

Bluefaced Leicester Union (BLU)

Kelly Ward, Secretary/Treasurer, 760 West V.W. Ave, Schoolcraft, MI 49087 • Email: bflsheep@net-link.net
BLU Registry: Associated Sheep Registries (ASR), 15603 – 173rd Ave, Milo, IA 50166 (Phone: 641-942-6402)

BLU Serving the Breed and the Breeder

April - May 2009

BLU Members!

I hope all of you are enjoying your 2009 lamb crop! It's a joy to see them out in the pastures, kicking up their heels. The ewes are well on their way to regaining their condition for the upcoming breeding season. I encourage all of you to spend some time looking over your animals, their pedigrees and ewe records with an eye to getting the most out of the Bluefaced genetic base you have already in your flock. This is also a good time to start thinking about the direction you want your flock to take, and if a new ram or artificial insemination might be a good way to give your flock a new boost.

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- BLU – The 2008 Flock Book
The 2008 BLU Flock Book, and the largest BLU has published, was mailed to 2008 BLU members the day before I left for Maryland. It was most satisfying to know that our Bluefaced Leicester registration & transfers are continuing to be recorded. Those of you are new 2009 members and who want a copy of the 2008 book, please send \$10 to me: 760 W. V.W. Ave, Schoolcraft, MI 49087. This price includes shipping.

If there are any comments, corrections, or suggestions, please contact me. The flock books are the largest expenditure for BLU, and it should be the best it can be.

- THE REGISTRY
 - Form Update – ALL forms are available on the bflsheep.com web site *Repeat*
Following up on suggestions on improvements to the registration process, changes will be made to the "Work Order" (you *are* using one with everything you send to ASR, *aren't* you???)

However, if you want a copy of your registration application, please make one yourself before sending the work to ASR. Besides giving you a copy for your records, you will have this original

source to verify that the data you sent in was entered properly AND to enter the BLU registration number on the form.

Transfers: When you send a registration in for transfer to a new owner, after signing the back, please provide stamped envelope addressed to the new owner if you wish the transfer be mailed directly back to the buyer.

- BLU – 2009 DUES

Those 2008 members who have not renewed for 2009 have been dropped from the bflsheep.com web site and will be discontinued from the BLU members mailing list.

- BLU –MEMBERSHIP

Due to the rising cost of the flock book the associate membership details will be revamped.

“Associate Membership”

Most of our current BLU associate members do not breed Bluefaced Leicesters, The included statement will be:

“Associate membership will not include the flock book.”

The “Junior Membership”

The flock book will not be sent to those Junior Members who do not use the BLU registry, or have a parent as a paid BLU member.

2009 – New BLU Member

BLU welcomes its newest member.

Sharon Hansen

Sage Farm

31305 Red Mountain Rd

Hemet, CA 92544

Email: sagefarm92544@gmail.com

Phone 951-240-0772

BLU Members Promoting the BFL

Robina Koenig and Sue Gustafson will be promoting BLU and the Bluefaced Leicester at the Black Sheep Gathering, Eugene OR June 19, 20 & 21 at the Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene OR. In addition, Jean deBoom will have BLU member list handouts and information on the Bluefaced Leicester at the 5th annual Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival June 13-14, Dallas County Fairgrounds, Adel, Iowa.

If any other BLU members would like take promotional handouts to their event, please contact me for BLU membership lists and other BFL flyers. It’s the people-to-people contact that has made the tremendous growth in the Bluefaced Leicester population.

- NEW PROMOTIONAL DOWNLOADS AVAILABLE - NOW!

There are two BLU promotional flyers available for BFL breeders' use - "[BFL information](#)", and "[Scorecard](#)". These files are in a .pdf format. There is room on each flyer to place individual member contact information either by attaching a business card or using a rubber stamp. They can be printed on your own printer, or take a master copy to your local service. The files are in color, but will print in black/white.

These will be ideal handouts for individuals to use promoting the breed and their own business. The new format, ably created by BLU member Becky Utecht, MN, proofed by Robina Koenig, OR, is eye-catching and informative.

