You Too Can Have A Sheep WebPage at the KHSI Site!

Jim Morgan, KHSI Operations

The long advertised and awaited Breeder Page at the KHSI Website is now functional. www.khsi.org Go to the KHSI Website and check out our first Breeder Page participants. We want to recruit several more. Don’t miss out – sign up today.

Briefly, the Breeder Page allows KHSI members to create their own personal web page that advertises their farm and flock. Once you have the digitized pictures sized correctly, it will take the average low tech computer user only 30 minutes to create a web page (geeks will find it really easy). Two beta-testers found it easy – a third struggled. It will be located at the KHSI Website and thus receive high visibility. Cost is $50.00 for 1 full year starting at the date it is activated. Content of sites will be evaluated to make sure that material at the site does not put Katahdins or other Katahdin breeders in a bad light.

Each Breeder Page has room for 4 graphics which could include four digitized pictures or a farm logo, plus three text boxes. The digitized graphics are size limited to 45 kb and the instructions tell you how to limit size. The size limitation prevents the pages from taking forever to load and makes them more user friendly to those buyers looking for sheep. You will need to have your pictures digitized and most towns or photography shops have facilities or services for getting them digitized. Get the instructions off the website or contact Jim Morgan so that you can have your pictures correctly sized. There are free

Are Your Sheep Tagged Correctly?

Jim Morgan, KHSI Operations

Are your registered & recorded Katahdins correctly identified by tattoo and/or tag?

Several times a year, we receive calls or emails about animal ID from prospective members, new members and continuing members. It becomes clear that their sheep are not in compliance with the KHSI Registry. Here are the key questions:

Q1: Do all of your Registered/Recorded Katahdins have ear tags or tattoos that match the Animal ID on their KHSI certificate?

Q2: In addition to the Animal ID, is the correct prefix also on the tag or in the tattoo? (this is often forgotten or ignored)

Q3: Do the replacement tags have the same ID and prefix as what is on the animals KHSI Certificate of Registration/Recordation? Your animals must be properly tagged at all times. (we hear that some breeders replace lost tags with another number).

If your answer is yes to all of the above questions, then your animals are in compliance with
Larry Weeks, KHSI President, Virginia

Greetings,

It’s hard to believe August is here. This means summer is almost over, school starts soon and the KHSI annual meeting is in less than two months!

As you can read about on the ballot, there are four slots to be filled on the board of directors. We have sadly accepted the resignations of Martha Wiegers and Linda Neunzig. Martha has sold her flock and Linda has regretfully resigned for personal reasons. Robert Elliott completed his term. We thank all three for their services to KHSI over the years. Richard Gilbert was elected to a 1 year term and has graciously agreed to be nominated again.

However, I am excited that there are so many qualified people willing to serve on the board. The board is in the process of reorganizing some committees, so if you are interested in helping a certain committee please let operations or myself know.

The annual meeting is shaping up to be another great event. There are many things going on in KHSI and the sheep business and this is a great opportunity to learn more about what’s happening and to interact with fellow breeders. Mississippi and Louisiana offer many places to visit and in October the air fares are low and the weather is great.

We hope to see you there!

2004 KHSI Annual Gathering Schedule

Thursday, October 7

Board of Directors meeting @ Hawthorn Inn. Thursday trip to New Orleans or Natchez. New Orleans of course is well known but Natchez is a bit closer and is well known for its Antebellum homes and sense of the Deep South. So for those wanting to visit and see Mississippi, Natchez would be excellent. Les Jordan needs advance notice of those who would like to go. To make it happen, a tour would need to have 10 or 15 reservations. Both trips would be fun and the cost would be about $25 per head for transportation, and you can enjoy the ride without worrying about directions or driving.

Friday, October 8 - All events at fairgrounds

Registration (see insert for meeting costs)................................. 7:30 - 8:30 am
Welcome by: Larry Weeks, KHSI President; Tom Walman, McComb Mayor; Lester Spell, Commissioner of Agriculture State of Mississippi........... 8:30 am
Dr. Leroy Boyd, “Successful Marketing - Produce a Product that People Want to Purchase at a Profit”, Retired Mississippi State University Animal Science Department................................. 9:00 am
break

Dr. Jim Morgan – “Speedbumps on the Road of Genetic Progress: How do we miss those bumps?” ......................................................... 10:00 am
Dr. Charles Parker, “What I See” Retired Ohio State University Professor & Department Chair of Animal Science, US Sheep Seedstock Alliance, and former Director of the US Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois ID.............11:00 am

Lunch

Dr. Jim Miller, LSU Veterinary School speaking on “Smart Drenching”...........

break

Dr. Nix, Sweetlix Company speaking on “Ruminant Digestion and Nutrition”...

break

Dr. Jim Miller – LSU Veterinary School speaking on “Training and Use of FAMA-CHA”................................................................. 2:45 pm
Catfish and Ribs & Music ............................................................... 4:00 pm

Saturday, October 9

Halal Ethnic Processing Plant Tour (close to hotel).............to be arranged
(if interested, please put check mark on registration sheet)
Vendor Presentations .................................................................... 8:00 am
Mark Dennis – “Demo on Taking Excellent Sheep Pictures”........... 8:30 am
break

KHSI Inspector Training............................................................. 9:15 - 11:15 am

Lunch

KHSI Annual Meeting ................................................................. 1:30 - 3:30 pm
Private Treaty Sales ................................................................. 3:30 pm
Lamb Cook off/Banquet, Ram Raffle, Music ....................... 5:30 pm
Get Ready for Learning & Good Times at the 2004 KHSI Annual Meeting

By Sherrie Wiggul and Les Jordan, Mississippi

October is fast approaching! Y’all get ready to have a good time in McComb, Mississippi at the KHSI 2004 Gathering.

