Chief Shepherd's Message

This is a time of great transition for the Finnsheep Breeders’ Association and change comes just as Winter is followed by Spring.

It is with great sorrow that I let you know that our long term FBA member and director Joe Smith, passed away January 24th, 2012 in his home. Joe and Naomi of House Mountain Finnsheep have been involved with Finnsheep and the FBA for a long time and Joe will be sorely missed.

The FBA is in need of people to become involved in the position of Director. We currently have one position still open. This position is short time (from now until the next FBA Annual Business meeting) so this would allow you to see and experience what being a Director entails. Then, if you wish to continue to so serve the Finnsheep breeders you may seek election to the to Board. If you are willing to give your time and energy to represent this amazing breed, please contact us by mail, email, or phone to:

Herb Tucker, FBA Secretary  PO Box 85  West Clarksville, NY  14786  herb@lighthousesheepfarm.com  585.928.1721

Lambing season has begun for some Finnsheep Breeders. Others are looking forward to the sound of abundance of bouncing lambs. I am always excited to see which colors, patterns, fleece types or body types have arrived!

The fleece and fiber festivals, sheep fairs, sales, and shows are getting set to begin. Finnsheep are an amazing breed. If you enter your Finnsheep into an event, please take care of them with good bio-security practices. If you have questions in regard to bio-security practices and ways to protect your Finnsheep, contact your local vet or any FBA Director for ideas.

The Youth Conservationist Program offered by Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival is currently seeking Finnsheep Breeders who are willing to donate a Finnsheep to a youth and encourage them to become breeders of the future. If you are interested, see the enclosed information.

Several people looking for Finnsheep have recently asked: Who has them, where are they located, and where will they sell or transport to, sales or shows attended, expected lamblings, etc… If you are willing to provide me with that information, I will be able to facilitate in connecting potential customers with Finnsheep breeders.

Mary Tucker, FBA President
Joseph Reginald Smith
Every Inch An Aberdeen-Angus Man...

Joseph Reginald Smith, 76, of Lexington, Virginia, died Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at his home.

Born December 24, 1935 in Jackson Center, Ohio, he was a son of the late Herman E. Smith and Ruth McCoy Smith.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his step-daughter, Patricia Smith.

Joe Smith was every inch an Aberdeen-Angus man, from growing up on his family farm in Ohio, attending Ohio State University and caring for the legendary sire Bardoliermere 2, to his great work in Ancony, New York, and Walbridge in New York and Kentucky.

He was also very knowledgeable in the Hereford and Shorthorn Breeds as well.

Surviving are his wife, Naomi L. Smith of Lexington; three step-children, Catherine Culkin of Millbrook, NY, Sharon Williams of Chicago, IL, and Michael Culkin of Lexington; siblings, Nevin Smith, Robert Smith, Sara Miller, and Barbara Kinniger, all of Ohio; three step-grandchildren; four step great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held in Ohio at a later date. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Rockbridge Area Hospice, P.O. Box 948, Lexington, VA 24450 or to Relay for Life, 2840 Electric Road, Suite 106A, Roanoke, VA 24018.

Thank you to all FBA Members who paid their Membership Renewal in January, 2012!

The Finnsheep Breeders Association is happy to offer all Breeders the opportunity to advertise in the Short Tales Breeder Directory and the FBA Website Breeder Directory for an annual fee of $30. Your business is appreciated. However, it is necessary that your payment is received in January in order to keep your information current on our sites.

If you notice your breeder information is no longer listed in Short Tales or on the Website, please check to make sure you sent in your membership renewal. If you have questions regarding either memberships or directory listings please contact Herb Tucker, FBA Secretary at 585.928.1721 or email: Herb@lighthousesheepfarm.com and he will assist you.

Don’t forget to renew your FBA Membership and your On-Line Breeder Directory

APOLOGY

A misinterpretation of the Law which governs Board of Directors’ authority caused the improper dismissal of Grace Hatton by previous FBA Board of Directors in 2010.

We regret the effects of the Board's mistake and apologize to Ms. Hatton.

Sincerely,

The FBA Board of Directors

Welcome New Members

Welcome to our newest members!!!

Adrienne Wolfe—Rolling Bay Farm, Bainbridge Island, WA
Colleen & Daniel O’Connors—OK Archers, Saunderstown, RI
FINNSHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION  
Profit & Loss  
January through December, 2011

### Ordinary Income/Expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Jan—Dec 11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Dues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,175.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breeders Directory Income</td>
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<td>Total Breeders Directory Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flock Prefix Income</td>
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<td>580.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Income (other- dup certs etc)</td>
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<td>Membership Income</td>
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<td>Youth Membership</td>
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<td>Membership Income—Other</td>
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<td>Total Membership Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc/non mbr reg Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registrations</td>
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<td>Finn Pedigrees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Purebred</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pedigree o/12mth</td>
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<td>Total Registrations</td>
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### Expense

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<tr>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>Printing &amp; Reproduction</td>
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<td>Equipment Repairs</td>
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Net Ordinary Income: 962.02

### Other Income/Expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Jan—Dec 11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Income/Expense</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expense</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>948.02</td>
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FINNSHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION  
Profit & Loss  
January through December, 2011

### Balance Sheet

#### Dec 31, 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
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<td>Checking/Savings</td>
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<td>Total Current Assets</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin Templeton Fund</td>
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<td>Total Other Assets</td>
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<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retained Earnings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>948.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Equity</td>
<td>13,217.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</td>
<td>13,217.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AN OPEN LETTER TO FBA MEMBERS FROM THE OPP SOCIETY:

Only rarely is the OPP Concerned Sheep Breeders Society approached by a breed association leader who possesses the enthusiasm of your current president. Mary Tucker first called us several months ago, and more recently inquired as to how the Finnsheep Breeders Association could assist in our mission to build awareness and provide information for those hoping to eradicate and/or control the OPP virus (OPPV).

