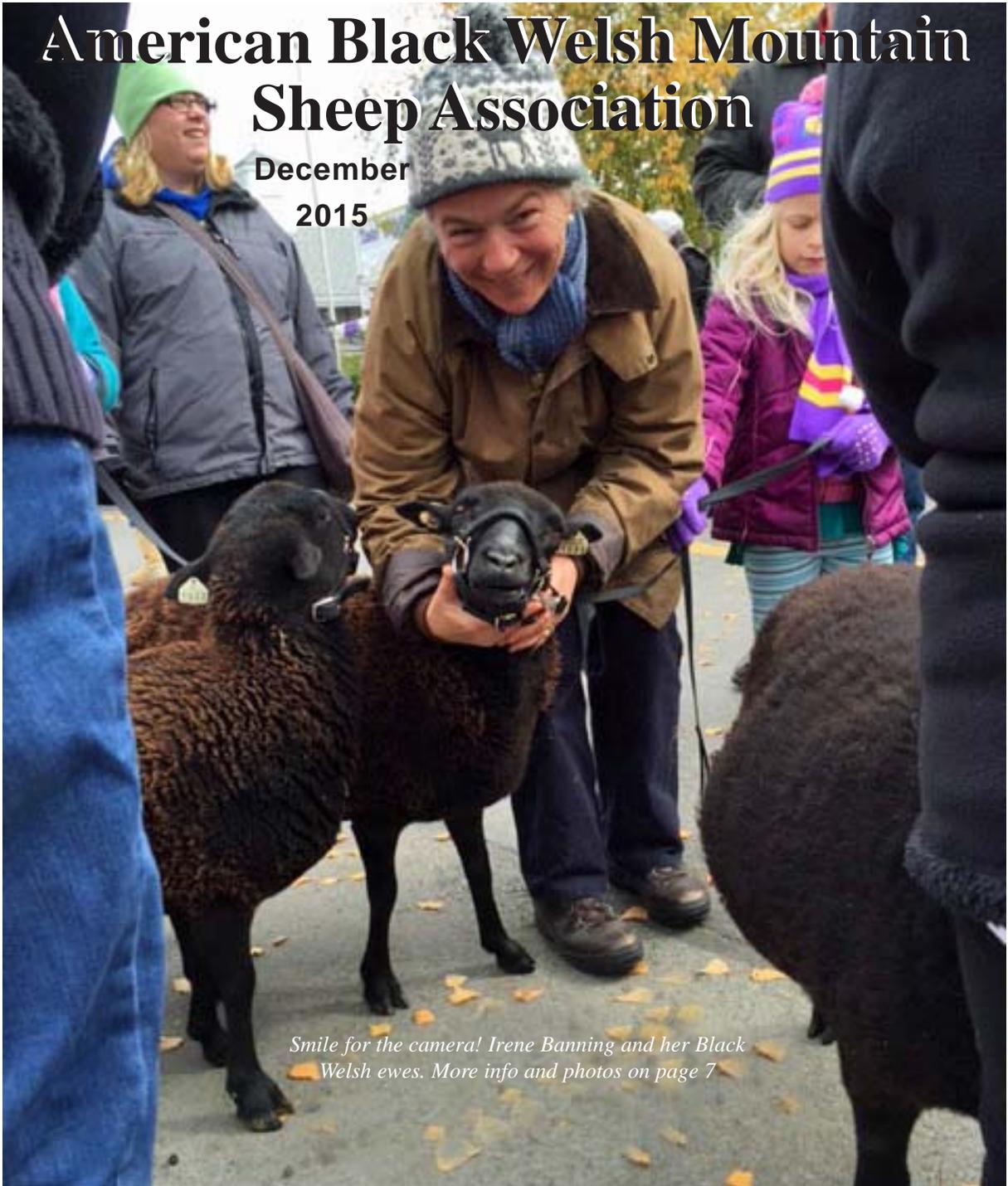


American Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Association

December
2015



Smile for the camera! Irene Banning and her Black Welsh ewes. More info and photos on page 7

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A Warm Welcome to Members New and Old

As we enter a new year together, the American Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Association (ABWMSA) would like to give all new members a warm welcome.

Be sure to take a moment during the holiday season to watch your Black Welsh Mountain Sheep grace your pastures with their elegance and beauty. You will be glad that you did.

We encourage you to:

- Promote your sheep at Fiber Arts Festivals, State Fairs, and Other Events.
- Use your wool yourself or get it into hand spinner's hands.