The Pike County Fairgrounds is in the process of building a brand NEW building just for sheep and other small farm animals. Yes, it will be ready for us. That is southern hospitality for you!

On Friday the Commissioner of Agriculture, Dr. Lester Spell, and the Mayor Tom Walman of McComb will give us a warm welcome to start the day. Afterward, we will hear from Dr. Leroy Boyd, the Katahdin man of Mississippi. He will speak to us about marketing Katahdins. Dr. Jim Morgan will talk about Katahdin genetics and ways to quantify flock improvements. Next is our friend Dr. Charles Parker, who will share his thoughts on what he sees ahead for us.

Then we will hear from Dr. Miller of LSU. He will present two programs on parasites. Included will be a training session on how to use FAMACHA, a simple diagnostic tool to estimate parasite loads. In between we will hear from Dr. Nix who works with Sweetlix—she will be focusing her talk on ruminant digestion and we hear she is an excellent presenter.

Friday night we will have some real down home southern cooking, fried catfish, smoked ribs, sweet tea, and all the trimmings. According to Catfish Buie, the good old boy that is putting the food on the plate, it is a “pitch till you win” affair. For you folks from out of town, that means “all you can eat”.

Saturday will also be packed with Katahdin stuff. All Katahdin people are interested in the latest in Katahdin products, so we welcome the presence of vendors at our meeting. We will have inspector training, hoof trimming, a photo how-to session, and a trip to the local USDA-inspected ethnic processing plant. The annual meeting will be from 1:30 PM until 3:30 PM. This will be followed by private treaty sales.

Saturday night will be a time for a whole lot of fun. The LAMB COOK-OFF!! First prize is $100!! There will be plenty of food and music by the Amos Parker Band. These fellows played along side Elvis Presley back when The King drove his own car to various local shows. They are a lot of fun and will keep things lively.

The registration fee (see insert) includes 2 packed days of programs and fun, 2 dinners which will NOT leave you hungry and music. Please send it back ASAP so we can make sure there’s plenty of food, chairs and materials for everyone.

If some of you want to take a tour of New Orleans, the most European city in the USA, or Natchez in all of its antebellum glory, let Les know and check it off on your registration form and we will do our best to arrange it.

There will be a cash concession stand at the fairgrounds that will be open for lunch both days. You won’t have to go to town to eat, you can just stick around and talk sheep.

The Hawthorn Inn is our host hotel in McComb and rooms are going fast. Remember to tell them you are with KHSI for the special rate that includes a full hot breakfast. These folks have gone out of their way to make our gathering a successful one. Their phone number is 601-684-8655.

A place that produced Jerry Clower, Elvis Presley, B. B. King, Morgan Freeman, Eudora Welty, William Faulkner, Bo Diddly, and Willie Morris has got to be great.

SO, Y’ALL COME ON DOWN!!

Meeting Hotel Filling Fast!

Our Host Hotel will be the Hawthorn Inn and Suites— they have been so helpful to us that we especially recommend them. The rooms are going fast, so please make your reservations right away if you have not yet done so. 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 and 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 the KHSI 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.

As a reminder, if you are flying, our meeting site at McComb Mississippi is 85 miles from New Orleans. Jackson, MS and Baton Rouge, LA are also within 70-75 miles. Please call KHSI Operations at 479-444-8441 or email us at khsint@earthlink.net.
RR Ram Raffle at October Meeting — Tickets in this Issue!

John Stromquist, Katahdin breeder from Illinois, has donated a Feb 2004 ram lamb that is RR at codon 171. This means that the ram is resistant to scrapie and that all first-generation lambs sired by him will be resistant to scrapie (since all offspring will have at least one R at codon 171). John has a good eye for sheep and you can count on this being a good ram. He judged sheep nationally for many years before retiring from raising Columbias and “advancing” to Katahdins :)

Sixty day adjusted weight of this twin lamb is 57.5 lbs and he was raised as a twin by a two year old ewe. John says, “This is a grand looking lamb”.

You don’t need to be present in Mississippi to win, but we hope you will be attending all the great planned activities. You will need to help arrange transportation to get the ram to your farm. Office will work with the breeders present at the Annual Meeting to help move the ram to the Raffle Winner’s Flock.

John is donating 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 on Saturday October 9th. Tickets for the Ram Raffle are inserted in this Hairald. You might be the owner of a quality Katahdin Ram by buying these raffle tickets. KHSI looks forward to using this money to do additional promotion for all our Katahdins! So help support our breed and promotion and maybe you will be the owner of this great ram.

White Post Farm
Katahdin Sheep
A Significant Difference

We would like to thank these breeders who selected the rams featured here, and to others who have shown interest in our Katahdins.