In a way, Mary’s contact with the OPP Society brings us full circle since another of your current leaders, Brian Magee, was a founding director of the OPP Society more than 20 years ago. A renowned animal scientist at Cornell (now retired), he was serving as FBA president in 1986 when Cornell’s Finns and his own flock were found to be infected with OPPV. Brian’s writings in the FBA newsletter — as well as his reports on the OPP eradication work at Cornell — made their way into the popular press and generated a great deal of respect for Finnsheep as one of the first breeds to tackle OPP head on.

The enclosed brochure chronicles how the OPP Society came to be. From our humble beginning as just a small group of frustrated shepherds — through the days when lively OPP Society annual meetings drew the likes of Drs. Marie Bulgin, Linda Detwiler, David Henderson and Cleon Kimberling, among others — the Society has now morphed into a respected online resource. During the last 12 months www.OPPsociety.org has attracted visitors from more than a dozen countries in addition to the U.S. and Canada.

And our promotional campaign, expanded last year with new ads appearing in each issue of SHEEP!, SHEEP INDUSTRY NEWS AND THE SHEPHERD magazine, is gaining traction. Visits to our website are up more than 50% and viewers are hungry for information. Downloads of Dr. Cindy Wolf’s “TESTING & CONTROL OF OPP” have increased 6-fold (more than 350 times in a recent month). That’s good news, and with your help there are some ways that we might do even more:

- We’d love to have you join us! We’re an all-volunteer organization, funded solely by members’ dues which generate just enough to cover the cost of ads and website.
- Posters, brochures and promo cards, as well as numerous educational items, can be downloaded off the website’s “Library” page. Feel free to print and distribute widely!
- Most new members come to us via a personal recommendation. Offering a brochure or promo card to your veterinarian and your buyers may be all that it takes.

On behalf of the OPP Society’s directors and our members, I’d like to thank Mary for giving us this opportunity to say hello. We’re very pleased that FBA is determined to maintain the excellent health status of the Finnsheep breed, and we look forward to working with you in the future. All questions and concerns are welcome!

Best regards,

Judy Lewman, Board Chair
OPP Concerned Sheep Breeders Society

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**Member Notice:**

The Finnsheep Breeders’ Association has altered the Registration Policy to permit new registrations of Finnsheep by Members Only.

Previously Registered Finnsheep owned by Non-Members shall be allowed transfer privileges.

The FBA Board, 03-04-12

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“We are convinced that healthy disease free sheep live longer, produce more and earn more income.

The sheep industry as a whole needs to reduce, control and possibly eradicate those diseases that cost producer income, and call into question the safety of the product to the consumer.”

Gene Schriefer, Producer/Educator
OPPCSBS Newsletter, 2004
992-935-2296
WWW.OPPORTUNITYMAINS.COM

This would be a typical O.P.P. with a normal system as well as the phos.
Opp can affect the udder, joints and
Some ewes limp but it is not foot rot.
Ears should be as they should be.
Milk? Some lambs not
Any animals with a dirty bedding could.

you tested for the O.P.P. virus?
Less production is expected this year.
Like long-term smoking.

A Typical OPP Ewe
DESCRIPTION OF OPP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990-01-01</td>
<td>Birth of sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-02-01</td>
<td>Shearing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-03-01</td>
<td>Weaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-04-01</td>
<td>First estrus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-05-01</td>
<td>Second estrus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-06-01</td>
<td>Lambing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-07-01</td>
<td>Weaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-08-01</td>
<td>First estrus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-09-01</td>
<td>Second estrus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-10-01</td>
<td>Lambing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Opp: Opposite.
Long before the words OPP and pneumonia ever hit the popular press, large numbers of cull ewes were purchased off the Western range as low-cost replacements for Midwestern flocks, the theory being that those ewes could be productive for a few more years under more intensive management. The combination of OPP-infected animals (it’s now known that nearly half of all sheep on the open range carry the OPP/maedi-visna virus) with the close confinement of winter lambing created a perfect storm... 45% of Midwestern flocks are now infected, and the virus is common throughout North America.

By the late 1970s, producers wanting to address OPP were beginning to learn that there was more they could do besides just “cull the lungers.” And then, in 1990, a small group led by Wisconsin science teacher and commercial producer Jim Schultz, along with his veterinarian Dr. Bob Leder, formed the OPP CONCERNED SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY. Restocking from within after culling heavily, Jim had difficulty locating OPP-negative rams, so a priority of the organization was to establish a network of like-minded producers and within the North American sheep industry as a whole.

The OPP CONCERNED SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY welcomes both purebred and commercial producers of all breeds, veterinarians, researchers, educators, and others who share our interest in ovine health issues. Members’ dues are our sole source of funding. We represent many different breeds and various situations; some have never had an animal positive for the OPP virus despite repeated testing; some of us began with clean stock; others are in the process of eradicating the disease from our flocks.

Aims of the organization were to establish a network of like-minded producers, to commercialize OPP-negative rams, to establish a network of like-minded producers, and to provide an educational resource and networking hub for producers and veterinarians concerned about OPP, as well as the related condition in goats (CAE, or caprine arthritis-encephalitis).

OPP can be as obvious as Stefania’s description of a typical OPP ewe (reverse). Or OPP can be more subtle, affecting the udder, joints, and nervous system as well as the lungs. The indirect effects of pulmonary compromise alone can be significant on the whole animal, resulting in a negative impact on productivity. For more information, go to: www.OPPsociety.org

We invite you to join us!

