



View from the Great Lakes State

Brett Pharo, APSA President

After a much colder than normal November, winter in northern Michigan blessed us with mild weather through the middle of January. However, the last half of January has been bitterly cold, much more so than usual.

The cold reminds me once again why we stopped lambing in the winter months many years ago. Timing of lambing is a matter of personal preference, but I'm happy to not be trekking out in the very cold during the middle of the night.

This year, though, we did lamb out one Polypay ewe in January to get crossbred lambs for the grandkids to show in 4-H. The oldest are now old enough. It's been lots of years since our own daughters were doing that. Needless to say, we are very excited to see another generation at the fair.

So why bother with just one ewe? To avoid prolonged winter lambing, we only wanted to leave rams in for 5 days with several ewes, and hoped for 8-10 to be bred. Unfortunately, that didn't happen, but we still pulled the rams. Talking with several people at the Michigan Sheep Producers symposium the first

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APSA Board of Directors

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weekend of January, it seems that lots of people with a variety of breeds experienced low conception rates for early winter lambing. It must have been the weather last summer.

Things couldn't have been more different for our breeding in November. Our replacement ewe lambs are expected to breed at seven months of age without ever having seen grain or other concentrates. They are raised solely on grass and expected to breed while grouped with mature ewes. That's a pretty tough order, but we want them pushed hard. Given that scenario, we usually end up with about 80% of the ewe lambs bred by the end of two cycles, and a few more drift in later. This year, we had 85% of the ewe lambs and 100% of the mature ewes bred in the first 17 day cycle, and 59 out of 60 ewe lambs bred by the end of the second cycle. The result will challenge our facilities in April, but that's a great problem to have.

These Polypay sheep are truly amazing animals. They rise to the challenge. Here's hoping you all have a great 2019.



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



Advertise

Advertising in the APSA newsletter is available. Rates are

- Full Page: \$85
7.5"w x 10"h
- Half Page: \$45
7.5"w x 5"h
- Quarter Page: \$25
7.5"w x 2.5"h
3.75"w x 5"h

Ads you would like put in the Spring newsletter would need to be sent to brettpharo@gmail.com by April 1.

2019 Annual Membership Meeting

The 2019 APSA Annual Membership Meeting will be held once again in Spencer, IA in conjunction with the Center of the Nation Sale. The meeting is planned for Friday, July 26. Details are still being worked out regarding precise place, time, and meal arrangements, and will be more fully laid out in the Spring newsletter. We are looking into trying to include tele-conference or video-conference ability so those that can't make it can participate in some capacity.

Again this year, the board sent out a survey to all members we had good email addresses for. We included four possibilities - three with sales that APSA members regularly attend, and one venue that would be purely educational activities to go along with the meeting, though we are always interested in any venue someone might suggest. The four possible venues included in the survey were in conjunction with 1. the Iowa Lamb and Wool event in Ames IA, 2. the Midwest Stud Ram Sale in Sedalia, MO, 3. the Center of the Nation NSIP Sale in Spencer, IA, and 4. the Eastern NSIP sale in Wooster, OH. Members were asked to rate each venue as to whether they would: 1. Definitely try to attend, 2. Maybe would try to attend, 3. Doubtful would try to attend, and 4. Definitely wouldn't attend.

The results, which did not include any votes of board members, was overwhelmingly in support of holding the meeting at Spencer, IA in July. As a board, we were willing to hold the meeting wherever the membership wanted and would attend. It's the membership's meeting. Our discussion was leaning toward other options than Spencer, since we had it there last year, but we wanted to know if people would attend elsewhere. Hence the survey. The most important ingredient of a membership meeting is attendance by members. That's what it's all about. We didn't want a meeting attended by only a half dozen memberships as happened in the not too distant past.

The question has come up from different quarters as to whether we need to have a membership meeting in person given the ability to communicate electronically. I may be old fashioned, but I still believe in the importance of getting together for socializing, seeing old friends, and making new ones. Polypays are an amazing breed of sheep, but the APSA is comprised of some amazing people, too. Come and let's join together for a fun, fruitful time in Spencer.

Financial Position

The APSA ended the calendar year 2018 in excellent financial condition.

Bank Balance	\$26,912.33
Accts Rec. from members	\$ 105.01
Total Assets	\$27,017.34

The association has the following liabilities:

Accts Pay. to Assoc. Registries	\$ 529.14
Accts. Pay. to members	\$ 327.01
Director Credits	\$ 2744.50
Remaining Grant Funds	\$ - 861.65
Total Liabilities	\$ 2739.00

Net Worth **\$24,278.34**

Net Worth Change **\$636.36**

Registrations/Memberships

Polypay registrations dropped to 1329 for 2018. That's due in part to one member, that registered the largest number in 2017 with 144, having only submitted a handful so far for 2018. Membership, on the otherhand, increased to 99, which is the most in several years. While it's encouraging that our membership is growing as more people see the value in registered Polypays, we all realize that we continue to run well behind some other breeds in the number of sheep registered and membership. Because we are small, we need to all pull together to make the APSA be all that it can be.

Paid-up-members as of Dec. 31 for the last four years:

2018	99
2017	82
2016	70
2015	77

The highest number of animals registered in 2018 was by the University of Kentucky with 98 registrations. By state, MN again led the way with 305, followed by IL 138, OH 115, WI 115, KY 108, and KS 102. Those six states accounted for over 2/3 of our registrations this year.

2019 Polypay Breeders Directory

This membership directory includes members whose dues are paid up as of 1/1/19.

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2019 Sales of Interest

Sales of quality Polypay breeding stock has been strong at the farm gate, over the phone, and through the internet. Buyers are looking for a variety of traits, including prolificacy, out of season breeding, ability to accelerate, milking ability, growth, hardiness, wool clip, and parasite resistance, among others. Whatever Polypay traits a sheep producer is looking to emphasize, there are APSA members that can fill the need.

One venue for connecting buyers and sellers is at one of the sales events that APSA members frequent. An added bonus at these sales is the opportunity to connect, and reconnect, with fellow APSA members and seedstock producers of other breeds. It's not unusual for buyers to be looking for breeding stock from more than one breed. What better place to do that than at one of these sales?

Below are dates of three sales that regularly feature a good contingent of Polypay producers, but also draw consignors and buyers from across the country. Look over your inventory and consider consigning to one or more of these sales.

June 24-29 **Midwest Stud Ram Sale**,
Sedalia, MO

July 26-27 **Center of the Nation NSIP Sale**,
Spencer, IA

August 9-10 **Eastern NSIP Sale**,
Wooster, OH



Add to Your Newsletter

The APSA puts out a small newsletter four times a year. If you would like to contribute an article promoting Polypays, the sheep industry in general, or of interest to Polypay breeders, we would very much like to include it. Also, if you have pictures of your operation, we can always use them. Sometimes more, sometimes less, depending on how the layout goes. You can send to 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, 2019 to:

Brett Pharo, APSA President
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