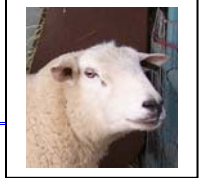




TEXEL TIMES



www.usatexels.org

TSBS Membership Newsletter

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Ricketts Hit at Annual Meeting

Dr. Gary Ricketts, former Illinois Sheep Extension Advisor, was the guest speaker at the annual meeting banquet on June 22, 2009.

Gary has made several trips to New Zealand to observe their sheep industry, and he pointed out several differences in how they raise sheep from U.S. methods. One of the biggest differences is the size of the flocks. Most New Zealand flocks number in the hundreds, if not thousands. Most U.S. farms have less than 40 head of sheep. They also use their grass much more extensively than do we for feeding lambs.

Ricketts believes the Texel breed offers the opportunity to bring the American sheep industry back to what is more realistic and less extreme. He talked about how some of the old breeds have changed in the last 50 years to become almost unrecognizable. Most of those changes have not been for the good of the breed or the industry.

Characteristics of a good breed would be:

Ewes that cycle and settle early in the breeding season; fall lambing; good mothers with good milk; rams that are fertile in the spring; rams that will settle a high number of ewes at the first service; and rams that sire lambs that will live. Production records are vital in insuring that the type of ram and ewe desired are being used on the farm.

He also suggests that each breed association should periodically have a breed workshop to insure that their breed is acquiring the production traits that will keep the breed competitive.

Advertising

At the May TSBS board of directors meeting it was decided that rather than award trophies and plaques at the annual show, the money would instead be used for advertising. Subsequently, a series of ads have been placed in *Sheep* and *Shepherd* magazines. The board would like to know what you think of the ads, and would welcome suggestions for further ads.

We would also like to know if there are enough Texel breeders interested in placing a larger ad with each breeder listed. Contact Walt Stubbs if you are interested in participating.

Election Results

The results of the recent board of directors election was that Bret Taylor was reelected to another three year term, and Charles Wray was newly elected to a three year term. Thanks to both of these gentlemen for agreeing to run.

New Officers

During the board meeting of August 6, 2009, Kerry Richardson was reelected President, Bret Taylor will continue as Vice President, Niki Fisher will be our new Secretary, and Bev Pearsall was reelected as Treasurer. Congratulations to all.

Texel Pictures

We need pictures to put up on our website to fill frequent requests from the public. If you would like to submit some of your pictures please send them to Walt Stubbs in jpg format. We would prefer pictures without people in them. Walt will also be the new coordinator for information that needs to go on the website.

National Sale Results

Sale prices were down considerably from last year's record prices. Talking with other breeders confirmed that this was not limited to the Texel breed. Sales seemed to reflect what the national economy is seeing.

The top selling ram sold for \$1500 and the top selling ewe went for \$900. Both were consigned by Portland Prairie Texels.

For complete results go to

<http://www.countrylovin.com/sheepsales/Midwest/09results/Texels%20Sale%20Summary.pdf>

Junior Showmanship

The winners of the showmanship awards at the National Texel Show were Lukas Fisher in the junior division, and Jason Richardson in the Senior Division. All of the junior participants displayed a great deal of zeal and attentiveness.