

North American Wensleydale Sheep Association
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, OR
Saturday June 23, 2001

AGENDA

1. Meeting call to order *Martin Dally*
2. Approve minutes of Membership Meeting 5-4-01, and Directors meeting 5-5-01
3. Announcement of new Directors for 2001-03 term
4. Treasurer's Report *Sandi Hanson*
 - a. Report of fiscal year ending 3-31-01
 - b. Discussion of proposed budget for 2001-02
5. Membership Report *Sherry Carlson*
 - a. Set membership renewal deadline for inclusion in member directory
 - b. What can we offer Associate members?
 - c. Possible locations for Annual Meetings
6. Website Report *Sherry Carlson*
 - a. Statistics – usage, contacts, content
 - b. Should we include other Active member info (products) on website?
7. Association Image & Promo
 - a. Unified focus regarding Wensleydale sheep, i.e. fleece, meat, terminal sire?
 - b. Maintain consistent image for internet, magazines, shows
 - c. What are some of the best, most cost-effective ways to publicize NAWSA?
8. Upgrading Program & Record keeping *Sherry Carlson*
 - a. Timetable for submitting paperwork, deterrent for late filing *Martin Dally*
 - b. PR issue - eliminate English Leicester from foundation breeds *Kim Caulfield*
 - c. Consider ¼ (Wensleydale) blood and others as foundation stock *Kim Caulfield*
 - d. Should NAWSA issue tags or have other ID requirements *Myrtle Dow*
 - e. When and how to close the foundation ewe registry *Sherry Carlson*
 - f. Publish an annual flock book or other listing of activity
9. Proposed NAWSA Newsletter – format, delivery method, review policy
10. Other Business
11. Set date and location of Annual Membership Meeting 2002
12. Adjourn

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the North American Wensleydale Sheep Association

June 23, 2001

held at
Black Sheep Gathering
Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene OR

President Martin Dally called the meeting to order at 4.45pm

Those present at the meeting: *current members* Martin Dally, Andrea Szabo, Larry Hanson, Sandi Hanson, Sherry Carlson, Kim Miller, Myrtle Dow, Barbara Burrows, and *new members* Joan Haney and Karen Tipple.

Approve Minutes

Larry Hanson made a motion to approve the minutes of the membership meeting of May 5, 2000 as written. Seconded by Sandi Hanson, the motion carried.

Announcement of New Directors

Directors for the 2001-2003 term of office are Myrtle Dow, Neil Kentner, David Moran, Martin Dally, Andrea Szabo, Sherry Carlson, and Barbara Burrows. As the bylaws provide for staggered terms of office, it will be determined at the Board of Director's meeting who shall serve a one year term of office and who shall serve for two years.

Treasurer's report

Sandi Hanson reported a current balance of \$667.41 with fiscal year 2000/01 income of \$1368.97 and expenses of \$701.56. Based on past budget activity, a projected budget was submitted using the assumptions of 20 members at \$25 each, 15 members at \$15 each, and recordings for ewes and lambs to stay the same. Projected year-end total for fiscal year 2001/02 would then be \$565.00.

Advertising was discussed and it was agreed that it is the Association that should be promoted and not Wensleydale sheep themselves. Wensleydales need no promotion as there is already great interest in the animals and fleeces. Members discussed how to get the most from our promotion dollars. It was agreed that an ongoing business card ad be placed in *The Marker* as it is very affordable. Kim Miller said that she believes spinners would look to fiber magazines rather than livestock magazines. Myrtle Dow commented that 90% of our target audience is likely to be on the internet, so we should use the NAWSA website and reference it in all ads & literature.

Larry Hanson made a motion to look into the cost of placing listings in *Handwoven* and *SpinOff* magazines. Seconded by Myrtle Dow, the motion was approved.

Membership Listings

Sherry Carlson asked for clarification on when a website listing should be removed if a member has not renewed their membership. The consensus was that if membership expires on March 31st, there should be no grace period and the listing should be removed at that date. Renewals and new members' listings will appear as soon as possible after receipt of paperwork. We currently have 26 members; the majority of them are active, and 6-8 members who did not renew their membership this year.

