Chief Shepherd’s Message
By Sandra DeMaster

Greetings,

Fall is in the air and I imagine most of you are starting to plan for breeding in the near future. Time flies. It seems we barely get the lambs raised and we are on to the next season and the next stage in the cycle of raising sheep.

I am currently taking a few days off after having been a vendor at the Michigan Fiber Fest and the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival, which just ended this past weekend (2nd weekend in September). The Finnsheep Breeders Association also had a booth at the Wisconsin festival and all 100 brochures describing Finnsheep were handed out. There were 3 Finn fleeces entered in the wool show and all 3 of them placed in their respective classes. This continues to show Finn fleeces are well received in the spinning and knitting community.

Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival is growing very steadily. This year attendance fell just short of 4000, almost doubling the number of participants last year. It is very similar to the Maryland Sheep and Wool festival and offers classes and seminars on sheep related topics as well as spinning and knitting classes, a sheep show and sale, vendors, and a wool show. Next year’s Finnsheep Breeders Association annual meeting will be held in conjunction with this show. The dates for next year’s festival are September 9, 10 and 11, so mark your calendars now and plan on attending!

This year’s annual meeting was held at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. Seven members attended the meeting, the minutes of which are included in this newsletter. As president of this association, I have some concerns as to how long we can continue to exist with such little member participation. I know some breeders think they can breed their sheep and register them as they wish, but we all need to bear in mind that if the FBA ceases to exist, we will no longer have a means of registering our animals. This could prove disastrous to the breed. If you have Finnsheep or are interested in the breed, please consider joining the association and participating.

I spoke with our registrar’s office today and learned that thus far this year we have 180 registrations. Last year’s total was 375. What do these numbers tell us? Are there fewer Finnsheep in this country every year or are fewer being registered?

I wish you all a successful breeding season.

Sincerely,
Sandy

Editors Notes
By Cindy Smith

Recently my husband and I took a few of our Finns to the sale barn. It was interesting watching the people there trying to figure out what kind of sheep they were. We also found it interesting that there was quite a good amount of people interested in them in the auction ring. One man mentioned he thought Finnsheep only came in white. I have to wonder what other misconceptions abound in the sheep world regarding our beautiful and docile Finns?

Some great news for us all as Finn Wool has really won some recognition this year. Tracy Sengupta’s fleece placed first in the medium white division at the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Show! Sandy Demaster placed first and third with two of her fleeces in the medium natural color division at the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Show. I entered a black fleece and placed second in the medium natural color division at the Nevada Missouri Heart of America Sheep Show and Fiber Fest.

If you have any stories, thoughts, or just good news you would like to share, please send that to me at:

Cindy Smith
HC 65 Box 517
Hominy, OK  74035
or you can email me at Cynthia.Smith@benham.com
MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD
MAY 1, 2004 AT THE DAYS INN MOTEL,
FREDRICK, MD

PRESENT: Naomi Smith (President),
Denny Haugh, Irene Haugh, Tony Haugh,
Sandra DeMaster, Tracey Sengupta, Cynthia
Smith, Grant Blackburn (Secretary)

PRESIDENT. The President opened the
meeting welcoming members and
expressed an appreciation for those
members that had traveled long distances
to attend the meeting.

PREVIOUS MINUTES. The previous
minutes were read and accepted.
Moved: Sandy DeMaster;
Seconded: Denny Haugh. - Carried

TREASURER’S REPORT. The attached
financial statements were presented to the
meeting. The report was accepted by the
meeting.
Moved: Naomi Smith;
Seconded: Sandy DeMaster - Carried

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. One
director’s position, (Grant Blackburn) was
vacated through term limits and Tracey
Sengupta was elected to fill this chair.
Denny Haugh completed the first term and
was elected for the second term.

Cindy Smith agreed to takeover secretarial
duties, while Grant Blackburn will continue
as Treasurer.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS. - Committee
Reports

Health Protocol. This matter was tabled
until the next meeting

Logo. The President displayed the carpet
logo woven in Nepal with finnsheep wool.
The carpet will be part of the display case.

Grant funding future AI. Meeting advised
Paul Hunter had purchased all the
Finnsheep semen and is selling it. The FBA
is not involved with the sale of the semen.