Ram SWP 04-119
sold 6/23/04 to Carl Rosenkoetter
Beaufort, MO

Ram SWP 04-123
sold 6/11/04 to Jeff Huntington of Lavaca, AR

Ram SWP 03-126
sold 6/12/04 to Virginia Street
Sedgewick, KS

All our sheep are DNA tested

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John and Steve Stromquist
Durand, IL
815-629-2159
j.stromquist@worldnet.att.net
Approach to Sheep Health in Canada

Darlene Jordan (KHSI Representative for Canada) and Sharon Schaefer, Saskatchewan

According to Canada’s FAO/WHO Questionnaire there were 997,000 sheep on 13,232 farms on January 1, 2004. Reportable diseases under the Canadian federal Health of Animals’ Regulations include bluetongue and scrapie. This means that any suspected case of these diseases must be immediately reported to a Canadian Food Inspection Agency veterinarian. The suspect sheep and all animals having had contact with the affected sheep are humanely destroyed, tested, and disposed of under CFIA supervision. On average, 450 sheep on 3 to 4 farms are destroyed for each positive diagnosis.

The last case of bluetongue in a Canadian sheep was in 1987 in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. This valley is the only zone in Canada not designated bluetongue-free and it is monitored annually for the presence of the virus. If the virus is detected, besides destroying and testing all contact animals, restrictions on animal movement are immediately applied for the rest of the insect season. In order to prevent bluetongue from moving in from the south, sheep imported from the USA must achieve two negative tests 30 days apart immediately before entry. There are 39 states now considered at low risk for bluetongue so in the winter months the requirement has been lessened for sheep originating in those states.

Canada has had a scrapie control program since 1945. To date, all cases of scrapie in Canada have genotyped QQ at codon 171. Now that we have a mandatory national ID for sheep in place, this National Scrapie Program is moving to a scrapie eradication program. There will be a scrapie surveillance initiative leading to a Scrapie Certification Program similar to the Voluntary Scrapie program in the US. Also being studied are genetic screenings for higher risk flocks and possibly all purebred sheep. The province of Nova Scotia initiated a project in January, 2003 to genotype all purebred sheep. The province of Nova Scotia initiated a project for higher risk flocks and possibly all purebred sheep. The province of Nova Scotia initiated a project in January, 2003 to genotype all purebred sheep. The province for higher risk flocks and possibly all purebred sheep. The province of Nova Scotia initiated a project in January, 2003 to genotype all purebred sheep.

Sheep Health in Canada: continued from page 1

software programs that you can download to do the sizing or you can pay at your local print shop or photography shop to have it done.

You no longer have much of an excuse for not having your sheep advertised on the web. If you don’t have internet access, ask your neighbor, a family member or go to a local library and look at the site. We find local librarian staff to be really helpful with novice internet users.

Contact Jim Morgan at 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net or PO Box 778 to get your log on name and password to start working on your web page. PS: the more Breeder Pages we have, the more of a presence Katahdins will have on the internet and the more sheep will be sold. Don’t miss out – put your flock on the web today!

A page continued from page 1

the KHSI Registry-congratulations!

Whether it is a machine printed tag or a hand-written tag, a KHSI Registered/Recorded animal must have a tag that matches the KHSI Certificate which includes the prefix of the KHSI breeder who owned the animal at the time of its birth. With proper tattoos, the animals should be properly identified for life and replacement is not an issue.

The goal of this article and the goal of all KHSI breeders should be to improve animal identification and help all of our members and buyers improve this process. With the help of all of us KHSI members, we can work to help educate all buyers and new members about animal identification. Our goal is not to criticize or tattle, but to help with education and animal identification.

If you have questions or need a copy of the rules, please contact KHSI Operations at 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net.
Katahdins Offer the Commercial Lamb Producer an Easy-Care, Hardy Ewe that is Highly Fertile and Produces a Vigorous Lamb, but Hair Sheep Breeders Need to Emphasize Parasite Resistance, Sheep Expert Dave Notter Told Shepherds at the Ohio Sheep Day in DeGraff on July 17.

“The Katahdin has more enthusiasm and is moving faster than any other breed. The greatest opportunity is to increase parasite resistance,” said Notter, who directs the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) Processing Team at Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Notter reviewed data that showed Katahdins are 50 percent more resistant to parasites than Dorsets and/or Dorset-Dorper crosses. This difference gives Katahdins a five-year advantage on other commercial breeds of sheep in selecting for and increasing this economically important trait.

Rapid genetic improvement is possible in selecting the most resistant Katahdins because the trait is 30 percent heritable, Notter said. That is about the same level of heritability as for 120-day weight(s). But even faster progress is possible in resistance at this point because of the degree of genetic variability that exists in Katahdins for parasite resistance.

“Although sheep are the last major livestock species to embrace genetic evaluation,” Notter said, “applying performance evaluation pays off as for other livestock species.” Notter used Polypay NSIP figures to show that breed is improving at the same rate as the eight top cattle breeds and only slightly slower than Angus.

There are 16 Katahdin flocks with more than 1,000 ewes enrolled this year in the National Sheep Improvement Program, which analyzes weight gain, maternal ability and reproduction and their genetic relationships to give producers estimates of the breeding value for each of their sheep and lambs. Four to six of the NSIP flocks are expected to submit fecal samples this year for analysis to begin identifying rams that produce offspring that are more parasite-resistant than average. The goal is to have an EPD for parasite resistance for the Katahdin Breed – another First!

Notter said the backbone of America’s future commercial flock will be a ewe with parasite resistance, low maintenance costs, high fertility/prolificacy, good mothering ability, and one that produces either no wool at all or the highest quality wool. He said another important attribute that needs further development is the ability of ewes to breed and produce lambs out of season.

