

The Katahdin Hairald



Quarterly Newsletter of Katahdin Hair Sheep International

www.KHSI.org

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Winter 2004

TAKING KATAHDINS TO THE NEXT LEVEL: IDENTIFYING SIRE LINES THAT HAVE SUPERIOR PARASITE RESISTANCE

Jim Morgan, Arkansas

Katahdin breeders emphasize different traits in their selection programs to make Katahdins a more functional animal for meat production. Producers may emphasize one or more of the following: a) multiple births, b) nonseasonal lambing, c) increased milk production, d) increased frame size and growth rate, e) scrapie resistance, f) increased muscling. All of these traits may increase the ability of Katahdins to function in commercial production systems,

but each of these traits is readily available in other breeds of sheep.

Only a few breeds have the genetics for superior parasite resistance and these are breeds that are not commonly available or have other traits which make them less commercially viable. Many sheep breeders in the warmer and more humid parts of the world, including the Southeastern US, are beginning to find that most wormers are much less effective because internal parasite populations have resistance to

current anthelmintics. Thus, a strategy with dramatic potential to increase the market for Katahdins is to identify lines that have genetics that will decrease the need for or eliminate use of wormers. Financial benefits for the breeder include more live lambs to sell, less money and labor spent on wormers, increased growth rates when ewes and lambs are less parasitized, and the ability to manage sheep at higher

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IMPORTANT INFO FOR ALL MEMBERS: 2004 RENEWALS, ENCLOSED 2003 MEMBERSHIP LIST

The enclosed printed membership list is the KHSI End of Year 2003 membership list. It reflects the names of all members who paid dues during 2003. We use this list as a record of renewals and members for 2003. We updated info for your listing if we received it before the printing date.

The list will be updated again at the end of March. At that time, we will add new members for 2004, list all renewing members whose 2004 dues are paid, and make other changes that people have requested for their 2004 listing. **NOTE:** If your label says "not

paid" that means your 2004 dues have not been received and your info will be removed from the Spring 2004 printed list and website. 2004 Dues are \$25US and \$37 Canadian and must be sent to:

KHSI Registry
1039 Winrock Drive
Morrilton AR 72110.

Don't miss out—rejoin today! Website member listings are updated each week. You may check your listing at www.KHSI.org to be sure it correctly reflects any changes that you sent in with your 2004 dues. If not, please drop a note to: khsint@earthlink.net.

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densities. We need more Katahdin breeders to help identify superior lines of parasite resistant sheep.

At two recent meetings of professional Animal Scientists, selection for parasite resistance has been identified as a #1 priority for the sheep industry. The worm species of most interest in North America is the barber pole worm, *Haemonchus contortus*. Studies at Virginia Tech and the Booneville, Arkansas Small Farm Research Center (USDA-ARS) have found that Katahdins are more resistant to parasites than most wool breeds in those trials. However, Katahdins have not been found to be as resistant to internal parasites as St Croix and Gulf Coast/Florida Native sheep. There is room for Katahdins to improve.

Animal scientists have determined that parasite resistance is heritable. This means that identifying animals with superior parasite resistance and breeding them to each other will produce offspring superior for that trait. We need a program that can look at large numbers of Katahdins, factor out management and environmental differences, and accurately identify lines of sheep with parasite resistance.

Other countries outside of North America are actively pursuing selection for parasite resistance and the models are out there. In Australia, the "Nemesis" program is successfully identifying Merino sire lines that are more resistant to parasites while still retaining superior wool traits. Fecal egg counts (FEC) are standardized procedures in which the numbers of worm eggs/gram of feces are counted using a microscope. Dr. Dave Notter at Virginia Tech has found that a single FEC is 20% heritable. With high vari-

ance in FEC and 20% heritability, significant progress identifying parasite resistant Katahdin lines is feasible.

Many breeders say that they are selecting for parasite resistance. The questions I have include:

- A) what are their criteria,
- B) what are their methods,
- C) how accurate are they,
- D) will lines identified in flock #1 be more resistant in flock #2,
- E) are they actually making progress or doing it quickly enough to be important.

How can we set up a program that identifies superior parasite resistant Katahdin lines for all producers? How can we increase the rate of improvement?

- A) It needs to be across-flock.
 - i) Identified genetic lines need to express superior parasite resistance in several environments and management systems. Most of the observed expression of parasite resistance is due to superior management or to environments that are not conducive to worm populations.
 - ii) Multiple flocks will increase the number of rams evaluated and thus increase the rate at which resistant lines are found.
- B) It needs to have a standard protocol that all participating flocks use.
- C) It needs to be quantitative.
- D) It needs to be replicated across a few years. It will take a committed multi-year effort from several flocks.

During 2003, there were three Katahdin flocks that started collecting data (FEC) and submitted results to Dr. Dave Notter at Virginia Tech for analyses. They in-

cluded Paul Rodgers of West Virginia, Dave/Nancy Maddox of Georgia and Jim Morgan/Teresa Maurer of Arkansas. The goal will be an EPD-FEC (Expected Progeny Difference for Fecal Egg Count). This will be a cross-flock EPD and will identify genetic lines that are superior in multiple flocks, states and management systems.

