



American Cotswold Record Association

Having Triplets?

Cotswold ewes are wonderful mothers. A fact which probably led many of us to raise this breed over others. It is typical for a bred ewe to have twins each year after her first year of lambing. It is a beautiful site to watch one lamb being born and then watch the heritage instinct really kick in as the second one is being born along with the lovely mama baaa.
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One member's thoughts:

The Importance of Association Membership

Let me begin by saying that the owners of purebred sheep have a responsibility to their chosen breed to be well educated about the breed. This helps assure the production of quality animals and registration of those who meet the breed standard. For rare breeds this is extremely important to assist a breed with few numbers but high quality animals.

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Linda Schauwecker, Bob Rigel, Vicki Rigel, and Fred Schauwecker showing sheep at The Big E some years ago.

Many thanks to Linda Schauwecker

“From the beginning of our sheep journey Ms. Linda has always been a helping hand when we need it, and we will always be grateful for her guidance and good humor. She was a big reason that we started to show sheep and participate in the various fairs. When we first started having sheep on our little farm, Ms. Linda brought us to fairs, taught us how best to show and fit our Cotswolds, and guided us when we had no clue what we were doing. We could have never made it through our first sheep showing season without the help of the most knowledgeable Shepard we know. We are so thankful for Ms. Linda's guidance and friendship (and that she has stuck with us this far). Sheep ARE fun, when you have mentors like Ms. Linda.” - Mari Santalucia

Linda's mother, Vicki Rigel, bought her first Cotswold in 1982 making Orion Acres the longest current owners of ACRA Cotswolds. Vicki became the ACRA Secretary in the mid 80's and this experience led to a family Cotswold affair. Linda remembers her mother doing all the secretary/treasurer work while her father would usually do the data entry. Of course back then it was a word processor - the Apple 2e, then Microsoft Works. Linda and her husband, Fred became the haulers of all the Cotswold displays her mother wanted at every show. This meant half of a day setting up and then the wonderful task of taking down and boxing things up. Going to a show with her mother meant the truck was packed with more association display items than sheep equipment and feed! The ACRA newsletter also was a family affair with the Rigel and Schauweckers around the table putting the newsletter together and then inserting into envelopes and mail. This was long before email/emailing pdf's and newsletters were 10-20 pages long.

Unfortunately, Linda's father became ill in 2008 and her mother's time was spent taking care of him. Linda jumped in and helped her out with the ACRA secretary tasks. A few years later Vicki resigned and Linda officially took over as the Secretary/Treasurer of ACRA.

Thank you, Linda, for all of the work you have done for ACRA, Cotswold sheep, teaching and mentoring youth. We wish you and the flock at Orion Acres many more years of blue ribbons in the show ring!

The interim secretary/registrar is Beth Ivankovic and the interim treasurer is Kathy Crow. See page 12 for contact information.

COTSWOLD AWARDS

Congratulations to **Robin Nistock!** Her fleeces placed 1st and 2nd in the Cotswold Breed Class at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival fleece show/sale in 2022! This past year was a very big class which makes this win even more special! WAY TO GO!



Congratulations to **Kathy Crow** and her first time showing sheep. She brought home two 3rd place ribbons with her Cotswolds at SAFF!

We want to share your good news! Send your awards and achievements to info@acracotswold.com to be in the next newsletter!

The new website could use a few Cotswold pictures! If you have a favorite picture or two with higher resolution and are willing to share, please send to info@cotswoldacra.com



News from the ACRA Board

This past year was a very busy year for the board.

Hopefully ACRA members have checked out the new website! <https://cotswoldacra.com> It has a lot of features to help with our ACRA mission of the conservation of Cotswold sheep and many features to help your farm. It is a work in progress; let the board know of anything you would like to see on the website.

The website's front page has a wonderful "Featured Farm" link. This is a great way for ACRA member farms to post information about their Cotswold sheep, how they raise them, and

Featured Farms

For \$200 per year, you can have your farm featured here as well as on the breeders list/Member Directory. Click here to sign up.



Upcoming Events

Click below for details.

