

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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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.

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## **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.

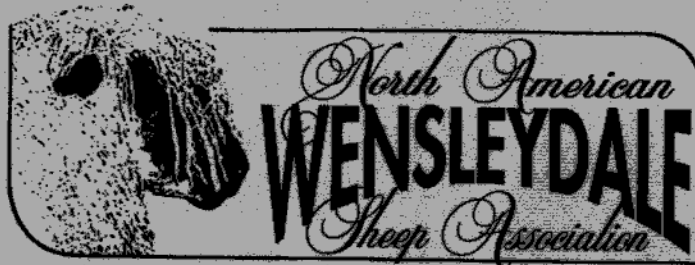
## Next Meeting

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](http://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).

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*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](mailto: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.