



FINNSHEEP SHORT TALES

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<http://www.finnsheep.org>

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Chief Shepherd's Message

-- Leanne Hughes

Here comes my favorite time of year – lambing! That's when I see where I went right (or wrong) with my breeding plans. Of course, this time of year is the "it seems so exciting, gee, I can't wait, I want to see what I get" time. It's better than Christmas. About week 2 of lambing though I'm thinking – will it ever end? But who can resist one of our lambs – so cute, friendly and cuddly. I want to keep them all!

I've had Finns since 1982, and the newness still hasn't worn off for me. I still can't wait to see "what I get" even though by now, I've almost gotten just about every color and type I've wanted. I've come a long way from the first three animals that I brought home to my little flock of crossbred ewes. I think they are the perfect sheep – easy to handle, productive, colorful (nice fleeces), and tender meat. I think everyone should have one.

I'd like to get the message of Finns out to everyone, so I'm asking everyone for ideas. I like seeing the youth get involved, for they are the future of Finns. If you have ideas, share them. Send them to myself or the other board members. Let's see if we can get the word about this wonderful breed out to everyone!

Lots of luck to everyone with their lambing!

Leanne Hughes
Triple L Finnsheep

FBA Board & Officers 2009-2010

President:

Leanne Hughes, Class of 2010 (1st Term)

Triple L Finnsheep

89202 N. Harrington Rd.

West Richland, WA 99353

509-539-6745

Leanne@TripleLFinnsheep.com

Vice-President:

Clark BreDahl, Class of 2011 (First Term)

Mormon Trail Farm

1911 290th Street

Greenfield, IA 50849

641-745-2323

mtfarms@mddc.com

Secretary:

Elizabeth Kinne Gossner, Class of 2012

Stillmeadow Finnsheep

5883 Randall Hill Rd

De Ruyter, New York 13052

315-852-3344

stillmeadowfinnsheep@frontiernet.net

Treasurer:

Grant W. Blackburn

Anzar Sheep

P.O. Box 274

Lexington, VA 24450

540-463-4594

anzar@rockbridge.net

Director:

Joe Smith, Class of 2012 (2nd Term)

House Mountain Finnsheep

765 Jacktown Rd

Lexington, VA 24450

540-463-6062

Director:

Grace Hatton, Class of 2011 (1st Term)
Hatton Finnsheep
177 Hatton Road
Hawley, PA 18428
570-775-9136
hatton@ptd.net

Director:

Heidi Trimbur, Class of 2010 (First Term)
Trimbur Finnsheep Organics
58 Bitting Road
Alburtis, PA 18011
610-845-3607
htrimbur@dejazzd.com

**FBA Director Profile: Joe Smith
House Mountain Finnsheep****HOUSE MOUNTAIN FINNSHEEP**

Joe and Naomi Smith got their first Finnsheep from the Judy Family's Glen Avon flock in 1985. Jack Judy had been head of the sheep department at Ohio State University, but was retired when they got their sheep.

In the late 1950's Joe Smith had been on the OSU wool judging team with legends of the sheep industry, Charlie Parker and Gary Ricketts, although Joe's first love was Angus cattle. He had worked with several beef herds in Illinois, New York and Virginia.

When they bought their Virginia farm, Naomi said they needed Finnsheep and that was the only breed they ever owned. They bought a pair of quad sisters from Glen Avon as well as two unrelated triplet half-sisters. They went back the following year and picked out – without realizing it –

two quad sisters to one of the triplet ewes that had been for sale the previous year.

Their first ram lamb came from Brian Magee, but the ram lamb was killed in his first year by a neighbor's ram when the neighbor's flock was attacked by dogs and their ram escaped.

