



# TEXEL TIMES

November 2025

## Contents

Message from the President.....	Pg. 2
Regional & National Sales Results Summary..	Pg. 3
National Meeting Minutes Highlights.....	Pg. 7
National Show and Sale Annoucement.....	Pg. 8
Senior Breeder Spotlight.....	Pg. 10
Winter Nutrition for Small Ruminants.....	Pg. 12
Preparing for Lambing Season.....	Pg. 15
TSBS By the Numbers.....	Pg. 18
Calendar of Events.....	Pg. 19



Crystal Retzlaff  
President  
Wisconsin

Ronald Wilcox  
Vice President  
Michigan

Cinda Baird  
Secretary  
Ohio

Theresa Crowley  
Treasurer  
Missouri

Judy St. Leger  
Director  
New York

Braden Campbell  
Director  
Ohio

Olivia Halbur  
Director  
Wisconsin

Gabriel Francisco  
Director  
Michigan

# Message from the President

Greetings TSBS Members:

Another show season has come and gone. Showing is important to our industry as it gets the Texel name in the ring. The time, money and energy you put into these shows helps promote our breed. I hope your show season was a success, but even more importantly that you were able to “sell” the breed to others. We are close to our favorite season - lambing! I hope many of you have made yourself a list or gathered supplies needed to be successful in the barn this winter. I, for one, cannot wait to see what my new ram has to offer in his offspring and to see the cutest lambs that have ever existed in sheep history. Who said cuteness doesn't sell sheep!

Over the past few months the TSBS board of directors has been researching different website designers to improve the usability of our current website. We did not take this task lightly and thoroughly researched multiple designers to find one that will be most suitable for our organization. We are excited to announce that we will be using Novel Designs. We are currently working out some details with Associated Registry to help make this a seamless process. Thank you to everyone for your patience as we worked through this process.

Even more exciting is the new Hall of Fame award that the board has developed to honor individuals who have played a significant role in the Texel sheep industry. We inducted Niki Fisher into the TSBS Hall of Fame at our annual meeting in Sedalia. There will be a nomination form available in the new year if you have someone you would like to nominate for this prestigious award.

In this newsletter you will find results from the National Texel Show and Sale in Sedalia, articles on Winter Nutrition for Small Ruminants and Preparing for Lambing Season, and our TSBS registration numbers. If you have any articles you would like to include in future newsletters or have ideas you would like more information on, please send them to Theresa Crowley.

And don't forget, it is time to renew your annual membership again!

Sincerely,

Crystal Retzlaff

TSBS President



# Eastern Regional Texel Sale Results

Lot #	Consignor	Price	Buyer
-------	-----------	-------	-------

## Texel

### Fall Ram Lamb

191	Pine Knob Farm	\$2,500.00 GRAND CHAMPION	413 John DeRunk III WEST SUNBURY PA
<b>1 Total Lots</b>		<b>\$2,500.00 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,500.00 Average</b>

### January Ram Lamb

192	Pine Knob Farm	\$800.00 RES GRAND CHAMPION	381 Georgianna Hamilton ARGYLE NY
<b>1 Total Lots</b>		<b>\$800.00 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$800.00 Average</b>

### Yearling Ewe

193	Pine Knob Farm	\$2,000.00 RES GRAND CHAMPION	503 Larry Orndorff SOUTH ZANESVILLE OH
196	Clay-Nob Farms	\$900.00	470 Bell Farms MEDINA OH
205	KOCH LIVESTOCK	\$1,000.00	464 Darby Sheep Co. MARYSVILLE OH
206	Idehl (ideal) acres	\$500.00	5010 Jacob Cornwell CENTRAL BRIDGE NY
208	Idehl (ideal) acres	\$500.00	5010 Jacob Cornwell CENTRAL BRIDGE NY
210	STONEROCK TEXELS	\$800.00	132 Donald & Sarah Dille PROSPERITY PA
204	MVF / 419 Texels	\$400.00	470 Bell Farms MEDINA OH
209	STONEROCK TEXELS	\$800.00	132 Donald & Sarah Dille PROSPERITY PA
<b>8 Total Lots</b>		<b>\$6,900.00 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$862.50 Average</b>

### Fall Ewe Lamb

212	Hilty texels	\$1,200.00	568 Eleanor DeRunk WEST SUNBURY PA
<b>1 Total Lots</b>		<b>\$1,200.00 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,200.00 Average</b>

### January Ewe Lamb

195	Pine Knob Farm	\$2,000.00 GRAND CHAMPION	5020 Kyle Baubonis UNION ME
194	Pine Knob Farm	\$1,900.00	5020 Kyle Baubonis UNION ME
199	Beech Hill Farm	\$700.00	519 Weslynn Martin RIPLEY TN
200	Beech Hill Farm	\$600.00	132 Donald & Sarah Dille PROSPERITY PA
<b>4 Total Lots</b>		<b>\$5,200.00 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,300.00 Average</b>

### February Ewe Lamb

202	Beech Hill Farm	\$400.00	219 Hilty Texels WAPAKONETA OH
<b>1 Total Lots</b>		<b>\$400.00 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$400.00 Average</b>
<b>Texel - 16 Total Sold</b>		<b>\$17,000.00 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,062.50 Texel Average</b>



# National Texel Sale Results

## Yearling Ram

196C	Pine Knob Farm	\$6,100.00	GRAND CHAMP - Sr Champ	1671	Hilty Texels	WAPAKONETA	OH
168	Searles Station	\$2,250.00	RES GRAND CHAMP - Res Sr Champ	1812	Ram R. Jam R. Texel	BLAND	VA
172	Halburs Heavenly Hill	\$850.00		1556	Taylor's Texels	OSCEOLA	IA
178	Idel Acres	\$400.00		1663	Valley Springs Farm	EL DORADO SPRINGS	MO
210	Hilty Texels	\$900.00		1556	Taylor's Texels	OSCEOLA	IA
228	Portland Prairie Texels	\$3,200.00		1635	Bell Farms	MEDINA	OH
159	Three Angels Farm	\$600.00		1865	TG Farms	RICHLAND	MO
173	Halburs Heavenly Hill	\$700.00		1918	Cynthia Scheer	HADDAM	KS
160	Three Angels Farm	\$600.00		1905	Kyle Hurley	CURLEW	IA
<b>9 Total Lots</b>		<b>\$15,600.00 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,733.33 Average</b>			

