



# THE BLUE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLUEFACED LEICESTER BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

VOL. 6, NO. 2

SUMMER 2008

## YOUTH and BLUES: A WINNING COMBINATION



The Bluefaced Leicester's most recent, and probably its youngest supporter and promoter is Joseph 'Joe' Goodpaster from Palmyra, Pennsylvania. Joe was awarded the Youth Conservationist Award program's yearling Bluefaced Leicester ewe, 'ClaraVale,' this past May during the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival. Joe composed and submitted an essay on why he would like to receive and own a Bluefaced Leicester, and how he would go about promoting the awareness of his chosen breed of sheep.

Joe and his family have actively participated in sheep and fiber related events for the past few years. Joe, along with his older sister, Rachel, who was awarded the 2006 YCP- BFL ewe, and Arthur Lester also from Pennsylvania and recipient of the 2007 YCP-BFL ewe, work together to show and promote their Bluefaced Leicesters. They have attended numerous Fair and Farm Shows, spinning contests, and have even entered a 'Sheep to Shawl' contest as part of their commitment to the YCP program and dedication to their chosen breed.



The most recent news of Curtis VonAllman from Ohio, who was awarded the first Bluefaced Leicester ewe, 'Half Penny,' during the 2005 YCP Awards, came from his mother Cindi. She wanted to let us know that Curt was currently at the Ohio State Fair with a pair of Penny's lambs. Curt's ewe lamb, 'Holly,' placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, and his ram lamb, 'Bruno,' placed Reserve Champion in his class (very respectable placements given the fact that the judge was somewhat unfamiliar with the Bluefaced Leicester breed). Curt also sheared his aged Bluefaced Leicester ram, 'Haggis,' entered the fleece competition, and promptly sold this fleece to an admiring spinner.

Mentored and guided by their 'donor' Bluefaced Leicester breeders: Kathy Davidson 'Potosi Farm' and Brenda Lelli 'Beechtree Farm,' these youth have proven outstanding ambassadors for the Bluefaced Leicester through dedication to promoting and educating others to the many diverse attributes of the Bluefaced Leicester breed.

We look forward to hearing more from these enthusiastic youth and of their Bluefaced Leicester endeavors.



Brenda Lelli (2011) President  
17496 88<sup>th</sup> 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

Margaret Van Camp (2009) Secretary  
4190 W. Cook Rd.  
Swartz Creek, MI 48473  
810-655-4091  
pitchfork@usol.com

Mark Lelli, D.V.M. (2011)  
17496 88<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Coopersville, MI 49404  
616-837-1872  
Muleflock@aol.com

Graham Phillipson (2010)  
21925 County Hwy ZZ  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
608-647-7118  
littledalefarm@apmt.com

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

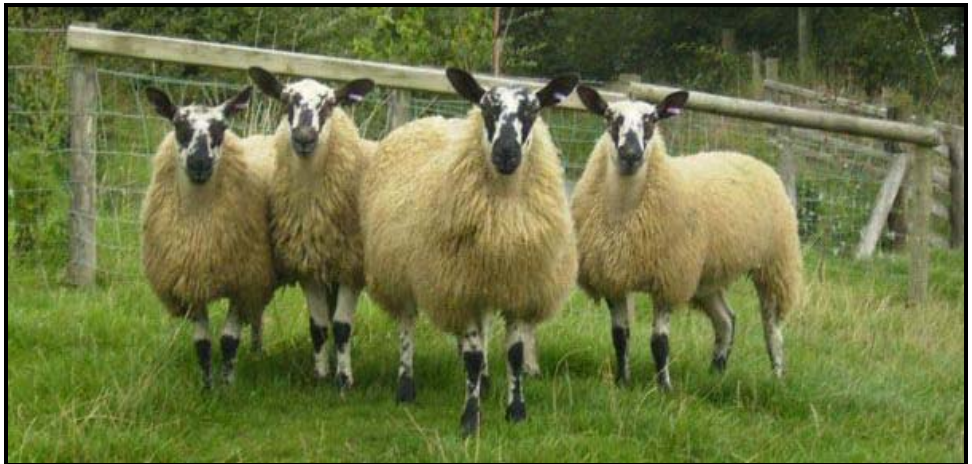
Becky Utecht (2010)  
2157 River Oaks Circle  
Mora, MN 55051  
320-679-4117  
becky@riveroakssheep.com