Next they got a ram that was a sextuplet imported from Canada. His pedigree showed the original names in Finnish. They even tried AI using the imported semen from Finland, and got one ewe from that breeding. She only had a single as a yearling, but went on to have quads and a set of quintts. She is still in the flock. In fact Naomi says there are about 20 ten year old ewes that will lamb in their flock this year. She says Finns are wonderful mothers. Over the years they've had one set of septuplets and two sets of sextuplets. Rams from those litters were used as flock sires.



Today they still run about 150 head of Finn ewes. They sell 70-90 lb ram lambs at the livestock auction in Staunton, VA. Undocked, intact ram lambs are in demand in the ethnic market. Naomi says last year Staunton prices were a few cents higher than those at the New Holland, PA sale.

The couple concentrates on selling Finn breeding stock. Rams are quads, quintts

and sextuplets. Ewes are sold as lambs or bred to lamb at one year old.

They sell some of their wool at the Fall Fiber Festival and Montpelier Sheep Dog Trials.

An entrepreneur bought a bag of their wool to blend with Corriedale wool to make clothing products so they are interested to see how that will work out in the future.

Each year there are some ewes in the flock which lamb twice a year, sometimes with quads in the spring and quints in the fall. Many produce six lambs a year on twice a year schedule.

Naomi says their Finn rams are easy to manage, but quiet individuals. They have never had one become mean nor have any of their customers reported a mean one.

These days when the ASI is researching ways to promote the United States Sheep Industry, there is no more environmentally sustainable attribute to the industry than the use of Finnsheep genetics.

Jim and Mary Scholefield	5
Jennifer and David Miles	4
Deborah Olshefski	4
Rachel Stevens	3
Mary and Herb Tucker	2
Clark Bredahl	2
John and Mary O'Malley	2
Rodney Garrett	1
Gail Von Bargaen	1
Abby Wilt	1
Diane Lalomia	1
Kathryn McMahon	1
Whitney Family	1

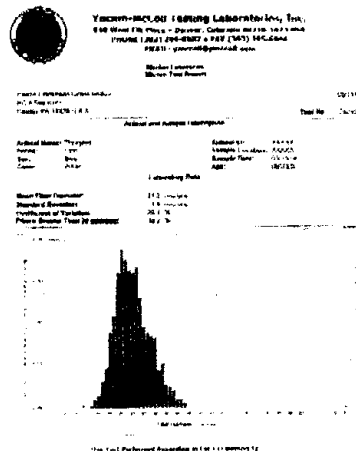
WOOL PRODUCTION: MICRON TESTING by Grace Hatton

One aspect of wool production is to learn about fiber diameter and consistency. Micron testing shows the average fiber diameter and the number of fibers to either side of the average.

The most consistent fleece would have a fairly narrow graph with few outliers. This is a micron test of a yearling Finn ewe with a mean fiber diameter of 24.2 microns, or about one quarter the thickness of a human hair.

Finns registered by flock 09

Dale and Martha Livermore	42
Terrie Godfrey	34
Leanne Hughes	29
Elizabeth Kinne Gossner	28
Marvin Blair	19
Joe and Naomi Smith	17
Sandra Wilford	13
Marilee Imker	13
Heidi Trimbur	11
Paul Hunter	11
Amy Cook	9
Tracy Sengupta	9
Grace Hatton	9
Dale Amendt	9
Linda Witt	8
Laura Byrd Timney	8
Tim Reese	7



A sheep with a tendency to have a double coat would show two distinct peaks with one of those in the coarser range which would show the longer outercoat.

Once the test results are in, what to do with them? Perhaps one might consider selecting for finer wool. When I tried exactly that for a couple of years with our small Finn flock, I found the while the crimpiness increased, fleece length and weight decreased and some lambs were born with such a fine, short birth coat, that there really was not enough fleece to keep a newborn lamb warm.

Crimpiness can be measured as the number of waves per inch or centimeter in a strand of fiber. Crimpiness is at odds with luster of fiber. Extreme crimp actually scatters the light rays that fall on the fleece. For this reason, while Merino and Rambouillet wools are very fine and soft, they lack the luster of Finn wool.