- Eat your sheep and share that meal with friends and family.

- Share your experiences, advice, or tips with other members by submitting articles for this newsletter! *Please send to Val Fiddler at newsletter@blackwelsh.org*

And to every member old and new, THANK YOU for having chosen to preserve this special sheep. We hope that you all will continue on your journey as being shepherds and shepherdesses of this rare heritage breed known as Black Welsh Mountain Sheep.

By: Jacqueline Harp, RIL Farm

Time for Annual Lambing Report

You should be thinking about getting those 2015 or earlier lambing reports ready, if you have not done so yet. These reports are due in the year of the birth of the lambs (this is preferable but if you have fallen behind your sheeps paperwork, there's no better time than the present).

You may birth notify and register at the same time, or register Birth Notified lambs after evaluation for registration purposes. We need all birth notifications of all lambs produced dead or alive, registered or not so that we can report accurate population data to the American Livestock Breed Conservancy.

There is a birth notification form available (at our website www.blackwelsh.org), which you need to record full date of birth, birth type (single/twin/triplet), sire and dam registration numbers and names. Birth weight and other information is optional. 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 NO CHARGE to Birth Notify and it is required. For those of you who purchased bred ewes, remember that the registered farm name of the lambs will be the farm where they were conceived.

Birth notifications are done on the Excel Spreadsheet for record keeping. We are tracking stats on fertility and fecundity so it is necessary to know the parents, dates and tag numbers of all lambs, not just total



numbers. Spread sheets can be sent electronically to be recorded at the registry. Please send to secretary at oogiem@desertweyr.com. Should you want to register lambs at a later date it is easily done.

If you use the spreadsheet I can handle the birth notification and registration at the same time and entries will be in sequence.

We are now set up so that you see your flock info at a glance at www.grassroots.co.uk/blackwelshusa.html. Get your password from oogiem@desertweyr.com if you do not have it. You are able to do on-line entries and purchase your transactions there. This system requires that you Birth Notify first. When I approve this, then you can Register animals. When registration is approved you can do a Transfer if needed. This entering of data followed by approvals is done so that there is a clear trail of all transactions related to a single sheep.

Eugenie (Oogie) McGuire

Desert Weyr, LLC - Black Welsh Mountain Sheep
<http://www.desertweyr.com/>

Changes To Canadian Small Ruminant Import Policy

Canadian import rules will change, this will affect Black Welsh imports due to how few ARR ARR sheep exist in North America.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced that the import policy for small ruminants intended for breeding purposes will change effective Feb. 1, 2016.

Among other revisions, the policy will require that:

- Imported females must originate from a farm that is considered a “negligible risk premises.”
- Imported males must meet one of the following criteria to be eligible for import from the United States:
 - Must originate from a “negligible risk premises,” or
 - Rams must be of the codon 136AA 171RR or 136AA 171QQR genotype, or
 - May be imported from any premises in the United States provided they are imported onto a farm that has been enrolled in the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program for a minimum of one year. Under this option, there are additional post-import restrictions placed on imported animals including how they are kept and where they can move.

The policy describes what constitutes a “negligible risk premises” in detail. In essence, U.S. farms enrolled in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program Export Monitored stream for a minimum of five years (even if they have not yet reached Export Certified status) constitute negligible risk premises. In addition to scrapie-related restrictions, some disease testing may be required depending on the species and state of origin.

The full announcement is available on ASI’s website at www.sheepusa.org/

ResearchEducation_Literature_ExportInformation



Shave ‘em to Save ‘em

The Campaign for Use of Wool from Heritage Sheep Breeds

The Livestock Conservancy will soon be formally announcing its new program to encourage the use of heritage sheep breed fibers by fiber artists. We value your role in protecting endangered breeds and as the program coordinator and a sheep producer myself, I wanted to share in advance with you and your member breeders the plans for this unique program.

Participants in the challenge will be using fiber (raw fleece, roving, yarns, etc.) from a tiered list of the sheep breeds listed on the Livestock Conservancy’s Conservation Priority List (CPL) and are expected to obtain their fiber from breeders of registered stock. The program will have a prominent presence on the Livestock Conservancy’s website with easy access to the breeders listed in their online Breeders and Products Directory.

Millions of visitors view the website annually and the Conservancy would like to offer producers within your breed organization the opportunity to obtain a listing in the Breeders Directory for only \$10/year. Please encourage your members to take advantage of this valuable marketing resource and have an active role in this exciting campaign to promote endangered breed fibers.