---

**Large & Small Flocks Working Together**

OPP CONCERNED SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!
Ovine Progressive Pneumonia

By Anna Makela, Finnish Fiber Farm

Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP) is a serious, slowly progressive viral disease that affects an estimated 26% of US flocks today, and in some regions nearly 50% of the flocks are infected. OPP is caused by a small ruminant lentivirus, which is similar to the virus that causes Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE). This virus requires a long incubation period; therefore, few sheep under the age of two will exhibit symptoms. It appears to be transmitted most frequently via ingestion of colostrum or milk that contains the virus (vertical transmission), and by inhalation of infected aerosol droplets (horizontal transmission). This means that a quick meal from an infected ewe or a simple sneeze or cough can spread OPP. It is only exceedingly rarely transmitted in utero, and transmission via semen is thought not to occur. It is spread through blood, for example by reusing injection needles, but this is uncommon. Fortunately, the virus cannot survive for more than a few minutes outside the sheep’s body, because it is carried in white blood cells.

SYMPTOMS

Initially, most signs are rather vague. Frequently, in the East and Midwest ewes will appear to have full udders (hard bag), but will not produce enough milk to feed their lambs. Perhaps most notable in the West is the chronic pneumonia that gave OPP its name, with labored breathing, wheezing, sneezing, coughing, nasal discharge, and fever. This respiratory infection does not improve with the use of antibiotics. Loss of condition and greatly reduced fertility are rare.

In goats, CAE causes cerebral disease and arthritis. Meningitis and encephalitis will manifest as twitching, stumbling, unsteady gait, and even hind limb or total paralysis. Pain, swelling of the joints, and a shortened gait due to arthritis are common. OPP can produce the same symptoms in sheep.

It is important to realize that even without symptoms, it is still possible to have OPP-positive animals in a flock. The long incubation period ensures that few affected animals are detected by visual symptoms under the age of two, and it is possible to have four or five year old sheep that while infected, have not yet shown any signs of the disease. Often there are disease carriers that exhibit no clinical signs but can still transmit the virus.

There is currently no treatment or vaccination for OPP. Most infected animals are culled for poor production, though some do succumb.

SHEEP AT RISK

All breeds are at risk for OPP. It seems to occur more often in intensive management conditions, including ewes lambing through the STAR system. Not only are these sheep “working harder”, they are also kept in confinement, allowing the virus to be transmitted more readily from sheep to sheep. There are some ongoing studies being conducted in an effort to discover OPP resistance
genes; however, researchers admit that these are more of a way of “coping” than as a tool for elimination. Hence, these resistance genes may allow the sheep to become infected, but the incubation period would likely be so prolonged that the sheep would not die of the disease nor exhibit symptoms during the normal lifespan. This would still allow the sheep to transmit the virus.

Interestingly, the Finn breed is considered to be infected more frequently than some other breeds. In the United States, however, Finnsheep breeders were some of the first to take an active role in eliminating the virus from their own flocks, and to work towards an OPP free national flock.

TESTING AND ELIMINATION

The only way to eliminate OPP from an infected flock is to test for the virus, or in most cases, circulating antibodies to the virus. If any sheep test positive, there are several management options to eliminate the virus from the flock. Many flocks thought to be clean also test regularly for OPP, as a precaution. This is particularly wise if a breeder is a seed stock producer, as many Finn shepherds are, and if the flock is not completely closed.

The virus can be detected in the blood with three different methods. The first is the AGID, or Agar Gel Immunodiffusion Test, which detects circulating antibody to the virus. This test cannot be performed before the sheep is six months old, because the sheep may possess the colostrally derived antibody that could cause a false positive result. In older animals, a positive result means that the animal is infected for life (in older animals the AGID produces a false positive only very rarely); a negative may mean that the sheep is not infected, or it may not have produced detectable levels of antibodies. Sometimes positive ewes will temporarily test negative directly after lambing due to the loss of large amounts of OPP antibodies in the colostrum.

Most people make use of the AGID for testing for this disease; this test has been used successfully in OPP eradication programs for years. Two or three subsequent tests, each done six to twelve months apart, will increase confidence in the negative status of an animal. This is because it can take twelve or more weeks after infection with the OPP virus for antibodies to be detectable. An American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) accredited lab should be used.

There is another, more sensitive test option, known as the ELISA (Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay). The first was developed by Cornell in the 1980’s using antigen produced by tissue culture, but these were excessively sensitive. The cELISA “competitive ELISA” has become more widely available, and was first used to test for CAE in goats, but has now been approved for sheep. Again, serum is sent to an AAVLD accredited laboratory for best results. Some have found the ELISA results to still be unpredictable, but others routinely utilize this option and feel that it is effective. Certainly quality laboratory work and experienced technicians will produce much more accurate results, regardless of the testing method. A PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) actually tests for the presence of the virus, rather than antibodies. It is expensive so it is
usually reserved only for valuable animals. Unlike the previous tests which require serum, the PCR requires whole blood. The only labs known to offer this are Colorado State University-Fort Collins, and the USDA National Veterinary Services Lab, located in Ames, Iowa. The University recommends whole-flock AGID testing and then using PCR to test all sheep that were negative for OPP.

Does every animal in a flock need to be tested? Ideally, every sheep that is over six months old should be tested at least every twelve months, and six month intervals are preferable. However, in large flocks this may not be very practical. In this case, partial-flock testing is used. Once OPP negative status has been established, periodic partial-flock testing is also used to ensure negativity. The OPP Concerned Sheep Breeders Society is an excellent resource for shepherds working towards an OPP negative flock, and provides directions for testing, a list of veterinarians, and more.