Benefits for Associate Members

Members discussed what could be offered to associate members - those who are supporting the efforts of NAWSA but who are not actual sheep producers. Sherry Carlson pointed out that these members are enthusiastic and a very good resource for spreading information on Wensleydales and the NAWSA, and suggested that they could be given preferential access to Wensleydale fiber. While we could not require that active members put associate members at the top of their 'fiber list', it could be our policy to strongly encourage them to do so. Members were in agreement with this suggestion.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Locations for Membership meetings

Barbara Burrows said based on experience with other associations, that meeting locations couldn't be planned too many years in advance. It would be better to indicate merely 'east/west' or 'east/central/west' than specify exact locations. Members agreed that two areas - east and west - would be preferable and that meetings should be held at fiber shows - preferably where Wensleydales could be exhibited.

Meeting locations suggested for the EAST:

Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, West Friendship MD, early May

Fiber festival in Rheinbeck NY, October

NAILE in KY, November

Michigan Fiber festival was determined to be small and in a difficult location for those flying in.

Locations for the WEST included:

Estes Park CO, mid-June

Black Sheep Gathering in Eugene OR, mid-June

Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival in Canby OR, mid-September

Members suggested that the next membership meeting to be held in Rheinbeck NY in October 2002, then the following year in Estes Park CO.

Website Report

Sherry Carlson reported that the NAWSA website is visited 600-800 times per month, and the site is really not being promoted as much as it could be through publications and advertisement. The only suggestion for improvement on the website was that we take a look at the navigation on the home page and perhaps redesign it toward a target audience of entry-level internet users.

It was agreed that as well as links on the website, we could also list products that active members have available. Sherry said that the majority of inquiries she receives as secretary were from people wanting to know which members had animals or fleeces for sale. Listing this information on the website should answer those questions automatically.

Promotion of Wensleydales

It was agreed that Wensleydale sheep are currently recognized primarily for their unusual fleeces. Since Wensleydales are a large, heavily muscled sheep used in England as terminal sires, Sherry suggested that we try to continue this image in the U.S. In several years when we have purebred rams in the U.S., it would be useful to have interest in them from the commercial market. As to how to handle the fact that they have heavy fleeces that may interfere with management, this remains to be dealt with. Kim Miller felt that Wensleydales should be considered an *All-purpose* breed - meat, wool, crossing sires. 'Not just another pretty fleece' was suggested as a tag line.

Association Image

It is important that all web and print material contain an easily recognized identity. Since we are at the inception of this process, use of our current logo was discussed. It is rectangular in shape with a sheep's head and the text North American Wensleydale Sheep Association. It has been used on the first printing of T-shirts but has not been carried to other print or web. Members discussed if we should develop another logo, possibly with the full body of a sheep or stay with the existing design. Because simplicity of logo is important and detailed artwork does not carry well to every medium, Larry Hanson felt that the current logo is fine. There was no disagreement, but Myrtle Dow suggested that the imprint be made larger on the next printing of shirts.

Timetable for submitting paperwork

Our registry is unique in that we are starting from scratch in developing the breed and so records of pedigree must be kept accurately and on a timely basis. The members discussed rules that other associations have in requiring paperwork to be submitted. Martin Dally felt that it would be prudent to designate that all animals must be recorded/registered by 9 months from date of birth. This gives the producer long enough to evaluate the animal and determine if they should record/register the animal. Forms submitted after 9 months from date of birth and up to 24 months from date of birth would be subject to double fees. All members in attendance agreed that if no paperwork is submitted by the time an animal is 24 months old, that animal will become ineligible for recording/registration.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Members felt that it is unacceptable to have several generations existing without paperwork submitted – that it invites errors in pedigrees and does not lend credibility to the association's purpose.

It was agreed that a breeder *must* be an active NAWSA member to submit paperwork on animals. It was also the feeling of the group that sellers pay for the transfer of ownership of an animal, although non-members may submit transfer ownership at double the fee rate. This should be the only paperwork that would be accepted from non-members.

Public Relations, designation of foundation breeds

The Association received a letter from the Leicester Longwool Sheep Breeders Association protesting our inclusion of Leicester Longwool sheep as a foundation breed in our upgrading guidelines. Members agreed that this is a valid issue and if the tables were turned, we would want their association to consider our request.

