



# THE BLUE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLUEFACED LEICESTER BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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## The Bluefaced Leicesters 'Coming Out Party'

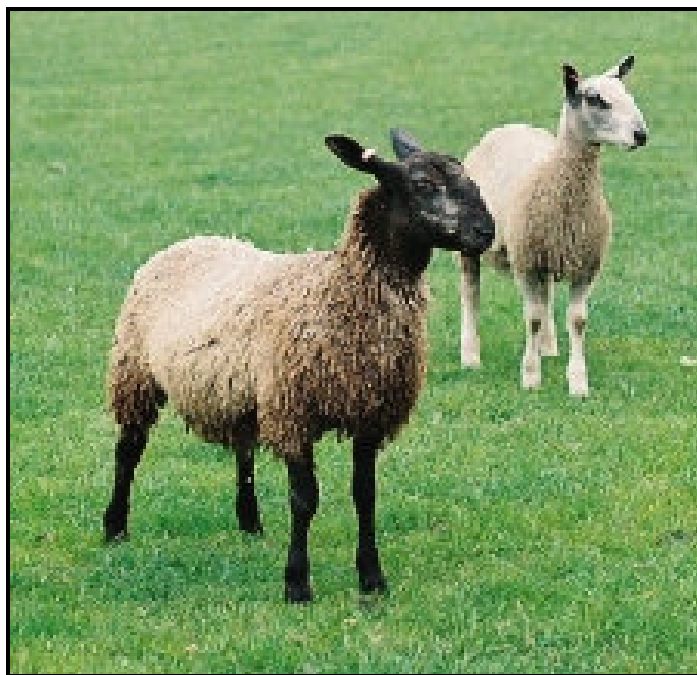
Mark your diary!

The Bluefaced Leicester has been selected to be the featured breed at the 2007 New York State Sheep & Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, New York. This fall festival is slated for the weekend of October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

The Rhinebeck show promises to be a tremendous opportunity for the Bluefaced Leicester breed to gain increased notoriety among fellow sheep producers and fiber enthusiasts, in addition to gaining the attention and awing the public with their presence, style and personality.

The Bluefaced Leicester will be prominently featured and displayed on the promotional information and media published by the NYS Sheep & Wool Festival, such as their website, the festival catalog, calendars and posters. In addition, the Rhinebeck Festival will highlight the many facets of the Bluefaced Leicester through its' variety of fiber workshops and educational seminars, and to be a featured theme in the skein, fleece and garment competitions that will focus on this highly sought after fiber, known for its fine luxurious handle, luster, and versatility to blending with many types of fibers.

The premier Festival event will be an exclusive Bluefaced Leicester breed show. This will focus on the traditional breed classes as well as progeny classes that will showcase the versatility of this magnificent breed, as a purebred and fiber breed and to encompass its true origins and development as a crossing sire.



The Bluefaced Leicester is fortunate to have this opportunity to be the featured breed at a show of such prestige as the NYS Sheep & Wool Festival. This event will be instrumental in establishing the Bluefaced Leicester as a breed of importance here in North America.

So mark your calendars and make plans to attend the 2007 - NYS Sheep & Wool Festival.

For more information visit: [www.sheepandwool.com](http://www.sheepandwool.com)

## BLUES IN THE NEWS

### Our Junior Handlers

One of the newest and youngest members of the BFLBA, Curtis VonAllman, who was the Youth Conservationist Award winner for 2005, started his Bluefaced Leicester show and promotional career off with a bang. Curtis is the Junior Wool Ambassador for the Coshocton / Tuscarawas Lamb and Fleece Association in Ohio. Curtis along with his newly awarded Bluefaced Leicester ewe 'Half Penny' participated in several parades during the summer of 2005.

In October Curtis and Penny were entered in their County Fair placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Senior Fair - All other longwool breeds class, and another respective 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Jr. Fair - All other breeds class. To round off their 2005 4-H experience this dynamic duo went Reserve Champion in 'All Other Breeds'. Our hearty Congratulations to Curtis and Penny!

For an update on this team, Curtis added a pedigreed Bluefaced Leicester ram lamb 'Haggis' to his flock last fall, to breed to Penny. This spring Curtis, Penny and Haggis are proud to announce the newest addition to the ever growing flock, a Natural Colored ewe lamb. Curtis is already making plans to show his newest BFL in Fairs during 2006.

Not to be out done! The Vezzetti family Hannah, Sarah and Patrick of Breezy Meadows Farm in Perkasio, PA are also involved with showing and exhibiting their family flock of Bluefaced Leicesters. At the MSWF 2005 the girls were entered in the Shepherds Lead competitions. The youngest Hannah, placed an impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> and her older sister, Sarah taking 4<sup>th</sup> out of nine entries in their division. Their outfits were lovely as were their Blues. Excellent job girls! As a family they also entered in the Open Longwool and Pairs classes with their yearling rams and ewes.

For their County 4-H Fair the girls also showed yearling ewes, with Hannah and her ewe vying for the title Supreme Champion Ewe. Well done Vezzetti family.

## MULE SHEEP SOCIETY

### *North American Mule Sheep Society*



The North American Mule Sheep Society (NAMSS) is an organization formed for the education, promotion and marketing of the sheep that comprise the crossbred breeding scheme, commonly referred to in the UK as the "3-tier system".

The 3-tier breeding scheme utilizes traditional British foundation 'Hill' ewe breeds like the Scottish Blackface, North Country and Border Cheviot, Clun Forest, and Shetland sheep. These hardy hill ewes are bred to the Bluefaced Leicester tup to produce the popular and prolific commercial ewe called the 'Mule'.

The final tier of the scheme is to utilize the heavy carcass genetics of terminal rams, the Texel and British Suffolk, to economically and efficiently produce wholesome, healthy, grass fed lamb.

Membership is open to breeders from the USA and Canada who are directly or actively involved in utilizing the 3-tier system.

For more information on North American Mule Sheep Society (NAMSS) please visit: [www.MuleSheep.com](http://www.MuleSheep.com)

Or join the MuleSheep yahoo chat group at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MuleSheep>