Please mark your calendars!

October 14, 2012

This is the date that has been set for the Finnsheep Breeders’ Association Annual Business meeting via teleconference.

Further information regarding the annual meeting that helps determine the direction for our association and the election of directors will be placed in the next issue of Short Tales.

Thanks.
Mary Tucker, FBA President

FBA Secretary desired

Herb Tucker, current acting FBA Secretary, will not be continuing in that position after the 2012 Annual Business Meeting of the Finnsheep Breeders’ Association so this highly valued position within our association is now open.

If you are interested in this position, work well with others, can assist the President and Board of Directors with discretion and efficiency, have good organizational skills, and like to talk with people from other places about Finnsheep and their abilities (via telephone, email, chat groups, in person, etc.) and have good computer skills this position may well suit you!

Please contact Herb Tucker, FBA Secretary, with inquiries: FBAsecretary@finnsheep.org

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New Member Welcome

Rebecca Coleman—Canon City, CO
Kathleen & Ben Stern—Sweet Clover Farm, Mt. Vernon, ME
Daniel D. Wentz—Horseshoe Acres, Beaverton, MI
Laurie Moxley—Moxley Farm, Mountain Grove, MO
Natasha Stallsmith—Hadley, PA (Junior Member)
Colleen & Daniel O’Connors—Saunderstown, RI
Will Stewart—Skyemoo Farm, Paeonian Springs, VA
Adrienne Wolfe—Rolling Bay farm, Bainbridge, WA
Joan Haney—Farwest Farms, Deer Park, WA
Ruth Mc Cauley—Jeruth Farms, Deer Park, WA
Jacqueline Fulcomer—Willoway Farm, Fredonia, WI

Upcoming Sheep & Fiber Events

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.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.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.shenandoakhvalleyfiberfestival.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/

This is YOUR calendar. Help keep events current.
Contact Mary Tucker with items to be included by Email: mary@lighthousesheepfarm.com
Proposal on Changing the FBA Constitution:

FBA Proposed Amendments:

Article IV Section 3 to be amended as follows:
Amend Title to: Absentee Voting:
Strike the last sentence that reads: A member may also designate, in writing, that his/ her proxy vote be exercised by the Board of Directors at their discretion.

Article V:
Change to:
...(7) directors, each elected for a three (3) year term of office so that at least two (2) directors shall be elected each year. A director may not serve more than two (2) full, consecutive three (3) year terms, or more than 7 consecutive years, if originally appointed to fill a vacant position.

Insert after mention of paid up dues: Members of other Finnsheep registries that have had a less stringent criteria for registration than the FBA, such as a continued policy of up-breeding, are not eligible to serve as FBA directors or officers.

The FBA Constitution can be found in it’s entirety at the website: www.finnsheep.org

Upcoming Board of Director Elections

If you are considering running in the upcoming Board of Director election, please note the following:

A letter of Intent and a brief Bio about yourself must be submitted to the FBA Secretary no later than end of day August 1, 2012. The bio will be placed in the next edition of Short Tales for membership review. You may submit the information by US Mail to: FBA Secretary, PO Box 85 West Clarksville, NY 14786; or by email to: FBAsecretary@finnsheep.org The FBA Secretary will confirm receipt of your information.

The available director positions are for a three year term with a limit of two consecutive terms. Anyone wishing to participate in the election must be a member in good standing, willing to participate in conference phone calls and to travel to annual board meeting at your own expense. Since the majority of FBA business is communicated through email it is suggested that you have access to a computer. Although this is not a requirement, it is highly recommended.

NOTE: Before the vote to fill director seats at the annual meeting, members may nominate others or themselves if they have not previously submitted bios, but should be prepared to say a few words about the candidate at the meeting.

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The FBA Constitution can be found in it’s entirety at the website: www.finnsheep.org
A Proposed FBA Online Pedigree Database

By Gail Von Bargen, FBA Director

At the 2011 annual meeting, I asked members if they would like to see an online pedigree registry for FBA similar to that offered by NASSA, the North American Shetland Sheep Association. Many FBA members are familiar with NASSA’s database, and the great majority of FBA members present voted to pursue a similar, online Finnsheep registry database, subject to budget feasibility.

My first sheep were Shetlands. When I got into Finnsheep I was dismayed that there was no animal database, like NASSA’s, offered by FBA. Compared to NASSA’s member support, FBA seemed to be in the Dark Ages.

