

**BLU**  
**Serving the Breed and the Breeder**

August 2008

Hello BLU Members,

Summer is at its official end with Labor Day. We know there will be more warm days, but those will be followed by colder weather eventually. The rams and ram lambs know that the breeding season is here. It's fun to get the 'dance card' lined up for these ambitious boys and project what results will improve the flock.

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- [AMERICAN LAMB WEB SITE](#)

*Send Fans of Lamb to American Lamb Website*

Send your customers, friends, neighbors (anyone who is a fan of American Lamb) to the [americanlamb.com](#) website to sign up for a free e-newsletter. Each month, fans of American Lamb will receive recipes and tips to create delicious and nutritious American Lamb meals and they'll receive a free copy of the "For the Love of Lamb" cookbook just for signing up.

In addition, ALB is offering a new cookbooklet titled, "For the Love of Lamb," which features tips and recipes from American Lambassador Chef Tim Love. Lamb enthusiasts can receive a free copy of the cookbooklet by e-mailing [nina@americanlambboard.org](mailto:nina@americanlambboard.org) or by visiting [www.americanlamb.com](http://www.americanlamb.com) and signing up to be a "Fan of Lamb." Fans of lamb will also receive a free monthly e-newsletter, which features recipes and tips to create delicious and nutritious American lamb meals.

Promotional tools from ALB featuring the updated American lamb logo are also now available. Metal signs are available for \$20. Static cling window decals are available for free. To order metal signs or decals, e-mail [rae@americanlambboard.org](mailto:rae@americanlambboard.org).

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- [BLU – THE WEB SITE – bflsheep.com](#)

There are a few updates to the BLU web site.

1. The monthly e-letter will be posted there from now on under "News".
2. LeeAnn Richert sent the photo of a really beautiful BFL ewe lamb. It's posted on the "Forms" page. Take a look! <http://www.bflsheep.com/images/forms.htm>

- **MEET TOM BERGMAN, ILLINOIS**

Tom joined BLU after buying stock from Lisa Rodenfels. I asked him to tell us about himself and his operation. In Tom's own words:

“Several years ago when we started a commercial flock it consisted of Black Face ewes I purchased in South Dakota. As the years progressed those ewes kept producing the best lambs. I move the majority of my lambs as Easter lambs. The rest are sold as Club lambs and ethnic Fat lambs. However, if they get much over 100 pounds they are hard to sell. I corn feed the lambs because I have found that people in my area pay a premium for grain fed lambs. In fact, I have some buyers that come to me because they know this.

In my quest to make the ultimate commercial ewe, I chose my medium to large frame Black Face ewes that were my highest producers. These ewes consistently have given me a lot of lambs, excellent quality, and are from 1 line of genetics.

Now comes the BFL ram. My research showed me that in the UK the BFL ram is the ram of choice to make F1 commercial ewes. I hoped this cross would give me a little lower maintenance ewe than the

straight Black Face ewe that can utilize pasture more efficiently. I use an intensive grazing program and need the ewes to exist on pasture during the off lambing season while also responding to grain in a dry lot lactation program.



The ram used to make these ‘mule’ ewe lambs is one of the two I purchased from the Rodenfel’s last summer. He is black and about 40% of the lambs he has sired have also been black.

I will be breeding the BFL F1’s for 2009 Easter lambs. I chose the White Dorper for the terminal cross ram. The versatility of the White Dorper should give me lambs that will respond to a lactating system of grass or grains, have loads of meat on them, and finish out at 100 pounds.

Time will tell if it works. Here are some pictures of my ‘mules’. (Margo, the donkey, is in ‘training’ and goes where the sheep go - so she is in some of the pictures.) Of course I am partial to these ewe lambs because they are mine, but I think the pictures speak for themselves. These are very nice ewe lambs and genetically should make good commercial ewes that will produce in a grass or grain operation. The addition of the White Dorper should continue this.”



- **BLU – THE REGISTRY**

New banking regulations have been enacted and the banks making a crack down on checks deposited that are NOT made out to the registered business name of the account. So, please, make your checks out to “BLU” when doing registry business.

1. Make out your checks or money orders to “BLU”.
2. Send your registrations to ASR in Milo, Iowa at the address on the form.

- **AND, TOO.....**

Next issue will have a report on the Wisconsin Sheep Show.

**In leicesters, blue is finer!**

*Kelly*

Photos are still needed for the [bflsheep.com](http://bflsheep.com) web site!