

North American Wensleydale Sheep Association

Minutes of the

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

New Friendship, MD

May 5, 2000

Members Present: Martin Dally, Sandi Hanson, Jane Caulfield, Sherry Carlson, Kevin Brackney, Vicki Brackney, Doug Lebeck, Betty Lebeck, Audrey Lowes.

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 pm by President Martin Dally.

MINUTES

Kevin Brackney made a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 1999 as written. Seconded by Vicki Brackney, the motion passed unanimously.

SUPPLY and DEMAND

The membership discussed the importance of maintaining the high quality of Wensleydale animals and more specifically, the fleeces of crossbred and eventually purebred animals. Those present agreed that Wensleydale fleeces should be promoted as a unique, high quality fiber and marketed accordingly. Members were urged to avoid selling fleeces in a price range lower than the level the market will bear.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sherry Carlson reported that the balance of the treasury is currently \$424.97. Total income was \$730.00, which was derived from membership fees, and total expenses were \$305.03. All expenses to date have been related to the website - registration of an internet domain name and hosting service. NAWSA has paid \$100 toward design of the web site, the balance of \$800 was donated by WhiRL design, San Diego. Ms. Carlson announced that Sandi Hanson has agreed to assume the responsibilities of Treasurer of NAWSA and that there will be a system of record keeping established to assure accountability to the Association.

MEMBERSHIP and WEB SITE

Sherry Carlson reported that the NAWSA web site (www.WensleydaleSheep.org) was launched in December 1999 and has already been responsible for bringing in several new memberships. Ms. Carlson noted that the site has averaged 400 visits per month since its inception, and pointed out that this is excellent exposure for our members who are all listed on the web site. After discussion of the ongoing support necessary to keep this web site current, Douglas Lebeck made a motion to budget \$150 per year plus \$5 per active member for payment to maintain the website. Active membership dues will increase from \$20 to \$25 per year to support this expense. The motion was seconded by Kevin Brackney and was passed unanimously. Mr. Lebeck suggested that Associate Members (\$15 per year) be included in the membership listing on the website but that there should be no e-mail address linked to them. The members in attendance agreed with this suggestion.

BYLAWS

A draft of the proposed bylaws was reviewed, and the following changes and/or additions were made

Article III - Finances

3.1 - Fiscal year: Kevin Brackney suggested that a fiscal year ending on December 31 does not allow for an accurate year-end accounting report at an annual membership meeting held in the early summer. Jane Caulfield made a motion to establish the NAWSA fiscal year as April 1st - March 31st

The motion was seconded by Doug Lebeck and carried unanimously.

Article IV - Membership

4.2(a) Active Membership. It was pointed out that currently some active members are neither owners nor breeders of Wensleydale sheep. The definition of an active member was discussed and no determination was made. Martin Dally stated that the definition of Active Member should be addressed as a policy and not part of the bylaws.

4.4 Effective Date of Membership. In conjunction with the approved change in fiscal year to April 1st - March 31st, Annual membership shall begin April 1st and expire March 31st.

Article V - Membership Meetings

5.3 General Notice of Membership Meetings - the time interval for sending a written meeting notice was changed from 20 days to 60 days.

5.5 Voting - The members present discussed the option of allowing absentee or proxy voting at the membership meetings. Members were reminded that the annual membership meeting is held only to report on the state of the association, announce election results, consider bylaw changes, and to transact other business which may come before the meeting. It was agreed that if meeting issues result in a vote being necessary, the equitable method of representing the entire membership would be to allow voting on issues by mail ballot within 30 days following the meeting.

5.6 Special Meetings - Changed to read that special meetings may be called by the lesser of 10 active members or 25% of the active membership, and that there should be at least 60 days notice given prior to holding a special meeting. According to these bylaws, no action may be taken at special meetings- they may be called only for discussion of issues, and for educational or promotional purposes.

Article VI - Board of Directors

6.7 Election of Board Officers. Regarding the statement that only board members may serve as officers, the addition of "...with the exception of the office of Treasurer, who may or may not be a Board member" was made in order to allow for continuity of association accounting.

Article VII - Board Meetings

7.1 Addition of "...or electronic media" added to the options for attending Board meetings.

Douglas Lebeck made a motion to accept the bylaws as amended. The motion was seconded by Jane Caulfield and passed unanimously.

POLICIES and PROCEDURES

Jane Caulfield pointed out that we have not specifically included Canadian-registered ewes as foundation breeds in our Upgrading Guidelines. This oversight will be corrected in our printed material as soon as possible.

Sherry Carlson reviewed the current method established to record Foundation ewes and Percentage-blood animals. She explained that Foundation ewes will be issued a NAWSA identification number beginning with "A" and Percentage blood animals will be identified with a "B". Regarding the exceptions made for specific non-registered foundation ewes, the extra generation (to achieve purebred status) required for these ewes will be accounted for at the first generation level. These non-registered ewes will be identified with an "AA" prefix, and the following generation will be "A". Members agreed that the fee for submitting these forms should be set at \$5 each.

Kevin Brackney will be maintaining all of the statistical information submitted on Association animals.

INCORPORATION

Sandi Hanson has agreed to handle the filing for incorporation of the Association in the state of Washington and that this filing will cost \$30. There was concern raised that we might be restricted under Washington state regulations regarding the Association's ability to make future changes to the bylaws. There was no evidence found to support this. and Ms. Hanson explained that state regulations are applicable only if the items are not addressed by the Association's bylaws.

WENSLEYDALE GENETICS AVAILABLE

It was reported that Deb Gourley will be arriving tomorrow and should have a listing of AI activity and lambs born. She is also trying to determine the amount of semen currently available.

SCRAPIE TESTING

Based on the fact that the Wensleydale breed in the U.K. is reported to test 92% RR at codon 171, members were in agreement that this attribute should be continued in the North American Wensleydale. Members present agreed that all rams must be tested and show an RR status at codon 171 in order to be recorded or registered by NAWSA. Kevin Brackney pointed out that this may prevent the showing of some ram lambs. While recognizing this as a valid point, the majority of members present felt that an RR status must be a requirement from the inception of the Association's records if any quality control is to be maintained.

DOMINANT BLACK GENE

Jane Caulfield represented Kim Caulfield in reporting that there may be certain bloodlines in the Cotswold breed that carry a dominant black gene. If a dominant black gene is present, it is possible for two black parents to produce a white lamb. It was reported that the color gene of Wensleydales in the U.K. is recessive - requiring two genes for color in order to produce a colored animal. The members agreed that they would like to identify and eliminate the dominant black gene if possible. It is the intent that all NAWSA animal records - foundation, recorded and registered - indicate the animal's genetic color, if known.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sherry Carlson