## Fall Ram Lamb

197	Pine Knob Farm	\$2,900.00		1806	Cole Hogg	MIRANDA	SD
153	Koch Livestock	\$1,000.00		1873	Tracey Rice	COVINGTON	TN
217	Briar Lane Texels	\$1,300.00		1860	Lamb Chop Haven	CLINTONVILLE	WI
216	Briar Lane Texels	\$1,600.00		1652	Wilcox Club Lambs	LESLIE	MI
<b>4 Total Lots</b>		<b>\$6,800.00 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,700.00 Average</b>			

## January Ram Lamb

218	Briar Lane Texels	\$3,250.00	Res Jr Champion	1646	Hogg's Club Lambs	MIRANDA	SD
198	Pine Knob Farm	\$2,300.00		1670	James Dragt	SOUTH SHORE	SD
219	Briar Lane Texels	\$700.00		1852	Marquette Texel	BUFFALO	MN
165	Fancy-Pants Acres	\$400.00		1905	Kyle Hurley	CURLEW	IA
<b>4 Total Lots</b>		<b>\$6,650.00 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,662.50 Average</b>			

## February Ram Lamb

199	Pine Knob Farm	\$800.00		1646	Hogg's Club Lambs	MIRANDA	SD
220	Briar Lane Texels	\$2,600.00		1652	Wilcox Club Lambs	LESLIE	MI
155	Koch Livestock	\$400.00		1603	Jacqueline & Terry Way	RULO	NE
191	Taylor's Texels	\$700.00		1719	Campbell Bros 2	ASHLAND	OH
221	Briar Lane Texels	\$2,100.00		1702	Halburs Heavenly Hill	FOND DULAC	WI
<b>5 Total Lots</b>		<b>\$6,600.00 TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,320.00 Average</b>			

## March Ram Lamb

200	Pine Knob Farm	\$3,800.00	Jr Champion	127	Donnie Veenendaal	HANFORD	CA
161	Three Angels Farm	\$800.00		128	Janet Kepley	MINEOLA	TX
192	Taylor's Texels	\$500.00		1706	Up North Sheep Company	TRIPP	SD

Lot #	Consignor	Price	Buyer			
233	Double AJ Farm	\$400x00	128	Janet Kopley	MINEOLA	TX
208	Wilcox Club Lambs	\$400x00	1720	CLAY-NOB Farms/Austin & Rob Brown	Saegertown	PA
<b>5 Total Lots</b>		<b>\$5,900.00 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,180.00 Average</b>			

#### Brood Ewe

180	Idel Acres	\$550x00	1663	Valley Springs Farm	ELDORADO SPRINGS	MO
181	Idel Acres	\$400x00	1890	Meindeus Stock Farms	BUFFALO CENTER	IA
182	Idel Acres	\$400x00	1890	Meindeus Stock Farms	BUFFALO CENTER	IA
1753	Clay-Nob Farms	\$750x00	130	Jess Carpenter	MARYSVILLE	OH
1754	Clay-Nob Farms	\$750x00	1890	Meindeus Stock Farms	BUFFALO CENTER	IA
<b>5 Total Lots</b>		<b>\$2,850.00 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$570.00 Average</b>			

#### Yearling Ewe

201 F	Pine Knob Farm	\$3,500.00	GRAND CHAMP - Sr Champ	127	Donnie Veenendaal	HANFORD	CA
230	Portland Prairie Texels	\$1,400.00	Res Sr Champion	1635	Bell Farms	MEDINA	OH
175	Halburs Heavenly Hill	\$900x00		1720	CLAY-NOB Farms/Austin & Rob Brown	Saegertown	PA
202 F	Pine Knob Farm	\$2,500.00		1812	Ram R. Jam R. Texel	BLAND	VA
157	Koch Livestock	\$900x00		1653	Gunner Wilcox	STOCKBRIDGE	MI
156	Koch Livestock	\$500x00		1653	Gunner Wilcox	STOCKBRIDGE	MI
229	Portland Prairie Texels	\$1,500.00		1633	Double AJ Farm	PITKIN	LA
236 F	Valley Springs Farm	\$700x00		1653	Gunner Wilcox	STOCKBRIDGE	MI
231	Portland Prairie Texels	\$2,100.00		1844	Pine Knob Farm	SOMERS	CT
222 F	Briar Lane Texels	\$2,000.00		127	Donnie Veenendaal	HANFORD	CA
189	Lamb Chop Haven	\$750x00		1635	Bell Farms	MEDINA	OH
166 F	Fancy-Pants Acres	\$800x00		1918	Cynthia Scheer	HADDAM	KS
171 F	Searles Station	\$900x00		1616	Salt River Livestock	SHELBYNA	MO
162	Three Angels Farm	\$600x00		1653	Gunner Wilcox	STOCKBRIDGE	MI
213	Hilly Texels	\$700x00		1646	Hogg Club Lambs	MIRANDA	SD
184	Idel Acres	\$500x00		1556	Taylor's Texels	OSCEOLA	IA
185	Idel Acres	\$500x00		1556	Taylor's Texels	OSCEOLA	IA
188	Lamb Chop Haven	\$500x00		1855	Oldenburg Farms	MULHALL	OK
183	Idel Acres	\$500x00		129	Charles Dennert	FREDERICK	SD
174	Halburs Heavenly Hill	\$700x00		129	Charles Dennert	FREDERICK	SD
232	Double AJ Farm	\$800x00		1873	Tracey Rice	COVINGTON	TN
176	Halburs Heavenly Hill	\$600x00		129	Charles Dennert	FREDERICK	SD
<b>22 Total Lots</b>		<b>\$23,850.00 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,084.09 Average</b>				