- Request for Newsletter articles and information!
- February "Shepherd's Chair"
- March "Shepherd's Chat"
- Shepherd's Haven Sheep and Wool Festival
- Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival

Thank you to the Equestrian Conservancy for their support.

what they offer for sale. For an extra \$20 per year, your farm can have 3 updated pictures, links to social media accounts and websites as well as a detailed write up about your farm and what you offer. If a farm doesn't have a website, this is a great way to be visible on the internet! Log into your ACRA account and then click on the Featured Farms to add your farm.

Another option for ACRA members is the Classified section of the website. All members should have received a log in to be able to do this. ACRA members can post ACRA sheep, wool, artwork, or even sheep equipment for sale through the website. The website has the ability to register on-line and pay through PayPal. All of these features were requested by ACRA members!

Board members, Lisa Carpenter and Beth Ivankovic, have attended all of the Livestock Conservancy's Breed Organization web classes <https://livestockconservancy.org/get-involved/cultivating-leadership-initiative/>. All members of ACRA are welcome to join these classes or if you would like to hear a previous class, please reach out to info@cotswoldacra.com and a link will be sent to you.

These classes have been extremely thorough in outlining what should or shouldn't be in breed organization bylaws as well as current best practices for breed associations. Our current bylaws have not had any revisions for well over 15 years. They are missing many state required or recommended provisions and currently do not meet the IRS's recommended non-profit bylaw requirements. Bylaws need to address many issues such as conflicts of interest, financial controls, what to do if there is a complaint, training of board members, and so much more. A "Rules" section outlining the day

to day running of the association is also recommended to ensure smooth transitions. Before our current bylaws are changed in anyway, the updated bylaw draft must first be reviewed by a lawyer to ensure it meets state and federal requirements. It then will then need to be passed by the Executive Committee and finally, passed by a majority of the membership. If you have any wishes or concerns that you would like to make sure are addressed in the bylaws, please write to info@cotswoldacra.com or give a board member a call. For more about this work, see page 12.

Across the country, many breed associations are finding the same challenges we are seeing in ACRA such as declining membership which leads to declining numbers of registered animals. To think of this world without the cotswold sheep is a scary proposition! The ACRA Board is committed to the conservation of our Cotswold sheep. We are hopeful that an active association with multiple offerings for members will help our Cotswold sheep increase in numbers across the US!

THE BOARD'S GOALS FOR ACRA IN 2023 INCLUDE:

- *Updating our Bylaws per the recommendations of the Livestock Conservancy. This update will also include Member and Executive Committee Code of Ethics statements. Please watch e-mails for notification of these changes and voting that will need to take place.*
- *Fine tune the new Website to continue increased ACRA awareness.*
- *Increase membership by 10%.*

President's message from Kathy:

I'm writing this message after a very long weekend of lambing. The joy and frustrations that this process brings is always a physical and mental challenge. I can say as I sat with my moms and lambs in the mixing pen tonight I was reminded by the beauty of the Cotswold.

As ACRA President, the lower registration numbers and decreasing flock sizes across the nation cause concern. Our Cotswolds have had historic significance for hundreds of years. The genetic consistency, size and absence of color make them uniquely appealing for many reasons. Sheep come from other sheep. The Cotswold sheep has been an intricate part of breed up programs across the world. Historically, they brought increased size and wool amounts to many flocks across the US. At one time, they were the sheep found in most barnyards. Their genetics are one to save.

This year's board is working hard to bring awareness to what makes ACRA Cotswold's special. Maintaining the historic standards has been increasingly difficult as fads and trends come in and out of favor. Keeping the genetic footprint without color for the next 100 years is as important as ever, as we've maintained it for the past 100 years. Promoting starter flocks and reminding others about what we love about a Cotswold is what will help us grow our numbers for the future. We hope you will join us in promoting our lovely Cotswold sheep!

Several of us will be showing and present at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival in May this year. Come watch the Cotswold class Saturday morning and visit through the weekend in the show barns. Watch Facebook for specific times of an ACRA get together on Friday afternoon!



Kathy showing at SAFF this past fall.

Have a great spring with your Cotswolds, Kathy

From Lisa (Midwest):

January was ewe-shearing time at Kline Creek Farm to prep for March lambing! Visitors to Kline Creek Farm are fascinated by the process. We answer many questions assuring the public that the sheep won't be cold and explaining why domestic sheep have so much wool, as opposed to wild sheep that don't need shearing. A Cotswold has so much wool that crutching and wiggling (shearing the belly, backside, and head) just isn't enough for pregnant ewes. I like to be able to see that udder from all sides as she gets closer to lambing, and it just makes sense to me to have that ewe clean and unencumbered.