When our guidelines were initially established, we sought to identify the breeds of sheep in the U.S. that were substantially similar to the Wensleydale. We did not endorse nor discourage the use of any one of these breeds. Sandi Hanson added that U.K. breeders had indicated that Leicester Longwools would be the best breed to use to breed for Wensleydales, with the second breed being Cotswold.

None of the three foundation breeds are plentiful in the United States, and we are aware that the Leicester has the lowest number of breeding ewes. It was pointed out that if we were to comply with this request to remove the Leicester Longwool breed from our foundation ewe list, we would have to do the same should the Cotswold and Lincoln associations present the same request.

It was pointed out that ewes are generally used in the AI program for one or two years then go back to their own breeding pool. The Wensleydale registry will eventually be closed to upgrading and this will not be an issue in the future. To our knowledge no Leicester Longwool ewes have been used as foundation ewes and it was suggested that the Leicester Association discourage its membership from making them available.

It is important that sheep producers and associations work together for the good of all, and although we feel that we cannot remove the breed from our upgrading guidelines, all agreed that NAWSA should actively discourage the use of Leicester Longwool sheep as foundation ewes.

Use of F2 and Quarter-blood Wensleydales

Kim Caulfield had previously suggested that we discuss the use of F2 (50% Wensleydale X 50% Wensleydale) and quarter-blood ewes in the upgrading program. Martin Dally explained that although an F2 animal may physically resemble the dam and sire, due to gene segregation they would not necessarily pass on the same genetic qualities. He explained that Wensleydales must be developed by predictable genetics because ideally these sheep should be 'peas in a pod'. The use of quarter-blood ewes is much the same issue in that their genetic contribution cannot be predicted with certainty.

It was strongly felt that we must maintain our program's integrity in the eyes of the U.K. If we start accepting 1/4 blood sheep, adjusting our carefully established guidelines, and not making continuous genetic advancement, then we will lose our credibility. It was mentioned that keeping track of the logistics of allowing various crosses into the breeding program could be extremely difficult. Members in attendance strongly favored keeping our guidelines as they were originally established.

Ear Tags

The use of Association ear tags was discussed. Myrtle Dow said that most associations have discontinued issuing their own ear tags. There should already be scrapie program identification on each animal, and often a second ear tag or tattoo with private ID information – both of which are recorded on the NAWSA paperwork. Members were not in favor of Association ear tags.

Closing the Foundation registry

Myrtle Dow asked at what point should we think about closing the foundation ewe registry. Martin said that it couldn't be done soon, and suggested that it be considered when the number of registered ewes *in production* hit 500, or when there are a total of 1200 recorded and registered ewes *in production*. Once closed, if there became a

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

need for more genetic diversity, we could elect to re-open the process as other associations have done. It was agreed that this issue should be reviewed in 2004.

Publication of flock book

Regarding a flock book or similar publication, members were in favor of a simple annual report showing the number of animals recorded, registered and transferred during the year.

Association Newsletter

Kim Caulfield has volunteered to organize a newsletter for the association. All in attendance were in agreement that we would like an electronic newsletter that could be sent via the post office to those who do not have email. All felt that the newsletter should be posted to the website with notification of such posting going out through the news group which would alert everyone with an email. This would not only save on printing & postage expenses, but was preferred by all of the members present. The content of any newsletter should be informational and educational, a calendar of events, current info on members, etc. There should be no editorial or opinion pieces included. The President and Secretary of the Association should review the newsletter prior to distribution. It was felt that the board of directors should set the guidelines for the newsletter.

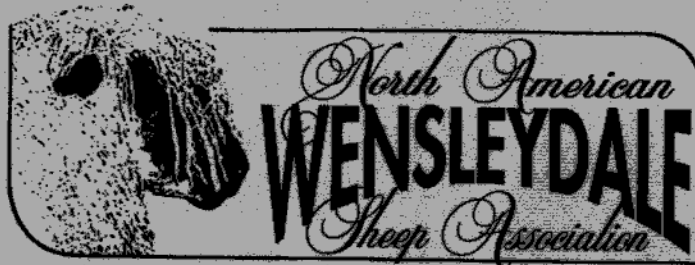
Next Meeting

The next membership meeting was set for October 2002 in Rheinbeck NY.

The upcoming Board meeting will be via conference call. Sandi Hanson reported that she has a conference bridge available through her employer.

