

Texel Times

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This photograph was voted the Critic's Choice Winner in the 2014 Texel Photo Contest. Congratulations to Patrea Pabst who submitted the photograph taken by Connie Fore of TC Pet Photography.

An exciting time for Texels

Throughout the country, word keeps spreading about Texel sheep and what makes them a special breed. In this issue of the Texel Times evidence of this trend is seen through stories like the 2014 National Texel Sale. The sale created quite a buzz in Sedalia, Missouri as well as in sheep circles throughout the country. Quite a few records were set in just one day ... turn to page 3 to read more about the results.

Mary Woodworth shares her story of discovering Texels with her grandchildren in an article on page 7. Her family is excited to spread the word about Texels through 4H projects in Idaho. It was 4H enthusiasm that set the

course for Rachael Gately -- now a veterinarian and an up-and-comer in the Texel breed. Don't miss a special profile of her journey on page 5.

Finally, a new breeder is looking to import Texel genetics from New Zealand. New genetics has always been an Achilles Heel for Texels. A new import could create quite an exciting moment for the breed.

I'm back from a hiatus producing the Texel Times and am ready to accept your ideas, articles and other submissions for our newsletter.

To submit pictures or articles, please contact me at breslaufarms@gmail.com.

Sincerely -- Kristin Pike

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Looking for New-to-the-U.S., Top-Quality Texel Genetics?

Consider joining an import endeavor

Patrea Pabst of Beaver Creek Farm has bred and marketed Piedmontese cattle for 16 years. Her interest in the low fat and increased muscling on these cattle is what led her discovery of the Texel breed. Now, on a quest to improve her flock's genetics and the genetics of Texels throughout the United States, she is looking to import semen, embryos and even Texel lambs from top sires in New Zealand. Plans are underway to import semen from four Texel rams with proven higher incidence of twins and triplets, parasite and foot rot resistance and birthing ease. Texel breeders throughout the U.S. are invited and encouraged to join her on this importing opportunity.

By Patrea Pabst

Beaver Creek Farm is working on importing sheep, embryos and/or semen in the next few months from New Zealand. We have identified a source of Texel sheep all homozygous for the myomax mutation, with DNA characterization, weight gain, loin size, lambing ease, parasite resistance and foot rot resistance all proven.

We are working with Robbie Hughes of Top Tender Texels of Otago, New Zealand. Robbie has a great reputation, having provided sheep to a farmer in the United Kingdom, who has very successfully integrated these highly commercial sheep into British Texel flocks. The UK farmer said he chose Hughes because of his emphasis on producing hardy, functional Texels that receive

minimal labour or veterinary drug inputs.

Hughes has built a 1000 ewe flock by using New Zealand leading Texel Sires based on monetary breeding values. The flocks families are then tested by organic farming.

Hughes' sheep are selected for

- * Maternal/lamb survival, with a fast easy birth and ewes that are being bred from 1 year old.
- * Lamb survival at birth to weaning. Sire BV proven + DNA type tested
- * Worm resistant by no drenching + DNA Test
- * Foot-Rot resistant by DNA Tests
- * Carcass Value by performing Cat-scans on Sires

In New Zealand Texels are used particularly for their maternal and survival qualities and form a vital part of most dam line composites. In addition they match or exceed all breeds in terms of rapid meat yield off forage diets confirming their position as a true dual – purpose breed.

Hughes reports his 1000 ewe pedigree flock are run on a part time basis (he is a full time livestock agent) and his total annual drug bill is less than 100 NZ dollars (about \$80) for the whole flock.

I have identified a US vet who can coordinate collection and shipping. R. Greg Stewart DVM MS Ph.D Southern Veterinary Services, Inc. www.southernvet.co www.worldshepherd.org rgssvs@gmail.com

Sheep are shipped in pallets, by air, in a group of 24 lambs. Shipping cost for a Texel average weight 37kg to Los Angeles from NZ is \$1325/head. There are additional

costs for vet and customs fees. The agent for shipping lambs is Ian MacDonald, Xcell Livestock Ltd, Xcell Breeding Services Ltd. Mobile +64 21 351 693 xcell@xtra.co.nz

For semen collection, we are working with Julia Aspinall, Genetic Gains Ltd, P O Box 7102, Invercargill, NZ. Phone 03 216 3455 FAX 03 216 3405. julia@genetic-gains.co.nz. The cost of collection and importation of up to 100 straws per semen donor and exportation to Los Angeles is \$5310. The breeding season in the south of NZ is from March to June – these are the months within which we can collect viable ram semen. The rams need to be on the AB Centre for at least 30 days before straws are collected, and there are a further 2 weeks of health testing before that. We would like to import semen from a minimum of four rams.

