

# The Katahdin Hairald

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Summer 2006

## Director's Corner

### Hot Topics for Cool Katahdin Producers!

*Barbara Pugh, KHSI President*

A HEAT WAVE!! It seems the whole country has been having extremely hot temperatures this summer. As we all are aware, this will pass and many of us will be into the cooler season and breeding our flocks very soon. If you haven't already done it, think about your goals for the next production cycle and see what you need to accomplish it. What characteristics do you need to improve your flock? Are you able to make improvements within your present animal population or do you need to go outside your flock?

Hopefully, all of us are keeping production records to help us along the way. Weight records, maternal notes, what the ram con-

tributed to the flock, incidence of parasite problems, identification of codon designations, how the animals fit your management practices and resources, and so many more factors determine the success and longevity of animals in your flock. Appropriate animal selection can make you look like a competent stockman. The more you know about your flock, the better you will be able to make decisions on outside animals.

Think strategically, and carry out your plan objectively. Don't let subjective thinking get in the way.

While you're being objective, why not check out the performance data from the flocks in the Katahdin National Sheep

Improvement Program and also at the upcoming sale at our annual Expo in September. Maybe some new ideas from the educational presentations might be just what you need! Hope to see you there!

As my tenure as President ends soon, this will be my last "fireside chat" with you, but be assured that I will still be involved with Katahdins and the Association. It's been a privilege to serve you sheep producers. You're all special folks!

## Unbeatable Combination: Excellent Talks, Top Stock at Expo & Sale September 15-16

*David Copen, KHSI Treasurer*

Missouri has more KHSI members and Katahdin breeders than any other state, so we feel a special call to show you the "Show Me" state in the best way possible by inviting you to the KHSI Expo and Sale in just a few weeks! In addition to the events I describe below, I think you will find Jefferson City (our scenic state capital) and surrounding area a great place to explore if you love beautiful rural areas, history, art, wine, or antiques.

KHSI strives to provide quality education for our members and those who attend our Annual Expo. On Friday September 15 we have an excellent program at the Carver Farm at Lincoln University, with session choices that can help both beginners and experienced shepherds with sheep production and selecting breeding stock. This year we are also offering a special focus on key topics for farm financial survival, such as effective financial management

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## KHSI Expo Travel and Hotel Tips

By Teresa Maurer,  
KHSI Operations

By the time you read this, it will be just a little over a month from the KHSI Expo on September 14-16 in Jefferson City Missouri! Look for a map with the schedule and registration materials in the inserts. Here are a few travel tips to help you plan.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Because it has a very good group rate, the Best Western Capitol Inn in Jefferson City is filling fast. You should call them ASAP at 573-635-4175 and be sure to tell them you are registering for the block of rooms with the "National Sheep Conference". If you call and they are full, Jefferson City has other hotels, and is also a short distance from Columbia, MO.

If you are flying, you have several options. American Airlines serves Columbia MO with 3 flights in and out per day and

this is the closest airport (about 40 minutes away). You can rent a car from Hertz or use other ground transportation. You might consider flying into Kansas City, MO which is served by 12 major airlines, and offers more schedule and fare options – this is the option preferred by some Missouri folks. Kansas City airport is about 2.5 hours from Jefferson City and has plenty of car rental options. Tiger Air Express shuttle goes from the Kansas City airport to Jefferson City and you can learn more by calling 1-800-333-3026. The St. Louis airport is also about 2.5 hours away with lots of airline and ground travel options. If you have good web access, check your travel options online with the airlines or with services that compare prices such as Orbitz or Expedia, and Hotwire if you flexibility in your travel times.

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of the operation, economical feeding, and marketing.

Dr. Helen Schwartz from Lincoln University will discuss results of work on a novel parasite treatment. Drs. Larry Kuehn and Kreg Leymaster from the USDA-Meat Animal Research Center in Nebraska will talk about the genetics of breeding stock. Dr. John Bare will be explaining prion diseases, especially scrapie. Dr. Rob Kallenback from University of Missouri will speak on Farm Budgets. Susan Schoenian, University of Maryland, has been a popular speaker at past KHSI events and will provide excellent information on control of parasites and economical feeding. You can't afford to miss these talks! On Friday evening, KHSI invites you to its annual business meeting, starting at 7:30 pm.

On Saturday morning you can

learn more about using a combination of soundness, conformation and performance data to select quality breeding stock. What a great way to prepare for the KHSI Expo Breeding Stock Sale at 1:30 on Saturday afternoon, also at Carver Farm! Our first Expo sale in 2005 was a great success. We had excellent Katahdins for sale and good prices and we expect even more animals for the 2006 Sale. This is a premier sale for quality Katahdins with unique opportunities to see animals from different breeders paired up with the animal's performance data. Come yourself and invite others to this very special event – there is no admission charge to attend the sale!

After the sale, you can come a short distance to Fulton, Missouri, for additional training at my farm, Birch Cove Farm. There

## KHSI Needs 2007 or 2008 Expo Locations! Members Prefer Fall Expo Dates

In a recent mail poll of KHSI members, there was overwhelming preference for dates in September or October for the annual expo and sale. Now our question is: where should these events be in 2007 and 2008? We hope to find locations that offer meeting and teaching space, animal pens and sale area, an area for hands-on demo with animals, nearby sources of sheep that can be used during training, and ideally at least 2 or 3 people in the area willing to help out.

If you would like us to consider holding the expo and sale in your area, please let us know! To submit a suggestion for location, send an email by September 10 to: [khsint@earthlink.net](mailto:khsint@earthlink.net) or call 479-444-8441 (anytime). We will contact you for more info so that we can discuss it at the annual meeting on September 15 but please include: your name, location of community where the events could be held, and a few sentences about the advantages of the location.

**KHSI EXPO Hotel**  
9/14-9/16  
For reservations call  
**Best Western Capitol Inn**  
Jefferson City, MO  
573-635-4175  
mention "National Sheep Conference" for group rate

will be hands on training on use of the FAMACHA card for parasite management, followed by KHSI training on hair coat inspection (see article elsewhere in newsletter). Finally, our lamb barbecue will let you relax, socialize and celebrate the conclusion of a successful expo and sale!

# KHSI Expo & Sale

## Schedule of Events & Talk Titles

### Thursday - September 14, 2006

10:00 AM Registration opens  
 11:00 AM Registration opens  
 12:00 PM Registration opens  
 1:00 PM Registration opens  
 2:00 PM Registration opens  
 3:00 PM Registration opens  
 4:00 PM Registration opens  
 5:00 PM **Check-in deadline**  
 6:00 PM Registration closes

### Friday - September 15, 2006 at Lincoln University, Carver Farm

8:00 AM Registration opens  
 9:00 AM Registration opens  
 10:00 AM Registration opens  
 11:00 AM Registration opens  
 12:00 PM Registration opens  
 1:00 PM Registration opens  
 2:00 PM Registration opens  
 3:00 PM Registration opens  
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 7:00 PM Registration opens  
 8:00 PM Registration opens  
 9:00 PM Registration opens  
 10:00 PM Registration opens  
 11:00 PM Registration opens  
 12:00 PM Registration opens

### Saturday - September 16, 2006 Lincoln University, Carver Farm

*All Saturday events are free (except as noted) and open to the public.*

8:00 AM Registration opens  
 9:00 AM Registration opens  
 10:00 AM Registration opens  
 11:00 AM Registration opens  
 12:00 PM Registration opens  
 1:00 PM Registration opens  
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 3:00 PM Registration opens  
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 9:00 PM Registration opens  
 10:00 PM Registration opens  
 11:00 PM Registration opens  
 12:00 PM Registration opens



## *Katahdin Coat Inspection Training Available at Expo*

Whether you are interested in becoming a KHSI hair coat inspector for your own or others' sheep, or you just want to learn more about Katahdin hair coat classification, mark Saturday September 16 on your calendar. Everyone is welcome to attend! The training will be held following the sale that day at 5:15 pm at Birch Cove Farm in Fulton Missouri, a short drive away from Lincoln University Carver Farm. To be certified as an inspector, a person must take the training, pass a short test on coat types, and have been a class A member (owning at least 1 registered sheep) for 2 or more years. This is a great way to improve and test your ability to classify hair coat types for Katahdins and a chance to discuss questions you may have about upgrading and registration procedures.

