



# ISBONA NEWSLETTER

Icelandic Sheep Breeders of North America

Fall 2008  
Volume 12, Issue 4

"Hold onto what is good,  
even if it is only a handful of earth.

Hold onto what you believe,  
even if it is a tree which stands by itself.

Hold onto what you must do,  
even if it is a long way from here.

Hold onto Life,  
even when it is easier letting go.

Hold onto my hand,  
even when I have gone away from you."

*Pueblo Blessing*



In Memoriam:

## Susan Briggs 1943-2008



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**ISBONA CALENDAR**

SUMMER			FALL		
<p><u>July</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦BoD ballots and Renewal notices included in newsletter</li> <li>♦BoD Ballots due back to Secretary by <b>July 15</b> (<i>August 15 in 2008</i>)</li> </ul>	<p><u>August</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦Membership year begins; renewals due by <b>August 1</b></li> <li>♦New BoD announced; BoD meets and elects officers</li> <li>♦Email call for AGM proposals</li> </ul>	<p><u>September</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦Fall Newsletter ads due <b>September 1</b>; submissions due <b>September 15</b></li> <li>♦Publish call for AGM proposals</li> </ul>	<p><u>October</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦Enjoy your sheep!</li> <li>♦Take photos and write articles for newsletter</li> <li>♦Plan breeding groups and winter fiber projects</li> </ul>	<p><u>November</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦BoD meets</li> <li>♦Receive AGM proposals</li> <li>♦Email call for nominations to BoD</li> </ul>	<p><u>December</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦Winter Newsletter ads due <b>December 1</b>; submissions due <b>December 15</b></li> <li>♦Publish call for BoD nominations</li> </ul>
WINTER			SPRING		
<p><u>January</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦BoD meets</li> <li>♦Deadline for BoD nominations and bios</li> </ul>	<p><u>February</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦Enjoy your sheep!</li> <li>♦Work on fiber projects</li> <li>♦Stay warm</li> </ul>	<p><u>March</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦Spring Newsletter ads due <b>March 1</b>; submissions due <b>March 15</b></li> <li>♦BoD bios printed</li> </ul>	<p><u>April</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦Enjoy your sheep (and lambs)!</li> <li>♦Recover from winter</li> </ul>	<p><u>May</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦BoD meets</li> <li>♦Annual dues and fees considered and adjusted as necessary</li> </ul>	<p><u>June</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦Summer Newsletter ads due <b>June 1</b>; submissions due <b>June 15</b></li> </ul>

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this issue of the ISBONA newsletter are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of ISBONA, its Board of Directors, or the editor. No endorsement of these views is implied by publication. The editor welcomes submissions of alternate viewpoints.

# ISBONA BRIEFS

## *Call for AGM proposals*

Now that the 2008 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the ISBONA membership is complete, it is time to solicit proposals for the 2009 AGM, to be held in the East region.

Individuals or committees wishing to submit proposals should plan to submit them to the

ISBONA Board of Directors for consideration in November 2008.

Proposals should include not only accommodations for the meeting itself, but also for a group dinner, the silent auction, and the National Icelandic Sheep Show. Historically, the AGM has been held in conjunction

with some other major sheep or fiber event. Inclusion of a workshop or class about Icelandic sheep or wool is strongly encouraged.

Any questions regarding the format or requirements for the proposal should be directed to the Board.

## *Best American Lamb Family Recipe Contest*

Get into the holiday spirit with the American Lamb Board's "Best American Lamb Family Recipe Contest." Fans of lamb are invited to share their most beloved family dishes in a nationwide contest. Whether you wow your in-laws with a crown roast or please the parents with a slow-cooked shank, American lamb is the perfect centerpiece

for any holiday table.

Now through Nov. 11, lamb lovers can submit their recipes and a short 200 word to 300 word description of why their dish has become a family favorite. The winning recipe will be announced on Nov. 17 and featured on the American Lamb Web site.

The winner will also receive a

Cast Iron Cookware Set made by American Lambassador Chef Tim Love and a lamb cut of choice to serve a family of six.

To submit recipes or to ask questions regarding the "Best American Lamb Family Recipe Contest," e-mail fanoflamb@baltzco.com.

*from the American Lamb Board*

## *Free Books, Videos, and More!*

Remember your ISBONA library during the upcoming winter months! ISBONA has a wonderful collection of reference, educational, and entertainment mate-

rials that are available for loan to ISBONA members. The only cost to you is for shipping. ISBONA Librarian Connie Millard can be contacted via email at

dutchdog@eightpondfarm.com or telephone at 573-294-7088. Policies and a materials list are available on the ISBONA website at [www.isbona.com/library](http://www.isbona.com/library).

## *Free Money!*

Show premiums for Icelandic sheep and fleece shows are available from ISBONA. If you are entering a show and would like

to inquire about premiums, you can contact any board member for information. ISBONA encourages you to help raise the

profile of our wonderful breed, and in most situations can fund the show premiums.

# Susan Briggs Obituary by Barb Webb

It is with deep sadness that the Icelandic Sheep community announces the passing on July 15, 2008, of one of its most passionate champions, Susan Briggs of Tongue River Farm, in Pomona, Missouri. Susan was one of the pioneers of our breed, starting early on in the history of Icelandic sheep in North America, and maintained a position of leadership throughout her life, in the care and breeding of Icelandic sheep.

Ms. Briggs was one of the founders of the association for the Icelandic breed, Icelandic Sheep Breeders of North America, now known as ISBONA, and served as the first Association Secretary. Susan was also one of the two breeders to first import straws of Icelandic sheep semen from Iceland in the fall of 1998, and to breed Icelandics with LAI (laparoscopic artificial insemination). She was one of the attendees of the first seminar for North Americans on Vaginal

Artificial Insemination in Icelandics (VAI), held in Iceland in November of 2003. Susan used the AI breeding techniques as part of her intensive breeding program that helped fuel the rapid improvement of the North American Icelandic flock. At the time of her death, Ms. Briggs held the largest flock of Icelandics in North America.

Ms. Briggs was a pioneer in the care and feeding of Icelandics, and was the driving force behind some of the earliest work in the nutritional and mineral requirements for the breed. She was also a tireless champion of the breed and was always willing to answer questions, to take photos and write articles, and in countless other ways, to raise the profile of her beloved breed.

But beyond her leadership and contributions, Susan will be missed most for her kindness and generosity to new breeders. She mentored many new shep-

herds and was always willing to answer questions in a lambing or health emergency. She spent many hours helping new owners to develop their farm plans, define and sharpen their breeding goals, and to organize their marketing plans.

Susan Briggs died at home after a long and valiant battle with leukemia. She was able to spend her last days on her farm in Pomona, Missouri, in the dream farmhouse that she had designed herself and just recently completed, and was surrounded by the love and care of her family and friends. Susan is survived by her five children, Lisa, Sam, Amy, Tova and Anna, her beloved grandchildren, and by her many, many friends in the Icelandic sheep community.

*Barbara Webb  
President*

*Icelandic Sheep Breeders of  
North America*

If desired, in lieu of flowers, those who want to send a memorial to Susan can:

~ Donate to Heifer Project International  
1 World Avenue  
Little Rock, AR USA 72202  
(800) 422-0474  
[www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

~ Support Seed Savers Exchange  
3094 North Winn Rd  
Decorah, Iowa 52101  
(563) 382-5990  
[www.seedsavers.org](http://www.seedsavers.org)

~ Subscribe to the Stockman Grass Farmer to learn about pasture and grass management for your sheep  
(800) 748-9808  
[www.stockmangrassfarmer.net](http://www.stockmangrassfarmer.net)

~ Become a member of National Public Radio  
[www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)

~ Plant a native tree or establish a garden on your property

*Lisa, Sam, Amy, Tova, and Anna  
Susan's children*

# Susan Briggs Obituary from the Inyo Register

Born March 21, 1943 in Des Moines, Iowa to George and Lois Briggs, Susan Briggs died on July 15, 2008 surrounded by her family, on her farm, in Pomona, MO, in her shepherd's house with a full view of her pastures and embraced by the sounds of crickets and bullfrogs accompanying her safe passage.

When she was 7 years old, her parents relocated to St. Petersburg, FL, where her father established a successful business. The horse-crazy girl had dreams of having a farm and breeding horses. Besides being a busy mother and gardener, she started breeding Arabian horses. Susan began breeding Saanen goats in 1977 in Missouri, received her registered license in 1982 and by 1983 started a flourishing organic vegetable farm in Nevada. She also bred Icelandic sheep in 1993 in Miles City, MT, and moved her farm to Missouri in 2003.

She bred some of the best Icelandic sheep outside of Iceland. Susan championed the triple-purpose breed for its superiority to others in all three categories: meat, milk and wool. One of her proudest professional achievements was spreading her knowledge of sheep and pasture management to women who sought financial independence. Susan was an astute marketer and had many plans for expansion of her multi-faceted farm-based business before her untimely death from chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML).

One of Susan's keys to success was her firm belief that if you take care of the land, the land would take care of you. Grazing management, niche marketing and taking the time to share her passion with others through conferences,



www.icelandicsheep.com, and above all, by telephone, all played important roles in building her business. She particularly loved inspiring others to get out of the city and live in what she called the "real world," which meant living off the land and becoming free of debt.

Susan's breeding strategies were sometimes controversial, but she knew that hard culling for hardiness and desirable traits in her animal were fundamental to improving the Icelandic sheep

breed. Self-taught and determined, her sheep paid for her farm, her new house and allowed her to live comfortably in her last years. Her family hopes her life will inspire others to become independent thinkers and achieve their own goals.

Susan's family thanks her friends and neighbors for their visits, their compassion and for offering their time and assistance to her and her family during her passage.

Susan is survived by her mother, Lois Briggs of St. Petersburg, FL; sisters, Jane Ann Griffis of Crozet, VA, and Caroline Briggs of Boone, NC; five children, Lisa Spector and son, Jesse Sisco of Springfield, MO, Sam Spector of Big Timber, MT, Amy Corrigan and husband Chris Corrigan, and their three children, Quinn, Sunny and Marie of Silver Spring, MD, Tova Spector of Panama City, FL, Anna Spector and her husband, Oscar Bernal, and their daughter, Joanna.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks friends and neighbors to donate to the Heifer Project, [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) or the Seed Savers Exchange, [www.seedsavers.org](http://www.seedsavers.org). Also those interested may become a member of National Public Radio ([www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)) or plant one of her favorite trees, walnut, pecan, or peach.

*From The Inyo Register, Bishop, Inyo County, California Tuesday, July 22, 2008, A-2*

# Following Dreams: A Lesson from Mom

When mom was a little girl she dreamed about living on a farm with cows, chickens, sheep, and horses. Her mother was born on a farm and could not wait to get as far away from the farm as possible, so Mom's dream would have to wait until she was old enough to buy her own farm and live her dream. In 1992 Mom moved to a great farm in Montana along the Tongue River. It was on this farm that her dreams of sheep became reality.

Mom moved to this farm while I was in Africa serving as a Peace Corps volunteer. While in Africa I got long letters from mom describing the new farm and her life there. She tried vegetable gardening, leasing her pastures to cattle farmers, and making willow baskets but nothing seemed to stick. In January of 1994 I got a letter from mom expressing her excitement at the prospect of starting an Icelandic sheep flock in the fall. By the time I returned from Africa in November of 1994 Mom had her Icelandic sheep from Stefania. I heard nothing but the "triple purpose breed", "hand spinning", "dual coat" and "tunnel huts." Mom's flock grew quickly as she continued to make trips to Canada and pick up more Icelandic

sheep. The expansion of her flock came with some growing pains. She battled white muscle disease in the hot summers and worked closely with veterinarians from all over the country to find the cause and prevention of white muscle disease in her sheep. Mom became a shepherd and vet, diagnosing and treating her sheep.

On every visit and phone call mom talked about her

Icelandic sheepdog, Ike. Ike bonded with mom immediately and became her constant helper and companion, catching sheep for Mom and moving them to new pastures. From Ike came my two dogs, Racie J and Loki.