If positive animals are located in the flock, there are several ways of dealing with infected animals. One way is the “Test and Remove” method. Here, all sheep over six months of age would be tested. Any seropositive (positive) sheep and their offspring less than one year old should be culled. The offspring likely would have been infected through nursing. The clean flock should then be kept isolated from the infected sheep as well as equipment, feed, and people that have been in contact very recently with infected animals.

The “clean” flock should be tested annually or every six months. If any seropositive animals are found, they should be removed and the flock separated as before. At least three consecutive negative tests should provide reasonable confidence that the flock is indeed free of the virus. Thereafter random testing of at least 10% of the flock annually will help ensure freedom from OPP.

Usually it takes at least three years to achieve OPP negative status with this method. It is recommended in cases where less than 50% of the flock tested positive.

Another option is to orphan-rear the lambs from OPP positive ewes. It is critical that the lambs be removed from their mothers before they get a chance to nurse, as consuming the infected colostrum will transmit the virus. Sometimes the lambs may be delivered by Caesarian section to ensure that lambs have no access to the ewe’s milk. Generally, as the ewes approach parturition, their teats are taped and the ewes are closely monitored twenty-four hours a day. If they are not, then lambs may remove the tape to nurse, or they may starve or go too long without milk/colostrum before they are found. Additionally, any contact with the ewe post-lambing will increase the chances of the disease getting transmitted, for example, from mucus secretions. The lambs are then raised on heat-treated colostrum and milk, or else milk replacer or milk from negative ewes. It is very important to note that goat’s milk used to feed lambs must be obtained from CAE-negative does. This is the exact same method used to rear CAE negative kids. Studies have shown that CAE positive milk can infect lambs. If there are any goats on the property, they should also be tested for CAE and managed to protect against or eliminate the disease. Assuming the lambs have had no access to infected sheep or milk, these orphan-reared lambs should be OPP negative. They should all be tested after they have reached six months of age,
then again after six months, and then again. Alternatively they may be tested twice every twelve months. Any positive lambs should be removed. If after several testing periods the lambs have remained negative, they may be assumed to be “clean”. Periodic whole or partial-flock testing after this would be advisable. This is very labor intensive but results in OPP negative status much faster than the Test and Remove method.

If a very high proportion of the flock tests positive, it may just be easier to depopulate and start over with clean sheep.

PREVENTION

In order to prevent OPP in a clean flock, all new sheep must either be tested before they enter the flock, or purchased from an OPP negative flock. Ideally all sheep should be tested, and if they are young, so should their sires and dams if available. Keeping a closed flock is probably the surest method of protection; however, few flocks are truly closed. Eventually new bloodlines must be brought in in many cases.

Cara Leigh Wilson of Point of View Farm says, “I test for OPP each year in my flock, all animals over six months old, and have never had a positive result. I have a biosecure farm and test for it so my customers have proof that they are buying stock from a clean flock.” Testing not only provides peace of mind for the shepherd but also for the buyer. Buyer should be sure to ask breeders about the details of their testing programs. Testing should be performed on a regular basis, even in negative flocks.

Ram rental and shows may spread the disease from flock to flock. It is best to avoid these activities when possible.

Some states, such as Ohio, are implementing voluntary OPP testing programs. Minnesota has one already and you can view it at: http://www.bah.state.mn.us/diseases/opp/index.html Additionally, some fairs, shows, and sales are now requiring negative OPP tests to accompany sheep. Some of these programs, while yet in their infant stages, are showing much promise.

CONCLUSION

Ovine Progressive Pneumonia is a serious, progressive viral disease of sheep. Performance is most notably affected, with low milk production, chronic respiratory distress, weight loss, and arthritis, though many sheep exhibit minimal to no symptoms. Testing is available, though there is no cure. However, with a dedicated shepherd, careful management, and regular testing, it is possible to eliminate the disease from a flock. Prevention is based on obtaining animals from an OPP negative flock, testing, and maintaining as much as possible a closed flock.

At this time, most, if not all US Finnsheep flocks are free of OPP. Let us continue to protect our breed and educate others to help our nation become OPP negative. For more information about the pathology of OPP, prevention, testing, and elimination, obtaining blood samples, and more, please visit http://www.oppsociety.org

Special thanks to the OPP Concerned Sheep Breeders Society and their associate, Dr. Holly Neaton, DVM, and Dr. Paul Hunter, DVM for reviewing this article and offering input.
Made with Finn Wool

Finn shepherd Gail Von Bargen’s handspinners guild, the Northern Lights Handspinners, based in Minneapolis, MN can’t get enough of her Finnsheep fleece. It has a fineness and luster unlike most other wools, they say.

The guild members come out to the farm on shearing day. They collect the fleeces from the shearer and skirt them—removing dirty bits and hay from the wool, which is laid out on chicken wire frames.

The spinners like to select fleeces for their own use, and Gail has carded wool roving made from the fleeces that she doesn’t sell on shearing day.

One Guild member, Elisabeth Knutson, made Gail’s daughter a pair of fingerless gloves from the Finn wool, shown here. They feature a button-back mitten flap to cover fingers when it’s too cold. Elisabeth is “fast spinner”, she says, who knits and crochets without patterns. She offers her hats, gloves, and scarves for sale at the MN State Fair’s Baa Booth and at the MN Shepherd’s Harvest sheep and wool festival.

Laura Maroney (daughter of Elizabeth Kinne Gossner) chases away the winter cold in her handspun, hand dyed & woven Finnsheep wool coat made by her Mom.

