

NAWSA NEWS

North American Wensleydale
Sheep Association

Spring 2021



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

D'Andrea Tyree, President

Dear Valued Members;

As we come to the conclusion of lambing season for 2021 and start to turn our focus to growing our businesses, farms and flock sizes several points come to mind which are now affecting those decisions. I would like to touch base on several subjects both as refreshers for long standing members and perhaps new information for our latest Wensleydale enthusiasts. The NAWSA is a not for profit organization established to literally create a breed of sheep in the US that did not exist here until a dedicated group of individuals began the hard planning to make this a reality for those of us enjoying this breed today. The intent is and has always been to create a sheep as close to the UK Wensleydale Standard as scientifically possible by means of artificial insemination via UK 100% Rams and selected breeds of Foundation ewes to create those lines and a beginning point for us. The sheep breeds chosen over 20 years ago as our foundation ewes were done so to best create our Wensleydale from existing genetics here in the US from Lincoln, Cotswold and Leicester Longwool sheep because it was felt they were the breeds that were closest to our conformation and wool qualities. For many years we had enough imported semen to follow this repeated process and steadily create a higher percentage Wensleydale and have reached as high as a 99% sheep. *(cont. on page 2)*

CURRENT NAWSA BOARD

Pres D'Andrea Tyree
VP V Scholomiti
Sec Sheryl Meacham
Dir Lois Olund
Dir Nan Fickett
Dir Nan Leaman

Contact:

info@wensleydalesheep.org

Website:

www.wensleydalesheep.org

On Facebook

[North American Wensleydale](#)

[Sheep on Facebook](#)

[Discussion Group for the](#)

[North American Wensleydale](#)

NEXT BOD

ZOOM MEETINGS

NAWSA BOD Meeting
September 12, 2021
Time: 6:00 PM Central

The Zoom meeting invite will be on the NAWSA website under NAWSA/ Meetings and Minutes

It will also be posted along with an agenda on the Discussion group for the NAWSA on Facebook



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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE (continued)

The last 10 years have been challenging with no new semen or genetics available due to restrictions and difficulties with the importation process. There is a glimmer of hope again in 2021 with Deb Nelson Gourley and Matthew Rolleston working with the UK again on import possibilities and we have shared their contact information with our breeders via our Social media pages and have invited them both to utilize our public website information if they wished to make contact directly with our members who chose to list their information in the public venues. This is the sole intent of this program....using UK imported semen with our best ewes here to create the best that we can be until possibly embryo transfer enters into our world and that is coming I am sure. Other breeds such as the Valais and the Teeswater have already experienced success in this area.

The question has been raised can we use other breeds as foundation ewes..... unfortunately with our true purpose in mind that is not possible. For many LL/Wensleydale crosses or registered Teeswaters or many other breeds are desired and they would love to use them in their breeding programs because they feel they would be an amazing combination and perhaps they are but they are not this organization's intent and in order to maintain the clarity of this mission and breed up program we have to stick to the same plan for a "registered" Wensleydale in the NAWSA.

That is NOT to say that if you have found a wonderful combination of Wensleydale and something else and you have created a healthy, strong, wool and meat producing sheep that you are discouraged from doing that because you certainly are not! Afterall, the Wensleydale has long been used for exactly that purpose, to create a better animal whatever it was crossed with in the UK.

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE (continued)

The rules and guidelines at the heart of this process is what allows the premium dollar to be invested in what we can create in our purist form of this sheep. The crosses obviously won't sell for as much and a higher dollar selling point is with those animals that are able to be registered and have the pedigrees to show that an intense effort was utilized to produce this animal with all of the qualities desired of a Wensleydale. This in essence is protection for those breeders who are willing to go the extra mile and take a chance and invest themselves in AI and importing semen and in selective breeding with domestic stock to continue to improve the quality of stock that we have here.

Some would like to see our own 96% rams used as foundation sires. For the same reasons as mentioned above this is not possible either. By doing this we start with a diluted first step of the process. Again that certainly does not mean that you should not breed your 96% rams or your 87% rams because the goal from any breeding should be to create the best Wensleydale that we can create and sometimes it's a fact that due to excessive use of the same bloodline or breeding too closely related sheep you can get a 96% sheep that isn't that great of a sheep.

Sometimes a step backwards in the percentage is the way to go so don't discount all those beautiful rams out there that have not attained 96%. They could create some of the best sheep we have. As breeders we must educate ourselves on what the Standard is for a Wensleydale and should be trying to reach that standard with every breeding decision we make.

Unfortunately by standing by our guidelines and the intent of what the NAWSA was created to do the BOD has been deemed; unfriendly, authoritative, narrow minded, negative and biased. This my fellow breeders is a difficult pill to swallow. I and my elected colleagues have spent many, many hours of our time and energy to maintain this process and do it fairly while staying within the guidelines and goals of this organization.

