



View from the Great Lakes State

Brett Pharo, APSA President

As is the case with virtually everyone in the U.S. this year, we've had some much colder than average weather in Northern Michigan. On top of that our snowfall has been considerably above average, too. By the end of December, we were nearly two feet above average for that point in the winter. All of that can make caring for sheep a challenge. Even more so for those that choose to lamb this time of year, I suppose.

Look through this newsletter for some changes that have been made and are being made, as well as opportunities. Among those are a new webmaster and web address, annual meeting place and date, sale opportunities, and opportunities to serve.

It's a great time to be a Polypay breeder and member of the APSA. It seems that every year the interest in Polypays is high, is spreading, and is growing. I'm sure many of us could share stories, but for me, just in the first week of January, which is typically not a time when I get requests, I had calls from a producer in KY wanting up to 50 ewes/ewe lambs, and a call from a producer in PA looking for 500-700. I think I

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APSA Board of Directors

Brett Pharo, President 2020-2
12266 Cherry Ave.
Rapid City, MI 49676
brettpharo@gmail.com 231-322-2017

Mark Meurer, Vice-President 2018-2
1869 Midway Rd.
Ashton, IL 61006
meurer66@gmail.com 815-973-5576

John Anderson, Secretary 2019-1
10131 Munson Rd.
Shreve, OH 44676
johnwallaceanderson@gmail.com 330-749-9053

Chris Kaeb, Treasurer 2018-1
639 N. 1000 E Rd.
Buckley, IL 60918
cakfarm@localline2.com 815-457-2618

Jeremy Refshaw 2018-1
1339 290th St.
Waubun, MN 56589
refshawranch@yahoo.com 218-230-5383

Bryce Freking 2019-1
924 35th St.
Ceylon, MN 56121
frekingpolypay@gmail.com 605-310-0733

Kathy Ewert 2019-1
20009 62nd St.
McLouth, KS 66054
kmewert@embarqmail.com 913-796-6044

Mark Van Roekel 2020-1
3891 390th St.
Orange City, IA 51041
mandbvr@gmail.com 712-737-8205

View Continued

found enough for the fella from PA, and haven't heard back from the KY people. The KY contact was for an Amish family. The Amish communities have become big customers, at least in Michigan and neighboring states, as they see the potential of sheep in general and Polypays in particular.

In addition to those two, in the first week of January I've had contacts from two young local families looking to get started in sheep. The interest is also coming from areas where Polypays are not as entrenched. In the last few months, I've had calls from TX, OK, and NC that I can think of right now.

What's behind the interest in Polypays? We are the premier maternal breed, while maintaining a great carcass. What could be better? OK, looking at my wool check, the wool could be better. We aren't bad with our medium wool, but unfortunately the only wool in high demand right now is the fine wools. We have the tools available, through NSIP or even just by getting micron measurements on rams, to make focused improvement in that area, but it's hard to justify the costs involved when we aren't going to get to the fiber diameter that will bring the high dollars.

With so much of the conversation around the country focusing on parasites, Polypays are part of most conversations. Our program of developing EBV's for parasite resistance is touted most everywhere one goes. Several times last weekend at the Michigan Sheep Producers annual gathering, the ability to use EBV's to improve genetic parasite resistance by Polypays and Katahdins was mentioned and promoted. We are very appreciative of the work Dr. Chris Schauer and Jerry Sorensen have put into this project. Thanks, guys.

Interest nationwide in quantitative genetic analysis through EBV's has been on a rapidly rising curve. As one of the most involved breeds in the US, Polypays have been a headliner breed. We should be proud of our work and of our breed, but not rest on our laurels.



Registrations

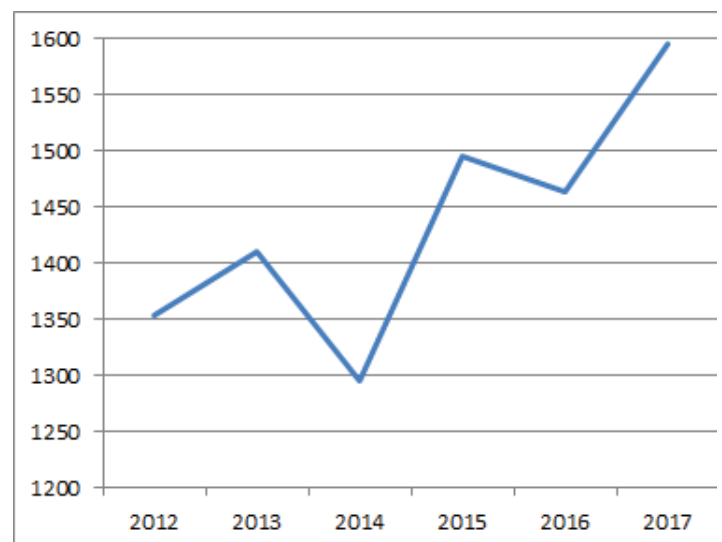
1595 sheep were newly registered with the APSA in 2017. That's a 9% increase over 2016. Excluding US MARC, which didn't register any this year, the increase is 30%.