Kathy Davidson (2009)  
1175 Potosi Rd.  
Glen Rock, PA 17327  
717-235-6036  
potosisheep@yahoo.com

Robina Koenig (2009)  
65920 61<sup>st</sup> St.  
Bend, OR 97701  
541-389-7678  
tumblecreekfarm@juno.com

[www.BFLBA.com](http://www.BFLBA.com)

## Mule Sheep & Bluefaced Leicester Progeny Show



The North American Mule Sheep Society (NAMSS) will be hosting the USA's first Mule Sheep & Bluefaced Leicester Progeny Show on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The NAMSS Mule Sheep Show is held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival at the Jefferson Fair Park in Jefferson, Wisconsin, Sept 5 – 7<sup>th</sup> 2008.

The judge presiding over this landmark event will be David Cruikshank from Castle Douglas, Scotland. As a UK sheep producer involved in all levels of the Three-tier breeding scheme for prime lamb production Mr. Cruikshank is well qualified for this task. He is also the current President of the UK's Bluefaced Leicester Sheep Breeders' Association, and is sought after to Judge Bluefaced Leicester, Mule sheep, and Progeny events throughout the UK.

The NAMSS and BFLBA would like to thank the UK – BFLSBA for their generous contribution in providing us with our judge, this rare learning opportunity, and for their continued support of our efforts here in the States promoting the 3-Tier System, Mule sheep, and the Bluefaced Leicester.

There will be classes for the Hill dam with her Mule ewe lamb, Mule lamb and yearling classes, Mule dam with her Terminal sired lamb, as well as the Progeny class for two Mules with their Bluefaced Leicester sire. Along with the Mule Sheep show will be the Stratified Three-Tier breeding system sheep breeds displays and several educational presentations revolving around the 3-tier system. The Association and Breed displays will show case the Hill & Upland Ewe breeds, the Bluefaced Leicester and his role as the Maternal Crossing Sire, and several Terminal Sire breeds that complement this breeding scheme.

For information on the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival go to:  
[www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com](http://www.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com)

To learn more about the Three-Tier Breeding System, Mule Sheep, and grass fed lamb production go to:  
[www.MuleSheep.com](http://www.MuleSheep.com).

For Bluefaced Leicester information visit:  
[www.BFLBA.com](http://www.BFLBA.com), and [www.blueleicester.co.uk](http://www.blueleicester.co.uk)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I wish to share some sheep-related thoughts as we navigate through this economic 'perfect storm.' Thanks to third-world development, ethanol, futures trading and political unrest in Nigeria, the cost of that bag of sheep feed has almost doubled since last fall. The price tag can be expected to continue to rise due to extensive damage to the 2008 corn crop following record-breaking floods in the Midwest.

The immediate result is we are all evaluating our flocks and sending to market individuals which we probably should have culled last year. If conditions continue, we will cull more deeply as we struggle to retool and revamp our sheep operations under conditions which have changed radically in a matter of months.

I cannot imagine the mood at sheep feedlot operations which thrived during the years of cheap and plentiful grain. An entire agricultural business model, expressed by infrastructure, animals and employees, has been hit by an economic freight train and sustained injuries from which it may never recover. Meanwhile, breeders had relationships with those feedlots and bred animals which specifically met those needs. Suddenly, those animals are too expensive to feed.

I think of all those 4-H and FFA kids working their hearts out raising those grain-fed meat sheep breeds to muscled perfection. Suddenly, their chosen breeds will prove to be too expensive to feed and still achieve their business plan, which was prepared using feed and transport costs of just a year ago.

As an industry changes overnight, I think of the thousands of animals which will be shipped because they were bred to excel using a feeding regimen which has become unsustainable in a matter of months. I wonder if entire breeds will be essentially wiped out. Perhaps that is inevitable and even good for the sheep industry, but I just can't get over the pace of these changes.

As the sheep industry recreates itself, the inevitable direction will be grass-based production. Breeders will be forced to abandon grain-hungry breeds and sheep body types which do well in the show ring but will not make it in this new production paradigm. Lambs which excel on grass will become the new gold standard for the industry.

