

**SPECIAL DIGITAL ISSUE**

# **THE CATCH PEN**

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NAVAJO-CHURRO SHEEP ASSOCIATION**



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# Navajo-Churro Sheep Association Annual Meeting September 20-23<sup>rd</sup> 2018 Lewis-Arriola Community Center north of Cortez Colorado

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## Thursday Sept 20<sup>th</sup> Highlights

10AM - Spin-Off Hosted by Dine Be lina - Fiber arts demonstrations. Bring your own projects too share.

2 PM - Vendors set up and camping is open. Note: camping is available only sheep producers. We have ample room for outdoor vendors. See website for details on camping and vending fees, etc.

7 PM - An Evening with Dr. Lyle McNeal, Sheep Industry Expert. Learn from his 40 years of experience in breeding and conserving Navajo-Churro Sheep.

## Friday Sept 21<sup>st</sup> Highlights

Learn about the new N-CSA data base and registry

Zefren Anderson speaks on history of Navajo Weaving from Cotton to Wool.

N-CSA Annual Wool Show

Mini Workshop and Round Table Discussions

N-CSA Annual Dinner featuring Navajo-Churro Lamb. YOU MUST RSVP. Cost is \$15 per plate.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER Dr. Alison Martin PhD, Executive Director of the Livestock Breeds Conservancy

## Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup> Highlights

Membership meeting - open to all who are interested. RSVP for breakfast at \$5.00 per plate

Dr. Alison Martin on conservation genetics and breeding practices for N-C Sheep conservation

N-CSA Annual Sheep Show

Mini Workshop and Round Table Discussions

Sheep Registration Clinic

Leaders Roundtable Discussion

## Sunday September 23<sup>rd</sup> Highlights

Open Gate Tour of Cedar Mesa Ranch and Arriola Sunshine Farm- See how regenerative agriculture is being implemented to create healthy land, animals and people. Topics include pasture and grazing planning; irrigation water management; soil health; sheep and cattle production practices; holistic decision-making; sheep handling equipment; breeding practices; wool production and more. Contact Cindy Dvergsten at [sunshine@gobrainstorm.net](mailto:sunshine@gobrainstorm.net) or call her at 970-882-4222 for details on how to register. Sponsored by Holistic Management International and local farm and ranch.



# 2018 N-CSA Annual Membership Meeting

## Saturday, September 22, 2018, 8:00 am MDT

# Lewis Arriola Community Center

Annual General Meeting Board Meeting Agenda:

**A. Call to Order**

1. Welcome and Report from the Chair

**B. Reading & Approval of Minutes**

**C. Reports of Officers & Board**

1. Registrars Report
2. Breed Standards Committee Report
3. Treasurers Report
4. Business Office Report

**D. Proposed Amendments to By-Laws (None proposed at this time)**

**E. Unfinished Business**

1. Update on Registration Database Development
2. Status of the 501(C)
3. 2019 AGM @ Sheep Is Life

**F. New Business**

1. 2020 AGM Location Proposal
2. N-CSA Sponsored Starter Flocks and/or Scholarship Fund Proposal
3. Call for a new N-CSA Logo Manager
4. Diné Be liná Inc.

**G. Election of Board Members (Nominations will be accepted from the floor.)**

1. Candidate Statements
2. Elections

**H. Adjourn**

Note: Agenda additions can be sent to Bonnie Barcus, [spindanceacres@gmail.com](mailto:spindanceacres@gmail.com). Additions are also welcome from the floor at the meeting but those scheduled will be given priority.

A tentative meeting of the Board of Directors will be held Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Location and exact time to be announced later.



# Navajo-Churro Sheep Association's Annual General Meeting Navajo-Churro Sheep and Wool Show Friday and Saturday, September 21-22, 2018

## 2018 Navajo-Churro WOOL Show Friday, September 21, 2018

Located at the Lewis-Arriola Community Center  
North of Cortez CO.

Entries accepted the day of the show at 11:30 AM  
and the show starts promptly at 1:00 PM.