Anyone interested in joining us in this venture should contact me directly at aepied@aol.com or 706-213-1197. We are looking for partners. The number of partners and size of contribution will determine if we import semen, embryos, and/or lambs. Thanks for your interest!

The 2014 National Texel Sale ... A Sale to Remember

By Bob Adams

Those that were present in Sedalia, Missouri, at the Midwest Stud Ram Show and Sale, in June 2014, witnessed the most exciting National Texel Sale that any of the Texel breeders present could remember.

The National Texel Sale opened with the National Champion Ram consigned by Rachel Gately of Connecticut. He was a yearling ram that had been selected as the National Champion Ram and also the Supreme Texel. He was an exciting ram and was popular with the breeders. The anticipation was that several breeders would be bidding on him. He had tremendous eye appeal and was very correct in his body structure. He was massive in his make-up, was very sound and correct in his feet and leg structure and was very well balanced. Prior to the sale they were a lot of interest in him. The bidding opened at \$2000 and went to \$4000 very quick. He sold at \$4000 to Fisher Texels in Idaho. He was followed in the sale by the Reserve Champion shown by Portland Prairie Texels, Minn. He also was a heavy muscled ram and he sold to Taylor Texels, Iowa, for \$1750. The third place ram, shown by Ron Erdman, Ill., brought \$900 and sold to B&H Farms LLC, Ladoga, IN. He was not carrying the conditioning of the other two

yearling rams but was in good breeding condition.

There was one fall ram consigned by Fisher Texels. He showed and was selling at a disadvantage as he was not feeling well and was quite tucked up. He sold at \$1200 to Donald Heller, Minn.

There were 5 spring rams of which Fisher Texels had consigned 4. They were quite consistent in their make up. One thousand dollars (\$1000) was the top price selling to B&H Farms LLC. One went out at \$800 to Arvin Nixon, Mo., one at \$700 to Lincoln University, Mo., and one at \$600 to Kerry Richardson, Ill. The remaining ram lamb, which had placed third in the spring ram class, brought \$300 from Lincoln University. The ram was young and not quite as large as the others but could have been the bargain in the ram lamb sale. He was consigned by Taylor Texels.

The average on the 3 yearling rams was \$2,216. The average on the one fall ram would be \$1200, and the average on the 5 ram lambs was \$680.

The overall average on 9 rams was \$1250.

The real excitement of the National Texel Sale started when the Champion and Reserve Champion Ewes entered the sale ring. They

both were consigned by Rachel Gately, Conn. As they were a closely matched pair they were offered up for sale with choice and the buyer had the privilege of taking one or both. The bidding opened at \$2000 by Niki Fisher, Idaho. The bidding sequence that followed was \$3000, \$4000, \$5000, \$6000, \$7000, \$8000, \$9000 and the final bid was \$10,000. Fishers Texels was the buyer. When auctioneer, Danny Westlake asked Niki Fisher if she wanted both of them she held up 2 fingers and they both went out the gate at \$10,000 each. The auction of the two ewes took less than 90 seconds. Julia Bredder, VA., was the contending bidder. The sale of the two yearling ewes at \$10,000 each traveled the two barns at Sedalia in less than 30 minutes. Even though a yearling Dorper ewe brought \$20,500 during the Dorper sale, the talk of the barns was the 2 Texel yearling ewes going at \$10,000 each.

The excitement of those two ewes carried over into the balance of the female sale.

There were 4 brood ewes - all were consigned by Fisher Texels - and the prices were quite consistent on them. One sold for \$600 to Malcolm Watts, PA., two to Walt Stubbs, one at \$950 and one at

\$650, and the final brood ewe bid out at \$700 to Malcolm Watts.

Following the brood ewes was the remainder of the yearling ewe class and they were all quite consistent in their make up and the selling price was quite consistent. The third place yearling ewe, consigned by Fisher Texels brought \$800 going to David Wilson, Texas. The fourth place yearling ewe, consigned by Portland Prairie Texels, sold for \$800, and was purchased by Alan Treece, Missouri. The fifth place yearling ewe, consigned by Walt Stubbs, Ill. went to Ricky Ubben from Iowa. The last yearling ewe to sell was consigned by Fisher Texels and sold for \$850 to B&H Farms LLC.

There were two fall ewe lambs, both consigned by Fisher Texels and both were quite popular. One sold to David Wilson, Texas, at \$1500 and the other sold to Sara Hatlewick, North Dakota for \$1,000.

There was a very nice group of 7 spring ewe lambs. The first place spring ewe lamb, consigned by Taylor Texels, sold to Rachel Gately for \$800. She was followed into the ring by the second place ewe lamb consigned by Fisher Texels, selling to Julia Bredder for \$900. Taylor Texels sold one for \$500 to B&H Farms LLC and one for \$550 to Arvin Nixon for \$500. The next ewe lamb, consigned by Fisher Texels, and bid out by Alan

Treece, Mo., for \$800. Walt Stubbs paid \$400 for the next ewe lamb and Taylor Texels paid \$300 for the final female to sell, both consigned by Lamb Chop Haven, Minn.