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE (continued)

These are our rules and they are designed with one purpose in mind. . . develop the Wensleydale breed of sheep here in the US as closely as scientifically possible to our counterparts in the UK.

I would like to add one last comment in this letter. Buyer beware; in this new age technology and computer digital environment it has become an issue for the first time that fraud, malintent, deception and greed have access to your breeding programs. It is the responsibility of the buyer to check with our registry (GLM) and make sure that the semen, embryos, the rams, or any sheep you are purchasing are registered with the NAWSA in order for your breeding efforts to also be recognized and registerable. It is the choice of the BREEDER to determine if sheep shall be registered and no one else can make that determination. We now require our domestic registered rams who have been collected to have that information available through the GLM registry. If you have collected your domestic registered Ram with the intent of any other breeder using that semen besides yourself please be sure you have that paperwork turned into GLM. We have developed new forms for registration so please go to our website or GLM and make yourselves familiar with these processes. We have updated our past processes to better be able to monitor what animals are being registered and by whom.

Lastly, Please see the schedule of Zoom meetings we have initiated to further provide education and community to our members. If you can't Zoom you can still call in and listen and participate on whatever topic is being discussed. In the very near future we will have a Zoom meeting specifically to address the registration process and our GLM on line capabilities.

Thank you and good breeding!

D'Andrea

NEW NAWSA PROCEDURE FOR ONLINE TRANSFERS

An integral part of our Registry is keeping track of ownership of our registered animals. Our Registry demands that the current owner of an NAWSA Wensleydale is the only person who may transfer the registration to a new owner. We have asked for the owner to sign the original certificate and mail it to our Registrar who will then record the transfer and issue new papers to the new owner of record.

As of January 1 2021, NAWSA will offer online transfer of animals through the GLM registry site. Only the owner of record is allowed to transfer registered NAWSA animals. If you choose not to take advantage of the online process, you may still sign the back of your original certificate and mail in as we have in the past.

Once you complete an online transfer, you will be asked to destroy your original certificate as it will no longer be valid once the transfer is recorded by GLM. Please contact GLM or any BOD member with questions on this process. You may also want to notate this additional option on the back of each of your original certificates so that you will remember when you go to transfer.

Note For Sellers: When selling a NAWSA animal, the owner has the option of selling the animal with its registration paperwork and transfer NAWSA ownership to a new shepherd, OR to sell the animal as a grade animal with no registration papers. If an animal has been registered, but develops in a way that the owner feels is not up to standard for breeding registered offspring, the animal may be sold as a non-NAWSA registered Wensleydale, (normally to someone who may not be looking at breeding, or perhaps they have a spinners flock). This normally would be for a lower selling price and without a transfer of pedigree. Once this happens, the new owner can not register offspring and the animal is considered grade. It is not mandatory that a shepherd provide papers with a sale, but the seller MUST be very clear about the sale and whether the animal being sold is a registered NAWSA animal and whose papers will be transferred to the new owner. This confuses some folks. The registration paperwork stays with the current owner and only if the current owner signs off on the transfer, will new papers be issued and will offspring be able to be registered with the NAWSA.

Note For Buyers: Ask specifically if the animal is a registered NAWSA Wensleydale and be clear that you intend breeding registered stock and want the papers transferred to you.

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REMINDER

As of 2021 all domestic semen collected from NAWSA Registered rams for use with NAWSA registered ewes to produce NAWSA registered offspring, must be on file with GLM Registry. There is no fee for this process, but the owner on file of the collected ram must submit this form prior to progeny being recognized. Allowances have been made for deceased animals that were collected prior to 2021.

NAWSA USE OF DOMESTIC SEMEN FORM



The NAWSA does not delineate between the use of live cover and AI to produce progeny. The domestic semen used must be from a registered NAWSA ram for progeny to be eligible for registration with the NAWSA. Breeders are free to collect and use semen from rams they own. As of January 2021, this form must be submitted by the owner of the collected ram prior to progeny submitted by anyone **other** than the owner of the ram. Rams collected prior to 1/01/2021 do not have to comply with photo requirements if ram is deceased or no longer available.

The NAWSA will maintain a list of domestic semen collected for sale or use by breeders other than the owner of record. This form must be on file with the NAWSA prior to the registration of any progeny registered by any member **other** than the owner of the ram.

Please fill out and submit the following information to have the semen collected from your ram recognized for use within the North American Wensleydale Sheep Association.

OWNER OF RAM COLLECTED

Owner of Ram at Collection: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

NAWSA Member # _____

INFORMATION ON RAM COLLECTED

Ram's NAWSA Registration # _____ Birth Date: _____

____ White ____ Colored Date of Collection: _____

Technician who performed collection: _____

Please include pictures including front, sides and visible ear tags for our records* Submitting DNA profile is strongly encouraged, and may become mandatory in the future
Optional: Written description or additional information (eg. Show results etc.) * Rams collected prior to 1/01/2021 do not have to comply with photo requirements if ram is deceased or no longer available.

