Chief Shepherd's Message
by Tracy Sengupta

Greetings!! By now, all of you should have received an envelope containing the Call to the Annual Meeting as well as a blue postcard for the member survey. If you have already returned your postcard, thanks! If not, please drop it in the mail today. It already has a stamp on it, so you don’t even have to search the corners of your desk to find one.

This mailing went out to the 130 people that the FBA has on record as lifetime members. Some members pay their annual activity fee each year in order to receive Short Tales, take advantage of the Breeders’ Directory and on-line For Sale page. Others only pay the activity fee in years when they have lambs to register.

The board was interested to know how many of these 130 people are still involved in raising sheep and more specifically Finnsheep. By knowing how many people are still involved in raising Finnsheep, who they are and where they are located we can set goals for the organization, better spend our advertising dollars etc. If for some reason you have not received this mailing or know another member who hasn’t, please contact me at tracy@fireflyfields.com or 608-361-1446 and give me your correct address.

Just a reminder that the mailing schedule of Short Tales is as follows... The January issue of ST goes out to all individuals (members and non-members) who have conducted business with the FBA in the past 2 years. This serves to remind members to pay their Annual Activity Fee and Breeders’ Directory Fee and also to encourage others to join the FBA. (For example, new Finn owners who have had registrations transferred to them in the previous 2 years.) The other two issues of ST are mailed only to those who have paid their annual activity fee for the year. So if you have a friend who didn’t receive this issue of ST, the best thing for them to do, would be to contact treasurer, Grant Blackburn at anzar@rockbridge.net or 540-463-4594 OR the Milo, Iowa office at 641-942-6402 to be sure their 2007 Annual Activity fee was paid/received.

I hope to see many of you at the Ohio Sheep Day on July 14th and FBA Annual Meeting on July 15th in Wooster.

PHOTO: ANZAR (GRANT BLACKBURN)
A Note from Newsletter Editor  
By TERRIE P. GODFREY

It's HOT HOT HOT here in Northern Ohio so here I am sitting under the air conditioning thinking of what to put as a note to all you FINN lovers and I keep coming up short. So this will be “Short and Sweet”

I do hope everyone had a successful lambing season, ours started out pretty rough but ending great. This was our first year of lambing and I felt after reading all the books and scouring the internet for weeks I was ready, willing, and waiting. Well, after our first ewe had her lambs I was so stressed and ready to give up. I regrouped, took all that “BOOK LEARNING” and threw it out the window and went with my instincts. Once I realized these ewes “REALLY” knew what to do, everything went smooth and I began to enjoy the process.

With our first lambing season under our belt, I have taken all of the highs and lows and summed it up to a remarkable and fulfilling time in our lives. I would recommend to anyone who wants to listen getting a Finn sheep and enjoying them like we do, they would never regret it. Have a great summer, stay cool, and we will see you in the fall.

PHOTO: FIREFLY FIELDS (TRACY SENGUPTA)

REMINDER TO MEMBERS

Just a short reminder that the Annual Activity and Breeders’ Directory Listing Fees are now due. You can find more information as well as a copy of the applications on the FBA website and enclosed in this newsletter.

A note from the webmaster:

PLEASE look at your listing in the Breeders’ Directory and check its accuracy.

There is a copy in this newsletter and also one on the website at www.finnsheep.org/directory.htm

In the past, I have tried to use some of the email addresses or phone numbers only to find out they were wrong or outdated.

If you find an error please inform the Milo office: 641-942-6402  
and/or  
contact me: tracy@fireflyfields.com or Tracy Sengupta, 4110 W. Plymouth Church Road, Beloit, WI 53511

If I can’t find you, then your prospective buyers can’t either!!
Disaster Funds Included in Supplemental Bill

The U.S. Congress passed a $120 billion emergency supplemental spending bill that provides about $3 billion for agriculture disaster assistance. This provision provides needed relief to farmers and ranchers nationwide who experienced serious losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007. The provision was part of the supplemental spending bill that includes funding for the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The package was approved Thursday night by a vote of 280-142 in the U.S. House and 80-14 in the U.S. Senate.

