

Bluefaced Leicester Union (BLU)

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BLU Registry: Associated Sheep Registries (ASR), 15603 – 173rd Ave, Milo, IA 50166 (Phone: 641-942-6402)

BLU Serving the Breed and the Breeder

December 2009

BLU Members!

Winter is here in many places – for some it means snow & ice, others rain. North America is a vast continent of many climates; proving the adaptability of the Bluefaced Leicester to thrive in so many diverse areas.

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- **2009 – New BLU Member**

BLU welcomes its newest member, adding to the growing contingent of Missouri breeders.

Caryn Miller
3811 NE 92 HWY
Smithville, MO 64089
Telephone: 816-532-9504
Email: carynmiller1@flica.net

- **BLU REGISTRY NOTES**

Have you registered all your 2009 BFL lambs? They are important to the future of the breed and all should be enrolled. After Jan. 1st it will cost twice as much. Get your registrations to ASR by December 15th so they may be counted with the 2009 numbers (which promise to be another record in the BLU registry). The end of the year is almost here. Git `r done.

Always make your checks payable to "BLU" – not to "ASR". "BLU" is the proper acronym for the Bluefaced Leicester Union of North America.

- **ROVING BLU AMBASSADOR – Kathy Davidson**

Kathy Davidson, Potosi Sheep Farm, Glen Rock PA, has spread the Bluefaced Leicester far and wide for the past few years. I have given her the "Johnny Appleseed" award for

'planting' BFL's in many states, most notably Missouri. Those BFL breeders have picked up the task are among the most enthusiastic and doing a lot of networking. They are to be congratulated for their success in getting the word out on the breed. Kathy's enthusiasm is contagious and the breed has grown because of her. I know she plans to be at the BFL gathering at the Black Sheep Gathering in Eugene OR, June 2010. You go, Kathy!

- **STARTER FLOCK PROGRAM – Somerhill Farm, Caldwell OH**

This is Paige Lohrey, who applied for and has been awarded the first annual bred BFL ewe award by Chuck & Lisa Rodenfels. This program has been developed to encourage more youth BFL breeders. Lisa states "I wanted to have the young person close enough to us that I could visit, give advice and help as needed, and attend the show to lend support and cheer." Paige's ewe, Somerhill Serenade, is bred to give birth in early March. Paige has agreed to show the lambs at her local fair this fall as a 4-H project.



Paige says that the reason she wants to own and raise BFLs is that she loves their wool and temperament. She has taken market lambs to her fair for 2 years, and wanted the experience of raising her own sheep. Her parents have a few acres of fenced pasture and they have agreed to support Paige in her decision to breed and show BFLs. Paige is in high school now, and when she graduates, plans to pursue a profession in photography, and graduate college with a degree in music or art.

If you are interested in developing a similar program for youth in your part of the country, a 2 page application and rules are available for your use from Lisa Rodenfels somerhill@earthlink.net

- **NEW DIRECTIONS**

In 1999 I began the Bluefaced Leicester Union as my personal DBA, with a small core group of founding members. The breed registry was begun and Associated Sheep Registries hired to manage it. The numbers were small, but they grew and the membership grew. After 10 years the time was ripe to move the organization on to group administration. This past August BLU (a registered service mark with the US Patent & Trademark Office) became a non-profit organization with a carefully crafted set of bylaws, which are posted on the bflsheep.com web site.

These bylaws mandated an election be held for the offices of the organization; a call was put out to the membership, an election supervisor was selected. Seven active members volunteered their names; each put together a personal statement about themselves and what they hoped to contribute to the organization. The statements

reflected past commitment to the breed and willingness to work toward the mission statement, a reaffirmation of BLU's original intent, of the bylaws. The ballots that were cast were in support of the new BLU organizational direction.

BLU Officers taking office January 1, 2010

President: Lisa Rodenfels

Vice-president: Margaret VanCamp

Directors: Kris Barndt, Robina Koenig, Jared Lloyd, Becky Utecht, Jolene Vezzetti

This is a great group to take BLU forward. I look to a bright future for the breed both in the USA and Canada with great satisfaction. Thanks to all members who have taken the breed so far, for each and all contributions.

In Leicesters, blue is finer!

Kelly

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