I think more beginning shepherds would choose Finnsheep, and present members would also benefit, if more information was available to them online. A new shepherd without sheep connections will search the Web before they ever find a sheep magazine or go to one of the very few wool festivals that have Finn breeders’ displays. Improving FBA’s web presence and experience will attract more shepherds, buyers, and FBA members.

Established Finnsheep shepherds will use an online database to quickly access data on the lineage on their own sheep or of sheep they are thinking of buying from others, or when they are filling out paperwork to transfer sheep, or register new lambs. Yes, I know, we all should have careful records of our own to find lambs’ parents’ registry numbers, birthdates, etc., but if your records are like mine, the notebooks are pretty thick. Online access to data is quicker.

I still use the NASSA database in everyday ways: when a buyer wants to know more about a lamb I have, I tell them the lamb’s parents’ names and urge them to look online for their pedigrees. I do not have to fax/scan/send to the interested party a copy of pedigrees, which I have done for Finn buyers several times this year. I also use it to make breeding plan decisions—I can quickly ask the database to list all descendants of a certain sire—and use a different one, if too many lambs are related to that one.

I think the online pedigree has a great lot to offer in utility.

It seemed, by FBA member vote at last fall’s meeting, that others did too.

After doing some comparisons, FBA’s board asked for and received a proposal from Doug Meyer, Mountain Niche Design, who designed and manages the NASSA database. A description of his basic online database (Core Module) will accompany this writing.

Doug has been generous with his time and experience, to take questions about “how it works”, and he sent us several possible “modules” to consider: add-ons to a basic, searchable database. To avoid objections of
board members as to cost or utility, I am only advocating, at this time, for the basic, searchable pedigree database, as outlined in Doug’s Core Module section. You will find his abridged Proposal in this issue of Short Tales.

A few board members worry that offering a free, public, searchable database will open breeders to criticism for line-breeding (breeding back closely related animals), or give away, for free, the identity of breeders who didn’t pay FBA for a Breeder Listing. As for line-breeding practices, I think that knowledgeable shepherds are aware of its value to reinforce good animal traits, and just as importantly, that buyers who don’t find out about such lineages before they purchase they will make unhappy buyers later. Best that they know what they are getting up front.

Regarding Breeder Listings, it is true that FBA makes a considerable piece of its annual income from paid Listings, but FBA has money in reserves—a significant number—to cover a change in Breeders Directory fees, if need be. It has been proposed that the general, annual membership fee be increased and Breeder listing fees dropped, for instance. I think it’s better for FBA to be helpful and open about all of its members’ identities rather than deny everyone the online database feature, just to protect one source of income.

Other objections that have been made concern its cost: It appears that setting up the searchable database will cost about $500, and that adding animals’ pedigrees as they come in, quarterly, may cost around $1,000 a year. It would be hard to quantify its value to the FBA or Finnsheep as a whole in the United States, but I believe that if it supports the members in keeping Finns, it is a worthwhile expenditure. Future members and future Directors can tweak the features of the online database if more of Doug’s services are desired. This bare bones database is a starting point.

Over the past several years, FBA has taken in a few thousand dollars more than it needs to operate each year, so there is a sizeable reserve of available funds to draw from—over $5000-10,000, spending at our current rates.

FBA currently spends $1,000 a year on ads in Sheep magazines and their value in promoting Finns is never questioned—they are paid year over year, without vote. This could be a similar expenditure, if it’s an attractive feature for current and new shepherds considering Finnsheep, and could be discontinued if the FBA budget cannot sustain it. We have the money to make this improvement of FBA offerings; FBA income streams and expenses can be adjusted for several years to see what works for the membership.

A final note to members: this online database will not come into being unless you vote it in—it has never had enough supporters on the Board to bring it into being. Members have to let their wishes be known. A ballot question will be included in the next Short Tales edition for you to vote the online pedigree database into being, if you desire it.
Online Database Proposal for the Finnsheep Breeders Association

Mountain Niche Web Services, Doug Meyer (Owner)

1. Overview
The basic idea of the new website described in this Proposal is to make the Finnsheep registry database visible online. Users of the website will be able to view sheep pedigree information, owner/breeder information and various other reports based on this data. Search forms will be provided to enable users to find records based on specific criteria. For example, a user could search the Breeders List for all breeders in a particular state, then sort the resulting list by ZIP code to easily locate breeders nearby. Another example: a user could search the Sheep database for all triplets, then sort the list by birthdate to see the triplets born in the current or previous year. This Proposal breaks the new website project into several “Modules” in order to price the different sets of functionality separately. The Core Module is the minimum required module and the other modules can optionally be added to the Core.