#### Fall Ewe Lamb

203 F	Pine Knob Farm	\$1,700.00	127	Donnie Veenendaal	HANFORD	CA
223 F	Briar Lane Texels	\$2,800.00	127	Donnie Veenendaal	HANFORD	CA
163 F	Three Angels Farm	\$900x00	1663	Valley Springs Farm	ELDORADO SPRINGS	MO
3 Total Lots		\$5,400.00 TOTAL	\$1,800.00 Average			

#### January Ewe Lamb



Lot #	Consignor	Price	Buyer
224 F	Briar Lane Texels	\$1,600.00	RES GRAND CHAMP - Jr Champ 1653 Gunner Wilcox STOCKBRIDGE MI
204 F	Pine Knob Farm	\$1,200.00	106 Bruce Reinemann UNION ME
193	Taylor's Texels	\$1,000.00	1616 Salt River Livestock SHELBYNA MO
169 F	Searles Station	\$700.00	1827 Gage & Gunner Schmidt CENTRALIA MO
225 F	Briar Lane Texels	\$1,100.00	1653 Gunner Wilcox STOCKBRIDGE MI
170 F	Searles Station	\$500.00	1827 Gage & Gunner Schmidt CENTRALIA MO
167 F	Fancy Pants Acres	\$900.00	1653 Gunner Wilcox STOCKBRIDGE MI
<b>7 Total Lots</b>		<b>\$7,000.00 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,000.00 Average</b>

#### February Ewe Lamb

205 F	Pine Knob Farm	\$1,500.00	1545 Riana & Montana Zeiher SCIO OR
227 F	Briar Lane Texels	\$1,750.00	1653 Gunner Wilcox STOCKBRIDGE MI
226 F	Briar Lane Texels	\$1,800.00	1844 Pine Knob Farm SOMERS CT
194	Taylor's Texels	\$900.00	1686 Three Angels Farm ODESSA MO
158	Koch Livestock	\$600.00	1646 Hogg Club Lambs MIRANDA SD
214	Hilty Texels	\$800.00	1844 Pine Knob Farm SOMERS CT
209	Wilcox Club Lambs	\$400.00	128 Janet Kepley MINEOLA TX
187	Idel Acres	\$400.00	1603 Jacqueline & Terry Way RULO NE
186	Idel Acres	\$400.00	1603 Jacqueline & Terry Way RULO NE
<b>9 Total Lots</b>		<b>\$8,550.00 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$950.00 Average</b>

#### March Ewe Lamb

206 F	Pine Knob Farm	\$2,500.00	1545 Riana & Montana Zeiher SCIO OR
164 F	Three Angels Farm	\$1,000.00	1814 Mark Lelli COOPERSVILLE MI
215	Hilty Texels	\$800.00	1720 CLAY-NOB Farms/Austin & Rob Brown Saegertown PA
195	Taylor's Texels	\$900.00	1653 Gunner Wilcox STOCKBRIDGE MI
<b>4 Total Lots</b>		<b>\$5,200.00 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,300.00 Average</b>

**Texel - 77 Total Sold \$94,400.00 TOTAL**

**\$1,225.97 Texel Average**



Grand Champion Ram:  
Lot 196C Pine Knob Farm  
Sold for \$6100 to OH



Reserve Grand  
Champion Ram:  
Lot 168 Searles  
Station  
Sold for \$2250 to VA



Grand Champion Ewe:  
Lot 201F Pine Knob Farm  
Sold for \$3500 to CA



Reserve Grand  
Champion Ewe:  
224F Briar Lane Texels  
Sold for \$1600 to MI

# National Meeting Minutes Highlights

The 2025 Annual TSBS Meeting was held on June 10, 2025 in Sedalia, MO at 7:00 CST. The full minutes can be found on the Texel Sheep Breeders Society website.

## Members Present:

Cathy Martin, Riana Zeiher, Joanne Romer, Ron Wilcox, Gunner Wilcox, Rachel & Rachael Gately, Justin Slaydon, Amy Slaydon, Abigail Slaydon, Julianne Slaydon, Austin Brown, Theresa Crowley, Elizabeth Crowley, Charlie Wray, Jeremy Dabbs, Terence Blake, Jessica Dieterle, Wyatt Hilty, Doug Eastep, Sandy Eastep, Nick Koch, Alexis Koch, Olivia Halbur, Jeb Halbur, Hattie Halbur, Austin Retzlaff, Egen Retzlaff, Natalee Marquette, Craig Marquette, Jolee Marquette, Larry Searles, Brenda Searles, Brody Searles.

## Online Members Present:

Cinda Baird, John DeRunk, Lisa Marquette, Jess, Judy St. Leger and special guest Niki Fisher

The 2025 Annual Texel Sheep Breeders Society Meeting was called to order by Vice President Ronald Wilcox.

The secretary's report was presented by Cinda Baird.

The treasurer's report was presented by Theresa Crowley.

Unfinished Business:

## **Past shows :**

2024 Midwest Stud Ram Sale: 57 head sold – average price of \$1259.65

2024 North American Hill Sheep Show: 23 Texels participated in this UK Style show setting

2024 NAILE: 38 entries in the Jr. Class and 83 entries in the Open Class

2025 Ohio Showcase report: 16 head sold for an average price of \$1062.50.

**Judges Scorecard:** Cinda Baird and Olivia Halbur had taken all the previous judges scorecards and reviewed them. The only change being to increase the weights on the general appearance and adding a picture to show the AVMA recommendation on the tail docking. Members volunteering to be on the committee were Cathy Martin, Charlie Wray, Justin Slayton, Austin Brown, Rachael Gatley and Larry Searles.