Finnsheep wool is soft enough for a baby’s first hat & mittens. (photo by E. Kinne Gossner)

Do you have a Finnsheep Project that you would like to submit? Send to mary@lighthousesheepfarm.com
Upcoming Sheep & Fiber Events

The Fiber Event: April 20-21, 2012; Greencastle, IN free entrance & parking - www.thefiberevent.com


Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival: May 5-6, 2012; W. Friendship, MD - www.sheepandwool.org

Massachusetts Sheep & Woolcraft Fair: May 26-27, 2012; Cummington, MA - www.masheepwool.org


CNY Annual Showcase—From Animals to Art: June 9-10, 2012; Bouckville, NY - http://www.cnyfiber.org/

Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival: June 9-10, 2012; Adel, IA - www.iowasheep.com/festival

Michigan Fiber Festival: August 18-19, 2012; Allegan, MI - www.michiganfiberfestival.info

Michigan Fiber Festival Workshops are held from August 15-19, 2012...see website for further information.

Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival: Sept. 7-9, 2012; Jefferson, WI www.wisconsinseepandwoolfestival.com

NJ Sheep & Wool Festival: September 8-9, 2012; Hunterdon County Fairground - www.njsheep.org

PA Endless Mountain Fiber Festival: September 8-9, 2012; Harford, PA - www.pafiberfestival.com

Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival: Sept. 29-30, 2012; Berryville, VA www.shenandoahvalleyfiberfestival.com

Montpelier Fall Fiber Festival: October 6-7, 2012; Montpelier Station, VA - www.fallfiberfestival.org

New York State Sheep & Wool Festival: October 20-21, 2012; Rhinebeck, NY - www.sheepandwool.com/

Southeastern Animal Fiber Fair: October 26-28, 2012; WNC Ag Center, Fletcher, NC - www.saffsite.org

NAILE Sheep Show: November 5 - 18, 2011; KY Exposition Center Louisville, KY www.livestockexpo.org/
Finnsheep Breeders

The Youth Conservationist Program is again seeking breeders of Registered Finnsheep that would be willing to donate a yearling ewe and to mentor a youth in the upcoming year.

The responsibilities of the breeder would be to donate a yearling ewe that is of “retainable quality”, we certainly don’t expect breeders to give away their very best ewes, though some do, and to help the youth with breeding questions, health issues, in general, mentor. It is my understanding that some Finn breeders may consider donating a bred ewe, if you feel that the transportation and change of environment would not cause a concern, then, I don’t have a problem with it. In some cases, breeders have helped a youth locate a ram for breeding, other times the breeder has donated an unrelated ram to the child, some such in the case of Colonial Williamsburg strongly encourages the youth to bring the ewe back to them for breeding.

Frequently the mentoring is long distance, the breeder may locate another Finn breeder closer to the youth’s home to help with this aspect.

When speaking with Mary, she expressed concern about the bio-security at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. All animals coming into the Festival have health certificates, enough said about that… what could be arranged would be an individual pen for the ewe, and the donor would be more than welcome to clean the area prior to putting the ewe in the pen. We could probably be able to set that pen up separate from the other sheep.

Last year we had a ewe that tested positive to Caseous Lymphadenitis within just a few weeks after the Festival. As I explained to Mary, I am not willing to ask the Donor Breeder to have specific tests run. I feel that donating the ewe, paying for interstate health certificates and delivering the ewe to the Festival is more than sufficient, but am willing to ask the recipient and their family to cover this cost IF they deem it necessary. Mary explained that in her area the test for OPP, & CL runs about $40.00.

I have attached the YCP requirements. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Elaine Ashcraft 46118 CR 58 Coshocton, OH 43812 740-622-1573
tankewe_cr58@yahoo.com
please note the underscore after tankewe and before the cr58

Reminder:

FBA Member’s Annual Dues should be sent by Jan. 7 each year. If you are not finding your Breeder Listing on the website, nor have received your newsletter, please verify that you have sent your annual renewal.

Please send your forms and dues into:

FBA Registry Office
PO Box 51, 222 Main St.
Milo, IA 50166
2012 Youth Conservationist Program

Youth interested in applying for the 2012 Youth Conservationist Program

*Must be between 9 and 18 years old.

*Submit an application postmarked by April 1, 2012 that includes:

An essay which introduces you, your experience with animals, if for any reason, the animal is not being kept at your own home, explain in detail where it will reside and what exactly your responsibilities will be, your essay should explain your interest in sheep, and answers the question: “Why I would like to help preserve a heritage breed of sheep”.

The applicant should indicate if they wish to be considered for a particular breed Or for any of the breeds available.
Each applicant must include a letter of recommendation from their 4-H Advisor, FFA Advisor, veterinarian, teacher, or clergy. The total application/essay should be no more than 2 pages in length.
The application must include address, phone and if available, email address.
Interested young people should contact Elaine for an updated list of breeds available, then submit their application/essay to

Elaine Ashcraft  46118 CR 58 Coshocton, OH  43812
740-622-1573  tankewe_cr58@yahoo.com

Please note the underscore between tankewe and cr58!

REQUIREMENTS IF SELECTED:

Must be present to receive the ewe at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival on Sunday May 6, 2012.
Must exhibit the ewe at least twice in 2012 at : 1) a county fair or local sheep show and 2) the State Fair in the state where the recipient lives.
Must breed the ewe to a registered ram (of her breed) in the fall of 2012, should consult the donor breeder for their recommendations.
Must either use the ewe’s fleece to personally make a wool item or sell the fleece to a spinner, felter or weaver.
Must submit an article the following Feb/Mar to their local newspaper covering their year and including information concerning the next year’s YCP program.
Must submit a one to two page report, (recommend scrapbook) with pictures to the Donor Breeder by April 30, 2013 and provide a separate scrapbook to be used at the Maryland Festival which will then be returned to the recipient.