As there was no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Andrea Szabo, and seconded by Sandi Hanson. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sherry Carlson



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

- Charter Member** \$5 for website support
- Active Member** \$25 per year
Owners, breeders, and those actively involved in establishing purebred Wensleydale sheep.
- Associate Member** \$15 per year
Spinners, weavers, fiber artists, and other non-producers who support the efforts of the NAWSA.

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ FAX _____

Email _____

Website _____

The NAWSA fiscal year is April 1 – March 31. All memberships expire at the end of the fiscal year regardless of when they were established. All Active Members will be listed on the Association's website: www.WensleydaleSheep.com. unless we are instructed otherwise.

From time to time, I receive calls from people asking which NAWSA members are located near them and what do these members have to offer relating to Wensleydale sheep. If you would like to furnish this info, we may also consider including it on the website. You will be able to update your information annually upon renewing your membership. – Sherry

- Have Wensleydale x animals (any for sale? – yes/no)
- Will be using Wensleydale semen in 2001
- Wensleydale x fleeces/fiber for sale
- Wensleydale x pelts for sale
- Other (please specify) _____

Make checks payable to N.A.W.S.A. and mail to 4589 Fruitland Rd., Loma Rica CA 95901

NOMINATION FOR DIRECTOR

I hereby submit my name for nomination to the position of Director of the North American Wensleydale Sheep Association.

Date: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

(Please submit a candidate profile of no more than 100 words stating your involvement in the sheep industry and what you hope to accomplish for the Association. You may use this form or attach a separate sheet. Profiles will accompany the ballots).

Nominations must be received at the Association office postmarked no later than April 23, 2001

North American Wensleydale Sheep Association
4589 Fruitland Rd. • Loma Rica CA 95901
530-743-5262 • info@WensleydaleSheep.org

Excerpts from NAWSA Bylaws:

4.2 DEFINITION OF MEMBERSHIP

a) **ACTIVE MEMBER:** Any person, family or corporation who owns, breeds, or is actively involved in upgrading to establish purebred Wensleydale Sheep may become an active member of the NAWSA. Active members must be current on their membership dues (in good standing) to be eligible to vote and/or hold elective office.

b) **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.

5.2 PURPOSE OF MEETING: The Annual Membership Meeting is held for the purpose of announcing the election results of Board members, for hearing the report of officers of the Board, for the consideration of bylaws changes, and for the transaction of any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

5.3 GENERAL NOTICE OF MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: Written notice of the time and place of the membership meetings shall be mailed or emailed to the members and be postmarked at least 60 days prior to such meetings. Upon request, an agenda of the meeting, any ballots to be used, and any proposed changes to the bylaws shall be furnished to any member.

5.5 VOTING: Voting on issues addressed at membership meetings shall be conducted by mail ballot. No more than 30 days after the Annual Membership Meeting, the Secretary of the Association shall mail the ballots to each active member. Results of the balloting shall be counted by the Secretary of the Association or such other person as designated by the Board, and shall be kept in his or her custody for a period of time as determined by the Board, and be subject to inspection at reasonable times by any member of the Association. The membership shall be promptly notified of the results of such balloting. The act of the majority of those voting shall be considered an act of the membership of the corporation, except when a two-thirds majority of the eligible membership is called for in these bylaws.

6.3 NUMBER OF DIRECTORS: The Board of Directors shall consist of not less than five and not more than nine members at the discretion of the existing Board.

6.4 TERMS OF DIRECTORS: Directors shall serve a term of two years. The Board of Directors, at its discretion, may schedule the election of new directors to achieve staggered terms of office.

6.5 MANNER OF ELECTIONS

a) In any election of directors, a majority of all votes cast shall not be required to elect directors, but the requisite number of persons receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the case of ties, a run-off election shall be held among those receiving the tie vote.

b) Nomination of candidates shall be considered valid when written nomination is received from any active member postmarked no less than 60 days prior to the Annual Membership meeting.

North American Wensleydale Sheep Association
Minutes of the Meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
via Conference Call
July 12, 2001

Directors present: Barbara Burrows, Sherry Carlson, Myrtle Dow, Martin Dally, David Moran, Andrea Szabo, and Sandra Hanson, Treasurer.

