

American Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Association Newsletter

Paonia, Colorado

June 2007

A Message from the President – the Newsletter We NEED You!

Okay, I'll be the first to admit it – we did NOT achieve the goal of getting election results to you before half the year is over (as noted in the October 2006 newsletter). And it is my fault: me, President Suzanne Correira. I've also been putting this newsletter together for you for a couple of years.

I have no excuse other than lack of time AND lack of newsletter material as I wanted to have more than just a two-page newsletter (*IF* that much this time) sent to you, our membership. The time factor is my own fault, but the lack of content is NOT entirely my fault. Unless the membership sends in items for the newsletter there is no newsletter, or a very short one. We need stories and PICTURES. Black Welsh sheep stories – NEW stories from NEW people.

Board Election Results

By Oogie McGuire

We had 26 valid members when the balloting closed. Nineteen ballots were returned and recorded and the election results are as follows:

President Suzanne Correira	18 votes
Write in Candidate Tom Wyman	1 vote

VP Steven Sands	19 votes
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Secretary/Treasurer Oogie McGuire	19 votes
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Board of Directors

Sue Goetz	19 votes
Melanie Grimster	18 votes
Robin Morse	19 votes
Stanley Ward	18 votes
Write in Gretchen Griffith	1 vote

I rolled a dice to determine who got the one-year term that expires in 2007 and it was Stanley Ward. *SO*, Melanie Grimster is a two-year BOD member and Stanley has one year left on his term.

Registry Reports and Requirements

Lambing Reports for 2007

You should be thinking about getting those 2007 lambing reports ready, as probably most of you are finished lambing, or close to finishing lambing. If you've NOT gotten your 2006 reports in, well, you are VERY late (grin). These reports are due in the year of the birth of the lambs. Again, the association is REQUIRED by both the bylaws and Federal requirements, to record and keep records of ALL births of ALL member flocks – both live births and still borns. There is a birth notification form available upon which you need to record FULL date of birth, Birth Type (single/twin/triplet), Sire and Dam Reg. # and Name. Birth Weight and other information is optional.

There is NO charge to Birth Notify (it's required). You may birth notify and register at the same time, or register Birth Notified lambs after evaluation for registration purposes.

How to fill out the Annual Return Form

(In the NEXT issue of the Newsletter, there will be an article on how to use an Excel Spreadsheet for record keeping and how to send the spread sheet electronically to be recorded at the registry.)

- 1. Verify registration number.** All BN (Birth Notified) animals are not currently registered. If you wish to fully register them then please include the registration fees when you return your form and note which animals are to be registered. Fees are \$10 for ewes and \$5 for rams.
- 2. Verify name.** Add a name or individual number for new registrations. The breeder's prefix will automatically be added to all sheep names.
- 3. Verify the birth date.** We require complete dates including day, month and year.
- 4. Verify Federal tag number.** If you do not yet have a Federal premises ID number you must contact your Federal veterinarian and get one assigned to you. That number must then be provided on this form. No sheep will be transferred or marked sold without a valid Federal ID. This is a Federal requirement. Sheep who do not yet have an individual Federal tag will show just your premises ID as the Federal tag.

The Federal Tag field in this form should be in the following format:

Premises ID number/individual animal number (tag number)/which ear/ color of tag e.g.
CODL01/282/R/O

- 5. Verify Farm Tag number.** A farm tag is required unless you are using Federal tags as your farm tag. We strongly urge all breeders to double tag all sheep to prevent loss of identity.

The Farm Tag field in this form should be in the following format:

Which ear/color of tag/individual animal number (tag number) e.g. L/W/36

Colors for both Federal and farm tags are abbreviated as follows:

A	Aqua	GY	Grey	R	Red
B	Blue	L	Lavender	S	Silver
BK	Black	M	Metal	SA	Salmon
BR	Brown	MI	Mint	T	Tattoo
BS	Brass	O	Orange	W	White
G	Green	P	Pink	Y	Yellow
GL	Gold				

If you use another color please include the name and we will assign an abbreviation.

If the animal has lost a tag document the state of the ear e.g. L/SPLIT or R/HOLE as appropriate.

6. Verify the animal is still in your flock.

For animals that have been sold we require the full name and address of the buyer and full date of the sale. This is required even if the animal was sold for meat or through an auction. If the animal was sold for meat note that so it can also be marked dead. If the animal was sold for breeding we also need the Federal flock premises ID number for the new buyer. These are Federal requirements and will be enforced.

If the animal has died we need to know why. (predation, age etc.)

