smith died peacefully Saturday, March 30, 2019 at her home in Lexington, VA. A brother and sister were with her at the time of death.

Naomi was born Jan. 25, 1932, to Grove and Arlene Leith of Wyoming, N.Y. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph R. Smith, and all four of her children. She is survived by three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Naomi was an enthusiastic breeder of Finnsheep and a source of knowledge and inspiration for fellow breeders and anyone interested in sheep. As noted in her obituary, her flock of Finnsheep was her pride and joy. In recent years, she was helped on the farm by Cody Manspile who will now care for her sheep.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Rockbridge Livestock 4-H & FFA Advisory Council, P.O. Box 537, Lexington, VA 24450, or the Effinger Volunteer Fire Department, 2824 Collierstown Road, Lexington, VA 24450.

The complete obituary can be found at: http://thenews-gazette.com/content/naomi-smith-87-lexington-died-march-30

NEW!!: FINNSHEEP BREEDER GOOGLE GROUP

Katy Wolfe of Boondoggle Farm in Vermont has set up a google group for Finnsheep Breeders. This should be an excellent resource for the exchange of information, asking questions and even selling livestock or supplies.

To join this group, go to Google groups. Search for Finnsheep Breeders and follow the instructions. If you do not have a google email account this tutorial shows you how to join from your yahoo group.

https://youtu.be/N3zH-OL1E10

We had an active Yahoo group years ago where members posted shepherding questions and would receive answers promptly. As you might imagine lambing season was a popular time for questions. It seems that as Facebook grew in popularity the yahoo group became less active. Not everyone uses Facebook.....or the computer. The Finnsheep Breeders Google Group can provide members with a reasonably "real time" source for sheep conversation. Useful discussions could potentially find there way into SHORT TALES

Thank you, Katy, for initiating this resource!!
Feeding Finnsheep Ewes to Match Their Genetic Potential

By Dr. Dan Morrical Sheep Extension Specialist Iowa State University

Perhaps the greatest challenge in meeting the nutrient requirements of Finnsheep ewes occurs during late gestation when the presence of three or more fetuses can severely compromise the amount of feed consumed on a daily basis. Thus, it is important to realize that ewes eating two to four percent of their bodyweight per day probably will not be able to meet all their nutrient requirements on hay alone.

Only so much body space exists for fetuses and feed in the rumen. Thus, roughage intake should be limited in late gestation. Ewe lambs carrying twins face the same dilemma. Limiting hay to no more than one pound per day and using more concentrate to meet energy and protein needs will also help reduce the incidence of vaginal prolapse.

A ration readily available here in the Midwest consisting of 50% soybean hulls, 25% corn and 25% dry distillers grain w/solubles (DDGS) fed at a rate of 2.6% of ewe bodyweight should meet all the nutrient requirements of highly prolific ewes in late gestation. However, for mature ewes carrying triplets or more and ewe lambs carrying twins, ration changes probably should be made six to seven weeks pre-lambing.

Calcium should be added at 1.2% of the ration. Ration substitutions can be made based on availability, but the important thing to remember is that high fiber diets alone (such as hay) likely will not be adequate, and late gestation is not a good time to skimp on feed.

Birth weights are a good means of assessing late gestation rations. My recommendation is for triplets to weigh 5.5% of the dam’s weight when she is open and in average body condition. So, if a ewe weighs 135 in average body condition, her triplet lambs should weigh roughly 7.4 pounds. I doubt if many of you have triplets that big as that seems a little heavy for trips from purebred Finn ewes. Quads and up should have birth weights of around six pounds. Birth weights are extremely critical to survival in winter lambing flocks in cold environments (think Iowa). The mass of a lamb is directly proportional to its ability to withstand chilling.

Late gestation rations should also be fortified with a minimum of 100 IU of Vitamin E per pound of concentrate. Vitamin E does not always cross the placenta in sufficient amounts and lambs may be born deficient in Vitamin E. That is why lambs may respond to oral Vitamin E drenches or injections. These supplemental E treatments are very short lived however (<7 days), which means that lambs need a milk source with high vitamin E levels. This can be accomplished by making sure ewes consume 100 to 300 IU per ewe per day in their feed. After lambs are thirty days old and eating creep or out on grass the Vitamin E supplementation can be stopped.

