

Short Tales

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Official Registry for Finnsheep in the U.S.A. since 1971
www.finnsheep.org

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Letter from the Editor...

What a year it has been. During experiences of any amount of unpredictability, I've always relied on the comfort and stability of my sheep. I hope this finds each of you well, also enjoying time with your flocks!

I'd like to take a quick moment to introduce myself to you as the new *Short Tales* editor. I am Siri Swanson from Yankee Rock Farm based in Vermont. I've been raising Finnsheep since the age of twelve or thirteen after phasing out my original crossbred flock. My interests in Finns was thanks to the young naivety of a first-generation farmer eager to set the foundation for a homemade composite breed suitable for the modern New England market. Since then, I've consistently maintained a handful of purebred Finns while dabbling in other breeds, attending school, and building a farm.

You may have seen representatives from my flock and myself at shows and festivals around New England, New York, the Midwest, and the South Atlantic states. Through 4-H I began a career in the purebred sheep show circuit. Although my fierce competitiveness shrank outside of showmanship classes, I still used this avenue of exposure to promote the Finn breed. It was during this initial investment in Finns where a deep-rooted fire was lit in me to show off the best and brightest of these sheep to all who doubted them. Officially, I began representing the Finnsheep Breeders Association at the New York Sheep and Wool Festival several years ago. In 2018 I was granted the opportunity to serve on the board of directors. Since then I've taken on writing FBA notes for *The Banner* and run the FBA Facebook page. I'm honored and excited to advance appreciation of Finnsheep through this platform now, as editor.

With that, I'd like to extend profound thanks on behalf of all FBA members to Mary O'Malley, who volunteered her time as editor of *Short Tales* for over five years. This organization and the national Finn flock are better off today thanks to Mary's sincere devotion to the breed.

Cheers,

Siri Swanson

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2020 National Finnsheep Sale Canceled

After heartfelt deliberation, a joint decision between the FBA Board and Sale Committee has been reached to cancel the 2020 National Sale and Annual Meeting scheduled October 16 - 17. Following the cancelation of The NY Sheep & Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, during which our event was scheduled, all alternative options were considered. Ultimately, it was concluded planning efforts would be best suited focused on next year.

That being said, we have our sights set on an even better event for 2021! A survey will be included in the next edition of *Short Tales*. With that we will be asking for any current member's input on what they'd like to see in next year's Finnsheep National Sale.

Although there will not be an in-person meeting, the Board is exploring options for this year's Annual Meeting to go on virtually. Hopefully you won't all be too

Share Your Story

Do you have a unique experience you'd like to share? A story from the lambing barn, shearing day, or analyzing your flock's performance perhaps.

Have you participated in any county fairs, fiber festivals, or 4-H events with your Finns? Pictures and results from your efforts to promote the breed are also welcome!

All members are welcome to submit written pieces to be featured in *Short Tales*. Send your contributions to Siri via email (yankeerockfarm@gmail.com) or mail (363 Fisher Road, Orwell, VT 05760).

tired of Zoom conferences and call-in meetings to join us this fall! A final date, time, and instructions to join the meeting will be announced here and on the FBA Facebook page.

Who's Who? Introductions to the Volunteers Behind the FBA

Ever wondered who's calling the shots? The Board of Directors is made up of 7 directors serving 3-year terms. Executive positions include the President and Vice President (elected to 1-year terms), the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The Finnsheep Breeders Association has a long history of many selfless shepherds who have given their time, even years, to see that Finn breeders are well served in the U.S. Here and on the FBA Facebook over the next few weeks you'll find short profiles for each of the current Directors.

Walter R. Threlfall, DVM, MS, PhD, DACT
President: 2022, 2nd term

Theriogenology Consultant
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Dr. Walter R. Threlfall is currently a Theriogenology consultant. He is an emeritus professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and former Director of Continuing Education. He received his DVM degree from The Ohio State University and an MS in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery as well as a PhD in reproductive physiology from the University of Missouri where he also completed a residency in Theriogenology. He is board certified by The American College of Theriogenologists, (Reproductive Specialists) and is a past president of the College. He has served as Vice President of the American Veterinary Medical Association and President of the Western Veterinary Conference (the largest veterinary conference). Dr. Threlfall has spoken at many state, national and international meetings, and has published more than 100 scientific articles and 75 chapters in numerous textbooks. He has advised over 50 graduate students and residents.