Mom shared with me her secret for making dreams reality. She said that if you have a dream and you put all your thoughts and energy into making that dream happen then you can



Stef, Susan, Val, and Tova at Rhinebeck

sheep. She hosted an ISBONA meeting at her farm. She worked very hard to bake apple pies, paint the outhouse, gather door prizes, and organize speakers. She worked with other Icelandic sheep breeders to import semen from Iceland thus securing the genetics for the breed. She showed her sheep and fleeces, to much acclaim and championships.

On one trip back from Canada Mom brought with her an

never fail. But one of Mom's biggest gifts to us is that she supported other people's dreams too. She wanted others to succeed and she wanted to help them live their dreams. On every one of my visits with Mom she would get multiple phone calls from other shepherds asking advice on Icelandic sheep. Mom always gave them as much time and advice as they needed or wanted even when it

cut into time with her family. She told me that she believed in the breed and she wanted others to succeed. When I think of my mom I think of her generosity with her time and advice and I think also of all the support she gave me and many others in following our dreams.

*Tova Spector  
Susan Briggs's daughter*

## Remembering Susan Briggs and Tongue River Farm Icelandics Everywhere



Connie Millard & Marge Jackson  
Eight Pond Farm  
Hermann MO  
[www.eightpondfarm.com](http://www.eightpondfarm.com)

# Stefania: Queen of Icelandic Sheep—Part 2

*In Part 1, the story of the first importation of Icelandic Sheep to North America was recounted. This second part continues the story of Stefania's impact on the breed and much more.*

Stefania finally had her beloved Icelandic sheep. Life was good for awhile. Then, in 1980, the Minister of Agriculture in the province of Quebec, Canada, offered free testing for the virus Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP) to all sheep flocks as a new trial program. Stefania decided to join the program. Stefania was well aware of OPP as this virus had devastated her grandfather's flock in Iceland years before. The first tests came back with 33% of her flock testing positive. Stefania was so devastated by the test results that she had to go to bed for three days. OPP is spread through every body fluid including milk, saliva, and birth fluids. Stef was told that the only way to deal with OPP was to orphan the lambs at birth and bottle raise them on a separate farm with milk replacer. This meant that she had to attend every birth and never let any lamb nurse its mother. In 1989, 1990, and 1991, she orphaned the lambs of her original imported Icelandic sheep. After three years

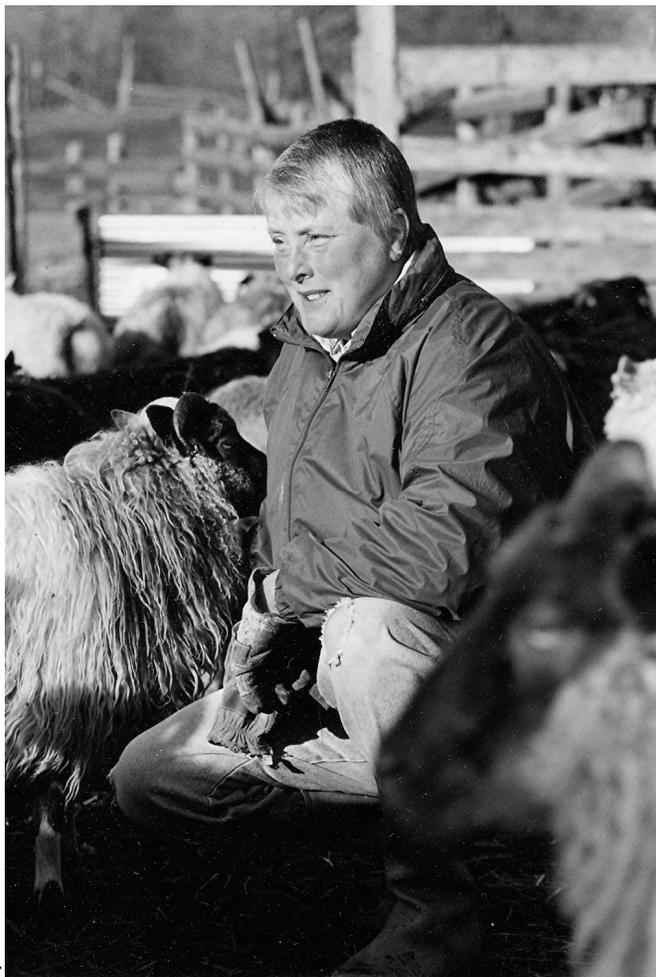
of testing and destroying the ewes and rams that tested positive, she had three of the original 12 sheep still alive and testing negative. Stef then needed to bring the lambs that she had kept

process again. Ray shot them behind the barn. Stef was distraught. She said that if she had to do it over again she would not have destroyed the remaining three. Stef continued to blood test all of the sheep every year even though her flock soon tested negative.

Although Stefania told everyone that she would never attempt an importation again, she kept in touch with Dr. Olafur Dyrmondsson. In 1990, four years after her original importation, he contacted her and told her that if she wanted to make a second importation, this would be the time because some British shepherds had applied for an export permit and it looked like they were going to get it. But it was all going to be done quietly.

Having just 12 sheep had severely limited the gene pool of the Yeoman Farm flock. Another importation would greatly expand the bloodlines. There were two groups of British shepherds, including one woman that chose 40 sheep. Stefania decided

to make another importation. She got promises from several breeders in Canada to buy some of the new importation. She went to Iceland and traveled with the British party and selected more than 100 sheep from a district



Stefania, beloved friend of the author, and of all Icelandic sheep owners in North America, with some of her treasured sheep. ~ photo courtesy of Susan Briggs

isolated back to her home farm. She made the grim decision to destroy the remaining original imported sheep even though they had always tested negative. Stef just could not take a chance of having them infect the lambs and have to go through the whole

*(Continued on page 9)*

further east of the original area where she had gotten the first sheep.

Because it was the fall of the year and the sheep had been

gathered from the hills and were at their home farms, there was no problem finding animals. There were two thousand animals on the six farms to select from. This time Stefania knew

just what she wanted, and selected colored and patterned sheep: moorit, mouflon, spotted, and leadersheep. Only one farm had a leadersheep, a ewe with twin ewe lambs. Stef selected the leadersheep and her twins. She also chose 14 ram lambs. The biggest ram weighed 110 pounds at 4 months of age. This time the officials were more relaxed and the importation went smoothly. Stef was even allowed to truck the animals to the airport through other districts.

The bomb dropped, however, when the blood tests came back from Scotland. Thirty lambs had a titer for Chlamydia, a bacterium that causes abortion "storms". The Chief Veterinarian for Iceland was stunned and said emphatically, "There is no Chlamydia in Iceland. You don't miss Chlamydia." But the positive titers kept these lambs from being exported. One of the reactors was one of the leadersheep ewe lambs. Stef ended up with just 12 rams. The "clean" group

of 74 sheep flew on to Canada and was then retested during the 30 days in quarantine at Mirabel.

Two more tested positive at Mirabel for Chlamydia, and Stefania was upset.

Stef happened to mention the Chlamydia situation to a friend, Christen English, who leafed through her Merck manual

and found the section on Chlamydia. The test would show positive if the sheep had eaten bird droppings from a carrier bird. Bird Chlamydia is harmless to sheep but will cause a false positive. This was the answer that explained the positive sheep tests, as wild sea birds were prolific in the area where the sheep lived and grazed. A call to the

quarantine station and to Iceland solved the mystery and allowed all 74 of the sheep to leave quarantine in Canada. Stef had bought one of the rams sight-unseen. When Stef saw him at the Mirabel Quarantine station for the first time it was quite apparent that he had bad parrot mouth, a gross conformation de-

fect. He was butchered. Stef said it was the most expensive lamb they had ever eaten.

The costs were only \$962 per head this time, or \$71,188.00 total, which took most of the Dignum's savings. Many of the sheep had been spoken for before the actual importation, but when the time came to pay, most potential buyers backed out. The exception was Nancy Pease, who ended up with two rams and five ewes. This was the start of Nancy Pease's flock. The sheep from Stefania's new importation went directly to a rented farm nearby in Parham and were kept there till the OPP situation on the home farm had been cleared up. Eventually all of the new imports and the lambs that had been orphaned because of the OPP were united on the Yeoman Farm.

The original imports could not be sold to customers in the USA. It took five years before the US would allow the importation of the offspring of the imported ewes to qualify for import. Bar-

bara Webb was the first to import the sheep into the states after many years of paperwork and hounding Dr. Roger Perkins at the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Many other importations followed as shepherds in the US discovered the breed.

*(Continued on page 10)*



"Blessa" leadersheep ewe STS 150Z .



Old Mori STS 188Z Imported ram.

Little did Stefania dream that her struggle to get a flock of her beloved sheep from Iceland would be the start of the breed in North America and that she would become the “Queen of Icelandics.” Stefania never promoted the breed too much, although she did write occasional articles in *The Shepherd* and *Black Sheep* magazines. If anything, she understated their attributes as she did not want anyone to be disappointed with the sheep. In the beginning she was the only source of information on the breed.

Eventually, two breeders in the US, Barbara Webb and I (Susan Mongold Briggs), were able to start the importation of semen directly from Iceland to add genetic diversity to the North American flock. Other semen imports followed, and now there is a yearly importation of semen for US breeders from the Artificial Insemination (AI) station SOUTHRAM in Iceland. There are also occasional classes in Vaginal AI techniques by Dr. Thorstein Olafsson, who pioneered the special process. (See [www.southram.bssl.is](http://www.southram.bssl.is))

Stefania helped organize the first Icelandic sheep organization: Icelandic Sheep Breeders of North America (ISBONA) (see [www.isbona.com](http://www.isbona.com)), and was its first president. The organization was mainly promotional and designed to help breeders with the

information they would need to be successful with the sheep. The Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC) agreed to



Stefania at the rettir catching a ewe.

register the sheep and is not associated with ISBONA. This helped keep the registration process from becoming political. The CLRC handles all of the purebred breed registrations in Canada and does a very professional job. (See [www.clrc.ca](http://www.clrc.ca))

Stefania was involved in many aspects of the sheep. She helped Beth Abbott do a study on the Icelandic fleece for Beth’s Master Spinner thesis. Beth eventually published her thesis in a book called *The Icelandic Fleece*, which is presently out of print. Stefania already knew how to spin, weave, and knit Icelandic wool and had been making garments for years. But to hone her skills, Stefania decided to partici-

pate in the three-year Master Spinner course given through the Canadian college system, and after completing the course received the degree of Master Spinner.

In 1998, Stefania arranged a breeders’ tour of Iceland which included a visit to the AI station, meat processing location, sheep farms, goat farm, wool processing plant, and a Rettir, or fall sheep round up. Our group made headlines in the Reykjavik paper and elevated the status of sheep breeders in Iceland. Suave city dwellers had a hard time believing that sheep breeders from the US would come all the way to Iceland to see lowly sheep! Our group got to see the nitrogen tank that held our first frozen semen import, ready to be shipped. This semen would help widen the genetics of the breed in North America, and we were excited!



Stef demonstrating how to pick and eat berries in Iceland.

Stef made sure that we all experienced not only the spectacular sights but also Icelandic food like Icelandic breakfasts and lamb fixed in traditional ways. There was delicious skyr, a kind of thick yogurt, to eat, and the more adventurous in the group tried pickled shark and sheep eyes. At

one point Stefania stopped the tour bus and had us all get out and walk carefully on the very spongy mosses. We picked and

(Continued on page 11)

tried the berries that were growing there. The spongy moss was 6 to 12 inches deep and we were told that you were not supposed to damage it, as it was the only plant that was able to grow on some of the fragile volcanic land. The moss not only was slowly making topsoil but prevented erosion.

Stefania imported a male Icelandic sheep dog from Iceland and started breeding this rare breed after finding a female in Canada. The Icelandic sheepdog is a spitz-type, small- to medium-sized dog related to the Norwegian Elkhound. They come in many colors and patterns like all of the Icelandic animals. The smart and personable dogs with natural shepherding abilities have been used for centuries to round up the sheep, catch lambs, kill vermin, keep predators away from the sheep, and keep the sheep off of the hayfields. Many of Stef's sheep customers got a pup as a bonus with their purchase of sheep. Some sheep breeders started raising the sheepdogs themselves and importing new bloodlines from Iceland. A registry was formed for North America.

