Short Tales

Published by the Finnsheep Breeders' Association
http://finnsheep.org
Serving Finnsheep from 1971—2014

Volume 82, Winter

January—March, 2014

Barbara Kahl photo of a Stillmeadow ewe & new friend
Editor's Note:

My goal this year is to make the ST encouraging, educational, and enthusiastically fun (as well as business minded). Ideas, articles, projects, photos etc., that you may have to meet this goal would be greatly appreciated.

We have done many things in the past...What did you enjoy or utilize? What would you like to see included this year? What would be helpful to you? What have you learned or used from past newsletters?

We also have enclosed a new Quarterly Question section that will help the FBA formulate future directions.

Answers and feedback on these and other question would be greatly appreciated and very helpful in making our newsletter better.

Please take the time to respond.

Send your responses to our newsletter coordinator, Mary Tucker at: maire86797@yahoo.com or call her at: 585.928.1721

REMINDER

FBA Annual Activity Fees (membership renewal) were due as of January 7, 2014

Forms can be located on page 15 within this Short Tale newsletter; or on the website:
http://finnsheep.org/membership_form.htm
via email by contacting
FBAsecretary@finnsheep.org

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FINNSHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Balanced Sheet
As of December 31, 2013

ASSETS
Current Assets
Checking/Savings
Checking - BB&T
Petty Cash
Total Checking/Savings
Accounts Receivable
Accounts Receivable
Total Accounts Receivable
Total Current Assets
Other Assets
Equipment
Franklin Templeton Fund
Total Other Assets
TOTAL ASSETS

LIABILITIES & EQUITY
Equity
Opening Bal Equity
Retained Earnings
Net Income
Total Equity

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

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Lexington, VA  24450
540.463.4594
global2000_us@yahoo.com
### FINNSHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

#### Profit & Loss

**January through December 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ordinary Income/Expense Income</th>
<th>Jan - Dec 13</th>
<th>Jan - Dec 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ad Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Dues</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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<td>Breeders Directory Income</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>930.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>750.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Breeders Directory Income</strong></td>
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<td>Flock Prefix Income</td>
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<td>Income (other- dup certs etc)</td>
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<td>Membership Income - Other</td>
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<td>Registrations</td>
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<td>Finn Pedigrees</td>
<td>2,478.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-purebred</td>
<td>36.00</td>
<td>48.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non mbr reg Income</td>
<td>27.00</td>
<td>29.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pedigree or/12mth</td>
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<td>Transfers</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<td>9,007.20</td>
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#### Expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Jan - Dec 13</th>
<th>Jan - Dec 12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
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<td>Web-page</td>
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<td>Advertising - Other</td>
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<td>2,657.30</td>
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<td>Contract Labor</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
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<td><strong>Total Professional Fees</strong></td>
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<td>Stipend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office</td>
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<td>Total Supplies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
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<td>6,280.84</td>
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</table>

#### Net Ordinary Income

- Jan - Dec 13: 1,705.01
- Jan - Dec 12: 2,726.36

#### Net Income

- Jan - Dec 13: 1,705.01
- Jan - Dec 12: 2,726.36
2014 Youth Conservationist Program

Youth interested in applying for the 2014 Youth Conservationist Program

* Must be between 9 and 18 years old.

*Submit an application postmarked by April 1, 2014 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 that 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 letter of 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!

ALL ESSAYS MUST BE MAILED, WILL NOT ACCEPT EMAILED ESSAYS!

Requirements if selected:

Must be present to receive the ewe at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival on Sunday May 4, 2014. Must exhibit the ewe at least twice in 2014 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 2014, 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, with pictures, to the Donor Breeder by April 30, 2015 and provide a scrapbook to be used at the Maryland Festival which is then given back to the youth.

Any questions please contact Elaine Ashcraft 46118 CR 58 Coshocton, Ohio 43812
1740.622.1573 tankewe_cr58@yahoo.com - please note the underscore between tankewe and cr58!

Donors choose the recipients from the essays submitted by the youth

“Being a Donor-Sponsor in the Youth Conservationist Program is a great opportunity to talk about Finnsheep, give hands-on encouragement to the young person who will be awarded an ewe while listening and learning what they dream of; why they were interested in a Finnsheep, how Finnsheep can help them reach their dreams and aspiration.

Some were interested in the fiber, some in showing, some others in the commercial aspect of Finnsheep, and I enjoyed discussing how Finnsheep can help them develop their dreams...fiber art, meat, dairy...it also helped them formulate steps they could begin to take.

While participating in the YCP during the Maryland Sheep and Wool festival, I spoke with the youths who were being awarded the ewes, their families, and many other people who were interested in sheep and were looking at the different breeds. Speaking about our breed, what makes them different, why they are special, why preserving and conserving this heritage breed is important was fun to me.” Mary Tucker, Lighthouse Farm, NY maire8797@yahoo.com
New Feature: Quarterly Questions

We’d like to hear from the membership on all things related to raising Finnsheep. In each Short Tale, a few questions will be posted. Please take the time to email your response to Mary Tucker at maire8797@yahoo.com. We’ll compile the responses for the next issue.

In addition, send in your questions and they will be placed in a future “Quarterly Questions” section of the newsletter.

Set 1: How many breeding ewes and rams do you shepherd?
   Are they all Finnsheep? If you have crosses, what breeds do you cross with? Why?
   What attracted you to Finnsheep?

Set 2: What is the primary market for your sheep? (breeding stock? ethnic market? freezer lamb?)
   What value added items do you sell? (fleece, roving, crafts, dairy, other, etc…)
   How do you advertise?