3. Core Module
The Core Module provides the basic features of the online pedigree. It uses the list of members/breeders/owners and the list of sheep to provide the raw data that is presented on the various web pages making up the module:

- **Breeders List:** This list is produced from the members/breeders/owners data by taking the current valid FBA members from that list based on their member status and/or membership expiration date. The list can be sorted by any field and a search form is provided to assist users in locating breeders based on various criteria (e.g., all breeders in the state of New York.) … I can tailor the specific features to the needs of your group. I can also provide a PDF version of the entire breeders list if you want users to be able to download a printable version of the list. …

- **Sheep Search & Search Results:** This is where users would go to find information about any sheep registered with the FBA. Users will be able to search for sheep using a number of criteria such as: sheep name, registration #, breeder, owner, color, single/twin/triplet/quad, gender, and perhaps others if desired. Take a look at this example from the Shetland Sheep online pedigree site:


This particular example shows the results of a search for all black triplet ewes. Once a user has a list of search results, they can click on the Reg # link for any sheep in the list to bring up a pedigree for that sheep. Note the search results in this example produced a list of 238 sheep and the search results page was configured to show 20 at a time by default. To see more use the Previous/Next links or the “Go to page xx” form above the list. This list can be sorted by any field in the same manner as the Breeders List. Click the same column heading a second time to sort in the opposite direction.

- **Pedigree:** The Pedigree page for a sheep shows the sheep’s ancestors back 4 generations (or more depending on the configuration) assuming those ancestors are listed in the database.
On Line Database—Something to Think About

By Deb Kirsch (Hilliard)

FBA members are being asked to consider and vote upon a proposition to establish an on line database for our breed registry. I believe this is a prudent step for our association to take.

Over and above the fun of accessing pedigree and member information, my reasoning for this move can be summarized as follows:

1) Staying in Step with Current Trends:

The trend today is towards ease of access to both information and products. As Finnsheep breeders we provide the public with both. Are we providing people with easy quick access to our products and services? We as a group must be aware of how the public views our approach to doing business in today’s competitive market. Do our attitudes and practices give the impression that we are planning on being an active presence five or ten years from now? Or, do they reflect stodgy leadership and an inability to move forward?

2) The Need to Attract Younger Active Members:

Many of us are well into our middle age years or older. We need to encourage new younger members who are willing to lead the way into the future and ensure the well being of Finnsheep. This will require concessions to the change in modes of communication and business practices. Computer communication is Standard Operating Procedure for these younger people. They are more apt to email, text or IM than to place a phone call. If we desire to attract and keep younger members, we must embrace the widespread use of computers for personal communication and business applications.

3) Speedy, Accurate Dissemination of Information:

The purpose of the FBA is “to provide record keeping of registrations and transfers of the breed” as well as “promoting the Finnsheep qualities and characteristics.” The FBA Mission Statement declares it “provides a national pedigree recording system for Finnsheep…fosters and promotes the proliferation and marketing of Finnsheep within the national sheep industry and abroad. … disseminates timely information to members on all matters relating to the breed.” While these statements are written for us as FBA members and breeders, they also apply to our interactions with the buying public. Is there a better way to accomplish these goals that by storing the information in a centralized, easily accessible database? Stored information would be available anytime and anywhere, independent of work schedules, time differences, illness, current level of enthusiasm, or the ability to accurately relay information. For those concerned with too much information available to “just anybody”, a tier system to access different types of information could be instituted. Knowledge is a key to success. The sharing of information about pedigrees, health issues, availability of breeding stock, and where to find particular bloodlines will only strengthen our breed and ultimately the FBA.

4) Competiveness:

Additionally, we are no longer the only registry available to Finnsheep breeders. While we are the original registry and the desire to protect the purity of Finnsheep while improving their innate
characteristics, we must also make our organization “newbie/people friendly.” We must listen to what is important to them and work with them within the parameters of our breed standard. If Facebook and Twitter is popular with newer members/breeders, let us give people what they want when appropriate and profitable.