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT ELAINE ASHCRAFT 46118 CR 58 COSHOCTON, OH 43812
740-622-1573  tankewe_cr58@yahoo.com
### Ethnic Market Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Eidul-Adha Festival of Sacrifice</td>
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<td>Muharramn – Islamic New Year</td>
<td>11/15</td>
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<td>Mawlid al-Nabi – Prophet's Birthday</td>
<td>2/5</td>
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<td>Start of Ramadan – Month of Fasting</td>
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<td>Eid ul-Fitr – Festival of Fast Breaking</td>
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<td>11/28 - 12/5</td>
<td>12/17 - 12/24</td>
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**FBA Director Contact:**

Mary Tucker, President (2014, 1st Term)  
585-928-1721  
mary@lighthousesheepfarm.com

Elizabeth Kinne Gossner, Director (2012)  
315-852-3344  
stillmeadowfinnsheep@frontier.com

Brian Magee, Vice President (2014, 1st Term)  
607-844-9711  
brian38@yahoo.com

Gail Von Bargen, Director (2013)  
952-564-9522  
gvonbargen@aol.com

Herb Tucker, FBA Secretary (volunteer)  
585-928-1721  
herb@lighthousesheepfarm.com

Deb Hilliard Kirsch  
607-478-8963  
kirschdeb@yahoo.com

Grant Blackburn, FBA Treasurer (appointed)  
540-463-4594  
global2000_us@yahoo.com

Grace Hatton, Director (2012)  
570-775-9136  
hatton@ptd.net
Finnsheep Breeders Association

WORK ORDER AND FEE SCHEDULE

Phone: 641-942-6402 • PO Box 51, 222 Main St - Milo, Iowa 50166 • Fax: 641-942-6502

Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone #
Fax #
Website
Date

Membership #

Check one of the following:

___Senior/Active Member  ___Youth Member  ___Non-Member  ___New Member Applying

A. Memberships

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<th>Membership</th>
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<th>Member Price</th>
<th>Non-Member Price</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
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<td>35.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Annual Senior Dues</td>
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<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. New Youth Member (date of birth / / )</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Annual Youth Dues (date of birth / / )</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>xxx</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

New FBA Registration Policy: As of 3/5/12, ONLY current MEMBERS of the FBA will be allowed to register animals. Non-Members will still be able to transfer existing animals, but will have to become members to register any new lambs.

B. Breeder Listing (20 characters)

30.00 xxx

C. Flock Prefix Listing:

10.00 (per letter) xxx

Enables exclusive use of your name, flock or farm on registrations & is a one-time fee. (OPTIONAL) Flock prefix Desired ________________________________

D. Registrations

Under 12 months

1. Class I Purebred 6.00 xxx

2. Class II Crossbred
   • 1/2 Finn X 2.00 xxx
   • 3/4 Finn XX 6.00 xxx
   • 7/8 Finn XXX 6.00 xxx

Over 12 months

1. Class I Purebred 12.00 xxx

2. Class II Crossbred
   • 1/2 Finn X 4.00 xxx
   • 3/4 Finn XX 12.00 xxx
   • 7/8 Finn XXX 12.00 xxx

Please Note: A FBA registration number will be issued on certificates, but no ear tags will be furnished. The FBA registration number and individual ID (ear tag or tattoo) number must always remain the same and cannot be changed. Never use the same number on two different animals. If a sheep loses an ear tag, you may re-tag the sheep with a different tag number and keep this information in your flock records as required by USDA regulations. However, continue to use the sheep’s original ear tag number (as recorded on it’s FBA Certificate of Registry) for the purpose of registering its offspring. The FBA will furnish suggestions for tagging and/or identification upon request.

Docked Tails: Finnsheep with docked tails will not be registered. The tail is a distinct characteristic of the animal’s/h breed’s purity.

E. Transfers 4.00 same

F. Duplicate Certificate 3.00 same

G. Rush Fee (per each registration & transfer) Double Fees same

H. Emergency Faxes (per page - not including cover) 3.00 same

I. Special Handling

1. UPS Overnight Delivery for direct payment to UPS  same

2. Postal Overnight, USPS (two-three day delivery) 18.30 same

3. Priority Mail, USPS (four-five day delivery) 4.95 same

J. Other Fees

TOTAL FEES FROM ABOVE......................................................................................................$...........................

Previous Balance Due (please return invoice)..........................................................................$...........................

Previous Credit Due (please return invoice)..............................................................................$...........................

TOTAL MONEY ENCLOSED -- Check # (cash or blank checks sent at own risk)..........................$...........................

• Orders without proper fees will NOT be mailed until paid in full •

Call to order...Must provide credit card number

Updated 3-7-12
California

Tamara Myers
Medley Farm & Kennel
13470 Alabama Road
Galt, Ca  95632
209.748.5046
Medleyrn@yahoo.com
www.MedleyFarm.com
Flock Prefix:  MEDLEY
White, Black, Brown, Gray, Fawn, Piebald
Purebred, Registered Stock.  Fleeces Available
Breeding Stock and fiber pets

Tamara Myers
Medley Farm & Kennel
13470 Alabama Road
Galt, Ca  95632
209.748.5046
Medleyrn@yahoo.com
www.MedleyFarm.com
Flock Prefix:  MEDLEY
White, Black, Brown, Gray, Fawn, Piebald
Purebred, Registered Stock.  Fleeces Available
Breeding Stock and fiber pets