A full description of the campaign will be included with the formal announcement that is expected within the next several weeks. For the truly dedicated fiber enthusiasts, we have planned to include use of the undercoat of hair sheep and/or goats on the Conservancy’s CPL as part of the program.

Please spread the word among your member breeders to look for and share this information regarding the Shave ‘em to Save ‘em campaign. We also plan to broadly use our social media along with that of key partners to encourage participants to showcase their projects made with the fiber of our heritage breeds.

If you or any of your member breeders have questions about the Shave ‘em to Save ‘em campaign, please feel free to contact me,

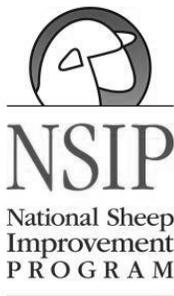
Marie Minnich

Livestock Conservancy Board Member

Marushka Farms

mem@marushkafarms.com

NSIP enrollment is open for 2016. Desert Weyr will pay the data fees for any sheep that trace in any line to sheep bred at Desert Weyr. New members can join and pay their \$100 deposit on data fees. Then once you have sent in data I will refund the data fees for sheep that trace to Desert Weyr sheep. The reason is that we need to have data from across flocks for the accuracy of our own EBVs to improve. See top of next page -



2016 Enrollment Form-Youth and First Year Members

Farm/Ranch Name: _____

Individual: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

If previously enrolled in NSIP, what is your NSIP Flock ID(s)? _____

If you are under 22 as of January 1, 2016 please provide your date of birth: _____

What kind of computer do you have? PC with Windows Mac

List breed(s) in your flock: _____

Annual Enrollment Fees:

Fee	Flock Size
Youth Member 22 and under (up to 3 years free)	Number of ewes: _____
New Member 1st year	Number of ewes: _____
New member data fee deposit	\$100.00

Annual enrollment fees are waived for the first year for new members and for the first 3 years for members younger than 22 as of January 1, 2016 but all members are responsible for data fees acquired. In 2016, a database fee of \$2.85 per animal is due on any animal with post-birth measurement submitted, excluding animals designated as culls or commercials. Enrolled flocks will be invoiced for the database fee and agree to submit the payment to the NSIP office within 30 days of the invoice. The fee covers the lifetime of the animal and is not reassessed each year. Full Terms & Conditions can be found on www.nsip.org. All new members receiving free enrollment are required to pay a \$100 deposit, credited towards database fees as explained in the terms and conditions. If data fees in the first year are less than \$100, the remaining balance will carry over to subsequent years.

Make checks payable to National Sheep Improvement Program and return with this form to: NATIONAL SHEEP IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PO BOX 244 HARLAN, IA 51537

I have read and agree to comply with the NSIP full Terms and Conditions.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The critical measurements that need to be taken are:

**- Lambing Ease - Birth Weight - Weaning Weight - Post Weaning Weight
Post-Weaning Scrotal Circumference on ram lamb**

There are other measurements I am taking and I can share information on all of them if anyone is interested in doing more.

2016 Terms and Conditions

Confidentiality: NSIP agrees to hold individual flock data (raw data) in confidence and will not divulge, make public or sell individual flock data. NSIP further agrees that individual flock data (raw data) will only be made public in aggregate form (for example, in group form for research and summary purposes).

Publication of EBV Data: NSIP may publish EBVs and indexes of animals that are eligible for trait leader summaries.

Handling Data: NSIP is committed to providing accurate, top-quality genetic performance evaluation information to NSIP customers. The mathematical process used involves measuring relationships (genetic linkages) between individual sheep. Producers should note that for some breeds and flocks, adequate genetic linkages currently do not exist in the NSIP database to provide for meaningful EBVs (expected progeny differences). If appropriate genetic linkages do not exist at the time NSIP calculates EBVs for any given breed; and/or if critical data are missing or are otherwise unusable from any producer's records; NSIP and LambPlan reserve the right to provide customers with alternative genetic evaluation services such as FEBVs (within Flock EBVs).

Claims: Meat & Livestock Australia's Breeding Values are calculated from raw data collected by the enrolled flocks of the NSIP. Meat & Livestock Australia does not oversee or audit the collection of this data and does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of information contained in the reports generated for NSIP and their enrolled flocks. NSIP and its enrolled flocks do not hold Meat & Livestock Australia responsible for any action taken by NSIP or its customers in reliance on the Breeding Values produced by MLA for NSIP customers.

