

American Oxford Sheep Association 2018 Spring Newsletter

Well, I hope winter has been kind to all of you and that lambing season has gone well. In Indiana, we had a real cold snap (at least it was cold for us) just after the first of the year that lasted a couple of weeks and then a warm-up (as high as 70 degrees plus) with rain that's been with us now for longer than we really need. Pastures and hay fields are actually "greening up" and I even saw maple trees showing buds. Weather like this always make me wonder when the other shoe will drop and Mother Nature reminds us that winter really has a few more weeks to go. I just hope that jplt back to reality doesn't harm our grazing and haying prospects for 2018.

Most of you received a winter newsletter and might be wondering why a spring newsletter now? To be honest, we have had a few developments that we want to share with you that weren't complete when the winter newsletter was sent out. Also, we want to remind you of a few dates and deadlines in 2018. Many of you will receive this newsletter via email. I took a few weeks this winter when AOSA office work was slow and updated our membership lists and also developed an email data base. This is the inaugural mailing to this new email list. Once I have corrected or removed the "bad" emails, my hope is to communicate with members, who provide their email address, on a more often and more timely basis throughout the year. We will still do at least one annual newsletter and send it to everyone. However, those timely updates and reminders throughout the year will only be sent to folks who provide us with their email address.

NAILE

Again, the sheep division at the 2017 NAILE in Louisville was very successful and showed growth again in terms of the number of head exhibited. The show kept the same format as in 2016 with all shows finished on Thursday rather than the previous completion on Friday. A couple of changes in 2017 was that exhibitors were allowed to leave once they were finished showing and rather than 3 individuals judging the Supreme Ram and Ewe show in the open portion, one judge was hired to perform the honors. Rod Crome from Illinois was tapped to make those all-important decisions and he did an excellent job and I say that, even though an Oxford wasn't selected for either honor, because Rod is such a knowledgeable person with regard to sheep and everyone who witnessed his selections were offered the opportunity to learn from him and his many years of experience.

In the Junior breeding sheep show, 41 different exhibitors showed a total of 87 Oxford breeding sheep. While the ram show in both the junior and open divisions was sparse on entries they both certainly made up for that in quality. Zeke Isaacson (WI) had the Grand Champion Ram in the Junior division with Isaacson 299 an early junior ram lamb. Ty Miller (IN) had the Reserve Grand Champion Ram with

Double A 1720, a late junior ram lamb. The best headed ram in the Junior division was A.Brockmann 1511, a late junior ram lamb, shown by Austin Brockmann (IL). The Grand Champion Ewe honors went to the Senior Champion Ewe, 1st place fitted yearling ewe, A.Brockmann 1460, shown by Austin Brockmann. The Reserve Grand Champion Ewe was shown by Austin Grace (NH) with Misty Meadow Oxfords 1166, the Junior Champion Ewe and 1st in the fitted January ewe lamb class. The Reserve Senior Champion Ewe was first in the senior ewe lamb class and she was the best headed Oxford ewe; Winning Ways Sheep Farm 17-840 shown by Kolby Kearns (IL). The Reserve Junior Champion Ewe was shown by Annie Schoetmer (IN) with Wallpe 0042 "Addy"; the lamb was 1st in the slick shorn January ewe lamb class.

There were 29 exhibitors and 80 head of sheep in the 2017 Mary Blome National Oxford Show. In the ram portion, top honors went to Jessica Reisdorf (NY) with her class winning early junior ram lamb, Reisdorf 1702 "Tanner" which was also the Junior Champion Ram. Zeke Isaacson's (WI) ram lamb stood second to the Grand Champion in class and was named Reserve Grand Champion and Reserve Junior Champion Ram; Isaacson 299. Senior Champion and Reserve Senior Champion Rams were both yearling rams; Derek Burns (OH) had the senior champion with Double "O" Acres 16-040 "Derek's Deal" and Zachery Hamilton (IA) had the reserve senior champion on ZA 16-1 "Oscar". Best headed ram honors went to a late junior ram lamb, WWSF 17-1673, belonging to Winning Ways Sheep Farm (IL). The Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Ewe honors went to the Junior Champion and Reserve Junior Champion animals respectively. Grand Champion Ewe was the fitted February ewe lamb class winner; WWSF 17-13321A shown by Winning Ways Sheep Farm (IL). Reserve Grand Champion Ewe was the fitted March and later ewe lamb of Double "O" Acres (IA); DOA 17-032 "Golden Connection". Kolby Kearns had the Best Headed Ewe, the same senior ewe lamb (WWSF 17-840) that was named Best Headed in the Junior division. First place flock was Double "O" Acres (IA) and Ty Miller (IN) was the Premier Exhibitor.