Constitution Revision. To be taken up by
the board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS.

Registrations. The Secretary presented
registration printouts of breeders for 2003.
A total of 375 finnsheep were registered in
2003.

Membership Report. Membership grew with
the addition of nine new members in 2003.

Annual Sale. The matter of holding an
annual sale was discussed. It was agreed
to hold an annual sale in 2005 in
conjunction with the annual meeting,
possibly in Wisconsin. Cindy Smith to
confirm details.
Action: Cindy Smith

Annual meeting. It was agreed to explore
holding the 05 meeting in conjunction with
the Wisconsin sheep and wool festival. It
will be held September 9-11, 2005.
Action: Sandy DeMaster

Scrapie. The President attended a
seminar on Scrapie and advised the
meeting the matter of QQ?RR factors in
finnsheep is not a serious issue. It is
apparent there is some confusion over the
USDA Scrapie programs and it was agreed
an awareness program needs to be
developed to advise breeders on Scrapie
matters.
Action: Naomi Smith

Buying Sheep. The matter of buying sheep
was raised. It was agreed to develop a
guide for buying sheep.
Action: Sandy DeMaster

Adjournment. The meeting agreed to
adjourn at 10:00pm.

Moved: Grant Blackburn;
Seconded: Denny Haugh - Carried
Breeder Profile: Dr. Paul Hunter

I first became aware of the Finn breed in my first animal science class at Ohio State in 1975. Dr. Judy, one of the first importers of Finnsheep from Canada, was a professor at the time. I was fortunate enough to have him for some sheep production classes even though my main interest at the time was Angus cattle.

While in veterinary school at Ohio State I was a work-study student for Dr. Threlfall another pioneer with the Finn Breed. Several of the projects I worked on involved reproduction in sheep. I also had the opportunity to see Dr. Threlfall’s personal flock a few times.

Upon graduation from veterinary school I took a food animal position in west central Ohio. The first place I rented had a bowl shaped side yard that proved difficult to mow. Since it was only one acre it was a bit small for the Angus I dreamed of getting. My budget was also limited due to student loans and such. So I decided to get some sheep.

I went back to Ohio State and spoke with Dr. Judy. Since my interest was commercial production he recommended Finn cross sheep. My first purchase was three Finn cross ewes from Dr. Threlfall. I also purchased two Suffolk ewes later that summer.

The next year farmers asked me to put some sheep around their buildings to eat grass. Since my numbers were limited I went out and purchased 10 more Finn cross ewes. By now the sheep bug had bitten me. In 1989 I decided to try purebred Finns. My first purchase was from the National Sale held in Colorado. I purchased three purebred ewes and a ram sight unseen. Over the next several years I purchased several more purebred animals from Brain Magee and Dan Maurice among others.

The goals for my Finn flock is to develop ewes that could have consistent litter sizes, milk well and lamb every 8 months. After learning of OPP through the FBA, eliminating this disease became another goal. I spent several years testing and orphan rearing lambs.

While working with my swine clients I was exposed to the concept of specific pathogen free (SPF) swine. The procedure was to take the piglets by caesarean section and raise them separately to break the disease cycle. This way, germs (pathogens) could be eliminated from the herd thereby improving performance and lowering costs.

Since I was already taping teats and orphan rearing lambs this seemed like the next logical step. Besides with my schedule, I was not always home when the lambs were born and the tape would come off or the lambs would go too long without nourishment.

So in 1993 I started taking lambs by caesarean and raising them on a separate farm. I started with Suffolks and added Boer goats in 1995. My first Finn surgeries were in 1999. I currently perform 15 to 20 a year as I add new bloodlines and a new breed, Dorsets.

The results have been remarkable. I have tested for Johnes, OPP and Brucella ovis and to date all tests have been negative. No foot rot or contagious abscesses have been found in the flock. As an added bonus I have not had to deworm the sheep since the clean flock’s inception. To maintain the health status of the flock I do maintain strict bio-security standards.

I currently run four different genetic lines of Finns designated by tag color. The current clean flock is comprised of 30 adult ewes and 8 ewe lambs. The donor flock has 8 adult ewes and three ewe lambs. They are run on an intensively grazed pasture made
up of clovers, orchard grass and alfalfa. Currently they are eating turnips as well. I have about 100 ewes on the 12 acre field and I move the fence daily. Last fall the ewes ran on corn stalks after the corn was harvested. My goal is to extend the grazing season and limit the use of stored feeds.