There are no entry fees for the show. Only raw fleeces will be accepted in this show, preferably shorn within the past year. You may enter more than one fleece per class. Please know that you are fully responsible for your fleeces! Do not mail fleeces. Fleeces should be skirted and properly bagged. N-CSA will provide cards for your entries. Any identifying labels should be hidden from judge. Judging will be based on how well your fleece compares to the Navajo-Churro Sheep Association breed standard and the overall quality of your fleece. You may also receive comments about other characteristics of the wool and potential uses from different perspectives.

The following chart lists show classes:

1R Hogget – (first shearing only) - Ram Colored	5E Hogget (first shearing only) – Ewe Colored
2R Hogget – (first shearing only) - Ram White	6E Hogget (first shearing only) – Ewe Colored
3R Adult Ram - Colored	7E Adult Ewe - Colored
4R Adult Ram - White	8E Adult Ewe - White

First - third places will be awarded for each class. Champion and Reserve Champion for Ram and Ewe categories and Best of Show also awarded. Note: *Classes may be adjusted* at the judge's discretion based on number, type and quality of entries.

Download entry forms from our website at  
[www.navajo-churrosheep.com](http://www.navajo-churrosheep.com)  
or E-mail us at [nca@arriolasunshinefarm.com](mailto:nca@arriolasunshinefarm.com)

Follow us on Facebook for updates

## Navajo-Churro SHEEP Show Saturday, September 22, 2018

Located at the Lewis-Arriola Community Center  
North of Cortez, CO.

Entries will be accepted 11:00 AM on the day of the  
show. The show will start promptly an 12:00 noon.

There are no entry fees for the show. The first class to show will be ram lambs. The show classes are: 1R Ram Lamb; 2R Yearling Ram; 3R Aged Ram; 4E Ewe Lamb; 5E Yearling Ewe; 6E Aged Ewe. There will be a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for each class; grand champion and reserve champion awards for ram and ewe and best of show will be selected. Classes may be adjusted at the judge's discretion based on number, type and quality of entries. Please limit the number of animals shown to 3 per class. We will be using a score card system. Judging will be based on how well your animal compares to the Navajo-Churro Sheep Association breed standard and the overall health/fitness of your animal. All sheep must have proper scrapie ID ear tag. You must maintain full control of your animals at all times during the event!

Parking lot space is available for people bringing sheep. Camping is open starting Thursday afternoon for those traveling with sheep and vendors who have outdoor booths. Also, no alcohol is allowed on the premises. Campers must be out by 10 AM on Sunday. You are responsible for cleaning up after your animals! Water, bathrooms and an outdoor cooking area are available.

Sheep entering Colorado *should* have a Veterinarian issued health certificate.

Download an entry form from our website at  
[www.navajo-churrosheep.com](http://www.navajo-churrosheep.com)  
or E-mail us at [nca@arriolasunshinefarm.com](mailto:nca@arriolasunshinefarm.com)

Follow us on Facebook for updates

**You must recognize and acknowledge** that you assume full risk of any injury, property damage or loss, which you may cause or sustain because of your participation in this event. Please note that the property is not fenced! You will be 100% responsible for providing safe enclosures and caring for your animals. All sheep from outside of Colorado must have a health certificate. No dogs are allowed!



# CALL FOR DONATIONS!



A silent auction will be held at our 2018 Annual General Meeting,  
Lewis-Arriola Community Center, Sept. 20-23, 2018

Located 10 miles North of Cortez, CO

If you wish to donate an item or items,

Please email Sam Cunningham at [samsheep@frontier.net](mailto:samsheep@frontier.net)

You can bring it to the event or send it to:

Sam Cunningham 4545 Spanish Valley Rd., Moab, UT 84532

Thank you and we appreciate your generosity!





**NAVAJO-CHURRO SHEEP ASSOCIATION BOARD CANDIDATE STATEMENTS**  
THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES HAVE AGREED TO RUN FOR BOARD POSITIONS

**Name, Address, Telephone & Email:**

Bonnie J. Barcus  
11150 Chapin Ave.,  
Boise, ID 83709 - 208 340-6201  
spindanceacres@gmail.com

**Flock Size:**

39 breeding ewes, 4 breeding rams

**How long have you had sheep:**

18 years in N-C and 3 with Corridale/  
Southdowns many years ago.