Producers must know their market, whether producing a 40- to 50-pound lamb for the ethnic market or a 130-pound lamb for the commodities market, Notter said. He emphasized that the market lamb should be a crossbred lamb. Hybrid vigor is too great a bonus to pass up. For Katahdin ewes, he said good crossing rams for the Easter market are Dorpers and Texels.

The Ohio Sheep Day was sponsored by the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association and Ohio State University Extension Service. The event was at Bunker Hill Farm, which has been operated by the Shultz family since 1910. Bunker Hill Farm won the 2004 Environmental Stewardship Award of the American Sheep Industry Association.

The Shultz family currently breeds Suffolk sheep. In addition to his keynote address, Notter reviewed a pen of the farm’s Suffolk rams visually and with NSIP data. His seminar, on how commercial producers can use NSIP EPDs (estimated progeny differences) to select rams, emphasized that important economic qualities cannot be accurately assessed visually.

However, he said that not every EPD should be considered equally in all cases. A producer needing crossbred lambs and not planning to save replacement ewes might look only at rams with excellent weaning and postweaning weight values for sires—ignoring completely milk production and prolificacy. The NSIP evaluation of the Suffolk Sires in the pen indicated that these six Suffolk sires would add a range of 3.3 pounds to 6.3 lbs above the breed average at 120 days for the breed average for Suffolk rams.

If a shepherd is going to save daughters from a ram, the milking ability and prolificacy of those ewe lambs might be of primary concern.

A farmer with lush pastures might want to select a ram whose daughters will produce above-average milk, while a shepherd with sparse western range (limited nutritional resources) might want an average level of milk production at most.

Prolificacy levels can be similarly customized to a given man-
Creep Grazing Lambs Using Frequent Rotations

Jim Morgan
Arkansas Katahdin Breeder

Lambs will start grazing/browsing by 10 days of age if quality forage is available. The key factor is lamb quality forage.

Over the next two weeks, the amount of time they spend grazing increases. In our pastures, young lambs will typically graze clovers (hop, white, crimson), vetches and tender sericea lespedeza leaves and several other forbs (weeds). As they age, they will start browsing rye grass, greenbriar (Smilax) and some brambles/blackberries (Rubus) before they really start grazing grass. So the major question on early grazing is: How do you allow lambs access to quality without the ewes eating it all?

In most set-stocked pastures, the ewes have long ago eaten all the tender forbs and clover leaves preferred by the lambs. The young lambs play or lay around and rarely do more than exercise their mouth musculature by mouthing a stem or a tough leaf.

In cattle herds, graziers can creep graze calves by raising the single polywire strand of electric fence a little higher or by building creep grazing gates between permanent paddocks. However, sheep are a little trickier than that. Ewes are harder to keep in. Some graziers have developed creep grazing gates so that lambs can go through to higher quality pastures. At younger ages less than 4-6 weeks of age, creep grazing gates are not as successful since a) lambs will not venture that far from the ewe, b) the lambs learn what plants to eat from their dams and c) it is hard to develop a creep gate and temporary fencing that prevents the ewes from following the lambs into the new pasture. Ewes will want to go through that fence to follow the lambs and will often find ways - even if it means getting shocked.

Creep gates that allow lambs to venture into the next permanent paddock at “older ages” have been successful at increasing rate of gains in lambs (e.g. Bulletin 695, June 1987, West Virginia Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station; www.caf.wvu.edu/~forage/library/forglvst/bulletins/s695.pdf)

So the question is - how does...
Southern Indiana Sheep Association Katahdin Fall Production Sale September 12, 2004

The production sale will be held at the Spencer County Fairgrounds in Chrisney, Indiana. Sale is open to Katahdin Breeders. Pens will be available. Rams, ewes & lambs accepted. For consignment information and directions, contact Terry Huey – 812-536-3015.

Operations Notes

Mid-year KHSI membership list available: We have updated the membership list to reflect current 2004 members. You can check the website (saves printing and postage) OR request a printed copy to be sent to you—call or email us at Operations.

Display ads are available in each issue of the Hairald and are a great way to reach hundreds of members. For details, please call or email us. These display ads help cover some costs of the KHSI newsletter and help stretch our tight KHSI budget.

New website option available: now you can have your own farm page on the KHSI website! See article elsewhere in this issue for more information.

Deadline for ads and articles for the fall issue is November 1.
We would like to thank Richard Gilbert of Athens, Ohio on his purchase of CK01-109. This Case bred ram has been used on our farm for the last three years. He has developed into one of the top NSIP rams for growth. He ranks 2nd for 120 day weight EPD’s and 3rd for 60 day weight EPD’s. We have rams available out of this proven sire.

We would also like to thank Bill LeClaire of Bunker Hill, Illinois on his purchase of our entry at the Midwest Stud Ram Show and Sale in Sedalia Missouri.

Lynn & Donna Fahrmeier
13305 Flournoy School Road • Wellington, MO. 64097
Phone# (816) 934-8651 • Fax # (816) 240-2717
email: lfahrmeier@msn.com

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The Katahdin Hairald • www.KHSI.org

Summer 2004

KATAHDINS for production - not shows

The show ring has harmed many breeds by inhibiting genetic progress in non-appearance traits, such as prolificacy, rate of gain, ease of birthing, mothering instincts, and many others — in fact, the show ring regresses economically important traits.