In addition, Stefania had a hand in saving the rare Icelandic goat that produces meat, milk, and high-quality cashmere fiber. On a visit to Yeoman Farm, Halla Eyglo Sveinsdottir was made aware of the plight of the colorful Icelandic goat. Stef suggested that Halla write her thesis on the goat. This lead

eventually to Iceland's legislature subsidizing the winter feed for this rare breed making it attractive for breeders in Iceland to save the goat from extinction.



Stef and Icelandic sheep dogs.

Winter feed is the biggest expense for livestock in Iceland.

Because of Stefania's experience with OPP, Yeoman Farm became one of the first to adopt biosecurity measures. No one got into the sheep area without wear-



Rare Icelandic goats.

ing new or disinfected boots and clean clothes. She had her vet trained to carry disinfecting fluid to treat his boots before each visit. There was a collection of

rubber boots in many sizes available for guests to use. You could use your own boots only after scrubbing them in the bathroom and then dipping in disinfectant under Stefania's strict supervision. Because of Stef's vigilance, Icelandic sheep got a clean start in North America.

Stefania was always interested in leadersheep. Leadersheep are Icelandic sheep that have exceptional abilities. Weather prediction, watchfulness, a homing instinct, and a feel for danger were some of those traits that made them revered in Iceland. There are stories of their abilities that saved many shepherds and their flocks by leading them to safety in white-out blizzards.

Stefania imported a leadersheep ewe "Blessa" from Iceland with her ewe lamb. Stef wanted to breed leadersheep. After the importation of semen made it possible to get leadersheep genetics, my farm, Tongue River Farm in Montana, had good results

with AI and had a ram lamb that was a son of leadersheep Ari. Stefania decided to buy the ram to breed to her beloved Blessa. Importation of semen to Canada was not allowed at that time. So in 1999 Stef bought and imported an Ari son from Tongue River Farm. This was a full circle as we at Tongue River had

started our Icelandic sheep flock with stock purchased from Stefania.

In 2006, Stefania was diag-

*(Continued on page 12)*



Leadersheep ram SRX 352J by Ari ,

nosed with cancer and was undergoing treatments. She was responding well and had a good outlook. She had just imported her first semen from Iceland and inseminated some of her ewes using the vaginal method developed by Dr. Thorstein Olafsson after taking his class. She was looking forward to her first AI lambs in the spring of 2007. But suddenly in early February she became very ill, was rushed to

the hospital, and died 24 hours later, on February 4, 2007.

The word of her death spread like wildfire from breeder to breeder in a flurry of tearful calls. We mourned her untimely and sudden death. We had so much that we still wanted to know about the

sheep, that she had put off writing until she had the time “in her old age.” This information and all of the stories that she kept in her head will never be told. After her death, the flock was dispersed, with some being kept by friends for Stef’s daughter, Louise. Certainly we owe a huge debt of gratitude to that brave little

feisty “pirate queen” that “stole” the breed from Iceland and made it possible for us to enjoy this wonderful and unusual old-world sheep breed in North America.

Stefania was cremated and her ashes flown back to Iceland to be sprinkled on her wild beloved mountains where the Iceland sheep roam free each summer. A fitting end for the Queen of Icelandic Sheep.

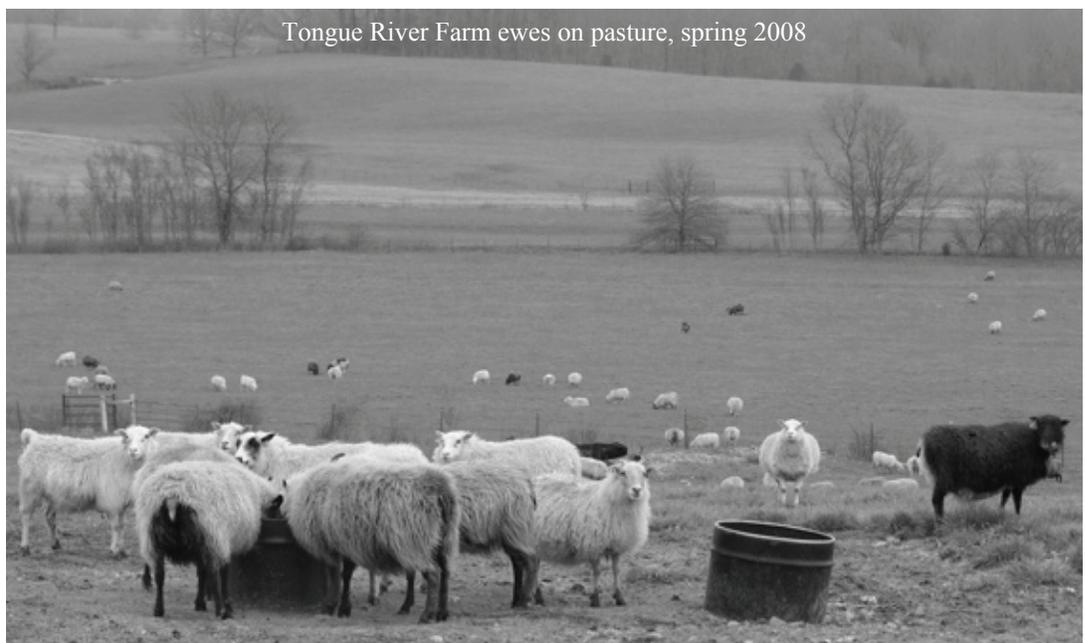


Ray, Louise, and Stefania.

*EDITOR’S NOTE: The preceding story is the last article that Susan Briggs submitted to the ISBONA Newsletter before her own “untimely and sudden” death. Susan, too, left us with a debt of gratitude for her service to the breed and to her fellow shepherds, and wanting to know more of her stories and wisdom. Susan Briggs is reverently and painfully missed.*

Don't forget about the great resource that is the Yahoo!Group email list for ISBONA! This forum has become a safe, friendly place to ask questions and share advice. You can sign on through the Yahoo!Groups site (search for isbona) or contact Moderator, Sondra Gibson at [sgibson@edulog.com](mailto:sgibson@edulog.com)

Tongue River Farm ewes on pasture, spring 2008



# Thank You, Susan

Susan Briggs's death gave me six things.

Oh, I know. Her life gave me and all of us much more than that. But in her death, six things came my way. Along with our sheep and many memories of her, these things are Susan to me.

The first thing is a plain plastic-coated three ring binder, white, with a 4-inch spine -- just the same old three-ring binder you might find anywhere. But inside? Inside is the most amazing glory of the Icelandic sheep. Page 1 of the archival paper begins with five 7-inch long double strands of Icelandic handspun Lopi weight yarn, slip-knotted through holes punched in the outer edge of the page. From top to bottom: white, light gray, darker gray, light moorit, black. Natural beautiful soft Icelandic wool. Then, the magic begins.

Page 2 dyes strands of each of those colors a striking yellow. Page 3 dyes each strand gold. By page 16, the dye is the most exquisite purple. Page 26 starts the jewel-like green shades. Pages 32 and 33 conclude with browns. On some pages, the dye renders the natural wool colors almost the same finished color. On other pages, the coloration from the

died white to the black strands is a beautiful gradation. When you open and hold the book just so, you can see all the colors, in all the shades, at once -- a paint swatch to put Benjamin Moore to shame.

Susan commissioned the special sample book years ago from a woman in California with an extraordinary talent for color and fine wool dyes. And now it is my project.

The book is organized, thoughtful, and documented with reactions to its contents. It shows insight into Susan's plan to add color to her products in a way unlike anyone had been able to do. From her bed, Susan provided detailed instructions on the care of the Icelandic wool book to ensure it was safe from attack by moths or dirty fingers.

This one thing is so Susan, marketing the Icelandic sheep for all it is worth -- and maybe more. It shows how the Icelandic sheep is capable of the most wonderful and unexpected result -- in this case, a palette of enticing and richly dyed yarns. Perhaps yet another value untapped and to be discovered.

It will become whatever I and others can make of it. Susan had wanted an article in Spin-Off magazine -- this worries me since it would be almost impossible to capture the colors accurately. But it is my project, and I will do my best. Susan gave out a lot of projects at the end of her life -- things that needed to be fin-

ished, but that she was not going to be able to oversee.

So that is one thing her death brought me; what are the rest? The next five things? Those are Susan's children. Susan gave them her hardest and final project at her farm, and they did exactly what she wanted done.

They are people I would never have met had it not been for her illness and her death: Lisa, Sam, Amy, Tova, and Anna.

They, too, are Susan. No, don't mistake what I am saying: they are each individuals in their own right. They share much with their handsome and athletic father, Mark, too. But they are also so Susan. They all are tall, good looking, curious and smart. The four women have glorious and long hair. They are animal lovers and caretakers; some are parents; some are teachers; some are writers; some environmentalists. Some study the world that is close around us and some know the world far from us. They are hard workers; they are diligent; they keep their promises. They are strong, and they all got stronger.

Many people can sell you sheep, or give you sheep, or trust you with projects, or provide you excellent counsel; all deserve, and have, my appreciation. But one will always stand out above the others. Thank you, Susan.

*Marge Jackson  
Eight Pond Farm, Hermann, MO*



Several Tongue River Farm ewes

# Susan Briggs—Shepherd Extraordinaire

Setting words on the page about Susan is so hard to do. How to put in writing all that this incredible person was? How to convey our sense of loss of a dear friend, mentor, and so much more? I guess this will turn out to be a bit of a story, a story about someone whose generosity was unlimited, whose integrity was above reproach, whose love for her sheep and our breed was awesome, whose business sense allowed her to make her entire living from her sheep, whose heart was as big as all outdoors, and whose loyalty to her friends was unquestionable. Was she perfect? Not by any means--she got her feelings hurt just like all of us, she felt bitterness when she thought things were unfair, she spoke in anger and hurt others' feelings. And when that happened, she also looked inside to understand herself better, and she tried to make amends where she could.

I met Susan those long years ago after a lengthy email communication about Icelandic sheep when we were trying to decide how to get started. We'd also had phone conversations that convinced us that her philosophy and life plan surrounding her sheep were in perfect alignment with ours. And her expertise and willingness to share whatever she'd learned were really evident. Susan had a sale at that time, and although she was so very far away in Montana, I asked and she agreed to have me stay with her for four days, to go over her

sheep and learn from her. Those were some of the most important days of my life, because not only was she so completely open to sharing both the good and bad about her sheep, but she gave me a really strong foundation to build on in regard to raising and caring for sheep as well as an understanding of the way she built her business and marketed her stock. Inside, we evaluated and skirted fleeces, inspected roving and yarns and talked about the many ways we could use all of the gifts of the sheep. Outside, we evaluated sheep for conformation and fleece qualities and discussed husbandry. I learned the genetics of color, the importance of maintaining the strength and vigor of this primitive breed, how hard it is to cull to maintain the overall quality and hardiness of the breed, how imperative it is to be strong in doing this even when emotions would dictate otherwise, and one of the most difficult things--knowing when is the time to step back and let things unfold as they should, rather than stepping in to give help when it's not needed.

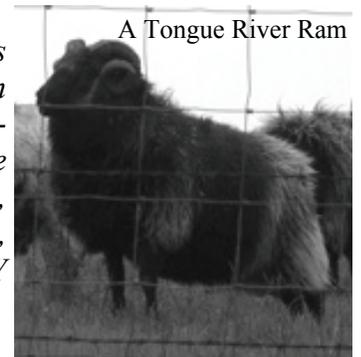
Over the years, I learned even more from Susan's determined optimism. She would always look at the best in a situation, and she would never, ever back away from a challenge. She had a way of encouraging people to do their best, too. She would give support and praise, even when I felt I wasn't doing enough. She had a way of making others feel good about themselves, always, always

looking for their strengths, and I remember that she told me once that I needed to throw away the word "can't". That has stayed with me and I know has helped not only in our shepherding, but in life itself.

Susan was ready to leave this world, I know. She'd done everything she'd set out to do, with the exception of writing her book on Icelandic sheep. She had time at the end to spend with her family, which was so very important to her. She even took time to spend with me, trying to coach me even then to keep quality foremost. One of the most beautiful things she did before leaving us was to offer her stock to the Icelandic sheep world at ridiculously low prices so that her life of service to the breed would be spread through her genetics as wide and as far as possible. Those of us who have her stock know that we're blessed by the years she gave the breed.