Make sure to check out Kline Creek Farm and all of the historical events they do!



Lisa hand shearing Cotswolds!

Sheep shearing has always been one of my favorite demonstrations at the various living history farms I've worked at. I was taught on blade shears, and it is exclusively how I shear. I had some training on electric shears, but I prefer blade shears. I like to keep the tradition and skill alive. Blade shears are also easy to maintain and cordless! I use Burgon & Ball No. 10 "Drummer Boy" shears, which I sharpen after every sheep. How fitting to shear this important historical breed by the traditional method!

-Lisa Carpenter, Midwest Regional Director

From Kaya (East):

Here on the east coast we've started lambing and are about halfway through. We've also started gearing up for our spring shows which include going down to Maryland Sheep and Wool and then turning back around for Massachusetts Sheep and Wool! - Kaya



Beth talking sheep on the Farm and Fiber tour.

From Beth Vice President:

It's been a long, cold winter in Wisconsin but a highlight was learning we have 17 Cotswold lambs coming in April. This is the first year we have ultrasounded our flock. It's so nice to know who is due and with how many especially after learning we have triplets coming- another first for our farm. With this new knowledge, I called Chris and Max Crossman to ask how they have handled triplets. Make sure to read Chris' detailed triplet advice in this newsletter! (Thank you Chris!)

This past fall our farm was the third stop on a Farm and Fiber tour sponsored by the Three Rivers Fibersed and the Wisconsin Farmers Union. It was fun sharing our Cotswold flock and fiber arts with neighbors and fiber fans. In October, Kathy Crow talked me into going to SAFF to take spinning and weaving classes as well as help her learn how to show sheep (a first for both of us). What a fun weekend that turned out to be!

As the interim Secretary and Registrar, please let me know if you have any questions with either on-line registration or through the mail. I will have a full update of 2022 numbers in the next newsletter. Take Care! Beth



Having Triplets?

(from page 1)

A heart filling moment each spring, the miracle of instinctual motherhood. But what happens when a third arrives?

Chris and Max Crossman have raised Cotswold sheep since the late 80's. Chris shared her thoughts on how she manages caring for triplet lambs. Thank you Chris for sharing your expertise!

Consider the Age of the Ewe:

- What is the condition of the ewe?
- Is she a first timer?
- Is she calm and attentive?

Consider the lambs:

- Are they all the same size?
- Are they all in similar condition?
- What are the sexes?

If you choose to remove one lamb:

- Do not wait for days to do it.
- Some take the strong one (not Chris).
- Don't choose a male lamb if you can help it.

Lambs can become very devoted or accustomed to a particular nipple feeder or side of the ewe's udder. The lamb will refuse to drink from anything else so do not wait if pulling one off but do make sure to get colostrum in them.

Chris does not take the strong one because she doesn't worry about him or her staying with the mother. She can keep track of a small or weak lamb and make sure it gets what it needs. Some ewes will ignore a weak lamb and concentrate on the more vigorous lambs.

It is a hard decision at the beginning evaluating if every lamb is getting enough milk if all remain on the ewe lamb. Around week 3, there may not be enough milk and it is not really possible to start them on a bottle or self feeder by this point. At 3 weeks, lambs need a couple more weeks of milk at a minimum to really insure that they will make it.

Chris prefers to choose a female lamb with all other things remaining equal. A bottle fed ram lamb may not show you due respect or will want to play with you if you decide to keep him. That just doesn't work when they are 280-300#s!

If you decide to keep all three lambs on the mama ewe, think of her as a Holstein cow. She really needs grain to keep up the milk production. She can only hold so much ruffage and will need the grain to allow her to make extra milk. She will not need a lot during the first week. Slowly increase the grain starting week 2 and continue increasing during week 3 and 4. Increase the amount of grain slowly to ensure that she can handle it, checking to see if she is making pellets and not getting sloppy. She will probably loose condition but you don't

want her skeletal by weaning time. Worm her in the lambing job a couple of days after lambing.

Most people will take one lamb away. It can still be in a pen near other lambs and not isolated from all the other sheep so that it stays sheep bonded.