## **Thanks to Lincoln University and Speakers!**

*KHSI especially wants to recognize and express our gratitude to Lincoln University and the speakers appearing at our expo. Lincoln University has provided facilities, staff time and support that will be absolutely key to the success of our Expo events and sale. Our speakers and trainers graciously donated time and travel to allow KHSI to be able to offer excellent educational sessions on Friday and Saturday. Because of their great generosity we have been able to reduce the registration fee for our Expo, which we hope will encourage more attendance. So, if you talk to Lincoln University folks or our speakers, please let them know your appreciation.*

You could be viewing this in color, save paper, and help with KHSI's budget

## **Take the Hairald electronically**

Contact KHSI Operations  
479-444-8441 or  
[khsint@earthlink.net](mailto:khsint@earthlink.net)

# **THE KATAHDIN EXPO**

**Educational Workshops & 2<sup>ND</sup> Annual Performance Sale**

**September 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Carver Farm**

**Lincoln University • Jefferson City, MO**



*Top Selling Ram lamb*

- ★ Elite Stock
- ★ Performance Information Required for Consignment
- ★ Superior Katahdin Stock from All Over the Country Under One Roof
- ★ Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) and/or 60-Day Adjusted Weights Required
- ★ Dam Production Records Required

More Information on Expo Available at [www.khsi.org](http://www.khsi.org) or 479-444-8441  
Sale Catalog Available after 8/19/06

# Got milk? Pasture profits depend on it

By Janet McNally

*Editor's Note: This article is reprinted with permission from Graze magazine. To subscribe, call 608-455-3311, email [graze@ticon.net](mailto:graze@ticon.net), or visit the web site [www.grazeonline.com](http://www.grazeonline.com)*

The business of grazing is about marketing forages through our livestock. A lamb marketed at 90 lbs. consumes about 300 dry matter pounds of forage. In comparison, a 165-pound ewe in a pasture-based system consumes about 2,350 lbs. of forage whether she weans 120 lbs. of lamb, or just 50 lbs. With the ewe flock consuming 78% of the forages in a grazing system, pounds of lamb weaned has a profound influence on returns per acre.

The factors determining pounds of lambs weaned are birth rate, lamb survival rate, growth rate, and milk supply. While many producers do a great job with the first three, few pay enough attention to ensuring an adequate milk supply. Milk production problems can be compensated for in confinement rearing, but the true milking ability of the flock will be exposed on pasture. Here are a few ways milk production can be improved.

• **Cull for poor udder structure.** It does not matter how much milk is on tap if it is not available to the lamb. Indoor lambing has allowed too many udder flaws to proliferate. Catching the ewe to help a lamb find the teat may not seem like such a big deal in a four-by-four pen, but it becomes a huge problem out in the back 40. The lamb is born with an instinct to search under the dam. Lambs search upward, for the teat, not downward. They are programmed to look for an expected teat size — any object bigger than your pinky finger might be ignored. Pendulous ud-

ders and “balloon” or “banana” (overly large engorged) teats are serious problems that affect newborn survival.

A study by Tom Cadwallader (former shepherd at the University of Wisconsin's Spooner research station) indicated that the inability to connect with milk supply in a timely way was the leading cause of lamb mortality in a crossbred, pasture-lambing flock.

Good udder structure means the floor of the udder is well above the hocks, with the teats pointing outward and downward at a 45-degree angle (see photo). This places the teat in the area where the newborn will instinctively look. Any ewe with an udder that falls below her hocks, or with an udder with teats that point horizontally or are too large, should be culled from the flock.

• **Monitor udder health.** Each fall prior to breeding, the flock should be run through a chute, and each and every udder palpated. Check for lumps, unresolved mammary tissue (feels like it is still producing milk), and scar tissue in the teat canal. Cull every ewe with an abnormality.

• **Employ benchmarks for adequate milk supply.** First, the dam must have adequate colostrum to feed her lambs. A simple “+, 0, -” grading system for colostrum supply can help make significant improvements to the survival rate of lambs from birth to three weeks of age. Score the ewe with a “+” if she has abundant milk left after all the lambs have suckled, a “0” if she had just enough, and a “-” if it is necessary to supplement the lamb from a bottle. Cull all ewes that score “-,” and only keep rams from ewes that score “+.”

The next benchmark is lamb health during the first three weeks. Colostrum provides pas-

sive immunity to many newborn lamb disorders. E. coli scours and joint illness (or navel ill) can be indicators of insufficient colostrum quantity and quality. Improve the colostrum supply, and these health issues go away.

The third benchmark is lamb weaning weight. By breeding a smaller, more efficient ewe to a larger, “growthier” sire breed, sheep producers can significantly improve the utilization of their grazing resources. Making this choice correctly can mean the difference between a ewe that weans 70% of her body weight, vs. only 35%. This strategy also has important implications regarding the milking ability of the dam.

• **Match growth potential of the sire to milking ability of the dam.** Something that seems to have been lost over the years is the idea of matching the ewe's milking ability to the growth potential of the terminal sire. Texts from the 1950s and earlier (when sheep were predominantly managed as grazing animals) show this concept was understood. Ewes of poor milking ability were not bred to the largest of terminal sires. They were instead paired with more moderate-size, moderate-growth breeds so that the lamb's growth rate would not outstrip the ewe's ability to support that lamb.

Milking ability determines whether the ewe can provide the superior growth potential offered by the sire. If the milk supply is only going to allow half a pound of daily gain to 100 days of age, then there is no advantage of using sires that can produce 1.25 lbs./day, especially if using those sires means lower lamb survival rates. If milk production is limiting, a better choice is a more

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moderate-growth sire that can offer something more, such as higher lamb survival or a better-quality carcass.

- **If possible, select rams with strong maternal weaning weight EBVs or EPDs** to sire the next generation of replacement females. Maternal weaning weight is that portion of the lamb's weaning weight that is attributed to the maternal environment. Approximately 80% of this maternal influence on growth is due to milk production. Both NSIP and Lambplan provide this information.

When EBVs are not feasible, look for sires that have lamb weaning weights available (30 to 90 days of age, with 50 days being the most ideal indicator of milk production). Tally up total litter weights, adjust them for age, and compare ewes within their contemporary groups. (For example, compare three-year old ewes to all other three-year olds.) While raw litter weaning weights can help weed out poor producing ewes, this information pales in comparison to the accuracy of maternal weaning weight EBVs.

- **Ensure proper nutrition.** Grazing makes good nutrition easy by providing a diet typically abundant in protein. For most pasture-based producers, nutrition limitations are due either to poor quality stored forages in late gestation prior to the grazing season, or by pushing ewes too hard to clean up residual in the paddock after lambing. If nutrition is the limiting factor, lamb growth will be disappointing, and ewe body condition will fall. In contrast, if it is the ewe's genetic ability that is limiting milk production, ewes will be in good flesh despite the inability to put suitable growth onto the lamb.

A 140-lb. ewe raising three, 40-lb. lambs is producing as much milk per pound of body weight as a 1,400-lb. Holstein producing 90 pounds of milk per day. Some supplementation is usually beneficial and cost effective with such ewes: 45 lbs. of a grain supplement during lactation can result in 15 additional pounds of litter weight.

- **If you suspect OPP, test for it.** Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP) is caused by an ovine lentivirus not unlike human HIV-AIDS. OPP can have a profound impact on milk production by turning milk-secreting tissue into lymph tissue, thus robbing ewes of their potential. A typical infected ewe was a good producer at one and two years of age, but at three years seems to be short of milk at lambing despite having a full and firm udder.

Without milk, all the other components of pounds weaned (lambing percentage, lamb survival, lamb growth) fail to express their full potential. A little house-keeping with milk as the focus will reward the producer with more efficient use of forages, and fewer time-consuming problems at lambing.



*"Opal"*  
 Photography by Darla Noble, Rolla, MO  
 2005 KHSI Photo Contest  
 Third Place - Scenic

## Are Your KHSI Ear Tags Correct?

*By KHSI Operations*

Katahdins that have KHSI certificates of registration or recordation must be permanently identified with the proper ID to be in compliance with the KHSI Registry. What does this include? Proper ID means a readable tattoo or ear tag.

a) The tag or tattoo must match the "Animal ID" that is on the certificate.

b) The tattoo or ear tag must include the prefix.

c) If the ID on the animal is not permanent, does not have the KHSI prefix, and does not exactly match the Animal ID that is on the KHSI certificate, then the animal is out of compliance with the KHSI Registry.

d) Collar tags are not considered permanent ID.