A clear distinction needs to be made between competitive showing, and exhibiting for breed promotion, because:

• Exhibiting does not call for many hours of shampooing, clipping and trimming before a few minutes in the show ring.
• Exhibiting does not require “showmanship” skills.
• Exhibiting does not end in disproportions of glory to disappointments.
• Exhibiting does not mandate close tail docking that may promote prolapses.
• Exhibiting does not involve judges and politics.
• Exhibiting is the opposite to hiding sheep under hooded blankets.
• Exhibiting can put “faces” on performance data.
• Exhibiting is a better way to promote a breed.

Occasionally we exhibit our

PS – The parasite control approach advocated by these researchers and extension personnel is a very close fit to current ideas in physiology, immunology and ecology, and I think these articles are excellent.

Send address & web corrections to Khsint@earthlink.net or P. O. Box 778, Fayetteville, AR 72702
Opinion by Jim Morgan, PhD - Arkansas

Several breeders have called our office looking for rams that are RR at Codon 171. These breeders have said that an article that I wrote in the last Katahdin Hairald said that they had to buy RR rams. That was not the point or intention of my article. In my opinion, there needs to be balance and common sense in selecting and purchasing R at codon 171.

First a few statements:

a) Increasing the frequency of R at codon 171 will probably be the easiest genetic selection a breeder will ever do. It will cost some money to test, but using RR rams and selecting male offspring that are RR at 171 and ewes that are QR or RR will quickly increase the frequency in your flock. No skill, no question - just use, test and select. A couple of generations and you have RR throughout your flock. Expression of R is not affected by environment like most other traits of importance or influenced by multiple genes. It will be easy, when RR rams become very available.

b) Other traits are much harder to select for. Conformation and performance traits are important and take time and rigorous selection to get the growth, prolificacy, frame, muscling and parasite resistance in your flock.

c) One RR ram that is of poor conformation and performance quality could set the genetic base of your flock back 5-10 years in terms of performance and conformation.

d) In 1-3 years, there will be many RR rams with good performance and conformation criteria available. By three years their prices will probably be more affordable.

e) We can set the quality of Katahdin breeding stock back several years, by over-emphasizing the importance of RR breeding stock and not taking into account that some RR animals may have poor conformation and poor performance potential.

f) Emphasizing or not emphasizing R at codon 171 is a double edged sword. If overemphasized and Katahdin breeding stock takes a big step backward in terms of important traits for the sheep industry, Katahdins will not be purchased. Not increasing the frequency of R at codon 171 will have the same result. The commercial industry will need to go elsewhere.

g) Only a few breeders will be financially rewarded for putting out the $500-$1200 plus to get an RR ram this year.

h) Excellent QQ animals should be kept and bred to RR and QR stock.

So with the above statements, where does it put the average Katahdin breeder in terms of buying RR genetics at codon 171?

Question: Why should most breeders set their flocks back 5-10 years in terms of important genetic criteria just to get RR in their flocks immediately? In my opinion, there is no imperative reason at this point to sacrifice much to get an RR Ram. I suggest that most breeders should buy/select a QR ram that meets as many of the conformation and performance traits they need for their flock as possible. Go out and get the best QR ram that you can. If you happen to get an RR ram, then so much the better. But the majority of Katahdin breeders should not sacrifice much if anything in their genetic program to get that RR ram. In a few years, RR rams will be readily available at reasonable prices - most of us should wait till then, but use QR rams now.

A few breeders will have access to RR rams or be in position to breed several RR rams and ewes for sale. Many of them will probably sell them for high prices and make some good money in the next couple of years. Because KHSI membership involves an ethical commitment, we hope that the following won’t happen among our members: but it is possible that some breeders may take advantage of novice breeders and sell some pretty poor quality animals for high prices, just because they are RR. This will lower the average genetic quality of the Katahdin breed. But there is money there and we will see some major sales.

Other notes: Which flocks are at the most risk for contracting scrapie in their flock or for being quarantined for scrapie? This could be a serious financial blow. The more at risk a flock is - then the more important it is to select for RR rams and ewes and the greater the need to sacrifice financially and genetically to get those RR genetics.

Highest Risk - Flocks that pur-
the shepherd get young lambs to begin grazing effectively at less than two weeks of age? We’ve been successful by providing new graze for the flock twice per day. The lambs will follow the ewes into the new paddock and graze/browse for the first several minutes or up to an hour or two as long as the quality is there or until they tire. If they take a nap and the ewes finish off the clover and tender forbs, the lambs don’t spend time grazing again until the next move. Within a few hours of each move, the ewes have eaten all the plants that the lambs like and the lambs go off and play or snooze. The oftener you can move to a fresh paddock, the more often the lambs will browse. By observation, we have observed that whether you move once every half day, day, two days or three days, young lambs will only graze that initial period of thirty minutes to two hours until they fill or the preferred graze is gone. As lambs age, they will eat lower quality plants but quality is still important for performance.

Frequent moves to increase creep grazing of small grazing mammals should work for any species, including goats and cattle.

Another benefit of increased frequency of moves, is that if managed well, these moves should enhance forage intake by the ewes and thus should increase milk production by the ewe. Research studies of dairy cow herds have found that with a 100 cow dairy herd, it pays to keep a person to sit around most of the time and take a few minutes every 6 hours to move a single strand of electric polywire to give the cows more forage. Cow milk production is an easy way to evaluate changes in feed intake and pay for more labor.