The last two pages of this newsletter have wonderful handouts from Chris on milk requirements for lambs and Colostrum for new born lambs. These are easy to print off and have handy in the lambing kit!

If you have tips, suggestions, or a story about lambing triplets, let us know on the American Cotswold Record Association Facebook page!

Cotswold FIBER Corner

Did you know?

When evaluating a Cotswold fleece, each lock should be as wide as your thumb as you follow it to the skin and each crimp as wide as your little finger. This information came from Tom Brown, a well-known sheep judge out of Ohio who passed away in 2013. He would share this information while judging sheep and their fleeces. He learned this from the "old timers" about Cotswold sheep! Its a great way to distinguish fleeces between the different long wool sheep.

Member Message:

The importance of breed Associations

(Continued from Page #1)

In that circumstance an animal of borderline or poor quality compared to the standard would potentially have a much greater impact than in a breed with large numbers simply due to the genetic pool size. This accentuates the need for obtaining as much information as possible about your breed.

Therefore, the importance of breed associations is to educate and to share knowledge with their members.

Breed associations play a critical role in several areas. They first and foremost establish a breed standard as a consensus statement. That is shared throughout the membership and determines which animals will be allowed in the registry. The registry itself is their next act to establish a record of approved breeding stock. Their third function is communicating the aforesaid material to owners and potential breeders. Also, very integral to the functioning of an association is the ability to communicate with fellow owners when management questions arise. These can be feeding, breeding, lambing, carcass sales, marketing of market animals and fleece inquiries. This most often would be a very informal contact, ie fax, text or email

of one member to another regarding these various issues. Having a member contact list from the association obviously greatly facilitates such contacts. The association is the hub of all these functions to a greater or lesser degree.

While these conditions are met ultimately the integrity of the membership in registering stock is critical. As mentioned above in rare breeds this is of utmost importance. I believe that most individuals who raise rare breeds have a real commitment to the breed and would want only good examples on their farm. The association provides help to breeders who may question the quality of an animal.

Lastly and perhaps just as important is the camaraderie among and between members. Sharing in a common goal and assisting each other to reach that goal. Accessing the new web site for the American Cotswold Record Association provides educational events thru the monthly shepherd chats, as



well as a calendar of events. During these chats a wealth of information can be gained about current marketing, health questions and management practices. These exchanges no longer have to be reserved only for those who venture out to festivals and shows to talk with other shepherds. Finally, knowing that with a strong and active association our beloved breed will continue to exist for future generations.

Written by Max Crossman



Its warm barn, happy ewes, jugs, and lamb time!

Shepherd's Chats

Don't miss the next Shepherd's Chat on March 28th at 7 pm CST. Chatting about lambing!

These zoom chats are a low key, get to know you discussion but with a focus. We had a great discussion this past February talking about mills and what to do with fiber. If you have a topic you

would like to be discussed, let us know! Register through the website and a zoom link will be sent to you. <https://cotswoldacra.com/shepherd-chat-march/>

In March we will also be discussing the next themes for our chats. Please be sure to send in your wishes! There is a question on the questionnaire about this. Here is the link again.

<https://forms.gle/aidi8fMWfES61caD8>

Looking for a fun new job?

Elections fall 2023 for the following*:

2 open Director positions: They are currently region specific (south and west) but the new bylaws will have them as "member at large" positions. They will be 2 year stints with monthly board meetings through zoom.

Other Board positions will be up for election this fall due to the transition of the treasurer, secretary, and registrar positions. If you are interested in any board position, let us know!

***The new bylaws, if passed, will have staggered elections each year for members on the board. This type of rotation on a non-profit board is helpful for many reasons and a must for accreditation through the Livestock Conservancy.**

Volunteer positions not on the board but would report to the board:

Newsletter Coordinator - Put together 2 newsletters a year for ACRA. Responsible for gathering articles, updates, and sharing about activities the board is working on for ACRA and successes members have with their cotswolds.



Livestock Conservancy Liaison - This member will be the contact between the Livestock Conservancy and ACRA. This member will let the board and other members know what is happening at the LC and vice versa.

Educational outreach coordinator - Organize zoom “Shepherd Chats” once a month and other programs as developed. Help to design handouts about ACRA Cotswolds for members to have at their events.

A fun bit of history

On April 22, 1898 in the Wisconsin LaFarge Enterprise Paper (page 4) the author writes a few lovely words about the Cotswold Sheep none of which could be far fetched, could they?

