
BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
Ithaca, New York

NEWSLETTER #18 -- July 1978
Edited by Jean Warholic

My, is the summer going fast! It seems like it just got here and it is already almost half over... Hope your gardens are doing well, and that everyone is fine...

JULY 10 MEETING. Our gala lamb barbeque! At Libby Martin's. Dish-to-pass, bring family and/or friend and own plates, silverware. Bob White is in charge of the lamb and we will plan to have it unless there is an absolute downpour of rain that day (in case of downpour, the raindate is July 20). The Guild is buying the lamb to be barbequed (sorry about that error in the last Newsletter!), Bob will do a SUPER job, and we hope everyone will come eat and enjoy themselves! Brief business meeting at 10:00, then eating, spinning, and visiting the rest of the day. Directions to Libby's: From Ithaca, go out Trip-hammer or East Shore Drive to Rt. 34, going north toward North Lansing and Auburn. Continue on Rt. 34 to the North Lansing School Road and turn right (if you get to North Lansing and Beckeley's gas station/grocery, you've gone too far). Turn left at West Groton (at the cobblestone house) and continue about 2 miles. (If you get to Bird Cemetery Road, you've gone too far.) Libby's is the only barn with a picture window on the road, and is on the right. If you get really lost, her telephone is 315/497-9545. She is about 15 miles from Ithaca. If you need a ride, please call someone you know in the Guild, or Jean Warholic (539-7648 even.). Please note: We will need a big table or two card-tables to put food on, if you can bring one or the other please call Linda Olds (844-9672). We also need people to bring lemonade and iced tea -- call Linda if you can bring them. If you wish to sit on a chair, you'll need to bring your own. *WHAT A GOOD DAY this promises to be -- hope we see you there!!!*

AUGUST 14 MEETING. Our traditional "pot-to-pass" dye session of the year -- always a terrific day!!! Each member is to bring a pot with a natural dyestuff and small skeins or sample cards for the different dyepots that will appear. (In previous years, we have averaged about 25 dyepots with no duplicates each day -- think we can do it again?) You should have your fibers mordanted -- remember, these need not be handspun, but all should be tagged with your name indelibly marked to prevent mix-ups. Everyone is welcome -- bring an interested friend, as well as your own lunch. Dyeing begins at 10:00 (business meeting at noon) and we will be at Joan Johnston's home for the day. Directions to Joan's from Ithaca: go through "octopus" (over the channel), turning left onto Rt. 13A (Floral Avenue). Follow the channel (Floral Ave.) down to Bostwick Road and turn right. When you run out of pavement, the next house is Joan's (white, on left, down thru woods a bit). She is about 4.4 miles from Ithaca. (For those lost: 272-2697.) *See you there, and don't forget your dyepot!*

SATURDAY GROUP. Meeting of June 24 was a nice, informal get-together. The surprise dyepot was HENNA (yes, the hair-dye!). Color was a muddy orange; I suspect the dyepot should have been strained. Barb White got a similar color when she did some dyeing with kids earlier in the week. It was nice to meet Erica Rowe, a new member, and get her started on drop spindle. (Her first rolag was better than Jean Warholic's, and she spun a better first thread than anyone else remembered doing there!) At the rate she was going, she may well have a finished sweater by now! Plans for the July 29 meeting and August 26 meeting are indefinite -- probably dyepots -- but meeting place to be announced. Please call Eleanor May (272-8224) or Jean Warholic (539-7648) if you are coming and we will let you know where the meeting will be.

(PLEASE NOTE: No newsletter until end of August. Deadline for information, dates, etc. to Jean Warholic is August 14 [at meeting]. WOOL DAY reports will be mailed out to those not making the July meeting.)

SORTING A FLEECE WORKSHOP has been postponed to the fall. Watch for more information on this. Maria Steve is in charge

BEGINNING SPINNING WORKSHOP is July 8, from 1-5 p.m., Kay Ross's house. Fee is \$10. We need some helpers with this -- if you can come and assist in any way, call Linda Olds (844-9672) or Kay Ross (844-8050) immediately. *Please!* We anticipate a good number of new spinners at this workshop (and it is a good review session for us oldies!).