5) Summary:

So members, in summary, we need to step up the plate and make changes gracefully. We need new blood. We need to keep up with the times and we must envision what and where the FBA needs to be in five or ten years. Then we must begin moving towards that picture. Let’s not be the stodgy middle agers mired in what was, or we may very well find the FBA has become a “what was”…

The FBA has the financial reserves to start the data base now and let it grow as the FBA does.

Let’s Get Moving!

Deb Kirsch (Hilliard)
kirschdeb@yahoo.com

POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACT TO BREEDERS

At the Annual General Meeting in 2011, according to the minutes with 17 members present, some members wanted to "appoint a committee to see if it (an online database) is a worthwhile project that FBA can afford." The survey taken of members attending to investigate information was 9 yes and 6 no.

There have been claims that line or inbreeding causes harm in the breed. Line or inbreeding observed in pedigrees that would be available online under this scheme could be used to denigrate certain Finnsheep lines when there is no comprehension of the co-adapted genes that can be intensified by this process.

Further, a database that does not include the cumulative number of lambs born to each ewe and some way of identifying top producing ewes, would have little value for the Finnsheep breed. One breeder pointed out that if the number of lambs produced were the only criteria, valuable traits such as ease of lambing, mothering and milkiness would not be included. Certainly a ewe that drops her lambs; gets them dried off and fed with no help from the shepherd has greater value than one that has the shepherd up all night pulling a huge litter.

Then there is the problem that a flock could suffer a bout of toxoplasmosis abortion resulting in few lambs born at all one year. Only the number of lambs born – or not - would appear in the database with no indication why.

Once having researched the database, the potential buyer will still need to have extensive one on one contact with the breeder to assure him or herself of the health status and any other things that would be important to the buyer.

Fred & Grace Hatton
Hawley, PA
The formation of the IFR may draw registrations away from FBA. Most of our income (2011 - $7,293.95) comes from registrations ($1,866 - down by $1,044 from previous year), transfers ($936 – slight increase over $872 from the previous year), annual dues ($1,225 – increase of $300 over 2010), and breeders' directory ($990 – increase of $330 over previous year).

We cannot anticipate at this time how IFR will affect FBA income, but we will have a better idea by the time of our annual meeting. Nor can we anticipate how the new requirement for FBA membership to register any sheep will affect revenues.

The creation of the database may diminish income from our online Breeders Listings which brought in $990 in 2011. Further, given current economic conditions, there could be a reduction in registrations.

2011 FBA major expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contract labor (registry at Milo)</td>
<td>$2048.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>$1940.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>$1319.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>$1043.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6351.93</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Other for 2011 includes: bank service charge $14, licenses $100, meeting $189, misc. $170, professional fees $150, repairs $40, FBA directors stipend $350, and office supplies $30.

Expenses increased by 30% ($1510.28) from 2011 to 2010.

Net income after expenses for 2011 was $942.02 compared to 2010 which was $1,904.

The primary function of the FBA is to be a registry. Had we adopted the database proposal last year we would have had zero net income.

While we have some reserve funds available, that should be used in the event that funds are drastically curtailed and the reserve is needed to pay contract labor charges to keep the registry going.

DATABASE COSTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>The database one time set up fee is</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual fee</td>
<td>$240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarterly data update annual cost estimate</td>
<td>$120 to $240*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total first year cost</td>
<td>$860 to $980</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* possible additional charge for Milo to send data

This space can be used for projects, ideas, news items, introductions and farm classifieds! Any items of humor or short stories also.

This newsletter is seen throughout the United States, and beyond, and is read by many. I can think of no better advertisement for our Finnsheep than for people to read about our breed and the fun we have with them.

Lets show what our Finnsheep are capable of.
FBA Membership – Why Bother?

by Elizabeth Kinne Gossner

Recently I was contacted by a disheartened former member of the FBA. She expressed concern and a real lack of awareness of the benefits of our organization. My reply to her follows……

What type of benefits do you envision from the FBA? Truly, last year was one of dismay for those of us who believe in Finnsheep and the many years of professionalism which participating shepherds have devoted to improve the breed. I think that some people must believe that the Finnsheep Breeders’ Association is a large wealthy organization, when in reality it is a small group of individuals who volunteer countless hours for the betterment of this unusual breed.