Merino and Rambouillet sheep have much greater density of wool follicles in their fleeces which is why their fleeces weigh so much more than Finn fleeces even though they have a shorter staple. A Rambouillet ram fleece at the 2010 PA Farm Show weighed about 14 lbs. A Finn ram would be unlikely to produce a skirted fleece that weighed much over five or six pounds (once a year shearing).

An advantage of Finn fleeces is that they have far less lanolin so there is less waste per fleece and are more easily cleaned compared to some breeds. Finn fleece has both wonderful luster and silky hand and is near the top of the list of favorites of hand spinners.

WELCOME HONORARY MEMBERS!

At the annual meeting, we voted to make first time buyers of Finnsheep honorary members for the balance of the calendar year. We hope they will become life members of the FBA (one time fee of \$35.)

Welcome new members:

Terri Drimel
Sarah Bean
Donna Howard
Amy Detwiler
Nitya Akeroyd

WHAT MAKES SHEEP WHITE?

All sheep are genetically black or brown. What makes sheep white is one or two copies of the pattern gene for white. The white pattern blocks the colors.

If a sheep has two copies of the white pattern gene, one from each parent, it is not possible for that sheep to have colored offspring.

So how is it possible for the occasional black sheep to show up in all white flocks?

In order for a black lamb to be produced in an all white flock, two parents – each carrying only one copy of the white pattern gene, fail to pass on ANY white pattern genes to that lamb.

If each parent has only one copy of the white pattern gene, they can have offspring that have two copies of the white gene (one from each parent), offspring with one copy of the white pattern gene – like the parents, and if the offspring didn't get any copies of the white pattern gene, that lamb will be black or rarely brown.

Sheep color genetics is a fascinating topic. There are many more patterns and colors that combine in intricate and fascinating combinations.

ADVERTISING PHOTOS REQUESTED

Do you have exceptional photographs of your Finnsheep that can be used in national FBA ads?

Here is an opportunity to promote our breed, with an accent on your individual flock as well.

Clear uncluttered photos which emphasize the best Finnsheep qualities are needed for ads in The Shepherd and Sheep! magazines. Each picture chosen will be credited to the individual farm and offer a personalized comment.

Example: Jane Doe of XYZ Farm in Yourtown, NJ prefers Finnsheep because "They can lamb year round."

For consideration, please send pictures to Elizabeth Kinne Gossner at stillmeadowfinnsheep@frontiernet.net

All FBA members in good standing are welcome to participate.

NEW FBA YOUTH PROGRAM!

In conjunction with its newly designed website, the FBA is rolling out its new Youth Membership Program. The FBA realizes that youth are the key to the future growth of the breed and it would like to extend a warm welcome to all youth who would like to get involved with the Association and the Finnsheep breed.

As part of our roll out, the FBA is having a photo contest just for our youth members! Please check out all the details for the contest via our website:

www.finnsheep.org - just click on the Youth page. Kids with ideas for the Youth page should submit them to our webmaster, Heidi Trimbur at htrimbur@dejazzd.com or they can call her direct at 610-845-3607. Anyone wishing to get involved with the Youth membership should contact the FBA secretary at: htrimbur@dejazzd.com or via telephone at 610-845-3607. We look forward to hearing from you!

FBA Updates its Website

In November the FBA published its updated website on the internet. A result of a countless amount of input from members and others, the website features a quick, easy navigation style, the new FBA logo, promotional items, a page just for youth and updated photos of Finnsheep and Finn wool. An educational, links-based page is

currently being developed and it will contain links to a wide variety of interesting, educational sites, suitable for all ages, as well as access to back issues of Short Tales which should be available soon.

Our website designer and current webmaster, Heidi Trimbur, would like to thank everyone for their suggestions and contributions during the development and design process. As always, new ideas, photos, suggestions and comments can be sent to Heidi at htrimbur@dejazzd.com. By working together in a respectful manner, we can continue to improve on the quality of representation we provide to the Finn breed!