Set 3: What do you feed your sheep?
   What has been your biggest challenge in raising sheep in general and Finnsheep in particular?
   If you were to begin raising sheep (from the beginning) again, what would you do differently?

Set 4: Do you coat your sheep?
   If you coat them, where have you purchased coats? or
   If you have made them, what pattern and materials have you used?

Mary Tucker, newsletter coordinator
mairie8797@yahoo.com

Do you know of any upcoming events or webinars that can be placed into our newsletter.
Event information is helpful to breeders, youths, and producers in scheduling their upcoming family’s year.

Finnsheep Projects for Feltmakers
from Stillmeadow Finnsheep

Have you ever tried your hand at making felt from Finnsheep fleeces? Using a wet felting technique combined with assistance from a clothes washer I enjoy blending colors into abstract designs for flat felt which can be made into sturdy bags. These have unisex appeal as I-pad or cell phone carriers, also as fashion statements by creative individuals. Finn fleece is particularly easy to use & gives terrific results.
Finnsheep Projects:
In this section of our newsletter, I would like to show projects made by our membership. Both adults and youths are welcome to enter items that they have made: Yarn spun, hand-dyed items, knitted, crochet, weaving, felting, sheep dairy projects such as soap or hand-lotions, even that "first ever-cooked myself" lamb meal! If a pattern was used, you may add it also. Photos of projects welcomed. Send to Mary Tucker, newsletter coordinator: maire8797@yahoo.com

The baby blanket (close up), doll sweater (original design), and original design jumper "The Memory of Trees" by Joanna Porter.

The blanket pattern is free on Ravelry at http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/cable-knit-throw

"The jumper and doll sweater I made up on the fly and unfortunately did not write the pattern down (I might actually have written down the American Girl Doll sweater pattern quickly on note paper and have it someplace, if anyone really wants it). The jumper though, I just drew a picture, did some math, and knitted it...so really no pattern for that, just basic instructions on method".

Joanna Porter, joannaporter1@gmail.com

My recent project: Mittens!
I have been trying to felt mittens using the Scandinavian feltmaking technique described by Anne Einset Vickrey in her book: The Art of Feltmaking. I am also incorporating tips suggested by Sharon Costello in a workshop I attended a few years ago.
The mitten on the far left was the first attempt. The thumb was not defined enough and I did not felt the sides or "seam" area well. The second try fared a little better, but the thumb was still not defined enough and the "seams" are noticeable. I made a new pattern between the 2nd and 3rd attempt to define the thumb better. I was pretty happy with the third attempt, but I botched cutting open the mitten to remove the pattern. The fourth attempt, far right is the best yet, but where the thumb attaches still needs work. I hope to make a match soon, so I can wear them out.

Mary O’Malley, johnandmaryomalley@yahoo.com
The selection of a suitable farm should be the first care of a person who intends to devote his time and capital to the rearing of sheep.

To become a successful shepherd, requires that a person should have a liking for the business, and possess tact, patience, and perseverance sufficient to resist the temptations which may arise at seasons of depression to abandon it for some other temporarily more promising pursuit.

Having a determination to stick to his flock, he must have a farm suited to its special needs or it will not thrive.

Sheep cannot bear damp; and undrained pastures are fatal to their welfare. Luxuriance of herbage is not generally favorable unless the land is heavily stocked and the pasture kept short and closely cropped.

Old permanent meadows, in which a variety of grasses are found, are better than artificial meadows which form part of a rotation with other crops.

With a portion of such permanent meadow, there may be many cultivated crops grown upon the other portions of the farm upon which the sheep may be folded—with benefit both to themselves and the land.

The land most suitable for sheep is one that is naturally drained, with a sandy loam or gravelly soil and subsoil, and which bears spontaneously short, fine, herbage, largely mixed with white clover. It should be rolling, and maybe hilly in character rather than flat and level.

Any low spots or hollows in which aquatic or marsh plants grow, are very objectionable, and should be thoroughly drained. One such spot upon an otherwise admirable farm may infect a flock with deadly disease. No domestic animal is more readily affected by adverse circumstances than the sheep, and none has less spirit or power to resist them. Virgil, the ancient poet, a close observer of such matters, says of them, "Oves semper infelix pecus," (Sheep are always an unhappy flock), and many shepherds since his day have found reason to hold the same belief.

But the experienced sheepmaster has no fear on this score. He knows that a reputation for success with sheep is "never gained without merit, nor lost without deserving," and that failure is not want of luck, as is so frequently declared, but the consequence of ignorance or bad management.

The careful shepherd will not wait to cure, he is prompt to prevent; and every defeat is made a new lesson for study and an example for future avoidance. It is by long experience that shepherds have learned that the first requisite for success in their business is, the choice of a farm upon which their flocks will enjoy perfect health, and that dryness of soil and of air is the first necessity for their well being. By a careful and judicious choice in this respect, most of the ills to which sheep are subject, with all their contingent losses to their owners, are avoided.

Soils & Sheep Character

The character of the soil upon which sheep are pastured has a great influence in modifying the character of the sheep.

Upon the kind of soil of course depends the character of the herbage upon which the flock feeds.

Certain soils, such as those consisting of decomposed granite or feldspar, and which are rich in potash, are not generally favorable for sheep. Even turnips raised on such lands sometimes affect the sheep injuriously, producing disease under which they waste away, become watery about the eyes, fall in about the flanks, and assume a generally unhealthy appearance.
Upon removal to a limestone, or a dry sandstone soil, sheep thus affected, improve at once and rapidly recover.