Lactation continues to be a time of very high nutrient demand on the ewe with most ewes losing weight during this period. Some weight loss is acceptable, but over ½ body condition score per pound of lamb gain. If one uses this calculation a ewe with triplets gaining .4 pound per day each would equate to roughly six pounds of milk output per day. A traditional lactation diet would be four pounds of very good alfalfa hay, two pounds of soybean hulls and two pounds of DDGS. One could also supplement the hay with 2.5 pounds of corn and one pound of soybean meal. These are generally much higher levels of concentrate feeding than producers are used to and are formulated to minimize weight loss in ewes. After 50 days of lactation amounts being fed can be cut by at least a third if not close to 50%.

Another option for lactation feeding is a self fed ration consisting of 75% soybean hulls and 25% DDGS. Some producers who have tried this have complained about ewes eating some of their bedding. To offset this, producers can free choice big round bales or hand feed a couple of pounds of lower cost, medium quality hay to add some additional long fiber to the diet.
Finally, it is critical to severely restrict both protein and energy intake during the week preceding weaning to minimize mastitis infections. I prefer weaning lambs cold turkey and moving the ewes to a new location leaving the lambs in familiar surroundings. Ewes should be fed a low quality diet for another 3-7 days post weaning. Our work has shown that five CC of penicillin at weaning is an effective prophylactic treatment to reduce udder infections.

I am critically aware of current high feed costs. However, late gestation/lactation feeding is not the time or place to cut corners. Producers with questions regarding additional rations or substitutions can call 515-294-2904 or email morrical@iastate.edu. (note: this is likely out of date)

**Editor’s Note:**

Since this 2011 article was written, Dr. Morrical retired from Iowa State University. He is currently part of the team that responds to sheep questions for the Premier 1 Supplies LLC and Pipestone Veterinary Services LLC partnership. Click “Ask a Sheep Expert” on the Premier 1 website homepage, [www.premier1supplies.com](http://www.premier1supplies.com) to access the page to email your question.

Or, if you prefer call: 800-282-6631

I had the good fortune to hear Dr. Morrical at a workshop in 2013. When he noted that the placenta, (the organ for nourishing the fetal lambs) develops during mid-gestation and that underfeeding of ewes at this time can result in a smaller placenta, bells went off in my head! Prior to that time, I had followed the advice to provide grain beginning at the last 6 weeks of gestation. Since then, I introduce grain mid gestation with resulting better weights on newborn lambs.

HOPE YOU, YOUR EWES AND LAMBS ARE ENJOYING SOME WARM SPRING SUNSHINE AFTER THIS WET, COLD, WINDY WINTER.

THESE LOVELY COPPER SHEEP BELLS WERE BROUGHT TO ME FROM ALBANIA! INSTEAD OF PLACING THEM ON OUR SHEEP, I FELTED STRAPS FOR THEM AND HAVE THEM HANGING IN THE HOUSE.
Finnsheep Breeders Association Directory

Join this list for $30 per year,
your listing will appear on the website and in the Short Tales Directory

Arkansas
Kelli Otting
Ponker Farm
346 W. Firetower Road
Hardy, AR 72542
309-642-7330
kelli.otting@gmail.com
ponkerfarm.com
Purebred Finnsheep, white and natural colored

California
Sandra Jorgensen
18400 Paskenta Road
Corning, CA 96021
530-824-9394
sandrajorgensen44@gmail.com
Tamara Myers
Medley Farm & Kennel
13470 Alabama Rd
Galt, CA 95632
(209) 748-5046 or (707) 971-0578
medleym@yahoo.com
www.medleyfarm.com
Purebred Finnsheep; crossbred Finnsheep, white, natural colored; fleeces and pelts

Connecticut
Chris and Beth Fallon
Barefoot Farm
459 Sawmill Hill Rd
Sterling, CT 06377
860-774-5331
mrsbfallon@yahoo.com
www.finnlambsandfiber.com
Purebred Finnsheep, white and natural colored; fleeces and pelts

Illinois
Isaac Vanier
Mulberry Grove
2917 CR 1100 E
Dewey, IL 61840
217-778-3426
mulberrygrovefarm@mail.com
Finnssheep, white and natural colored; dairy production

Indiana
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HUFFMAN SHEEP FARM
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Greencastle, IN 46135
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Purebred Registered Finnsheep

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Dale Amendt
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Sutherland, IA 51058
712.446.3489
Purebred Finnsheep, Crossbred Finnsheep (Finn x Suffolk and Finn x Corridale)

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www.galewoodsfarm.org
Purebred Finnsheep. Corriedale x Finn; wool & yarn, lamb

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RR Babydoll Southdown & BDS x Finnsheep

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Mt Grove, MO 65711
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https://www.etsy.com/shop/MoxleyFarm?ref=hdr_shop_menu

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Holden, MO 64040
(816) 694-6801
dputnam.fiber.art@gmail.com
www.spinningsheepfiberfarm.com
Purebred Finnsheep, white and natural colored; Wool and wool products.