SHORT TALES ADVERTISING RATES AND PROCEDURES

Rates for One Issue of ST Plus a 4 month run on the FBA website:	
Classified per word:	members \$0.10 nonmembers \$0.15
Display: Business card	members \$5.00 nonmembers \$7.50
¼ Page: (approx. 3.5" by 5")	members \$10.00 nonmembers \$15.00
½ Page: (approx. 3.5" by 10" or 7" by 5")	members \$20.00 nonmembers \$30.00
Full Page (approx. 7" by 10")	members \$40.00 nonmembers \$60.00
Advance payment on all ads required	

Send your ad copy to Hatton@ptd.net Please put "ST Classified" in the subject line or send your hard copy and fee to Grace Hatton, 177 Hatton Road, Hawley, PA 18428

Counting Words: Phone numbers count as one word. Each number and two letter initial count as one word. For example "I. M. Wright" is two words, and "P. O. Box 999" is three words. Hyphenated words, (e.g.: Jones-Smythe) count as separate words.

**Finnsheep Breeders Association
Breeders Directory**

Connecticut

Rhonda Jaacks

Harlequin Farm
132 White Hollow Rd
Lakeville CT 06039
860-435-9865
rjaacks@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.HarlequinFarm.etsy.com>
Coming in 2009!
<http://www.HarlequinFarm.us> Purebred
Finnsheep
Flock prefix: Harlequin
Breeding stock, fleece, yarn, knitted goods.

Colorado

Janet Herman

Rock Ridge Ranch (est. 1874)
7054 S.Hwy. 83
Franktown, CO 80116
303-688-6812
cfherman@juno.com
Purebred Finnsheep and Crossbred Finn/Dorset
Commercially processed batts. Spinning fleeces,
both black & white
Specializing in out of season lambing.

Indiana

David & Pam Hoover

Rooster's Run Farm
5197 SW Washington Sch Rd
Salem, IN 47167
812-896-1223
pamco@blueriver.net
www.rrfiberfarm.com

Purebred Finnsheep, Finn x Shetland
Flock Prefix: RRF
Enrolled Status; Mandatory Scrapie Program
since 2002; Flock# IN 88035.

Breeding Stock, Finn Shetland Crosses, Yarn
Rovings & Fleeces, Angora Goats, Angora
Rabbits & Llamas.

Iowa

Dale L. Amendt

6815 Waterman Blvd
Sutherland, IA 51058
712-446-3489

Purebred Finnsheep
Crossbred Finnsheep (Finn X Suffolk, Finn X
Corriedale)

Marvin Blair

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

Clark BreDahl

Mormon Trail Farm
1911 290th Street
Greenfield, IA 50849
641-745-2323
mtfarms@mddc.com

Purebred Finnsheep
Crossbred Finnsheep (Finn x Dorset)
Flock Prefix: MTF

Maryland

Phil and Judy Osborn

Abundance Acres
9713 Crystall Falls Drive
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Office: 240-556-0627
Home: 301-791-1110
abundance.acres@myactv.net
<http://www.abundantfiber.com>

SFCP: Enrolled status since 2006; Flock# NY103

Finn x Dorset – leaner meat carcass. Finn x Shetlands – less britch and additional softness. White, colored and pied with lines from Stillmeadow, Hatton, and Misty Mountain lines.

Ohio

Paul J. Hunter, DVM

11425 Bruns Road
Fort Loramie, Ohio 45845
1-800-628-LAMB(5262)
FAX 1-419-628-3532
drhunter@bright.net

Purebred Finnsheep, Finn / Dorset Crosses, Suffolks
SFCP Enrolled Status; Flock#OH20

Breeder of Finnsheep since 1989. Cesarean derived-disease free flock. OPP test negative entire adult flock since 1996.