Even knowing all that, it was hard to say good bye to one of the most special people we've known. The saving grace is that we believe Susan will be watching over us all, silently giving us support as we work with this breed we all love.

*Frances  
Smith  
Hearts-  
Ease  
Farm,  
Dansville,  
NY*



A Tongue River Ram

# How Do You Say Goodbye?

How do you say goodbye to someone you feel is still here? Susan is with us still; I can see her face, hear her voice and see her farms vividly in my mind's eye. There are special places here on our farm where we prayed and wished for her complete recovery and to this day I can't go past those boulders or that waterfall without thoughts of Susan Briggs.

She was our friend, our mentor and a human being we greatly admired. We will never forget Susan, how could we! Every time we administer care for a sheep as per her instructions, she lives. Every time we look into the face of a Tongue River Farm ewe or ram, she lives. Every time we sow legume seeds in the pastures, or lime the pastures, she lives. She is here, with us, in so many places in our lives. She touched our lives. Very selfishly, I wish we'd met her sooner than we did, it would have been good to have had more of her.

## First Impression

We met Susan on a mild mid-January day at her farm in Bunker. We were sheep shopping

and wanted to take a look at Icelandics. I remember the numerous lovely iron sheep sculptures about her yard and the friendly greeting of her Icelandic sheep dogs, Ike and Ely. Susan greeted us at the door. She was wearing a well-worn Icelandic sweater, she was tall, and her smile filled her whole face. Her eyes smiled perhaps even more than her

Tongue River Farm ewes on early spring pasture



mouth. We entered her house thru the front door into her tidy 'living room'. Chrome shelves filled with organized sheep products. No furniture per se, perhaps a chair or two, but pelts, yarn, socks, books, baskets galore. We'd entered a new world. On to her kitchen, where we saw more chrome shelves filled with giant jars of grain and beans and dried herbs, a big round table and an aroma of good food cooking. We were offered brownies and beverage . . . we three sat round the table and discussed sheep and

shepherding for a long time before taking our tour.

## Introduction to Icelandic Sheep

First we met the rams, whose pasture surrounded her back yard. They were the first Icelandic sheep we ever laid eyes upon, and we were taken aback by their bold beauty. There were about 15 or 20 of them, all colors and ages. We'd memorized her website and we were so thrilled to see them in person . . . it was very much like seeing movie stars! We wanted to pet them, but Susan, ever the teacher,

gave us a lesson in ram management. She moved a couple of them into a pen and toward the chute system as a demonstration: This is how you want your rams to behave, obedient and orderly. They are not pets.

We climbed aboard her farm truck atop some hay bales and motored down a long slope to view the ewes. So many, so beautiful, so wary. When we asked about an exceptionally alert, very beautiful ewe we were told that she was the leadersheep.

*(Continued on page 16)*

That stunning spotted ewe stayed at the periphery of the crowd. Susan deposited some flakes of alfalfa hay near the truck and we were able to touch a few of the girls. Oh the fleece! It was like touching a cloud. At a certain point, the leadersheep decided that it was enough and took them all away, followed by a reluctant guard dog.

Visit with the sheep now officially ended, Susan gave us some introductory instruction regarding fencing/predator control and pasture management. We left that day with our heads swimming with information. Who'd have thought there was so much to learn?!

### Mentor

So we bought our starter flock of Icelandic Sheep from a flock dispersal sale. And happily, several of those ewes were actually SRX ewes. Due to health reasons, the person we bought from was not able to instruct us, and we turned to Susan. The time and energy she put into each answer, to every one of our ques-

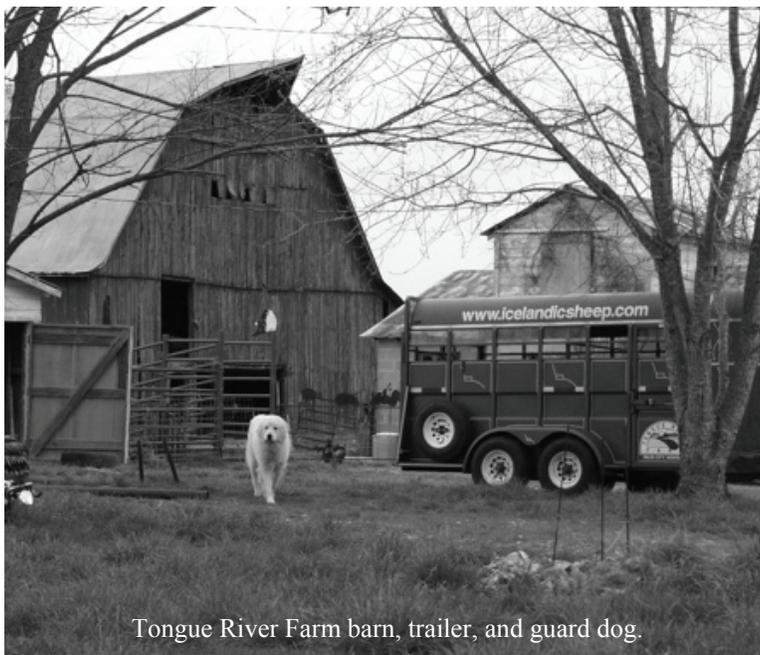
tions, from the first moment we met her until just days before she left us always awed and humbled us. The vastness of Susan's knowledge, her complete willingness to share all her information, and the way she presented her suggestions were beyond anything we'd ever experienced. The depth and breadth of her shepherding experience we never found the edges of. And though we were constantly careful not to waste her time with questions we could find our own answers to online, there were so many instances where we truly needed her help. She gave instructions thoroughly, including dosages and number of treatments needed. Whenever we

asked Susan an esoteric sheep question, she never ever judged, she never couched her opinion as "you

should do . . ." Her opinions were always qualified by her own personal examples, many times a wonderful story. We heard about her farms, her children, her other livestock and her vegetable growing. We heard about livestock guardians from her past, and mustang horses at her back door. We heard about her many wonderful friends and what her children we up to. We heard about the logic behind her perfect shepherd's house and the hows and whys of its construction. We heard a lot a lot about pasture management, and about the mind of the sheep. I'm not sure when exactly I realized that I loved Susan. But somewhere in there, somewhere in the middle of learning from her, I discovered that her health, and her happiness and her wellbeing were a priority in my life.

I miss Susan so much.

*Connie Millard  
Eight Pond Farm, Hermann, MO*



Tongue River Farm barn, trailer, and guard dog.



The shepherd leading her flock

# Tributes and Remembrances

ISBONA has lost a great champion and breeder of Icelandic sheep.

Susan passed away yesterday at the "perfect shepherd's house" she built on her farm in Missouri. She had been battling leukemia for several years and the last new chemo drug she was trying failed.

Her children were in Missouri with her, her beloved sheep were settled in new homes, a neighbor had built a coffin. She was, I think, ready. She is being buried on her farm in her Icelandic sweater and felted slippers.

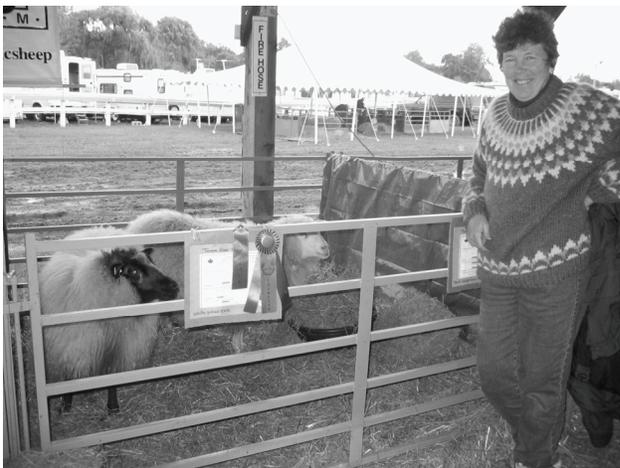
I wish I were more ready to let her go. I guess I thought she could overcome almost anything (since she usually did). When she showed up at my doorstep just before Rhinebeck last fall she looked so good. I felt she would beat this thing.

She has given me so much - most of our original sheep came from her old Montana farm. She was always there for Jimmie and later for me when we needed advice about some sheep problem. She was a great mentor and friend. I will miss her so much.

The family had to bury her within 24 hours (I think at her request, plus it's probably necessary for a home burial in Missouri). Since we can't be there for her funeral, I thought we could do memorial get-togethers at the fiber festivals this year. I am putting together something for Rhinebeck in October. We could bring pictures, stories, memories and have a chance to say goodbye to a wonderful woman whom many of us will miss greatly.

*Mike Kelley*

*Dancing Lamb Farm, Earlton, NY*



Susan Briggs with her champion sheep at Rhinebeck.

My name is Keith Erny and we have an Icelandic flock in Kentucky. Some of you know me, some not. I'd like to add my condolences to Susan's family. Susan, like for so many of us, gave us the tools to be successful with our Icelandic business. She gave them willingly and without prejudice. I, alas, was not in contact with her during her final time with us. I meant to...and, well you know, best laid plans and all. Then, just like that, she was gone. A couple of years ago, there was a lot of turmoil on [the ISBONA email] list. Many of us took sides in a way and sometimes discussions became heated. One particular exchange involved Stefania and myself. I said some things that caused me to regret my unwisely-chosen words. To make a long story short, right after Stefania's sister passed away, I emailed her to give her my condolences. That email also contained my sincere apology for the way I had treated her and she graciously accepted it without question. She returned a wonderful email to me that I will never forget. A few of you had emailed me (you know who you are :-)) and said Stefania was JUST that sort of soul.

Susan was the one, knowing how the exchange had affected me, who encouraged me to write her and make my peace. Susan, in her profound wisdom knew, and helped me to understand again, just how short life is, too short to say things you wished you hadn't, then never get the chance to take them back. I fortunately got the chance. I envy those of you that were able to see and talk to Susan in her final days. I will miss picking up the phone and hearing her calm, gentle voice just as I do Jimmie's.

Ya know, sometimes life just plain sucks . . . then folks come along like these. They pick you up and make you feel tall again.

Be well and peace to you all.

*Keith Erny*

*Black Bridge Farm, Nicholasville, KY*

# Tributes and Remembrances

On July 15, 2008, we lost a very dear friend and mentor.

Susan Briggs was a remarkable woman. Her strength and endurance are to be envied. We met Susan for the first time early in 2003. After a year of researching different breeds of sheep, we had fallen in love with Icelandics. Susan was just settling in on her new farm in Bunker, MO. She had moved her entire flock from Montana and there was much work to be done. At that time, Susan was 60+, working a 300-acre farm with more than 300 animals in her flock, with minimal help from anyone.

Little did we know at the time, how fortunate for us, that Susan had chosen this part of the country for her new home. Frances was visiting with her from NY and told us that we were in very knowledgeable hands. We were indeed!

After seeing her beautiful animals, we were ready to take them

home, but Susan insisted that we wait until fall. She wanted to make sure that the animals were going to do okay in this southern climate. Reluctantly we agreed to come back later in the summer to "pick out" our first Icelandic sheep.

In the meantime, we learned as much from Susan as we could. We helped with some task on each of our visits to Tongue River Farm. We eagerly jumped into moving fence to make new paddocks for the flock, skirted fleece, fed hay, tattooed/tagged ears and gave de-wormer. Whatever her task of the day was, we wanted to be a part of it. That experience has benefited us over the years.

Susan was always there when we needed advice or someone to listen. During our first lambing season, we had a ewe in trouble. Susan took our call at midnight and gave us her best advice. Unfortunately, the ewe was too small

to deliver her lamb and we lost both of them. Susan said she had never had this happen with any of her ewes and replaced the ewe at no cost. This is a true testament to her integrity and honor.

She was an amazing shepherdess who cared deeply for her animals until the end. Even during the final round up, she was most concerned that they be well fed and stressed as little as possible, before traveling to their new homes.

We will miss this dear friend and mentor. Her knowledge of this breed and her ability to make a living solely from her flock is to be admired. We are honored to assist with the sale of her remaining products. We also hope to carry on her work, with the highest quality of breeding stock and fiber possible.