President Bush is expected to sign the measure.

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) has worked for disaster relief for sheep producers hit hard by the drought conditions the over past two years that cut through the core of sheep producing states. After two consecutive years of growth in the U.S. sheep industry, inventory fell slightly in 2006 despite strong markets, pointing to the lack of availability of feed and water as the primary cause.

Peter Orwick, ASI executive director applauded the inclusion of the Livestock Compensation Assistance in the package as it is an effective financial program for producers carrying bills and debt incurred from higher feed costs.

"After more than a year in lobbying efforts, we are anxious to have the programs implemented and financial assistance into the countryside," concluded Orwick.

Staff contact: Peter Orwick, ext. 33

AS! Makes ALB Nominations

In a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) provided a slate of nominees for consideration for appointment as producer-directors of the American Lamb Promotion, Research and Information Board, more commonly referred to as the American Lamb Board.

H. Dwight Loveday, Ph.D. (Tenn.), and Nick Forrest (Ohio) were put forward for the producer category representing 100 head of lambs or less. In the more than 500 head of lambs category for producers, Loren Moench, Jr. (Utah) and David McEwen (Mont.) were submitted as nominees for the board.

"I believe you will find the slate provides full opportunity to appoint experienced and dedicated producers who have served their industry at the local, state and national level and who meet the requirements of the order regarding size of operation," stated Burdell Johnson, ASI president, in his letter to the secretary.

Loveday is a sheep producer and extension specialist for the University of Tennessee as well as a meat scientist. He raises both purebred and commercial sheep with direct marketing to consumers.

Involved in the sheep industry for over 30 years, Forrest is a manager for Kroger Foods and runs a family operation of 30 head of sheep. He promotes American lamb at work, on the farm and at food shows.

Moench is a veteran of the sheep industry with 45 years of production experience owning and managing Thousand Peaks Ranches, Inc. where he runs a commercial flock of 9,000 ewes. Moench is seeking a second term with the ALB.

McEwen's more than 20 years of experience encompass wool production, lamb feeding and replacement ewes. He owns 650 stock ewes and 18 registered rams.

"These individuals are very capable of making decisions in cooperation with the feeding and packing sectors represented on this diverse, industry-wide board," continued Johnson.

The ASI executive board voted unanimously via a teleconference meeting this week to nominate these individuals to the two producer director seats that are to be appointed this year.

Staff contact: Peter Orwick, ext. 33

House Begins Drafting Farm Bill

The House Agriculture Committee started the process this week of crafting the new Farm Bill. The House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry on Thursday approved its 2007 Farm Bill proposals following the week's earlier legislation provided by Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (Minn.).

Two items of note for the American sheep industry in this action include the loan deficiency program (LDP) for wool and interstate movement of
state-inspected meat.

According to Peter Orwick, executive director of the American Sheep Industry Association, "The increased base loan rate for the wool LDP will be considered by the full agriculture committee of the House in June, most likely."

Regarding the meat legislation, Rep. Steve Kagen (Wisc.) offered an amendment to allow interstate sales of state-inspected meat and poultry. The amendment was discussed, but further action was referred to the agriculture committee. The Kagen amendment contains the same language as the Pomeroy (N.D.)-Blunt (Mo.) bill (H.R. 2315) and the Hatch (Utah) bill (S. 1150).

Orwick relayed the encouraging discussion on interstate meat held between Subcommittee Chairman Leonard Boswell (Iowa), Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (Minn.), and Ranking Member Bob Goodlatte (Va.) in which each expressed that the interstate meat shipment legislation should be accomplished in the 2007 Farm Bill.

Also of interest to sheep producers was the discussion regarding the repeal of the current prohibition on mandatory animal identification to support country of origin labeling for meat.

The Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy and Research met on Tuesday to approve proposals for the Farm Bill titles under its jurisdiction.

The subcommittee considered discussion drafts outlining each title and approved several amendments by voice vote.

In the area of conservation, amendments that were approved include making the benefits of grassland protection a long-term priority and expanding the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) to include projects that simultaneously address rural community development opportunities and environmental enhancement.