**USDA Certification:** Olivia Halbur discussed that the USDA Meat Certification is not being sought out anymore. Still looking at putting information on the website as to where the public can purchase meat.

**Texel website:** The website is not operating as hoped. It is old and outdated. The members felt we should look at a fresh new design and not copy the old one. Lana Kennedy is still interested in maintaining her role as website manager but currently cannot update what we have as it is too old. A couple website developers considered: Novel Designs, EDJE and Maddie Iverson Design. Associated Registry also has where you can put a direct link to them on our website and direct upload to them all the registration information and we could even integrate the NSIP numbers. This would cost us \$200 to start and then an additional \$300 – 400 to complete the set up.

New Business:

**Futurity Program:** Rachael Gately presented her report on the futurity program. In 2024 there were 25 ewe lambs and 7 yearling ewes nominated for the futurity program. 2 youth submitted points. In the Yearling Ewe Division, Avery Lindsey - 1st; Gunner Wilcox - 2nd. In the Ewe Lamb Division, Gunner Wilcox tied for 1st with his ewe lambs.

**2025 Election:** We carried out a successful election for our open seats on the TSBS Board of Directors. Dr. Judy St. Leger and Dr. Braden Campbell were elected to fill those positions.

**2026 Annual Meeting:** Will be held Tuesday June 9th

**2025 Texel Sheep Breeders Hall of Fame Award:** We honored Niki Fisher with the first ever Texel Sheep Breeders Hall of Fame Award. This will be an ongoing award and nomination forms will be sent to all members in the future for the 2026 award recipient.

Ron Wilcox called for a motion to adjourn the annual meeting. Theresa Crowley moved that we adjourn. Riana Ziehr seconded the motion. All approved and meeting was adjourned.

After the meeting, Austin Brown gave a presentation on ‘Tools for Genetic Advancement’.



# Changes Coming to the National Show and Sale!

By now, many of you have probably heard that the Midwest Stud Ram Sale is being managed by Willoughby Sales instead of Heartland Livestock. The board has been in contact with Willoughby and received some information in regards to some of the changes. We will do our best in sharing updates as we finalize details but here are some of the changes you can expect so far:

1. Animals can still arrive as early as Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> as Willoughby will be around setting up. Check in will end sometime on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup>.
2. All breeding sheep will show on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8am with two rings in the Sheep Pavilion and at least one in the Swine Barn at the Missouri State Fair Grounds. For now, Texels are still planned to show in the South Ring in the Sheep Pavilion.
3. The Junior Show sponsored by Willoughby on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> is being planned as a Jackpot style open show for any youth and breed that wishes to participate.
4. Details for our National Junior Show are still being worked out. This will be separate from the junior show on Sunday so that those juniors who are showing consigned animals or those that don't wish to stay until Sunday can participate.
5. Details for the collection of ultrasound data and measurements for the National Sale will be released closer to time as a definite schedule is finalized.
6. The National Meeting will most likely be moved from Tuesday evening. This depends on availability and the timing of other events being planned.
7. Willoughby is planning on different types of fun events (ex: meet and greets) during the show for both Junior and Open exhibitors.



The One and Only  
**MIDWEST**  
STUD RAM SALE

*Save the Date!*  
**JUNE 11-14, 2026 | SEDALIA, MO**

BREEDING SHEEP  
SHOW THURSDAY 6/11 - SALE FRIDAY 6/12

WETHER SIRE / DAM  
SHOW FRIDAY 6/12 - SALE SATURDAY 6/13

JUNIOR SHOW  
SUNDAY 6/14

**WILLOUGHBY SALES** MISSOURI SHEEP PRODUCERS

If anyone has pressing questions or concerns, please reach out and we will do our best to answer. Please be patient with both Willoughby and the TSBS Board as there are a lot of factors to consider and details to work out.

We hope to see everyone for our National Show and Sale in Sedalia, MO in 2026!

# Senior Breeder Spotlight: Meet TSBS Board Director Olivia Halbur of Halbur's Heavenly Hills!

## **Introduce yourself!**

I have been raising Texels for about 33 years. My husband and I own a 275 acre Farm in the beautiful rolling hills of Fond du Lac, WI named Halbur's Heavenly Hill. We recently leased 30 acres for a solar site on our farm which we also contracted out to do the vegetation maintenance on. Due to this huge pasture I had to triple the flock in 3 years to have enough four legged vegetation maintenance. I have 170 Texels on the farm and I'm breeding about 75 ewes for spring lambing. I believe I have one of the oldest genetic lines of Texels in the US, from my uncle, whose flock I purchased. I breed for lambing ease, great muscle, and fast growth on grass as I rotationally graze the solar site on my farm. The flock lives out there for 7 months of the year. I participate in the NSIP, thanks to Dr. Charlie Wray, and I also collect a lot of other data on my flock in addition to what is already in NSIP. It is really fun to see my flock improve visually and numerically. I started ultrasounding my entire lamb crop in 2024, and with loin eyes adjusted to 130 lbs for the whole crop went from an average of 2.97 to 3.29 in 2025. This year's top loin eye is from a ram (raised on strictly pasture/grass in the solar site) who had a 4.48 actual loin at about 5 months old. Besides selling Texel Breeding Stock, I sell lamb meat directly to customers as retail cuts and halves and wholes. I also offer Field Trips.