Furthermore, NSIP makes no claims regarding the accuracy or integrity of individual flock data provided by flock owners. NSIP Customers understand and acknowledge that NSIP utilizes flock data provided by individual flock owners, and that NSIP does not guaranty or warranty the accuracy or integrity of such information. NSIP Customers agree that they shall make no claims against NSIP as a result of any information generated as a result of information provided by individual flock owners, including, but not limited to, any claims for negligence, breach of contract or the inaccurate reporting of data. NSIP Customers hereby waive any express or implied warranties in connection with the information provided by NSIP, including any warranties created by federal or state law.

Database Fees: In 2016, a database fee of \$2.85/animal is due on any animal with post-birth measurement submitted, excluding animals designated as culls or commercials as per the LambPlan Sheep Genetics Quality Assurance Manual, section 4.14. Enrolled flocks will be invoiced for the database fee and agree to submit the payment to the NSIP office within 30 days of the invoice. The \$2.85/animal database fee covers the lifetime of the animal and is not reassessed each year.

Enrollment Exceptions: There are three exceptions to the enrollment fees. 1) NSIP will waive flock fees for three years for those who are less than 22 years of age as of Jan. 1, 2016. 2) Annual enrollment fee will be waived for a new member. 3) Annual enrollment fees will be waived for returning members who have not been in NSIP for three years. All new members that receive a free membership will be required to pay a deposit of \$100 towards database fees. Once data is submitted, the \$100 deposit will be used as credit towards data fees. If data fees in the first year are less than \$100, the remaining balance will carry over to subsequent years.

Ask Our UK BW Inspector

Welcome to what I hope will be the first of a regular short series on the breed standard and how to select good Black Welsh Mountain sheep. Remember this is one person's opinion but is based on me being the only approved Inspector for the UK Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Association in North America.

This issues column is about white or grey wool and is prompted by a question I got recently. I have a ram whose testicles have some white wool on them, is he a cull?



Example: The frigid winters in Saskatchewan turn many of the fellows working equipment white. Also affected are ear tips and muzzles in both rams and ewes (totally black in their first year) then white as the years go by. Maybe a similar thing? Freeze branding on horses - the new hair in the area comes in white.

The breed standard is for an all black sheep. However, when we had Will Workman and later Ted Williams inspect our flock I had several rams whose testicles had either white or grey wool on them. I asked the same question and the answer I got was that on the testicles it's not a problem. If the white or grey extends to the body then it is a problem. I was trying to find it and could not but a recent picture of the top Black Welsh ram at one of the big UK shows clearly showed him with a bit of white on his testicles. So if the ram is otherwise a good ram no, do not consider him a cull just because of some white wool on his working equipment.

We've also had and continue to have sheep who get white around the muzzle. This is a severe fault but both Will and Ted felt that it might be environmental in our area. This is because we've had twins where I sold a twin to another breeder but kept one. The one I kept got a white muzzle but the twin I sold did not. It appears to be related to the weather and the forage we feed in winter. If you are in a high altitude, feed rough stemmy hay or get really cold winters then I'd evaluate carefully whether white or grey on the muzzle is a problem or not. I would continue to cull any sheep that show white or grey before their first winter.

Please send your Questions to the Inspector for our next newsletters:

Eugenie (Oogie) McGuire

Desert Weyr, LLC - Black Welsh Mountain Sheep <http://www.desertweyr.com/>

LambTracker - Open Source SW for Shepherds <http://www.lambtracker.com>

Paonia, CO USA

Approved North American Inspector for the UK Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Assoc.

I am available to come inspect and consult with members on their flocks. I will evaluate every sheep in the flock with you and discuss good and bad points as compared to the UK standard. A written evaluation of every sheep can be provided.

Fees are \$20/day per flock plus all expenses. I am willing to travel all over the US and Canada to inspect sheep but I will need to time my travels to be after our own lambing dates.

Call 970-527-3573 or email
oogiem@desertweyr.com to set up an appointment.



Black Welsh Mountain fleece at Manitoba 3rd Annual Fibre Festival

October 2015 - Winnipeg was the host city for the 3rd Annual Manitoba Fibre Festival October 2 - 3, 2015. The fleece competition was a national event, with 29 entries from as far east as Nova Scotia, and included Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Some very unusual fleeces were also shown including Tunis, Soay, Black Welsh Mountain, Lincoln, Icelandic and Wensleydale, and both white and coloured. Judge for the event was Susie Gourlay from Regina, SK.

Congratulations to Bernadette Doakes of Piapot, SK who won Champion in the Medium Wool Coloured Class with Black Welsh Mountain fleece from her ewe Newland Bella.