The lambs, as might be expected, are most easily affected, and many are yearly lost by early death upon lands of an unfavorable character.

As a rule, lands upon which granite, feldspathic or micaceous rocks intrude, or whose soils are derived from the degradation of such rocks, should be avoided by the shepherd. Such soils are, however, not without their uses, and fortunately are excellently adapted to the dairy.

The soils most to be preferred are sandstone and limestone lands, of a free, dry, porous character, upon which the finer grasses flourish.

The soils which are derived from rocks called carboniferous, which accompany coal deposits, or are found in the regions in which coal is mined, are those upon which sheep have been bred with the most success.

The original home of the Leicester sheep, as well as that of the famous Shropshires, is on the red sandstone; the Lincoln is raised on the alluvial soils based on limestone; the Cotswold has had its home for centuries on the limestone Cotswold hills; the Southdown, Hampshire down, and Oxford downs, are native to the chalk hills and downs of southern England; the Scotch Cheviot and the hardy blackfaced Scotch sheep thrive on sandstone hills and mountains of trap rocks which rise amongst them; the fine wools of Yorkshire are produced on magnesian limestone soils; and to come to our own soils, we find the American Merino reaching perfection on the limestone hills of Vermont, beneath which fine marbles are quarried.

Unfortunately this is the only instance we possess of having given a local habitation to a race of sheep in America; but how soon we shall have produced or acclimated several breeds of sheep, which will take their peculiarities from the locality in which they are bred and raised, is only a question of time.

Peat or marsh lands are unfavorable for sheep farms. Salt marshes near the coast, however, may be excepted from this general condemnation, as the saline herbage acts as a specific against some of the parasitic diseases-the liver-rot mainly-to which sheep are subject upon marshy pastures.

The Romney-marsh sheep of England are bred successfully upon the alluvial soils of reclaimed marshes, and produce good wool and a heavy carcass.

The gigantic Lincoln, the largest sheep bred, originated and thrives in perfection upon drained alluvial soils.

The dry, friable nature and porous character of the soil has as much to do with the health and growth of sheep as the geological character of the rocks upon which it is based, or from which it has been derived.

The census returns of England show that the highest percentage of sheep to the 100 acres, is found precisely where the soil is naturally drained and dry, and the lowest, where clay abounds and damp, cold soils with rank, coarse herbage are general.

In our own country, although the time has been far too short as yet for this condition to operate largely, we find the same fact curiously developed, and Ohio and western Pennsylvania, with their extensive coal bearing formations underlying dry rolling fields, possess more sheep than any other district, while New York, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, which cover an extensive deposit of limestones and sandstones, with naturally dry soils, come next on the list.

The vast stretch of prairies in the Mississippi Valley, and of plains west of the Missouri to the Rocky Mountains, chiefly underlaid with limestones and sandstones, and especially remarkable for a dry, porous soil-which bears a rich carpet of the best sheep pastures in the world-have already proved themselves to be well adapted to the successful growth of flocks bearing fine and medium wools.

The rich alluvial valleys of the eastern rivers where naturally or artificially drained, have been found to be fitted for the production of large bodied sheep bearing the lustrous combing wools. All these localities with the hills and valleys of the Middle States will in course of time have their flocks suitable in character to the circumstances in which they are kept.
But it will only be in consequence of persistence in careful breeding and culture, that the final type for each locality will be reached; for while the effects of soil and locality are unavoidable and imperative, the shepherd must be able to discover these effects and aid in giving them their due development if early success is to be secured.

But in whatever locality it may be, if the soil is not naturally drained, profitable sheep farms may be sought in vain.

The profit from sheep raising as a special business will not permit of high-priced lands.

Where sheep are kept only as a branch of general farming, it may pay to drain the soil artificially; but without drainage, natural or artificial, sheep cannot thrive.

The sheep must have a dry foot or disease follows.

**Weather Exposure**

The exposure of the pasture is another important consideration. Long continued cold winds are productive of great discomfort and sickness, and often cause serious loss amongst the flock.

On the sea coast, exposure to the moist sea breezes injures the quality of the wool, and renders it harsh and deficient in quantity.

Of two adjoining flocks upon opposite aides of a hill facing north and south, the sheep exposed to the north winds will be several pounds less in weight, and their wool will be whiter, harsher, more uneven, and less healthy looking, than those of the flock upon the south side.

This experience is very common.

The lambs will also be less thrifty. Of this, many notable cases occur every season where sheep and lambs are pastured and fed for the markets. The small size of sheep raised upon mountain pastures is a case in point.

**Water Supplies**

The supply of water is of the greatest importance.

A living spring or a clear flowing stream with dry gravelly banks is the best source of supply.

Wells are better than ponds or pools.

Stagnant water is exceedingly objectionable.

Hard water is better than soft, and water containing much saline or other mineral matter, is a valuable help to the pasture as furnishing many necessary substances. When water is exposed to the atmosphere it deposits the greater part of any mineral matter it may contain, and becomes soft. It is then rendered of less value for stock purposes.

There are some waters that contain potash, lime, soda, magnesia, iron, and sulphur in combination with oxygen, carbonic acid, and chlorine to the amount of 15 to 20 grains per gallon, and such water is a source of nourishment to sheep.

Pond or marsh water is highly injurious, as is also running water in which aquatic plants are found. It is from drinking such water, as much as from pasturing on undrained soils, that the liver flukes, parasites always accompanying the disease termed the rot, gain access to the stomach and intestines of the sheep.