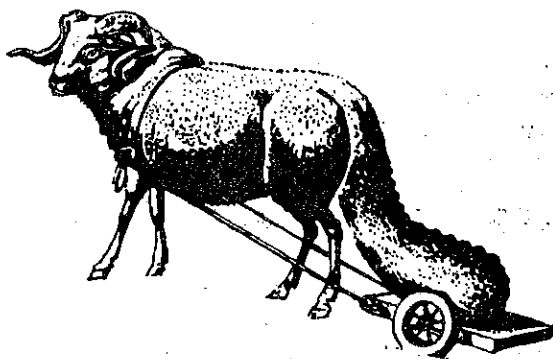
BEGINNING DYEING WORKSHOP is slated for early August. Details are being worked out. If you are interested in helping with it in any way, please call Linda Dickinson (564-7597) or Toby Chambliss (273-7004). We have a sizable group signed up for this also and need several helpers.

GUILD MORDANTS -- our supplies have been replenished (thanks to Linda Dickinson's trip to Boston recently) and we need to have a "bagging" session to break down the quantities into smaller units. If you can help, call Jean Warholic (539-7648) or Linda Dickinson (564-7597). Also, we need babyfood jars -- please bring whatever you can spare (clean, we hope!) to the July meeting.

CARDING MACHINE FOR GREASEY WOOL. Guild decided not to purchase a machine for this purpose, especially since Libby Martin will be renting hers out for this purpose. If you are wanting to card wool in the grease on her machine, call her (or talk to her at the July meeting) -- Libby, 315/497-9545.

FRED GERBER DYEING WORKSHOP is definitely scheduled for Sept. 19-21, to be sponsored by our Guild. Financing details need to be worked out at the July meeting, so publicity can proceed, as well as other plans. Costs for Gerber's workshop are not cheap (but will be well worth every cent!) and we can proceed with two alternatives. The total costs, so far as we can determine, will be about \$500 (\$125/day + travel + mordants, wool + fee for workshop space). For a minimum of 20 people (the number he likes to work with) that would be \$25@ for the three-day workshop. If we participants paid for his time and the Guild picked up the tab for travel, mordants, etc., then it would be about \$19@. We will need a note on this in July -- it is your money -- if you can't make it for the meeting, please communicate your feelings to Jean Warholic (539-7648). We must also take into consideration the usual hazards of workshops (last-minute cancellations, unexpected costs above [the wool for dyeing may cost a lot!], etc.). It will be a marvelous workshop and well-worth all efforts, money, etc! (By the way, the proposed place for it to be held is the Dryden Presbyterian Church and we hope to confirm that by the July meeting.)

SPEAKING OF MONEY and things like that... We did have good sales of handspun skeins both at WOOL DAY (especially) and Ithaca Festival '78. Many, many thanks to all of you who came forth with the skeins as asked. Too many skeins appeared at the last minute at Wool Day for us to make a list of who brought what, but we have now sold about half those donated. A boost in morale for all of us -- as well as the Guild treasury! BUT there has been some unhappiness at the pricing of the skeins on the part of some of us -- the general feeling is that the prices charged were too much. The following is the scale we used in pricing the skeins -- please think about it: \$1.50/oz. for singles, add 50¢/oz. if dyed. \$2.00/oz. for 2-ply, add 50¢ per oz. if dyed. \$2.50/oz. for 3-ply, add 50¢/oz. if dyed. \$3.00/oz. for 4-ply, add 50¢/oz. if dyed. Yes? No? May we please have a REACTION from you at the July meeting on this? Libby Martin is working on a more equitable pricing system and hopes to present it to us in July. But you do some thinking about it, too. We need a Guild vote on it. Some felt that the pricing should reflect more about the fiber, yardage, etc. What about YOU???



Fat-tailed sheep with cart for carrying tail from Rudolf the Elder's *New History of Ethiopia*, AD 1682. (From *Seed to Civilization: The Story of Man's Food* by Charles B. Heiser, Jr., 1973, W.H. Freeman & Co., San Francisco, Ca.)

ORDERS are now being taken for the special issue of *Interweave* magazine that is devoted to color and dyeing. At 10 or more copies, the price drops to \$1.50 each. Interested? Get your name to Maria Steve (257-2242) or Jean Warholic. NOW!

By the way, we have heard from the Natural Colored Wool Growers' Association. We are in Region 4 and our director is: Peter Reimers, NCWGA, Hinesburg, Vermont 05461. (802/482-2613) We'll have more information on this at the July meeting...