*Dennis and Marilyn Miles  
Bloomin' Acres, Lincoln, AR*

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Prior to her final illness, Susan Briggs entrusted Dennis and Marilyn Miles with the task of selling the remainder of her wool and sheep-related products. This inventory includes books, knitting patterns, yarn, rovings, gift items, and more!

If you would like to purchase any of these items, please visit:

[www.bloominacresfarm.com/index\\_files/products.html](http://www.bloominacresfarm.com/index_files/products.html)



# Harvest Lamb Chops

12 lamb chops (2 per person)  
2 Tbs extra virgin olive oil  
1 Large yellow onion, chopped  
6 medium red potatoes, cut in half and sliced  
1 Tbs fresh thyme  
3-5 chopped garlic cloves  
Salt and pepper to taste

1/4 cup tomato paste  
2 celery, chopped  
2 carrots, chopped  
2 Tbs flour  
1/2 carton of chicken or vegetable stock  
1/2-1 cup red wine  
fresh parsley

Preheat the broiler. Then you can make the vegetable "base" in a large skillet on medium heat. Coat the bottom of the pan with the olive oil, add the onion, potatoes, thyme, garlic, and throw in some salt and pepper too. Cook until the onions brown. Add the carrots, celery, and tomato paste and cook for about 5 more minutes. Sprinkle with the flour, cook for just a minute or so to make a bit of a roux, then add the stock and bring to a boil. Turn the heat down and simmer for 10 minutes.

While the vegetables are simmering, put the chops on a broiler pan and throw a little salt and pepper on the chops. Broil the chops for about 3-4 minutes on each side for medium rare.

Then serve the vegetables as a "base" in bowls with a couple of chops on top and sprinkle with a bit of parsley. Great for a fall dinner party with friends or family!

*~ Brianna Schneider, Bridosha Farm, Westphalia, MI*

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# Queso Cabeza Farm

## Llamas and Icelandic Sheep



Remembering Susan Briggs

Appreciating the Tongue River Farm  
influence on our polled flock

Preserving the legacy

Rick Boesen and Laura Volkmann  
21879 V Drive North  
Olivet, MI 49076

Phone: 269-749-9404  
[www.QuesoCabezaFarm.com](http://www.QuesoCabezaFarm.com)



# American Lamb Board

## What is it?

The American Lamb Board is an industry funded research and promotions commodity board that represents all sectors of the American Lamb industry including producers, feeders, seed stock producers and processors. The 13-member Board, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, is focused on increasing demand by promoting the freshness, flavor, nutritional benefits, and culinary versatility of American Lamb. The work of the American Lamb Board is overseen by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the board's programs are supported and implemented by the staff in Denver, Colorado.

American Lamb Board  
6300 E. Hampden Ave.  
Suite 2106  
Denver, CO 80222  
Phone: (866) 327-LAMB (5262)  
Email: [info@americanlambboard.org](mailto:info@americanlambboard.org)

## Lamb is Nutrient Rich

Because lamb naturally contains many essential nutrients, it is an easy fit for healthy diets. On average, lamb is an excellent source of protein, vitamin B12, niacin, zinc, and selenium, and a good source of iron and riboflavin. All of this within an average of 175 calories per 3 ounce serving makes lamb naturally nutrient-rich.

## Lamb is Lean

On average, a three ounce serving of lamb has only 175 calories and meets the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) definition for lean. According to FDA guidelines, lean meat has less than 10 grams of fat, less than 4.5 grams of saturated fat, and less than 95 milligrams of cholesterol per 100 grams or 3.5 ounces.

CUT OF LAMB	SIZE	COOKING METHOD	COOKING TIME	INTERNAL TEMPERATURE
LAMB LEG, BONE IN	5 to 7 lbs.	Roast 325°F	20 to 25 min./lb. 25 to 30 min./lb. 30 to 35 min./lb.	Medium Rare 145°F Medium 160°F Well Done 170°F
LAMB LEG, BONE IN	7 to 9 lbs.	Roast 325°F	15 to 20 min./lb. 20 to 25 min./lb. 25 to 30 min./lb.	Medium Rare 145°F Medium 160°F Well Done 170°F
LAMB LEG, BONE-LESS, ROLLED	4 to 7 lbs.	Roast 325°F	25 to 30 min./lb. 30 to 35 min./lb. 35 to 40 min./lb.	Medium Rare 145°F Medium 160°F Well Done 170°F
SHOULDER ROAST OR SHANK LEG HALF	3 to 4 lbs.	Roast 325°F	30 to 35 min./lb. 40 to 45 min./lb. 45 to 50 min./lb.	Medium Rare 145°F Medium 160°F Well Done 170°F
CUBES, FOR KABOBS	1 to 1.5"	Broil/Grill	8 to 12 minutes	Medium 160°F
GROUND LAMB PATTIES	2" thick	Broil/Grill	7 to 11 minutes 15 to 19 minutes	Medium 160°F
CHOPS, RIB, OR LOIN	1 to 1.5" thick	Broil/Grill	7 to 11 minutes 15 to 19 minutes	Medium Rare 145°F
LEG STEAKS	.5" thick	Broil/Grill 4" from heat	14 to 18 minutes	Medium Rare 145°F
STEW MEAT, PIECES	1 to 1.5"	Cover with liquid; simmer	1.5 to 2 hours	Medium Rare 145°F Medium 160°F
SHANKS	.5 to 1 lb.	Cover with liquid; simmer	1.5 to 2 hours	Medium 160°F

Visit  
[americanlambboard.org](http://americanlambboard.org)  
for more tips and recipes

# Hear ye! Hear ye!! Hear ye!!!

It is the responsibility of each and every individual member to keep their personal information up to date with the membership secretary. If you move, get a new email address, change phone numbers, develop a new web site, or whatever, it is imperative that you let the membership secretary know of the change.

Through the magic of computers, and the miracle of Mail Merge, the information that we have on file for you is printed out below. Your information appears only in your personal copy of the newsletter. No other member will see your data. If you find any errors, or would like to make any changes, please send the corrections to the membership secretary via one of the following means:

Snail Mail: ISBONA Membership Secretary  
c/o Josslyn Richardson  
7783 Concession 2 Road, RR #3  
Wellandport, Ontario LOR2JO  
Canada

E-mail: willowfarm@talkwireless.ca

Phone: 905-957-6266 (This is a Canadian number)

Your data:

«AddressBlock»

Other Names: «Other Names»

Farm Name: «Farm Name»

Membership Level: «Type»

Phone Number: «PhoneNumber»

Flock Code: «FlockCode»

E-Mail Address: «Email Address»

Website Address: «Website»

## Full and Web members take note!

The information in the membership secretary's database is what will be used to generate the Breeders' List for 2009, which will come out in the next edition of the newsletter.

If you don't get corrected information to the membership Secretary, the data will not be correct in the Breeders' List.

**Check your membership information for accuracy and completeness!!!**

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## Parmesan Crusted Lamb Loin

1-1/2 pounds boneless lamb loin

2 tablespoons olive oil

2 sprigs rosemary, chopped

10 garlic cloves, sliced

to taste salt and freshly ground pepper

2 tablespoons olive oil and butter

4 tablespoons butter

1/2 cup Panko bread crumbs

1 cup grated Parmigiano Reggiano

1 egg

1 shallot, small diced

2 tablespoons butter

1 tablespoon olive oil

2/3 cup tomato paste

4 cups lamb stock

3 tablespoons cold diced butter

Combine olive oil, rosemary, garlic, salt and pepper. Rub marinade over lamb loin and hold for 20 minutes. Heat a heavy-bottomed pan over medium-high heat until hot. Add olive oil and butter. Sear lamb on all sides.

Heat butter in a pan and add crumbs; sauté until light brown. Remove from heat; add cheese. Add egg and mix well. Coat the top of the loin with the cheese mixture; place on a rack and roast at 375°F until desired doneness. Let rest for 5 to 7 minutes; slice.

For Sauce: Add shallot, butter and olive oil to a small pot over medium heat. Stir until shallot begins to soften. Add tomato paste; cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Add lamb stock; whisk well. Simmer and reduce by one-third. Finish with butter and salt if needed.

~ Courtesy of American Lamb Board

# The Creek's Edge Icelandic Sheep



Grand Champion Ram  
TCE 395U AI



Grand Champion Ewe  
TCE 445U

Michigan Fiber Festival

## **Breeding Stock for Sale**

Many ram lambs available that will make excellent  
flock sires

## **The Creek's Edge**

15331 Dawkins Rd.

Rapid City, SD 57703

605-393-1972

[ajleighton@gwtc.net](mailto:ajleighton@gwtc.net)

[www.thecreeksedge.com](http://www.thecreeksedge.com)

# Michigan Fiber Festival Sheep Show Results

The Michigan Fiber Festival was held on August 16 & 17, 2008. There were 251 sheep of 10 different breeds entered by 37 breeders from 7 states. In the Icelandic breed, there were 5 breeders showing 33 sheep, with these results:

## Yearling Ram:

1. Lyle & Donna Behl, Rochester, IL
2. Lyle & Donna Behl

## Jr. Ram Lamb:

1. Alan Leighton, Rapid City, SD
2. Marty & David Favre, Charlotte, MI
3. Marty & David Favre
4. Alan Leighton

## Pair of Ram Lambs:

1. Marty & David Favre
2. Alan Leighton
3. Lyle & Donna Behl

## Champion Ram:

Alan Leighton (photo at left)

## Reserve Champion Ram:

Lyle & Donna Behl

## Yearling Ewe:

1. Marty & David Favre
2. Marty & David Favre
3. Lyle & Donna Behl
4. Alan Leighton

## Pair of Yearling Ewes:

1. Marty & David Favre
2. Alan Leighton
3. Lyle & Donna Behl

## Jr. Ewe Lamb:

1. Alan Leighton

2. Colleen Schmidt, Wayland, MI
3. Lyle & Donna Behl
4. Marty & David Favre

## Pair of Ewe Lambs:

1. Lyle & Donna Behl
2. Colleen Schmidt
3. Alan Leighton
4. Marty & David Favre

## Champion Ewe:

Alan Leighton (photo at left)

## Reserve Champion Ewe:

Colleen Schmidt

## Flock:

1. Lyle & Donna Behl
2. Marty & David Favre
3. Alan Leighton



LVR 812U B5SC—ram



LVR 811U B2H—ram

**LVR 71T B2H-ram  
With Boo in Lead  
2008 MT ST Fair**



LVR 84U B5SP—ewe

## LeVeque Ranch



Registered  
Icelandic Sheep,  
Fleece, and Fiber

Dale & Lilly  
LeVeque & Kids

280 Ten Mile Rd,  
Cascade, MT 59421

[www.levequeicelandics.com](http://www.levequeicelandics.com) (406)468-2776

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

The 2008 AGM was held at Season's restaurant in Canby, Oregon, at 6:00pm on Saturday, September 27, in conjunction with Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival. The farthest traveler was believed to be Lorry McDonald from Missouri. ISBONA Vice President Marty Favre came from Michigan, and others arrived from Canada,

Montana, Washington, Idaho, California, and of course Oregon. Susan Chapell and Noel Carlson set up the silent auction table while others checked in and

got name tags. After

everyone ordered dinner, Marty convened the meeting with everyone introducing themselves. This enabled Members to put faces to names. Marty read the message from ISBONA President Barb Webb, explaining her inability to attend the AGM. Those in attendance were disappointed but understood that family does come first and hoped that Barb's mom is better.

The meeting was held in accordance to the following agenda:

1. Welcome message delivered by Vice President Marty Favre, who was presiding over the meeting in Barb Webb's absence.

2. Secretary's Report - Delivered by Marty Favre, followed by discussion. Motion to accept, second, vote. {minutes of the last AGM were accepted}



ISBONA members enjoy conversation at the 2008 Annual General Meeting in Canby, OR.

3. Treasurer's Report - Delivered by Lilly LeVeque, followed by discussion and questions. Motion to accept, second, vote. {report accepted}

4. Membership Secretary's Report - Submitted by Josslyn Richardson, current as of September 22nd 2008:

ISBONA has 247 members on the roll. So far 102 have not renewed. The multi-year membership is becoming more popu-

lar, with 52 out of the remaining paid-up members of 145 opting for that. Web memberships are growing, at the expense of the Full and the Newsletter ones.

