

## **American Oxford Sheep Association 2020 Spring Newsletter**

We've had a pretty mild, but wet, winter here in southern Indiana. Now, when I say wet, I mean really wet. We've been going through about 2 or 3 months straight where we get rain about 3 days each week. At this rate, we could be setting ourselves up for a repeat of the spring of 2019 and delayed or even prevented plantings of spring crops.

### **Coronavirus**

The situation with COVID-19 has caused some new state and national policies to be put in place that could impact or affect spring sheep sales and perhaps even some sheep shows. We have already seen the Houston Livestock Show impacted and halted. Some March and April sheep sales have been cancelled and others may be impacted soon. Please watch the Oxford Association's website for updates (please remember to hit the refresh button at each page of the website for the latest updates) and also check-out new announcements on the Oxford Breeders Facebook page.

### **E-mail Addresses**

I know I sound like a broken record, as this makes multiple times that I have put out the plea concerning the need for breeders' email addresses. But the truth of the matter is that we need those email addresses to do a better job of communicating with you and to also do a better job of reducing mailing costs for the association. I do realize that some folks don't have an email account or have very limited internet service, so we will still communicate with them via the traditional methods (primarily US Postal Service). So, when you renew your membership or when you send in your next registration form, please include your email address.

### **NAILE**

The 2019 NAILE in Louisville saw a few changes from past years; 1) All sheep came in at one-time, no longer was there a split in the arrival of open sheep 2) Health papers were checked at the gate and livestock were only allowed entry at two gates 3) There was a new sheep show superintendent, Kelly O'Brien-Secord, an Oxford breeder from California. The show result highlights for both the 2019 National Junior Oxford Show and the 2019 Mary Blome National Oxford Show can be found on the Association's website ([www.americanoxfords.org](http://www.americanoxfords.org)) or you can find the complete results of these shows and others at the NAILE website it).

There were 83 head of Oxford Junior Breeding sheep shown by 30 exhibitors. Ty Miller of Indiana exhibited both the Grand Champion Ram (Double "A" 1941, a late junior ram lamb) and the Grand Champion Ewe (Double "A" 1942, a fitted March ewe lamb). There was a total of 1,961 Junior Breeding Sheep exhibited over the weekend, the most in the past 5 years. Jimmy Davis evaluated the 1,267 market wethers; there have been as many as 1,470 head in recent years. Champion Oxford Market Wether was shown by Bryce Hamlin of TX and Cole Ellerbrock of IL had the Reserve Champion; there were 24 Oxford Market Wethers.

There were 57 head of Oxfords shown in the Mary Blome National Oxford Show by 17 different exhibitors. The Grand Champion Ram honors went to Edwards PHFT 1900 shown by Bill Edwards of IL. And the big highlight of the entire show was that the Grand Champion Oxford Ewe was also the Supreme Champion Ewe Over-all breeds; that was the senior ewe lamb, WWSF 19-840 "Miss MVP" shown by Winning Ways Sheep Farm of IL. Steve Taylor of PA judged the Mary Blome National Oxford Show.

***I would be remiss if I didn't give Oxford breeders/exhibitors a bit of a warning and reminder of the requirements of the NAILE especially with the low turn-out of animals exhibited in the Open Show. Minimum numbers for a breed for the junior show is 25 and for the open show is 50. If a breed goes below these numbers they are placed on probation the following year. If in the following year they fail to have the minimum number exhibited, then 50% of the class premiums are removed. If in the third year they fail to achieve the minimum number, 100% of the class premiums are removed. To get back to a class premium status after removal of premiums, a breed must maintain the minimum number of animals shown for 2 years in a row. Just a gentle reminder, especially for the status of the Oxford Open Show at NAILE. Remember these minimums are the number of animals shown and not the number of animals entered.***

I'm happy to report that all blood samples pulled on Oxfords came back negative for carrier status of heredity coondrodysplasia (spider lamb syndrome).

Here are the dates for future NAILE's:

November 3 – November 19, 2020

November 2 – November 18, 2021

Here are some notes I jotted down at a recent NAILE Sheep Advisory Committee Meeting regarding the 2020 NAILE. Remember, most of these are just recommendations being sent to the main NAILE governing body for a final decision however, there was no opposition at the Sheep Advisory Committee Meeting;

- The arrival of all sheep together will probably happen again in 2020
- Livestock entry and health paper checks will probably happen at specific gates again in 2020
- Kelly O'Brien-Secord will probably return as the Sheep Show Superintendent in 2020
- Cluttered and unsightly pen space and isles will probably be addressed and enforcement actions applied in 2020
- For breeds with both fitted and slick shorn classes; they will probably be afforded the opportunity to have a fitted champion and a slick shorn champion in the Supreme drives for both the Junior and Open Shows provided they have at least minimum numbers (for example: Open Show 50 head slick shorn and 50 head fitted; Junior Show 25 head slick shorn and 25 head fitted).
- There will probably only be 3 rings for the Junior breeding sheep shows on Saturday and Sunday (right now Oxfords are slotted to show Saturday and perhaps the first breed in their ring)
- Junior Breeding Sheep Showmanship will probably start 1 hour earlier on Friday (9:00 AM)
- The 2020 Mary Blome National Oxford Show will be on Monday, November 16
- Aaron Crome was the first choice of 2019 exhibitors to judge the 2020 Mary Blome National Oxford Show

### **Oxford Ewe Lamb Futurity Program**

The Oxford Ewe Lamb Futurity Program is entering its 11<sup>th</sup> year in 2020. The national winner in 2019 was Nicholas Monday of TN with Winning Ways Sheep Farm 19-1552. A complete set of results for 2019 can be found at the AOSA website. The rules and forms for the 2020 program can be found at the website too or a hard copy can be mailed upon request. Remember, 100% of the nomination fees are paid-out participating junior members. The Futurity Program is a win-win program: It's a great program to promote a breeding program and it rewards junior members for a good eye at the sales and a study hand in the showing.