Directors absent: Neil Kentner

President Martin Dally called the meeting to order 6:37 pm Pacific time.

A motion was made by Sandi Hanson to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of 5-6-01 as written. Seconded by Sherry Carlson, the motion was unanimously approved.

There were several items added to the agenda, after which Barbara Burrows made a motion to accept the agenda, Seconded by Sandi Hanson the motion was passed. Items added by Sherry Carlson included Election of board officers, Definition of active membership, Clarify RR issue for rams, Response to Leicester Longwool Breeders, Promotion/Advertising.

Election of Officers for 2001-02

Barbara Burrows was nominated for the office of President by Sherry Carlson, seconded by Martin Dally. There were no further nomination; Martin made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Myrtle Dow. Barbara Burrows was unanimously elected as president.

David Moran was nominated for the office of Vice-President by Martin Dally, seconded by Sherry Carlson. There were no further nominations; Martin made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Barbara Burrows. David Moran was unanimously elected as vice president.

Sherry Carlson was nominated for the office of Secretary by Martin Dally, seconded by Andrea Szabo. There were no further nominations; Martin made a motion to close nominations, seconded by David Moran. Sherry Carlson was unanimously elected as secretary.

It was agreed that Sandra Hanson continue in the office of Treasurer, Although Sandi is not a current Board member, the bylaws provide that this office may be held by other than a member of the board.

Martin Dally said that it has been a pleasure serving as NAWSA President for its first year and felt that we have established a good foundation for the future. Martin has no breeding stock at this time, and felt that it will soon be appropriate for only those members who own and breed Wensleydales to serve as directors and guide the Association.

Number of Directors

Our bylaws state that at the discretion of the current board, there may be from 5 to 9 directors and that the board may schedule the election of new directors to achieve staggered terms of office. David Moran made a motion to set the number of Directors at 7 and to stagger the terms of office so that approximately half of the board is elected each year. Based on our current membership of less than 30 active members, this would still allow for almost 25% of the membership to be on the board. The motion was seconded by Myrtle Dow and passed unanimously.

Directors Martin Dally, Sherry Carlson, and Andrea Szabo volunteered to serve a one-year term of office in order to stagger the election of directors.

Manner of Elections

In our recent directors election, there were fewer nominations than positions available and so all nominees were accepted as new Directors. Barbara Burrows asked if we actually needed to call for a vote from the membership and it was felt that an election was unnecessary in this case. For future reference, Martin Dally made a motion to state that our policy should be that if at any time the number of nominees should be less than the number of positions to be filled, the nominees would fill the positions without an election being necessary. David Moran seconded the motion, unanimously approved.

Ear Tag Policy

Discussion from the recent membership meeting revealed that members were not in favor of NAWSA issuing any type of association identification. Sherry felt that we shouldn't make rules that we cannot enforce, and other directors agreed that there could be no policing the private application of such tags. David Moran made a motion that NAWSA policy state we do not issue association ear tags. Barbara mentioned that at the very least, all animals would carry scrapie ID tags or tattoos and probably additional private ID. The motion was seconded by Martin Dally and passed unanimously.

Association Newsletter

The last general membership meeting discussed the fact that a newsletter would be a welcome addition to the Association. Kim Caulfield has volunteered to organize it and the board discussed the guidelines that should be followed for such a publication.

- The newsletter will be published on line at our website location, and mailed to the few number of members who do not have internet access.
- The president shall be responsible for review and editing of the newsletter before distribution.
- Content of the newsletter should be concise and consist only of factual, timely, and need-to-know information. i.e., current industry or Wensleydale news, member activities, AI information (Martin can supply this info), semen availability, member & registration information (from Sherry), changes in Federal regulations, and other such issues relevant to all of us.
- There should be no reprinting of articles or information from other periodicals, only a reference made to where the info might be found.
- The membership and board did not favor having personal opinions, editorials, or stories in our newsletter.
- If show results are available, we should report only outstanding fleece & show results, not entire placings.
- Two times a year would be sufficient to issue the newsletter unless there was a need for more frequent reporting. July 1st would be a good time for one publication because it falls after lambing and before breeding season.

Based on the above criteria, David Moran made a motion to approve the use of a newsletter, seconded by Myrtle Dow, the motion passed unanimously.