## **What drew you to getting started with Texels?**

It was my uncle, Dr. Gary Onan's fault! LOL He bought the first Texel ram for sale in the US in 1990. This ram bred my 4-H project ewes and boom, we had Texels and never went back.. They were calm, didn't jump fences, and they were so stinking cute. Now as a business owner I love how they are profitable due to their excellent growth and muscling with minimal inputs

## **What is your proudest achievement with Texels?**

About a month ago a Texel Breeder in Scotland asked me on Facebook if my Texels were for sale. He thought they were Texels in his country, after finding out I was in the U.S. none were so sold, but I was absolutely flattered



## Senior Breeder Spotlight: Meet TSBS Board Director Olivia Halbur of Halbur's Heavenly Hills!

### What advice do you have for people starting out with Texels?

Set measurable goals and achieve them! Find some great sheep mentors to guide you along and ask questions of. I would not be doing what I am doing without the community of sheep breeders who have helped me along the way, many of which are in this Texel breeder family.



### Do you have any new projects coming up?

Yes, please do not take this politically at all or jump into any racism thought, let me explain; I name my rams after US Presidents so -I call it "Project Obama" which is working on a pure blood line Texel but who is natural colored-black. They catch the eye of judges in the show ring because they have no idea they come from a solid white Texel but are loaded with the Texel muscling. We'll see where this project goes. If you have a fluke black Texel popping up in your flock let me know.

Next project: "Project I need a new barn" - hopefully coming in June of 2026 is a 90' x 50' new sheep barn, with electricity!!!! running water!!! and four walls so the ewes can lamb in it. I can't wait!

Last project "Project Collect Fecal Samples" next grazing season to get estimated breeding values on Fecal Egg Counts-Parasite Resistance

### Who do you credit to your success?

Dr. Gary Onan and my sister, Crystal Retzlaff, who raised my sheep for a number of years when I lived in town. Dr. Judy St. Leger for telling me solar grazing was great for the sheep, which is why I have so many Texels now! And Dr. Charlie Wray for his excellent work with data collection and importing excellent semen from overseas.

Save my phone number 920-878-0168 cuz if I'm in your area I might give you a call because I'd love to see your Texel Sheep and your farm!

If you'd like to stay up to date with what's going on at my farm go to my website, enter your name and email, and click "Yes, Please!":

<https://www.halbursheavenlyhill.com/texel-sheep>

You can also follow me on Facebook, Halbur's Heavenly Hill:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556978938130> -

### Fast Fact Corner

#### What is your dream vacation?

I would love to go to Scotland and some other areas of the UK to see the Texel sheep there :) and geek out about Texels with them!

#### What is your favorite food?

Anything homegrown. I need to know what's in it, how it was raised, & what it was fed

#### What is your favorite sports team?

I am not into traditional sports, but I would consider Texel Sheep my favorite sports team. I love geeking out about Texels with enthusiasts like Austin Brown and Jeremy Dabbs...to name a few.



# Winter Nutrition for Small Ruminants:

## Gestation to Weaning

By: Austin Brown; Penn State Extension Program Specialist In Small Ruminant Production & Management

Proper nutrition during the winter months is crucial for maintaining the health and productivity of your ewes. Winter presents unique challenges, including limited access to pasture, increased energy needs, and ensuring a consistent and high-quality diet. This article explores the changing nutritional requirements of your herd/flock during these critical periods and offers practical management tips for winter care. Explore the changing nutritional requirements of sheep and goats in your herd/flock during these critical periods of pregnancy and lactation and practical management tips for winter care.

### **Nutritional Needs During Gestation**

Gestation in sheep typically lasts approximately 147 days. Their gestation period can be divided into three trimesters. The nutritional demands of females will vary significantly throughout pregnancy:

#### **Early to Mid-Gestation (First Two Trimesters):**

Nutritional needs during early gestation are modest, as the developing fetus requires minimal resources. Females should be maintained on a maintenance-level diet, which ensures they remain in good body condition without gaining excessive weight. Forages such as hay or silage often meet their nutritional requirements during



this phase. Be mindful not to feed females too well with higher protein levels, as you will increase birthweight and cause potential dystocia issues during the birthing process.

**Late Gestation (Last Trimester):** Nutritional requirements increase during the final trimester when approximately 70% of fetal growth occurs. Females need higher energy and protein levels to support fetal development, udder growth, and preparation for lactation. Insufficient nutrition during this phase can lead to smaller and weaker newborns, increased risk of pregnancy toxemia, and reduced milk production.

A diet combining high-quality forage and a grain-based supplement can meet these increased demands. Feeding 0.5 to 1 pound of 12-14% protein grain per day (adjusted for body size and forage quality) is common with increasing quantity fed towards the end of gestation and after parturition.

# Winter Nutrition for Small Ruminants: Gestation to Weaning

By: Austin Brown; Penn State Extension Program Specialist In Small Ruminant Production & Management

## Post-Pregnancy Nutrition

After parturition, a female's nutritional demands peak to support lactation, with the first six weeks being the most intensive period. High-producing females and those nursing multiples require significantly more energy and protein to maintain milk production and body condition. If these nutritional needs aren't met, the flock may face challenges such as reduced milk yield leading to lighter weaning weights or offspring death, poor body condition and a compromised immune system, and delayed rebreeding under accelerated systems.

To address these challenges, have forages analyzed so that you can balance diets to meet the nutritional needs of nursing females. As lambs/kids transition to consuming less milk, gradually reduce supplementation to align with the female's tapering needs, preparing her for weaning and the dry period. At this time, lambs or kids should have access to forage sources, such as hay or pasture, and a grain supplement if producers wish to increase their growth rate.



## Tips for Winter Management

In addition to meeting nutritional requirements, mindful management practices can help maintain your animals' health and productivity during the winter:

**Body Condition Scoring (BCS):** Regularly monitor BCS, aiming for a score of 2.5 to 3.5 out of 5. Adjust feeding regimens to prevent body condition scores below 2.5 or above 3.5.