These observations and research about frequent moves in dairy herds support what we could predict from knowledge of animals in natural systems and also human behavior: a) From behavioral sciences, opening a new paddock stimulates the limbic system of the brain and grazing animals quickly move through the paddock finding the choice plants and increase the quality and quantity of their intake (anthropomorphic qualities such as motivation and curiosity). b) From the field of Ecology, scientists predict behavior using “optimal foraging” theory. Optimal foraging theory predicts that grazing animals will spend more time grazing when there is “high” quality graze available. Moving paddocks more frequently can keep the quality of forage high, animals grazing more and thus more weight gain or milk production. This is especially important when you are trying to finish meat lambs or maximize milk production by the ewe during lactation. We observe our sheep eating a lot when they are first in a paddock. They eat less frequently after they have been in a paddock for awhile and many of the “choice or premium” plants have been eaten. Eventually, they will spend more time grazing as the quality of forage really drops and the ewes need to eat several hours with small bites of forage just to get enough to get by.

To put optimal foraging theory in more human economic terms, we can make the following analogy. If for a few days, you could make $100/hour - you would be willing to work some long days -thus foraging while it is optimal. If your reimbursement rate was $10-$15/hr and your needs were not great, you would probably stick to a standard day of work. If you were getting $2-$4/hr, you would need to work most of the day just to have enough cash to live (using typical cost of living needs in USA & Canada). Optimal foraging theory predicts that animals forage in the same way, if quality and chance of return per unit time are high, animals will spend lots of time foraging. If the reward is less, animals will spend moderate amounts of time foraging. If forage is very low, the animal will have spend a large amount of time foraging to get enough nutrients to get by.

If you are set up to rotationally graze - observe your sheep. You can observe both the increased activity of their limbic system and optimal foraging theory. a) Observe the limbic system at work in two ways: i) When you first let them into a paddock, they will run around and find the best forage to eat and continue to gorge. ii) Some time let them into a new paddock and let them eat to their fill in a few hours. Then even though there is plenty of grass/forage left and they are stuffed, let them into a second new paddock and they will get up and eat again, even though they are stuffed. b) Observe optimal foraging: Let the ewes into a new paddock and keep them there till they have grazed it down close to the nubbins. Early on they will eat a lot. As quality drops, they will spend less time eating till they really get hungry. Then they will once again start to spend more time eating, as it takes a lot of effort with lots of small bites of the available forage to get what they need.

So - You can get your young lambs to graze more with more...
time investment and intensive rotations. An important question: what is the economic impact of increasing grazing in young lambs? At 14 days of age, one would predict that increased grazing has little impact on weight gain since most of the lamb’s nutrition is coming from milk. I would suggest that increased frequency of rotation on lamb forage is probably most economically effective when lambs are 30-45 days of age and older and grazing more seriously. The impact of increased quality and quantity of intake on the ewe’s milk production is potentially even more important in the early life of the lamb. Starting at 14-21 days of age, I would predict that increased frequency of rotation will have its greatest effect on lamb weight gain by increasing milk production. By 45 days of age, increased frequency of rotation will have its greatest effect by increasing quality of forage for the lambs as grazing becomes more important for growth.

Notes of Caution continued from page 11

Promotions Committee Update

Larry Weeks, KHSI President, Virginia

There have been some changes on the promotions committee. For family reasons, Robert Elliott regretfully resigned as committee chair. The board of directors has appointed me to be chairman of the Promotions committee.

Working with other members I am in the process of getting the committee reorganized. One of my ideas is to break the promotion’s work into sections:

Advertising: newspaper, publications, magazines

Events: we need a presence at events such as Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival and identification of other major events that should receive KHSI assistance.

Organization name, slogan: There is some interest in developing proposals for changing the name of the organization or at least the slogan by putting more importance on meat and/or mothering and less on hair.

Promotional items: We need to look at updating/redesigning brochure, hats, shirts, signs and develop a more easily shippable poster to be used at sales or events.

We need to review how we promote these items.

Web: Help with maintaining the web page.

I feel by separating the tasks into groups it will be easier to track progress and allow people to work in areas they are interested in.

If you have ideas or are willing to help please contact KHSI operations or myself at lweeks@cfw.com.
USA Members: Is your Scrapie Program Listing Correct?

Jim Morgan, KHSI Operations

Recently, a KHSI member called in with an unfortunate story. The person had recently bought sheep from a breeder who said they were in SFCP (Scrapie Flock Certification Program, previously the Voluntary Program). It turns out that the seller was in the mandatory program, but thought that he was in the SFCP. The buyer lost over three years toward the five year certification program. In the breeding stock market, the value of the flock went down thousands of dollars for certain buyers.

It is important to know the difference, if you are selling breeding stock. The mandatory program applies to all sheep flocks and SFCP is a stricter program with more standards to meet. We here at Operations are currently reviewing and striving to correct the Membership list so that it reflects the proper enrollment status.

The following notes are brief summaries and limited space means that I can’t go into detail, but the resources I mention later in this article can provide you additional information. In the current mandatory program:

a) Breeder puts tags on the reproductively intact animals as they leave the farm for non-slaughter venues. b) Breeder keeps records of all animals that leave the farm for five years.