The research title reauthorizes many important research programs and establishes new initiatives for specialty crops and for bioenergy and bio-based products research.

The credit title expands access to farm credit in order to further support renewable energy initiatives and creates a new loan guarantee program for producers to carry out conservation projects.

Copies of the discussion drafts and the amendments approved by the subcommittee are available online at http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/2007FarmBill.html.

Resource for Interstate Meat Sales Online

The National Association for State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) has introduced a new section to its Web site designated entirely to address the issues surrounding interstate meat sales. The address is www.nasda.org/InterstateMeatShipment.

The Web site includes a number of resources, including the members of the Coalition for Fair Agriculture and Rural Markets (FARM), copies of legislation, bill summaries, press releases, issue papers, fact sheets and other information. There is also a "Petition to Congress" and addresses for House and Senate Agriculture Committee members.

On Monday, FARM forwarded a letter to the members of the U.S. House of Representatives expressing strong support for legislation that would allow state-inspected meat and poultry to be sold in the national marketplace. The letter contained 73 signatures from national, state and local organizations of which the American Sheep Industry Association was one.

Two bills have been introduced in the House-H.R. 1760 by Rep. Ron Kind (Wisc.); and H.R. 2315 by Reps. Earl Pomeroy (N.D.) and Roy Blunt (Mo.). According to the coalition, both bills will allow interstate sales of state-inspected meat and poultry.

Kent Launches New Brand, Global Vision

Kent Manufacturing formally unveiled a bold new brand, KENTWOOL, for the South Carolina-headquartered company during its annual board of directors meeting held Thursday.

The highly innovative textile company, which has been in business for 164 years, also presented its new global vision of becoming the premier wool innovation and manufacturing company in the world.

KENTWOOL recently became the first company in America to produce an extraordinarily fine wool yarn of unprecedented quality for a discriminating international customer. It is one of only a handful of companies in the world capable of achieving this highly specialized manufacturing feat. The high caliber, "superfine" wool product will be used exclusively by world renowned, Loro Piana, which integrates the 1/96 superfine yarn into the creation of Italian, handmade business suits that retail for approximately $12,000.

Mark Kent, KENTWOOL president and CEO, stated, "There is no question that producing this super fine yarn puts us into a very exclusive club worldwide. Our vision to be the most innovative
wool company in the world comes one step closer to reality as we announce our arrival on this unique global industry stage."

KENTWOOL has a diversified wool-based knitting, spinning, weaving and industrial product portfolio. Several new product innovations are under development.

Visit www.kentwool.com for more information.

Reprinted in part from KENTWOOL Press Release

U.S. and Canada Get "Controlled Risk" Designation

Both the United States and Canada have been classified as "control risk" regions by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). This designation technically allows the two countries to export beef from cattle of any age to foreign markets.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns issued the following statement:

"I'm pleased to report that the World OIE has formally classified the United States as a controlled risk country for BSE. This classification confirms what we have always contended—that U.S. regulatory controls are effective and that U.S. fresh beef and beef products from cattle of all ages can be safely traded due to our interlocking safeguards.

"We appreciate OIE's review of our application, as well as its leadership in developing sound, science-based standards that will help countries standardize regulations and import requirements. The U.S. is taking action to achieve compliance with OIE standards, and we ask the same of our trading partners.

"We will use this international validation to urge our trading partners to reopen export markets to the full spectrum of U.S. cattle and beef products. We are notifying our trading partners of our expectation that they commit to a time frame to amend import requirements and expand access to their markets to reflect this controlled risk determination. We will use every means available to us to ensure that countries rapidly take steps to align their requirements with international standards."

Reprinted in part from USDA Press Release

MAP and FMD Increases Requested

Sens. Dick Durbin (Ill.) and Gordon Smith (Ore.) are circulating a letter in the U.S. Senate expressing their support for the reauthorization and expansion of the Market Access Program (MAP) and the Foreign Market Development (FMA) program to $325 million and $50 million, respectively, in the new Farm Bill.

"The MAP and FMD programs effectively leverage public and private resources to invest in activities that overcome trade barriers, establish and build export markets overseas and increase farmer profitability," the drafters of the letter stated.

