



# THE BLUE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLUEFACED LEICESTER BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

VOL 4, NO. 2

WINTER 2006

## THE HEALTHY BLUE

### CD&T VACCINATION

Mark Lelli, DVM



With lambing just a few months away it's a good time to review vaccination for Clostridial diseases in the flock. For the overwhelming majority of flocks this means protection from losses caused by *Clostridium perfringens* types C and D and *Clostridium tetani*. There is a wide range in the quality of the vaccines available and I recommend using the Barvac CD/T brand vaccine as have other small ruminant practitioners I've spoken with. And while we're on the subject, it's best to buy the amount of vaccine needed for the year and discard any opened, unused vaccine from the previous year. Also, it's important to adhere to as many aseptic injection technique principles as possible when vaccinating many animals from a multiple dose vaccine tank.

Ewes should be vaccinated about four weeks prior to

the onset of lambing. Not only does this protect the ewe during the most stressful time in her life, but it also gives adequate time for her to produce antibodies and for the antibodies to accumulate in the colostrum. Lambs born within the first sixty days of the start of lambing should be vaccinated at four, eight, and twelve weeks of age. This coincides with increased solid food intake, weaning, and the development of the rumen. In flocks lambing for periods longer than sixty days, it's well to go back through and revaccinate any ewes still pregnant sixty days after the beginning of lambing. This would be ninety days or more from the ewes' previous vaccine. For lambs born within two weeks of the dam's vaccination, their initial vaccination as well as 10ccs of tetanus antitoxin should be given at the time of tagging, castration, or tail docking. Antitoxin gives only a few weeks protection, just long enough for the onset of vaccine induced antibody protection. If the ewes have not been vaccinated prior to lambing, the ewes and the lambs should be vaccinated at birth and the lambs again at 4, 8 and 12 weeks. Don't forget to vaccinate the rams yearly as well. Occasionally I hear of producers giving a "half dose" of vaccine to newborns. This makes no sense as the dose of vaccine necessary to obtain an immune response is not determined by the size or age of the recipient. Of interest to the sheep industry is the increase in

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## THE BFLBA'S CHANGING IMAGE

The Bluefaced Leicester Breeders Association (BFLBA) is introducing a fresh new look for 2007. There will be a few format changes to the association newsletter 'The Blue News'. These changes will enable us to post the newsletter on line in PDF. format, as well as providing printed copies for handouts out Association breed displays. The BFLBA Association website has undergone a complete makeover too. Including a new domain name (dot.com) which hopefully will provide ease of locating us for those surfing the web, and ranking us higher up with some search engines, with plans to retain the old domain name that will point at the new website.

To see our new look, please visit us at: [www.BFLBA.com](http://www.BFLBA.com)

## THE HEALTHY BLUE

### CD&T VACCINATION

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mortality in cows and calves to *Clostridium perfringens* type A. Along with this has come a number of sheep producers who have lost lambs to type A as well. There is a vaccine for type A conditionally approved for use in cattle but not in sheep. Despite the fact that the manufacturer of the vaccine feels there is no cross protection in cattle vaccinated against other *Clostridial* strains, there seems to be a higher incidence of type A losses in flocks and goat herds who did not vaccinate for types C and D prior to lambing/kidding.

# Calling all Bluefaced Leicester breeders and exhibitors!

to the

## Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival

Howard County Fairgrounds

May 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007

The Bluefaced Leicester breed will have its first opportunity to qualify for our own breed classes for our 'White' Bluefaced Leicesters at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival on May 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007. We have been told by the MSWF Sheep superintendent, that if we can meet the criteria with the correct number of BFL entries we will move up to having our own Bluefaced Leicester breed classes.

The basic requirements to qualify for a breed show are as follows:

We must have at least 35 head of 'white' Bluefaced Leicesters entered, by at least 5 exhibitors.

\* Our Natural Colored Bluefaced Leicester entries will not count towards this total as they will still be entered in the 'Natural Colored - open class' shows.

Entries are due by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, and you may use the MSWF website to request to receive a sheep exhibitor's packet. These are generally mailed out near the end of January. On the entry form, there are several breed categories to select from, what we do is write in 'BLUEFACED LEICESTER' and circle 'WHITE WOOL' You will need to fill out a separate entry form for the Natural Colored classes. If we meet the total number of WHITE entries, then we will have our own show.