“While the various British breeds of sheep, the Shrops, the Leicesters, the Oxfords, the Hampshires, and others, all have their friends and admirers, there are none of these breeds so justly entitled to claims of long descent, and none that have borne a more important part in the improvement of the common sheep than the Cotswold.

By referring to famous writers of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries there is a repletness of evidence of the early celebrity of this ancient sheep. In fact allusions in those days were so distinct that there is not mistaking their meaning that exceptional preference was early accorded the Cotswold. As a proof of their antiquity there are records that in 1437 Cotswold wool was imported to Spain, and in 1468 Cotswold rams were shipped from English to Spanish monarchs.

Let us go still further back in the early ages. We know that the history of the meek and lowly sheep antidotes that of all other domestic animals. Abel the illustrious son of Adam and Eve was engaged in the sheep business and, as the history of the Cotswolds extends back further on the pages of history than other breeds, we cannot but believe that his flock must have been of Cotswolds, and that Cain, utterly discouraged in tilling the soil, became envious of this brother as he whistled along with his sheep and wool going up every day and sought to slay him. Be it as it may, it is a well authenticated fact that there existed in

Spain as early A.D. 41 a breed of coarse long wool sheep.

The leading characteristics of the modern Cotswolds are its remarkable combination of massive proportions of frame and its constitution capable of enduring much hardships and exposure and appearing perfectly at home on all kinds of soils. In the northern latitudes of the United States the Cotswold turned out in the yards among the cattle and allowed to shift for itself thrives, where most other breeds under similar conditions would perish. Thus the Cotswold from the Bleak exposed hills of Britian, displays in its constitution the results of environment. They are well adapted to grazing on short pastures and are really the largest sheep in the world, standing high, with long, broad backs, overhanging rumps, and full set fleeces..."

The ACRA 2023-2024 Executive Committee:

Kathy Crow

President and interim Treasurer: Aleta Springs Farm in Churchville, Virginia president@cotswoldacra.com or treasurer@cotswoldacra.com

Beth Ivankovic

Vice President and interim Secretary/Registrar: Priory Farms in Eau Claire, Wisconsin info@cotswoldacra.com or vp@cotswoldacra.com

Kaya Farrington

Eastern Regional Director: Double Trouble Farm in Cummington, Massachusetts eastrigdir@cotswoldacra.com

Lisa Carpenter Midwest Regional Director: Kline Creek Farm in Wheaton, Illinois mwregdir@cotswoldacra.com

The Livestock Conservancy's Breed Organization Classes and Accreditation

The Livestock Conservancy (LC) saw a need for training within breed associations. With that they have developed a tiered program for accreditation of breed associations. Last fall, the ACRA board voted in favor of attending the classes and working toward becoming certified. The Bronze level of Accreditation has the following list that associations must have in their bylaws or training to make this level of accreditation. As the board works through the first drafts of the new bylaws this list as well as example bylaws from other breed organizations have helped us to with the changes.

Our current bylaws were last approved in 1997 with a few updates in the early 2000's. A lot has happened since that time and updating our bylaws will help us be current as well as allow us to be accredited by the Livestock Conservancy. All of this will help us conserve Cotswold sheep! It is standard practice to review bylaws every 3-5 years.

Most changes to the new bylaws will not be noticeable for members but there are three changes that might. One is having a "Code of Ethics" statement for all members and board members to sign when they register each year or are elected to a position. In the non-profit world, this is becoming a standard practice. Another non-profit in which I'm involved just sent out a "Memorandum of Understanding" for all members to sign. These codes or memorandums are helpful for volunteer organizations to be clear of mission, purpose, and roles as well as their members. Breed

organization members have a responsibility towards the animal too.

The second noticeable spot of change will be staggered board elections. Half of the board will be elected one year and the other half the following. This practice helps with continuity of the inner workings of an association, new board members will have those with background and experience to help them learn their new position, and an entire board will not leave at once!

The last big change for ACRA is not having any permanent positions on the board. These changes are required by the LC.

Overall, going through the bylaws as a board has led to wonderful conversations about the conservation of our sheep and best ways for ACRA to grow and meet our mission and purpose. The big take home message from the LC has been that a good set of bylaws will only help an organization protect the breed and the owners of that breed. The board will need the next few months to continue to go through the new bylaws before presenting them to the members. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions or concerns about any of this, please let a board member know.

