



THE BLUE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLUEFACED LEICESTER BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

VOL. 7, NO. 1

SPRING 2009

THE 1ST ~ GREAT LAKES BLUEFACED LEICESTER SHOW



The Bluefaced Leicester Flock class at the 2008 WSWF

The Bluefaced Leicester Breeders Association (BFLBA) will be hosting the first Great Lakes ~ Bluefaced Leicester Show held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival in Jefferson, Wisconsin on September 11th - 113th, 2009.

The BFLBA will be coordinating its Bluefaced Leicester Show along with the North American Mule Sheep Society's (NAMSS) 2nd Annual Mule Sheep & Bluefaced Leicester Progeny Show. The judge presiding over both the Bluefaced Leicester classes as well as the Mule Show classes will be John Stott the incoming president of the UK's Bluefaced Leicester Sheep Breeders' Association.

John has also agreed to do give several educational presentations highlighting the Bluefaced Leicester and the Mule ewe. The BFLBA's Great Lakes ~ Bluefaced Leicester Show, and the NAMSS's Mule Sheep Show will be an excellent opportunity to showcase our Bluefaced Leicester's to the sheep industry, for their versatility not only as a purebred sire, but as a crossing sire in the 3-tier breeding scheme for grass fed lamb production too.

The BFLBA and NAMSS would like to thank the UK- BFLSBA for their generous contribution in providing us once again with our guest breeder-judge and for their continued support of our efforts here in the States promoting the Bluefaced Leicester.

A BIT ABOUT OUR 2009 JUDGE:

John Stott and his family live on and work 'LAUND FARM' which is located in Chipping, Preston, Lancashire, UK. Laund Farm is a 450 acre family farm, which runs approximately 1,000 hill sheep mainly Swaledales producing 400 Mules that are sold each year, 300 Freisland ewes for their sheep milking enterprise, and around 60 suckler cows, as well as John's 50 pedigreed Bluefaced Leicesters. This coming June 3rd, the Stott's and Laund Farm will be the hosting location for NORTH SHEEP '09'. North Sheep is a biennial event run by the UK's National Sheep Association (NSA) an organization which represents UK sheep breeders. North Sheep is an industry event which brings together agricultural companies, sheep farmers and agricultural experts for a day. Last year's North Sheep in County Durham attracted more than 8,000 visitors and 200 separate companies. Around 100 foreign delegates also flocked to the event which showcased Britain's 70-plus sheep breeds. We look forward to meeting John and his wife, Christine, in September.

For more information about the Great Lakes ~ Bluefaced Leicester Show, Bluefaced Leicester breed displays, and the educational presentations offered. Please visit:
www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com, www.bflba.blogspot.com, www.BFLBA.com



Brenda Lelli (2007) President
 17496 88th Ave.
 Coopersville, MI 49404
 616-837-1872
 BFLBA@aol.com

Kelly Mansfield (2011) Vice President
 852 Archer Rd.
 Kearneysville, WV 25430
 304-725-8577
 kjm79@frontiernet.net

Carol Densmore (2012) Secretary
 10909 Stow Rd.
 Webberville, MI 48892
 517-468-3881
 densmore@crosswindfarm.com

Mark Lelli, D.V.M. (2007)
 17496 88th Ave.
 Coopersville, MI 49404
 616-837-1872
 Muleflock@aol.com

Cathie Shiff (2010)
 369 Hinson's Ford Rd.
 Amissville, VA 20106
 540-937-5438
 witsendcody@yahoo.com

Garrett Ramsay (2012)
 53149 460th St.
 Perham, MN 56573
 218-346-3471
 gramsay@arvig.net

Janice Lever (2012)
 1821 Ferguson's Falls Rd.
 Lanark, ON K0G 1K0
 windblest@storm.ca

Committees:

Sheep Show: Mansfield, Shiff, Ramsay
 Promotion: M. Lelli, Lever, Densmore
 Education: Shiff, M. Lelli, Lever
 Newsletter: B. Lelli, Ramsay

www.bflba.blogspot.com

www.BFLBA.com

THE HEALTHY BLUE

Early "Weaning" Lambs

Mark Lelli, DVM



With the price of lamb milk replacer continuing its upward trend, many producers are turning to early weaning of their bottle or bucket fed lambs at 30 to 35 days of age. Traditionally, weaning occurs at the age of 50 to 60 days in lambs. At that age the source of protein and energy undergoes a transition from milk that bypasses the rumen to nutrients supplied by microorganisms now established in the nearly developed rumen. "Early" weaning is a different process that involves the transition of nutrients from milk to ingested sources of protein and carbohydrate that also bypass the still underdeveloped rumen.

During the early weaning process it's critical that the rumen is not subjected to high levels of ingested dietary fiber that results in the accumulation of undigestible fibrous material. This process can retard or prevent the eventual establishment of normal rumen flora. Proper rumen development is the single most important physiological factor when lambs are weaned from milk to solid foods. Successfully early weaning is dependent on the lamb being able to digest and utilize solid foods prior to the point in time that the rumen can support the flora needed to supply the lambs dietary needs.