For a full set of show results, go to the AOSA website (www.americanoxfords.org) for a link or go directly to the NAILE website (www.livestockexpo.org).

Here are some future dates for the NAILE:

October 30 – November 15, 2018

November 5 – November 21, 2019

November 3 – November 19, 2020

No word yet on the date of the 2018 Mary Blome National Oxford show or the rest of the show schedule. Make sure you're up-to-date on all things NAILE by joining the expo's growing number of followers on social media. It's a great way to learn about deadlines, take part in exhibitor surveys, enter win rodeo tickets and more. Find and follow the North American International Livestock Exposition on Facebook and Instagram.

As a special note, blood samples are drawn on the Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Ram and Ewe in the Mary Blome National Oxford Show. These blood samples are then sent to a lab to check for carrier status of heredity coondrodysplasia (spider lamb syndrome). I'm happy to report that all four of these animals tested to be non-carriers.

National Show and Sale

Enclosed or attached is the entry information for the 2018 National Oxford Show and Sale. This form is also located on the AOSA website. Entry deadline is April 15, 2018. We will be joined again by other breeds in the barn at Springfield, IL. We will continue to publish just one sale catalog for all breeds so it is extremely important that you have your entries in by the deadline. I do want to draw your attention to two rules in particular that we will be watching very closely this year; the first is the rule regarding animals to be shown and sold slick sheared (with the exception of butt wool) and the second is a new policy from the Board of Directors that a consignor will be responsible for price protecting their own animal(s) in the sale (sale personnel will not be responsible for price protecting animals). If you have any questions, please contact the AOSA Office. **The National Show and Sale will be on June 22 and 23, 2018.**

Special Recognition / Awards / Sponsorships

Oxford Hall of Fame Award – The Hall of Fame Award was initiated in 2000 to recognize those people who have made significant contributions as supporters and promoters of the AOSA and the Oxford breed. A list of past honorees can be found on the AOSA's website. The application/nomination information is at the website too and the deadline for this award is **May15, 2018.**

National Oxford Queen – The AOSA has an annual queen contest for junior members who are between the ages of 16 and 21 as of December 31 in the year of application. This past year, the Association was represented by Corrie McClees of Oklahoma. If you have questions, please contact Beth Allison, Oxford Queen Committee Chairperson. The deadline to apply for the 2018/2019 National Oxford Queen contest is **May 15, 2018.** Queen candidates will be interviewed at the National Show and Sale and the winner will be crowned at the AOSA Annual Membership Meeting on June 22, 2018.

Sponsorships – Each year we look for breeders to sponsor various awards or programs the Association conducts. At the NAILE show we have sponsors for the 4 Best Headed Awards, at the All-American, there is opportunities for folks to help sponsor the awards given to class winners and champions, and there are opportunities to sponsor awards at the various regional shows for our juniors where double futurity points are being awarded. If you would be interested in being a sponsor, please contact the AOSA Office or one of the Directors.

Donation of Auction Items – The AOSA Annual Membership Meeting always concludes with a spirited live auction of donated items to help raise funds for the AOSA fees at the All-American Junior Show. Please consider bringing some items for this benefit auction and plan on having some fun too.

Ewe Lamb Futurity Program

There were eighteen Oxford Junior members who participated in the 2017 Oxford Ewe Lamb Futurity Program with 24 nominated ewe lambs. This is a big increase in both the number of participants and the number of ewe lambs from 2016 (8 participants and only 10 ewe lambs). The national winner was Luke Mumm of Illinois; his winning ewe lamb was *Misty Meadows 1174* that he purchased from Austin Grace (NH). The AOSA website has the complete listing of the 2017 Futurity Ewe Lamb program results.

2018 will mark the 10th year of the Oxford Ewe Lamb Futurity program. A complete set of rules and all the forms are at the AOSA website or you can contact the AOSA office and a hard copy will be mailed to you. Ewe lambs may be nominated by consignors at 5 live auctions and nominations may also be made by consignors of ewe lambs at on-line sales. For on-line sale animals to be eligible for nomination, a consignor must submit nomination forms and nomination fees to the Association office so they arrive at least the day before the auction is to begin. Consignors must also include a “head shot” of nominated ewe lambs to verify Scrapie Tag information (this “head shot” needs to be one of the views offered on the on-line sale site).