In 2003, the process and criteria included the following:

- A) At least 2 sires that each had 1 dozen or more lambs raised in the same pen/pasture (and within a couple of weeks of the same age)
- B) Worm all lambs on the test on day 1 of the sample period. (Start at 14-17 weeks of age)
- C) At 4 & 5 weeks after worming, fecal samples were collected. Most breeders shipped their fecal samples to Virginia Tech for counting because of a batch price discount.
- D) Pastures do need to be contaminated. At the end of 5 weeks, at least some of the lambs should have FEC approaching 1000 eggs/gram or even more.
 - i) Need to have a moderate to high level of pasture contamination and probably have lambs sampled in July-September (these months will vary with the climate). Typically high numbers of *Haemonchus* larvae available for ingestion by the lamb only exist in pastures later in the warm and wet parts of the growing season.
 - ii) Not all pastures will have high enough contamination to be able to accurately

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Larry Weeks, Virginia

This is going to be short because we are dealing with old man winter, getting ready for lambing, and trying to get our taxes filed. KHSI committees are getting organized and starting work.

Committee members and information will soon be listed on

the web page to make it easier for you to reach them with any ideas that could help them accomplish their goals. Planning is under way for the 2004 annual conference October 7-9. Please start planning on attending now. It is already shaping up to be another great event.

Check out the web page at www.KHSI.org. We hope to add some more pictures of Katahdin Sheep—contact Operations if you have good pictures. As always, please feel free to contact me with ideas, suggestions or comments concerning any aspect of the KHSI organization.

TAKING KATAHDINS TO THE NEXT LEVEL. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

differentiate resistance and not all lambing schedules will lend themselves to the study.

The above protocol will identify genetic lines with “acquired” parasite resistance at 14-20 weeks of age. This is just the first part of a project to identify parasite resistant lines. Lambs are very suscep-

tible to parasites at ages younger than the above protocol. Eventually, we need Katahdins that are resistant to worms by the time they begin grazing at 4-8 weeks of age. This is termed “innate” resistance. If you are interested in identifying innate resistant lines, please inquire.

If you are interested in taking

Katahdins to the next level, being on the cutting edge and having a major impact on the sheep industry, please contact:

Jim Morgan
18235 Wildlife Rd.
Fayetteville, AR 72701
479-444-6075
jlmm@earthlink.net



MCD Big-Time COR 0-80
2.5 year wt. 274 lbs. QR

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Country Oak Ranch

Katahdin Hair Sheep

Superior Genetic Breeding Stock

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MCD Pace-Setter, COR 3-08,
12 mo. wt. 203 lbs. “QR”

RR RAM DONATED FOR KHSI RAFFLE WINNING TICKET DRAWN AT THE 2004 KHSI ANNUAL MEETING

John Stromquist, Katahdin breeder from Illinois, has donated a Feb 2004 ram lamb that is RR at codon 171 to KHSI. This means that the ram is resistant to scrapie and that all lambs sired by him are resistant to scrapie. John has a good eye for sheep and you can count on this being a good ram with good size. John judged sheep nationally for many years before retiring from raising Columbias.

His sheep-raising career took a new look when he came back with Katahdins. There may not be another KHSI member who has raised sheep longer than John - he has been doing it for more

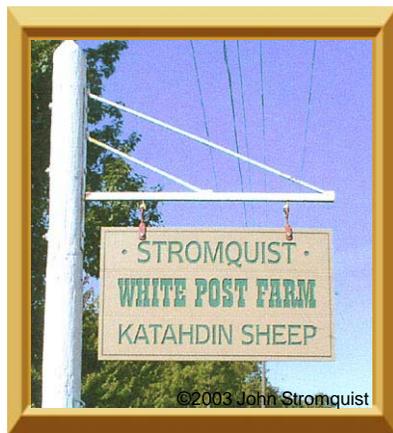
years than most of us have been alive.

John donated the ram with the stipulation that all proceeds be used for promoting Katahdins in national & international sheep magazines. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at the KHSI Annual Meeting in Mississippi October 7-9th. Suggested prices for the tickets will be \$5.00 per ticket or six tickets for \$25.00. More details on the Ram Raffle will be the next Hairald. You could be the owner of a quality Katahdin Ram by buying a raffle ticket. KHSI looks forward to using this money to do a better job of promoting all our Katahdins!

SEEDSTOCK SALE PROPOSED FOR KHSI ANNUAL GATHERING

Plans are shaping up for a seedstock sale to be held at the Annual KHSI Gathering in October in Mississippi. The details will be announced later.

Such a sale would need to be made up of animals that best represent the Katahdin breed. It is not too late to make suggestions about the sale itself. Also, we'd like to hear from you if you have animals that you might consign to a "PREMIER" sale. To make suggestions or learn more, please call or email: Mark Dennis (337) 364-0422 denn907@bellsouth.net or Ed Martsolf (501) 727-5659 edmartsolf@lakewebs.net



WHITE POST FARM

John and Steve Stromquist

All sheep are DNA tested

White Post Farm
10956 Freeport Rd.
Durand, IL 61024
815-629-2159



GETTING YOUR SHEEP TESTED FOR SCRAPIE RESISTANCE DNA

Kay Cloyd, Kentucky

Current research has shown that there are two parts of the prion protein gene in a sheep's DNA that determine its resistance or susceptibility to scrapie strains present in the USA and Canada. These are the presence of R and Q amino acids located at codon 171, and A and V located at codon 136. The presence of the A and V amino acids at codon 136 affect the susceptibility to a strain of scrapie that is very rare and virtually non-existent in this country. Therefore, at the present time we in the US are most concerned with the Q and R at codon 171. Our Kentucky state veterinarian is not yet recommending testing for codon 136.