Member Benefits Offered

Benefits for Active Members – Sherry Carlson presented a proposal to make personal web pages available to all active members. Not a true independent web site, the one-page sites would be hosted on the association's server and be designed and maintained by our web designer. The cost to members would be nominal, with an annual hosting fee of \$40 being paid to the association. Martin agreed with the proposal saying that it would give a member exposure and promotional opportunities and that we are here to serve every member. Andrea Szabo made a motion to adopt the proposal. Seconded by Barbara Burrows, the motion carried unanimously.

Benefits for Associate Members – The recent membership meeting discussed the fact that Associate members are probably our most enthusiastic supporters and as such we should seek to retain and increase their membership. Associate members are very interested in the availability of Wensleydale fleeces and Sherry proposed that we issue a statement saying that 'the Association encourages its active producer-members to give NAWSA members priority

status for purchasing fleeces when they become available for sale'. Board members who had waiting lists for their fleeces commented that they would be happy to sell to NAWSA members ahead of anyone else. The board felt that this cannot be made a requirement, but it strongly encourages all members to adopt this policy.

Association Fees

Myrtle Dow made a motion to adopt the fee schedule and regulations as listed below. Andrea Szabo seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Notable is the rule that no animal over 24 months of age will be considered for the registry except by special consideration of the Board. It is felt that accurate records be maintained on a timely basis, especially during the formation of the breed.

Active Membership

Includes email and web site links from our member roster \$25 per year

Associate Membership \$15 per year

Recording & Registration of sheep - must be a member to submit

Foundation ewe \$5

Animals up to 9 months of age \$5

Animals 9 -24 mos of age \$10

No animal shall be accepted for recording or registration after it is two years old unless, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, the case merits special consideration.

Duplicate certificates \$5

Transfer of ownership \$5

Transfer from non-members \$10

Code of Ethics

Our bylaws do not specifically provide for removal of a member or other punitive actions due to inappropriate behavior. Rather than try to identify specific instances and corrections, the Board felt that issues should be considered on an individual basis.

Directors agreed that they would review any issue regarding unethical behavior that is brought to the attention of the Board by an active member. It was felt that since the membership elects the Board to be their representative; the Board should have the authority to consider these matters and to take any action that it feels is appropriate without having to bring the matter before the entire membership.

David Moran said that ethical behavior is very important to the Association and Board action should be timely and decisive. Martin stated that the Board is the steward of the integrity of the Wensleydale breed.

Membership renewal date

Clarification is needed in the way the bylaws explain termination of membership, stating that membership shall terminate on March 31st of each year (corresponding to our fiscal year) and that there is a 60-day grace period to allow members to send in their dues without penalty. This was clarified to mean that the 60 day grace period is for renewing without penalty, not that membership actually extended for a total of 14 months. David Moran mentioned, and the board agreed that listings should be removed from the member roster on the website when membership expires - March 31st. It was clarified that the secretary does send out renewal notices via U.S. mail.

Registration Data Required

This item was included to record the data that we require for registry information. The current Foundation ewe and Percentage Blood recording forms include all of this information. In the future, we may elect not to require as much data, but it is important that at the inception of the registry we accumulate as many statistics as we can.

Current info collected:

Breeder's name, address, phone, FAX, email

Breeder's NAWSA flock number & scrapie program number

Farm name & private ID number of the animal to be registered (not animal nickname)

Percent of Wensleydale blood of animal to be registered

Date of birth, sex, birth type, scrapie ID number, color (white or black), Codon 171 (required for rams only)
Is animal product of AI, OT or natural breeding, AI tech name, and location of procedure
Sire ID, NAWSA number, % of Wensleydale blood
Dam ID, NAWSA number, % of Wensleydale blood
Pedigree of animal to be registered (if appropriate)

Request for Reconsideration of Percentage status

Some of the original ewes that Myrtle Dow used for AI are unregistered, but apparently purebred Cotswolds. At the first NAWSA meeting, it was agreed that any unregistered ewes from either Myrtle Dow or Barbara Burrows already used in the AI program would be accepted, but would require an extra generation to qualify for registration. This means that their daughters would become foundation ewes and the percentage-recording paperwork would begin with them. This rule was made because we knew that a few ewes of mixed or non-longwool breeds had been AI'd with Wensleydale and we voted to accept them with this caveat.