The most common errors we hear about are no prefix on the tag or that the tag has been replaced by a different number that does not match the certificate. Replacement and/or initial tags may be handwritten on a blank tag with a designated tag marking pen. Check handwritten tags regularly to be sure they remain legible.

**KHSI  
 website:**

- free ads for your sheep
- inexpensive farm web pages

**www.khsi.org**



## Operations Notes

**Inspector training at the Expo:** The training on Katahdin coat inspection at the Expo will be held on Saturday at Birch Cove Farm and anyone is welcome to attend. Even though all the Saturday training is free, please send back the registration form and help us be sure we have enough hand-outs.

**We appreciate your signing up in a timely way for the expo and sale:** One of the biggest challenges for us each year at the expo is getting good head counts so that we have enough chairs, materials, food, etc. KHSI members can really help us by mailing back your registration just as soon as you know you are coming, even for the free events.

**Don't forget to vote:** We know that it's not possible for everyone to come to the expo, but it is im-

portant to cast your vote for the KHSI Board members, who shape the direction of our organization. All current members are encouraged to read the bios (see inserts) and mail back the ballot.

**Courtesy to your Katahdin buyers:** In this season of busy buying and selling, KHSI especially recommends that you as the seller take responsibility for registering and/or transferring the paperwork for your animals. This reduces error and confusion, avoids surprises and can help with positive customer relationships! If you have questions about the forms, please contact us!

**Submit your favorite resources:** We have a new Resources Corner column in the Hairald to share your favorite print and electronic resources that have helped you in your operation. Please email or

mail them to Operations office.

**Missing info?** We have included ballot and Expo information with this newsletter as an insert. If you are missing this information, you can get Expo info from the Website [www.khsi.org](http://www.khsi.org) and for ballots you can contact us at [khsint@earthlink.net](mailto:khsint@earthlink.net) or 479-444-8441 anytime.

**Don't  
Forget to  
VOTE**

## Stromquist White Post Farm

*A Significant Difference*



*Our stud ram Stretch weighed 305 lbs. 7/1/06*

**We're bringing 2 spring R/R ram lambs and 2 spring R/R ewe lambs to the KHSI Expo Sale in Jefferson City, MO.**

***Stop by our pens and visit!***



*05-137 - Recent "Highest Selling Ram" at Midwest Stud Ram sale, sold to Mountain View Farm, TN for \$1700 weighed 251 lbs.*

**We have both ewes and rams FOR SALE out of this premier ram**

**Please visit our new website [www.stromquist-katahdins.com](http://www.stromquist-katahdins.com)**

**John and Steve Stromquist • White Post Farm • Durand, IL 61024  
Phone 815-629-2159 • email [j.stromquist@worldnet.att.net](mailto:j.stromquist@worldnet.att.net)**

# The Lesson of Freckles

## Adjusted Weights, EPDs and the Mystery of Motherhood

By Richard Gilbert

My wife and I waded into a pen of baaing ewe lambs inside a barn on the Getz Farm outside of Springfield, Ohio. We were buying lambs to expand our sheep flock. We had no records to guide us—no lamb weights to indicate growth rates, no production records of their mothers, not even ear tags to indicate a lamb’s parentage.

In the waning days of the Getz Farm, home to sheep and shepherds for three generations, there was little information concerning the animals that made up what might be the old farm’s last lamb crop.

Farmers often are too busy, or too overwhelmed at key points, to record data for later analysis. Or their smudged notes, scrawled in the heat of battle and jammed onto a rusty nail in the barn, have become almost useless when retrieved months later from the cobwebs and dust.

Without information, we were guessing which ewe lambs would mature into productive ewes. We were evaluating the lambs by appearance and mostly by size.

This is the poorest way to select sheep—or any other livestock for that matter—and the most common. People gravitate to big animals. Some people develop an eye for good conformation. Unfortunately, conformation is of minor economic importance compared with maternal performance. The vital traits of fertility, prolificacy, and mothering ability cannot be appraised visually.

The most profitable ewe in a flock might be sway-backed, nar-

row-bodied, and cow-hocked. She might be big, little, or medium-sized. She is probably average looking, with decent conformation and high maternal ability that came together through random genetic assortment—chance. She *might* also have a straight top line and pleasing proportions, the reward for decades of breeding effort to unite muscling and structural correctness with the qualities of motherhood.

It was early summer. The Katahdin ewes at the Getz farm had lambed in the barn in January and February. Their lambs looked wonderful in comparison to my lambs born on pasture three to four months later. In the

end, we bought 12 big ewe lambs that summer afternoon.

Three of the ewe lambs grew into sheep distinctive enough to earn names. “Fancy” was big and flashy; she was chocolate brown with a face marked with a white blaze. “Friendly” was a snow-white ewe, long bodied, with a wide, pink muzzle and an outgoing personality. “Freckles” matured as the smallest of the three, a rather dumpy little ewe in comparison to her flashy flock mates. Freckles had short legs and a big belly; she was white with a spray of black spots across her face.

Bred in early December to the same ram, the three ewes lambed in spring 2001 as yearlings. Freckles lambed first, with twins, a ram and a ewe. Five days later, Fancy

had a single lamb, a large ram. That same morning, Friendly had twins, both rams. I learned in later years to pay close attention to a yearling that twinned and did a good job of raising her lambs.

Multiple lambs are difficult for a yearling to raise because she is inexperienced, still growing herself, and produces less milk than a mature ewe. Most shepherds would rather see a yearling have a nice single lamb. But in order for a flock to achieve a 200-percent lamb crop, about half the yearlings must twin and a few older ewes must have triplets.

Basic sire information for groups of lambs is important to prevent unwanted inbreeding. But of equal importance is knowing how many lambs a ewe gave birth to and how many she raised. This is one of the problems with picking out large and appealing lambs when a ewe’s production is not recorded: The shepherd usually is picking singles nursed by older ewes.

Singletons always grow larger and look nicer but result in less total weight to sell than twins. With typical production costs and meat prices, each ewe must twin in order for the farmer to make money. The first lamb covers the expenses and the second produces profit.

Ewes have two teats and should be capable of raising more than one lamb. Yet it took centuries of selection by shepherds to achieve consistent lambing rates of greater than one lamb from each ewe. That reproductive progress is always in danger of being lost. English shepherd Thomas Tusser (1524-1580), the author of *Five Hundred Pointes of Good Husbandry*, wrote a poem

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*"...We were evaluating the lambs by appearance and mostly by size. This is the poorest way to select sheep—or any other livestock for that matter—and the most common...."*



about this to guide the selective breeding of sheep:

*Ewes yearly by twinning rich masters do make*

*The lambs of such twinners for breeders do take.*

Tusser captured in his pithy rhyme an important genetic insight, as well as what was economic wisdom even in Tudor times. Moreover, a moment's reflection reveals that keeping records is the vital step toward taking his advice. By knowing his ewes well and recording their production as they lambed (and probably by some means of marking their offspring), the wise shepherd of antiquity retained lambs that would grow into fertile and prolific ewes.

Freckles, Fancy, and Friendly raised all their lambs their first time out. I had tagged all my lambs at birth and knew which lambs went with which ewes; I knew which ram had sired which lambs. My system was simple but effective.

In the pasture, I carried in my shirt pocket a small, spiral-bound Oxford notebook with thick, notecard pages and recorded ewe birthing dates, the tag numbers and sex of lambs, and sire information. I also gave a mothering score to each ewe.

In the fall, I tried to evaluate the lambs, to determine which ewe lambs to keep and which to sell. I know this, because I filled six lined notebook pages with notes—tag numbers and dates and impressions. There apparently was a system when the notes were made, but it is difficult to ascertain now. The biggest failure was in taking the weights of some lambs (why not

all?) but failing to record the date of the weighing.

Knowing the age of lambs at weighing is very important in evaluating them, their mother, and their sire. It would have been late summer or fall, and I am sure at the time I did not realize I would look back at my records months or years later. In the end, I kept Freckles' ewe lamb. But it was clear my selection process needed to be more systematic.