The presence of at least one copy of the prion protein gene with the R amino acid at codon 171 will make a sheep resistant to scrapie. Genes usually come in pairs and a sheep has two possible amino acids coded at 171 (one from each parent). The pair can be RR, QR or QQ. Either the RR or QR combination (genotype) will make a sheep resistant. The QQ genotype means that a sheep will be susceptible to scrapie if it comes in contact with the disease causing agent. It does not mean that the sheep has scrapie. Keep in mind that this DNA testing is not to determine if the sheep *has* scrapie, it is to determine the sheep's resistance or susceptibility to the disease. Note, that there are two other rare amino acids found at codon 171 in a few breeds of sheep, but for the present, Katahdin breeders only need to be concerned with the presence of the Q & R amino acids.

Testing for Q & R requires the sampling of blood. There is a new

method recently introduced that eliminates blood tube collection method. Instead, this involves pricking the ear with a razor and putting 5 drops of blood on a blood card. The cards are then dried and sent to the testing lab. To find out more about this method of collection or any other information about testing, contact one or all of the places at the end of the article. Note that some buyers will only want DNA tests that have been certified and may require that a veterinarian have drawn the blood and certified that it came from an animal with a specific tag ID.

Prior to the introduction of the "blood card", blood needed to be withdrawn from a major blood vessel, usually in the neck. To get your testing done without a blood card, you must arrange to have someone draw blood or do it yourself. In some situations this must be done by a veterinarian. You will need special "purple top" tubes to collect the samples. These tubes have an anticoagulant in them to keep the blood from clotting. Clotting will render the sample unusable. About 2cc of blood is taken out of the large neck vein. Clean collecting needles and syringes must be used with each draw to avoid cross contamination. Careful identification of the tubes is obviously important. Tubes are then packed to eliminate breakage and mailed as soon as possible to the testing facilities. You don't have to get expensive overnight shipping. I mail mine US mail guaranteed to get there in two days. If it is summertime and the temperatures are very warm you may want to consider sending them overnight or pack them with cold

packs. If you can't mail right away they will keep in the refrigerator for several days. (I don't recommend this but I once sent some samples that had been in the refrigerator for a month and they tested ok.) It is best to ship early in the week so the samples will not lie in a warm building somewhere over the weekend. This means that if you can arrange it, do your blood drawing early in the week.

Getting your animals tested is expensive. Cost per animal is about \$14.00 per test plus whatever it costs to have the blood drawn. Testing for both codons would be approximately \$26-\$28 per animal. (One blood draw will do both 171 and 136 but there is a separate charge for each test). Once a lab has a blood sample, you can get other information later such as the other codon 136, spider gene or parentage testing without having to submit additional samples.

The ultimate goal after getting your animals tested is to breed in combinations that will eliminate QQ offspring that are susceptible to scrapie. The following are the possible genetic combinations of the parents and what we can predict their offspring will be:

- Both parents are RR: all offspring will be RR
- Both parents are QQ: all offspring will be QQ
- One parent is RR the other QQ: all offspring will be QR
- One parent is QR the other RR: on average - 50% will be QR the other 50% will be RR.
- One parent is QQ the other QR: on average - 50% will be QQ, the other 50% will be QR

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SOUTH CENTRAL KATAHDIN ASSOCIATION SILENT AUCTION: A SUCCESS!

Mark Dennis, SCKA President

The new owners of our auction ram are Robert, Johanna, and Richard Elliott of Rojo Ranch in Caldwell, TX with the high bid of \$700.00. The Elliotts are charter members of SCKA.

Our SCKA Officers and Members say "Thank You" to all those who bid on this Katahdin ram lamb. SCKA also sends our special appreciation to Vaughn and Naomi Johnson of Livingston, Montana, for donating this superb ram lamb to SCKA.

Proceeds from this 2004 fund

raiser will aid us in hosting the KHSI Annual Gathering / Meeting October 7-9, 2004, in McComb, Mississippi.

Let me remind you of the SCKA Annual Meeting June 11-12, 2004, in Pecan Island, LA. All Katahdin enthusiasts are welcome to join and attend. Visit the SCKA Website www.hair-sheep.com for a schedule of events. Bring your trailer and checkbook because Katahdins will be on display and for sale. Thank you for your support!

Soliciting Sites for the 2005 KHSI Annual Gathering

contact Operations Office 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net

WHAT CAN YOU SEE?

Ed Martsof, Arkansas

The KHSI Vision Committee is interested in collecting visions from each person who has looked into your own crystal ball on the subject of Katahdin Sheep.

What insights do you have about the future of our breed...and maybe even hair sheep in general?

Where do you see KHSI in the year 2014 or 2050 or ??

Don't be bashful! We know you can still dream...so please share some of your ideas by:

Email -

edmartsof@lakewebs.net

Phone - 501-727-5659

Fax - 501-727-5659

p.s. Practical thoughts are welcome too.

www.khsi.org

SCRAPIE RESISTANCE TESTING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

- Both parents are QR: on average - 25% will be RR, 25% will be QQ and 50% will be QR.