Walt was born in Prospect, Ohio. He raised sheep and hogs to aid with his college expenses. He has raised sheep since age 8 and currently raises Finn (43 years) and Texel (23 years) sheep. He currently serves on the Texel Breeders Society and is president of the Finnsheep Breeders Association. Dr. Threlfall's one daughter and her daughter both raise sheep. He believes there is no one breed of sheep which fits all the requirements of every producer and producers should determine what works for their specific operation.

He currently resides near Powell, Ohio and in addition to his sheep he has an Akbash livestock guardian dog, a donkey, four Quarter Horses, and five barn cats.



Cody L. Manspile **Vice President: 2022, 1st term**

Crooked Bridge Farm
1765 Jacktown Road
Lexington, Virginia 24450
(540) 784-9254

Cody was born in and currently resides in Lexington, Virginia. After graduating high school, Cody attended The World Wide College of Auctioneering in Mason City, Iowa. Back home, Cody built his own auctioneer firm, Circle C Auction Company, L.L.C., and now conducts auctions of estates, business liquidations, real estate, farms, and livestock around the commonwealth of Virginia. He was honored to be named the 2020 Virginia State Reserve Champion Auctioneer. Cody currently sits as the livestock chairman on his local fair board. He is also a board member on the Rockbridge County Sheep and Wool Growers Association. In his spare time Cody is a volunteer firefighter where he also serves as the chaplain. He is a member of the Oxford Presbyterian Church.

Cody is a fourth-generation farmer on his father's side, growing up on a small 45-head commercial cow/calf and hay operation. His love of livestock started at the early age of six when he was given a rooster by the local 4-H leaders. Cody enrolled in the 4-H program at the age of nine, starting with poultry. Once in 6th grade, Cody also began showing goats. After that he added hogs to his interest and by the time he aged out of 4-H he was showing all four species of livestock and poultry. During his time in 4-H, he was able to serve in many officer rolls including being president of the poultry club for six years and the stockman's club for two years. He was on the 4-H livestock judging team for a short while. While on the team, he was able to travel to many different events and make some life-long friends. Cody was also active in the FFA during his high school years.

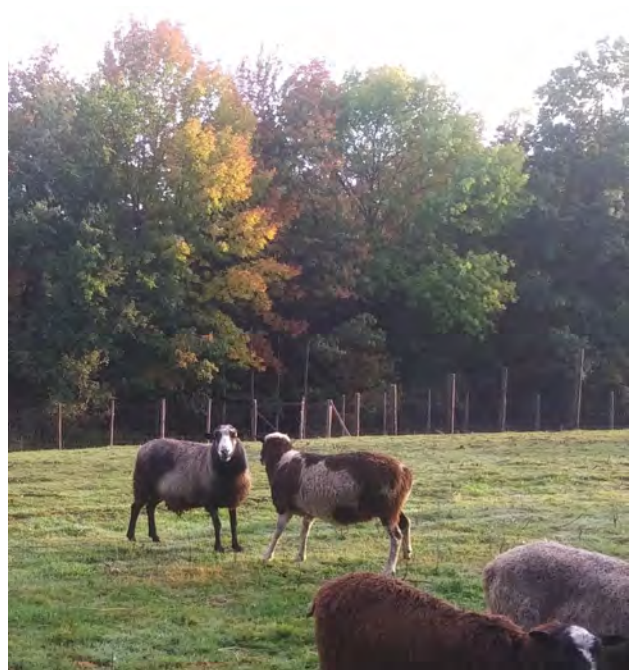
Cody's sheep career began by helping long-time Finnsheep breeders, Naomi Smith of House Mountain Finnsheep. Cody started with a group of commercial Dorsets and North Country Cheviot crosses. Over time and with encouragement from Naomi, his love of purebred sheep began with a group of North Country Cheviots. As Naomi started slowing down, Cody began doing more with the House Mountain Finnsheep flock eventually putting his North Country flock on the back burner. Upon Naomi's passing, Cody received the House Mountain flock and her beloved farm where he currently has purebred Finns, commercial cross-bred sheep, a few head of beef cattle, 80 Red Sex-link laying hens, a Maremma guard dog, a firey red Border Collie, and a lazy old donkey.