Josslyn sent an e-mail in early September to the membership, reminding them to pay their dues; there was a limited response to this. [Josslyn's] plan is to remove those who have not

paid by the end of October. It has been the practice in the past to continue to send Newsletters and still allow access to the email list.

[Josslyn] proposed we discontinue this practice as unfair to those members who are

paying. If there is no renewal by the end of October then the names will be removed from the list.

There are many questions re: CLRC and flock codes. [Josslyn is] involved in a discussion with Lorna Woolsey at CLRC trying to clarify the process. When that is done Josslyn will send it in for publication in the newsletter and perhaps it can go on the ISBONA website.

*(Continued on page 25)*

It will be wonderful to have Cheryl take over the distribution of the membership packages. They have been running at approximately 30 new members per year since Josslyn took over (as Membership Secretary) so that will enable Josslyn to spend more time in the database trying to streamline processes and entries.

#### 5. Old Business

A. NAIS. The Board has voted to take no action unless or until the U.S. Government demands information. Is further action by ISBONA necessary, and if so, what? {decided no further action at this time}

B. ISBONA member sheep census. Should we take a census of numbers of sheep per member? Suggested questions, registered vs. non-registered. Stated goals of member, fiber, meat, milk, pets, other? {discussion}

C. Creation of professional subcommittee for Icelandic meat and wool improvement and Icelandic sheep breed standards for North America. {discussion; consensus seemed to be that ISBONA would need a survey first}

D. Imported (AI) ram informational registry at ISBONA on our AI webpage? Should ISBONA cooperate with EJ Brennan and the work he has already done, or just link to his page? {discussion about linking to page since EJ has gone to all of the work}

E. Translation of website and articles therein into French for our French-speaking members. Reactions or suggestions? {discussion about cost and how

many pages it would take on our website, need more information}

F. Other ideas to broaden the reach of ISBONA benefits for Canadian members? Or other ways to attract and keep Canadian members? ISBONA has not done as well enrolling Canadian breeders as those from the States. Ideas? {need to poll Canadian breeders, could correspond with the survey}

G. Projects to benefit the entire membership. We are initiating the Icelandic sheep poster project. We will import the posters from Southram and offer them to members at a very small markup from cost. Ongoing offers of show premiums for Icelandic sheep and fiber classes.

#### 6. New Business

A. Open call for 2009 AGM proposals, Eastern Division. Proposals to be submitted to the

Board and the call will be repeated in the newsletter.

B. Projects that Benefit all Members - an open call for new ideas. {Perhaps an activity/ coloring book; Helen has graciously accepted to do more graphics to coincide with our logo and Sondra is talking to someone about word search puzzles. Jim is looking into publishing.} {Other ideas, please contact a Board member to get it brought forward}

C. Volunteers - Rick and Connie have worked quickly as the Nominating Committee to produce the following:

List Moderators - Ellen (ME), Lorraine (IA)

North American Government Oversight Committee - Brianna (MI), {Should be listed as US-NAIS committee at this point due to that is what is being talked about and we do not have a "North American" government}

BoD Members - Alethea (MN), Joanne (ME), Marylinn (AK), Amy (AL)

Membership Undersecretary - Cheryl Wright

Breed Promotion Committee. - Elaine Clark, to work closely with the Advertising Committee.

#### 7. Adjourn, motion, second.

Of course we also talked about Icelandic sheep! We had old members, new members, and some that were considering joining at the meeting. It was very nice and I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make it a success.

*Lilly LeVeque*

**Think you have what it takes to organize an AGM?**

**The 2009 Annual General Meeting will take place in the Eastern Region.**

**Please submit YOUR proposal for hosting the AGM to the Board member of your choice.**

# Silence is Golden



Some of the fine items available at the auction.

This is a note to recognize and thank all contributors toward the 2008 ISBONA Silent Auction. Their efforts collectively resulted in a \$530 donation to ISBONA! These funds have not yet been officially designated to a specific project, so if someone has a project in mind that would benefit from these funds, please contact one of the ISBONA board members with your idea.

For me the silent auction is a fun way to help out ISBONA. It is delightful to receive unannounced packages in the mail and open them, not knowing what I'll find inside (kind of like Christmas in summertime!)

One funny story to tell about this silent auction: we received a large shepherd's crook as a donation, mailed in an appropriately-sized box. Paul and I had to pack it in our little Subaru Forester along with the rest of our belong-

ings for a week-long trip. For several days prior to the silent auction, we were loading and unloading the car with our luggage at several stops along the 9 hour trip to Canby; and the boxed crook was always in the way. I remember thinking "oh, well, it will be nice on the trip home not to have to deal with this," only to find out at the AGM that Paul had bid the highest bid and we were now its proud owners!! (Yes, we took it back home with us, but this time we shed the box to streamline its profile).

On a similar note, several folks from Montana made the trip out to Oregon together. One person donated a large jar of home-made huckleberry jam...only to have her fellow rider bid the highest bid, so that jar made the round-trip from Montana back to Montana again (hopefully the jar stayed intact

the whole way!).

Again, a big Thank You to all contributors (both donors and bidders) of the 2008 ISBONA Silent Auction. They are:

Tom & Mette Goehring, Ranch of the Oaks  
Karen Christiansen, Morning Star Fiber  
Jan Jenkins, Tamarack Farm Sheep & Wool

Anonymous

M. Jackson & C. Millard, Eight Pond Farm  
Helen McFarland, Walker Forks Sheep Camp  
Noel Carlson, Holst Station  
Paul & Susan Chappell, Sunnyside Farm  
Lilly LeVeque, LeVeque Ranch  
Linda DeMoss, DeMoss Mountain Meadows Ranch  
Annie Kosanovic-Brown, Dolce Farm & Orchards  
Lorry McDonald, Blackwater Treasures  
Fran Ogren, Trumpkinland Farm  
Colleen Deatherage, Flannelberry Farm  
Lee Bates, Jerry Lee Farm  
Robert Byers, Tideview Farm  
Sondra Gibson, Raven's Rest Icelandics  
Ann Glick

*Susan Chappell  
Sunnyside Farm, Janesville, CA  
Silent Auction Coordinator*

# National Icelandic Sheep Show Results

The 2008 National Icelandic Sheep Show was held at the Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival, in Canby, OR, in conjunction with the ISBONA Annual General Meeting. The judge was Ian Stewart, originally from New Zealand. Mr. Stewart also judged the fleece class and left a note that it was the best display of fleeces he had seen, as all were nice and clean and there was no “junk” exhibited.

Placings were as follows, with a maximum of five placings in each division:

Ram lambs:

1. Vizual Delite Icelandics (Grand Champion Icelandic Ram) (Sindi & Mike Loughlin, WA)
2. LeVeque Ranch Icelandics (Reserve Champion Icelandic Ram) (Dale & Lilly LeVeque, MT)
3. LeVeque Ranch Icelandics
4. Dolce Farm (Ann Kosanovic-Brown, OR)
5. Ravens Rest (Sondra Gibson, MT)

Yearling ewes:

1. Vizual Delite Icelandics (Reserve Champion Icelandic Ewe)
2. LeVeque Ranch Icelandics
3. Ravens Rest

Ewe Lambs:

1. Vizual Delite Icelandics (Grand Champion Icelandic Ewe)
2. Dolce Farms
3. Dolce Farms
4. LeVeque Ranch Icelandics
5. LeVeque Ranch Icelandics

Flock:

1. Vizual Delite Icelandics
2. LeVeque Icelandics
3. Dolce Farms

Also showing sheep were Chris and Wendy Hanson from Woolly Bear Farms, OR

Best Fleece Live Animal:

Vizual Delite Icelandics

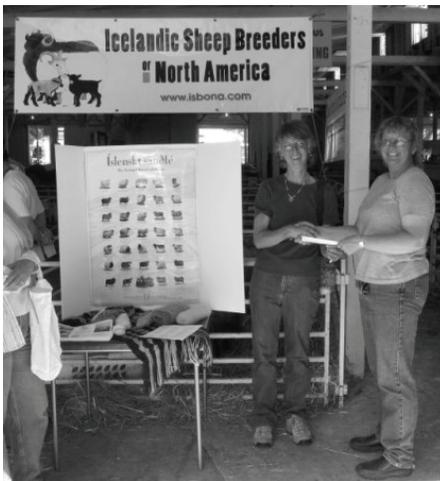
Grand Champion Icelandic Fleece:

Craig and Linda DeMoss, ID

Reserve Champion Icelandic Fleece:

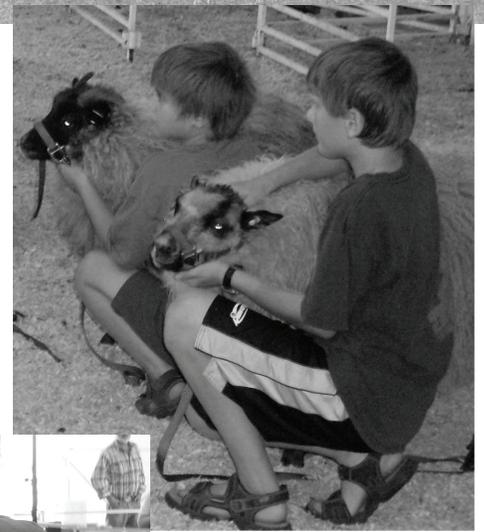
Per and Barb (Fair) Gunness, MT

*Submitted by Lilly LeVeque*



Left: Grand Champion Ram from Vizual Delite Icelandics  
Above: Grand Champion Fleece winner with ISBONA display  
Right: Grand Champion Ewe from Vizual Delite Icelandics





*Photos courtesy of  
Lilly LeVeque*

## Scenes from the National Icelandic Sheep Show

# Sun Valley Farm Icelandic Sheep



## BREEDING STOCK FOR SALE

George & Jeanette Sundstrom

300 County Road H

Mount Horeb, WI 53572

(608) 523-1031

[sunvalley@tds.net](mailto:sunvalley@tds.net)

[www.sunvalleyfibers.com](http://www.sunvalleyfibers.com)

# Help Needed with Tactile Scrapbooks

WANTED - Fleece samples, pictures, samples of spun yarn, pictures of projects made with your Icelandic sheep wool, small knitted or crocheted swatches, be creative! I am making a "tactile scrapbook" about the wool of our beautiful sheep. The idea is to provide something tactile showing the variety of colors of the Icelandic breed. When this project is complete, one 8 x 8 scrapbook will be included in each of the show boxes available from the ISBONA Library for members to borrow when taking sheep to a fair or other event.

Since I have 5 scrapbooks to make, below is a list of things that I would like to have. Items 1 and 2 are particularly important, with the other items as optional.

For each of these things I need to know the name of the sheep so I can identify all these items on the same page of the scrapbook.

1. Pictures of your sheep in full fleece. Tell me the color (genetically) you think the sheep is. It might be obvious, but please do it anyway. I want your sheep presented the way you think they are. Also tell me the name of the sheep in the picture. Digital pictures are a plus, since I have to make copies - 1 for each book.
2. Enough sample of locks so I can do 5 scrapbooks. Select enough locks to put in a zip-lock-type sandwich bag. Label the bag with the sheep's

color and name. Hopefully you will send me a picture of that sheep too, and the name should match the picture you send.

3. Got any spun yarn or can you knit up 5 sample swatches from that sheep's fleece? If you send yarn, about a yard of it will do.
4. Samples of any felt that you have made.
5. Pictures of projects you have made, such as felted boots, shawls, rugs, sweaters, etc.
6. Horns. I am making horn buttons to use to attach the fleece locks to each page. I have some horns myself and others have already donated a few, but I need a few more. If I end up not using them, I will send them back to you.

I hope to make real progress on this project this winter. However, the amount of materials I have to work with will dictate whether or not I can complete it. I need your help! Please take the time to donate

these items to this project. Anyone donating will be listed on the last page of each book, your name or your farm name, you choose. This is a wonderful way to promote this breed. Please help! And if you have already sent samples - THANK YOU!

