Katahdin NSIP Cheat Sheet: 1 Page Reminder Summary of the Basics….

Recording Data

- Use the "quick add" button in the main screen of Pedigree Wizard (PW) to get animal IDs in the system. Start with your sires & dams, then populate the quick-select list via the "sires" button. Then go back into "Breeding and Pedigree Display" button to enter more data on each animal. The tabs walk you through: birth data is on the first "breeding" tab, weaning and post-weaning weights go on the "lamb" tab and adult data goes on the adult tab, etc.
- Each lamb gets a 16-character ID, which starts out with 64 (for Katahdins), then your 4-digit flock ID, then 4 digits for the year born, then 6 characters for the lamb's ID. KHSI's convention is that the last 6 are your flock's tag ID plus 3 digits reflecting the animal's tag number. E.g. 6400752012KMC001.
- Orphan-rears (bottle lambs): count them in the "born" count, but not the "reared" count for that ewe.
- Died-at-birth (or soon after) lambs: code as DAB### for the last 6 characters. It will add to your "born" count, but not appear in the "reared" count for that ewe.
- Early lamb deaths (before 60 days): add to "born" count, but not to "reared" count for that ewe.
- Ewes which did not lamb (and were exposed): give them a fictional code for lambs, e.g. DRY001 in last 6 characters of ID; and code as number born = 1, number reared = 0.
- Animals designated as culls or commercial will not incur a database fee (up to 25% of the year's drop). Code them as "CU" or "CO" in the 11th and 12th characters of the ID before or at any 90+ day weight submission. E.g. 6400752012**CO**0001.
- Groups: in PW, the purple field at the top, describing the animal, is the drop #: should almost always be the same. Except for crossbreds or for animals born outside of the regular season, or cases where ewes were fed in different groups during pregnancy. A drop spans <70 days. The drop-down number to the right of the weighing data is the group they were in up until that weigh date. Make up your own codes here to describe groups such as bottle lambs, wethers, or lambs which were in different feeding or rearing groups. To refresh on the age span for a weighing group, click on the button and a help window will pop up.
- Importing data from other sources: see separate instructions for how to dump data out of your favorite database program and/or Microsoft Excel, and import it straight into PW.
- When entering dams purchased from non-NSIP flocks, use your own flock ID, and enter their ID with zeros for the birth year, e.g. 6400750000KMC001. For sires from non-NSIP flocks, do the same, but include their birth year.

Submitting Data

- Check your data in two steps. First, open the "Breeding and Pedigree Display" window, navigate to a lamb from this year's drop. Click the "Lamb %" button, and peruse the counts to confirm it's got the right # of lambs, ewes versus rams, culls, deads, etc. for the drop. If there is a mistake, go find and fix it.
- Next, in the main PW window, click the "validation and data quality" button in the main PW window, then choose "validate data" in the next window. Type in your flock ID and years you want to check. Put "N" in the "standard ID system" box, because all Katahdin people are using non-standard IDs, so we don't want to tool to complain about this. This will give you an error report- study it carefully. Go back and fix any errors you made, and keep doing this until you get no errors (or at least no unexpected errors). It gives you the option to print the error list if you find this helpful.
- In the main window, choose "create backup", pay attention to where it tells you it's putting the file, then send the zipped file to database@sheepgenetics.org.au Put in the subject line your NSIP flock ID, plus "Katahdin data" and your last name and/or farm name. The data is run twice monthly, schedule/due dates are here: http://www.nsip.org/

Getting Data Back from NSIP After You've Submitted

You get an email from Sheep Genetics. Click on the link inside the email, and search through the list until you find your flock #. It will start with 64 (the Katahdin code). Right-click on the file, and save it to your hard drive, then run it. It will prompt you for a password: this is in the title/header of the email they sent to you. This will update your database with the latest data. It's a good idea to save these update files in a backup, in case you lose your hard drive data sometime.

Looking at the Data

- To export an EBV report: in PW, go to Reporting & Utilities-> Data Files Tab->.EBVs. Specify your flock #, choose the flag to limit to active animals only, so dead and sold ones don't show up… It will dump out a .dbf file in the export folder. You can open these in Microsoft Excel and then sort and analyze them to your heart's content.
- To look at data for sheep you bought from other NSIP flocks: do the same export as above, only choose the flock ID of the original owner/breeder of the sheep