Even if it is prohibitive for you to test all of your breeding animals, just getting your rams tested can give you some idea of where you are. You may be lucky enough to have one or more of them test RR. All of the offspring of an RR ram will have at least one R gene, making them resistant. If your best ram tests QQ, that does not necessarily mean he is through as a breeding animal. But in order to prevent getting QQ offspring out of him you will have to invest in getting your breeding ewes tested.

Any RR ewes you have can then be bred to the QQ ram resulting in all QR offspring. These offspring can then be bred to produce RR lambs. I now have RR

grandsons out of my one of my best rams who was QQ.

If you do not want to invest the money and effort in testing and/or you are looking for new stock, buy from breeders who are testing. Purchase of an RR ram will assure that all of your lambs will be resistant.

In the USA, current standard policy follows: If scrapie is found in your stock or any you have produced and sold within the last 5 years, your farm will be quarantined and all QQ animals destroyed. I personally know someone here in Kentucky that this happened to last summer. This can be disastrous and disheartening if it is your prized rams or ewes out of genetics you have worked for years to establish.

Here are some resources you can use for testing services:

GeneCheck

1629 Blue Spruce Drive
Suite 106

Fort Collins, CO 80524

Phone: 800-822-6740,
970-472-9959,

genecheck@genecheck.com
or www.genecheck.com
(has the blood cards)

GenMark

1825 Infinity Dr.

DeForest, WI 53532

Phone: 877-766-3446

www.genmarkag.com

Biogenetic Services, Inc.

801 32nd Av.

Brookings SD 57006

Phone: 800-423-4163

biogene@brookings.net

www.biogeneticservices.com

TWO RECENT REPORTS ON SCRAPIE ISSUES:

Summarized by Jim Morgan, Arkansas

REPORT 1 - DISTRIBUTION OF GENOTYPES AT CODON 171 IN USA SHEEP

In the NAHMS (National Animal Health Monitoring System) study of 2001, 11,748 blood samples from US sheep were genotyped at codon 171. The genotype at codon 171 of the Prion gene is a good predictor of whether a sheep is resistant to scrapie for the strains present in the USA. Sheep that are RR or QR are found to be mostly scrapie resistant while QQ sheep are considered to be susceptible. During the last half of 2003 and early in 2004, the KHSI Breed Improvement Committee collected frequencies of

codon 171 genotypes from 22 KHSI breeders and from the NAHMS study which provided anonymous data from the Katahdin flocks they surveyed. We have received codon 171 genotypes for 384 Katahdins.

While we can not say the Katahdin sample is random, we do believe that the reported results are a good indication of the frequency of QQ, QR & RR in Katahdins prior to breeders beginning to select for R and/or cull QQ sheep.

The basic conclusions are that a) Katahdins as a breed are susceptible to scrapie and b) Katahdins are not much if any different from the general US sheep population in their frequency of the Q & R alleles.

FREQUENCY OF CODON 171 GENOTYPES

Sheep Type	QQ	QR	RR	Other (H allele)
All Sheep*	39.1%	44.1%	16.0%	0.8%
Black Faced*	44.0%	41.9%	13.1%	1.0%
White-Faced*	36.5%	45.4%	17.5%	0.6%
Katahdin ¹	36.0%	51.8%	12.2%	Not Tested

FREQUENCY OF 171 ALLELES

Sheep Type	Q	R
All Sheep**	61.6%	38.4%
Black Faced**	65.6%	34.4%
White-Faced**	59.6%	40.4%
Katahdin ¹	61.9%	38.1%

* Percent frequencies taken from the NAHMS Study.

¹ Percent frequencies taken from Katahdin breeders who reported their results

** Percent frequencies calculated from the NAHMS study. These are approximations since I did not have the raw data.

REPORT 2 - FREQUENCY OF SCRAPIE IN USA SHEEP PUBLISHED

In its January 2004 issue, The Shepherd Magazine reprinted an article titled "Surveillance Study Shows True Picture of Scrapie in the United States". It was written by Emily Tescher-Johnston for the *Sheep Industry News*, a publication of the American Sheep Industry. The USDA-APHIS (US Department of Agriculture, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service) program did a slaughter surveillance of older cull sheep for the presence of scrapie. They looked at a random sample of older cull sheep, because they are of the age category in which scrapie can be more reliably detected.

The frequency of scrapie in the tested sheep was 0.2% or 1 in 500 sheep have scrapie. Samples were collected from 12,508 sheep at 22 slaughter plants over the course of 1 year. There were regional differences in that in the Eastern USA, they found that at least 1 in every 200 sheep have scrapie. They also found that the majority of sheep that have scrapie are black-faced, which was an expected result.

Now that USDA-APHIS knows the frequency of scrapie in the US sheep flocks, they are planning on stepping up surveillance with trace backs to identify the flocks that have scrapie. They will continue work to eradicate scrapie.

