

MONTADALE SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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Dear Montadale Breeders,

I hope 2016 has treated you all well. This year has certainly been a whirlwind for me. I have learned a plenty these last 8 months and hope that the coming year I am a lot better at being your Secretary. By the time you all receive this lambing should be well under way and spring is never very far behind that. I say that now because we are experiencing wind chills in the very negative numbers today and the thoughts of spring are a reminder that this too shall pass!

I must pass along my thanks to the many of you that have shown me what I feel is a never ending amount of support since taking this position. Your cards, phone calls, emails and conversations are much appreciated and make this old gal feel pretty good. I truly believe the best is yet to come for our breed! So again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity to represent and help lead us into the next phase.

There are several items that I would like to highlight, so please take a moment to read through this letter.

DUES

Dues for 2017 are now due. We made some changes at the recent Board Meeting and the April 15 deadline has been dropped. However, with that change the Board made the decision to raise the Sr. Dues to \$40 and the Jr. Dues to \$15. I have attached an updated Schedule of Fees for you to include with your dues payments. Please take the time to fill out the top portion so the association has the most current information. Please note: Failure to pay dues in the past three years' means that you will be removed from the breeder listing on the Montadale website, association distributions and more importantly, no paperwork will be processed by AccuRegister until dues are paid for 2017.

ACCUREGISTER

As a reminder, all registration and transfer work should be submitted to AccuRegister and NOT to the association address to ensure timely processing. Please be sure to review all work for accuracy. Registration forms can be found on the MSBA website under the "Forms/Publications" tab as well as at AccuRegister. Please contact the association office if you need these mailed to you. AccuRegister's contact information is as follows:

AccuRegister, John Savage

1030 State Route 168

Darlington, PA 16115

Phone: 724.843.2084

Fax: 724.891.1440

www.accuregister.com

Email: accuregister@yahoo.com

WEBSITE

In 2015, the re-development of the new MSBA website was completed. Breeders now have the option to link directly from the Montadale website to a breeder's personal website or Facebook page. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please mark the box on the Schedule of Fees and include your \$10 to be listed for a year.

DONATIONS

The form for donations to the Junior Montadale Association, MSBA Youth Scholarship Fund and for classes/raffle tickets at the All-American Junior Show is attached. Many breeders have graciously donated to these programs year after year and every contribution is very much appreciated. Thank you in advance for your 2017 contribution to our youth.

JUNIOR ASSOCIATION

2016 was another successful futurity season for our juniors with \$1100 paid out. The 2016 winner was Jansyn VanHorn, Kansas with Clayman 1650. Jayce Coers, Illinois was second, 3rd place went to Alex Coers of Illinois, 4th to Carrie Green of Missouri and 5th to Lydia Lutman of Illinois. As a reminder, breeders can nominate ewe lambs at any designated sale for \$20. Futurity points can begin accumulating at the Midwest Junior Preview Show in June and conclude at the Keith Chrome National Junior Show in Louisville.

Juniors are also encouraged to apply to be a Junior Montadale Ambassador. The Ambassador program was started in 2014, replacing the National Queen Contest. The primary goal is to give all our juniors an opportunity to develop public speaking and salesmanship skills, in addition to promoting the Montadale breed. Originally, juniors ages 16-20 were eligible. However, at the 2015 Semi-Annual Board Meeting in Sedalia, the Board approved to lower the minimum age requirement to 13 years old.

Information for these programs, in addition, to the youth scholarship fund, can be found on the website.

NATIONAL SHOW & SALE

It's never too early to start thinking about the upcoming show and sale season. This year's National Show and Sale will again be held in conjunction with the Midwest Stud Ram Sale, June 19-24, 2017 in Sedalia, Missouri. As in previous years, the Junior Show will kick off the week on Monday, June 19th, with the Open Show Tuesday, June 20th and the Sale Thursday, June 22nd. Entry information can be found at www.midwestsale.com and will be available in early March. Stay tuned to Facebook and the website for the latest news including information on the Annual Banquet and Auction.

In closing, as a reminder, please continue to check out the website and Facebook page to stay current with association events and news.

Sincerely,

Kendra Fleck, Executive Secretary
Montadale Sheep Breeders Association