Nevada
Harold and Donna Andrews
White Peaks Ranch
HC34 Box 233
Jackpot, NV 89825
775-755-2882
Purebred Finnsheep

New Mexico
Kerry Mower
Hyer Wools
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Stanley, NM 87056
kerryjmower@gmail.com
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Your name in lights!!

…..or …

at least your farm in black and white could be here with a directory listing for only $30 per year.
Finnsheep Breeders Association Directory, continued

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Amy Cook
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Chenango Fork, NY 13746
607-725-4844
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babsdesign3.wixsite.com/Rivendell-farm
purebred Finnsheep, fleece

Elizabeth H. Kinne Gossner
Stillmeadow Finnsheep
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www.stillmeadowfinnsheep.com
purebred Finnsheep, white and natural colored; fleeces

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yarn, fiber, lambs

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Twomoonfarms.com
purebred Finnsheep, fleeces

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Purebred Finnsheep. Fleeces, pelts, yarn, roving.

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finnsheep@finnsheep.net
www.finnsheep.net
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Purebred white Finns, Finn X Romney

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ironwoodhillfarm@gmail.com
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Flock ID: NY111226
Purebred Finnsheep and Finn cross, white and natural colored fleece, roving, yarn

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Purebred Finnsheep, white and colored

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Purebred Finnsheep, white and natural colored; Wool , yarn
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Cody L. Manspile
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Lexington, VA 24450
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Purebred traditional white Finnsheep

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Purebred Finnsheep, roving, yarn, pelts

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Purebred registered Finnsheep, fiber

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capriolefarm.weebly.com
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Finnsheep Breeders Association
Membership and Breeder Directory Form

Instructions: Print, complete and mail this form and your payment to:
Finnsheep Breeders Association PO Box 231 305 Lincoln Wamego, KS 66547

Name_______________________________________ Membership #_________________Date _______
Address_________________________________City_________State_______zip___________
Website_______________________________________________ Phone #_________________
Fax #________________ Email___________________________________

Memberships:
______New Adult Member, applying, one time only ($ 35.00)
_______Yearly activity fee, necessary to register sheep ($25.00)
______New Youth Associate member (date of birth __/__/__ ($10)
______Continuing Youth Member (date of birth __/__/__ ($15)

The Annual Activity Fees is due on or before January 31th of each year after the first year. Members receive a free yearly subscription to “Short Tales” newsletter via email (unless requested in hard-copy), access to the Finnsheep_Breeders chat group on Yahoo for encouragement or help in your endeavor. Meeting minutes are published in Short Tales. Periodically, members may receive other pertinent mailings or emails.

Breeder Listing ______($30.00): FBA Members Only
The Breeder Listing is entered into the FBA Website, FBA On-line Database, and FBA newsletter). Six (6) photos (.jpg format preferred) may be added to a listing by sending form and photo files by email to: webmaster@finnsheep.org

() Purebred Finnsheep () Commercial Breeder () Cross-Bred Finnsheep – List crosses_____________

() Wool or Other Value Added Products – list _________________________________________________

A breeder listing may include a brief description of 20 words or less. (attach separate paper if needed).
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Flock prefix listing ____($20.00) Desired prefix _______________
A flock prefix enables exclusive use of your name, flock or farm on registrations
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

I/we agree to be governed by the rules, regulations, constitution and by-laws of the Association as amended from time to time, and to keep written records of breeding, exact birth dates and litter sizes of Finnsheep, and further, that I/we will furnish promptly any information concerning same at any time when requested to do so by the Association.

Signed: ___________________________________________ Date: __________

Revised on: 05-28-16
Finnsheep Breeders Association

Finnsheep breeders are now found across many States producing purebred and crossbred Finnsheep. Breeders look to the Finnsheep Breeders Association, Inc. to provide record keeping of registrations and transfers of the breed. Since the 1971 inception of the Finnsheep Breeders Association, Inc. the organization has drawn on the expertise of leading research authorities to enhance the Finnsheep breed and provide leadership in promoting the Finnsheep qualities and characteristics.

Mission Statement

The American Finnsheep Breeders Association:

*Provides a national pedigree breed recording system for Finnsheep
*Maintains the Finnsheep breed standard for the USA. Promotes animal health within the breed and nationally
*Fosters and promotes the proliferation and marketing of Finnsheep within the national sheep industry and abroad