**Why is the N-CSA important:**

The primary stated goal of the N-CSA is to provide a registry for the sheep but there is much more to maintaining that registry than just numbers. Promotion of the breed along with education is a very critical aspect of N-CSA. Without an active breed association we run the risk of loosing this wonderful animal.

**What are some of you ideas for the N-CSA:**

We need to continue finding ways to promote and educate people on the breed. Small grants to individual and groups to develop markets and further educational possibilities should be looked at further. Also partnering with other groups that are involved with Churros such as DBI and Espanola Valley Fiber Arts Center. In the last few years N-CSA has put together several educational tools for current and potential breeders but there is more that can and should be done to educate and promote this breed. No breed remains static but without an active educational component within the organization change could go a direction that could be detrimental to the breed. The updating of the registration database to make it more accessible and ready for the next generation of users is a project I would like to help see to completions. Continued work should be done to get N-CSA's 501(C) status. I hope to be able to

continue working with our group and working with other individuals and groups to ensure the continued success story of the Navajo-Churro.

**Name, Address, Telephone & Email:**

Debby ( Deborah) Bradford  
P.O. Box 495, Hopland, California,  
95449 - otterwolf@hotmail.com

**Flock Size:**

Sometimes way too large, but right now I really do have too many rams. Counting about to be weaned and those few not butchered yet: about 46. Ewes, counting a few old Grandmas and those about to be weaned: about 70 or so...I love my sheep and have several people interested in starting their own flocks...

**How long have you had sheep:**

I grew up on a working cattle ranch, was first girl in Mendocino County to show a steer. So, fast forward 15 years and 4-H requested me to help restart the Hopland Club by being a livestock leader. After all kids had picked out what animal they wanted I got the sheep group as no kids wanted cattle. I immediately took all the kids on a field trip to look at different breeds of sheep-both meat and wool. 4-H generally only pushes meat in our county, but I wanted the kids to see all kinds. Oddly, in 1989 there was a Navajo-churro breeder, Alexis Morrison! I totally fell in love with her sheep as did 3 of the sheep kids. Within 2 weeks not only had we bought 2 ewe lambs from her she had also given me 2 lambs from a ewe who birthed 4, so my son and daughter and I had 4 lambs! Alexis told me that at that time it was estimated that the newly formed association only knew about the existence of about 400 of these sheep. My first sheep had the same grandparents on both sides, so I worked really hard to improve not

only their "Brillo pad" wool but also their genetics. All this in 1989!

**Why is the N-CSA important:**

N-CSA IS VERY important because in the beginning we had such a small flock to get our sheep from, and we were so diverse and scattered all over the country, that without the N-CSA to keep us organized who knows what would have happened to the breed. They are still keeping us from straying too far from the flock and our goals of preserving this heritage breed for which I am grateful

**What are some of your ideas for the N-CSA:**

My ideas...Well, I am still big on genetics, want to keep this breed true to it's uses, it's structure, it's breed characteristics. Also would really like to get rid of some of the bias-ness I have witnessed through fair judges and other breeders of different sheep. Might not get too far with that since when I started in 1989, but always like educating the children and parents and public at events! Like making this breed available to any interested children as projects-even to allowing town kids to keep their sheep at my place free of charge-like trading sheep for work at my place! Also like sending sheep to the Rez and sometimes getting back new bloodlines...tho since I have been sending sheep out since 1990 (at least 947 good breeding stock) maybe back away they are still related to me!

**Name, Address, Telephone & Email:**

Lisa Leonard  
8694 State Highway 16,  
Brooks, Ca 95606 - 650-642-1690 -  
lisa@winddancerranch.us

**Flock Size:**

300 purebred Navajo-Churro

*Continued on page 6...*



**How long have you had sheep:**

13 years

**Why is the N-CSA important:**

The N-CSA plays a valuable role helping widely dispersed breeders preserve and proliferate the Navajo-Churro breed. Two of the key functions stand out in my mind – the registration process and knowledge dissemination. The N-CSA registration process doesn't just track lineage – it is a useful tool for breeders to get a second opinion on their sheep. There are sheep shows all over the country but few of them have judges knowledgeable about Navajo-Churro sheep. The N-CSA has amassed a wonderful library of research, proceedings, articles, standards, and guidelines that are very helpful to new Navajo-Churro enthusiasts. This gives new owners confidence and a head start to being successful with the Navajo-Churro.