A deficiency in the necessary mineral matters may be obviated by giving the sheep stated supplies of a mixture of common salt, sulphur, salt-peter, sulphate of magnesia, (epsom salts), phosphate of lime, bone-dust, or fine bone, with a small portion of sulphate of iron, (copperas). A small teaspoonful of this mixture given once a week to each sheep will help greatly to a healthful condition, and resist the tendency to disease caused by inferior pasture or soft water.

The study of the plants suitable for a pasture, the character of soils, and the water, should be part of the education of every shepherd.
In accordance with the FBA Constitution “Article IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 1. Category 1. Voting Membership. Owners of flocks of registered Finnsheep or the duly authorized agents or representatives of such owners shall be entitled to membership. Upon payment of annual activity fees, such membership shall be entitled to vote in relation to the number of animals registered annually from said flock. The number of votes entitled to said flock shall be determined by the annual number of sheep registered as follows.

1 vote for 0 to 50 registered
2 votes for 51 to 100 registered
3 votes for 101 to 500 registered
4 votes for 501 to 1000 registered
5 votes for 1001 and over registered

The “annual number of sheep registered” shall be designated as the number of Finnsheep registered by the flock owner for the preceding calendar year prior to the year the vote is cast. For purposes of establishing the number of registrations the secretary shall publish as of January 1 each year, the total number of registrations made by each flock owner for the preceding year.”

We, the FBA board of directors, hereby submit the following report to the Finnsheep Breeders’ Association members.
Finnsheep were first imported into the United States in 1968 for one specific reason – to improve the productivity of commercial sheep in the U.S.

At the time, lambing rates nationwide were languishing below one lamb per ewe per year and crossbreeding programs utilizing highly prolific Finnsheep were seen as a quick way to revitalize the industry.

Progressive commercial producers who integrated Finnsheep into their operations found the Finn jumpstart to be a huge success. Researchers predicted and growers confirmed that each one percent increase of Finnsheep blood in the genetics of a crossbred ewe resulted in roughly a one percent rise in lambing percentages. The fact that Finnsheep transmit their prolificacy via multiple genes rather than just one or two allows commercial producers the luxury of essentially “dialing in” their desired lambing rate by controlling the amount of Finn blood in their ewe flock. Most commercial producers choose to maintain somewhere between 25 and 50 percent Finn breeding in their females. More lambs born means more total pounds of lamb sold and a better bottom line.

Today, the same numbers apply. The primary source of income for most commercial producers is still pounds of lamb sold multiplied by the selling price per pound. Finnsheep and their crosses excel in that regard better than any other woolled sheep in America!

Since 1972, more research has been conducted on Finnsheep than any other breed in the U.S. and that research says the benefits of Finnsheep to commercial producers go far beyond just added prolificacy. A recent Finn research summary by Dr. D.L. Thomas, University of Wisconsin-Madison concludes that “Compared to several domestic purebreds and crosses, sheep with Finnsheep breeding have 1) a younger age at puberty, 2) greater fertility to autumn mating, 3) greater litter size, 4) greater survival to weaning, 5) similar growth rate and 6) similar subcutaneous fat thickness… *

In addition, Finnsheep possess a long breeding season conducive to out-of-season or accelerated lambing schedules. They are noted for resisting ketosis (lambing paralysis) and rarely prolapse while carrying their large litters of lambs to term. And, when healthy and well fed, they frequently milk well enough to raise three or more lambs - a valuable asset not only to commercial producers but sheep dairies as well.

Finns stand apart from other prolific breeds in possessing lustrous, medium-fine, hair-free wool that can come in a variety of beautiful colors – though pure white remains dominant and the breed standard.

Finally, Finnsheep possess a mild temperament that lends itself to easy care – no more chasing animals to the far side of pens or pastures when you need to work with them.

As most veteran producers are quick to point out, “average” doesn’t cut it any more in the sheep business. If you plan to make your living – or a significant part of it – selling lamb AND wool by the pound into the commercial market, you should know that a percentage of Finnsheep breeding in your ewe flock isn’t just an option – it’s a necessity!

The commercial sheep industry in the U.S. has been downsizing now for over 50 years. There were hopeful signs that the trend might be reversed in 2014, at least temporarily. But, government figures released at the end of January surprised many by showing another 2 percent across the board decline in numbers nationwide.

Selling lamb and wool into the commodity (generic) market is a tough business. Lamb prices have an extremely erratic history (witness: 2011 vs. 2012). Feed costs are highly dependent on weather conditions both locally and in major grain producing areas of the U.S. ($8.00 per bushel corn a year ago vs. $4.00 today). And, labor costs continue to rise. How many other businesses can weather a 50 percent decline in the price of their finished product with a doubling of costs – in the same year – and survive?

With all of that said, the rest of the story is that despite those challenges, many commercial producers manage to hang in there during the tough times and make some decent money when market conditions are good – but they don't do it by being "average!"

Though sheep are certainly dual-purpose animals, most farm flock commercial producers receive the bulk of their income from the sale of lamb. Profits, or lack thereof, are determined by pounds of lamb sold times price per pound. The single most important factor affecting pounds of lamb sold is number of lambs born – prolificacy. That is why I tell commercial producers who raise wooled sheep that they must include some Finn breeding in their ewe flock. Under today's economic conditions, it isn’t just an option – it’s a necessity!