The five states with the most registrations were MN - 338, WI - 266, IL - 153, OH - 148, and ND - 124. These five states accounted for 65% of the registrations. The member with the most registrations was the University of Wisconsin with 144 registrations.

66% of the sheep registered in 2017 were from flocks enrolled in NSIP.

Registration numbers for the last six years:

2012 - 1354
2013 - 1411
2014 - 1295
2015 - 1495
2016 - 1464
2017 - 1595



New Web Master

APSA member, Pat Schloss has volunteered to take over the APSA website. He's done a great job and as this goes to print, the new website is up and running. This will save the organization several hundred dollars.

The web address is **www.polypay.org**.

Note: **If you have a link on your farm web page to countrylovin.com/polypay, you should change that link to polypay.org.**

Director Nominations

In this newsletter is a nomination form for the APSA Board of Directors. Consider whether you might be willing to serve and help guide the future of the American Polypay Sheep Association, or if you know someone that you feel would serve well. We need your input.

Candidates need to be nominated by three members and the form returned by March 31 along with a short resume to Brett Pharo, 12266 Cherry Ave., Rapid City, MI 49676

Financial Position

The APSA ended the calendar year 2017 in excellent financial condition. Like every other organization, costs continue to rise. For the first time in many years, the board did raise fees for transfers from \$5.00 to \$7.00 in August this year.

Net gain for 2017 was \$1392.53.

Bank Balance	\$25028.80
Accts Rec. from members	\$ 1692.00
Total Assets	\$26720.80

The association has the following liabilities:

Accts Pay. to Assoc. Registries	\$ 146.82
Accts. Pay. to members	\$ 404.00
Director Credits	\$ 2908.50
Remaining Grant Funds	\$ 1833.78
Total Liabilities	\$ 5293.10

Net Worth	\$21427.70
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2018 Annual Membership Meeting

The 2018 American Polypay Sheep Association Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Clay County Fairgrounds in Spencer, IA on Friday, July 27, 2018. Details on the time and place are yet to be determined, but it will be held in concert with the Center of the Nation Sale.

In looking for a location and date for the meeting in the absence of a national sale, the board considered where the most APSA members were likely to be in attendance and distance for the most members. The Spencer, IA event filled the bill on both accounts.

Start making plans to attend and join together with fellow APSA members.

2018 Sales of Interest

Given the poor prices that have been the rule at APSA national sales for the last several years in Sedalia, Springfield, and Berrien Springs, especially when compared to prices at other sales and at the farm gate, the APSA Board has decided to suspend having a national sale in 2018. Other sales featuring APSA sheep continue to bring good prices. Some of those are listed below. Consider consigning.

June 25-30 Midwest Stud Ram Sale, Sedalia, MO

July 27-28 Center of the Nation NSIP Sale,
Spencer, IA

August 10-11 Eastern NSIP Sale, Wooster, OH

2018 Polypay Breeders Directory

This membership directory includes members whose dues are paid up as of 1/1/18.

CALIFORNIA

Kari Rose
Rose Polypays
37396 Oak View St.
Burney 96013
530-356-6498
kkrose@frontiernet.net

COLORADO

Billy & Helen Hardman
Uncompahgre Polypays
740 1325 Rd.,
Delta 81416
970-901-5045
UPFDelta@aol.com
www.polypays4u.com

David & Cindy Napier
Black Sheep Farm Hudson
24508 Hwy 52
Hudson, 80642
303-912-8701
blacksheepfarmhudson@yahoo.com

Nick & Janae Parsons
Bell Ringer Ranch
18563 Ward Creek Rd.
Cedaredge, 81413
530-510-1864
nparsons@deltaschools.com

Daniel Shapiro
Shapiro Family Farms
6420 Burrows Rd.,
Colorado Springs 80908
719-495-7340