In the current Scrapie Flock Certification Program: a) Breeder puts tags on all reproductively intact animals that are in the flock by the time they reach a year of age, even if they are not sold. b) Breeder puts tags in all reproductively intact animals that leave the farm in a non-slaughter venue, sale barn included. c) The special tags must have SFCP (or VSFCP) on them. d) A USDA-APHIS Vet visits your flock once a year to make sure i) that all animals in flock that are over a year of age are tagged, ii) that your records are complete and iii) and that all tagged animals on your farm are accounted for. e) Your flock is listed at the following website - http://scrapietag.aphis.usda.gov/reports/sisbreed.php or at http://scrapietag.aphis.usda.gov/reports/sisstate.php

Note that a) if a USDA-APHIS Vet is not inspecting your flock once a year and checking your records and b) your tags do not have SFCP on them – your flock is in the mandatory scrapie program and not the SFCP system.

If you have access to the internet or you can go to a local library, check out the following site. Local library staff should be able to help. The site is current and should have all flocks enrolled in the SFCP and their current status (some states will be better than others at keeping status updated). These sites are maintained by staff who have limited time and they may not always be updated to the minute, but they are a good general resource. http://scrapietag.aphis.usda.gov/reports/sisbreed.php

NOTE: Not all Katahdin flocks are listed under Katahdins. They may be listed as sheep, ovine, crossbred or some other breed. For a more comprehensive check, look at the site below which is good for searching all flocks in the program in the state that are in the program. These flocks are listed in alphabetical order. The listing may be under the farm name, an old farm name, under one of two partners, and occasionally by first name rather than the last name.


One can also look at the flocks that are certified free of Scrapie. These flocks have been in the program for at least five years and have followed all of the criteria. http://scrapietag.aphis.usda.gov/reports/siscert.php

You can access the web to find your state USDA-APHIS office so that you can reenroll in the program. www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/area_offices.htm

Note – We are currently monitoring the SFCP program website and removing members who have incorrectly listed their flock as being in the SFCP system. Let us know or send us verification of your enrollment if you are not listed on the website. Thanks!!
Promoting Katahdins — What is Your Role?

Barbara Pugh,
Promotions Committee Member,
North Carolina

The Promotions Committee members have worked faithfully and diligently to get the website up and running and to get the Breeder Pages functional. This is a real asset to our individual advertising programs. I hope you will use this KHSI service to further promote your flocks and the breed.

There are a number of ways that you can promote the breed as well. In your home communities, you know of sheep events where you could promote Katahdins. Your neighbors and other shepherds are looking at your flock, your management, and your promotion to see what you are doing and why, as well as wondering what you know that they don’t. TELL THEM!!! Tell them of the good qualities of Katahdins and back it up with your own sheep.

The KHSI organization can do websites, national advertising and other large-scale promotions, but it all starts at the local level with us and our interactions with our future customers, and future Katahdin owners.

If there are events in your area which you plan to attend, also plan to promote Katahdins. Having a display, encouraging new memberships, and passing out brochures, breeder lists and a smile with a heartfelt dose of pride with every inquiry that you get assures us all that the Katahdin breed and its breeders are positive and upbeat about their sheep. If we do this, then we can always say “I was at a sale/conference/etc. and Katahdins were being promoted.”

Please contact Operations a respectable amount of time in advance (ideally 1 month) to obtain brochures and other handouts.

Use the Resources That Are Available!!

By Barbara Pugh, KHSI Secretary, North Carolina

Here are some tips that you might find useful:

Publicizing your Katahdin event: The American Sheep Industry (ASI) website has a section of Upcoming Events which could well be utilized to get Katahdin events into the view of other segments of the sheep industry. You may go online and submit your item for inclusion in their calendar. Local and regional groups are encouraged to list their events there. The website is www.sheepusa.org. This is free publicity to a very broad audience.

Lamb Retention Payments available at your local Farm Service Agency. If you haven’t gone to your Farm Service Agency and filed for your Ewe Lamb Retention payment for last year, perhaps you should. You can find your Farm Service Agency in the phone book by looking under “United States Government” or on the web at www.fsa.usda.gov. This applies to ewe lambs retained in flock, as well as purchased. $18 per head surely could add to your profit margins. While you’re there, discuss with them the provisions of the unshorn pelt program.

ASI Handbooks as valuable reference. The recently revised Sheep Production Handbook is a “must have” for sheep producers. We will have ordering instructions and a sample edition available at the registration desk for the KHSI annual meeting in October. If you won’t be coming to the meeting, you can order a copy by calling 1-303-771-3500 extension 32. It costs $49.95 plus shipping, but it is worth every penny and you will use it for many years!
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 1st** to Operations: 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net.

### Wanted

#### Mississippi


Nadeem Kased of Kased Brothers Halal Meat in Summit (near McComb), Mississippi needs lambs. His market is growing and he has requested from Katahdin breeders any market lambs they may have for sale. He pays a fair price and is a good man to work with. His facility is USDA certified and he is about 7 miles off I-55, approximately 110 miles north of New Orleans and 290 miles south of Memphis. His number is 601-684-0319 work and 601-684-9338 home.

Registered Katahdin Ewe Lambs or Yearlings Wanted. Must be ready to breed this summer or fall. Looking for Quality. Contact Ted Malone, McComb MS. 601-250-1399. Seller can bring ewes to Mississippi for the KHSI Annual Meeting.

#### Ohio

Commerical Katahdin Ewe Lambs and/or Ram Lamb Wanted. In central Ohio. Karen Wimbush, 330-674-5874, wimbush.4@osu.edu

#### Virginia

Commercial Katahdin Ewes Wanted. 200 Ewes and Ewe Lambs. Quality and less than 2.5 years of age. Contact Billy Cook of SW Virginia. 276-944-3128.