Consignors and buyers of nominated ewe lambs should read the rules for participation and be sure they follow all aspects. An important point of interest is that point forms must be sent to the AOSA office within 14 days of the show’s date. All nomination fees (100%) are paid-out to the junior members who participate in the futurity program. This is a great program and a good opportunity to promote breeding programs and for juniors to get recognition for a good eye at the sales and a study hand at the shows. We encourage all breeders to continue to nominate their ewe lambs for the Futurity program.

AOSA Annual Membership Meeting

The American Oxford Sheep Association will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, June 22, 2018 at approximately 6:30 PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2801 West Street, Springfield, IL 62707. **Be sure to notify the AOSA Office in advance if you plan to attend the annual meeting and banquet;** tickets for the meal and meeting will be distributed at the fairgrounds and at the door. You may also attend the meeting only (without taking part in the meal; no charge). Minutes of the 2017 Annual Membership Meeting are attached (enclosed) with this newsletter. ***AOSA Director positions that will be elected at the 2018 Annual Meeting are as follows:***

District 1 – Frank Silva will be completing his 2nd and last eligible term

District 6 – Ed Bowman will be completing his 2nd and last eligible term

All-American Junior Sheep Show

It’s hard to believe, but the 2018 All-American Junior Sheep Show (AAJSS) will be the show’s 25th anniversary and it will be coming “Back Home Again to Indiana” where it got its start. Show dates are July 5 – 8, 2018 and will be at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. You can find show and entry information at the All-American website: www.allamericanjuniorshow.com

This year promises to be a great celebration of our country’s birth, as well as, this great show. There will be special awards for the Oxford junior exhibitors and many special events for our participating families.

Don’t forget those donated items for the live auction at the AOSA Annual Membership Meeting. The funds generated at that auction will be used to pay the Association’s assessment of premiums for the show. Contact one of the directors of the Association or David Trotter to make those donations, or better yet, bring your auction items to the Annual Meeting.

Another way you can help support the All-American Junior Sheep Show is to sell or purchase raffle tickets. Raffle prizes are: 1st - \$1,000 cash, 2nd – Hydraulic Trimming Stand from Sydell, and 3rd – Fire HD 10 Tablet with Red Case. Those of you who receive this newsletter via regular mail are also receiving a couple of bundles of raffle tickets. If you decide to purchase the enclosed tickets or sell them, complete your contact information on the ticket stub and return that portion with payment to the AOSA Office (make checks payable to AAJSS). For the rest of you, just let me know if you want raffle tickets and I'll get them to you. I'll also have tickets at the spring sales listed below and at the National Oxford Sale.

A new AAJSS fund raiser this year is an on-line Ram Semen Sale. Willoughby Livestock Online Sales has offered us a commission free online sale to be utilized in our fundraising efforts. The online sale will be on May 21st. We are asking each breed that participates in the AAJSS to get 4 or 5 donations of 2 straw semen lots from their breeders. So, if you do have semen collected on rams from your flock and you would like to help support the All-American, please contact David Trotter to let him know the particulars about the semen you are willing to donate. We need your commitment to make a donation no later than May 1st. And then, participate in the online sale on May 21st. Watch the AOSA website for details about the sale and how to participate.

AOSA Office Work

Just a reminder, check your records and your animal inventory and make sure your registrations and transfers are all up-to-date and current. Do you have all those 2017-born lambs registered? What about sheep you have sold to other folks; have you sent in transfers so the new owners are now recorded owners? Avoid paying extra fees for rush work (double the regular fees), registering animals older than a year of age or transfers sent in more than 60 days after the sale date. Check your records and animal inventory now. And remember, be sure your annual dues are current for 2018 (Senior Members - \$20, Junior Members - \$6).

While we are on the subject of registrations and transfers, at the AOSA website we now have the registration form that you can type directly on from your computer then print it out and mail it to the AOSA Office with payment for work. So, check out the website and this new form.

Spring Sales

Here are the dates for sales where Futurity Nominated Ewe Lambs will be nominated this spring.

April 6 – 7 Illini All-Breeds Spring Sale (Springfield, IL)
April 28 Indiana Premier Sheep Sale (Greenfield, IN)
May 10-12 Big Ohio Sale Weekend (Eaton, OH)
May 25-26 Great Lakes Sheep Sale (Wooster, OH)
June 22-23 National Oxford Sale (Springfield, IL)

Plus several Oxford breeders plan to conduct on-line sales where Futurity nominated ewe lambs will be included.