GEORGIA

George & Julia Lyons
Lyons Farm, Inc.
2732 Hwy 9 S
Dawsonville 30534
706-265-3328
lyonsfarm@windstream.net

IDAHO

Robin Wylie
1425 S. McDermott Rd.
Nampa, 83687
208-250-6456
robin@sweethillsfarm.com

ILLINOIS

John Carlson
JCC Polypays
13525 N. 1050 Rd.,
MaComb 61455
309-333-9798
jccarlson@logonix.net
<http://jccpolypays.my.logonix.net>

Hoffmann & Murphy
1254 Gall Rd.,
Waterloo 62298
618-939-7954
cewe2@hotmail.com

Bobby & Heidi Hood
Clear Creek Sheep
1044 Buffalo-Mech Rd,
Dawson 62520
217-836-4664
clearcreekpolypay@hotmail.com
www.clearcreekpolypays.com

Chris & Anna Kaeb
CAK Polypays
639 N 1000 E Rd.,
Buckley 60918
815-457-2618
cakfarm@localline2.com

**Mark, Lindsey, Logan, Lane,
& Lauren Meurer**
Big Prairie Polypays
1869 Midway Rd.,
Ashton 61006
815-973-5576 815-453-2257
meurer66@gmail.com
www.bigprairiepolypays.com

Gordon & Anne Sammons
Sammons Polypay
17295 Hwy 82,
Geneseo 61254
309-944-3692
sammons@theinter.com

Linda & Randy Wolf
Wolfarm Polypays
2205 E 2300 Ave.
St. Elmo, 62458

INDIANA

Glen & Chris Jones
Hidden Valley Polypays
4750 N 450 E,
Rochester 46975
574-204-3442
glenjones1948@gmail.com

Joe Robertson & Family
6293 S. SR 231
Cloverdale 46120
765-301-0299

Jason Werling & Family
1234 W. 1200 N
Decatur 46733
260-414-9865

IOWA

Kevin & Diane Hermann
Shady Lawn Polypays
1850 S Scott Park Rd,
Eldridge 52748
563-285-8926 563-320-2746
shadylawn1@gmail.com

Tom Knapper
Utica Ridge Farm
22850 Utica Ridge Rd.
Davenport 52807
563-676-6762
uticaboergoats@csteldridge.com

Howard Lindaman
Sand Prairie Polypays
2041 180th St,
Marshalltown 50158
641-752-3490
celindaman@aol.com

Zach Meinders
Meinders Stock Farm
3605 230th Ave.
Buffalo Center 50424
515-320-3835
meinders2@hotmail.com

Benjamin Murphy
1254 Gall Road
Waterloo 62298
618-939-7954
cewe2@hotmail.com

Jerry & Mary Sorensen
West Cyclone Farm
Honorary Member
1148 1100th St,
Harlan 51537
712-755-7250 712-579-1511
wclones@harlannet.com
westcyclonefarm.homestead.com

Mark & Brenda Van Roekel
3891 390th St.
Orange City, 51041
712-737-8205
mandbvr@gmail.com

KANSAS

Kathleen Ewert, President
Notkwyta Ranch, Inc.
20009 62nd St,
McLouth 66054
913-796-6044
kmewert@embarqmail.com
www.notkwyta.com

Dathan & Jamie Jamison
Jamison Polypays
6850 County Rd. AA
Quinter 67752
785-769-3361
dathanjamison@gmail.com

KENTUCKY

Clark Coyle
1374 Quirks Run Rd.
Danville, 40422
859-583-0816
1503@medicineshoppe.com

University of Kentucky
1171 Midway Rd,
Versailles 40383
859-559-7756
endre.fink@uky.edu

MARYLAND

Kinsinger Homer
5790 Garrett Hwy
Oakland 21550
301-616-4381
hslukraine@gmail.com

MICHIGAN

Kendall & Vicki Nash
10751 Beecher Rd.
Pittsford 49271
517-523-3179
vknash@frontier.com

Brett & Deb Pharo
Pharo Polypay
Lifetime Member
12266 Cherry Av,
Rapid City 49676
231-322-2017 231-564-1540
brettpharo@gmail.com
www.backacrefarmmi.com

Patrick Schloss
N Kids Farm
5420 Farrell Road
Dexter 48130
734-424-0331
pdschloss@gmail.com

MINNESOTA

Else Andol
800 Cynthia St.
Maynard 56260

Mike Berven
Riverdale Farm
9030 40th St., NW
Milan 56262
320-269-8749
riverdale@mytvwireless.com