LIBRARY DOINGS. Missing is a copy of Bogdonoff's *Handwoven Textiles of Early New England* and the Summer, Fall, Winter issues (this previous year) of *Interweave*. If you forgot to sign them out at the last meeting, please at least call Barbara White (844-9235) so she at least knows they are safe and sound! Overdue books (c'mon you guys!): Barbara Bartholomew still has Grae's *Nature's Colors: Dyes from Plants*; Jane Steigerwald still has *Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot* (Summer 1977) and *Country Journal* (Dec. 1977); Nancy Morey-Brower still has *Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot* (Winter 1977); and Theodora Meller still has out *The Web* (August 1977). Obviously, these have all been good reading, but let's get them back -- they've been due since April (eek!).

New acquisitions (and we have a nice little library, if we do say so ourselves!): *Handwoven Textiles of Early New England* by Nancy Dick Bogdonoff; *Navaho & Hopi Weaving Techniques* by Mary Pandleton; *Plain and Fancy: American Women and Their Needlework, 1700-1850* by Susan Burrows Swan; the Spring and Summer 1978 *Interweaves*; 1976 and Spring, Summer issues of *Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot*; the *Weaver's Newsletter* and Thistledown Handspinners Guild newsletters to date; and the November 1977, March 1978 issues of *The Web*. (and that latter issue is a pretty good one!).

Obviously, Barb White is far better organized than Jean Warholic -- Jean still hasn't finished the list of Guild handouts, etc. That will need to go into the next newsletter instead of this one as promised...

You did miss a nice day at The Mannings at East Berlin, Pa. If you have a chance to go next year, do try to! (It is a free day, with all sorts of spinning-related things going on; usually the second week of June on a Saturday.) Mannings are a good source for spinning and weaving supplies, so their shop is interesting to browse through. Perhaps the highlight of the day for this editor was the lady spinning on the gossip wheel using her two hands. I had never seen anyone do it -- only seen the wheels (and they are rather rare) and speculated as to the prospects of trying it. She was doing a remarkably good job (given the hot afternoon, talking to us spectators, and that her wheel needed lubricating) and it was most fun watching her!!! Hope they have her back next year!!!

WARM GREETINGS to several new members! Please add them to your lists: Kathleene S. Houck, 9 Calvert Street, Cortland, N.Y. 13045 (756-6438) (*Weaver, dyer, knitter/crocheter.*) The Boston Area Spinners & Dyers will be exchanging newsletters with us -- their librarian is Janelle Delicata, BASD Librarian, 46 Lowell Avenue, Newtonville, MA 02160. (Their Journal is most interesting -- check it out when it starts arriving!) Correction on address for Jane Steigerwald: RD #5 - Box 345A, Auburn, N.Y. 13021. (Telephone is still okay.) Diane Record returns to sunny California in August (heck, and she just made it

through her first miserable Ithaca winter) -- her temporary address: 5621 Kingston Way, Sacramento, CA 95822. (By the way, Diane did not have a chance to finish the spinning wheel sources book for the Guild -- would anyone be interested in picking up on the project? It would make a nice, quiet, leisurely task for someone whose ambitions have left them in all the summer heat!) Has anyone seen Cathy Anderjack lately? Her last Newsletter was returned with no forwarding address, and Jean Warholic gets no answer on the telephone. Hope we haven't lost her along the way...

Karey Solomon is pleased to announce the birth of their baby girl, Janna Ray Solomon, born June 15! Janna Ray came along earlier than expected, but everyone is doing well. Karey also mentioned that two people had contacted her with black fleeces to sell. If you are interested, please call them: Linda DiStefano has one black lamb fleece (272-8570), and Priscilla Holgate (387-9755) has three black fleeces at about 7-lbs. each. Thank you, Karey, and we hope to see you and Janna Ray before long!

We might also send congratulations to Eleanor May and her new FAST-spinning Dick Loftus wheel! Eleanor reports that she is spending a lot of time chasing the end of the wool down the orifice, but is working on speeding up her spinning to keep up with the wheel!

YOU'D ALL BETTER GET THOSE WHEELS SPINNING!!! We have two fairs coming up with yarn competitions, not to mention other sundry events along the way... Spinners are needed (see below), as well as yarns spun for the competitions, so please take note and sign up!