First begun in 1971 by three progressive shepherds, the FBA has grown to approximately 40 active members who feel the pure breed is worth continuing. Faced with the recent formation of the International Finnsheep Registry which promotes an “open flock book” with encouragement of up-breeding genetics from other types of sheep, the FBA needed to consider the certain dilemma of confusion between FBA and IFR. As the original Finnsheep Registry in the United States we wish to accentuate our focus upon utilizing the pure bloodlines now present in our breed which define the essence of Finnsheep. Thus, a recent decision was made which requires FBA membership in order to register new Finnsheep. It is the revenue from annual dues and new registrations which enables us to continue record keeping services of the Associated Breed Registries in Milo, Iowa.

The Board of Directors keeps membership needs in mind. We have recently updated the FBA Brochure which can be downloaded from the website for individual use. Also, our newsletter has expanded in its scope and is now issued four times a year to current members. You may be unaware that we also are tracking the “R” gene within the pure breed, a significant concern especially to flocks located in critically challenged areas of the country.

Essential for the awareness of our unique breed is national advertising in industry periodicals. “Sheep” magazine, “The Shepherd”, and the American Sheep Industry Association’s subscription & online publication “Sheep Industry News” all publish FBA display ads. As volunteer Advertising Director I do my best to design eye catching views with photos which draw attention to the variety of Finnsheep traits.

For member benefit, last fall the document “Colors & Markings of North American Finnsheep” was created. Within it, text and photographs are meant to clarify the visual categories for registration accuracy. More precise terminology now allows the designation of markings such as badgerface (BGR), etc. This document is available at www.finnsheep.org and will encourage all with an interest in Finnsheep.

For any who question, “What does the FBA do for me?”, the answer can be found by becoming more involved in your organization. We encourage the entire variety of flock emphases due to the adaptability of our unusual breed. Member participation at the 2011 annual meeting held in October at the NYS Sheep & Wool Festival was significant. A vibrant live Finn display and participation in the Parade of Breeds created much public interest. Continuing the festival momentum, several members repeated the live display and Parade at the MD Sheep & Wool Festival in May with terrific success.

No matter which management direction is chosen, it is the combined enthusiasm of elected leaders and the general members of our FBA which will keep standards high and perpetuate this breed.
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 ___________________________ Membership # ___________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip __________________________ Fax # ___________________________ E-mail ___________________________
Phone # ____________________________

Check one of the following:

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

A. Memberships

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Membership Type</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Member Price</th>
<th>Non-Member Price</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. New Senior Member</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>xxx</td>
<td>35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Annual Senior Dues</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>xxx</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. New Youth Member (date of birth / / )</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>xxx</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Annual Youth Dues (date of birth / / )</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>xxx</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
</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

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

C. Flock Prefix Listing: 10.00 (per letter) xxx

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/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 Fees (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
The American Finnsheep Breeders joined other sheep breeding associations with a display at the 2012 Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. Phil and Judy Osborne of Abundance Acres, Hagerstown, MD, who have shown Finnsheep in the Breed Display Barn for several years, graciously shared their space with the Association. Phil and Judy brought a lovely badger-face, fawn colored ewe and her twin 8 week old lambs. The Finns’ gentle nature and unusual color enchanted Festival goers.

Participating at the MD Sheep and Wool Festival percolated in my mind several months ago when the Finnsheep yahoo group users discussed ways to promote our breed. Living relatively close to the Festival fairground, I have helped at the festival over the years, but not done anything specific related to Finnsheep promotion. The more I ruminated on a display, the more it began to take shape in my mind. Perhaps it is the large map of the United States on our kitchen wall, or just hearing from Finnsheep breeders across the county, but I decided to locate Breed Association members across the county on a map as part of the display. I posted my thoughts on the display on the yahoo group and several breeders responded by sending business card and Elizabeth Kinne Gossner of Stillmeadow sent several items for the display as well as the FBA banner.

Office Depot had several display boards; I chose a large black foam tri-fold board, mounted a colorful laminated map on it and used push pins to locate Breed Association members on it. Under the map, I posted all the FBA members and surrounded the map with pictures from my own flock. FBA members from Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Virginia and Washington sent business cards. With Festival visitors from Montana, Colorado, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Illinois, Vermont, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Texas, North Carolina and Virginia, every breeder who sent business cards had some distributed and other members on the list were located for our visitors. The newly revised FBA brochure was available for all and taken by most.