I am so thankful that I raise Bluefaced Leicesters which can excel in this 'new' grass-based model. All that breed literature that we handed out at fairs and sheep schools extolling the virtues of our sheep on grass

suddenly has suddenly become topical. While I have reduced my flock numbers somewhat and made some adjustments, my thoughts go to those breeders of the 'gain by grain' sheep who may have to face shipping most or all of their sheep to market.

Kindest regards,  
Cathie Shiff  
Wits End Farm, Virginia

## Now Available in the USA

### THE BLUEFACED LEICESTER A History of the Breed by Jeremy Hunt



This UK booklet was published in 1986 by the Bluefaced Leicester Sheep Breeders' Association. It is an in-depth look at the history and making of the Bluefaced Leicester sheep; and how it came to be the UK's premier sire of crossbred progeny.

To order email: [beechrfrm@aol.com](mailto:beechrfrm@aol.com)

## Treasurer's Report

January 2007 – December 2007

Previous balance	146.51
Ending balance	95.15
<b>Income:</b>	
Membership dues	335.00
Newsletter adverts	170.00
T-shirts	<u>84.00</u>
Total income	589.00

<b>Expenses:</b>	
Website	314.10
Newsletter	158.99
T's/ trophies	146.64
Office supplies	20.63
Advertising	<u>donated</u>
Total expenses	640.36
Net income	(51.36)

# BLUES & YOUTH IN THE NEWS

## Ohio State Fair, OH July 2008

Ram lamb 1<sup>st</sup> - C. VonAllman, OH  
Res CH Ram C. VonAllman w/ "Bruno"

Ewe lamb 3<sup>rd</sup> - C. VonAllman, OH

## Lebanon Area Fair, PA July 2008 Bluefaced Leicester Show

Ram lamb 1<sup>st</sup> - R. Goodpaster, PA  
2<sup>nd</sup> - R. Goodpaster, PA  
CH Ram R. Goodpaster, PA  
Res CH Ram R. Goodpaster, PA

Yearling Ewe 1<sup>st</sup> - J. Goodpaster, PA  
Ewe lamb 1<sup>st</sup> - A. Lester, PA

CH Ewe J. Goodpaster, PA  
Res CH Ewe A. Lester, PA

Sup CH J. Goodpaster w/ "ClaraVale"  
Res Sup CH A. Lester w/ "BonnyBlue"



Art w/ BonnyBlue, Joe w/ ClaraVale, Rachel w/ Isabelle

## The Lebanon Area Fair

Report by: Rachel Goodpaster

The Lebanon Area Fair had its third year with Bluefaced Leicester Sheep exhibited. This year, Rachel and Joseph Goodpaster, and Arthur Lester, all recipients in the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival Conservation Program, competed against each other for the Champion and

4

Reserve Champion Bluefaced Leicester. The Champion Bluefaced Leicester Sheep, and Champion Bluefaced Leicester Ewe went to Joseph Goodpaster (age 10) with his yearling ewe, ClaraVale which he received from Beechtree Farm, Mark and Brenda Lelli, in the 2008 Maryland Sheep and Wool Conservation Program. Arthur Lester took Reserve Champion and Reserve Champion Bluefaced Leicester Ewe with his ewe lamb, Bonny Blue. Rachel Goodpaster took Champion BFL ram and Reserve Champion BFL ram with her two ram lambs.



During the week, Joseph also competed in the Presentation Contest and won 1<sup>st</sup> in his age group. His presentation was on the BFL breed and also how he received his ewe. Joe told the story of the sheep first came to North America, micron counts in the wool, and the different characteristics of the breed. He was very proud of winning his

class and also giving attention to his breed.



The BFL sheep were among the several types of animals on the 5pm local Lebanon News during the Fair. Joseph's ewe, ClaraVale, decided to push to the front and make the most noise so that she was recognized.