July 8 - BEGINNING SPINNING WORKSHOP (see page 2 for details). *Guild members are needed to help with this...*

July 8 - Pulteney Park Craft Fair and Flea Market, Geneva, New York.

July 17 - Fair books come out for the Tompkins County Fair. Copies will be placed with businesses around the County -- be sure to pick up your copy and note the HANDSPINNING categories. There are two specifically for handspun: (1) Traditional Yarn (2-oz, 2-ply skein), and (2) Designer Yarn (2-oz. skein). There is also a category for garments or accessories made from one or more of the following: handspun, hand-dyed, handwoven. There are also weaving categories (2): Traditional, or Modern. Entries are due in the week of July 24 -- so start hopping! -- it is painfully easy to enter. Obviously, a good response of entries means categories next year too (hint, hint). Items entered should have been made within the last year. Kay Ross and Jean Warholic have more information on this. *Let's have a good show this year -- this is the first these categories have been in the county fair...*

July 19-22 - 4-H FAIR, Etna, N.Y. *Spinners requested for this; sign up at July meeting.*

July 23 - 1978 SENECA FALLS SUMMER FESTIVAL, *Spinners requested*, as well as weavers. Can you do it? (Call Jean Warholic, if so, and she'll let them know who is coming.) Demonstrations will be with an historical note, at the Hist. Society on 55 Cayuga Street, Seneca Falls. Should be an extra nice day of events...

July 26 - SHEEP & WOOL CRAFTSMEN'S DAY, Troy, Pa. Troy Fairgrounds, 9-5:00. If you can come and haven't told her so already, send her a postal card (or call her, 717/297-2498): Jean Case, RD #2 - Box 17, Troy, Pa. 16947. It is a marvelous day, with spinners coming from all over the area. There is still space in several cars. This is also your big chance to see some good sheep dog demonstrations...

(Late July/early August - again, Ithaca would like a group to do a "sheep-to-shawl" demonstration. Date is at our discretion and Masa Kinoshita said she would demonstrate the weaving. Please sign up for this at the July meeting so the date can be worked out.)

August 1 - Deadline for entries of handspun yarn in the STATE FAIR (must have been received by this date). Again, the categories are for about 2-oz., 2-ply skeins in the following categories: hand-carded wool, machine-carded wool, hand-combed wool,

and machine-combed wool. Entry information will again be available at the July meeting. If you haven't got a skein (or more) ready to go in these categories, then decide what you want to do, send in your entry, and you have until Aug. 10th to produce that yarn (entries must be received at Fair between August 10-12; juried on 16th; rejections notices mailed Aug. 18; and rejected articles picked up Aug. 21-22.). Easy. But more expensive (\$5.00) to enter than County Fair (50¢/article). This makes the second year for handspun categories and let's give them a good response, too. Last year they had over 50 skeins entered and were pleased; we ought to increase that number substantially (and then let's push for more and better categories!). State Fair still doesn't have a category for items made from handspun!

August 1-5 -- TOMPKINS COUNTY FAIR, Freeville, N.Y. Kiddies Day is Wednesday (2nd). We need spinners to demonstrate one day in one of the tents. A weaver is needed too -- please sign up at the July meeting... And plan to go look at your Blue Ribbon skeins too! Fair ends Saturday night and you are to pick up your entries and ribbons then. Again, Kay Ross and Jean Warholic have more information on this... (P.S. We do have a choice of day we demonstrate; it need not be kiddies day.)

August 14 -- BSHG dyepots day at Joan Johnston's. Don't forget! (Regular meeting day.)

August 19 -- 5th ANNUAL ART, CRAFT & HOBBY FAIR, Union Springs, N.Y. Spinners requested. Would like modified "sheep-to-shawl" if possible (no dyeing; exhibit only). Can sell, but 10% goes to Fair. Hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. - in High School. Sign up at July meeting.

Oops - August 4-11 (?) - CRAFTFAIR ITHACA, Ithaca College. If you have information about it, please share it with us at the July meeting.

August 26 thru Sept. 4 -- NEW YORK STATE FAIR, Syracuse. We can all go admire our skeins in the blue ribbon section of the Home Arts Building! (Entries to be picked up on Sept. 5 and 9, or mailed to you if you made the arrangements.)