- EMAIL CONTRACT INFORMATION – For BLU & For Me

Although I have a new BLU email address, bflsheep@hughes.net, and personal one wardfarms@hughes.net - I am NOT happy with Internet Explorer (Thunderbird is so much more user friendly). My Core Comm account has been reactivated. I can still be reached at wardfarm@net-link.net or bflsheep@net-link.com .

- MARYLAND SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL 2009

Kathy Davidson had it about right with her description of the wet weekend - 'the river runs through it'. Our feet were so soaked for so many hours that they were downright 'pruny' and trying to put on dry socks over wet feet in the truck was a chore! Sunday was absolutely miserable - no other description fits.

On the positive side, it was great to see so many BFL breeders Joan Chapin, Cathy Shiff, Margaret VC, the Lelli's, Kyle McCleary, Meredith and Connie Myers, Diane & Ronnie Kelly, Kelly Mansfield, also new BFL person, Candace Cain, Munnsville NY who now has a couple of Maggie Alexander's BFLs. Maggie had a booth, but I didn't see her. Kathy D. was holding her piece of sodden ground near the footpath from the parking lot, featuring her lovely yarns and Jared's, too. *(Photo: Kathy bracing herself against the weather at her booth)* Several visitors to the BLU booth said they were interested in getting into the breed. Martin Dally came by with good news regarding BFL importations from the UK. Stay tuned for more on that later.



Of the judging - the most diplomatic way I can put it: The judge didn't care for long wool sheep with a lock formation. ALL of the top placings went to smoothly clipped non-lock animals. Both were very good at 'dismissing at the rail' to get the class size down FAST. Very disappointing not to have a sheep judge even put his hands on your sheep.

Thankfully not too many people took the placings to mean they should ship all their animals. The biggest message was that there should be no breed individuality. ALL sheep should have fine wool, closely clipped and straight arrow top lines. It was gratifying to talk with a few young exhibitors & old alike who staunchly believe in their breeding programs adhering to the breed standard.

- SHEPHERD'S HARVEST 2009 – MINNESOTA

Yes, it was cold in Minnesota for Mother's Day! You can see we are 'layered' – except for Rose, and I attribute that her youth.

The Shepherd's Harvest crowd was very good, and many of the BLU business cards and handouts were taken. There were so many really good knitters and real sheep people in the crowd.



Pictured Left to Right:

Jean DeBoom (IA) Rose Schmidt-Landin (WI), Heather Landin(WI), Becky Utecht (MN), Kelly Ward (MI), LeeAnne Richert (WI). Also there but not pictured was Nancy Barnett (MO).

It was pleasure to meet and spend some time with Jean DeBoom and her husband, Gary. Nancy Barnett was there teaching and stopped by for a few minutes. LeeAnne Richert and husband, Weldon, were very busy with their booth. Becky & I did some spinning and she had a great fleece display that attracted a lot of viewers. Minnesota seems like a great place to encourage the growth of the Bluefaced Leicester.

- SHEEPY HUMOR

1. A friend sent this and it was really funny – especially if you know sheep. Having some dear Welsh friends it is a statement about Welsh humor and that a group of them who had some time on their hands? Check out this segment and look for the other related ones on the right hand side of the page.

Extreme Sheep LED Art

www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2FX9rviEhw

2. This was from one of my genealogy lists.

The Armagh Guardian
July 29, 1845
Armagh, County Armagh

REMARKABLE CIRCUMSTANCE.—A three-year old sheep, the property of Mr. Thomas Daly, of Carrigaline, yeaned a lamb on the 4th of last January, which was fattened and sold; and the same sheep yeaned again on the 11th of this month, having two ewe lambs, which are both strong and doing well.— *Cork Reporter*.

Obviously this ewe was the forerunner for 'out of season' breeding.

And, too.....

That's a wrap for this issue.

In Leicesters, blue is finer!

Kelly

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