**Shelter and Bedding:** Provide a well-ventilated, draft-free shelter with ample bedding to keep young lambs and kids warm and dry. Ewes with at least one-inch fleece can tolerate cold conditions and wet conditions better. Wet or cold environments increase energy requirements and raise the risk of respiratory illnesses, particularly during rapidly fluctuating temperatures or freezing rain. Providing a dry, well-ventilated area helps maintain the health and productivity of the animals during the winter. Ventilation is just as important over the winter months as it is in the summer when it is hotter. Sheep often enjoy sunny winter days, so don't be afraid to give them access to outside lots even when the air is cold.

**Water Access:** Water is the most essential nutrient we can give our animals. Ensure water remains unfrozen and accessible. Heated waterers or frequent ice removal can prevent dehydration.



# Winter Nutrition for Small Ruminants: Gestation to Weaning

By: Austin Brown; Penn State Extension Program Specialist In Small Ruminant Production & Management

**Group Management:** Separate females based on their nutritional needs, such as gestation stage or lactation. Producers can also ultrasound pregnant females to determine the expected birth type (S, TW, TR). This allows producers to sort large flocks or herds into groups based on birth types to provide proper nutrition.

**Mineral Supplementation:** Supply a free-choice mineral supplement formulated specifically for the species you raise, as deficiencies in critical minerals like selenium, calcium, and magnesium can affect the health of both mothers and their offspring. Selenium is crucial for preventing white muscle disease and ensuring optimal immune function. Calcium and magnesium support proper muscle function and help prevent metabolic disorders such as milk fever. Additionally, trace minerals, such as copper, zinc, and iodine, play vital roles in reproductive health and newborn vigor. Copper levels are critical for sheep because the difference between deficiency and toxicity is very small.

**Parasite Management:** Winter is an ideal time to assess and address internal parasites. Females in late gestation through lactation are especially vulnerable due to the stress of parturition and milk production. This can weaken their immune systems and reduce their ability to manage the parasites. Use strategic deworming practices and regularly perform FAMACHA scoring to monitor and control parasite burdens effectively during this critical period.

**Monitor Feed Quality:** Test hay or silage for nutrient content and balance rations accordingly. Poor-quality forage may necessitate additional grain supplementation. This can be critical if that animal is nursing multiples or is genetically inclined to produce higher amounts of milk.

Effective winter nutrition and management are foundational to maintaining healthy, productive females during gestation and post-parturition. By understanding and addressing their changing dietary needs, providing appropriate shelter, and implementing mindful management practices, producers can support the well-being of their herd/flock and optimize lambing outcomes.



# Preparing for Lambing Season

Jennifer H. Koziol, DVM, MS, DACT Clinical Assistant Professor, Theriogenology/ Production Medicine  
Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine Purdue University

Lambing season is an exciting but stressful time of the year for the sheep owner. Through proper preparation of animals, facilities, and ourselves, we can manage a successful season. Preparation begins months before lambing season with ensuring that the health and nutritional needs of the expectant ewe are met. Use body condition scoring to decide if your animals are ready for late pregnancy. If they are too fat, restrict concentrates in the first half of gestation. Alternatively, if they are too thin, up the caloric content of the diet by adding grain concentrates and high-quality nutrition. A nutrient requirement calculator, such as the one offered by Langston University, can be helpful. (<http://www.luresext.edu/?q=content/nutrient-requirement-calculatorandration-balancer>)

Rapid fetal growth occurs during the last six weeks of pregnancy. The quickly growing fetuses take up space in the abdomen, reducing the ability for the female to ingest enough nutrients from a forage based diet alone to match the demands for herself and the fetuses. It is therefore important to feed high quality forages and energy-dense concentrates during this critical period. Ewes that do not intake enough nutrition during late pregnancy, or those that are carrying multiple fetuses, are at high risk of developing pregnancy toxemia, also known as ketosis.

This disease is due to an excess of ketones in the bloodstream. It occurs when the dam can no longer meet the energy needs of the fetal/placental unit and starts mobilizing her own fat stores for energy. In severe cases, the liver gets bombarded by the excess fat; this can lead to fatty liver disease and even liver failure. Pregnancy toxemia is life threatening to both the dam and her offspring and must be treated aggressively when first detected. Affected ewes may show subtle signs initially, such as being dull, not eating, being slow to come to the feed trough, and swollen pasterns. Clinical signs may progress to the ewe being weak and eventually unable to rise. She may also show neurologic signs, such as staggering or stargazing as the disease progresses. If you notice any animals acting abnormally, or if you have concerns regarding the nutritional status of your herd, you should contact your veterinarian.

## Clinical signs of pregnancy toxemia in sheep

- Tremors and blindness
- Ewe is drowsy or comatose
- Teeth grinding
- Reluctance to move
- Constipation
- Scanty feces
- Digging at the ground

## Preparing for Lambing Season

Jennifer H. Koziol, DVM, MS, DACT Clinical Assistant Professor, Theriogenology/ Production Medicine Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine Purdue University

Also, approximately 4-6 weeks prior to the start of the birthing season, all dams should be vaccinated with CDT vaccine; this is for *Clostridium perfringens* type C, D and for tetanus. BoSe can also be administered in selenium deficient areas where selenium is not being provided to the herd in mineral or feed sources. If lambing occurs in the cold season, dams need dry, well bedded pens that are free of drafts. Heat lamps may be needed if lambing occurs during cold weather. Be sure to place the lamp where the dam cannot burn herself or chew on cords. The majority of ewes give birth with no problems. However, even in the best-managed herds, a subset will have difficulty. The most common reason for dystocia (abnormal birth) is simultaneous presentation of multiple lambs.