One could be alarmist with this information and recommend that it is imperative that all Katahdin breeders start taking very stringent measures to prevent scrapie. With frequencies of scrapie near 1 in 500, it could be predicted that it may just be a matter of time before all breeds have a case of scrapie. Currently, flocks in the USA that are identified as having scrapie are quarantined and not allowed to sell

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Welcome New Members December 2003 through January 2004

Keith Steele.....	Arkansas
Vernon Crews.....	Georgia
Richard Moore.....	Louisiana
Rick Maierhoffer & Bill Byram.....	Missouri
James R & Jamie L Wilhoit.....	Missouri
Judy Peterson.....	Missouri
Deb Schneider.....	Ohio
Jim & Julie Vaughn.....	Tennessee
Claude Hansford Conley II.....	Tennessee
Rod Hewitt.....	Vermont
Wade C Collins.....	Virginia

KHSI Canadian Representative

Darlene Jordan
Box 309
Raymore, SK S0A 3J0
306-746-4361
ran.dar@sasktel.net



To make an effective statement..... consider advertising in the Hairald

contact Operations at 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net
for more information on display advertising

RECENT REPORTS ON SCRAPIE ISSUES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

sheep until APHIS knows the status of the infestation. In the past, all sheep were put down, but now they are testing the whole flock for their genotype at codon 171. Typically, QQ sheep are put down with the producer receiving compensation. After the quarantine is lifted, QR & RR sheep are allowed to be sold or kept as breeding stock.

Factors that decrease risk of scrapie transfer to your flock include but are not limited to: a) knowing where all purchased sheep came from and whether they were raised with any black-

faced breeds, b) selecting for R at codon 171, c) culling sheep that are QQ at codon 171, d) minimizing contact of animals with placental material, e) buying sheep from SFCP (Scrapie Flock Certification Program) flocks, especially ones that are fully certified, f) not exhibiting at shows.

Not all of the above strategies are practical or financially feasible for every producer. Each breeder will need to decide how to respond to this new information and which, if any, of the measures to decrease scrapie risk they need to take.

OPERATIONS NOTES

*Jim Morgan & Teresa Maurer
Phone/FAX: 479-444-8441
Email: khsint@earthlink.net*

Inspection Requests Due May

15. All requests for hair coat inspections are due to KHSI Operations by May 15. The earlier you get your request in, the more likely it is that we can contact an inspector close to you or help you share mileage costs with other breeders. Please call or email soon.

Breeder Mini Web Pages Being Tested. We are currently testing the set-up for breeders' pages that will soon be available on the KHSI website. If you would like to help us "beta test" a page for your farm, please call or email Jim at the above address. Details about the breeder pages will be available soon on the site and in the next Hairald.

Got Forms? Animal Registration Forms, Membership Forms (for your customers!) and Renewal Forms can be printed with just a few clicks at www.KHSI.org

Brochures: Each member is entitled to 20 free KHSI brochures per year. Call or email Operations to request your 2004 supply.

Do You Have Artistic/Graphics/Layout Skills? From time to time, we need member volunteers with a good artistic eye, especially when it comes to revising displays, T-shirt designs, etc. If you have these skills and could help KHSI out on small projects, we would love to hear from you.

**THIS IS YOUR LAST
NEWSLETTER**

if you haven't renewed for 2004

SHOWING GUIDELINES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Linda Neunzig, Washington

While Katahdins have had a stronger presence in show rings throughout North America in the last few years, showing Katahdins remains a very controversial subject. Some breeders feel strongly that they should not be shown at all, while others very much enjoy showing their sheep. Dr. Charles Parker spoke in Maine about the positive and negative effects showing can and does have on sheep breeds. For example, shows provide much needed breed promotion by getting quality animals out there to be seen. They offer opportunity for animals to be evaluated and compared by professionals. Unfortunately, shows can have many detrimental effects too. Breeders begin to breed just for appearance or extremes and not for the traits a breed is known for. The show ring has taken its toll on many breeds of sheep. How can we avoid Katahdins being one of them while still being out there? These are very important issues for us as breeders to consider.

The Showing Guidelines Committee was established by the KHSI Board to develop a feasible show format and set of guidelines for showing Katahdins which will protect the integrity of the breed. The committee will recommend to the KHSI Board a showing format that identifies superior breeding animals while: a) balancing conformation, size, and visual appeal with functional and performance values, b) enhancing

maternal strength in Katahdins and c) maintaining Katahdin breed character. This is a tall order, and will likely break new ground.

The committee's job is to investigate alternatives and determine a format for showing that will not only look at the physical aspects of an animal, but will also include meaningful performance data — a way of showing that goes beyond what you see in the ring. Such a format, if approved by KHSI, would be applied to a limited number of KHSI-sanctioned venues that can showcase the important aspects of our breed. These events would have the potential to be excellent educational opportunities for breeders.

At the 2003 Katahdin Gathering in Maine, Scott Bowdridge and Tom Settlemire did a good job of demonstrating a show of this type. Their demo combined factual data with subjective appraisal via computer analysis to more completely evaluate each animal. This stimulated our thinking about an unconventional format for showing sheep.

We will solicit broad input to the committee from the KHSI membership and others in the sheep industry working together toward a solution. There is a lot of momentum from people who want to see our breed excel in every way.

Included in this issue of the *Hairald* is a Member Survey. It is very important to us to know the opinions and ideas of Katahdin

breeders about showing and the impact it can have on a breed, both positive and negative. Please think about the questions, then take 10-15 minutes to respond to the survey and return it. Your constructive input will help us enormously in developing the guidelines.