White Finnsheep selected for commercial important traits. 3 separate lines available for genetic diversity
Finn/Dorset and Finn teaser rams also available

OKLAHOMA

Cynthia Smith

698 County Road 2603
Hominy, OK 74035
918-519-4140
Cindyusmith@yahoo.com
www.boulderridgefarm.com

Purebred Finnsheep, Finn / Lincoln Crosses
Finnsheep breeding stock, white and color.
Lincoln/Finn crosses also available. Fleeces available. OPP, Johnes and Footrot negative, Scrapie Certification Program - Oklahoma 1926.
Breeding for maternal instincts, prolificacy, & wool quality. Also raise Great Pyrenees LGD.

Pennsylvania

Grace Hatton

Hatton Finnsheep
177 Hatton Road
Hawley, PA 18428
570-775-9136
hatton@ptd.net
<http://antique-spinning-wheels.blogspot.com>
<http://finnsheep.etsy.com>

Purebred Finnsheep
SFCP Certified Status; Flock# PA43
Since 1986. OPP negative tested; b.ovis negative tested. Certified Scrapie Free Status - PA 43
Fully functioning antique spinning wheels and accessories.

Heidi Trimbur

Trimbur Finnsheep Organics
58 Bitting Road
Alburtis, PA 18011
610-845-3607
htrimbur@dejazzd.com
www.trimburfieldfinnsheep.com

Purebred Finnsheep
Flock Prefix: TFO
Specializing in organic Finnsheep with high quality colored/white fleeces, correct conformation and excellent herd health.

Virginia

Joe and Naomi Smith

House Mountain Finnsheep
1765 Jacktown Rd.
Lexington, VA 24450
540-463-6062

Purebred Finnsheep
SFCP - enrolled since 1999; flock# VA 17.
Farm established in 1985 in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Flock of 100 breeding ewes, mostly quads and quints. Bred for size, multiple births, mothering ability and structural

correctness. Glen Avon and Root bloodlines.
Also rams available for cross-breeding.

Washington

Dan and Leanne Hughes

Triple L Finnsheep
89202 N. Harrington Rd.
West Richland, WA 99353
509-539-6745
danlea23@msn.com
OR_Leanne@TripleLFinnsheep.com
www.TripleLFinnsheep.com

Purebred Finnsheep
SFCP - Certified Status; flock# WA2252
Purebred finnsheep since 1982. Brown, fawn,
black, gray, pied and white animals available.
Unrelated bloodlines available. We breed for
size, fleece, lambing ability, and milk
production. Productivity records available from
1982. Fleeces available in the spring.

Robert and Sandra Willford

Solace Farm
30119 N. Spotted Rd.
Deer Park WA 99006
509-276-7160
solacefarmfiber@yahoo.com
www.SolaceFarm.tk

Purebred Finnsheep; Shetland/Finn and
Romanov/Finn Crosses.
SFCP - Enrolled Status; flock# WA2167
Quality fleeces, roving and handspun yarns.

Wisconsin

Tracy Sengupta

Firefly Fields Finnsheep
4110 W. Plymouth Church Road
Beloit, WI 53511
608-361-1446
tracy@fireflyfields.com
www.fireflyfields.com

Purebred Finnsheep
Flock Prefix: FF
SFCP Certified Status; Flock# WI 1990.
White and colored Finnsheep. Bred for health,
maternal traits and lovely wool. Whole flock
tested negative for OPP and Johnnes in 2005.

Canada

Nicole Heath

Veliraf Farm
RR # 1
Conn, Ontario
N0G 1N0
Canada
(519) 323 3641
veliraf@sympatico.ca
<http://www.veliraf.com>

Purebred Finnsheep. Flock Prefix- Veliraf.
Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification program-
Flock #50. White and coloured Finns, out of
season breeding. Fleece, rovings, batts, pelts,
and naturally raised lamb. Vasectomized Finn
teaser rams available.