



THE BLUE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLUEFACED LEICESTER BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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SUMMER 2007

HEXHAM LEICESTERS RETURN TO CANADA



Bill Stearman
Willow Garden Farm



For several years I saw Beechtree Bluefaced Leicesters at Michigan Fibre Festival and was spell-bound by their fleeces. I'd walk by them many times each day, just so I could feel the fineness of the fleece and marvel at the lustre. I could safely admire these animals, and even say how much I wanted some ... because the border was closed to the importation of sheep into Canada from the US.

In April of this year, the border opened and I knew that I was in trouble.

On July 8th, I went with Stephen Rouse of Sheltering Pines to Brenda Lelli's farm to help him pick out more Bluefaced Leicesters for his flock. I resisted the urge to buy ... but fell in love with a coloured ram lamb named Beechtree Coaldale. On July 10th, minutes after returning home with a truckload of Shetlands from Stephen's ... I was on the computer, emailing Brenda to have her help me pick a starter flock of three ewe lambs and two ram lambs. (NOTE – It is a ten hour trip to my home in Ontario, “alone”, when I import sheep, which gives me TOOO much time to think!

On July 23rd, my five Hexham Leicester lambs were on their way home to Canada. I refer to them as Hexham Leicesters since this is the name used by the national registry in Canada (CLRC) and by the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association. I assume that this is left over from the 1970s when Hexham (Bluefaced) Leicesters were first imported into Canada. I arrived home that day, to an email from a friend in Alberta asking me if I was making another importation and wondering if I'd import two coloured rams for her and another Western Canada breeder.

(continued on page 2)



(continued from page 1)

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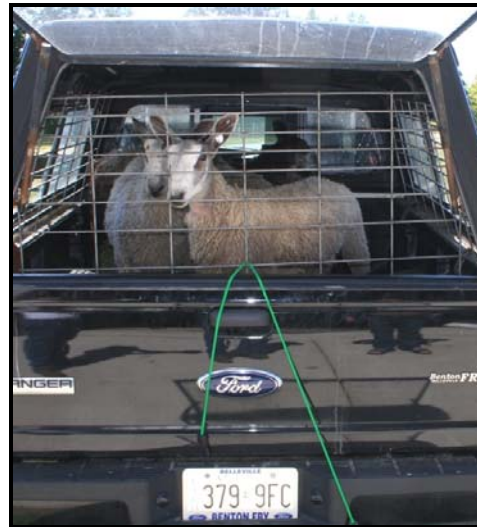
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Beechtrees 'MacLaine' and her "Big Adventure"!

This presented a perfect excuse to bring in one or two more BFLs for me. Of course, I made that three! So, on August 3rd, I dropped off two rams to be shipped to Alberta, and then brought home to Willow Garden, an F1 Carry House ram lamb, and two mature ewes.

I am very happy with what I have to start with here. All are sound, square, solid animals with good legs and feet, great carriage, and nice long bodies with great capacity for lambs. All have ample blue pigment, ears are set well in relation to eyes, and are tall and slightly pointed. Conformation and type were paramount to me. Once I had selected a group of animals with perfect conformation and type, then I looked at fleeces. I wanted fine, lustrous fleeces in both white and coloured ... but I also needed fleeces with density and loft because of my harsh climate. I think the flock that I have is as close to perfect as one can get.

Visit them on my blog ... <http://willowgardenshetlands.blogspot.com/>

The two Alberta flocks who got the coloured rams from Beechtree Farm will be importing additional stock from Oregon and Montana later this summer. There is already a ram in eastern Canada imported from New York in July, and the breeder that has him plans to import two ewes from Michigan this fall.

If these importations go well, there will be four flocks of Hexham Leicesters in Canada by the time breeding season is here. What an exciting start ... with wonderful possibilities

For CFIA rules and updates on imports visit:
<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/policy/ie-2007-5e.shtml>

THE HEALTHY BLUE

Contagious ecthyma; Orf
Mark Lelli, DVM

A member of the pox virus family, this highly contagious skin disease affects sheep, goats, alpacas, camels, reindeer, musk oxen, bighorn sheep, deer, prong-horn antelope and wapiti and rarely dogs. People can be infected by contact with infected animals. The virus causes painful skin ulcerations most commonly found on the mouth or muzzle but can be spread to the udder where it may be painful enough to prevent nursing. Occasionally, lesions can be found on the feet causing lameness and in rare cases can spread into the throat and further internally. Most pox lesions resolve spontaneously within two to three weeks. The incubation period is 3 to 5 days but can be as short as 24 hours. For health certificate purposes, a flock can be pronounced free of infectious disease with regard to orf sixty days after the last animal developed visible lesions.

The virus can be isolated from the lesions of infected animals as well as animals showing no clinical symptoms. Infected animals are considered contagious for one month following complete healing. Transmission occurs by direct contact with an infected animal or from contaminated living and non-living surfaces such as feed buckets, movable gating equipment, clothing, and people's hands. It is very resistant to inactivation in the environment and has been recovered from dried crusts after 12 years. Wildlife can move infected material to areas never occupied by livestock and transmission can occur in these areas as well.

Vaccination should be reserved for flocks and herds living on a previously infected premise. Because different strains vary in their level of virulence, outbreaks can occur in vaccinated flocks from the accidental introduction of more virulent strains. Likewise, introducing a naïve animal to a vaccinated flock that is not experiencing lesions may result in the newcomer developing lesions after exposure to the new environment. When a quarantined newcomer develops lesions after the quarantine period, the source is usually the new environment whether or not other animals in the flock are showing visible symptoms, provided there have been no new animal introductions or off premise exposure.