As someone interested in creating more ewes that were docile, successful mothers, I should have been taking 60-day weights from the start. Some backsliding is inevitable without constant selection by the shepherd—domestic animals always regress toward average and worse performance without selection pressure.

The three named Getz ewes, bred to my most promising Katahdin ram, all twinned again in mid-May 2002. I took lamb birth weights that year and weighed



the lambs again when I weaned them at the beginning of August. This system was much improved. I took each lamb's weight on the same day—although my weighing fell somewhere between the traditional 60-day weaning weight and the 120-day post-weaning weight evaluation points.

I ranked my ewes according to the total weight of their lambs on that August day. Ewes in the top group had one-hundred or more pounds of lamb. Friendly was the highest-ranked of the year 2000-born ewe cohort, with lambs that weighed 112 pounds together; Fancy's twins weighed 103 pounds; Freckles was in the second rank of ewes with ninety-nine pounds between her twins.

Mothering differences in the ewes became clearer in April 2003. Friendly lambed first, with nice twins weighing about nine pounds each; she paid close attention to them. Eight days later, Freckles had her first set of triplets, a wriggling batch of newborns that weighed almost twenty-three pounds.

Two days later, Fancy had triplets, all ewes, but the biggest ewe lamb—a whopper weighing more than ten pounds—died during birth. Fancy did not clean her surviving lambs, which sat on the ground dressed in a slimy film of placenta. Fancy was unconcernedly grazing near the sodden twins when I came upon the scene.

Freckles had really begun to shine. Her mothering ability was impressive. Unlike Fancy and her ilk, Freckles never seemed to have a lost lamb crying for her in the far corner of a paddock. Freckles and her brood moved together, as if welded.

Some ewes that had triplets tried hard to raise them but failed. Those ewes did not appear able to keep track of three lambs, or they lacked other mothering skills, or they did not seem to have enough milk. Other ewes would reject a triplet, or passively allow it to fall behind and die, without my intervention.

Triplet lambs are smaller at birth than twins, and often the smallest triplet will not get enough milk; its stronger siblings shove it aside and take the teat. For these reasons, many shepherds want only twins. Triplets, overall, are a management headache in many farm situations. Often a triplet gets pulled off the ewe and raised artificially—but bottle babies are a lot of labor and need expensive milk replacer.

I was not sure I wanted a lot of triplets, but I knew I wanted more ewes like Freckles. If a ewe had triplets, I wanted her to raise them. I could not imagine Freckles rejecting a lamb. Moreover, she seemed to look out for all of her triplets equally. Freckles sailed through motherhood.

When I took 60-day lamb weights, Freckles' triplet litter weighed 99 pounds. I still had not learned how impressive that accomplishment was on pasture with no creep feed for the lambs. At the time, I admired Friendly's big twins even as I praised Freckles' amazing mothering ability. Friendly's twins, a ram and a ewe, together weighed 94 pounds.

Fancy's twins weighed 75 pounds, but to make up for her dead lamb I had grafted to her an additional lamb that weighed in at 24 pounds. So she was raising triplets, and her litter totaled 99 pounds.

But it appeared to me that Fancy may have rejected the grafted lamb, which had learned to steal milk from other ewes to survive. I had clouded the picture in being able to evaluate Fancy and was unwilling to give her full credit or blame. She was on probation.

By early August, Freckles' triplet litter weighed 138 pounds, beginning to show the income advantage that accrues to triplets even when the lambs are smaller

individually (her largest lamb, a 49-pound ewe, weighed 10 pounds less than Friendly's ewe lamb). Friendly's twins weighed 128 pounds; her ram lamb was particularly nice at 69 pounds.

One of the first breakthroughs in attempting to deal with the challenge of making fair genetic comparisons between ewes was the use of "adjusted weights." The idea was to figure out a way to compare lambs that were born on different days, whose mothers were of different ages, and whose gender was different.

On-farm programs for the improvement of sheep in the United States were initiated at the University of Wisconsin in 1950, with an extension specialist hired to conduct the program. Research had shown that weight adjustment for type of birth, age of dam and age of lamb at time of weighing would improve selection accuracy by one-third over selection using unadjusted weights.

This method of leveling the playing field allows a shepherd to compare the dainty ewe lamb raised by a yearling mother to the husky twin lambs, a ram and a ewe, raised by a four-year-old ewe in her prime. Without adjustment, most likely the shepherd picks the lamb from the older mother, even though in one year the yearling's lamb will be the same size, or larger.

The yearling's lamb may become a more productive ewe. In fact, if the shepherd has been making genetic progress, the yearling should be a better ewe than the four-year-old ewe—and her lamb will be better still. But there's that size difference: Even a five-pound disparity between two lambs makes a huge difference in how lambs appear at a young age.

First published in 1970, the *Sheep Production Handbook* of the Sheep Industry Association is the most complete standard reference for shepherds and lists formulas necessary for adjusted weights. The first step is to correct the weaning weight to a standard age, in this case 60 days.

The adjusted age is used with corrections for ewe age, breed of ewe, birth and rearing type (for example, Katahdin) and the gender of the lambs to give the adjusted weight. Ram lambs and ewe lambs have different adjustment factors, because males grow faster. The written formula for adjusting weights is easy to use if followed step-by-step.

I used this assessment method to compare Freckles' 2003 triplets to Friendly's twins of the same year. At the 60-day weighing point, Freckles' triplet litter weighed 99 pounds on my scale. Friendly's older twins weighed 94 pounds.

What were the adjusted litter weights? Adjusting for the age of the lambs was important here, because Friendly's lambs were eight days older. Adjusting for the type of rearing was even more significant—triplets vs. twins—and an adjustment needed to be made as well as for the gender of the lambs.

The result was surprising, given the actual weights and the pleasing appearance of the stocky twins: Freckles' adjusted litter weight was more than 120 pounds. Friendly's comparable total was 87 pounds.

But farmers sell actual pounds, not adjusted pounds, and the actual weights were very close. Still, Freckles produced a five-pound advantage at 60 days, which means her smaller lambs would

*It goes against human nature to believe the numbers instead of the eyes....Many farmers steadily lose productivity in their livestock because they will not collect, use, or believe records.*

bring more at market, especially if they grew well after weaning.

Clearly, Freckles was the more productive ewe, with exceptional mothering ability. If one of the ewes were to be sold, it should be Friendly, not Freckles. Actually, the ewe to sell would be Fancy, of course. Freckles' two ewe lambs should be considered for retention, especially if prolificacy is needed in the flock.

The adjusted weight of Freckles' largest triplet ewe lamb was just under 43 pounds; her smaller ewe lamb was almost 42 pounds, adjusted. The adjusted weight of Friendly's ewe lamb, which had a much easier life as a twin, was 43 pounds.

Using adjusted weights does require a person to think, to use records, and to exercise willpower — one must accept the results of the formula and act upon them, regardless of what his eyes are telling him.

Consequently, top ram and ewe lambs should be picked first on paper at the kitchen table. Selection at the barn should then be made on the basis of conformation, not size, from the top group of lambs.

It goes against human nature to believe the numbers instead of the eyes. It is somewhat like a pilot learning to trust his instruments rather than his gut feelings. Many a pilot has flown his airplane into the ground rather than believe his

gauges. Many farmers steadily lose productivity in their livestock because they will not collect, use, or believe records.

Freckles' 34-pound ewe lamb was "really" 43 pounds, genetically speaking. Friendly's stocky 44-pound ewe lamb was "really" 43 pounds as well. They probably would grow into ewes of comparable size.

We know that Freckles' litter earned us a bit more. Even someone who does not want triplets should retain Freckles' daughters to foster mothering ability in the flock and to keep selection pressure favoring at least a 200-percent lamb crop. Shepherds who have used adjusted weights to select breeding stock have transformed their flocks.

As a fanatic about selective breeding, I wanted for my flock an even more powerful evaluation than adjusted weights. In the fall of 2003, I enrolled in the National Sheep Improvement Program, established in 1986 to provide computer analysis of flock performance for evaluation of such important qualities as prolificacy, innate growing ability, and ewe milking ability.

NSIP first compares animals that are contemporaries in the same operation and that are managed the same way. Then the computer compares those lambs with the performance of lambs on other farms. Genetic links between farms, such as related ewes or rams, increase accuracy.