\* A complete listing of rules & regulations and a printable entry form may be found by going to:

[www.sheepandwool.org/events/sheep-show.htm](http://www.sheepandwool.org/events/sheep-show.htm)

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## BLUES IN THE NEWS

### Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, MD

August 2006

#### All Other Wool Breeds

Jr Ewe lamb 1<sup>st</sup> – Myers, MD



Meredith Myers w/Trial & Error Acres  
'Bonnie'

### Jefferson County Fair, VA

August 2006

#### White Longwool

Yrlg. Ewe 1<sup>st</sup> – Mansfield, VA  
Sup CH Ewe – Mansfield, VA



Kelly Mansfield w/Trial & Error Acres  
'Evaleen'

### Michigan State Fair, MI

September 2006

#### Colored Coarse Wool

Yrlg Ewe 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lelli, MI  
Res. CH Ewe – Lelli, MI  
Flock 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lelli, MI



Brenda Lelli's - Beechtrees 'Nightshade'

## My First Year with the Blues!

Rachel Goodpaster

This first year with Bluefaced Leicesters has been a very rewarding year for me. In addition to Isabel, whom I received from the Lelli's at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Youth Conservationist Award program, I have purchased a Bluefaced ram lamb and a Bluefaced ewe lamb. It has indeed been so much fun and an adventure taking care of the Bluefaced Leicesters and showing the Blues.

Throughout the summer, I learned to halter train my sheep. It was a lot of work but rewarding and fun to get the animals out every day and figure out how to put the halter on the right way! My little brother and I would walk them in and around our barn and then started taking them for longer walks.

After the fun of halter training had worn off, my little brother and I entered a lead line contest with our BFL's, 'Isabelle' and 'Alice'. We dressed up in all wool costumes and led our sheep around on halters. I received first place in the 13-18 age group and Joseph, my brother, received first place in the 7-12 age group. This was a lot of fun and we learned from our first show.

In August we took all the Bluefaced Leicesters to the Elizabethtown Fair. They were shown in 'Any Other Breed' class with about four other breeds. The ram lamb earned reserve champion!! I also had the opportunity to educate people on the Bluefaced Leicester breed since it was one of only three wool breeds of sheep at the fair. I was also able to spend some time talking to the other breeders about my sheep and how I acquired them.

After the fair I sheared the BFL's and sent the fleeces to be processed for spinning. When the roving was sent back to me, I couldn't wait to start spinning yarn and eventually dying it into bright colors.

Shortly after shearing we bred Isabelle, my Bluefaced Leicester yearling with my ram. It was an educating experience. I learned about flushing, cycling, and care during breeding.

In all, the past year has been filled with lots of fun, and education for me. I was able to spend more time in the barn, and have the fun of watching the animals grow everyday. I am so grateful for all the help I have received from the Lelli's and look forward to future years of raising the Bluefaced Leicesters.

## 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.

<u>Correspondence to:</u>	<u>Deadline for Newsletter:</u>
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 (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 88<sup>th</sup> Ave., Coopersville, MI 49404. (616) 837-1872, BFLBA@aol.com.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

May 5 – 6, 2007 – Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival  
Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD  
[www.sheepandwool.org](http://www.sheepandwool.org)

June 1 – 3, 2007 – Heart of American Fiber Festival  
Missouri State Fair, Sedalia, MO  
[www.moncwga.com](http://www.moncwga.com)

June 22 – 24, 2007 – Black Sheep Gathering  
Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, OR  
[www.blacksheepgathering.org](http://www.blacksheepgathering.org)

For more information about Bluefaced Leicesters

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

Or join:

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

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## CLASSIFIED

**For Sale:** Registered Bluefaced Leicester breeding stock with imported and domestic bloodlines are currently available. White and natural colored ewes and rams for sale individually or in groups (discounts given for multiple purchases). For more information, please contact Nancy Cox Starkey at [NCStarkey@aol.com](mailto:NCStarkey@aol.com) or 301-253-4732 or visit the website at: [www.TrialandErrorAcres.com](http://www.TrialandErrorAcres.com)

**For Sale:** Clun Mule starter group, 2 Registered Clun Forest ewes and a Bluefaced Leicester ram. For details contact: Mark Lelli at [Muleflock@aol.com](mailto:Muleflock@aol.com) or (616) 837-1872, or visit [www.Muleflock.com](http://www.Muleflock.com)

**For Sale:** Pedigreed Bluefaced Leicesters, rams, ewes & lambs, carrying eight UK Bloodlines. Also available, Border Fine Arts "Bluefaced Leicester" mug, and a Stef's Bluefaced Leicester figurine. For details contact: [BeechtrFrm@aol.com](mailto:BeechtrFrm@aol.com) or visit: [www.BeechtreeBlues.com](http://www.BeechtreeBlues.com)

**For Sale:** Scottish Blackface & North Country Cheviots, high percentage British Suffolk rams for terminal sires, and Scotch & NCC Mules. Please enquire at: [www.Littledalefarm.com](http://www.Littledalefarm.com) or email Graham at: [Littledalefarm@apmt.com](mailto:Littledalefarm@apmt.com)