Send samples to:  
Cheryl Wright  
Maple View Icelandics  
3489 Loop Rd  
Westfield, VT 05874

Email digital pictures to:  
mvi@together.net

Beautiful Icelandic wool—you know you love it, so help promote it!



# Farm Profile: A Woman on a Mission

A woman on a mission. That is the distinct impression I had after talking with Suellen Thompson-Link of Kinkoona Farm. She took a break from loading bales of hay into her barn to let me stumble through a few questions for my first farm profile interview. We actually had set an appointment for this time to have our conversation, but as we all know, haying waits for no one.

Kinkoona Farm is located in Brodhead, WI, which is about a half hour south of Madison. Suellen and her three kids raise Icelandic sheep primarily for fiber products and breed stock, but her farm includes so much more. Other breeds in her flock include Shetland, Targhee, Texel/ Hampshire crosses, Colombia, and Border Leicester.

Suellen works part-time off the farm as an Occupational Therapist, home-schools her three children (ages 9, 11, and 14), produces and markets many different farm products using sustainable practices, runs a series of farm day camps for kids all summer, and hopes to eventually incorporate programs for at-risk youth. This is a truly inspirational small farm and they are succeeding in their goals of sustainability, community outreach, and a happy rural life for their family.

Suellen, an Australia native, originally chose the Icelandic breed for its unique fiber qualities. She rotationally grazes her



The Kinkoona Farm Staff—Suellen & her children

flock of 140 sheep, moving them every two to five days, depending on the rate of pasture growth. With fecal monitoring and rota-



Kinkoona Farm

tional grazing, she says parasites rarely pose a problem for her sheep.

Using many different breeds of sheep, her fleeces find their way into organic pet toys, pet beds, and beautiful, natural mat-



ress toppers, all made in cooperation with local crafters. Suellen has worked hard to find specialty niches for her farm products, always emphasizing local community and sustainability.

Another passion is education and sharing the farm with kids. The summer day camps are a great way to offer lots of fun and learning, while also providing income for the family.

She and her kids facilitate the camps, which run for three days at a time with different themes for each session. Campers can learn about wool, worms, growing plants, building sand castles, and more, all mixed in with snacks, art, and games. Not only do participants get off the couch and away from the Playstation, they have a chance to be immersed in farm life and are shown a great example in Suellen's children who all work the farm with her.

After talking with Suellen, I wished I could visit Kinkoona Farm and spend time with the whole family. It sounds like a fun, busy, interesting, inspiring, and happy place, and something tells me I have only scratched the surface. You can visit them via the Kinkoona Farm website at [www.baabaashop.com](http://www.baabaashop.com).

*Sue Faunce  
Pondview Farm, Limington, ME  
Farm Profiles Editor*

Butting ram lambs

# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

## **Minutes of Board Meeting June 7 to August 16, 2008**

The meeting was called to order on June 7, 2008. The Board consisted of Barbara Webb, President, Bonnie Swenson, Vice President, Lilly Leveque, Treasurer, Josslyn Richardson, Membership Secretary, Marty Favre, Secretary, Tom McDowell, Rick Boesen, Noel Carlson, Natalie Chartier, Colleen Deatherage, and Cheryl Wright.

The minutes of the previous meeting (February 1 to April 1, 2008) were published in the spring newsletter. Colleen moved and Cheryl seconded the motion to accept the minutes without correction. Votes: yes, 5; no, 0.

Josslyn submitted the Membership Secretary's Report as of July 4th 2008: The number of new memberships has slowed down over the last quarter. There are a total of 227 members, including 54 Newsletter members, 42 Full members, 127 Web members, one Junior member, and 4 Honorary members. The Full membership appears to be on the decline and the Web membership on the increase.

Lilly submitted the Treasurer's Report. Cheryl moved and Tom seconded the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report (see table).

The ending balance is the same as the balance of the checkbook on 6/8/08. The Balance includes the Library Fund at \$237.00 and the Silent Auction ('03) amount of \$459.99 (for poster project). Not included in the balance is the

petty cash for the Library. The maturity date for the CD was 5/30/08, which has rolled over to a new maturity date of 11/30/08.

Alan Leighton, Advertising Coordinator, reported that we are currently advertising in Hobby Farms Breeder's Listing (\$204.00/year), Countryside Small Stock Journal Breeder's Listing (\$60.00/year), Sheep! Breeder's Listing (\$40.00/year), The Shepherd Breeder's Listing (\$45.00/year), BC Sheep Federation Breeder's Listing (\$40.00/year), The Shepherd's Journal Breeder's Listing (\$50.00/year), Small Farm Today Breeder's Listing (\$100.00/year), and American Sheep Industry News Breeder's Directory (\$100.00/year). The total is \$639.00/year.

There are two ads scheduled for Fiber Fairs: Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival display ad (\$80.00) and Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival full-page display (\$140.00). Alan is looking into other ads, keeping in mind that the board approved a \$2,500 budget for advertising.

Colleen moved and Noel seconded that we accept Alan's report.

Connie Millard submitted the library report. The banners and posters have seen pretty much action the past couple of months. She reports that she still has not done an inventory on the video tapes, nor watched them for quality control. Susan Briggs had several books for sale, especially on felting, and even though there has not been much action on this

topic lately, Connie planned to buy one or two for the Library if they look interesting.

There is a book missing from the inventory: The Icelandic Fleece - A Fiber for All Reasons, by Beth Abbott. It never arrived with the initial shipment and there have been a few requests for it. Connie emailed Carolyn (previous librarian) for her loan list a couple of times with no response. Connie has also been emailing the two borrowers who had books out during the transition. Since Connie does not have any borrower information from before she became Librarian, there is not much else she can do. She will, however, purchase a replacement copy of the book for the library if one can be found.

Colleen moved and Noel seconded that we accept the Librarian's Report. Yes votes: 4; No votes: 0.

Marge Jackson, Webmaster, reported: "I have repaired the link to the Southram Station on the Resources page. Southram must have changed their site URL at some point. I noticed at least one ISBONA member site that is also using the same incorrect URL. Southram has somewhat of a non-traditional organization to their website, so I chose a link to a page that seemed to be the most informational for a reader. Obviously, webpage redesign is not too much of an issue; if you would like to have Southram referenced anywhere else, please just let me know."

*(Continued on page 33)*

“A small revision was made to the website regarding color ad prices for the newsletter during the discussion with the advertiser who wanted a color ad to be placed. If you have changes for that information, please send me approved text and I will post it immediately.”

Laura Volkmann, Newsletter Editor, reported: “The spring issue was quite good, with a variety of submissions to keep the content interesting. I have received quite a few positive comments, and a few helpful suggestions, though of course the newsletter is only as good as what the members send in!

“There were some software issues (I believe the printer had a newer version of Publisher than I did) that caused the ends of some of the articles to get cut off. The problem has been corrected. I will include a blurb with the corrections and missing credits in the summer issue.

“It looks like we will have a good issue for summer, too, with a variety of articles again as well as an increase in the number of advertisers.

The ad payment system (where ad copy is emailed to me and a check is mailed to Lilly, and the ad only runs after Lilly has confirmed receipt of the payment) seems to be working well. Lilly and I have had some conversations about how best to manage and tweak the system, but all in all it is working.

“We currently have no supportive editors for Dairy or Farm Profiles. It would be great to get regular contributions in these areas, as they seem to be of significant general interest.”

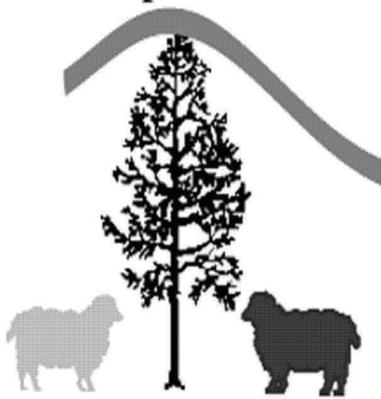
Cheryl Wright reported on the Tactile Scrapbook Project: “During the last board session I reported that I was discouraged at the member participation to this project. Since the board minutes are in the newsletters, one member from Zoar Farms in NY

worked with me and sent a wonderful big box of all kinds of items from raw fleece, knitted swatches, pelts, pictures, rovings - it was a wonderful gift and a very encouraging moment. I had also been lacking in some information about the ‘colours of Icelandic sheep’ and borrowed the book about color genetics from the ISBONA library. This has given me a really good sense of what colors I should be asking the membership for. I will address each color as I go through the process of gathering materials for the books, and will put calls out to the membership for whatever I need at the time. I hope this method works and works well for the membership as a whole. I still want to put notices in the newsletter for those that are not on the ISBONA e-list. This project will still take some time to complete, but I am more encouraged than before and will try to think up more ideas of how to get the membership engaged.”

Marty Favre

reported on the color/pattern identification book: “It is with great regret that I have to report that I am not going to be able to make this, or the poster project, happen. Looking back I realize that I should have been honest with myself and you all and resigned from this commitment several months ago. However, it was a com-

*(Continued on page 34)*

<p><b>TAMARACK FARM</b> <b>Sheep &amp; Wool</b></p>  <p><b>Icelandic &amp; Merino</b></p>	<p>Icelandic Breeding Stock Available Yearlings and Lambs Horned and Polled Most patterns and colors</p> <p>Janice Jenkins &amp; Michael Arthur P. O. Box 97, Spring Mills, PA 16875 (814) 422-8041 shepherd@tamarackfarmsheep.com www.tamarackfarmsheep.com</p>
--	--

mitment for me and I really wanted to do it and do it well. Shortly after I volunteered to take these projects on we had a string of complications in our lives that have pushed many projects into the 'to do' pile. I simply cannot justify pretending any longer that I can make this book, or the poster, happen, at least in the next two years! I am very sorry for not being able to complete my commitment. Hopefully someone else will step up and volunteer."

Southram's request to advertise on the ISBONA website was discussed. The consensus seemed to be that they should not receive special pricing because, although their service is enabling the North American flock to diversify its genetics and improve its

overall quality, our members pay for the straws and for the seminars.

Two decisions arose from this discussion. Marty moved, seconded by Cheryl, that until we have an AI page on the ISBONA website, we keep the link to Southram on the Resources page. Yes votes: 7; No votes: 0.

Noel Carlson moved and Rick Boesen seconded that we make no exceptions to our existing board-approved black/white and color advertising pricing. An on-line vote was conducted. The motion passed with 7 yes votes, no other votes.

Developing a page on AI for the ISBONA website was also discussed. Cheryl Wright has volunteered to work on the content of this project. Colleen

moved that Cheryl be appointed as coordinator for our VAI page on the ISBONA website. The motion was seconded by Marty.

Topics that have been proposed so far for the AI page: Information on previous and existing AI sires, linking to the site that EJ Brennan put together, the effect of AI on the North American flock, how to organize a seminar, how to order straws, opinion pieces on pros and cons, "mythbusters", something about where people have obtained equipment, the new requirements regarding shipping N<sub>2</sub> tanks from our entry point in the US to elsewhere, and a link to the AIRS (or SARI in French), the Canadian agency that sets the rules for importation in Canada.

*(Continued on page 35)*



Icelandic Sheep  
Registered Breed Stock  
Icelandic Fleece, Yarns and Rovings  
All Natural, Grass Fed Highland Beef

Sue and Mark Faunce  
691 Ossipee Trail  
Limington, ME 04049  
info@pondviewmaine.com

[www.pondviewmaine.com](http://www.pondviewmaine.com)

A review of the terms of current board members revealed that Barb has two more years, Marty and Lilly have one more year, Bonnie, Josslyn [*note: this has changed since the meeting was adjourned*] and Tom will be stepping down. Noel, Natalie, Rick, and Colleen were ap-



pointed for this last term and are willing to serve a full term. Cheryl was appointed and will not run for a continued term.

This entire meeting as well as this review of board members came later than usual. Many factors contributed to this, not the least of which was the fact that the board's Yahoo list stopped functioning, as did several of the board members' internet servers at various intervals during the course of the meeting.