The benefits of Finnsheep to commercial producers are many: high fertility rates and prolificacy, early sexual maturity, excellent post-natal survival, long breeding season, ample milk production, hair-free wool and quiet disposition – to name a few. But, despite those attributes, Finnsheep are generally not seen as an ideal stand alone breed for the commercial industry, for a couple of reasons.

Despite big improvements in the last 25 years, most pure Finns still lack ideal industry standard muscling and growth characteristics. These two shortcomings, however, are easily overcome by crossing with a high growth, meat breed terminal sire. Plus, crossbreeding tends to reinforce virtually all of the desirable traits Finns are already known for.

Research from several USDA and Land Grant university sources indicates that mating crossbred ewes to terminal sires of an unrelated breed can increase total pounds of lamb weaned by as much as 35 percent. Toss in the fact that those gains from heterosis (crossbreeding) come at no additional cost and it becomes apparent why most commercial growers today maintain crossbred ewe flocks.

There is only one other breed of sheep in the U.S. that can match Finnsheep in terms of prolificacy and that is the Romanov. Both breeds are thought to have descended from the wild Mouflon sheep of Northern Europe centuries ago. But, their paths have diverged since then.

Finns are definitely wooled sheep, possessing lustrous, medium/fine fleeces in a variety of colors, with pure white dominating (any trace of color is taboo for commercial producers selling wool into the generic market). Romanovs are actually hair sheep, though that fact is well camouflaged in F1 crosses with wooled breeds.
But, come shearing time, those F1 fleeces contaminated with hair usually carry heavy discounts from commercial wool buyers.

Starting in the early 1990’s Romanov sires began making some serious inroads into the farm flock commercial market in the Midwest and East. Research done at USMARC, Clay Center, NE indicates Romanovs hold an advantage over Finns when it comes to prolificacy, mature body size, out of season breeding tendencies and growth. Plus, they appear to be somewhat more resistant (or at least tolerant) to ovine progressive pneumonia.

The trend away from Finns to Romanovs has now started to reverse itself again due to both the wool (or hair) situation and the fact that many commercial growers have become frustrated with the flighty disposition of Romanovs and their crosses. At best, however, wool has only been a fractional part of the income generated from most commercial flocks. More often, it has been a net loss to the bottom line. For that reason, some commercial growers have closed their eyes, bit the bullet and moved completely to hair sheep breeds or their crosses.

Finnsheep breeders must work hard to meet or beat the Romanov challenge for prolific breed supremacy in the commercial industry. I am more concerned with differences in out-of-season breeding success, survivability, growth and OPP resistance than I am the slight difference in prolificacy. Two things that can help quickly tilt the playing field in our favor are scientific genetic selection programs such as NSIP/LambPlan and widespread testing of all breeding rams to identify resistance to OPP. Maintaining an OPP-free flock is the gold standard in managing the disease, but most commercial producers still have not accepted that level of concern. Attempting to infuse a measure of genetic resistance to the disease may be the next best option.

As I begin my 40th year in the commercial sheep business, a few keys to success and longevity stand out:

- **A prolific ewe flock** – Anything less than a 200 percent lamb crop market will be tough sledding. 250%-plus is very doable and should be the goal.

- **An “easy care” ewe flock** – Easy care means different things to different people, but to me it means having sheep that will perform the way you want with as little human intervention as possible. Another way to quantify it is “hands free” sheep. Time spent working with individual sheep quickly limits the flock size you can manage.

- **A healthy ewe flock** – Unexpected health problems are the leading cause of disillusionment among newcomers to the sheep business. Buy healthy sheep. Ask for written guarantees or evidence to support health claims. Pay the price to get a healthy start and then maintain strict bio-security to keep your flock “clean.”.

- **Great rams** – First and foremost, buy rams that will complement your ewe flock. The cheapest ram is rarely the least expensive. Ask to see production and performance records. And don’t just evaluate the ram. Evaluate the person selling it as well.

- **Ask questions; find a better way** – Don’t insist upon making all the mistakes yourself! Find trustworthy mentors and information sources and learn all you can from them. If you are a good learner and catch on fast, it will be a happy, life-long process.

- **Establish goals and keep records** - The old saying is “if you don’t know where you’re going, you won’t know if you’ve arrived.” Likewise, “If you can’t measure it, you can’t make progress.” Unless yours is strictly a hobby, you at least need to know whether you work for the sheep or the sheep work for you.

- **Eat lamb and wear wool** – Promoting and selling your product always begins at home!
Finnsheep Breeders’ Association
Membership and Breeder Directory Form

Instructions: Print, Complete and mail this form and your payment to:
Finnsheep Breeders Association
PO Box 51 222 Main St. Milo, IA 50166
PH: 641.942.6402

Name: _____________________________________________

Farm Name: _______________________________________

Street Address: ____________________________________ State: _______ Zip: _______

Phone #: __________________________ E-Mail: __________________________ Website: 

Please Check All That Apply:

___ New Adult Member ($ 35.00)  ___ Youth/Associate Member ($ 10.00)

___ Continuing Adult Member ($ 25.00)  ___ Continuing Youth/Associate Member ($ 15.00)

___ Scrapie Flock ID (if participant): ___________________ ( ) Voluntary ( ) Export ( ) Pending ( ) Enrolled ( ) Certified

The FBA encourages breeders to participate in the program; however, participation is not required to become a FBA Member.