Larry Bremer
Elm Creek Polypay
1948 State Hwy 15,
Truman 56088
507-236-4175
elmcreekpolypay@yahoo.com
www.elmcreekpolypay.com

Chris Fagerness
Patriot Polypay
428 100th Ave.
Steen 56173
507-855-2112
cfagerness@hotmail.com

Bryce & Bobbie Freking
Freking Polypay Genetics
924 35th St.
Ceylon 56121
605-310-0733
frekingpolypay@gmail.com

Nicole Jessen & Mark Giese
Shady Lane Farms
2655 190th St.
Canby 56220
507-829-8748
nljessen87@gmail.com

Danny & Lori Krome
Dakota Krome POA & Polypays
2116 150th St.
Fairmont 56031
507-236-3174
l.krome@netzero.net

Holly Neaton
11549 Hwy 25 SW,
Watertown 55388
952-955-2596 952-240-2192
hjneaton@gmail.com

Jeremy & Renita Refshaw
Refshaw Ranch Polypays
1339 290th St.
Waubun 56589
218-473-2236 218-230-5383
refshawranch@yahoo.com
www.refshawranch.com

Caroline Scheffert
51253 State Hwy 13
Waseca 56093
507-461-6088
horsechic30@gmail.com

Lila, Dale, Bobbi & Kirby Schmidt
Grandview Polypays
2834 Co Rd 5,
Marshall 56258
507-532-7564
lilalamb@starpoint.net
www.grandviewpolypay.com

Russell Smith
17360 Perkins Valley Dr.
Houston, 55943
507-458-8688
rsmith@winona.edu

Steve & Janine Spessard
J&S Polypays
32706 Roberts Ave,
Worthington 56187
507-372-5956
jspolypays@frontiernet.net

Blake Thoreson
14304 CR 12 Blvd.
Zumbrota 55992
507-732-5950 507-202-0936
jimthoreson@netzero.net

Jennifer & Jessica Willegal
Nordhill Polypays
31406 633 Ave,
Gibbon 55355
507-276-4908 507-834-6814
strawberry103@hotmail.com

Scott Wollin
1151 470th Ave.
Karlstad 56732
218-686-5513
swollin@wiktel.com

MISSOURI
Joe Ferguson
RR 6, Box 75
Marquand 64655
573-866-2376

Henke Farms
Rt. 3, Box 253,
Princeton 64673
660-748-5742 660-748-4283
amh55a@yahoo.com
henkefarms@gmail.com

NEBRASKA
Charles Reppert
Reppert Polypays
1311 M Ave.,
Pender 68047
402-385-2790
creppertfarm@wildblue.net

NEW YORK

David & Carla Cummings
Picasso Sheep Farm
850 Wellman Rd.
Ashville, 14710
716-397-3025
dacummings56@hotmail.com

NORTH DAKOTA
Jerome Beckman
9716 45 Street SE
Ypsilanti, 58497
701-269-1951

Leonard & Carol Page
1702 7th Ave NW,
Reeder 58649
701-853-2489
carol_page@live.com

Christopher & Ronda Schauer
Schauer Sheep Co.
PO Box 205,
Hettinger 58639
104 Hwy 12 West
701-567-5374 701-567-3582
chris_schauer@yahoo.com

OHIO
John Anderson
Lambshire Polypays
10131 Munson Rd,
Shreve 44676
330-749-9053
info@lambshirepolypays.com
www.lambshirepolypays.com

Kayla Flinn & Luke Inbody
L&K Sheep Co.
6563 Twp Rd 28,
Jenera 45841
419-306-2451
flinn_13@hotmail.com

Brandon & Devon Grosjean
DB Farms
2589 Columbus Rd,
Wooster 44691
330-347-6033
tribefan2011@gmail.com

Robert Hastings
535 Spring St.
Wooster, 44691
330-264-9065
annalbucher@gmail.com

Harold Heidlebaugh
East View Farm
5760 Peltier Rd.
Delphos, 45833
419-695-8696

David & Velda Limbach
Misty Hollow
14950 Stanwood St.
Dalton 44618
330-604-6040 330-605-1856

Martin, Myra, Steven Snider
Snider Polypay Farm
P.O. Box 941
Sunbury, 43074
614-554-1295
sniderpolypayfarm@gmail.com

Don & Meta Van Nostran
Will-O-Wood Sheep Farm
2871 Ladd Ridge Rd.
Athens, 45701
740-856-2151
wowlamb@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA
Jan Motter & Ed O'Shea
Lane's End Farm
12211 W Rt 973,
Jersey Shore 17740
570-398-2078