I have had a steady market for breeding stock over the last few years. Sales have been to other purebred breeders and small spinner flocks. This year I also had a large order for Finn cross rams from a large commercial producer that needed to increase his litter size. The excess rams also make nice teasers rams. With the strong lamb market I look forward to my future with the Finn breed.

Finnpower
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REMINDER!! Next Annual Meeting is to be held at the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival, September 9-11, 2005
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Elizabeth Kinne Luke, Stillmeadow Finnsheep.....

Finnsheep In Print Once More!

Several weeks ago the editor of "Hobby Farms Magazine" contacted me for some photographs of Finnsheep to use in their upcoming article about our breed which will in the Jan/Feb issue. It will be in a Q & A column and is edited by Dr. Lyle G. McNeal. The text includes quotes by Dr. Walter Threlfall, Sandy DeMaster, and Grace Hatton of the FBA. I am pleased to say that it is well written and a gives a true representation of our terrific Finns. Appropriate for the season, the picture chosen is a view of two white ewes, fully fleeced, outdoors in the snow. It's always a personal delight to be able to share in the promotion of these wonderful sheep. For additional information about the magazine, go to their website: www.hobbyfarmsmagazine.com

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FINNSHEEP BREEDERS DIRECTORY

CALIFORNIA
Connie Santos,
34843 Wiemiller Rd., Tollhouse, CA 93667
flynsbar@psnw.com
Purebred Finnsheep
Black, white, grey

COLORADO
Janet Herman
7054 S. Hwy. 83
Franktown, CO 80116
(303) 668-9812
Purebred Finnsheep/Crossbred Finnsheep
(Finn/Dorset)
Commercially processed batts. Specializing in out of season lambing

IOWA
Dale L. Amendt
6815 Waterman Blvd.
Sutherland, IA 51058
(712) 446-3489
Purebred Finnsheep/Crossbred Finnsheep
(Finn X Suffolk, Finn X Corriedales)

Marvin Blair
3402 Fletcher Ave.
Lake City, IA 51449
(712) 464-8153
Purebred Finnsheep Crossbred Finnsheep
(Finn X Hamp & Finn Dorset)

MICHIGAN
Don & Sandra Domerese
6600 N Crawford Rd
Rosebush, MI 48878
(989) 386-6887
Finn/Romney, Finn/Cotswold

MONTANA
JT and Julie Korkow
HC 40 Box 28A
Volborg, MT 59351
(406) 554-3123
jtkinmt@midrivers.co
http://www.finnsheep.us
Flock prefix JK, Purebred Finns and Finn/Texel cross. Flock enrolled in VFSCP (MT30), OPP tested, no history of footrot or Johnes. Production of color and white Finns with selection for prolificacy and size.

NEW YORK
Elenore Eimers
8162 Titus Rd
Sherman, NY 14781
(716) 761-6737
Elizabeth Luke
Stillmeadow Finnsheep
HC 65 Box 495
DeRuyter, NY 13052
(315) 852-3344
stillmeadowfinns@hotmail.com
Purebred Finns: white, black, grey, piebald Whole flock tested OPP neg., foot rot free. Enrolled in USDA Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program , NY69. Selected for maternalism, udder quality, broad based genetics. Handspinner fleeces available.

OHIO
Paul J. Hunter, DVM
11425 Bruns Rd.
Fort Loramie, OH 45845
1-800-628-LAMB (5262)
drhunter@bright.net
Breeder of Finnsheep since 1989, Cesarean derived-disease free flock, OPP test negative entire adult flock since 1996, Scrapie Certification Program OH 20, White Finnsheep selected for commercial important traits, 3 separate lines available
for genetic diversity Finn/Dorset and Finn teaser rams also available.