September 19-21 -- DYE WORKSHOP WITH FRED GERBER. (Details still being worked out -- see page 2 for a little more information.)

September 19 thru Oct. 1 -- BSHG display at Tompkins Co. Library, Ithaca. We have three sizable cases (well people-proofed) to fill at our discretion. Suzie Hokanson has agreed to "chair" this project -- please tell her what you have for the display. One idea is to have a dyeing exhibit in one case, "wool keeps you warm" in another, and maybe items from handspun (utilizing some of the books the library has) in the last. Any thoughts on the subject should be communicated to Suzie. This is a nice exhibit spot for us, and we got many compliments on the one done about two years ago there. Talk to Suzie if you can help her with it, too.

October thru November -- "OUR TEXTILE HERITAGE" series of exhibits, lectures at the DeWitt Historical Society. A good series of programs, etc. is being worked up and we will have more info. on this at the end of the summer. If you feel you would like to help with this project, please let Jean Warholic know -- items are needed for temporary exhibits as well as some elbow grease in putting exhibits together. Ideas and pipe-dreams (since we hope to make this a series of events that many of us have pined for in past years) welcome too!

June 10-August 26, 1979 -- YES! The Hinckley Foundation would like to have the Guild, perhaps in conjunction with the Seven Valley Weavers Guild, have an exhibit of handspinning, handspun items, fibers, etc. Jean Warholic has given them a tentative yes, but needs Guild approval. This would be a major exhibit for us -- bigger than we've done before. Are we up to it? Would anyone like to (at least temporarily) be in charge of it? We need to let them know a.s.a.p. (that means NOW)!

Almost forgot -- sorry! The Cherry Valley Spinners are having a show titled "Making Hands with Fiber" (?). The exhibit will be up the entire month of July, with some items

for sale. Place: Windward Wools Farm (Jean Conover's), Ridge Road, Cazenovia, N.Y. The hours are weekdays, 1-4; weekends 12-6. If you have a chance to get there, tell us about it at the August meeting -- it should be quite an exhibit!

ODDS AND ENDS DEPARTMENT... The lucky person who won the beautiful handwoven coverlet of Marion Wikoff's at the 7VWG drawing was Mrs. Priscilla Bradshaw of Homer, N.Y. My, we envy you!!! No further word on the Repp book -- will try to find out by the July meeting. // The commemoration of the Sullivan-Clinton expedition (to be held next year) is gathering steam. There are some 15-counties involved and it should be quite an event! Many of the people involved are members of the Brigade of the American Revolution, and they always seem to do things up right! One of the ideas being mulled over right now is the possibility of having small community celebrations, appropriate for the period, held at various points along the route that Sullivan & Clinton's men took. (Obviously, we spinners fit into that!) Interested? We'll remind you of it now and then, but you might give your name and address to Jean Warholic who is accumulating a list of persons in conjunction with BAR representative Sallie Sanderson. // A quick mention is in order of the Thistledown Handspinners Guild's new officers for 1978-79: Helen Grace Lindsay, Pres.; Sheril Green, V. Pres.; Roberta Miglin, Sec'y; Nancy Eicke, Treas.; Linda McRae, Librarian; and Anne Ward, Publicity. Plans are well under way for their gala October seminar! What a busy bunch! // Still have a vacation ahead of you? Don't forget the opportunities to see spinning demonstrations, textile exhibits, etc! Within a reasonable driving distance in all directions we have the Alling Coverlet Museum (Palmyra), Upper Canada Village (near Cornwall, Ontario), Cooperstown's Farmers Museum, Genesee Country Museum (Mumford), Shaker Museum (Old Chatham). All of them truly worth a visit if and when you have a chance!! // For your general information... the Ithaca Textile Arts Guild won't be meeting again until fall. Same for the Seven Valley Weavers Guild after their July meeting. The Quilter's Guild is still active -- Barbara Dimock (539-7202) is president. Meetings are Sept. thru June, every other Tuesday, at the Women's Community Building. // A little something to remember the next time you demonstrate spinning and talk about wool... According to New Mexico State University's calculations (info. is second-hand, so am not sure quite who or how these were done), the production of wool requires less than one-half of the energy needed to produce synthetic fiber. To wit, considering all sheep ranch energy requirements including shearing, transportation, and scouring, wool took only 8.27 megacalories to produce one pound of fiber, while synthetic fiber required 20.38 megacalories per pound. (Interesting to think about, anyway -- confirms some of our worst suspicions if it is true.)