___ Short Tale Newsletter FREE to FBA Members via Email unless requested to be sent hard copy via US Postal Mail.

___ Breeder Directory Listing ($ 30.00): **FBA Members Only (Entered into FBA Website, FBA On-line Database, and FBA newsletter). Six (6) photos (.jpg format preferred) may be added to a listing by sending form and photo files by email to: webmaster@finnsheep.org

( ) Purebred Finnsheep ( ) Commercial Breeder ( ) Cross-Bred Finnsheep – List crosses____________________________

( ) Wool or Other Value Added Products – list ____________________________

Breeder Directory Listing – Include a brief description of 20 words or less. There is an additional fee of $ 1.00 /line (5 words = 1 line) for listings containing over 20 words. __________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

Flock Prefix: ($ 10.00/letter):

The Flock Prefix enables Exclusive use of your name, flock, or farm on registrations and is a One Time fee. The Flock Prefix fits best if 10 letters or less...this gives space for the entire animal ID to fit in the space provided on the Certificate of Registry.

Total Amount Due: $ ___________________ (Make check to: Finnsheep Breeders’ Association)

Membership/Annual Activity Fees are due on or before January 7th of each year. Members receive a free yearly subscription to “Short Tales” newsletter via email (unless requested in hard-copy format), Access to the Finnsheep_Breeders chat group on Yahoo for encouragement or help in your endeavor, A copy of meeting minutes, and an annual report. Members will receive copies of other pertinent mailings and/or emails.

I/we agree to be governed by the rules, regulations, constitution and by-laws of the Association as amended from time to time, and to keep written records of breeding, exact birth dates and litter sizes of Finnsheep, and further, that I/we will furnish promptly any information concerning same at any time when requested to do so by the Association.

Signed: ___________________________________________ Date: _________________________

Revised on: 03-21-13
FBA Breeder Directory

**California**

Shawna & Nels Bloom, Beau Peeps Sheep  
PO Box 337  
Homeland, CA  92548  
951.928.6247  
shawnamariebloom@icloud.com  
www.beaupeepsbabydolls.com

Tamera 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 Pure-bred, Registered Stock.  Fleeces available  
Breeding stock & pets

**Colorado**

Rebecca A. Colman, Beck’s Place  
205 Walker Lane  
Canon City, CO  81212  
719.269.8950  
ridermom@gmail.com  
www.RebeccaColman.com  
Flock Prefix:  Medley  
White, Black, Brown, Gray, Fawn, Piebald Pure-bred, Registered Stock.  Fleeces available  
Breeding stock & pets

**Connecticut**

Chris and Beth Fallon, Barefeet Farm  
459 Sawmill Hill Rd.  
Sterling, CT  06377  
860.774.5331  
mrsfbfallon@yahoo.com  
www.BarefeetFarm.com

Rhonda Jaacks, Harlequin Farm  
132 White Hollow Road  
Lakeville, CT  06039  
860.435.9865  
rjaacks@att.net  
HarlequinFarm.blogspot.com  
Flock Prefix:  Harlequin

**Indiana**

Pamela K. Hoover, Rooster’s Run Farm  
5197 SW Washington School Road  
812.896.1223  
pam.hoover@rrfiberfarm.com  
www.rrfiberfarm.com  
Purebred Finnsheep, Finn-Shetland  
Enrolled Status:  Mandatory Scrapie Program since 2002  
Flock ID:  IN 88035  
The Rooster’s Run store selling yarn, rovings, fleeces, hand dyed wool & rovings.  ($2.00 fee)

**Iowa**

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

Marvin Blair, BBG Sheep  
3402 Fletcher Avenue  
Lake City, IA  51449  
712.464.8153  
Purebred Finnsheep and Crossbred Finnsheep  
(Finn x Hamp and Finn x Dorset)

Clark BreDahl, Mormon Trail Farm  
1911 290th Street  
Greenfield, IA  50849  
641.745.2323  
bredahl.mtfarms@gmail.com  
www.pullenfarms.com  
Healthy rotational grazed registered Finn sheep, Cotswald, Finn-Shetland & Commercial Merino cross.  Breeding stock, lambs, beautiful fleeces & rovings available.

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, Pygora goats, & Angora rabbits.  Breeding stock, fleeces, hand dyed wool & rovings.  ($2.00 fee)

**Maine**

Kathleen & Ben Stern, Sweet Clover Farm  
248 Belgrade Road  
Mt. Vernon, ME  04352  
207.293.2615  
sweetcloverfarm@roadrunner.com  
www.sweetcloverfarm.weebly.com  
Registered purebred Finnsheep, Finn/Romney and Finn/Columbia crosses.  Breeding stock, wool and meat available.

**Maryland**

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

Phil and Judy Osborn, Abundance Acres  
9713 Crystal Falls Drive  
Hagerstown, MD  21740  
Office:  240.556.027 or Home:  301.791.1110  
abundanceacres@myactv.net  
www.abundancefiber.com

**Illinois**

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

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

Fran Smith, Zip Ty Acres  
7588 E. State Route 9  
Rankin, IL  60960  
217.375.4311  
ziptyacres@gmail.com  
www.ZipTyAcres.com  
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Breeding stock & pets

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HarlequinFarm.blogspot.com  
Flock Prefix:  Harlequin

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5197 SW Washington School Road  
812.896.1223  
pam.hoover@rrfiberfarm.com  
www.rrfiberfarm.com  
Purebred Finnsheep, Finn-Shetland  
Enrolled Status:  Mandatory Scrapie Program since 2002  
Flock ID:  IN 88035  
The Rooster’s Run store selling yarn, rovings, fleeces, plus other wool products, Kromski spinning wheels, and Howard Brush carders.  We also offer registered Angora goats.