Our display was easy to locate under the bright red FBA banner and Judy’s clever crocheted farm sign. Judy’s colorful roving and yarn caught the eye of festival goers. One goal of the display was to show the many things you can do with Finn wool. Lori Catso, a fan of Finn wool, loaned us her whimsical felted creations, including sheep, a chick and Easter Eggs. I felted a box for business cards and braided mug rugs for our FBA mugs. Elizabeth Kinne Gossner’s handspun yarn and soft natural colored felted mat completed the fiber display. Elizabeth also sent a notebook of stunning photographs of her flock showing the many colors of Finns, as well as the multiple births (septuplets) and general beauty.

Part of the fun of the Sheep and Wool Festival is seeing old friends and making new ones. Phil, Judy, my 16 year old daughter Kathleen, and I took turns in the booth talking to visitors and handing out brochures. We were assisted by Judy’s delightful 4 year old grandson, Jaydn. I was especially pleased to meet Naomi Smith of House Mountain Finnsheep, Virginia. Mary Tucker of Lighthouse Farm, New York visited when she brought her Finn yearling down to donate for the Youth Conservationist program. We attracted the attention of fiber folk as well as shepherds and potential shepherds. The size and gentleness of the Finn appeal to many people wishing to raise a few sheep on a small acreage. While discussing the charm of Finns with a family from southwestern Pennsylvania, I commented that our daughter would be graduating from Saint Vincent College in Pa the next weekend. The Mom looked and me and said, “Really, my son is graduation from SVC next weekend!!” Sure enough, we realized that we had met before at freshman orientation 4 years ago and our students had become friends.

All in all, participating in the MD Sheep and Wool Festival with a Finnsheep Breeder’s Association display was a positive experience. My goal had been to complete the display in March before lambing began. That didn’t happen, however, I obtained most of my supplies ahead of time and everything came together in the end. The display was eye catching for festival goers and judges who awarded it a purple ribbon for Best Dual-purpose Breed Display.
FINNSHEEP OUTREACH at LOCAL FESTIVALS

By E. H. Kinne Gossner

Summertime brings such a wealth of opportunity to share information about our Finnsheep breed. In early June I spent two days at the 2012 CNY Fiber Festival in Bouckville, NY where I presented all forms of Finnsheep wool for sale, competing with 50 other vendors. I sat at the corner of my modest booth happily spinning yarn on a handcrafted wheel made in 1973 (the same year that I learned this craft). Not only does this activity draw attention from passers-by, it also offers a rare chance for justified relaxation.

Additional to the wool roving, washed locks, and handspun skeins of Finn yarn I also displayed my hand-thrown pottery and an album of Finnsheep photos. One picture showing an ewe with her 6 newborn lambs caused jaws to drop open in disbelief...and gave me a reason to comment on the unique traits of our breed. Within the album I represented every color & marking now present in North American Finns which inspired many questions from interested individuals. One gentleman saw the Piebalds and asked if I had heard about Colleen Peck’s litter of seven. We had quite a conversation.

On Sunday a couple stopped by, asking all about the meat quality of the breed. I love it when I can emphasize the gourmet quality of the lambs and my words were very well received by this couple since the lady is Armenian and cooks lamb on a regular basis. She told me that her grandmother taught her old world cooking techniques and that she has very special recipes. It seems that now is the time to collect tender wild grape leaves for later use. I smiled at her and asked if she would consider doing a cookbook together. We may become much better acquainted this fall when my grass fed rams have reached freezer size.

Even though I choose to keep my flock “down on the farm” for bio-security reasons, I find willing listeners at the regional festivals. My husband appreciates these opportunities for me as well since it gives his ears a rest from hearing sheep talk constantly :) When fiber artists cannot resist their need to touch the balls of roving and then exclaim, “It’s so soft”, I know they have discovered something new. Now that I have presented Finnsheep in my region for a few years I have repeat customers, some who have become such fans that they have replaced their other breeds with purebred Finns. One of the best rewards of promoting this breed comes when I receive new lamb announcements and sometimes pictures of the progeny born. For me, helping others realize the potential of our breed is a truly enjoyable process.