The 4 brood ewes averaged \$720. Six yearling ewes average \$3,866. Two fall ewe lambs average \$1250. Seven spring ewe lambs average \$607. The average for 19 head of females was \$1728.

The total sale, consisting of 28 head, grossed \$44,100 with an overall average of \$1575. Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) on the yearling ewes was a record price for a Texel ewe in the US. The average of the consignment by Rachel Gately, at \$8000, for any one consignor, and the overall average, for the Texel females, at \$1728, were both records.

Larry Meade Retires

By Bob Adams

Just recently it was announced that Larry Meade, long time promoter and manager of the Midwest Stud Ram Show and Sale, has retired. He managed it for over 50 years. He was truly a friend of all the breeders of all breeds and he was very good to the Texel people. He gave the Texels a very good penning location and he gave the Texel breed the privilege of opening the National Sales. Not only did he furnish the Texels with excellent judges but also outstanding auctioneers. He also saw to it that the Texels got a good location in the sale catalog and that the breed was promoted just like the other breeds even though the Texels did not total very many dollars. We know that the Heartland Group will do an excellent job of promoting and managing the show and sale and will continue to treat the Texel breeders very well. However we will always remember the fair and friendly treatment that Larry Meade gave to the Texel Breeders. We wish him well in his retirement.

RACHAEL GATELY, DVM—A GIRL ON A MISSION

By Bob Adams

In June, 1999, Rachael Gately, age 13, took a long ride with a neighbor, Ron Lugenbill, one of the early Texel pioneers and owner of Eastern Texels, to Springfield, Ill. to help him show his Texels at the National Show and Sale. She could have never dreamed how far that trip would take her.

At that point she had been in 4H for 3 years showing Dorset sheep. Ron encouraged her to show a Texel. Finally he gave her a Texel ewe lamb and then the following year he bred the ewe for her. Her flock today originated from that ewe.

When Ron dispersed his flock a few years ago, she purchased one half of his ewes and the University of Rhode Island purchased the other half. Ron had been allowing her to use his stud rams. In 1999, at the National Sale, Ron purchased 2 yearling rams from Ron Erdman that were out of imported semen. They both were excellent rams. In 2007, at the National Sale in Sedalia, he purchased another top yearling ram from Portland Prairie. Her present flock carries a lot of the breeding of those 3 rams.

In 2007, the first year she went to Sedalia, she showed and sold a very popular ram lamb for \$3000. He had been selected as the Reserve Champion. In 2012 she sent a yearling ram and he was the Reserve Champion selling for \$1300 in the auction. In 2014 she returned to Sedalia with a consignment of 3 head including a yearling ram and 2 yearling ewes and before she left her Texels had made breed history.

Her yearling ram was selected as the Champion Ram and was the Supreme Texel. Her yearling ewes were Champion and Reserve Champion. The ram was extremely popular with the breeders present and he sold for \$4000 in the auction. The Champion Ewe and the Reserve Champion Ewe were brought in to the sale ring at the same time. They were offered up at the auction by choice and the buyer had the privilege of taking their selection or taking them both. The bidding opened at \$2000

and rapidly moved to \$10,000. When the auctioneer announced “sold” he asked if the buyer wanted them both and the buyer took them both at \$10,000 each. It was a record price for a Texel ewe in the US. The average price for the consignment was also a National Sale record price for the average of a consignment at \$8000.

Between 2007 and 2014 a lot happened in Rachael’s life. One of her dreams was to become a large animal veterinarian and work in a large animal practice and eventually own a clinic of her own. She got accepted into veterinarian school at Texas A&M. She would have preferred to stay closer to home but she needed all the financial help she could get. Texas A&M offered her the best financial package and one she felt she had to accept. So off she headed to College Station, Texas. She was a long way from her family, friends, and her sheep in Somers, Conn. She would be able to get home only once a semester. Her mother and her sister took care of her sheep. One summer she worked at a large dairy and swine clinic in Oklahoma. She also worked at a local dairy farm to get hands on experience as she knew she wanted to be involved in a dairy practice. After graduating from Texas A&M she got accepted to do her internship at Tufts University in Mass. which was close to her home. There she was mentored by 8 veterinarians in the practice. She spent time working with dairy herds as well as learning and perfecting embryo collection techniques in small ruminants at the Swiss Village Farm at Newport, Rhode Island. Tufts University has a working relationship with the Swiss Village Farm to preserve rare breed genetics for the future.