We encourage all breeders to continue nominating their ewe lambs for the Futurity program!

### **AOSA Office Work**

Did you remember to send in the registrations for all your 2019 lamb crop? What about transfers; are you current with getting papers to new owners? Have you sent in your 2020 annual dues (senior-\$20, junior-\$6). Check your records now; or contact the office and we will do it for you. Remember, at the AOSA website we now have the registration form that you can type directly on from your computer and then print it out to mail to the AOSA Office with the appropriate payment. Currently, we are working on setting up a way that you can pay for office services with your credit card. Be watching the AOSA website, Oxford Breeders Facebook page and email when we have this credit card payment opportunity up and running.

### **National Show and Sale**

At this time, we are still planning on having the 2020 National Oxford Show and Sale in Springfield, IL this summer. The dates are June 19 and 20. Enclosed with this newsletter or attached to this email is the entry information for the National Show and Sale. The entry form is also available on the AOSA website ([www.americanoxfords.org](http://www.americanoxfords.org)). The entry deadline is April 15, 2020. We will continue publishing one sale catalog for all the breeds that will be joining us in Springfield. If you have any questions, please contact the AOSA Office (812-256-3478 or [secretary@americanoxfords.org](mailto:secretary@americanoxfords.org)).

### **AOSA Annual Membership Meeting**

The American Oxford Sheep Association will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, June 19, 2020 at approximately 6:30 PM (no earlier than 6:30 PM) at the Illinois State Fairgrounds (Springfield) in the Sale Barn 26 building (same location as last year). So we can plan adequately for meals, please 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 available at the sheep barn and at the door of the meeting. You may also just attend the meeting only (no meal, no charge). **AOSA Director positions that will be elected at the 2020 Annual Membership Meeting are:**

District 1 – Marty Van Roekel, finishing his first term, eligible for another term

District 2 – Steve Bingen, finishing his first term, eligible for another term

District 4 – Stacey Gadsby, finishing her second term, not eligible for another term

Don't forget about the special benefit auction that is held following the Annual Membership Meeting. Proceeds from the benefit auction go to help pay the Oxford costs of the All-American Junior Show. So be sure to donate your items for the auction and be in attendance to bid on some great things. And have some fun supporting our youth.

### **All-American Junior Sheep Show (AAJSS)**

The AAJSS will be returning to the Michigan State University campus this summer. The livestock pavilion at MSU has hosted the All-American several times in the past and we have always had a great time there and we are expecting a big turn-out of Oxford sheep and exhibitors. The dates are July 2 – 5, 2020. The three judges will be John Mrozinski, Neal Knapp and Skip Anderson. You can find show and entry information at the All-American website: [www.allamericanjuniorshow.com](http://www.allamericanjuniorshow.com)

Another way you can help support the All-American is to sell or purchase raffle tickets. Raffle prizes are: 1<sup>st</sup>- \$1,000 cash, 2<sup>nd</sup>-Hydraulic Trimming Stand from Sydell, 3<sup>rd</sup>-a set of Bose Quiet Comfort 35II Headphones. Those of you senior members 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 the contact information on the ticket stubs 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 and at the National Oxford Show and Sale and the AOSA Annual Membership Meeting.

The AAJSS will again hold a special Ram Semen On-Line Sale on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Mike Crowder of Integrity Livestock Sales will conduct the auction. Right now we are soliciting breeders for semen donations for this benefit sale. We are looking for donations of lots of 2 – 5 straws. If you can help with a semen donation, please contact Mike Crowder at [mike@integritylivestocksales.com](mailto:mike@integritylivestocksales.com) or 765-366-3135.

Each year at the All-American, they have a silent auction area to help raise operational funds for the show. Each breed is asked to provide at least one basket or item for this silent auction. Right now we are looking for a volunteer to coordinate the Oxford donation for this auction. If you are interested in volunteering to head up this effort, contact David Trotter at [secretary@americanoxfords.org](mailto:secretary@americanoxfords.org) or 812-256-3478.

Finally, the local planning committee in Michigan for the 2020 AAJSS is providing breeders an opportunity to market their farm through a special breed directory booklet that each youth will receive in their welcome bag at this year's show. The cost to advertise in this booklet is \$75 for a business card ad. You can email your business card (size at 3.5 x 2 inch) in a high resolution PDF or JPEG to Lisa Reiff at [michiganfairs@gmail.com](mailto:michiganfairs@gmail.com) . If you need assistance with creating a business card, Lisa is willing to create one for you. The deadline for submission is May 31, 2020.

### **Special Recognition/Awards/Sponsorships**

**New Membership Directory** – Don't forget that the AOSA will publish a new Membership Directory this year through Banner Publications. Your ad in the upcoming issue of The Banner that features Oxfords will help pay for the Directory.

**Oxford Hall of Fame Award** – The Hall of Fame Award was started in 2000 to recognize folks who have made significant contributions to the Oxford breed and to the AOSA. The 2019 recipients were Wayne and Shelley O'Brien. A list of past honorees and the application/nomination form can be found at the AOSA website. Application/nomination deadline is May 15, 2020.

**National Oxford Queen** – Every year the AOSA selects a queen from junior members who apply for consideration. Applicants need to be between the ages of 16 and 21. The past year, Natasha Franzen of Iowa represented us at several shows, sales and general sheep events. Beth Allison serves as the Oxford Queen Committee Chairperson. Application deadline is May 15, 2020.