The Showing Guidelines committee has established three sub-committees:

Visual Evaluation: Recommend which traits should be evaluated relating to conformation, soundness, breed character, maternal strength, muscling, etc., as well as how evaluation should be done for each trait. Most, if not all of this, will be subjective appraisal.

Performance Evaluation: Which traits can be included that will identify superior Katahdin genetics for fertility and other maternal strengths that we appreciate about the breed, as well as growth potential and other production parameters. These will include traits that can be measured.

Judges: Explore what training Katahdin judges need and what qualifications they should have, including whether KHSI should certify judges.

We are recruiting for these sub-committees now so if you would like to volunteer for one of them please contact Linda Neunzig, committee chair, ASAP by phone (360)435-9304 or e-mail ninetyfarms@aol.com

Hair Coat Inspections Requests due May 15th
see Operations Notes page 8

2004 KHSI ANNUAL MEETING PLANS

TAKE SHAPE IN MISSISSIPPI!

Les Jordan, Mississippi

Mark your calendar for October 7-9! We are working hard to bring you a great program and here's some preliminary information about arrangements and programs.

MEETING LOCATION

As a reminder, our meeting site at McComb Mississippi is 85 miles from New Orleans and Jackson, MS and Baton Rouge, LA are also within 75 miles. Our Host Hotel will be the Hawthorn Inn and Suites- they have been so helpful to us that we especially recommend them. The phone number is 601-684-8655—when you call, please specify KHSI Oct 7-9 meeting. Regular rooms are \$65/night, suites are \$75/night with a hot breakfast included each morning. There is a nice pool, patio area, with outdoor grilling facilities if desired. There is a beautiful fountain which flows into the pool and another fountain in the lobby. The rooms are very nice and exceptionally clean. The hotel sits on Interstate 55 at exit 18, less than 10 minutes from the Pike Co. Fairgrounds where meetings will be held. Other hotels in the area: Comfort Inn 601-249-0080, Days Inn 601-684-5566. Self contained campers are welcomed to

stay at the fairgrounds for a minimal fee (estimated \$10.00/night) and there are shower facilities in the restrooms on the grounds. Percy Quin State Park is 10 minutes away at exit on I-55. It features cabins, motel, camping facilities, golf course, etc. The area has at least 21 restaurants, all conveniently located, as well as a variety of fast food places.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Thursday October 7: Board of Director's meeting 9am-5pm. Day trip to New Orleans (depending on interest) maybe tour D-Day museum, French Quarter, river boat ride, general sight seeing. Cost will be around \$25.00 to \$35.00 per person. The bus will pick up and return to McComb, with the trip lasting from 8 until about 6.

Friday, October 8: Registration opens 7:30. Welcome and two presentation sessions will run from 8:30-noon. Lunch: on your own or at on-site concession stand (reasonable prices). Presentations will begin again at 1:30 pm, followed by a tour of a lamb meat processing plant around 4 pm. At 7:00 pm, Catfish Dinner at the fairgrounds

Saturday, October 9: Inspec-

tor Training : 8 am to 10:00 am Vendors will be available for brief talks each, as well as time to talk with them at their displays. Lunch: same as Friday. Annual Meeting; 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Private treaty or Performance Based Sheep Show 3:30 pm. 7:00 pm Banquet will feature lamb cook off for KHSI and SCKA members. Cash prizes and trophy given for the Best and 2nd Best dishes. Door prizes! Entertainment will be provided by "Fair River", a local bluegrass, country type band that just loves to entertain.

REGISTRATION

Forms will be available in the next issue of the Hairald and on the website. Registration fee: \$50.00 per person (\$45.00 for early registration before Sept. 1, 2004). This includes all sessions on Friday and events on Saturday, with coffee, juices and water at the breaks. It also includes dinner on both Friday and Saturday night with entertainment. Members and non-members are welcome!

DISPLAYS

Regional Katahdin groups such as Midwest Katahdins, Pacific Coast Katahdins, will be welcome to set up a table.

MIDWEST STUD RAM SALE JUNE 21-23

Nancy Case, Midwest Sale Committee / MO Sheep Producers

Join us in June at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, Missouri, for one of the largest sheep and Boer goat sales in the United States. Nearly all sheep breeds are represented, with some breeds holding national sales. Over a thousand sheep and goats are sold, with sales totaling over

a million dollars.

The Katahdin show takes place on Monday evening, June 21, with opportunities to talk with the breeders and see the animals lined up for comparison. The sale is on Wednesday, June 23. Classes are: Spring ewe and ram lambs, Fall ewe and ram lambs,

and Yearling ewes and rams. All sheep entered must be enrolled in the Federal (Voluntary) Scrapie Flock Certification Program.

We are just starting to build this venue at a professionally managed sale; genetics from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

MISSOURI KATAHDIN ASSOCIATION YEAR IN REVIEW

Nancy Case, Missouri

The promotional year started off early in 2003. Lynn and Donna Fahrmeier of Wellington took advantage of a school system open house to bring Katahdin bottle babies, which drew a lot of enthusiastic attention from the 300 children present. Missouri Association brochures were made available to parents and grandparents who attended the event.