This request increases MAP funding from $200 million up to $325 million and FMD funds from $34.5 million to $50 million.

The American Sheep Industry Association utilized these funds to promote sheep industry products overseas.

Wildlife Advisory Meeting Announced

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for June 19-20, 2007. The meeting will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at the Utah State University Inn in Logan, Utah.

The meeting will focus on operational and research activities and will be open to the public. Among the topics to be discussed will be the following: Wildlife Service's (WS) efforts to increase operational capacity through prioritizing research objectives; pertinent national programs; and ensuring that WS remains a participant in agricultural protection.

Supporting sheep industry issues on this committee are: Nina Baucus, a Montana rancher; Maurice Shelton, Ph.D., a Texas rancher and Texas A&M University educator; Patti Strand, current director of the National Animal Interest Alliance from Oregon; and Bryce Reece, producer and executive director of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association.

Due to time constraints, the public will not be able to participate in the committee's discussions. However, written statements concerning meeting topics may be filed with the committee. Additional information is available at http://a257.g.akamals.net/7/257/2422/01Jan2007/1800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-9896.htm.

The National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee advises the secretary of agriculture concerning policies, program issues and research needed to conduct the WS program. The committee also serves as a public forum enabling those affected by the WS program to have a voice in the program's policies.
How about a west coast festival!

If the high cost of fuel is getting you down, and keeping you from visiting some of the east coast and midwest shows, please consider the Lambtown, USA Festival in Dixon, CA. Our Fiber Fair has grown significantly over the last several years, and the caliber of vendors, instructors and classes has become amongst the best in the country.

The 21st Annual Lambtown, USA Festival will take place on Saturday, July 28, 2007 in a new location, Hall Park! Fiber artist from all over the country will be converging on Dixon, California for this free one day event, where the National Spinning Competition is held. Celebrating the lamb and wool industries, Lambtown features vendor and food booths each providing items made of lamb or wool, or promoting sheep themed gifts, toys, housewares and decor, and fiber competitions and demonstrations. Main attractions include the Wool, Mohair and Alpaca Fleece show and sale, Sheep-to-shawl competition, Shearing demonstrations, Skeins and Textile Competitions, Fine Arts show and sale, lamb cooking demonstrations and many classes and workshops.

Shoppers will find everything from hand-blown beads to spinning wheels, hand made furniture, alpaca, wool, angora, cashmere and various other natural and man made fibers. Handspun (and commercial) yarns, hand dyed and knitted or woven garments, sheepskins are a special feature of the fiber fair which draws thousands of knitters, weavers, crotcheters, felters and other fiber artists to this little town in the Sacramento Valley... the festival doubles the population of the town for the day.

Classes and workshops are open to the public for a small fee. These will include spinning, dyeing, weaving and animal husbandry topics from some of the best instructors on the west coast. A full list of classes is available on the Lambtown, USA website. www.lambtown.com/class07.html. For more information, you can contact the Lambtown staff at 707 678-7386

dcarpio@lambtown.com
www.lambtown.com

Photo: ELDORADO (TERRIE GODFREY)
SHORT TALES ADVERTISING RATES
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Advance payment on all ads required

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Please put "ST Classified" in the subject line or send your hard copy and fee to Terrie Godfrey, 450 Salem Drive, Vermilion, OH 44089

Counting Words: Phone numbers count as one word. Each number and two letter initial count as one word. For example "J. M. Wright" is two words, and "P. O. Box 999" is three words. Hyphenated words, (e.g.: Jones-Smythe) count as separate words.
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flynsbar@psnw.com
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SFPC: Enrolled status; Flock# MA19
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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.

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jsbarber@hotmail.com
Purebred Finnsheep

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Stillmeadow Finnsheep
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DeRuyter, NY 13052
(315) 852-3344
stillmeadowfinns@hotmail.com

NORTH CAROLINA

Guenther and Evelyn Baerje
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www.eldoradofins.com

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Flock Prefix: Eldorado  
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(540) 463-4594
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www.MistyMountainFarm.com


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