Raw weight differences between animals on different farms are not as important as is relative performance. A big lamb that was fed grain on your farm might or might not be "better" than my smaller, grass-fed lamb. The computer makes many more adjustments than you can make with pencil and paper.

The result of this analysis is a report that lists a numerical value for each trait. These "expected progeny differences," commonly called EPDs, are the expected difference between the performance of an animal's progeny and the average performance for all the animals in the breed.

With an EPD of zero being average, a 60-day EPD of plus one pound means that the animal is expected to be a pound heavier than average at that age. The animal would be expected to pass along half of this enhanced growing ability, on average, to its offspring.

These may seem like small amounts, but pounds add up. If each ewe weans, on average, an additional ten pounds worth even ten dollars more, a farmer's income will leap — especially if he has hundreds of ewes or thousands of ewes. These small increments also will compound over the years. Making 10-percent more accurate selection choices each year for 10 years will increase profit and the genetic value of breeding stock.

An Australian study showed that informed selection of maternal sires to increase the ewe flock's fertility, prolificacy, milking ability, and transmission of growing ability and carcass traits could actually increase the return per ewe

*Making 10-percent more accurate selection choices each year for 10 years will increase profit and the genetic value of breeding stock.*



by \$50. That is an extra \$50,000 a year for a farmer running 1,000 ewes of superior genetics.

EPDs can be used as well to pinpoint problems: A ram that sires lambs that grow at average rates (or worse, below average for the breed), or whose daughters produce inadequate milk, will be found out. EPDs can be used to balance matings, so that animals with the same weakness are not paired.

In 1872, Charles Darwin wrote, "If selection consisted merely of separating some very distinct variety, and breeding from it, the principle would be so obvious as hardly to be worth notice; but its importance consists in the great effect produced by the accumulation in one direction, during successive generations, of differences absolutely inappreciable to the uneducated eye."

Darwin undoubtedly was commenting on small physical differences in animals instead of small differences in growing or milking ability. He was praising animal breeders, who see animals differently, more keenly, discerning slight variations missed by the "uneducated" viewer.

But there is no better articulation of the power of computer analysis than Darwin's statement, for what he said is even more true of such performance

differences as growth rate and milking ability.

The sad fact for livestock breeders is that most differences between two animals being compared are due to environmental factors, not genes. Again, what one sees is *not* what one gets. For instance, less than 25 percent of the size variation between two animals at weaning is said to be due to genetic differences.

EPDs are 75- to 100-percent more accurate than adjusted weights as predictors of breeding value. Computers can make many more adjustments than can the shepherd at his kitchen table, including taking into account the relationships of animals, rearing methods, and the heritability of traits.

I had submitted birth and rearing records for 2002 and 2003 for analysis and was eager for the results. I was surprised. Freckles' numbers did not look good. In fact, she was ranked as slightly below average across the board for 60- and 120-day growth and for milking ability. (Yes, the computers can calculate how much of the lamb's growth came from milk and how much from the lamb's innate ability to grow.)

With the exception of prolificacy, where her numbers were among the highest in the flock (remember, she twinned as a yearling, twinned again, and then had triplets), Freckles was — on paper — a very average ewe.

Friendly and Fancy? They were above average across the board. In fact, as Fancy had given birth to triplets, her prolificacy was rated as high as Freckles'.

I was indignant with these results and

talked with Jim Morgan, Ph.D., our data coordinator, the person who collects information from participating Katahdin flocks and conveys it to the NSIP for analysis. Jim listened patiently while I extolled Freckles' virtues.

What could he say? A farmer was upset about one ewe's rankings. Jim had data on more than 1,000 ewes to corral. Ram rankings are a much more serious situation, since rams affect so many lambs, and a lowly ranked ram could affect a breeder's sales.

Jim explained that the NSIP was working on an EPD for Katahdins for ewe productivity. He said Freckles might look different on paper with that EPD.

The gap between Freckles' mothering ability and her numbers tormented me that winter. Our existing EPDs emphasized growth rates — and farmers like me focused on those numbers.

EPDs first were used to increase milk production in dairy cows. In fact, after using EPDs for 25 years, dairymen had increased milk production by 100 percent. Even with the prevalence of artificial insemination, the previous 50 years had increased production by only 25 percent.

The methodology and data analysis that creates EPDs is called Best Linear Unbiased Prediction — BLUP, for short. BLUP separates genetics from environment by comparing animals growing up or producing together on the same farm; it checks the performance of relatives on other farms; and it performs adjustments for such factors as season of the year, heritability of traits, age of dams, sex, and litter size.

The concept was developed in the 1950s, but computers were not powerful enough to analyze large sets of performance data until the



1980s. By 1985, BLUP technology had become indispensable for many seedstock breeders.

BLUP excels at measuring outputs — weight on the scale and milk in the bucket. Where are such vital traits as fitness for a given environment — survival — and mothering ability?

In 1985, a researcher at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in DuBois, Idaho, analyzed ewe behavior between the birth process and first nursing. He identified 17 distinct behavior patterns.

From the time a lamb hits the ground, and maybe before, the lamb and the ewe are communicating — or not. The soft grunts of the ewe, the bleats of the lamb, eye contact, body language, and the ewe licking the lamb all must come into play. But 17 things going on — before a lamb even nurses? Amazing.

“Further studies are needed before effective selection criteria can be established. In the meantime, docile, easily handled, easy care ewes that produce heavy litters will be profitable and should be favored as parental candidates for generating future . . . flock replacements,” wrote Ohio sheep geneticist Charles Parker, Ph.D., in a paper that cited the DuBois study.

He had described Freckles. Fancy and Friendly were more impressive looking. A sheep judge would favor them over Freckles. But Freckles ovulated and mothered like mad. I looked at her numbers. How was she able to raise decent lambs with below-average milk production and growth to impart?

According to Jim, the NSIP experts and their computers would try to quantify her maternal performance. At least one graduate student was on the case. The peak of 20<sup>th</sup>-century genetic knowledge

and computing power was being brought to bear. BLUP was gearing up for its encounter with Freckles, who chewed her cud without apparent concern.

Spring 2004 arrived. On April 11, Freckles delivered another set of triplets, two rams and a ewe. As always she was attentive. Her newborn lambs weighed just under 25 pounds.

Three days later, Friendly and Fancy lambed. Friendly gave birth to a single lamb. That was not good, not good at all, for one of my biggest four-year-old ewes to single.

Fancy had triplets, beautiful ewe lambs weighing almost 25 pounds. I wrote on her card, “An indifferent mother.” Indeed, Fancy soon rejected one of her ewe lambs, forcing us to raise “Juno,” as my daughter named her, on the bottle.

During that growing season, I thought about Freckles’ poor ranking as I watched her raise triplets as easily as Friendly raised her single lamb. The vision of a flock of Freckles clones came to mind.

I talked to Jim and gave him a hard time. “If a person had a whole flock like Freckles, he would make a lot of money,” I declared. “They would all have triplets, never reject a lamb, never lose a lamb. They would be smaller ewes, so you’d breed them to a Texel or Suffolk . . .”

Jim did not have a lot to say. I was beating a dead horse. The answer was more obvious to him than it was to me: growth EPDs are one measure. Mothering ability is something else.

He had lost sleep over this, over using the same kind of EPDs for Katahdins as are used for Suffolks. “We may have the ewe productivity EPD this year,” Jim said. “Freckles may look dif-

ferent then.”

Dr. Parker was a long-time advocate of such an EPD. He had revised Tusser’s 450-year-old poem, which advises shepherds to pick replacements from twins, to read:

*Ewes yearly twin raisers rich masters do make.*

*Lambs from such raisers for breeders go take.*

He had described Freckles, again — except she had the ability to raise triplets successfully. In late summer, Jim emailed me an Excel file with growth and milk EPDs — and the new ewe productivity EPDs.

Freckles’ growth and milk EPDs were still mediocre. Then I sorted the data for my ewes and lambs based on the new pounds-of-lamb-weaned EPD: *Freckles was number one in the flock!*

She would be expected to wean more than three pounds of lamb above average, this EPD predicted. That number would jump the next year to +5.5 pounds. Moreover, her daughters would be expected to wean more pounds of lamb than average.