Thank You Elizabeth, for Sharing Your Experiences at your local Festival and representing our Awesome Finnsheep Breed!
American Finnsheep Breeders from Lighthouse Farm, Herb and Mary Tucker of West Clarksville, NY have generously donated Finn ewes to two youth through the Youth Conservationist Program, sponsored by the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival held May 6, 2012.

Mary was contacted by the coordinator Elaine Ashcraft in February trying to find a Finn breeder interested in donating a ewe and mentoring a youth for the next year. After discussing the program with her family, Mary decided that the YCP was something she would be interested in participating in.

Youth are required to submit an essay postmarked no later than April 1st of the current year. In the essay the youth are to describe themselves, how they would be able to care for the animal, if the animal was not staying at their home, where it would be housed and what exactly their responsibilities would be, and answer the question “Why I would like to help preserve a Heritage Breed of sheep.” The essays were copied and mailed to Mary, she then had about 2 weeks to choose the child that would be receiving her ewe. After reading the essays, Mary decided that she could only narrow her choices down to two, and she decided to give each of those children a ewe. Mary chose Steffen Peabody from Brookhaven Hamlet, NY, which is on the northern end of Long Island and Elisa Dallam from Tully NY. It is unusual that the ewes came from New York, visited Maryland and then went back to new homes in the state of New York. Elisa, in her essay, wanted to get a sheep that would be able to produce wool for her to make felt for needle felting and also to produce market lambs, whereas Steffen was more interested in 4H and showing in the fair.

The youth were notified, and all made arrangements to be at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival on May 6th, 2012. In the meantime, the ewes lambed. Steffen’s ewe was a beautiful natural colored black and white ewe. Eliza’s ewe is was a white Finn and had lambs. Mary decided to let Elisa keep the ram lamb as it will be helpful in commercial market lamb production.

The Youth that are recipients, and their parents, are required to sign an Agreement, covering their responsibilities for the upcoming year. These youth will show their sheep at a local or county fair and the State Fair in their home state, promoting their breed and the YCP. They pledge to have the ewe bred to a registered ram of her breed this fall and subsequent years. They will use the fleece of their ewe to make a woolen item or to sell the fleece to a spinner, weaver or felter. They will submit a scrapbook to the coordinator of the YCP at the end of their year to be used at the following year’s MS&WF which is returned to them AND give a scrapbook to their donor breeder prior to or at the next Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. They also will write an article this spring for a local newspaper about becoming a recipient, many are in 4-H and their County 4-H Educator will submit this article for them, and then another article to be submitted to their local newspaper March 2013, covering their past year and with information about the 2013 Youth Conservationist Program.

The YCP Presentation was held Sunday afternoon during which 18 animals of various breeds were presented to 15 thrilled youngsters coming from New York, Ohio, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. The breeders donating came from New York, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Our announcer was Elaine Shirley from Colonial Williamsburg.

We Hope you will consider becoming involved with our endeavor to educate, proliferate, and conserve our amazing Finnsheep breed for our future. Mary Tucker, FBA President
I crocheted this recently using some different stitches and a textured single ply yarn that I spun. The upper part is made of sample locks from Sweetland Hill Finnsheep and the lower half is wool from the sheep that I purchased from there. The pattern is original as I made it up as I went along.

Joanna Porter <joliefemina@yahoo.com>

I sheared the wool from my sheep, spun it and knitted this Aran sweater for my husband two years ago. I also designed the pattern.

Grace Hatton <hatton@ptd.net>

Here are some pictures of a pair of mittens I just finished, made from handspun Finn. There is also probably some mohair and angora blended into the yarn as well. The original mitten pattern is from Robin Hansen’s book, *Flying Geese and Partridge Feet*. This book taught me how to make the basic mittens, plus gave the color patterns for many old time Downeast designs brought over from northern Europe with the colonial settlers. I designed the blue and white pattern myself as I went along, trying to use up some small bits of blue and white samples.

Also, if someone wants to learn how to knit in the round on double pointed needles with two colors at a time, I rightly recommend Elizabeth Zimmerman’s Knitting Workshop. Excellent understandable instructions with humor tossed in. Enjoyable to read, excellent to learn!