Normal parturition is divided into three stages: • The first stage is the initiation of uterine contractions and relaxation of the cervix. This stage is characterized by restlessness, pawing, and urinating and defecating frequently. Experienced ewes may show minimal signs during this period. Stage 1 can last 2-12 hours. • The end of stage 1 and the start of stage 2 is characterized by rupture of the allantoic membrane (water sac). Depending on the number of fetuses present, this stage will last 1-3 hours; most ewes deliver within 2 hours. • Dystocia is considered to exist if the ewe has been in active labor for 30 minutes or longer and is not making notable progress toward the delivery of the fetuses. If this is noted, assistance is required.

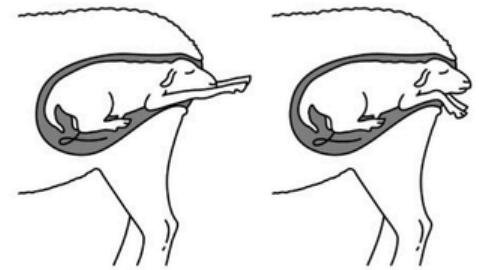
Dystocia may be difficult to resolve and requires skilled hands to ensure the best possible outcome. A veterinarian should be called in situations when skilled personnel are not available on the farm. If delivery is not accomplished within 2-3 hours, the cervix will start to close; that makes the case for immediate intervention once dystocia is noted. C-sections may be a necessity when the dystocia cannot be easily corrected or if the cervix has already begun to close. Once lambs are delivered, they should be stimulated to breathe by briskly rubbing over the ribs and sticking a piece of hay or straw into the nostril. The lambs should not be hung upside or swung to remove mucus from the respiratory tract. Instead, place each lamb in a sitting position on their sternum where they can easily expand their lungs.

## Preparing for Lambing Season

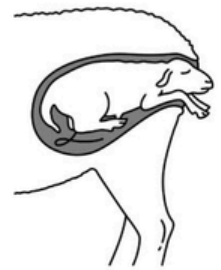
Jennifer H. Koziol, DVM, MS, DACT Clinical Assistant Professor, Theriogenology/ Production Medicine Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine Purdue University

The umbilicus should be dipped in a dilute chlorhexidine solution (1:4 dilution) to decrease the chances of umbilical infections. Lambs should be up and nursing within 1-2 hours after delivery. If this milestone is not met, assistance should be given either in the form of encouraging the lamb to stand and nurse, or the feeding of colostrum or colostrum replacer by bottle or tube feeding. Ingestion of colostrum creates a passive transfer of immunity from the dam to the lambs, which allows development of a proper immune system.

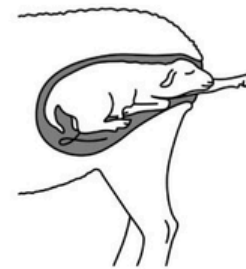
If the lamb does not ingest enough colostrum within the first 12 hours of life, either due to poor colostrum quality or inadequate quantity due to lack of nursing, the lamb can suffer from failure of passive transfer. If you have concerns regarding colostrum intake or quality, your veterinarian can assist in checking the neonate for failure of passive transfer or aid in evaluation of colostrum quality. The ewe should pass placentas within 12 hours of birth. If this does not happen, they are considered retained, and your veterinarian should be consulted to prevent future infertility or other medical problems.