Freckles was vindicated. I was embarrassed. I had known by observation and data that Freckles was an amazing mother. I had under-valued her because she was not large. And, on easily quantified traits in isolation, she was one of the worst ewes in the flock.

Evaluated in terms of her repeated success, using an index that rewards ewes for weaning more lambs, Freckles looked a lot different. This composite measure fosters selection for excellent maternal behavior, lamb vigor, optimum prolificacy and potentially even disease resistance. In short, an index can help select for biological fitness and profitability for a given production system.

## Successful Katahdin Event in Virginia

*David S Redwine, President Scott County Hair Sheep Association*

The Scott County Hair Sheep Association held its 4th Annual Production Sale on June 17, 2006, at the Home Place Museum near Gate City, VA. A record crowd evaluated over 130 females and 9 rams, consigned by members of the group. The sale featured both registered and commercial Katahdins, as well as several Dorper/Katahdin cross sheep.

The top selling ewe consignment by Ed Stapleton of Nickelsville, VA, was a pair of bred registered Katahdin yearlings purchased by Kenneth Jessee of

Castlewood, VA, bringing \$500 each. The top ram was a 50% White Dorper/Katahdin born in December 2005, consigned by Dr. David Redwine, and purchased by the Ted Fletcher family of Clinchport, VA, for \$540.

Outstanding facilities, a fantastic lamb lunch, and a well run sale topped off a wonderful day in southwest Virginia. Our thanks to the many sponsors, and all members of the association for their hours of hard work and dedication needed to produce this sale. (new Scott County Hair Sheep Association website - [www.hairsheep.us](http://www.hairsheep.us)).

### KHSI website:

⌘ free ads for your sheep ⌘ inexpensive farm web pages

[www.khsi.org](http://www.khsi.org)



"Fast Friends"

Photography by Karen Kenagy, Canby, OR  
2005 KHSI Photo Contest  
First Place Tie - Kids and Animals

Deadline for the next issue of the Katahdin Hairald

**Nov. 1st**

ΌΰΌΌRSΌΰΈΌΠ>ΤΰΠΤVΌΌfΌΰΠ>SfUOZΌfEH

Without explaining the mystery of Freckles' mothering ability, the computers rewarded it by quantifying her true value: the potential to produce more pounds of lamb than any ewe in my flock.

The beautiful Fancy? She ranked 29th. Friendly, penalized for having a single lamb in her prime, ranked a dismal 127<sup>th</sup>.

Freckles showed me how easily humans are misled by the emotional reward of bigger animals and bigger numbers. Bigger is not better, not unless it succeeds in the larger

context. For animal exhibitors, the show ring is the larger context, the purple ribbon the reward.

For a profit-oriented lamb producer, the larger context is his farm, his production system, his bottom line. For my fescue-covered hills, for rearing lambs on pasture alone, and for bringing in more lambs to sell, ewes like Freckles are what I need.

Freckles has taught me that such ewes are what I *want* as well.

*Freckles raised triplets again in 2005 and twins in 2006. Richard Gilbert works in publishing and takes instructions from Freckles on his farm near Athens, Ohio.*

**Make a Note & Remember**

**New KHSI Registry Address, Phone # and email**

777 Winrock Dr.  
Morrilton, AR 72110  
501-652-0470

[khsiregistry@yahoo.com](mailto:khsiregistry@yahoo.com)



# Introducing “Stacked” VJ 6036 RR



NSIP enrolled – Voluntary Scrapie Program Certified

*Thanks to our buyers,  
bidders, and friends in  
Sedalia.  
See you in Jefferson City.*

This promising young stud  
was added to our program  
because...

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# Summer 2006 Hairald Calendar

KHSI periodically posts information on sheep sales and sheep events as a public service. Posting sale and event information does not imply endorsement or verification of the claims of any sale or event. KHSI encourages the use of performance records and production data as the primary means of selecting sheep instead of using visual appraisal typical of most shows, sales, and auctions. Sales and events posted are not sanctioned by KHSI unless otherwise noted. Contact the KHSI Operations Office to ask for your event or sale to be posted. 479-444-8441 or [khsint@earthlink.net](mailto:khsint@earthlink.net)

\*\* - Indicates that there is an article in this issue of the Hairald with more information.

**August 12, 2006.** Consignment forms for 2nd Annual 2006 KHSI Expo Sale due in KHSI Operations Office.

**September 1-2, 2006.** North American Hair Sheep Association Annual Meeting and Sale in Hamilton TX. Contact Art Roane: [rrrrttozo@aol.com](mailto:rrrrttozo@aol.com) (325) 226-5469 Katahdin breeders are urged by Art Roane to consign sheep for sale.

**September 7, 2006.** Extended deadline for KHSI Photo Contest. See Spring Katahdin Hairald for details.

**September 14-16, 2006\*\*.** KHSI Expo and Annual Meeting. Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO. (See schedule in this issue of the Hairald.) Educational events and a KHSI Sanctioned Sale.

**September 16, 2006\*\*.** KHSI 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sanctioned Katahdin Sale. Carver Farm, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO. Performance information required and available for all animals being sold (see article in this & previous issues of the Hairald). The KHSI website will be updated with sale catalog by August 19<sup>th</sup>. [www.khsi.org](http://www.khsi.org) Contact KHSI Operations office for more information, 479-444-8441 or [khsint@earthlink.net](mailto:khsint@earthlink.net)

Superior  
Genetics

## Country Oak Ranch

Katahdin Hair Sheep Breeding Stock Only

*Pictured are a few of our consignments for the KHSI Sale Sept. 16, 2006*



**PVR 063, twin,  
RR, polled,  
(125 lbs. 5 mo.)**



**COR Ram  
lambs,  
RR**

***“If it’s in the RAM,  
it will be in the LAMBS”***



[www.countryoakranch.com](http://www.countryoakranch.com)

**Mark & Sara Dennis**  
New Iberia, LA • 337-364-0422  
[denn907@bellsouth.net](mailto:denn907@bellsouth.net)

### Make plans to attend these Special Events

Country Oak Ranch will have Katahdins on display/sale

Katahdin Hair Sheep International  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Katahdin Sale, Sept. 14-16, 2006, Missouri  
Sunbelt Agricultural Expo., Oct. 17-19 2006, Moultrie, GA.  
Meat Sheep Alliance of Florida Expo/Meeting/Tour  
Oct. 19-21, 2006, Lake City, FL

delivery arrangements can be made at these events for a small fuel charge

**GOD BLESS AMERICA**

## Welcome New Members June through July 2006

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*"Triplets"*  
 Photography by Darla Noble, Rolla, MO  
 2005 KHSI Photo Contest  
 Third Place - Action

## KHSI Photo Contest Deadline Extended to September 7

Photos will continue to be accepted for the KHSI photo contest if they are received by the Operations office by September 7, 2006. Full instructions and rules were printed in the Spring 2006 Hairald on page 16. Please contact us at [khsint@earthlink.net](mailto:khsint@earthlink.net) if you need

a copy of these rules or have questions about them. Photos must be sent in digital form on a CD (preferred) or floppy or by email (slower for us to download). Many stores will help you turn your hardcopies into digital form.

## Self-Guided Tours of Jefferson City and Surrounding Areas

If you are interested in exploring the area, there will be information available for self-guided driving or walking tours that you can take at your own pace, choosing stops based on your own interest. The area is home to wineries, art and antique shops, and many historical and scenic areas. If you would like to receive information about Jefferson City, please return the registration form as soon as possible, no later than September 7. We will leave local information packets with your name on it for pick up at the front desk of the Best Western Capitol Inn anytime after 9 am on Thursday September 14. If you plan to arrive and tour before that date, please note your arrival date on your form and we will do our best to get information mailed to you. Although we will not be organizing formal tours, if you contact us at 479-444-8441 or [khsint@earthlink.net](mailto:khsint@earthlink.net), we will do our best to provide you with the names of others who expressed interest in self-guided tours. Local information will also be available when the Expo registration desk opens at 7:30 am on Friday.

**REMINDER**  
 Deadline  
 November 1st  
 for ads and  
 articles for next  
 Hairald





# Classified Ads

In compliance with the KHSI Board of Directors policy, sheep for sale advertised by members in the Hairald must be Katahdins or Katahdin crosses. Ads for the next issue are due **November 1** to Operations: 479-444-8441 or [khsint@earthlink.net](mailto:khsint@earthlink.net).