Lambs targeted for early weaning should have highly digestible feeds in front of them from one week of age on. The most common feeds used are soy meal, cracked corn, and high quality alfalfa. Even though they won't consume significant amounts until three to four weeks of age, the small amount taken in allows the rumen to begin developing the bacterial flora needed for later rumen function and establishes the habit of eating solids. Whole oats should be avoided at this time because of the relatively high fiber content. Other grains with poor palatability should also be avoided at this time as well. No matter what the age, when weaning begins, energy derived from milk is reduced causing the lamb to seek out alternative sources of energy. When this nutritional stress is applied at an early age, it's critical that lambs have exclusive exposure to a diet that's highly palatable, ferments rapidly, and can bypass the rumen. As long as the lamb has not been forced to scavenge feeds high in undigestible fiber, the rumen will develop the bacterial flora needed to allow for true weaning when "early" weaned lambs reach 50 to 60 days of age.

THE BLUE NEWS Advertising

Camera-ready display ads:

	Per issue	Annual
full page	\$40	\$110
half page	\$25	\$70
¼ page	\$15	\$40
Business card size	\$10	\$30

Classified ads: Flat rate \$10 per issue (40 words or less)

Payment: All ads are prepay. Make check payable to Brenda Lelli, 'BFLBA' and mail with your advert to the Editor.

Correspondence to: Brenda Lelli, Editor 17496 88 th Ave. Coopersville, MI 49404 616-837-1872	Deadline for Newsletter: March 15 – Spring issue July 15 – Summer issue Nov. 15 – Winter issue
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MEMBERSHIP

- Annual BFLBA Membership: \$15
- Associate or Junior Membership: \$ 10
- Make checks payable to: Brenda Lelli, 'BFLBA'. Send to: Brenda Lelli, 17496 88th Ave., Coopersville, MI 49404. (616) 837-1872, BFLBA@aol.com.

EVENTS CALENDAR

May 29, 2009 - Heart of America Fiber Festival
Missouri State Fair, Sedalia, MO
www.moncwga.com

June 13 - 14, 2009 - Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival
Dallas County Fairgrounds, Adel, IA
www.iowasheep.com

August 14 - 16, 2009 - Michigan Fiber Festival
Allegan County Fairgrounds, Allegan, MI
www.michiganfiberfestival.info

For more information on BFL's

Visit:

www.BFLBA.com

www.bflba.blogspot.com

Or join:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BluefacedLeicesters>

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POTOSI SHEEP FARM



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Join us at the:

Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival

September 11 - 13, 2009

Jefferson Fair Park
Jefferson, Wisconsin
for the

**BFLBA ~ Great Lakes
Bluefaced Leicester
Show**

&

*NAMSS Mule Sheep &
Bluefaced Leicester
Progeny Show*

Bluefaced Leicester Breeders Association



Great Lakes

Bluefaced Leicester Show

**Bluefaced Leicester Breeders
Association**

Breed & Informational Displays

Great Lakes ~ Bluefaced Leicester Show

Judge: John Stott, President UK-BFLSBA
LAUND FARM, Chipping, Preston,
Lancashire, UK

**Saturday ~ September 12th, 2009
At 10:30 AM**

Educational Presentation

*The Bluefaced Leicester
"The Finer Points"*

John Stott "Laund Farm" Lancashire, UK
Saturday at 1:30 PM

www.bflba.blogspot.com

www.BFLBA.com

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CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale: Clun Mules, and North Country Cheviot Mules. Also available Terminal sires of NZ x UK Suffolk genetics, and grass fed lamb. For details contact: Muleflock@aol.com, or visit www.Muleflock.com

For Sale: Registered Bluefaced Leicester breeding stock, imported and domestic bloodlines available. White and natural colored ewes and rams for sale individually or in groups (discount given for multiple purchases). For more information, please contact Nancy Cox Starkey at NCStarkey@aol.com, or www.TrialandErrorAcres.com

North American Mule Sheep Society



Mule Sheep

Bluefaced Leicester Progeny Show

Stratified Three-Tier Breeding System

Sheep Breed Displays

Hill & Upland Ewe Breeds, Maternal Crossing
Sire, Terminal Sire Breeds

NAMSS Mule Sheep Show

Judge: John Stott, President UK-BFLSBA
LAUND FARM, Chipping, Preston,
Lancashire, UK

**Sunday ~ September 13th, 2009
At 10:00 AM**

Educational Presentation

Selecting Ewes for the Three-Tier System
John Stott "Laund Farm" Lancashire, UK

Sunday at 1:30 PM

www.mulesheep.blogspot.com

www.MuleSheep.com



BFLBA

BRENDA LELLI, EDITOR
17496 88th AVE.
COOPERSVILLE, MI 49404