**Iowa**

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

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Hagerstown, MD  21740  
Office:  240.556.027 or Home:  301.791.1110  
abundanceacres@myactv.net  
www.abundancefiber.com
Minnesota, cont.

Tim Reese, Gale Woods Farm Park
7210 County Road 110 West
Minnetrista, MN  55364
463.694.2002
treese@threeriversparkdistrict.org
www.galewoodsfarm.org
Flock Prefix:  TRP  Flock ID:  MN43
SFCP Enrolled status since 2005
Purebred Finnsheep, Crossbred Corriedale
and Icelandic.  Gale Woods is an educational
farm.  Products include wool, yarn, Pasture
raised lamb, beef, poultry hogs and a vegeta-
ble CSA

Gail VonBargen, Little Red Oak Farm
14255 Jacob Street
Hamburg, MN  55339
Office:  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,
black, gray, brown, Badger and Piebald.  We
sell breeding stock, unregistered stock, raw
wool and roving.

Missouri

Laurie Moxley, Moxley Farm
10510 Boulder Road
Mountain Grove, MO  65711
477.926.3618
mcwobble@aol.com
Registered Finns  black, white, chocolate, and
Piebald in South Central Missouri.  A healthy
flock under rotational grazing management.

New York

Amy Cook, Sweetland Hill Finnsheep
64 Sweetland Hill Road
Chenango Forks, NY  13746
607.725.4811
cookamym@sunybroome.edu
www.sweetlandhillfinnsheep.com
Purebred Finnsheep & Finn/North Country
Cheviot crosses.  Purebred Finnsheep in
black, white and badgerface.  Fleeces and
hand dyed wool & rovings for felting and spin-
ning for sale.

Teresa Fallon & Andy Nageri
Ironwood Hill Farm
PO Box 404
Newark Valley, NY  13811
607.237.1788 or 607.972.1885
ironwoodhillfarm@gmail.com
www.ironwoodhillfarm.com
Purebred Finnsheep in all colors.  Raised natu-
rally on our biosecure farm.  Disease Free flock
and tested annually for OPP

Elizabeth H. Kinne Gossner
Stillmeadow Finnsheep
5883 Randall Hill Road
DeRuyter, NY  13052
stillmeadowfinnsheep@frontier.com
www.stillmeadowfinnsheep.com
Flock# NY69-SFCP Certified Scrapie Free 2012
Biosecure Closed Purebred Finnsheep Flock,
OPP Negative.  Bred for Maternalism and Fleece
since 1994, white and colors.

Deborah Kirsch, The Meadow’s Gate
3978 Pingrey Hill Rd
Andover, NY 14806
607-590-1605
kirschdeb54@yahoo.com
SFCP ID:  NY 116
The Meadow Gate Finnsheep has Finns from
well respected bloodlines.  Dedicated to optimiz-
ing their desirable traits, while maintaining breed
purity.  Lambs, adults, wool available.

Lisa Konnerth and Steffen Peabody
Bay Haven Short Tails
80 Bay Rd
Brookhaven, NY 11719
631-776-0279
bayhavenshorttails@hotmail.com
www.bayhavenshorttails.com
We are a small fiber farm located on the south
shore of Long Island.   We raise Finnsheep and
Angora rabbits.

Space is available for your
Finnsheep Breeder Directory Listing.
Cost is $30.00 per year.
A Directory listing is also placed on the FBA Website
and the FBA Online Database
FBA Breeder Directory, cont.  

Ohio, cont

Dr. J Mark Judy, DVM, Glen Avon Farm
255 N. Cherry St
Germantown, OH 45327
937-855-1101
steamboatinsoopy@juno.com
Purebred Finnsheep
Glen Avon Farm has a secondary contact at
Alan Judy, Farm Manager
8951 Browns Run Rd
Germantown, OH
937-855-6281 C. 937-241-8956
Continuous breeding purebred white Finnsheep since 1976. Descendants from the original "Aries" line imported from Prince Edward Island, Canada. Some colored Finnsheep. Raw and processed wool rovings and batts.

New York, cont.

Sheila Warden, Sawyer Creek Farm
80 California Rd.
Gouverneur, NY 13642
315.287.0437
sawyerfm@northnet.org

CaraLeigh Wilson, Point of View Farm
PO Box 535
Bangall, NY 12506
845.868.4140
finnsheep@me.com
www.pointofviewfarm.net
SFCP Flock ID: NY 120
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 gray lambs. Entire flock tested for negative OPP status annually, Random flock testing for CL and Johnes. Flock goals are wide genetic variety, conformation, maternal traits, parasite resistance and high quality wool. Chemical free coated hand spinning fleeces, roving and yarn available in all colors. Come visit and see how we have an alternative Point of View at our farm following the traditions of family in Finland.

Ohio, cont

Terrie Godfrey, Eldorado Farms
10915 Main Rd
Berlin Heights, OH 44914
419-554-1069
terrie@eldoradofinn.com
www.eldoradofinn.com

Gayle Workman, Meadowlark Farm
20090 Fred-Amity Road
Mt. Vernon, OH 43060
954.290.0737
Flock Prefix: Meadowlark Flock ID: OH594
Purebred Finnsheep and Finn x Dorset gently and organically raised, raw wool, fiber pets, and breeding stock.

Gayle Workman, Meadowlark Farm
20090 Fred-Amity Road
Mt. Vernon, OH 43060
954.290.0737
Flock Prefix: Meadowlark Flock ID: OH594
Purebred Finnsheep and Finn x Dorset gently and organically raised, raw wool, fiber pets, and breeding stock.