Under new business, the value of the types of membership was discussed at length, inspired by Josslyn's concern that the membership be served well. Dropping the Full membership level was discussed, since fewer people are opting for it. In the end, the idea was discarded because of the realization that some members do not want that type of visibility. Also, if one wanted to stop selling breeding stock, they might still want to have voting privileges or to serve on the BoD. After much more discussion, Natalie moved, seconded by Rick,

that we keep the actual 3 levels of membership (Newsletter, Full member, and Web member). Votes: 7 yes; 0 no. We still need to consider price adjustments and benefits for those membership levels.

NAIS as related to our breed association was another agenda item. Two issues were brought up: what is our stance should our membership list be requested, and should our association take an official stance on the NAIS program. We began discussing it but decided it was too important to rush. Marty moved, seconded by Lilly, that we table the issue until the next meeting.

AGM Update, July 2008: "The OFFF website, [www.flockandfiberfestival.com](http://www.flockandfiberfestival.com), has been almost completely updated for 2008. The featured handcraft is knitting and the featured breed is Pygora goats. Note that in 2009 the featured "breed" is primitive and includes Icelandic, Jacob, and Navajo-Churro! Forms are available including Clackamas County Fair-

grounds camping, Fiber Creations, Raw Fiber, Sheep Show, Workshops, and Trade Show.

"All out-of-state animals need health certificates meeting Oregon Dept. of Agriculture regulations. The animals must have an ID compliant with the USDA Scrapie Eradication Program. All sheep need to be penned by Saturday at 9am. Pen fees are \$6.50/animal. There is a maximum of 2 sheep per class per exhibitor. Release time is Sunday 4pm.

Unless we have a minimum of 5 breeders and 20 sheep so that we can have our own Icelandic division, we would show in the Div III Classic Sheep class on Sunday 9/28 at 9am. Assuming that we do have 5 breeders, Annie Kosanovic-Brown was told that we would still need to show on Sunday. It is not possible to show on Saturday afternoon before the AGM. The classes that are listed in the festival guide include: 1. Ram lamb, 2. Ewe lamb, 3. Yearling ram, 4. Yearling ewe, 5. Best flock-1 ram and 2 ewes, 6. Best

*(Continued on page 36)*

fleece. The judge will be Ian Stewart from New Zealand.

“In addition, there will again be a parking lot fleece sale (raw and washed) on Sunday from 9-11am. There is a \$7 fee for 1-5 fleeces and a \$15 for 6 or more.

“The AGM is scheduled for Saturday evening, 9/27, (probably from 6 – 9 p.m. It will be scheduled to begin after classes and the naturally colored sheep show. We are leaning towards reserving a room at a local restaurant. A list of places to stay close to the fairgrounds has not yet been created.

“The silent auction has 3 items: a crook, California wines and a wool processing certificate.

“It is always difficult to plan these events. We would appreciate it if ISBONA members would contact Annie Kosanovic-Brown (annie@dolcefarm.com) to confirm attendance at the AGM since Annie will be making the dinner plans and when they submit their sheep show entry form so that we can keep a count of breeders who will be bringing animals. Hopefully, we will have at least 5 breeders and 20 sheep which will lead to a request for prize money and ribbons. Contact Susan Chappell chap-pell@frontiernet.net) to donate items for the silent auction.”

Cheryl moved and Natalie seconded that we accept the 2008 AGM report. Votes: yes: 5, no: 0.

Sue Faunce, a new member in Maine, has volunteered to take on the Farm Profile position for the newsletter. Cheryl moved to accept Sue for the position, seconded by Colleen Deatherage. Votes: 7 yes; 0 no. Colleen volunteered to take on the Dairy po-

sition for the newsletter, but no vote was taken.

Noel moved, seconded by Rick and Josslyn: that ISBONA fund the transportation and two nights’ accommodation costs associated with the ISBONA Board President attending the annual meeting. Discussion: In a time of rapidly fluctuating prices, it did not seem prudent to have a stated reimbursement amount. Most AGMs are going to incur mileage to the airport, parking fees, flight, rental car, gas, and motel. Meals could be considered a personal expense, but in the business world many companies pay for breakfast and dinner while lunch is on the employee. Yes: 6; No: 0

Josslyn moved that we conclude this session of ISBONABOARD on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008, with ISBONABOARD to be reconvened at the call of the President. The motion was seconded by Rick and Cheryl. A vote was attempted, but some of us were en route to the Michigan Fiber Festival.

Unfinished business: NAIS; ISBONA member sheep census; creation of professional subcommittee for Icelandic meat and wool improvement and Icelandic sheep breed standards for North America; an imported (AI) ram informational registry at ISBONA; translation of website and articles therein into French for our French-speaking members; other ideas to broaden the reach

of ISBONA benefits for our Canadian members; any new ideas for projects to benefit the entire membership.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Marty Favre  
Secretary*

<b>Accounting for ISBONA 6/8/08</b>	
Balance on 3/28/08	\$17,065.56
<b>CREDITS:</b>	
Dues/Memberships	\$1,125.00
Ad Revenue	\$95.00
Sub-Total	\$18,285.56
<b>DEBITS:</b>	
Newsletter:	
Printing	-\$720.74
Postage	-\$141.84
Labels/Misc.	-\$9.07
Postage & Copies	
(\$159.40 Canadian)	-\$162.98
Ads	-\$540.00
Bank & Web fees	-\$60.93
Sub-Total	-\$1,635.56
<b>ENDING BALANCE:</b>	<b>\$16,650.00</b>
Certificate of Deposit	\$5,205.27
(incl. Interest to 5/30/08)	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS:</b>	<b>\$21,855.27</b>

# Board of Directors Election Results

The results are in for the Board of Directors vote, and our new fiscal year has started. Reminder, if you have not yet renewed, please do so today!

Voted in for three-year terms on the board, Colleen Deatherage, Natalie Chartier, Noel Carlson, and Rick Boesen. Congratulations to each, and welcome! Thank you to everyone who voted.

Plus we have our Directors in the midst of their terms: Marty Favre, Josslyn Richardson, Lilly Leveque, and myself, Barbara Webb. Our website has already been updated with the names and contact information for the Board, so if you ever have something you would like to propose, discuss, or complain about, then please write to one, some, or all of us with your comments and ideas.

We had a wonderful response to the call for volunteers, and our volunteer subcommittee will be corresponding with the volunteers. Thank you to everyone who stepped forward; your association will be the better for it!

The Board has voted on the slate of officers for

the new fiscal year, and those results are:

President - Barbara Webb  
Vice President - Marty Favre  
Membership Secretary - Josslyn Richardson  
Recording Secretary - Colleen Deatherage  
Treasurer - Lilly Leveque

To all our members, if you would like to be on the read-only list for the board meetings so you can follow the business of ISBONA, please email me at [barbara@jager-icelandics.com](mailto:barbara@jager-icelandics.com) and I will get you onto the list.

And if you think you would like to volunteer for the Board for next August, please watch for the call in our winter newsletter. We always welcome new volunteers and new ideas!

*Barbara Webb*  
*ISBONA President*  
*[barbara@jager-icelandics.com](mailto:barbara@jager-icelandics.com)*

**Lorry McDonald**  
**Majacraft Dealer**  
**[www.BlackWaterTreatures.com](http://www.BlackWaterTreatures.com)**

Icelandic sheep, Alpacas, and Angora Goats  
Award winning Fleeces and hand spun yarns



# Crown Roast with Orange Cranberry Stuffing

1 crown roast of lamb (ie. 2 racks of ribs)  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
1/2 cup finely chopped celery  
1/4 cup sliced green onions  
1/2 teaspoon ground allspice  
1/2 teaspoon salt

2 cups cooked brown rice  
2 cups cornbread stuffing  
3/4 cup chicken broth, heated  
1/2 cup dried cranberries, raisins, or cherries, soaked in hot water 15 minutes and drained well  
1 can (11 ounces) mandarin oranges, drained

Form each lamb rack into a half-circle and place together to form a circle, bone-side to center. Tie to secure. Place on a rack in a roasting pan. Sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper. Roast in a 375-degree F oven for 30 minutes.

In skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Saute celery and onion 4 to 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in allspice and salt. Toss with cooked rice, cornbread crumbs, broth, and cranberries. Spoon rice mixture loosely into center cavity of lamb crown. Roast 20-25 minutes more or until meat thermometer registers 145 degrees F for medium rare, 160 degrees for medium, or 170 degrees for well, and stuffing is heated through. Cover and let stand 10 minutes. Internal temperature will rise approximately 10 degrees. Garnish with oranges.

Cut between individual ribs to serve.

*~ courtesy of the American Lamb Board*

*Lots of great recipes, information, and more at [www.americanlamb.com](http://www.americanlamb.com)*



## 2009: International Year of Natural Fibres

In 2006, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2009 the International Year of Natural Fibres (IYNF). The goal is to help develop the efficiency and sustain-

ability of agricultural industries that employ millions of people, contribute to food security, and provide economic development opportunities. IYNF will raise consumer awareness of natural fibers and strengthen demand for natural fiber products.

Virtually every country in the world produces some natural fibers. Natural fibers include not only wool, but jute, cotton, flax, silk, sisal, hemp, llama, ramie, and others.

A full list of

events taking shape for IYNF can be found online at the website: [www.naturalfibres2009.org](http://www.naturalfibres2009.org).

Events have already begun taking place all over the world. North America will play host to the International Wood Composites Symposium in Seattle, WA, and the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association National and World Conferences in Cleveland, OH.

Although most ISBONA members will not have an opportunity to participate in any IYNF events, this world-wide emphasis on natural fibers offers a springboard for promoting our Icelandic wool and wool products.



Discover  
natural  
fibres  
2009

## Submission Guidelines:

### Articles:

Send in Microsoft Word format, 12-point Times New Roman font, to:  
Laura Volkmann, ISBONA Newsletter Editor  
Llamas@quesocabezafarm.com

### Ads:

Send camera-ready ad in Word or pdf format, all photos greyscale, to:  
Laura Volkmann, ISBONA Newsletter Editor  
Llamas@quesocabezafarm.com

—AND—

Send payment (see chart to right) in US or Canadian funds to:

Lilly LeVeque  
ISBONA Treasurer  
280 Ten Mile Rd  
Cascade, MT 59421

<u>Ad Deadlines:</u>	<u>Article Deadlines:</u>
Summer: June 1	Summer: June 15
Fall: September 1	Fall: September 15
Winter: December 1	Winter: December 15
Spring: March 1	Spring: March 15

## Newsletter Ad Rates

<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>
Full Page Color	\$200
1/2 Page Color	\$100
Full Page B/W	\$35
2/3 Page B/W	\$30
1/2 Page B/W	\$25
1/3 Page B/W	\$20
1/4 Page B/W	\$15
1/8 Page B/W	\$10

## **August 2008 - July 2009 Membership Form Icelandic Sheep Breeders of North America**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Flock Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Check desired membership level:

- Newsletter Member (\$20/one year; \$57/three years; \$95/five years)  
*includes:* newsletter, access to all official ISBONA-sponsored activities (no voting privileges)
- Full Member (\$30/one year; \$81/three years; \$135/five years)  
*requirement:* must be actively breeding Icelandic sheep  
*includes:* newsletter, access to all official ISBONA-sponsored activities, voting privileges (one vote per membership, which may be held by a farm or individual)
- Web Member (\$55/one year; \$150/three years; \$250/five years)  
*requirement:* must be actively breeding Icelandic sheep  
*includes:* newsletter, access to all official ISBONA-sponsored activities, voting privileges (one vote per membership, which may be held by a farm or individual), listing on ISBONA Breeders website with email address and website link
- Junior Member (\$5/one year)  
*requirement:* must be under 18 years of age  
*includes:* newsletter, access to all official ISBONA-sponsored activities (no voting privileges) including library & email list

Send check payable to ISBONA in US or Canadian funds along with completed form to:

Josslyn Richardson  
ISBONA Membership Secretary  
7783 Concession Rd RR#3  
Wellandport ON Canada L0R 2J0



The foundation of the original house at Susan Briggs's Tongue River Farm in Pomona, MO. Through the doorway of the foundation, Susan's "shepherd's house" can be seen.  
*Photo by Marge Jackson*



In Canada:  
Josslyn Richardson  
ISBONA Membership Secretary  
7783 Concession Rd RR #3  
Wellandport ON Canada L0R 2J0

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