Joanna Bullock
Secretary & Director: 2021, 2nd term

Cabriole Farm / Bullock Family Farm
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Plymouth, ME 04969
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joannaporter1@gmail.com

Joanna started her journey with Finnsheep when she began sheep shopping as a hand spinner with a small farm. After looking at many breeds, she chose Finnsheep as they are easy keepers with soft, versatile fleece. Medium sized and friendly, Joanna felt they would be simple to manage. Smooth skinned and naturally short tailed with good hooves means they are easy to keep healthy. And although their wool can come in a variety of colors and characters, it is almost always next-to-skin soft, long, and lustrous. Extra lambs and sweet, mild meat are an added bonus.



Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

Have you been dealing with price declines or additional marketing costs due to COVID-19? USDA’s Farm Service Agency is now accepting applications for direct relief to producers through CFAP until August 28, 2020. Lamb and wool producers have already benefitted from over \$25 million in payments with more than 91% accounting for lambs and yearlings and the rest for graded and non-graded wool (*ASI Weekly*). ASI is now seeking to have added coverage for replacement and cull ewes. Farmers can apply online or manually. Local FSA agents are available for assistance by phone and email. For more information and applications, visit the CFAP website here: <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap>.

Market Summary, Week ending July 3, 2020

Commercial Feeder Prices, (\$/cwt.), Medium and Large 1 2, St. Onge-Newell, SD: \$75.00-\$166.78 per cwt. for 64-103 lbs. (6/25/20); Billings, MT: \$121.00-\$168.00 per cwt. for 51-114 lbs. (6/22/20)

Slaughter Prices – Live, negotiated, Not reported due to confidentiality.

Slaughter Prices – Formula, 83.50 lbs. carcass weight \$217.74 per cwt.

Slaughter Prices “Comprehensive Information”--Formula & Negotiated, 80.91 lbs. carcass weight \$223.67 per cwt.

Equity Electronic Auction, No sale.

Slaughter Prices – Non-traditional, From 2 weeks ago: 60-90 lbs., San Angelo, TX: \$166-\$212; New Holland, PA: \$175-\$195 per cwt.

Federally-inspected slaughter (Week ending 6/20/20): 37,833 head

Cutout Value/Net Carcass Value (1), \$347.25 per cwt.

Carcass Price, Choice and Prime, YG 1-4, weighted average prices (\$/cwt.), *No prices reported.*

Boxed Lamb, weighted average prices (\$/cwt.), Trimmed Loins 4x4 563.91, Rack, roast-ready, frenched (cap-on) 1,541.05, Rack, roast-ready, frenched, special (cap-off) 1,941.21, Leg, trotter-off, partial boneless 458.28, Shoulder, square-cut 331.31, Ground lamb 515.25 (June 30).

Imported Boxed Lamb, weighted average prices (\$/cwt.), AUS Rack (*fresh*, frenched, cap-off, 28 oz/up) 1,064.15, AUS Shoulder (*fresh*, square-cut) 319.47, AUS Leg (*fresh*, semi boneless) 444.38, AUS Rack (*frozen*, frenched, cap-off, 28 oz/up) 869.51, NZ Rack (*frozen*, frenched, cap-off, 20 oz/up) 968.61, AUS Shoulder (*frozen*, square-cut) 279.55.

Exported Slaughter Ewes, 0 head

Source: ASI

Weekly National Market Price for Wool, July 7, 2020

Microns	Repayment Rate (\$)	Weekly Rate (\$)	30-Day Weighted Average (\$)
<18.6	3.58	3.58	3.68
18.6 to 19.5	3.28	3.28	3.39
19.6 to 20.5	3.11	3.11	3.21
20.6 to 22.0	3.28	3.28	3.35
22.1 to 23.5	4.02	4.02	4.02
23.6 to 25.9	2.92	2.92	2.92
26.0 to 28.9	1.39	1.39	1.42
29.0 and over	0.98	0.98	1.02

Source: USDA/FSA

Finnsheep Breeders Association Directory

Join the directory for \$30 per year.

Your listing will appear on the FBA website and in every issue of Short Tales.

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Finnsheep Breeders Association, Inc.

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 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

- 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
- Is a national focal point for Finnsheep Breeders
- Disseminates timely information to members on all matters relating to the breed

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