## SHEEP WANTED

### CENTRAL MISSOURI

Commercial Yearling Ewes and Ewe Lambs. Looking for yearling ewes and ewe lambs that can lamb in Spring 2007. Want 20 or more. Please contact Harry or Paula Goosen at (660) 668-3627

### CENTRAL OHIO

Purebred Commercial Ewe Lambs. Would like a few purebred/commercial Katahdin ewe lambs (or proven young ewes). Registration papers not needed. Must be located close to central Ohio. [wimbush.4@osu.edu](mailto:wimbush.4@osu.edu)

### CENTRAL TENNESSEE

Registered Yearling or Mature Ram. Needed for breeding this year. Contact Scott at 931-635-2169 or [skdyer@blomand.net](mailto:skdyer@blomand.net)

## SHEEP FOR SALE

### CALIFORNIA

Registered Mature Twinning Ewes & Mature Ram. Whole flock sale. Seven mature ewes & 1 proven registered ram. All ewes twinned in 2006. Kathy Jaskot [kjaskot@wildblue.net](mailto:kjaskot@wildblue.net), 530-741-2692, Browns Valley CA.

Commercial Ewe Lambs. Five January twin-born commercial ewe lambs. From registered parents. Kathy Jaskot [kjaskot@wildblue.net](mailto:kjaskot@wildblue.net), 530-741-2692, Browns Valley CA.

Registered Rams and Ewe Lambs. Packages available, unrelated ram and ewes. Contact Hal Higgins, Oroville, CA 530-679-2128. [HiggsHairSheep@yahoo.com](mailto:HiggsHairSheep@yahoo.com). Sheep for sale year around.

## SHEEP FOR SALE

RR Ram Lamb. Born Feb 06 and white. Very nice ram with good coat. \$200.00 Virginia Mills (916) 992-1332. [vmills@netscape.com](mailto:vmills@netscape.com) Rio Linda, CA

### ILLINOIS

Registerable RR Ram Lambs. Larger flock dispersing ram lambs. 18 registerable RR ram lambs born spring 2006, \$300.00 each. Selecting for mothering and genetics for parasite and scrapie resistance. Contact Tally Farms for info/pictures. Zane and Corrina Tally Kansas, Illinois 217-967-5676 or [ctally@rr1.net](mailto:ctally@rr1.net)

Registerable Katahdin Ewe and Ram Lambs. January/February 2006 born ewe lambs from several different genetic lines. Good growth and maternal characteristics. Ewe lambs priced at \$250.00 Jan 06 born ram lambs. Good muscle, growth, and genetic potential. RR ram lambs at \$375.00. Patrick and Brenda Brokaw (309) 924-1510, [pbrokaw@hcil.net](mailto:pbrokaw@hcil.net), [brokaw\\_lee@hotmail.com](mailto:brokaw_lee@hotmail.com)

### INDIANA

Five Registered Yearling Rams. Born Jan-Feb of 05. Two of them RR, one black and one white. Other three are as follows: white, black and white and bronze. Nice rams for the fall. RR are proven. Canaan, IN [haw@seidata.com](mailto:haw@seidata.com)

Registered Katahdin Ewe Lambs. Feb 06 born and a mix of colors. Lori Howard, Canaan, IN 812-839-3639 [haw@seidata.com](mailto:haw@seidata.com)

## SHEEP FOR SALE

### IOWA

Commercial RR ram lambs, \$200.00. Twins or triplet born out of registered RR ram. Don Ray, Maloy, IA 50836. 641-785-2325. In SW Iowa.

### KANSAS

Commercial May 06 Born Ewe Lambs. Grass-based flock producing commercial stock. Contact Carl Nichols, Westphalia, KS 785-489-2456

### KENTUCKY

Registerable April 06 Born Ram & Ewe Lambs. Ram lambs are QR. All \$250. Flock enrolled in the voluntary scrapie program (SFCP). Tom and Seminda Saunders, Mayslick KY. 606-763-6874 or 606-407-4158, [saunders@kywirelesscollc.com](mailto:saunders@kywirelesscollc.com) Located in N Kentucky approximately 60 miles from Cincinnati, OH and 60 miles from Lexington, KY.

Registered White March 06 Ram Lambs. A few white, good looking ram lambs that have never needed deworming. James Johnson, Johnson Grassfed Farms, Central City KY. 270-754-9797

Registered March 06 QR & RR Ram Lambs. A few RR and a nice selection of QR. Most are white with black hooves. Certified scrapie free flock (SFCP). NSIP flock - all rams have EPDs. Kay Cloyd, Lexington, KY. 859-254-2840 [kaycloyd@cs.com](mailto:kaycloyd@cs.com).

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# Classified Ads, continued

## SHEEP FOR SALE

### MAINE

Registered Ewe & Ram Lambs. Feb 06 ewe lambs available, several from the STAR Flock Program. This is the final stage of the Northeast Katahdin Project where research was conducted to develop parasite resistant sheep, our farm was one of ten selected to continue the program. Lambs have been screened using FAMACHA and have been primarily raised on pasture. Ewe lambs start at \$250. Also available is a yearling QR Ram, he is heavily muscled, a proven breeder and has not been wormed this season, \$300. We select for mothering ability, parasite resistance and pounds of lamb weaned. Flock enrolled in the voluntary scrapie program (SFCP). Photo's and more information available upon request. Bruce & Wendy Reinemann, 207-785-2978, [reinemannbw@peoplepc.com](mailto:reinemannbw@peoplepc.com) Union, ME

### MINNESOTA

Registered Yearling Ewes, Ewe & Ram Lambs. Ewe lambs born in March and May, and 2 registerable ram lambs born in March. All lambs out of RR rams from North Dakota State and John Stromquist. Mostly white. SFCP certified scrapie free flock. Jennifer Oelke, Glyndon, MN, 701-371-2055, [okie\\_dokie101@hotmail.com](mailto:okie_dokie101@hotmail.com)

### MISSISSIPPI

Registered QR Ewe & Ram Lambs. \$200 each. From SCFP - scrapie certified free flock. We also have a few commercial ewes available. Les and Amanda Jordan, Enawoods Farm, Summit Mississippi, 601-684-1205, [lajordan@telapex.com](mailto:lajordan@telapex.com)

## SHEEP FOR SALE

### MISSOURI

Registered QR Yearling Ram & RR/QR 2006 Ram Lambs. Certified Scrapie Free Flock (SFCP). All are tested at codon 171 and have EPD's (expected progeny differences) available. Pictures on request. 06 Ram lambs born in Jan & Feb. We concentrate on maternal traits and pounds of lambs weaned per ewe. Lynn & Donna Fahrmeier, Wellington, MO 816-934-8651 or 816-517-5049 [lfahrmeier@msn.com](mailto:lfahrmeier@msn.com)

### NEBRASKA

Registered & Recorded 2006 Ewe Lambs. Ewe lambs are registered or are recorded 87.5% Kat x Dorp Cross 2006 ewe lambs, most from twin/triplet birth. Lambs are raised on pasture from good milking mothers, Most RR, \$200.00 each, SFCP 04/02. Nemaha Hill Farm, Lori Wagner 402-274-9246 or [nemahahill1@alltel.net](mailto:nemahahill1@alltel.net) [www.nemahahill.com](http://www.nemahahill.com)

Recorded 75% Kat x 25% Dorp 05 Proven Ewes. Ewes are QR, proven mothers, good size, \$250.00 each. SFCP since 04/02. Nemaha Hill Farm, Lori Wagner 402-274-9246 or [nemahahill1@alltel.net](mailto:nemahahill1@alltel.net) [www.nemahahill.com](http://www.nemahahill.com)

Registered RR 06 Ram Lambs. Good coats, twin or triplet birth, \$200.00 each and one 2006 RR recorded (87.5 % Kat x Dorp) ram lamb - top quality, good coat, large, white. \$200.00. Nemaha Hill Farm, Lori Wagner 402-274-9246 or [nemahahill1@alltel.net](mailto:nemahahill1@alltel.net) , [www.nemahahill.com](http://www.nemahahill.com)

## SHEEP FOR SALE

### NORTH DAKOTA

Commercial QR & RR Ram Lambs. Mar & Apr 06 born commercial ram lambs. One QR and four RR, white or brown in color starting at \$150.00, photos and individual pricing available upon request. [lillehaugen@cablone.net](mailto:lillehaugen@cablone.net) or 701-280-0938 evenings. Luke Lillehaugen, Fargo, ND.