## A WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Trudy Coughi , Laingcroft Farm, Powhatan, VA

Janice Lever, Wind Blest Farm, Lanark, ONT

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

## MEMBERSHIP

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

## EVENTS CALENDAR

August 13-16, 2008 – Michigan Fiber Festival  
Allegan County Fairgrounds, Allegan, MI  
[www.michiganfiberfestival.info](http://www.michiganfiberfestival.info)

September 6-7, 2008 - Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival  
Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Jefferson, WI  
[www.wisconsinssheepandwoolfestival.com](http://www.wisconsinssheepandwoolfestival.com)

September 6-7, 2008  
North American Mule Sheep Society  
Mule Sheep &  
Bluefaced Leicester Progeny Show  
Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Jefferson, WI  
[www.MuleSheep.com](http://www.MuleSheep.com)

For more information on BFL's  
Visit: [www.BFLBA.com](http://www.BFLBA.com)

Or join:

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

## Littledale Scotch Mules For Sale

*Superior Commercial Ewe produced from a Scottish Blackface ewe X Bluefaced Leicester.*

*These ewes are easily maintained on pasture and reliably twin when mated to a heavy meat breed for market lambs. They are used to being handled with border collie dogs. Mixed ages available, including 2007 lambs.*

21925 County Highway ZZ, Richland Center, WI 53581  
Phone 608-647-7118 Fax 608-647-3683

[www.Littledalefarm.com](http://www.Littledalefarm.com)

E-mail : [Littledalefarm@apmt.com](mailto:Littledalefarm@apmt.com)

Graham and Margaret Phillipson, Proprietors

Scottish Blackface and North Country Cheviot Rams also For Sale.

## Trial & Error Acres

White and Natural Colored

Registered Purebred

## Bluefaced Leicesters

Imported and Domestic Bloodlines

SFCP Certified Flock # MD-15

Nancy Cox Starkey



12895 Colonial Dr  
Mt. Airy, MD 21771  
301 – 253 - 4732  
[NCStarkey@aol.com](mailto:NCStarkey@aol.com)

[www.TrialandErrorAcres.com](http://www.TrialandErrorAcres.com)

## Catch the move to . . .



. . . Bluefaced Leicesters

## Wits End Farm

Dave & Cathie Shiff

Amissville, Virginia

540-937-5438

[witsendcody@yahoo.com](mailto:witsendcody@yahoo.com)

## CLASSIFIED

Bluefaced Leicesters for sale: Rams, Ewes, yearlings and lambs. Several bloodlines to select from, for info and pictures contact: Robina Koenig @ Tumble Creek Farm, Bend, Oregon [tumblecreekfarm@juno.com](mailto:tumblecreekfarm@juno.com)

For Sale: Bluefaced Leicesters White and natural colored ewe and ram lambs. Ridge Road Farm, IA  
Ph: 515-295-5719, email: [gjdeboom@humrec.com](mailto:gjdeboom@humrec.com)

For Sale: Reg. Bluefaced Leicester breeding stock, imported and domestic bloodlines. White and natural colored ewes and rams, individually or in groups. For more information please contact Nancy Cox Starkey at: [NCStarkey@aol.com](mailto:NCStarkey@aol.com) or [www.TrialandErrorAcres.com](http://www.TrialandErrorAcres.com)

## BEECHTREE FARM



**BLUEFACED LEICESTERS**  
White & Natural Colored  
Top winning genetics on both sides of the pond

Pedigreed Breeding Stock, Fleeces  
OPP Negative  
SFCP Certified #MI 04  
[BeechtrFrm@aol.com](mailto:BeechtrFrm@aol.com)

**BRENDA C. LELLI**  
17496 88<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Coopersville, MI 49404  
(616) 837-1872

[www.BeechtreeFarm.com](http://www.BeechtreeFarm.com)

## POTOSI SHEEP FARM



**Kathy Davidson**  
1175 Potosi Rd.  
Glen Rock, PA 17327  
717-235-6036  
[potosisheep@yahoo.com](mailto:potosisheep@yahoo.com)  
[www.potosisheepfarm.com](http://www.potosisheepfarm.com)

**Specializing in Bluefaced Leicester Sheep**

## MULEFLOCK



**CLUN & NCC MULES**

Commercial ewes  
UK Genetics  
Grass fed lamb  
[Muleflock@aol.com](mailto:Muleflock@aol.com)

**MARK LELLI, DVM**  
17496 88<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Coopersville, MI 49404  
(616) 837-1872

[www.MULEFLOCK.com](http://www.MULEFLOCK.com)



**BFLBA**

**BRENDA LELLI, EDITOR**  
17496 88<sup>th</sup> AVE.  
COOPERSVILLE, MI 49404