Well, we certainly have a busy summer ahead! For those of us who survived the crazily busy last three months (saying each one couldn't be worse than the last, as each one whizzed by), it isn't over yet, by a long shot!!!

Please sign up for the demonstrations, etc. at the July meeting. **WE NEED YOUR HELP** at these events. And let's give those skeins for the two fairs a try -- why not? It is FUN and a good experience for all of us, and the entry fee at the county fair at least shouldn't break your bank!

See you at Libby's for the delicious barbeque!!!

-- Jean Warholic

AD SECTION

SILK FIBERS -- Beautiful white and tussah in combed and carded roving. Send SASE for free samples and price list. Cocoons, waste silk, spindles, and flicker-combs also. FALLBROOK HOUSE, RD #2 - Box 17, Troy, PA 16947. (717/297-2498) 5/9

FOR SALE: Purebred Romney ram lambs for breeding or fleece or meat. Ready in July. To reserve, call Virginia Lance, 844-8502, after 6:00 evenings. *3/3*

SPINNERS, do you need a solidly constructed, portable wheel to teach on, to learn on, to take to seminars? I have available the Green Spring Wheel, constructed of oak, cherry, walnut, and birch plywood with 7/16" machined metal orifice, double-action treadle, built-in lazy kate, and life-time guarantee. Price: \$65 plus shipping. THIS IS NOT A KIT. For additional information, contact: Nancy L. Breckenridge, 2209 Richland Place, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. *5/5*

FOR SALE: Table loom, Finnish 4-harness, 60 cm (23") weaving width, \$85. Table loom, 2-harness, 12" weaving width, old but sturdy, \$20. Also, light and airy stoles in spring colours, some mohair and some wool, \$25 each. Total amount from stoles will go to the Cayuga Lake Conservation Association (you can even make it a tax-deductible contribution!). Call Doris Brown, 273-6173. 3/5

ASHFORD SPINNING WHEELS may be ordered through Meredith Wood (MERRYWOOD, 2509 Slaterville Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 539-7436) or Billie Hall (926 Glendale Drive, Endicott, N.Y. 13760. 754-4469). The Guild is no longer handling them. Please contact Meredith or Billie, or direct anyone interested to them.

MACHINE WASHABLE SHEEP SKINS, \$25 each. Bartlettyarns, natural and dyed, 1- to 3-ply, \$8/lb. Have your sheep shorn, \$1 per head. Two pure fine black ram lambs left. Gjeter Wool Co., Libby Martin, RD #2, Locke, N.Y. 13092. (315/497-9545) Drop a card for samples. 1/3

ASHFORD WHEEL FOR SALE, \$85. Used two years, in good condition. Walnut stain, no lacquer. Call or write: Margaret Straight, RD #3 - 45 McLean Road, Cortland, N.Y. 13045. (838-3426) 1/1

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The USDA Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho, claims that twice a year lambing is possible with crossbred ewes developed at the station. Dubbed "Polypay" ewes because of the promise of doubling production through lambing twins twice a year, the sheep are a four-cross breed. They originated from Targhee and Dorset, and Rambouillet and Finnsheep. The progeny were crossed to form the four-cross breed. "They can lamb in February, and a considerable number will, and breed naturally in March, lamb again in August, and breed quite successfully in September," the USDA said. "Furthermore, 85- to 95-percent of the Polypay ewes possess the ability to breed at the age of six- to seven-months and give birth to one or more lambs at 12 or 13 months. This ability to breed at such an early age enhances the Polypays' potential for putting more lamb on the dinner table." The U.S. imports more than \$20-million worth of lamb each year.

The USDA says the Polypays are well-endowed with the best qualities of the four breeds. From the Targhee and Rambouillet, they obtain hardiness, herding instinct, size and a long breeding season. Finnsheep breeding adds early puberty, short gestation, and high lambing rates, and a high rate of twins and triplets. (Ed.'s note: I count only three - what happened to the Dorset?) Further serious inquiries may be directed to Dr. Clarence V. Hulet, U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, Dubois, Idaho 83423. (From *Countryside & Small Stock Journal*, June 1978, p. 17.)