Marilyn Powell of Buffalo, MO, has always made her farm available to us and many other livestock raisers for free exhibits on the first weekend of June. Not only are we starting to sell an increasing amount of Katahdins through this venue, but we are converting Marilyn into a Katahdin owner, too! A local couple who are Dorper breeders work with us: they selling rams, we selling ewes, to both our mutual advantages. We have noticed this very fast-growing phenomena in Missouri, leading us to call the Dorper-Katahdin crossed lambs the "Black Baldies" of the sheep world, similar to the predominance of Hereford-Angus crossed calves in beef operations.

Late June marked our first attendance at the Midwest Stud Ram Sale in Sedalia. Since we had no previous experience with this type of venue, the outcome was kind of mixed, but we were given assurances by other sheep breed-

ers and the auctioneers that our sales will improve in following years. The seminar put on under the auspices of the Missouri Dept. of Agriculture was very well received, featuring talks on genetic improvement using NSIP, quality requirements of the Mexican sheep industry, and genetic testing for scrapie susceptibility. The most important thing, once again, was the presence of our Missouri Association display. Despite the usual violent storm, it held up against high winds. Congratulations to the Baumer family for having the high selling ram, and also to David Copen and Carol Fulkerson for winning the Top Katahdin Consignor Award.

Mid-August is time for the MO State Fair in Sedalia, and despite the unusually high temperatures, the 2003 show was well attended. The fair is well-advertised, and we are starting to see an increased number of show attendees coming to the pens to inquire about purchasing breeding stock. Lots of farm families stopped by the display to pick up brochures and ask questions. Congratulations to the Fahrmeiers for winning the Premier Flock (high point) award.

During the first weekend of October, MoKats members exhibited at FarmFest in Springfield, MO. This is one of the largest farm trade shows in the Mid-

west, and seems to be increasing every year. I talked my fellow MO Sheep Producer members into hosting a booth, and they sent quite a few people down to the sheep barn to talk to us. The weather was perfect and the event had the usual heavy attendance. We again exhibited at the Small Farm Today Expo, Columbia, MO, in early November, and as usual, our lamb samples were well received. Despite a scheduling snafu that had everyone sharing the building with a horse show, the exhibit was well attended, and my voice worn out.

In December, the MO Association decided not to have our own booth, opting instead to help staff a booth paid for by the MO Sheep Merchandising council. We also helped serve lamb at the MO Dept. of Ag's Governor's Conference held at the Lake of the Ozarks.

A seminar put together by Barbara Hurst, in conjunction with the local Ag Extension, was held on January 17th, 2004 at the Experimental Fruit Station in Mountain Grove. Twenty attendees listened to talks on carcass grading, aging, and retail cuts; economical grazing and feeding of lambs; and increased marketing opportunities. Everyone brought a dish to share, and enjoyed the chance to visit and share their sheep experiences.

MIDWEST STUD RAM SALE. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

many states and Canada will be represented. Many animals are enrolled in the National Sheep Improvement Program and some are genetically tested for Scrapie resistance. All breeds are judged by very experienced judges, and believe it or not, many judges are familiar with Katahdins.

If you wonder about the prices that you will get for your animals, that's up to you. Before the sale, the auctioneer will ask the group for an absolute floor under all animals (last year it was set at \$150). You can set your own minimum price for your entries. Bear in mind, only the finest animals sell

at this auction. Buyers are international and include KHSI members from Mexico. They will not buy anything with horns or woolly coats, even as lambs.

If you are interested in obtaining an entry form or a sale catalog, contact Sheep Breeder Sale Management at (573) 442-8257.

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 May 1st to Operations: 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net.

SHEEP WANTED

75 Katahdins: young ewes or ewe lambs. Do not have to be registered. Please contact Lee Wright, Glade Spring, VA. email to: lrite@vt.edu or call: Days: (276)944-2200 or Night: (276)429-5876.

SHEEP FOR SALE

ALABAMA

2 rams, 35 ewes. Some 50% Katahdin 50% White Dorper, some 75% Katahdin. Registered/recorded with KHSI. 2 - 3 years old and have lambed once or twice. High quality, prolific flock, Certified Scrapie-free. The flock is 100% hair and all shed completely. They sell open and ready to breed for fall lambing. \$200 each or \$6500 for entire flock. Cindy Brasfield, Robertsdale, AL. (251)947-5218 or arcofarm@gulftel.com

Registered Katahdin sheep: 30 ewe lambs, 10 ram lambs, born Dec 2003, will be ready to sale in March. Herd is in VSFCP and has been gene typed; lambs will be typed before sale. Average weight of twins 8-9lbs each. Joey and Rhonda Kelmer (Ricochet Farms) Atmore, AL. 251-446-7587 or ricochetaussies@yahoo.com

ILLINOIS

2 year old white long bodied, black hoofed Registered Katahdin Ram. Please call (309) 329-2429 if interested or email us at Tobyandcathy@aol.com. Toby and Cathy White in central Illinois. Can send pictures of the ram via the net. Asking \$200.00. Ready

SHEEP FOR SALE

for you immediately.