Oregon

Jeri Gebelin
9801 NE 13th Avenue
Portland, OR 97211
805.350.5009
shepherdess@brandweinmeadows.com
www.brandweinmeadows.com

Meg Shaughnessy, Devitt Valley Farm
20754 Summit Hwy.
Blodget, OR 97326
541.456.2266

Pennsylvania

Mary & Herb Tucker, Lighthouse Farm
PO Box 85
West Clarksville, NY 14786
585.928.1721
maire8797@yahoo.com
www.lighthousesheepfarm.com
SFCP Flock ID: NY 103
Purebred Finnsheep & Finn x Dorset cross. Finnsheep white lines plus other color lines. Wide genetics. Selected for build, muscle, maternalism, fleeces. Lambs available year round. Scrapie QR and RR genetic lines.

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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 gray lambs. Entire flock tested for negative OPP status annually, Random flock testing for CL and Johnes. Flock goals are wide genetic variety, conformation, maternal traits, parasite resistance and high quality wool. Chemical free coated hand spinning fleeces, roving and yarn available in all colors. Come visit and see how we have an alternative Point of View at our farm following the traditions of family in Finland.

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419-554-1069
terrie@eldoradofinn.com
www.eldoradofinn.com

Gayle Workman, Meadowlark Farm
20090 Fred-Amity Road
Mt. Vernon, OH 43060
954.290.0737
Flock Prefix: Meadowlark Flock ID: OH594
Purebred Finnsheep and Finn x Dorset gently and organically raised, raw wool, fiber pets, and breeding stock.
Rhode Island

Colleen & Daniel O’Connors, OK Archers
843 Mooresfield Road
Saunderstown, RI 02874
401.789.0778
cjo59@verizon.net
SFCP: Pending  Flock Prefix: OKA
Small Family Homestead in South County, RI with Registered Finnsheep of various colors and bloodlines; scrapie free, friendly breeding stock available.

Tennessee

Megan Pennington, Circle M Farm
204 Straight Fork Rd
Hunstville, TN 37756
423-215-2637
megan@circlemfinnsheep.com
www.circlemfinnsheep.com
Flock Prefix: Circle M
Purebred Finnsheep; white with some brown or fawn possible. Raw fleeces. Lambs available and at times adults.

Virginia

Naomi Smith, House Mountain Farm
1765 Jacktown Road
Lexington, VA 24450
840.463.6062
SFCP enrolled since 1999  Flock ID: VA 17
Farm established in 1985 in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Purebred Finnsheep flock of 100 breeding ewes, mostly quads and quints. Bred for size, multiple births, mothering ability and structural correctness. Glen Avon & Root bloodlines. Rams available for cross-breeding

Virginia, cont.

Will Stewart, Skyemoor Farm
40101 Highland View Lane
Paeonian Springs, VA 20129
540.882.4872
will.stewart1a@gmail.com
www.skyemoorfarm.com
Flock Prefix: SKY
Purebred Registered Finnsheep. Breeding stock (ewes & rams), wethers, fiber pets, Crossbred Finns also. Fleeces and rovings available. Colors in White, Black, and Badgerface.

Washington

Vicki Bratton, Tumbelle
PO Box 1264
Ephrata, WA 98823
509.289.0922
tumbelle@nwii.net
Dan & Leanne Hughes, Triple L Finnsheep
89202 N. Harrington Road
West Richland, WA 99353
509.539.6745
danlea23@msn.com
Leanne@TripleLFinnsheep.com
www.triplelfinnsheep.com
Flock Prefix: 3L
30 years of breeding Finns for size, productivity, wool, milking ability and temperament. White black gray brown fawn and pieds. Lambing records available since 1982

Washington, cont.

Emily Tzeng
6522 NB Bay View Rd.
Bainbridge, WA 98110
443.350.7207
emtzeng@gmail.com
Robert & Sandra Willford, Solace Farm
30119 N. Spotted Road
Deer Park, WA 99006
509.276.7160
solacefarmfibber@yahoo.com
www.solacefinnsheep.com
SFCP Flock ID: WA2167
Natural meat and fiber. Quality white and colored fleeces, rovings and hand-spun yarns.

Wisconsin

Tracy Sengupta, Firefly Fields Finnsheep
4110 W. Plymouth Church Road
Beloit, WI 53511
608.345.8555
tracy@fireflyfields.com
www.fireflyfields.com
SFCP: Certified  Flock ID: WI1990
Flock Prefix: FF

Linda Witt, Misty Mountain Farm
154 Quail Call Lane
AMissville, VA 20106
540.937.4707
info@mistymountainfarm.com
www.mistymountainfarm.com
SFCP Flock ID: VA 26
Purebred Finnsheep, Hand-spinning fleeces, roving and batts

Debra Perry, Dancing Waters Farm
4925 163rd Lane SW
Rochester, WA 98579
360.273.9917
Flock Prefix: DWF
mountaintrailwalker@yahoo.com
Facebook: Dancing Waters Farm

Brian Stichter
422 US Hwy 14
Arend, WI 53503
608.753.2713
stichter@charter.net
VSFCP Flock ID: WI456
Purebred Registered Finnsheep in white, black, and brown. Finn x North Country Cheviot commercial ewes and ewe lambs, fleeces and raw wool available.
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 1971 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.

Come visit our website at [http://finnsheep.org](http://finnsheep.org)