



O.P.P.

**CONCERNED
SHEEP
BREEDERS
SOCIETY**

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OPP CONCERNED SHEEP BREEDERS SOCIETY

Newsletter — August 1998

— NATIONAL SHEEP & GOAT —
HEALTH ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Kimberling Proposal Gaining Steam

As many of you know, we began corresponding with Dr. Cleon Kimberling when the OPP Society Test Guidelines were about to be published a few years back. Your directors wanted to ensure that the Society would not be in conflict with Kimberling's proposal for a national health program. At that time, Dr. Kimberling encouraged us to proceed with the test guidelines and also requested input regarding his own program. Following are excerpts from recent correspondence with Kimberling:

"... What we need now is producer input! Some of your group may be interested in joining the USAHA (United States Animal Health Association, see enclosed flyer) as this is the organization where a lot of policy is developed. All members are welcome to attend the USAHA meeting in Minneapolis on October 5, 1998. Those interested should contact Linda or Beverly at 804-285-3210 for a membership application.

As for the program on October 5th, the morning session will address scrapie and the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program. The afternoon will be devoted to OPP, Caseous Lymphadenitis, Johne's, and possibly Footrot. There is a subcommittee for each of these conditions. Following a 15 minute update on each, the entire audience will be divided into 4 or 5 discussion/work/planning groups."

This Health Accreditation Program is what we've all been working toward for the past several years. Now is your chance to support Dr. K and help make it happen.

PLEASE RETURN THE ENCLOSED HEALTH PROGRAM FLYER TODAY !!!

MARE'S HEALTH — A QUICK UPDATE from Mary Jarvis, Secretary/Treasurer

In July of 1997, I contracted something unknown that has been affecting me ever since. First thought was an infectious disease but nothing (including Lyme) checked out. From there, I was sent to the rheumatologists. They couldn't determine any definite diagnosis but called it "undifferentiated connective tissue disease." Finally, the most recent thought is that it is CFIDS (Chronic fatigue syndrome).

This July, I went back to work at my off the farm job for three days (20 hours) a week. So far I am able to cope but fatigue, and joint and muscle pain, keep me from being the way most of you remember me. We are trying to scale the farm so that Rusty can do most everything by himself, we have reduced the flock size as well.

I deeply appreciate all the expressions of good wishes you have sent to me, and couldn't have managed without Judy Lewman rolling up her sleeves to pitch in with OPP Society help. We're hoping that eventually I will recover fully but it may take a long, long time. I appreciate your patience with delayed newsletters and directories.

I'm ready to roll on the 1998 directory; we have a lot of new members and I want to get it done and in the mail to you. Please send your 1998 renewals back post haste and I'll get my part done. Thanks!

NOTE: Since Mare is so much fun to work with, the Board feels fortunate that she's chosen to hang with us. We also appreciate her graciously taking the heat for "delayed newsletters and directories," even though delays have usually not been her fault!

ANNUAL MEETING of the OPPCSB SOCIETY
Friday 27 March 1998 — Madison, Wisconsin

In the absence of Mary Jarvis, Judy Lewman opened the meeting shortly after 3 p.m. She passed around a list to check attendance, to update the present mailing list, and to add new breeders concerned about OPP. All present were asked to introduce themselves, indicating briefly their interest in OPP.

Because Mary — "the glue that holds this outfit together" — was missing, there were no secretary's or treasurer's reports.

The major item of business was action on a report from Miller Lavengood, chair of the OPPCSB By-Laws Review Committee. The committee suggested four changes:

1. Eliminate the office of president, but leave the Board of Directors at 7 members. Directors will decide among themselves each year who will serve as chair.
2. Change the office of secretary/treasurer from an elected position to one appointed by the Board and reviewed annually.
3. Require a minimum of three years tenure as a member-in-good-standing for all nominees to the Board of Directors.
4. Change all places in the by-laws where we refer to "OPP-free sheep" to read "OPP-test-negative sheep."

The only discussion was on the three-year tenure requirement in point three, and those present agreed to change the three year membership requirement for the Board to two years. Passed. The proposed changes will be circulated among the members and voted on by mail.

Judy Lewman noted that the brochures put out by the Society have been doing very well. The first printing of 200 went very quickly, and the brochure was re-printed. So far, 1600 brochures have been printed.

Judy suggested the possibility of bringing in an outside speaker for our next annual meeting. This would probably require an honorarium, or at least travel and lodging expenses. She then announced that the Board has discussed a dues increase to \$15. Discussion followed but no action taken.

Judy indicated a good response to a request, via the Association for Small Ruminant Practitioners, for veterinarians interested in serving as referral vets for people with questions about OPP. Responses have been coming in from all over. The list will be on the internet web page.

Judy asked Jim Schultz about nominations for the three positions on the Board of Directors, and Jim indicated that three people were nominated for those openings. All three currently serve, so the Board membership will not change.

Miller Lavengood moved to adjourn in order to allow adequate time for two speakers. Reedy seconded.

Someone made a suggestion about the possibility of a session at the Wisconsin sheep conference next year. No action.

Respectfully submitted by Bets Reedy, sec. pro tem

TWO SPEAKERS FOLLOWED THE BUSINESS MEETING
Veterinarians David C. Henderson & Holly Neaton

Our first speaker was David C. Henderson from the Moredun Research Institute in Edinburgh, Scotland. Henderson, best known in North America as the author of The Veterinary Book for Sheep Farmers, serves as Head of the Clinical Division at Moredun. He presented a very interesting, brief history of the Institute and an overview of the research currently underway there. (See related information below.)

The second speaker was Holly Neaton, veterinarian and Polypay breeder, who spoke personally and professionally about OPP. Her informal talk (see facing page) allowed for considerable input from people in the audience who had questions or wanted to contribute from their own experiences. It seemed a good way to open the complexities of OPP to those in the room unfamiliar with the disease.

THE MOREDUN FOUNDATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE — EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

Formed in 1920 as a coalition of farmers and veterinarians, and now employing 200 scientists in a state-of-the-art secured research facility, The Moredun Foundation is internationally acclaimed as a center of excellence in the fight against animal diseases. Moredun's 5000 members throughout the UK and abroad help to fund vital research, 60% of it devoted to sheep.

Non-voting overseas membership is open to those of us in the U.S. and Canada (£20 sterling). Included are newsheets on a specific disease topic every 12 weeks plus a twice-yearly update on all news and research. Address inquiries to:

Margaret Bennett
The Moredun Foundation
Pentlands Science Park
Bush Loan, Penicuik, EH26 0PZ
SCOTLAND

MILLER LAVENGOOD REMEMBERED

We regret to announce that longtime OPP Society member, Miller Lavengood, passed away suddenly on May 7th at his home in Minnesota. Miller's can-do approach to every aspect of his life will always be remembered. He was at our annual meeting this spring and had also just recently been elected to serve as president of the Crow River Lamb & Wool Producers group. Miller's enthusiastic participation is sadly missed. Our condolences to Kathy and their family.

NEW INTERNET ADDRESS FOR SOCIETY WEB PAGE

Please make note of our address change. The "OPP Fact Sheet" and other Society information can now be found at:
<http://impossibledream.com/sheep/sheeph.htm>

We continue to be indebted to Rusty and Mary Jarvis for allowing the OPP Society to hang our page off their Groveland Farm web site at no charge.