Connecticut

Rhonda Jaacks
Harlequin Farm
132 White Hollow Road
Lakeville, CT  06039
860.435.9865
rjaacks@att.net
HarlequinFarm.blogspot.com
Flock Prefix:  Harlequin
Purebred Finnsheep  breeding stock, Fiber, pelts, meat, Alpine & Lamancha goats

Illinois

Cheryl Medlin & Frank Moore
Wolf Moon
10304 Julie Lane
Lebanon, IL
618.623.2628
cherylmedlin@sbcglobal.net
Purebred Finnsheep

Bryan & Elizabeth Pullen
Walnut Springs Farm
11111 W. Park School Road
Princeville, IL 61559
309.385.4637
walnutspringfarm@hughes.net
www.pullenfarms.com
Healthy rotational grazed registered Finn-
sheep, Cotswold, Finn-Shetland, and Commer-
cial Merino cross.  Breeding stock, lambs, Beautiful fleeces & rovings available.

Maryland

Mary & John O'Malley
Honeysuckle Farm
1600 Ednor Road
Silver Spring, MD 20905
301.421.9420
johnandmaryomalley@yahoo.com
Purebred Finnsheep, Finn cross Tunis and Suffolk breeding stock, meat, and roving

Indiana

Pamela K. Hoover
Rooster's Run Farm
5197 SW Washington School Road
Salem, IN 47167
812.896.1223
Pam.Hoover@rrfiberfarm.com
www.rrfiberfarm.com
Purebred Finnsheep, Finn x Shetland
Enrolled Status; Mandatory Scrapie Program
since 2002; Flock ID: 88035
New for 2011: The Rooster's Run Store selling yarn, rovings, fleeces plus other wool products as well as Kromski Spinning wheels and Howard Brush Carders.  We also offer registered Angora goats.

Iowa

Dale L. Amendt
6815 Waterman Blvd
Sutherland, IA 51058
712.446.3489
Purebred Finnsheep
Crossbred Finnsheep (Finn x Suffolk, Finn x Corriedale)

Phil & Judy Osborn
Abundance Acres
9713 Crystall Falls Drive
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Office:  240.556.0627
Home:  301.791.1110
abundanceacres@myactv.net
www.abundantfiber.com

Michigan

Darren & Margaret Cole
Sable Forest Finnsheep
2114 South Magrudder Road
St. Louis, MI 48880
989.681.0024
sableforest@aol.com
www.sableforestfinns.webs.com
Flock ID: MIF2042
White, black, brown and badgerface; Fleeces available yearly; call to check prices and availability

Bobbie L. Peck
The Counting Sheep Farm
5709 E. 12 Street
White Cloud, MI 49349
231.429.3364
john_330_live_it@yahoo.com
www.thecountingsheepfarm.com
Registered breeding stock, freezer lambs, fleeces and roving.  Call, email or check us out on Facebook!

Callie Welch
Bramble Berry Finnsheep
6861 Old Pipestone Road
Eau Claire, MI 49111
269-461-4101
brambleberryfinns.blogspot.com
Callielw@gmail.com
Registered Finnsheep and Finn X Corriedale

Fran Smith
Zip Ty Acres
7588 E State Route 9
Rankin, IL 60960
217.375.4311
Ziptyacres@gmail.com
www.Ziptyacres.com
Flock Prefix:  Zip Ty Acres
Purebred Registered Finnsheep, Finn-
Southdown/Tunis Cross, Angora Goats, Py-
gora Goats & Angora Rabbits.  Breeding stock.  Fleeces and hand dyed wool and rovings ($2.00 Fee)

Clark BreDahl
Mormon Trail Farm
1911 290th Street
Greenfield, IA 50849
641.745.2323 bredahl.mtfarms@gmail.com
Purebred Finnsheep & Crossbred Finnsheep (Finn x Dorset x Ile de France)
Foot rot free; OPP flock test negative
Flock Prefix:  MTF

Foot rot free; OPP flock test negative
Flock Prefix:  MTF
**Minnesota**

Tim Reese  
**Gale Woods Farm Park**  
7210 County Road 110 West  
Minnetrista, MN 55364  
763.694.2002  
treeself@frontiernet.net  
www.galewoodsfarm.org  
Purebred Finnsheep  
Cross-Bred Corriedale & Icelandic  
Flock Prefix: TRP  
SFCP Enrolled Status since 2005  
Flock ID: MN43  
Gale Woods is an educational farm. Products include wool & yarn and pasture-raised lamb, beef, poultry and hogs and a vegetable CSA.

Gail VonBargen  
**Little Red Oak Farm**  
14255 Jacob Street  
Hamburg, MN 55339  
952.467.2305 or Home: 952.564.9522  
gvonbargen@aol.com  
www.littleredoakfarm.blogspot.com  
SFCP Enrolled in 2006  
Flock ID: MN62  
Purebred Finnsheep & Shetlands in white, brown, gray, and black. Piebald & Badger. We sell breeding stock, unregistered stock, raw wool & roving.

New York

Kathryn & Bill Clemens  
**Sunrise Farms**  
252 Plymouth-NO Norwich Rd.  
Plymouth, NY 13832  
607.336.5834  
clemensclan@citlink.net  
Enrolled Scrapie Flock  
Purebred Finnsheep, white & colored; meat, breeding stock

Elizabeth H. Kinne Gossner  
**Stillmeadow Finnsheep**  
5838 Randall Hill Road  
DeRuyter, NY 13052  
315.852.3344  
www.stillmeadowfinnsheep.com  
stillmeadowfinnsheep@frontier.com  
SFCP # NY69  

Brian H. Magee  
**Star Finnsheep & Dorsets**  
1184 Harford Slaterville Road  
Dryden, NY 13053  
607.844.9711  
OPP Free  
Selected for accelerated lambing STAR Codon 171R Heterozygous and Homozygous

Amy Cook  
**Sweetland Hill Finnsheep**  
64 Sweetland Hill Rd.  
Chenango Forks, NY 13746  
607.725.4844  
cookamy@gmail.com  
www.sweetlandhillfinnsheep.com  
Purebred Finnsheep & Finn/North Country Cheviot crosses. Purebred Finnsheep in Black, White and Badgerface. Fleeces and hand dyed wool and rovings for felting and spinning for sale.