Upon examination and research of the pedigrees submitted by Myrtle Dow, her original ewes appear to be purebred Cotswold as a result of 4 and 5 generations of registered Cotswold sires being used. Myrtle Dow bred these (four) Cotswold ewes to Wensleydale well before our association was formed and the guidelines established. Myrtle has asked that we reconsider these particular Cotswolds and recognize them as foundation ewes. Andrea Szabo made a motion to grant Myrtle's request, and to make the policy position of the board that no other exceptions will be made. Barbara Burrows seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The secretary will work with Myrtle to correct the NAWSA records on these ewes and on the 10 lambs born from these ewes.

Location of next Membership Meeting

At the direction of members at the last membership meeting, Sherry Carlson made a motion to hold the next Membership Meeting at the fiber festival in Rhinebeck NY in October 2002. Myrtle Dow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Redefine "Active" Membership

The bylaws state that "active" members are those who own, breed or are actively involved in the promotion or development of Wensleydale sheep. This broad definition was established in order to include as many people as possible during the formation of the Association. Many active members did not own or breed Wensleydale sheep, but had expertise and background valuable to our direction. As the membership increases, more members are actively breeding for Wensleydales. All active members are eligible to serve as Directors, and the Board felt that those not breeding & registering sheep should not be charged with representing these members. Therefore, the Board proposes to bring a change before the membership to define an Active member as one who "Owns, breeds, and registers Wensleydale sheep in the Association flock book each year. If no animals are registered by an active member for a period of two consecutive years, the member shall automatically become an Associate member".

Clarify RR Rule for NAWSA rams

Based on the fact that the Wensleydale breed in the U.K. is reported to test 92%RR at Codon 171, at our first membership meeting, it was felt that this attribute be perpetuated in the North American Wensleydale. At a time when other breed associations are struggling to develop a more scrapie-resistant population, members felt that the NAWSA has the opportunity to establish our breed from the onset with highly resistant individuals, based on current industry information. As a result, our upgrading guidelines designated that all rams recognized in the NAWSA registry, whether imported as semen or naturally bred, must test RR at Codon 171.

Barbara Burrows mentioned that one ram, Upper Mill Cracker, a U.K. ram already collected and used, tests QR at Codon 171 and that his offspring will have a higher incident of Qs than the other rams. As a result, she believes that exceptions should be made for rams in the Cracker line and that they should be admitted to NAWSA records if they test QR.

Martin explained that by crossing a (worst case scenario) QQ foundation ewe with Cracker (QR), there will still be RR rams out of his original line that would be eligible. In this F1 cross, statistically 1/2 of the progeny would test QQ, the other half testing QR. The next generation (75% blood) using an RR ram, individuals would test 3/4 QR.

and ¼ RR. The following generation would produce ½ QR and ½ RR, and the 93% or registered ram generation would produce ¾ RR and ¼ QR.

We realize there will be rams ineligible for registration, but for the integrity of the national flock and until all of the facts are known about scrapie, carrier status, resistance and its link to genetics, we can't afford to be wrong at this point in time.

Sherry Carlson made a motion that the restriction of only recognizing RR rams within the registry be maintained. Martin commented that you can always relax the standards but you can't make them more rigid. The motion was seconded by David Moran and a vote was taken: In favor of keeping the current guidelines – Martin Dally, Andrea Szabo, David Moran, Sherry Carlson. Opposed to the current guidelines – Barbara Burrows, Myrtle Dow. The motion carried 4-2.

Response to Leicester Longwool Breeders

The secretary presented a letter of response to the Leicester Longwool Sheep Breeders Association explaining why we cannot comply with their request to remove Leicesters from our list of acceptable foundation ewes. The board had no changes to the letter and instructed the secretary to send it out.

Promotion/Advertising

Based on advertising rates and funds available for advertising, the board suggested that we simply keep an ongoing association listing in The Black Sheep Newsletter, The Marker, and The Shepherd magazine. The heading of Wensleydale will be notable in the magazine and our association website and information will be accessible.

David Moran recommended that the association start to organize a flock book from the onset of upgrading if our major objectives are to be recognized by the U.K. breeders. David and Martin will each send the secretary examples of other flock books.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm Pacific.

Minutes submitted by Sherry Carlson, Secretary