### OHIO

Registered QR & RR Ewe and Ram Lambs. March 06 born, are QR or RR, twins or triplets, good coats, never dewormed and most out of ewes who have never been dewormed. Starting at \$300. Production, FEC and 1st year EPD records available. Certified-Free status in SFCP. All mature ewes have tested OPP negative for 4 years. We select for parasite resistance and pounds of quality lamb weaned per ewe on grass. We do Fecal Egg Counts on all animals 5 times each summer. Lambs have low fecal egg counts and are out of stock with low fecal egg counts. Multi-generation selection for parasite resistance. Kathy & Jeff Bielek, Holmes Co., OH, 330-377-4066, [bielek@bright.net](mailto:bielek@bright.net) in Central OH.

Registerable Ram Lambs. Six Ram lambs raised on 2nd crop and pasture. Photo available. Flock enrolled in the voluntary scrapie program (SFCP). Contact Susan 330-540-1495 or [nhi@cboss.com](mailto:nhi@cboss.com) in NE OH

Registered Ewes. 2 ewes raised on 2nd crop and pasture. One 2 years old all brown, excellent coat. One yearling ewe, brown/white



# Classified Ads, continued

## SHEEP FOR SALE

mix, excellent coat. Photos available. Flock enrolled in the voluntary scrapie program (SFCP). Contact Susan 330-540-1495 or [nhi@cboss.com](mailto:nhi@cboss.com) in NE Ohio

### OKLAHOMA

Registered QR & RR 06 Ram Lambs. Seven Jan & Apr 06 ram lambs that are either QR or RR. Flock is enrolled in SFCP and NSIP (genetic evaluation with EPDs, expected progeny differences). Ram lambs are from the top 25% of the lamb crop. All are twin or triplet born, except for the rams out of yearlings. Prices range from \$300-\$700. Howard Brown, Prague, OK. 405-567-2559

### PENNSYLVANIA

Registered Ewes & Registerable Ewe Lambs. Ewe lambs and ewes selected from our flock of 60 registered ewes. April-May ewe lambs, all raised totally on pasture, 200% lamb crop. \$250 with papers, \$225 without. Maranatha Meadows, Spring Grove, York County, PA 717-225-8837 or 717-521-6701. [e\\_utting@earthlink.net](mailto:e_utting@earthlink.net)

Registerable RR and QR Ram Lambs. April and May '06 born on pasture. Twin and triplets, white, brown and black. Will be ready in mid August. Grass fed. Flock enrolled in voluntary scapie program (SFCP). Pictures upon request. RR's \$400-450 and QR's \$250-350. Phone Windsong Hollow Farm 814-692-7524 (Don or Mary) [siesmith@lazerlink.com](mailto:siesmith@lazerlink.com), Warriors Mark in Central Pennsylvania.

Registered RR & QR Ram Lambs. Feb & Mar 06 Registered RR and QR Ram Lambs. Single, twin and

## SHEEP FOR SALE

triplet born. Pure white and colored rams. Pictures upon request. RR's \$400-450 and QR's \$200-250. 814-256-3852, leave a message or [farmchik1993@hotmail.com](mailto:farmchik1993@hotmail.com). SFCP flock. New Bethlehem PA

### SOUTH DAKOTA

Registered Ewe & Ram Lambs & Commercial Ewe Lambs. April born registered ewe lambs (\$300) and ram lambs for sale (\$150). Handful of commercial ewe lambs for sale and a great commercial ram lamb for sale. I can send or email pictures. Please contact Tracy at 605-835-8956 or [ctdehning@yahoo.com](mailto:ctdehning@yahoo.com)

### TENNESSEE

Five Jan & Feb 06 QR & RR Ram Lambs. Ram lambs are from the top 15% of flock based on ewe production records. Weights, prices, and photos are on website: [www.chiggerridge.net](http://www.chiggerridge.net) We select for mothering ability, parasite resistance, prolificacy, hardiness, and pounds of lambs weaned. We are a grass based operation and using FAMACHA and fecal egg counts rarely have to de-worm. Our lambs have good rumen development and lots of exercise right from birth while foraging over 100 acres. Chigger Ridge Ranch, John and Deb Mays, Middle Tennessee (1 hour west of Nashville), 615-219-3204, [info@chiggerridge.net](mailto:info@chiggerridge.net)

Registered Proven Mature QR Ram & 4 2006 QR Ram Lambs. Registered 2 year old proven twin-born QR ram. Approximately 275 lbs with excellent conformation and sheds completely. \$350. Four QR, April 06, white ram lambs. Current on

## SHEEP FOR SALE

shots and de-worming. All out of ewes that are twins or triplets. \$250 each. Pictures available. Dr. Carol Rabalais, Glenmore Farms, Rogersville, Tennessee. (423) 272-9673. [crabalais@earthlink.net](mailto:crabalais@earthlink.net) - Central TN

Registerable Katahdin Ram Lambs. Select rams out of our top ewes. The top five were selected out of 30 lambs. They are all white, all twin-born and registerable. All 4-5 months old and weighed in at 70-75 pounds at 90 days. \$175-\$250. 615-794-6920 or [TENKAN@aol.com](mailto:TENKAN@aol.com).

### TEXAS

Commercial Ewe Package. 30 hair sheep ewes, one Katahdin ram and one Great Pyrenees guard dog (or donkey). \$4000.00 Located in Northeast Texas. Hardy, range-fed ewes, excellent foragers and all raise lambs out on pasture. Just weaned off spring lambs, now exposed to Dorpcroix rams. Ewes are all young - nothing over three years old, good hooves and udders. Hay (large rounds) for sale with purchase of sheep, if needed. Lynn Magedson Celeste Texas 903-496-2070 - NE TX

Katahdin x Blackbelly Ewes, Ewe & Ram Lambs. Adult Ewes are exposed to registered Katahdin Ram. If you are looking for outstanding breeding ewes we have what you are looking for. Well bred and cared for Katahdin/Blackbelly Barbados cross ewe and ram lambs. Adult ewes exposed to registered Katahdin ram for breeding. For

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## Classified Ads, continued

### SHEEP FOR SALE

complete list of available sheep go to [www.palmerfarm.com](http://www.palmerfarm.com) info1@palmerfarm.com 972-524-8771 Ray & Janet Palmer, Terrel TX

#### VIRGINIA

Registered March 2006 lambs. Sired by quality rams purchased from North Dakota State University. Select small group of QUALITY Ram lambs picked from this crop. Twins or Triplets. Have been DNA Scrapie resistance typed. \$600 ea. 40 head of ewe lambs available \$275 ea. Forage based flock. Brood ewes are excellent mothers, milk good, have parasite resistance and are easy to handle; otherwise they are culled. Enrolled in Scrapie program. Teresa Glass - Glass View Farm - [glassview@hotmail.com](mailto:glassview@hotmail.com) 540-291-1784 Natural Bridge Station, VA

#### WYOMING

Five Registered Ram Lambs. All colors. [pamkunz@vcn.com](mailto:pamkunz@vcn.com), 307-756-3205, Moorcroft, Wyoming

### GUARDIAN ANIMALS

#### OKLAHOMA

Guardian Pups for Sale. 3 month old pups from working sheep farm, Anatolian\Pyrenees\Komodor. \$200. Howard Brown, Prague, OK. 405-567-2559

#### KANSAS

Guardian Pups for Sale. Working sheep farm has guardian pups for sale. Carl Nichols, Westphalia, KS 785-489-2456

#### NE TEXAS

Anatolian/Great Pyrenees cross-bred pups. Dam is a working,

### GUARDIAN ANIMALS

AKC registered Anatolian Shepherd, Sire is a working, CKC registered Great Pyrenees. Pups have two sets of vaccinations and wormings - vet record included. Pups raised with sheep and goats. \$250.00 Located Northeast Texas. Lynn Magedson Celeste Texas 903-496-2070 [mail@godearthorganicfarm.com](mailto:mail@godearthorganicfarm.com) , <http://www.godearthorganicfarm.com>, Celeste Texas

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