Mary & Herb Tucker  
**Lighthouse Farm (LHF)**  
P.O. Box 85  
West Clarksville, NY 14786  
585.928.1721  
mary@lighthousesheepfarm.com  
www.lighthousesheepfarm.com  
SFCP: Enrolled Status 2007 ID: NY 103  
Registered Finnsheep and Finn X Dorset Selecting for maternal abilities, carcass traits, parasite resistance, and quality fleeces of many colors. Finland AI genetics. Breeding color to like color. Lambing throughout the year. Two QR Registered Finn rams in use.

CaraLeigh Wilson  
**Point of View Farm**  
PO Box 535  
Bangall, NY 12506  
845.868.4140  
finnsheep@me.com www.pointofviewfarm.net  
SFCP Flock ID: NY120  
Purebred Finnsheep raised all naturally on pasture, organic grains, minerals and herbs. Biosecure farm offering healthy breeding stock for sale including white, brown, fawn, black and grey lambs. Entire flock tested for negative OPP status annually, enrolled in SFCP, Flock #NY120. Random flock testing for CL and Johne’s. Flock goals are wide genetic variety, confirmation, maternal traits, parasite resistance and high quality wool. Chemical free coated hand spinning fleeces, roving and yarn available for sale in all colors. Come visit and see how we have an alternative Point of view at our farm following the traditions of our family in Finland.

Ohio

Gayle Workman  
**Meadowlark Farm**  
20090 Fred-Amity Road  
Mt. Vernon, OH 43050  
964.290.0737  
Flock Prefix: MeadoWLark  
Flock ID: 594  
Purebred Finnsheep and Finn Dorset crosses, gently and organically raised, raw wool, fiber pets & breeding stock. Lambs due May, 2012

Pennsylvania

Dale & Martha Livermore  
**The Ark Farm**  
1094 Allens Mills Road  
Brookville, PA 15825  
814.328.2720 or 814.591.0185/1789  
Theark5@windsor.net  
Flock Prefix: The Ark  
SFCP Enrolled Status—Certified  
Flock ID: PA 155  
Starter Flocks, Proven Rams, White Fleeces, Pasture Lambs, Sheep Cheese

Rhode Island

Colleen & Daniel O’Connors  
**OK Archers**  
843 Mooresfield Road  
Saunderstown, RI 02874  
401.789.0778  
coj59@verizon.net  
SFCP: Pending  
Flock Prefix: OKA  
Pure Finn, Scrapie free, registered breeding stock; genetically, diverse, friendly animals, pasture raised. First lambs & fleeces in 2012

Virginia

Naomi Smith  
**House Mountain Finnsheep**  
1765 Jacktown Road  
Lexington, VA 24450  
540.463.6062  
Flock ID: VA17; SFCP enrolled 1999  
Farm established in 1985 in the Blue Ridge Mountains for Virginia  
Purebred Finnsheep; flock of 100 breeding ewes, mostly quads and quint. Bred for size, multiple births, mothering ability and structural correctness. Glen Avon and Root bloodlines. Rams available for cross-breeding
Virginia cont.

Linda Witt
Misty Mountain Farm
154 Quail Call Lane
Amissville, VA 20106
540.937.4707
info@mistymountainfarm.com
www.mistymountainfarm.com
SFP Flock #: VA26
Purebred Finnsheep
Hand-spinning fleece, roving and batts

Robert & Sandra Willford
Solace Farm
30119 N. Spotted Road
Deer Park, WA 99006
509.276.7160
Solacefarmfiber@yahoo.com
www.solacefinnsheep.com
SFCP Flock ID: WA2167
Natural meat and fiber. Quality white and colored fleeces, rovings and hand-spun yarns. ABCA Border Collies.

Wisconsin

Tracy Sengupta
Firefly Fields Finnsheep
4110 W. Plymouth Church Road
Beloit, WI 53511
608.345.6555
tracy@fireflyfields.com
www.fireflyfields.com
Flock Prefix: FF
Flock ID: WI1990
SFCP Certified Status
Purebreed Finnsheep

MEMBER NOTICE

All Members are encouraged to confirm their contact information and email address by contacting Herb Tucker, FBA Secretary at 585.928.1721 or by email at: herb@lighthousesheepfarm.com

FBA Registry Report—Year End 2011
Animals Registered by State 01/01/2011—12/31/2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Animals Registered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
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<td>Oklahoma</td>
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<td>Massachusetts</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Animals Registered: 360

Total animals registered 2010 - 533

Report by Karey on 02/01/2012
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 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
Is a national focal point for Finnsheep Breeders
Disseminates timely information to members on all matters relating to the breed.

FBA Registry:
PO Box 51
222 Main Street
Milo, IA 50166
Phone: 641.942.6402
Fax: 641.942.6402

FBA Secretarial Office
Herb Tucker, Acting Secretary
PO Box 85
West Clarksville, NY 14786
585.928.1721
herb@lighthousesheepfarm.com

We’re on the Web!
Visit Us at:
www.finnsheep.org