Amy Cook <cookamym@yahoo.com>
Advertising Rates for Short Tales

Classified:   Members $ 0.10/word
             Non-members $.15/word
Quarter Page (approx. 3.5” by 5”)
             Members $10.00
             Non-members $15.00
Full Page (approx. 7” by 10”):
             Members $40.00
             Non-members $60.00
Business Card Display: (approx. 2” by 3.5”)
             Members $5.00/card
             Non-members $7.50/card
Half Page (approx. 3.5” by 10” or 7” by 5”):
             Members $20.00
             Non-members $30.00

Advance payment required for all ads

Send your ad copy to Mary Tucker - mary@lighthousesheepfarm.com  Please place “ST Classified Ad” in the subject line or send your
hard copy and applicable fee to:   Herb Tucker, FBA Secretary  PO Box 85 W. Clarksville, NY  14786

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.

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### Finnsheep Breeders’ Directory

#### 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

#### 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 Finnsheep, Cotswold, Finn-Shetland, and Commercial Merino cross. Breeding stock, lambs, Beautiful fleeces & rovings available.

#### 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**  
  **BBG Sheep**  
  3402 Fletcher Avenue  
  Lake City, IA 51449  
  712.464.8153  
  Purebred Finnsheep  
  Crossbred Finnsheep (Finn x Suffolk, Finn x Corriedale)

#### 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

#### Maryland
- **Phil & Judy Osborn**  
  **Abundance Acres**  
  9713 Crystall Falls Drive  
  Hagerstown, MD 21740  
  301.791.1110  
  abundanceacres@myactv.net  
  www.abundantfiber.com  
  Registered breeding stock, freezer lambs, fleeces and roving. Call, email or check us out on Facebook!

- **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 ($2.00 Fee)
**Minnesota**
Tim Reese  
Gale Woods Farm Park  
7210 County Road 110 West  
Minnetrista, MN 55364  
763.694.2002  
treeese@threeeriversparkdistrict.org  
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  
Hamberg, MN 55339  
Office: 952.467.2305 or Home: 952.564.9522  
gvondieb@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  
clemensc@citlink.net  
Enrolled Scrapie Flock  
Purebred Finnsheep, white & colored; meat, breeding stock

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

Elizabeth H. Kinne Gossner  
Stillmeadow Finnsheep  
5883 Randall Hill Road  
DeRuyter, NY 13052  
315.852.3344  
www.stillmeadowfinnsheep.com  
stillmeadowfinnsheep@frontier.com  
SFCP # NY69  

Amy Cook  
Sweatland Hill Finnsheep  
64 Sweatland Hill Rd.  
Chenango Forks, NY 13746  
607.725.4844  
cookamym@yahoo.com  
www.sweatlandhillfinnsheep.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.

**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**
Colleen & Daniel O'Connors  
OK Archers  
843 Mooresfield Road  
Saunderstown, RI 02874  
401.789.0778  
cjo59@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

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

**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 quints. 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

Will Stewart
Skyemoor Farm
40101 Highland View Lane
Paeonian Springs, VA 20129
540.682.4872
willstewart@rstarmail.com
www.skyemoorfarm.com
Purebred Finnsheep (Registered), Glen Avon and Root Bloodlines, Breeding Stock and Wethers, Fleeces available, color: White

Washington
Dan & Leanne Hughes
Triple L Finnsheep
89202 N. Harrington Road
West Richland, WA 99353
509.539.6745
www.triplelfinnsheep.com
Flock Prefix: 3L
Flock ID: WA2252; SFCP Certified
30 years of breeding Finns for size, productivity, wool, milking ability and temperament. White, black, gray, brown, fawn, and pieds. Lambing records available to 1982.

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
608.345.8555
t Tracy@fireflyfields.com
www.fireflyfields.com
Flock Prefix: FF
Flock ID: WI1990
SFCP Certified Status
Purebred Finnsheep

Brian Stichter
422 US Hwy 14
Arena, WI 53503
608.753.2713
Stichter@charter.net
VSFCP Flock ID: WI456
Purebred Registered Finnsheep in white, black

FBA Director Contact:

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

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

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

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

Elizabeth Kinne Gossner, Director (2012, 1st Term)
315-852-3344
stillmeadowfinnsheep@frontier.com

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

Deb Hilliard Kirsch (2014, 1st Term)
607-478-8963
kirschdeb@yahoo.com

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

Mary O’Malley, Director (2012)
301.421.9420
johnandmaryomalley@yahoo.com

Finnsheep Breeders Association Notice:

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.
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.