Walter R. Threlfall, DVM
& Barbara A. Threlfall
Falling Tree Ranch
7012 Liberty Road
Powell, OH 43065
(740) 881-4417
OPP negative & entered in Scrapie program. Flock was established in 1977. Crossbreds include Finn/Dorset, Finn/Dorper, Finn/Texel. Ewes and rams available. WRTDVM@aol.com

OKLAHOMA

Cynthia Smith
HC 65 Box 517
Hominy, OK 74035
(918) 885-1284
Cynthia.Smith@Benham.com
http://www.boulderridgefarm.com
Purebred Finnsheep, OPP, Johnes and Footrot free, Voluntary Scrapie Program (OK001926). Breeding for maternal instincts, prolificacy, size & wool quality. Also raise Great Pyrenees Livestock Guardian Dogs.

PENNYSYLVANIA

Grace Hatton
HC 8 Box 8151
Hawley, PA 18428
(717) 775-9136
hatton@microserve.net
http://home.ptd.net/~hatton7/
Purebred Finnsheep, white and black, since 1986, OPP negative, Enrolled VSCP-PA 43, Spinning wheel repair, antique wheels for sale.

Dale and Martha Livermore
RR 5 Box 134A
Brookville, PA 15825
(814) 328-2720

June Roshong
P.O. Box 276
St Peters, PA 19470-0276
(610) 326-5612
e-mail: lelu@oco.net
www.geocities.com/finnsheep
OPP tested Negative. We have been breeding Finnsheep since 1995. Registered and unregistered, color and white. Mostly triplets & quads.

Megan Loyd-Thompson
1140 Creek Road
Carlisle, PA 17013
(717) 249-4321
cowdance@epix.net
Purebred Finnsheep, color and white rams with very fine fleeces. Micron tested. Naturally colored and white handspinning fleeces available.

VIRGINIA

Grant W. Blackburn
“Anzar Sheep”
142 Gravel Lane
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-4594
anzar@rockbridge.net
Purebred Finnsheep, Breeder of Finnsheep since 1994, participating in Finnsheep semen importation and specializing in high quality pure white pedigree livestock. We have never had scrapie, foot rot or OPP and the flock is enrolled (VA18) in the USDA Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program.

Grace G. Robelen
A—Plus Farm
Route 4, Box 369
Farmville, VA 23901
(434) 392-3451
aplusfarm@hovac.com
Breeder of healthy, quality white registered Finnsheep and a few Finn/Dorsets. We also
raise white registered Angora goats and healthy, sensible AKC Collies.

Joe and Naomi Smith
House Mountain Finnsheep
1765 Jacktown Road
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-6062

Linda and Leanna Witt
154 Quail Call Lane
Amissville, VA 20106
(540) 937-4707
linda@MistyMountainFarm.com
www.MistyMountainFarm.com

WASHINGTON
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TRIPLE L FINNSHEEP
Dan and Leanne Hughes
89202 N. Harrington Road
West Richland, WA. 99353
(509) 967-3975
danlea23@msn.com
purebred white, black and gray finnsheep, all ages. OPP and disease free flock. Breeding records since 1982. Breeding for size, milking and lambing ability.

WEST VIRGINIA
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Melissa Orr
604 Orr Drive
Martinsburg, WV 25401
(304) 267-4754
Morrsheep@aol.com
Purebred Finnsheep, Crossbred Finnsheep (with Shetlands). Beautiful healthy reg. rams & ewes. Excellent fleeces, roving, handspun/millspun yarns, handknitted and woven items for sale.

WISCONSIN
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Sandy De Master
Wee Croft Finnsheep
N 7087 Hillside Dr.
Watertown, WI 53094
(920) 699-7420
weecroft@execpc.com
www.weecroftfinnsheep.com
Linda and Leanna Witt
154 Quail Call Lane
Amissville, VA 20106
(540) 937-4707
linda@MistyMountainFarm.com
www.MistyMountainFarm.com

TRACY SENGUPTA
Firefly Fields Finnsheep
4110 W. Plymouth Church Rd.
Beloit, WI  53511
608-361-1446
tracy@fireflyfields.com
www.fireflyfields.com/finns

TRIPLE L FINNSHEEP
Dan and Leanne Hughes
89202 N. Harrington Road
West Richland, WA. 99353
(509) 967-3975
danlea23@msn.com
purebred white, black and gray finnsheep, all ages. OPP and disease free flock. Breeding records since 1982. Breeding for size, milking and lambing ability.

WEST VIRGINIA
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Melissa Orr
604 Orr Drive
Martinsburg, WV 25401