I am the owner of this ram and have had semen collected. I would like to have progeny from the use of AI with this semen recognized by the NAWSA. The above information is correct and valid.

Signature _____ Date Submitted _____

Please print and mail or email this form to:
GLM Registry 19508 Tiller Trail Hwy, Days Creek, OR 97429

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS: Thank you to Lois Olund for stepping up to be our new Membership Director. The NAWSA has updated its membership protocol to help incentivize getting memberships in and recorded before March 1 of each year. We have also included a three consecutive year membership so that you don't have to remember each year to rejoin. If you send in your memberships before March 1 the cost remains the same for each single year. If you are late with your membership and renew after March 1, the charge for membership goes up. This helps the registrar get all the active memberships in and recorded before lambing and registration season.

Your Membership must be current in order for your transactions to be processed. You may process membership or renewal on the same order as other transactions. Memberships run from Jan 1 to Dec 31 of each year. Discounts are given for submitting memberships prior to March 1. Please contact GLM or the NAWSA if you have any questions.

Active Membership

\$25 for one calendar year - must be received prior to March 1

\$40 for one calendar year if received AFTER March 1

\$65 for 3 consecutive years (must be received prior to March

- Includes email and website links on our member/breeder roster
- Definition of Active Member: Any person, family or corporation who owns, breeds, and registers Wensleydale Sheep with the NAWSA. If an active member registers no animals for a period of two consecutive years, the member shall automatically become an Associate member. Active members must be current on their membership dues (in good standing) to be eligible to vote, register animals and/or hold elective office.

Associate Membership \$15

- Cost - \$15 per year. Includes newsletter subscription

Definition of Associate Member: Any person, family or corporation interested in the promotion of Wensleydale sheep may become an associate member of the NAWSA, and as such is entitled to all privileges of full membership except they shall have no vote, nor shall they be eligible to hold elective office.

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NAWSA SALES and TRANSFERS

As breeders of NAWSA registered Wensleydale sheep, you are responsible for the quality and quantity of animals entering our gene pool and Registry. Good breeding choices involve many ,many criteria and prioritizing these choices is up to the breeder with helpful guidance provided by our breed standards and breed up guidelines.

You are NOT required to submit all your lambs for registration with the NAWSA. You may have one that falls short of the breed description or has any issues that prompt you to avoid putting that individual into the gene pool for future generations.

If you choose not to register these animals, you are obviously free to sell them , cull them or keep them but they will never be able to produce registered offspring. It is the breeder who makes the decisions as to what ram to put with what ewe, and also decides what lambs should be submitted for registration (provided they meet all other registration requirements ie. under 24 months old, rams testing RR at codon 171 etc.)

Once you as the breeder make the decision not to register lambs, they will not be eligible to be registered by anyone else.

Please remember to make that clear to folks you sell unregistered animals to, so that they realize that they cannot later on tell future owners that they are eligible to produce offspring that will be able to enter our Registry.

You can have buyers contact the NAWSA to explain this process to them so that there are no unpleasant future expectations.

BUYER BEWARE

In 2020 we have had misrepresented animals and unidentified semen sold to members and also forged signatures on transfer paperwork.

The NAWSA has always assumed that info submitted is correct and accurate and we are not in the business of policing your records. The Association has not run into situations of intentional fraudulent paperwork including DNA parentage reports being given to our Registrar - until now. We want to alert you all to be cautious in your dealings and encourage you to check on the reputation of those you deal with and keep good records. Save your used semen straws in case you need them for reference.

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NEXT NAWSA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Mark your calendars for Sunday October 10, 2021 at 6:00 PM Central time for our NAWSA General Membership meeting. This will be conducted on Zoom and the details will be posted on the NAWSA website (www.wensleydalesheep.org) as the date approaches.

A reminder will also be posted on the Discussion Group for North American Wensleydale Sheep on Facebook. All are welcome! Please submit items for discussion to any BOD member (at least two weeks prior to the meeting) so they can be added to the agenda.

NEXT ZOOM 'DISCUSSION NIGHT'

Our first Discussion Night was very well received, and we have scheduled our next one for Monday July 12, 2021 at 7:00 PM Eastern. The topic is the NAWSA registration process and upgrade guidelines, the why's and wherefores of how these protocols were established and an outline of the registration process, and new forms for use of domestic semen.

The invite will also be posted on the NAWSA discussion group on Facebook. These are informal evenings, meant to provide information to members about the NAWSA, it's rules and guidelines, with an opportunity to ask questions and discuss relevant topics.

Here is the invite link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99923263088?pwd=TmhtVTIrbnJlRWJlRb1A5WVpDcic3UT09>

passcode: 621805