MARYLAND

Registered Katahdin ewe lambs and bred ewes. 1/2 Freisan-1/2 Katahdin ewes 2-3 yrs old bred to registered white Dorper. 50% ewe lambs too Located in Garrett County in western Maryland. Call Mary or Charlie at 301-746-8194 or email at Walcek@gcnetmail.net

Registered Stock. Four 5/03 ewe lambs, all RR at codon 171. Will consider trade for RR ewe lambs. All lambs out of an RR ram born in 3/04 will be for sale. Two commercial 2 year old ewes for sale with or without lambs at side, superior mothers, produce big lambs. Photos & sale list available. Evenings 301 855-0716, lmobrien@earthlink.net; Linda OBrien.

OKLAHOMA

Registered three year old large white proven breeding ram. \$250.00 For more information contact, Jeff Kerns (405) 396-8460. KER668@cs.com

OREGON

25 Katahdin Ewes of different ages and colors, most are 1-3 years old. More than half are fully registered, rest recorded. Asking \$4000. for the entire flock. Sheep squeeze for \$300. We are located in Hillsboro, OR. (503) 647-1922, napolyoni@aol.com

PENNSYLVANIA

Registered Katahdin ram. Born 3/5/01. White, polled. SFCP.

SHEEP FOR SALE

\$250 or will consider trade for another registered ram. Gary LaBuda, Marietta, PA. 717-575-9207. Email at glabuda@earthlink.net

TEXAS

Feb 2003 white ram out of a real nice Mark Dennis ram and a registered ewe (\$150). Nov-Dec 2003 registered ram & ewe lambs. Call Gaylin Ratliff at 325- 646 4683 or email at ratliffpvf@pgrb.com

15 commercial Katahdin ewe lambs \$150.00 each, lambed in October - November 2003. 25 commercial Katahdin ewe lambs available as weanlings in May, \$150.00 each. Located in Northeast Texas. More info. on our website <http://www.goodearthorganicfarm.com> Lynn Magedson 903-496-2070 mail@goodearthorganicfarm.com

TENNESSEE

For sale or trade; 3 year old white registered Katahdin ram and ram lamb, white registerable, available May 2004. Both born twins. 3 year old proven producer of twins. SFCP enrolled, annual vaccinations. Clean small flock in western Tennessee. Tim & Susan O'Guin 901-465-8631, birdsonghill@prodigy.net

WASHINGTON

Registered 100% Katahdin Ewes and Rams. Born Jan/Feb 2004, ready to go. Located in NE Washington. Gordon Smith, 509-486-4267, jans4x4@televar.com

KHSI MEMBER'S GUIDE

2004 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President:** Larry Weeks, lweeks@cfw.com, 540-943-2346, Virginia
Vice President: Linda Neunzig, ninetyfarms@aol.com, 360-435-9304, Washington
Secretary: Barbara Pugh, bpugh1601@earthlink.net, 919-542-4164, North Carolina
Treasurer: Robert Elliott, rancherob@aol.com, 979-567-9895, Texas
Director: Martha Wieggers, mwieggers@coin.org, 660-248-3537, Missouri
Director: Kay Cloyd, kaycloyd@cs.com, 859-254-2840, Kentucky
Director: Richard Gilbert, gilbert@ohio.edu, 740-698-6042, Ohio
- Honorary:** Charles Brown, Piel Farm, cwbiii@kynd.com, 207-876-4430
Honorary: Charles Parker, cfparker@aglaia.net, 614-459-9270, Ohio

Canada Representative: Darlene Jordan, ran.dar@sasktel.net, 306-746-4361

Mexico Representative: Dr. Javier Lara, ranchoayj@yahoo.com.mx, 52-442-214-3727

KHSI OPERATIONS:

- Jim Morgan and Teresa Maurer; PO Box 778; Fayetteville, AR 72702-0778; Phone and FAX: 479-444-8441; khsint@earthlink.net
- Contact Operations for the following:
 - Request inspections before May 15
 - Information packets sent to public
 - Forms for: breed history, breed standards, membership, renewal, BLANK animal registration forms and instructions, other KHSI information
 - Address changes or other corrections on printed list or Web
 - Brochures (20 free per member per year; additional at cost) & promotional items
 - Information on members with sheep for sale, anyone wanting to buy sheep
 - Articles, ads, and comments to be published in the *Katahdin Hairald*
 - Volunteer for KHSI Committees
 - Annual meeting information
- Office Hours (Central time): Monday mornings 8-11 am, and Monday and Tuesday evenings 7-10 pm. Calls on other evenings after sunset or anytime on the weekends will be answered personally whenever possible.
- Answering machine, FAX and email: available for messages 24 hours per day.

KHSI REGISTRY:

- Ed Martsolf; 1039 Winrock Drive; Morrilton, AR 72110
Phone and FAX: 501-727-5659; edmartsolf@lakewebs.net
- Contact the Registry for the following:
 - All questions about registration, recording, transferring, upgrading procedures
 - Send the following to the Registry:
 - > Completed membership and renewal applications
 - > Renewal and new membership dues
 - > Completed forms for registering, transferring, recording Katahdins
- Office Hours (Central time): Monday through Friday 9 am- 5pm. Answering machine and FAX accessible 24 hours.

KHSI COMMITTEES: (Call 479-444-8441 to volunteer!)

Breed Improvement, Breeder Education, Promotions, Show Guidelines

Sign up for an Electronic version of the *Katahdin Hairald*



The pictures are great in color! khsint@earthlink.net

**Last chance to keep your name on the
membership and website — renew today!**



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