The following is a list from the LC for the Bronze level of accreditation.

Constitution, Charter or Articles of Association or Incorporation, *complying with state laws*, to include:
Purpose/Objective

Provision to dissolve organization/club or registry

Breed Standard - required for standardized livestock breeds

Breed Description/Matrix - for landrace livestock & poultry breeds It is strongly encouraged that a Breed Standard/Description be outlined in your By-Laws,

By-Laws - adoption and adherence, to include the following: (Since organizational bylaw documents must comply with State law and internal organizational issues may require interpretation of state statutes, the organization's bylaws should be referred to a local attorney licensed to practice law in the state of incorporation for review.)

Mission Statement Board of Directors—should include the following:

Composition

Term Limits – no permanent board members, terms should be staggered in such a way that in no one year is a majority of the board elected

Officers'/Directors' Responsibilities –

Officers'/Directors' Duties –

Standards of Conduct, Confidentiality & Code of Ethics Statement

Officers/Directors Compensation--

Officers/Directors Resignation – outline this process

Officers/Directors Removal

Board Vacancies

Board Nomination Committee/Process –

Board Election Process/Procedures –

Board Committees -

Board Meetings - minimum of quarterly,

Special Meetings –

Quorum & Voting – define/outline process for Board votes

Board Reports -

Board Communications

Membership Program Process for joining Classes/
Types of members

Fees for Membership – costs & due dates

Voting Rights

Other privileges

Member/Breeder Agreement/Responsibilities -

Member Meetings - minimum of annually, Special

Member Meetings –

Quorum & Voting--define/outline process

Voting by Proxy

Membership Renewal Process

Membership Revocation:

Financial Controls:

Organizational funds to be held in an insured account, i.e. FDIC, NCUA

Treasurer's reports,

Complaints—Grievance process, hearings, penalties,

whistleblower policy

Alterations—Amendments to Resolutions of By-Laws

Process to amend the by-laws

Recommended criteria by which to amend by-laws

Officers Indemnity & Immunity Insurance

Provision to Dissolve Club

Have **Policies** to include:

(may also be included in membership agreement or bylaws)

Code of Ethics

Conflict of Interest

Conflict Resolution

Confidentiality (might fit in Ethics)

Have adopted **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** to include:

Annual Budget

Financial Controls –who, what, when, where, how, any dollar figure on hand?

Bank account with a minimum of two unrelated authorized signers, not living in the same household, must be in the organization's name

Membership Management/Recruitment

(database, data management and confidentiality, fee collection, communications)

Election Process: specific details not included in by-laws

Herd Book/Registry Management - In house or Private Contractor? Requirements: a minimum of two parties to have access with a 3rd party creating and holding periodic backups, data to be stored where? Is the registrar elected or appointed; clear procedure for registration; who determines fees; who owns data; DNA or Photos required?

Risk Management Plan –*financial plan & financial reserves, bonded Treasurer, Board of Directors & officers liability insurance, secondary registry back up, event insurance*

Public Communications

Officers/Board of Directors Plan for

Orientation and Training, to include the following (this may live in the SOPs):

Articles, By-Laws, Policies & SOPs overview

Robert's Rules of Order

Board Member responsibilities

Confidentiality

Conflict of Interest/Conflict Resolution

Continuing Education as needed per board member and organization

Must file annual taxes as applicable to their business status and income

Name (Appoint/Elect) Breed Organization liaison to The Livestock Conservancy.

Four ways to help ACRA and the Board:

1. Please fill out the following survey through Google Forms:

<https://forms.gle/aidi8fMWfES61caD8>

2. Let us know what your farm and Cotswold sheep are up to! The next Newsletter will be out in August. We want to hear from you! Send pictures to: info@cotswoldacra.com

3. Selling sheep? Make sure to pass on information about ACRA to help increase our membership!

4. Don't forget to register your membership each year! Its now on-line. For \$20 a year, you can be a member supporting ACRA sheep!

Colostrum for New Born Lambs

Colostrum gives essential antibody protection to the lambs until its own immune system is able to produce antibodies for itself. The absorption

window is very short; probably not much is taken in after 12 hours. Feed colostrum immediately at birth or at least by 6 hours if possible. The quantity of colostrum needed is related to the size of the lamb.