Normal presentation



Elbow lock



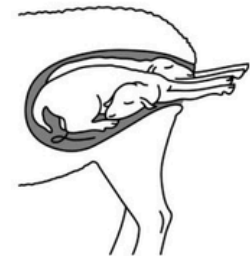
One leg back



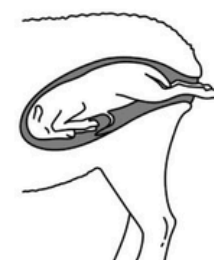
Both forelegs back



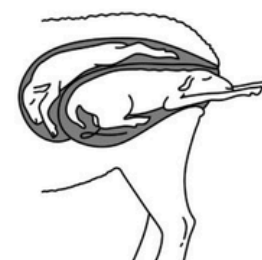
Head back



Twins - four legs, one head



Breech presentation - hind legs only

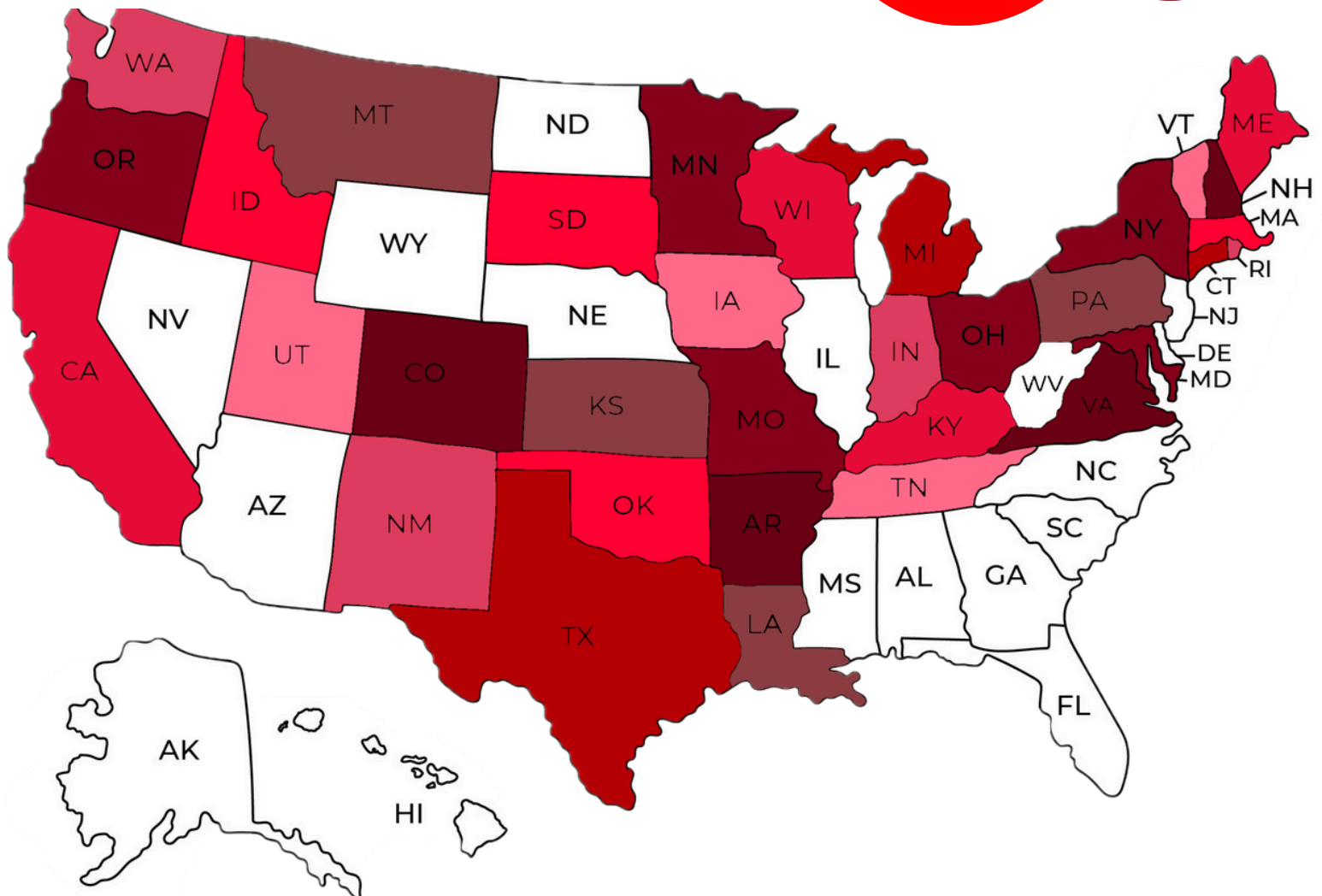
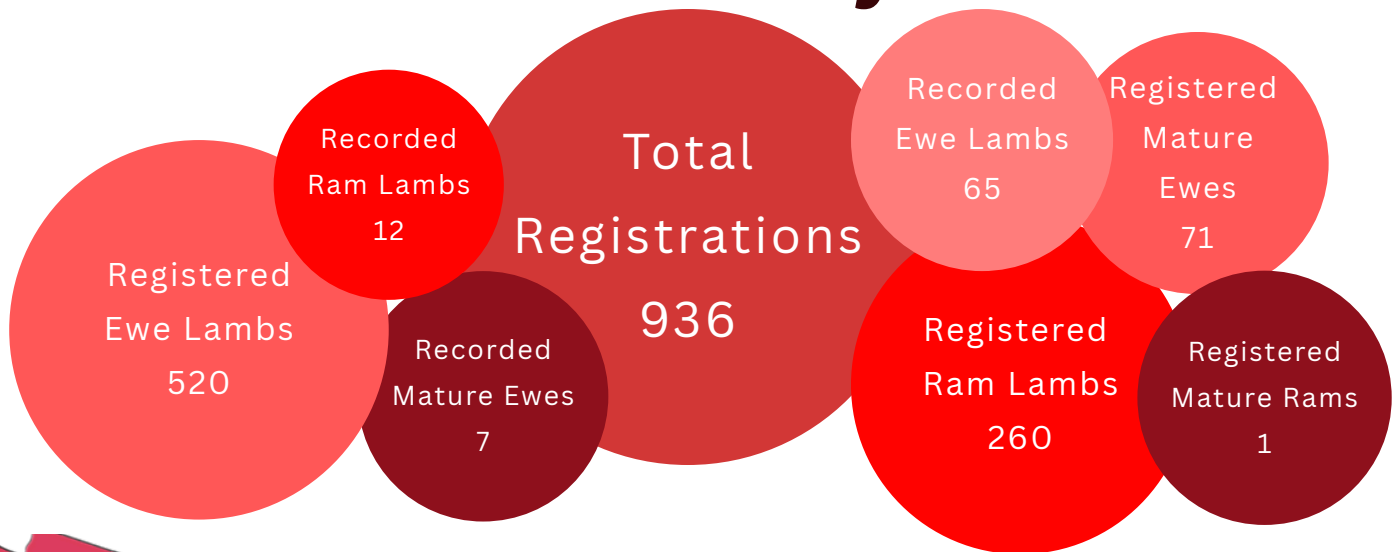


Twins - front and back



# TSBS By the Numbers

## June 2024 - May 2025





# Calendar of Events

## January 2026

**22:** Missouri Sheep and Goat webinar series  
**28-31:** ASI Annual Convention in Reno NV

## February 2026 - National Sheep/Lamb Lover's Month

**5-16:** Florida State Fair in Tampa FL  
**26:** Missouri Sheep and Goat webinar series

## March 2026

**20-21:** Ozark Highlands Sheep and Fiber  
Festival in Glenallen Missouri  
**26:** Missouri Sheep and Goat webinar series  
National Lamb Feeders Howard Wyman  
Leadership School  
(dates unavailable at time of publication)

## April 2026

**26:** Connecticut Sheep, Wool, and Fiber  
Festival in New Haven CT  
**23:** Missouri Sheep and Goat webinar series

## May 2026

**2-3:** Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival in  
West Friendship MD  
**7-9:** Ohio Showcase Show & Sale in Greenville  
OH  
**22-24:** Freedom Fest Breeding Sheep Jackpot  
Show in Springfield, IL  
**28:** Missouri Sheep and Goat webinar series

## June 2026

**11-14:** Midwest Stud Ram Sale in Sedalia MO  
**25:** Missouri Sheep and Goat webinar series

Does this calendar seem empty to you?  
Help us fill it by sending in dates for shows, festivals, or  
other sheep related events!