Up-Coming Fiber Arts Festivals

The **Sixth Oxford Fiber Arts Festival** is an annual event that celebrates the independent fiber artists who keep many time-honored handcrafts alive. Scheduled for January 29-30, 2016 at the Powerhouse – University and 14th Street, Oxford MS: <http://www.knit1oxford.com/events/>

Immerse yourself in the world of specialty fiber and expand your technical abilities at the **Interweave Yarn Fest**—a celebration of the fiber arts. Also features a Marketplace that will be stocked with knitting, weaving, crochet and spinning supplies from more than 50 vendors. Scheduled for March 31, 2016 through April 2, 2016 Loveland, CO: <http://www.interweaveyarnfest.com/>



PLY Magazine's First Annual Spinning Retreat boasts a wide range of classes regarding the fiber arts and well-stocked fiber market place. A must see for every fiber artist, no matter what the skill level. Scheduled for April 21-4, 2016 at the Crown Center's Westin, Kansas City, MO: <http://www.plyaway.com/details/>

Olds Fibre Week will be held June 17 - 23, 2016 at Olds College - Olds, Alberta. Progressive levels of Master Spinner and Master Weaver programs, big variety of Textile Workshops, Merchant Mall, Fleece Shows, Evening Entertainment. oldscollege.ca/fibreweek

BW at NY Sheep & Wool Festival

Photo at right: Irene Banning of Black Sheep Hill (center) with her Black Welsh ewes attended and participated in the New York Sheep and Wool Festival in mid October of this year. Good job Irene!



Holiday Wow: Luscious Lamb Liver

By: Jacqueline Harp, RIL Farm

You can put a new, yet old twist on many liver dishes by using lamb liver instead of beef or even chicken. Cookbooks going back a few decades tend to include more recipes for organ meats, including lamb and mutton, than the typical modern cookbooks. The Internet provides access to thousands of recipes, and allows you to explore the many lamb liver recipes from cultures around the world. With the new focus on the Paleo diet and humanely-sourced animal proteins, because of their fantastic nutritional attributes, what better source for organ meats than from sheep raised on your pastures!

This is especially true for the classic appetizer, liver pate. You can substitute lamb liver in any liver pate recipe that uses chicken livers, and take advantage of lamb liver's delicate, smooth, and mild flavor. One substitution is recommended – using brandy or whiskey instead of white wine, but use only about one third as much.

Here's a basic recipe for lamb liver pate that is my own adaptation of the typical chicken liver pate recipe. You can adjust to your tastes, and then serve as a hors d'oeuvre on your holiday menu.

Ingredients:

3 tablespoons of butter OR olive oil

1 lb. Black Welsh Lamb liver, sliced

½ lb. mushrooms, any type, OR one large portabello, coarsely chopped



*Homemade Black Welsh Liver Pate
Tastes Wonderful!*

1 bunch green onions, chopped OR ½ a large onion, diced

1 or 2 cloves of garlic, chopped or crushed

1 tbsp. lemon juice

2/3 cup dry white wine or vermouth OR 3 tbs. brandy

Salt/pepper to taste

¼ to ½ tsp. herbs, each, to taste (e.g., dry mustard, rosemary, dill, or parsley, etc.)

½ stick butter

Melt butter or oil in skillet. Add liver, onions, mushrooms and cook until livers turn brown. Add wine/brandy, garlic, lemon juice, herbs. Cook down any juices. Transfer to blender. Add wine/brandy to deglaze, pour in to blender, too. Add softened butter to blender. Blend until smooth, with salt to taste. Put in a long, thin dish to encourage even cooling. Chill. Serve with any bread or cracker. Can freeze, but use within 2-3 days of defrosting.

A RAMINDER to Renew Your Annual Membership



*A lovely ram photo courtesy of
Blue Shepherd Farm.*

Annual Dues are still \$20 a year and can quickly be purchased on our website at www.blackwelsh.org. *Note: Canadian members please pay with PayPal (cost of written cheques between our countries is prohibitive).*

Many BW breeders may not realize that they are currently in arrears, as the membership dues are ANNUAL. Please note that your sheep and lambs can not be registered or transferred to new buyers until your dues are brought up to date in full.

Why Membership? Why Registration? Sheep need our help in keeping accurate statistics. With genetic challenges in their future, registering sheep put them in the system so we can trace bloodlines and locations of specific animals for breeding improvements. The goal is maintaining the health & prosperity of our flocks!