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A WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Carol & Steve Densmore, SDD Farm, Webberville, MI
Art Lester, Lebanon, PA
Martha & Rick Mitchell, Foreside Acres, Grinnell, IA
Stephen Rouse, Sheltering Pines, Allegan, MI
Cathie & Dave Shiff, Wits End Farm, Ammissville, VA
Bill Stearman, Willow Garden, Consecon, ON
Barb & Ron Zumdom, Lamb Lane, Ft. Madison, IA

RED, WHITE & BLUE'S

4th of July Parade
Cross Village, Michigan



Jenna Talcott w/ Beckonhills 'York'
&
Allison Cieslak w/ Beechtrees 'Loxi'

BLUES IN THE NEWS

Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival May 2007

White Longwool Show

Yrlg. Ram	4 th - Lelli, MI 6 th - Shiff, VA
Ram lamb	2 nd - Ward, MI
Yrlg. Ewe	1 st - Lelli, MI 3 rd - Lelli, MI 4 th - Shiff, VA 5 th - Mansfield, WV 10 th -Mansfield, WV
Pr. Yr. Ewes	1 st - Lelli, MI 2 nd - Mansfield, WV
Ewe lamb	3 rd - Ward, MI 4 th - VanCamp, MI
CH Ewe	Lelli, MI



CH WLW Ewe 'Belhaven'

Natural Colored Longwool Show

Yrlg. Ram	2 nd - Lelli, MI 3 rd - Mansfield, WV 8 th - Lelli, MI
Ram lamb	10 th - Ward, MI
Yrlg. Ewe	6 th - Lelli, MI 11 th - Lelli, MI
Pr. Yr. Ewes	4 th - Lelli, MI
Ewe lambs	8 th - Ward, MI 9 th - Ward, MI
Pr ewe lambs	2 nd - Ward, MI

Black Sheep Gathering, OR June 2007

Bluefaced Leicester Show

Yrlg. Ram	1 st - Koenig, OR 2 nd - Ward, MI 3 rd - Gustafson, CA
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4 th - Colvin, MT
5 th - Colvin, MT
6 th - Koenig, OR

Ram lambs	1 st - Ward, MI 2 nd -Koenig, OR 3 rd - Gustafson, CA 4 th - Lloyd, CO 5 th - Koenig, OR 6 th - Heinze,
Pr ram lambs	1 st - Koenig, OR 2 nd - Ward, MI 3 rd - Colvin, MT 4 th - Heinze, Koenig, OR
CH Ram	Ward, MI
Res. CH Ram	1 st - Colvin, MT 2 nd -Koenig, OR 3 rd - Gustafson, CA 4 th - Ward, MI 5 th - Colvin, MT 6 th -Koenig, OR
Yrlg. Ewe	1 st - Koenig, OR 2 nd - Ward, MI 3 rd - Lloyd, CO 4 th - Covin, MT Colvin, MT
Ewe lamb	Koenig, OR
Pr. Ewe lambs	1 st - Koenig, OR 2 nd - Ward, MI 3 rd - Lloyd, CO 4 th - Covin, MT Colvin, MT
CH Ewe	Koenig, OR
Res. CH Ewe	1 st - Koenig, OR 2 nd - Ward, MI 3 rd - Lloyd, CO 4 th - Colvin, MT
Young Flock	



1st place - Pair Ewe lambs

MONCWGA Heart of America Sheep Show & Fiber Festival, MO June 2007

Fleece Show

1st- Barger-Harbert, MO



Natural colored
3/4 BFL x 1/4 BL yearling fleece

Lebanon County Fair, PA July 2007

Yrlg. Ram	1 st - Goodpaster, PA
Ram lamb	1 st - Goodpaster, PA
CH Ram	Goodpaster, PA
Aged Ewe	1 st - Goodpaster, PA
Yr. Ewe	1 st - Goodpaster, PA
Ewe lamb	1 st - Lester, PA
CH Ewe	Goodpaster, PA
Res CH Ewe	Lester, PA

Leadline

Age 12-15 1st- Lester, PA



Rachel Goodpaster w/ 'Louis'
&
Art Lester w/ Potosi 'Ava'

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BLUES across the country in
the next issue of The Blue
News!**

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

- Annual BFLBA Membership: \$15 (includes subscription to *The Blue News*)
- *The Blue News* – 1 year subscription: \$10
- Make checks payable to Brenda Lelli, 'BFLBA'. Send to Secretary: Brenda Lelli, 17496 88th Ave., Coopersville, MI 49404. (616) 837-1872, BFLBA@aol.com.

EVENTS CALENDAR

September 8-9, 2007 – Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival
Jefferson Fair Park, Jefferson, WI
www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com

September 8-9, 2007 – Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival
Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, VT
www.vermontsheep.org/festival.html

October 19-20, 2007- NYS Sheep & Wool Festival
Duchess County Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck, NY
www.sheepandwool.com
(*Bluefaced Leicester show on Oct. 19th, 2007)

For more information on BFL's
Visit: www.BluefacedBreeders.com

Or join:

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



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For Sale: Registered Bluefaced Leicesters, white and natural colored adult rams & ewes, and lambs. Also available, like new Sydell tilt table w/ 8 foot panels - \$800. For more information please contact Brenda at: BeechtrFrm@aol.com or visit: www.BeechtreeBlues.com

For Sale: Clun Mule starter group, 2 reg. Clun Forest ewes w/ BFL ram. Also available, Clun Mule ewes, 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



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