**What are some of your ideas for the N-CSA:**

I would like to help the N-CSA expand its educational and support materials related to developing a breeder's local market for Navajo-Churro meat – both lamb and the amazing mutton. This includes an introduction to regulations and how to navigate them, a description of farmer support and advocacy organizations that provide critical information about food production, ideas on how to collaborate at the local level with food advocacy organizations like Slow Food USA and the Weston A. Price Foundation, and firsthand "lessons learned" from N-C breeders who have successfully developed a market.

I am looking forward to the soon to be released registration process and form updates that the committee has been working so diligently to complete. When the dust settles from that project and the inspectors have become comfortable with the new system I would like begin a discussion about adding an educational feedback mechanism to

the registration process similar to what I have seen in the Sport Horse world. The Sport Horse process has a simple "check the box" form that provides confidential feedback to the owner on various points of conformation. For example on back length the inspectors would indicate where my horse fell on a range from short to medium to long back. I found the inspectors feedback very helpful and think a similar process could help new N-C breeders. A N-C form could indicate where a sheep fell on a range of kemp in the wool or a range of outer-coat to undercoat or a range of clean to fuzzy face. The inspectors look at these things and make a judgement as to whether the sheep meets the registration standard. It would be nice to know their thoughts on individual points and use that to improve our breeding decisions.

**Name:**

Angella Thorne  
21773 Paseo De Los Portales Rd.,  
Sonora, CA 95370 - home:  
209-533-5375/209-206-6957 -  
angellathorne@yahoo.com

**Flock size:**

I currently have 7 ewes, 3 rams, 2 ewe lambs and 4 ram lambs. 16 total sheep.

**Flock size:**

I currently have 7 ewes, 3 rams, 2 ewe lambs and 4 ram lambs. 16 total sheep.

**How long have you had sheep?**

I got my sheep March 30, 2014. This is my fourth year raising Navajo Churro sheep.

**Why is the N-CSA important:**

The N-CSA is important because it helps educate members on the breed, such as breed standards, colors, patterns, fleece quality, acceptable horns, networking of shepherds and ranches, to find genetically diverse breeding stock to create a healthy flock and prevent inbreeding, to promote the sale of

Navajo Churro products such as raw fleeces, wool/roving, weavings, pelts, and meat, to educate the public of the value of a hardy landrace breed that is an excellent forager and has great mothering skills and to get more people interested in raising Navajo Churros to prevent the breed from becoming critically endangered or extinct, to keep alive the traditional uses of the sheep and its cultural significance and value to the Dine' people and other pastoralists.

**What are some of your ideas for the N-CSA?:**

One of my ideas is to create a booklet with color photos and a written description of the many distinctive Navajo Churro colors, patterns and markings. I feel this would be helpful when registering the sheep and selecting sheep for breeding.

I'd also like to promote the products of the sheep, such as their unique fiber and create a marketplace for these items. I think it would be beneficial to list wool mills that are familiar with Churro wool and do a good job of processing it for retail or hand spinners. It would also be helpful to have workshops to teach people how to wash, card and spin and dye the fleeces for use in weavings, knitting or felting. Many people are not familiar with Navajo Churro wool and educating/promoting it to the public would help shepherds and ranchers have another revenue source from their animals. Possibly create a fiber committee/ group that is dedicated to this endeavor and share ideas for selling the products to the public.

Another idea I'd like to see is to get youth interested in the sheep through 4-H or FFA. Displaying the sheep in county and state fairs would be a great way to bring attention to the breed and create another generation of Navajo Churro breeders and fiber artists.



**Name, Address, Telephone & Email:**

Robert Naegle  
2147 County Road 502  
Bayfield, Colorado 81122  
970 759 0423  
rjnaegle@frontier.net

rewarded us with high honors for their performance in the show ring at local and state level as well as the Denver National Stock Show.

shepherds and good stewards of nature.