A lamb needs 5% of its total body weight in colostrum in the first 6 hours or sooner, and is best done ASAP. On the first feeding an average lamb on an empty stomach can drink 8 ounces of colostrum [Pipestone Vets.2013].

Size of Lamb	Amount of Colostrum to Feed
5 #	4 ounces
8#	6.4 ounces
10#	8 ounces
12#	10 ounces
15#	12 ounces
18#	14.4 ounces

Feed these total amounts divided into feedings every 2 hours or when the lambs are hungry. Remember that lambs are not born complainers if they are crying or restless something is not right whether they are with their mother or being bottle fed. A new born lamb will curl up and nap after being fed. The lambs should urinate almost every time it stands up after sleeping. If the skin is “sticky” and tents up when pinched it is getting dehydrated and needs more milk. After passing the dark almost black meconium [first poop] it’s poop should look a lot like scrambled eggs.

Milk Requirements for lambs

After colostrum you may switch to lamb milk replacer, no need to blend the formulas. The feeding schedule can be as follows:

Day 1 to 2 feed every 2 hours.

Day 3 to 4 feed 6 times a day.

Day 5 to 14 feed 4 times a day, providing access to hay and grain.

Day 15 to 3 weeks feed 4 times a day, with grain and hay, until
Weaning.

Lambs should begin trying grain within a week or two, and be nibbling hay at three weeks learning from watching their mothers or other older lambs. They may start cudding by 3 to 4 weeks of age. An average up and growing lamb that is well on its way will drink 20% of its body weight in a 24 hour period [Laura Lawson].

Self-feeders are another option and lambs can usually be started on them relatively easily after a week or so of hand feeding with warm milk. Self-feeder milk is usually feed cool so they do not over eat. One other observation is that sometimes older ewes and very occasionally a first time ewe will come into their milk a little slowly for the needs of the lambs. In this case the lambs may need a little supplementation until the supply of milk catches up with the demand of the lambs. This is usually a temporary situation of a day or two and the lambs are always kept with the mother. You have to watch the condition of the lambs and make sure they are not gaunt and unhappy.

If any members are interested in the Youth Conservationist Program, please contact the Maryland Sheep and Wool! A great way to support youth raising Cotswolds.

Youth Conservationist Program

What is it?

The Youth Conservationist Program (YCP) strives to connect aspiring youth with established shepherds to promote the preservation of heritage breed sheep. It is an important tool in building the next generation of shepherds in the United States. Hosted annually at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, the YCP has been the foundation of many successful young flocks around the country. Many of these youth go on to be heavily involved in the industry and donate back to the program when their flocks are on their feet.

Breeder Responsibilities

Breeders donate a registered yearling ewe to the youth of their choice, based upon essays and letters of recommendation. The program goes beyond just the physical donation of a sheep though; breeders are asked to mentor their young shepherd over the following year and beyond. From advising on management decisions to assisting in locating additional suitable breeding stock, the mentoring breeder's value is immeasurable.

Don't have a spare ewe to donate? Consider offering breeding services to a youth who may not have the resources to purchase an unrelated quality registered ram.

Youth Responsibilities

Open to all youth between the ages of 9 and 18.

Recipients agree to the following:

- They must exhibit their ewe a minimum of two times in the receiving year, one of which must be their state fair;
- They must breed their ewe to a registered ram of her breed in the fall of the receiving year;
- They must utilize the ewe's fleece, either by processing it themselves or by selling it to another crafter;
- They must prepare a one to two page report, with pictures, for the donor, to be displayed the following year at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival;
- They must promote the program at least once, whether through an article in their local paper or through a breed association newsletter;
- They must be present at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival to receive their ewe.

How to Apply

Applications must include the following:

- An essay answering the question: "Why would I like to help conserve a heritage breed of sheep?"
- Contact information for the youth
- Contact information for the parent or guardian
- Breed preference or whether they wish to be considered for all available
- Letter of recommendation from 4-H advisor, FFA advisor, veterinarian, teacher, or clergy.

Interested breeders and youth should contact yeshsheep@gmail.com for more information, to submit an application, or to commit to donating a ewe. All applications are due by April 1st and must be submitted in PDF or Word format.