

# American Oxford Sheep Association

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## 2013 Newsletter

It seems that spring is finally upon us and the show and sale season is quickly approaching. Based on the number of fall lamb and early spring lamb registrations that have been sent into the office already, I'd say that we have a good group of animals that will be entered in these sales.

I feel very fortunate that for the past year I had the opportunity to work with Mary and Harry Blome with registrations, transfers, and the National Show and Sale. While this was a great learning experience, I know I didn't learn all the things I'll need to know to do the job you have come to expect from your Oxford Secretary. Please be patient with me, share your ideas to do the job more efficiently and effectively and tell me how your Association can be responsive to your needs as an Oxford breeder, promoter and enthusiast. I know that by working together, we can make Oxfords truly the world's best for all segments of the sheep industry.

### NAILE

I thought the Oxford shows at the 2012 North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, KY were very impressive. The quality of both the animals and the exhibitors ran deep. The junior shows certainly were a family affair. However, the late hour of the conclusion of the junior breeding show is certainly a concern; it was discussed in great detail at the recent NAILE Sheep Advisory Committee meeting and some possible solutions were offered and sent to the NAILE Executive Committee for a final decision.

### Association Website

Trying to tell you everything of interest to you will be nearly impossible to do in this newsletter. Therefore, I want to remind you of the Association's website. At this site you'll find information about the history of Oxfords, contacts within the Association leadership as well as members from all over the U.S., special programs like the Association's Ewe Lamb Futurity program, special opportunities like the National Oxford Queen contest and registration and membership forms that can be downloaded and mailed or completed on your computer and emailed to the office as an attachment. Here is the website address:

[www.americanoxfords.org](http://www.americanoxfords.org)

While we are on the subject of electronic communications, here is the email address to contact the Association's office: [secretary@americanoxfords.org](mailto:secretary@americanoxfords.org)

We would like to update the Association's records with all our members' email addresses. If you haven't sent in your 2013 membership dues, take a moment now to complete the membership form found at the Association's website and send it in to the office with your dues payment. By having your email address, we will be able to communicate with you on a more frequent and more timely basis.

### Queen Applications

The American Oxford Sheep Association has an annual queen contest for youth who are between 16 and 21 years of age as of December 31, 2013. The application form is available at the Association's website or a form will be sent to interested juniors if they contact the Association's office. The application and supporting materials must be sent to the office and postmarked by May 15, 2013.

## **Ewe Lamb Futurity Program**

Junior exhibitors are encouraged to participate in the Association's Ewe Lamb Futurity Program and breeders are likewise encouraged to nominate their fall 2012 and spring 2013 ewe lambs for this program. Ewe lambs can be nominated at 3 sales (Ohio Oxford Showcase Sale – May 9-11, National Oxford Show and Sale – June 21-22, and the New England Sheep Sale – July 19-21). Lambs must be nominated prior to the close of check-in for each sale. All the forms and rules for the futurity will be on the website soon or contact the Association office and we will send the information to you. Designated district shows in 2013 will be as follows:

District 1: California State Fair, District 2: Iowa State Fair, District 3: Wisconsin State Fair, District 4: Illinois State Fair, District 5: Ohio State Fair, District 6: Indiana State Fair, and District 7: Northeast Youth Sheep Show. For more information on these shows, refer to the show's website, contact AOSA office, or contact the AOSA Director for that district (see contact information later in this newsletter).

## **Registrations and Transfers**

Check and be sure your registrations are current. All too often, we forget when a member of the family finishes their junior show eligibility, to transfer animals back to the farm name or to another junior in the family. It seems that we have several memberships for the same sheep operation in the adult category as well. Help us "clean-up" our membership records; if you got multiple copies of this newsletter, let us know at the office so we can attempt to get memberships, registrations and transfers into proper order.

## **Upcoming Junior Shows**

**\*Midwest Junior Preview Show** – June 15, 2013 at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, MO. On-line entries begin April 1 and should be completed by June 1. This show depends on donations from sheep producers and others supporting youth in the sheep industry. 100% of all donations are paid out as premiums because overhead costs are covered by the Missouri Sheep Producers organization. Donations are ear-marked for whichever breed is specified by the donor. For more information on donating to the show or for entry forms, visit [www.midwestjuniorpreviewshow.com](http://www.midwestjuniorpreviewshow.com) or email show coordinator, Kate Lambert at [midwestshow@hotmail.com](mailto:midwestshow@hotmail.com)

**\*All-American Junior Show** – July 4-7, 2013 at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI. This is the big summer junior sheep show that exhibitors come to from all over the US. Entries are due June 1, 2013. One of the things that makes this show so appealing to families is that the show location moves around and family friendships have been maintained as a result of participation in this show. Show information will be posted at the website, [www.countrylovin.com/AJSS](http://www.countrylovin.com/AJSS) or mailed to past exhibitors very soon. You can also get show information by emailing [info@allamericanjuniorshow.com](mailto:info@allamericanjuniorshow.com) Like other shows, this one relies on donations and sponsorships to make it all possible. The American Oxford Sheep Association was one of the originating breeds of this show and has been a charter sponsor since the show began 20 years ago. We host an auction of donated items at the Association's Annual Meeting and one of our breeders has graciously donated a lamb to be sold at the National Sale each year all to secure support funds for this show. Another way you can support the All- American Junior Show is to purchase raffle tickets. Enclosed are 5 tickets for your opportunity to be a supporter. If you decide to purchase the tickets, please fill out the stub and return them in an envelope to the AOSA office along with payment (make checks payable to AAJSS). Stubs will be placed in the drawing and your attendance isn't required to claim your prize(s).

**\*NorthEast Youth Sheep Show** – July 19-21 at Mallary Complex, Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA. This junior show is held at the historic Big E site. This is the show that many of the east coast juniors attend and they will welcome juniors from other regions as well. West Springfield, MA has a very rich history not only as the site of the Big E but also the home of the National Basketball Hall of Fame and numerous early American historical sites that played important roles in the development of our nation. For more information go to the shows website [www.nesheep.org](http://www.nesheep.org)

### **Be Sure to Attend and Support These Oxford Related Events**

Illini All Breeds Spring Sale, Bloomington, IL – April 5 & 6

April 15 – Deadline for making entries in National Oxford Show and Sale

Ohio Showcase Sale, Eaton, OH – May 9 – 11

Great Lakes Sale, Wooster, OH – May 25 & 26

National Oxford Show and Sale, Springfield, IL – June 21 & 22 (*see enclosed materials for making entries*)

New England Sheep Sale, West Springfield, MA – July 19-21

### **Association Contacts**

Officers and Directors of the American Oxford Sheep Association

President – Duane Grimme – Ohio – District 5 – 937-839-5422

Vice President – Darrell Hall – Illinois – District 4 – 217-692-2582

Frank Silva – California – District 1 – 909-762-7324

Jay Franzen – Iowa – District 2 – 515-961-8804

Laura Meyers – Wisconsin – District 3 – 920-206-8445

Ed Bowman – Tennessee – District 6 – 423-282-1844

Keith Stumbo – New York – District 7 – 585-367-2775

### **Additional Dates to Remember**

\*American Oxford Sheep Association Hall of Fame Nominations – deadline is May 15, 2013 – application is at the Association's website.

\*Oxford Foundation Flock Application – deadline is May 28, 2013 – application is available by emailing [foundationflock@yahoo.com](mailto:foundationflock@yahoo.com)

\*American Oxford Sheep Association Annual Membership Meeting – June 21, approximately 6:00 pm – Knights of Columbus Hall, 2801 West Street, Springfield, IL 62707