7. Keep a copy of these forms for 5 years. Return the original to the Secretary.

This action, combined with the proper completion of the yearly lambing report fulfills all the current requirements for the US Federal Mandatory Sheep Scrapie Eradication program. We will be enforcing these rules for all members.

Canadian members: We use your provincial individual animal ID as the Federal ID. Use the same colors etc. as above.

Our goal is to minimize the recordkeeping required but maintain compliance with Federal requirements. Your cooperation is appreciated.

The most common reason I reject reports is due to lack of complete address of buyers and lack of complete dates. It takes a lot of time for me to track down breeders to correct or complete this data. I'd really appreciate it if you'd make sure that data are complete when you send in the form.

Thanks, Oogie McGuire Secretary/Treasurer

Look for the 2008 General Meeting Information Soon

Plans are in the "talking about it" stage for the next ABWMSA General Meeting, our third. Location is yet to be determined, but we are leaning toward Midwest and in conjunction with some sort of fiber and sheep festival. Stay tuned!

Five Nutritional Injections for Successful Shepherding

By Claudia Pettis

Adapted from an Article written by Claudia for another sheep publication

It is now almost 14 years ago I gave my first lamb its vaccination, under the skin, long needle. Book in one hand and the needle in a shaky other hand, it appeared I successfully injected the vaccine. Although many farmers learn over time the art of vaccine injecting, few learn the merits of injectable vitamins. I have used these vitamins in care of ill sheep with remarkable results. This short list of nutrients can help manage sheep diet deficiencies as well as supplement their care when ill. I keep these five things updated in the sheep medicine cabinet, a simple plastic box in the barn.

Principals of Injection

I recommend if at all possible to give an injection subcutaneously rather than intramuscularly. Reason: there is much less chance of damage to meat tissue and to nerves. This is even more important to baby lambs. A subcutaneous injection is best given by lifting a fold of loose skin away from the muscle underneath. Pinch it between your fingers making a tent shape. Insert the needle at the bottom of the tent parallel to the skin. Release the skin and inject the fluid. If resistance to the plunger is felt while trying to inject the fluid, the needle is between the skin layers. Pull the needle out, alcohol clean it, and reinsert a little deeper, but just under this "tent" flap of skin.

There are two preferable "locations" to use for sub-cu injections in sheep. The best locations are the sides of the neck, or the low area on the rib cage just behind the bare spot behind the front leg. A clean needle is of utmost importance. It is best to check for blood before injecting by pulling back slightly on the plunger and watching for blood. If you see blood, pull out and insert in another location.

Suggested List of Supplemental Injections for the Flock

Cal-Dextro is a dextrose combination with calcium, phosphorus, and magnesium. Inject 1cc per 1 pound of body weight. If a ewe seems down before lambing in addition to other care I immediately inject small doses of Cal Dextro. There is often no time to wait. Divide the total amount into 5 cc to 10 cc per injection site. Warm the product slightly if it is cold. Cal Dextro may have to be ordered through your vet.

BoSE is extremely difficult to get in Washington state, where it is regulated and available only through your vet. It is not regulated in Oregon, but is regulated in some other states. BoSe is not needed in all parts of the country, *only* in selenium deficient areas. It is rarely needed if the ewe flock has been on a selenium enriched sheep mineral salt mixture and being supplemented with Vitamin E. However, I have found 1/4 cc to be beneficial to newborns. Remember to *discuss this with your vet* and other farms in your area about the selenium deficiencies. *Warning:* selenium can be deadly poisonous to a sheep at the wrong dosage.

Vitamin E boosts the sheep's immunity and protects from bacterial and viral infections. Research at Colorado State University has shown that animals fed Vit E at 3 to 6 times the level available to them in a normal diet had significantly higher immune responses against infectious disease. Vitamin E and BoSe work together to prevent cell death and boost immunity.

Vitamins A and D are needed in treatment of most diseases. They help boost the immune system as well. I give an injection automatically when a sheep is in distress or for a ewe with possible lambing trouble ahead, I give a one time injection of 1 cc/100lbs. Older ewes or very fat ewes are often susceptible to illness. I have used this Vitamin to treat pregnancy disease as well as acidosis in conjunction with other treatments. For a weak or cold lamb I give 1/2 cc.

If a sheep has a problem I do not hesitate as part of the treatment to give an injection of **Vitamin B Complex**. For a lamb I give 1cc. A sick lamb treated early will often respond dramatically to injections of thiamine or Vit B Complex. Toxemic Ewes can sometimes be taken through lambing when given B injection combined with propylene glycol. Toxemia and Milk fever are two cases where waiting to treat can be deadly. I have waited for the vet to arrive with these supplies as I watched one of my toxemic ewes die.