**What are some of your ideas for the NCSA:**

Every year we are looking for replacement stock and the same is true for the young generation (shepherds). This issue about the young future farmers and ranchers is nationwide. Imagine keeping the roots of Churro sheep heritage in the Four Corners area as home hub. Venture out of sheepish mode (hobby farm) to more of an economics base is a challenge for small producers. To gain more recognition I think resources are there. It's just a matter of communication with all levels of government and corporations.

**Why is the NCSA important:**

I appreciate and thank all of the Navajo Churro producers, experts and volunteers for revitalizing and saving the breed from further depletion. Maintaining any heritage or culture comes as a real challenge this day and age. I focus on the roots of the Churro breed and I have a lot of respect for the Natives and Hispanics for utilizing the holistic approach on their farming and grazing in the four corners areas early on. With their blessings I think we need to progress as good

**Flock size:** 100 head

**How long have you had sheep:**

I am a third generation sheep producer in my family and our sheep are our economic asset. We started our flock of Navajo Churro sheep about 20 years ago. We enjoy helping to preserve the breed, mentor future producers and a lot of education along every aspect of the Churro breed. Our sheep

**Board Election Mail/E-Mail Ballot**

Directors shall serve a term of three years. This year we have three full terms to fill. Terms of directors are staggered so that approximately one-third of directors will be elected each year. Elections are held annually for open positions on the Board of Directors in the following manner: Election at the annual membership meeting (Saturday, September 23rd, 2017). In addition, ballots shall be provided to members who are not able to attend the annual membership meeting. Members choosing to vote by mail, phone, or e-mail shall return marked ballots to the Nominating Committee Chair, then the Nominating Committee Chair shall forward the results to a Board Representative for certification. Results of elections at the annual membership meeting will be combined with mailed, phoned and emailed ballots to determine new Board members.

There are four N-CSA Board positions up for election this year. The following candidates have agreed to serve on the Board. There are three 3-year positions and one 1-year position.

Please vote for up to **four** candidates:

- Bonnie Barcus
- Debbie Bradford
- Lisa Leonard
- Angella Thorne
- Robert Naegle

\_\_\_\_\_ (Write-In Nomination\*)

Voting Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*For Write-in Nominations, please be sure the person you have nominated meets the requirements of the Board Candidate Job Description shown above and is willing to serve on the board if elected.

If you will be unable to attend the annual membership meeting and want to vote for board candidates please send this completed ballot by mail or send an e-mail containing your votes (it is not necessary to send a scanned copy of this ballot), call or email your ballot choices no later than September 22, 2017 to: Karen Lobb, Nominating Committee Chair, at: bidewee@aol.com or 503-538-7987 or 19562 NE Calkins Lane, Newberg, OR 97132





## RSVP for NCSA Dinner and Breakfast

Friday, Sept. 21 - Dinner 6PM

Navajo-Churro lamb with local produce,  
\$15/Adults \$8/Children under 12  
Prepared by The Farm Bistro  
www.thefarmbistrocortez.com

Friday, Sept. 21 - Keynote Speaker 7PM

Dr. Allison Martin, Director Livestock Breeds Conservancy  
\*Free to the public

Saturday, Sept. 22 - Breakfast 8AM

Provided by Dolores FFA please RSVP  
\$5/a plate. Free for children under 12

You may RSVP via email [ncsa@arriolasunshinefarm.com](mailto:ncsa@arriolasunshinefarm.com) and pay at the door OR

You may RSVP using the form below and send with payment to:

Navajo-Churro Sheep Association  
P.O. Box 190840  
Boise, ID 83719-0840

\*Please make checks and money orders payable to Navajo-Churro Sheep Association

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to RSVP for Friday's Dinner: \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_ @ \$15/each

Number of Children: \_\_\_\_ @ \$8/each (under 12 years of age)

I would like to RSVP for Saturday's Breakfast: \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_ @ \$5/each

Number of Children: \_\_\_\_ (No charge for children under 12 years of age)

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks and/or money orders payable to:

Navajo-Churro Sheep Association c/o Bonnie Barcus  
P.O. Box 190840  
Boise, ID 83719-0840

\*Cut-out and mail this form along with payment to Navajo-Churro Sheep Association's Office address above.