SOUTH DAKOTA
Joe & Bev Cassady
1029 Circle Dr.
Brookings, 57006
605-651-7034
jpcassad@gmail.com

Jim & Rhondi Hanssen
Hanssen Polypays
43014 260th St.
Emery 57332
605-449-4659
rjhanssen@triotel.net

Doug & Rose Marie Hoiten
44674 256th St.,
Montrose 57048
605-769-0807 605-363-3211
hoitens@goldenwest.net

Vic VanWell
VanWell Polypays
1104 18th St. NE
Watertown 57201
605-881-6574
vcvanwell@iw.net
www.vanwellsheepfarm.com

TENNESSEE

Elijah Durbin

1515 Brian St,
Lebanon 37087
615-444-3032
rtanner@wilsoncoop.com

LaDonna Tanner

1515 Brian St,
Lebanon 37087
615-957-8812 615-444-3032
rtanner@wilsoncoop.com

WASHINGTON

Laura Ray

Shear Vista Polypays

5254 Hattery Owens,
Deer Park 99006
509-276-9298 509-995-3256
ljr2057@gmail.com

Arthur & Jill Swannack Feustel Farms, Inc.

1201 Cree Rd.
Lamont, 99017
509-257-2683
dvm@feustelfarms.com

Sally Tibbits

Sleepy Hollow Fiber Farms

P.O. Box 537
Granite Falls, 98252
206-245-7593
stockdogs@comcast.net

WISCONSIN

Robert Allen

W. 11456 McDonald Dr.
Merrimac, 53561
608-754-4603
aggienbob@yahoo.com

Thomas & Sharon Bartmer Bear Valley Farm

19914 107th St.,
Bristol 53104
847-372-8996
tombartmer@hotmail.com
www.bearvalleyfarm.net

Rick, Barb, & Kristine Gruwell

Gru-Well Farm

N 2001 W Harmon Rd,
Lodi 53555
608-370-3572
rgruwell@merr.com

Donald & Mary Hausser Hausser Polypays

S67 W38381 Hwy ZZ,
Eagle 53119
262-495-2692
d.mhausser@gmail.com

Brandon & Michelle Knutson

Diamond K Sheep Co.

8605 Kemmerer Rd
Clinton 53525
608-732-4955
diamond.clublambs@yahoo.com

Eric Larsen

5720 Oak Park Rd.
Marshall 53559
608-655-4035
jlcelloplayer76@gmail.com

Warren O'Brien Irish Acres

W 4050 Palmer Rd
Rio 53960
920-992-3747
irishacres@centurytel.net

Dale & Janet Patterson

9587 State Rd 133,
Glen Haven 53810
608-994-2390
jndfarms@tds.net

University of Wisconsin

W4857 Meek Rd
Arlington 53911
608-846-5858 608-322-4914
toddtaylor@wiscmail.wisc.edu

Dues Reminder

Remember, APSA dues are now due for 2018.
The year you are paid up through is on your
mailing label.



News Makers

The January 2018 issue of the Sheep Industry News features articles by or about three APSA members - Chris Schauer, Zach Meinders, and Holly Neaton. It's always good to open an industry magazine and see familiar names and faces.



Show Yourself

We are always looking for articles and pictures for the newsletter. All the photos in this newsletter are again from the Pharo farm. We'd like to see some pictures from around your farm. If you have something positive or educational you'd like to write about involving the sheep industry, Polypays, or the association, that would be great, too. Send to Brett Pharo, brettpharo@gmail.com.

APSA Director Nomination Form

We, the undersigned members of the American Polypay Sheep Association,

nominate _____
to serve as a Director on the Board of Directors of the American Polypay Sheep Association.

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

Three separate voting active memberships must sign this form for it to be accepted as official.

I, _____, desire to, and will, serve to the best of my ability on the Board of Directors of the American Polypay Sheep Association, for a three-year term if elected. Attached is my resume (not to exceed 200 words), which may be mailed to all APSA members so that they may judge as to my qualifications to serve on the Board of Directors of the APSA.

I certify that I am a breeder of purebred Polypay sheep registered with the American Polypay Sheep Association, and I pledge myself to support and obey the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of this association, and the Breeder's Guidelines as contained therein, and to advance the production objectives of the Polypay breed.

Nominee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Return completed nomination form and accompanying resume by March 31, 2018 to:

Brett Pharo, APSA President
12266 Cherry Ave.
Rapid City, MI 49676