In July 2013, after completing her internship she signed on as a full faculty member. Her official title is ‘clinical assistant professor.’ She travels eastern Conn., RI. and southern Mass. daily with 1 to 3 veterinary students riding along who are in their clinical year of vet school. She also goes up to the

veterinary school a few times each month to lecture and teach labs.

In 2014 she made a proposal to the Dean's Committee to translate the collection, freezing of semen and transferring of embryos in sheep and goats into a procedure that she could take on the road and offer an ambulatory collection and transfer service. Her proposal was accepted and the mobile trailer and all of the necessary equipment is now operational. Her intentions are to offer the service as far east as the PA. /Oh. border and as far south as Virginia.

At one time she thought she wanted to have her own clinic but she loves working with the other 8 veterinarians as a team. She loves teaching and enjoys the benefits of working in a teaching institution where they are capable of performing more advanced diagnostics and procedures. She could see herself working at Tufts University the rest of her life.

Rachael Gately, DVM, at age 27, has a career that is already beyond what she dreamed possible. She is close to her family and friends, she is working in the New England states that she loves, and she has a Texel flock excelling even in its infancy. When asked if life is good, she said "No. Life is awesome!"

Falling in Love with Texels

By Mary Woodworth

As grandparents, we would like to give our grandkids every experience possible. We have a Texas Longhorn bull who drinks Dr. Pepper, a miniature horse who pulls a cart, draft horses and a carriage on our hobby farm in Downey, Idaho.

In 2012 we got a couple of Suffolk sheep and entered them into 4-H as market animals and two breeding animals. Then, the fair was over and because breeding projects begin and end at fair time, we had the kids research sheep breeds, thinking they would learn about the different breeds out there.

What happened was that our grandsons and their mom fell in love and the research came to a halt--THEY FOUND TEXEL SHEEP!! We were all so excited and then we found the Texel Society website and located Linda Sunderlin from Dillon, Montana. Linda was very easy to talk to and took all the time we needed to answer our million questions about Texel sheep. We then took a family road trip to

Montana. We purchased ewes and a Suffolk/Texel cross ram. Breeding season came; the babies followed-we even pulled one with the entire family in the barn and there was a thankful cheer from everyone when that special baby was born!

A little more looking and we found another Texel breeder here in Idaho. Since the Fishers would be traveling very close to where we live in southeast Idaho on their way to Sedalia, Missouri, we talked with them, again asking more questions, and arranged to meet with them when they passed by. Our three grandsons, 14 year-old Colt Palvis, 12 year-old Nathaniel Palvis, 10 year-old Robert Palvis along with our 14 year-old granddaughter, Olivea Farey became proud owners of 3 Texel ewe lambs and a Texel ram lamb. These 4-H'ers and their mom worked with the sheep all summer. Showmanship takes many hours of work.



The Woodworth grandchildren with their sheep. From left: Colt Palvis, John Wakefield, Robert Palvis, Nate Palvis and Olivea Farey.

Then came the Bannock County Fair in Idaho, August 2014. The kids took 1 Suffolk market lamb and 3 purebred Texel ewe lambs as their projects and won 9 blue ribbons and a Reserve Champion ribbon. The Texel ewe lambs stood 1, 2 & 3 in the Breeding Class! Because Texels aren't the normal "Club Lambs", we heard many comments like, "they are short" and "they are sooo cute." The Judge said that they are a "muscle powerhouse" and other favorable comments.

We are so in love with our Texels. The kids have gained an abundance of knowledge from this experience. They are forming a business plan which includes more Texels with a long term goal of 40 ewes and 2 rams. We, as a family, want to learn more and more. We hope that those of you who read this will be willing to share your knowledge with us. We are especially interested in feed programs, 4-H stories and other fun Texel stuff. Our contact email is marywoodworth@outlook.com.

What the future holds with sheep--who knows--but you will be guaranteed it will be with Texel Sheep.



Breslau Farms
5355 Carlisle Road
Dover, Pa 17315

The 2014-2015 Texel Board

At the June, 2014 Texel Sheep Breeders Society meeting in Sedalia, Missouri, the new board was recognized. Officers include:

President -- Charles Wray

Vice President -- Brent Adams

Secretary -- Leslie Roden

Treasurer -- Don Heller

Registrar -- Jeff Ebert

Directors -- Rachael Gately, Judy St. Leger and Jay Schwirian

Other notes:

* TSBS members are reminded that registrations should be mailed to a new address: **TEXEL SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY**; Jeff Ebert; PO Box 231; Wamego, KS 66847 or breeders can utilize online registration.

* Members are encouraged to take advantage of the new advertisement feature on the TSBS website: www.usatexels.org. Click on "About the Society" from the home page and then "TSBS Sale listings." This is a great way to list sheep for sale or post 'sheep wanted' ads.