### Sheep for Sale

#### Arkansas

Registered & Commercial Ewes, Lambs & Rams. 02, 03 & 04 Ewes & Rams Available. Enrolled in SFCP (Scrapie Flock Certification Program). Large selection to choose from. Diverse genetic lines. Variety of colors. Mary Van Anrooy, 1039 Evergreen Rd, Clinton, AR 72031, (501) 893-6158 ph/fx, jovc@earthlink.net

#### California

Registered Ewe Lambs, Ram Lambs and Ewes. 2004 Spring Ewe & Ram Lambs ready to go. Also a few 2 & 3 year old ewes, making room to keep a few replacement ewe lambs. In SFCP. Contact Dee & Vieva Swearingen, 530-347-1923 dvs@shasta.com

Northern California

Registered Ewe & Rams Lambs. March born - Six white ewe lambs and two white ram lambs. Well bred, 100% registered stock. SFCP Scrapie Flock Certification Program. Multiple births - all lambs are twins or triplets. One mature, 8 year old ewe, still productive but getting a little “stiff”. Our stock are bred for longevity in production and parasite resistance. In the Sacramento, CA area. Virginia Mills (916) 992-1332 vmills@cwnet.com

Registered Ewes and/or Ewe Lambs. Want to buy from 10 to 20 registered ewes or ewe lambs from a flock that is in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program or are QR or RR at codon 171. Prefer the larger type of Katahdins. E-mail ron.m@cardcentral.com or call Ron or Judy at (701)361-9517.
## Classified Ads, continued

### SHEEP FOR SALE

#### ILLINOIS

QR Rams for sale. 1 proven QR ram is white with some color born in March 2003. I hope his second batch of offspring are as good as the first. Need to sell him because we have a small flock and I would like to put his daughters into the flock this fall. I also have ram lambs for sale that were sired by him. 1 of them a twin has been genetically tested, and is QR. The others have not been tested, but all are twins & 1 is a triplet. All of them were raised by their mothers. Contact. Kelly Isaak Carlyle, IL 618-495-2938 or lostcreek@netwitz.net

#### IOWA

Registered Katahdin Ram & Ram Lambs. 3 Ram Lambs bBorn Jan-Feb, 04, 2 QR, 1 QQ. $250. each. 1 proven Katahdin white ram, born March 02. 200% lamb crop in 04. $100. 3 Percentage Katahdin/Dorper ram lambs, born Feb-March 04. Can be registered 50% Dorper. 1 all black RR, $200. Two QR ram lambs, 1 all black, 1 spotted both QR $150 each. In SFCP. Austin or Dave Charlson, Plum Grove Farm, Clarion, IA 515-825-3692 or e-mail: dandj@kalnet.com

2004 Ewes Lambs. 9 ewe lambs from registered sire and very pure commercial dams. BEAUTIFUL colors of light brown, black and white, tricolor. $125 each. Also 3 year old ewes white $200 each -- had lambs this years - good moms - just no pasture this year. This would make a great starter flock! Hughes 515-996-2517 lealer1@msn.com

#### LOUISIANA

Registered Ram Lambs & Proven Ram. Six registered ram lambs, 2003-2004. Proven Ram born 1/23/02 - registration # 030031. Great ram and is an easy keeper. Easily services the 20 ewes in our flock each breeding season. Juan Diliberto 337-662-7243 grosisle@aol.com Opelousas, LA.

#### MISSOURI

Registered Ram Lambs. Thirty 2004 ram lambs available. This flock is one of the very few Katahdin flocks in the United States to be certified Scrapie Free. About half the ram lambs are all white, the other half are either dark brown or uniquely spotted. This flock is pasture raised and does very well on average pasture. All are certified scrapie free (12/1998). And can be registered. I have already picked a few to be culled and will offer the rest which have unique traits, i.e. fast growing, short and long body style etc. Pictures can be e-mailed upon request. They were born between April 2 thru May 18. $150.00 firm. Please e-mail at wbyram1@wmconnect.com Moscow Mills, MO – 45 NW of St Louis

### KANSAS

Proven Registered Ram. White, twin, clean shedding. Born 2/3/01, Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) 2/01. Can e-mail photos. Rosalie Behnke & Richard Stewart, Valley Falls, KS. Phone: 785-945-4014 or e-mail rstewart@grasshoppernet.com

### INDIANA

Registered White Ram Lamb: Wanted: A quality white ram lamb to trade for same. Herd has no abscesses, foot rot or sore mouth. Lamb is too related to herd, but need another ram. Sire is a very large well bred all white ram from the Watkins farm in Illinois. Shaded dam is full blood large ewe tracing back to the Watkins farm as well. Norris Try It Acres, Rensselaer, Indiana. 219-866-8108

One Registered & One Commercial Ram. 2 rams for sale. Large red/white Registered 2 year old - $475. Very Nice! Brown Ram lamb born 09/03. Purebred but no papers. $350 Bear Creek Farm. Linda Terrel or Blanche Perkins. 812-967-3380 or 812-967-4554. bearcreekterrel@hotmail.com

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**See you at the Annual Meeting!**
Classified Ads, continued

**Sheep for Sale**

**Ohio**


Registered RR Katahdin Ram. Proven Ram. Twin. Dewormed once in 4 years as a closed flock precautionary measure. SFCP – Scrapie Flock Certification Program. RR at Codon 171. All offspring will be scrapie resistant. Great conformation and productive daughters. [naomihawkins@hotmail.com](mailto:naomihawkins@hotmail.com) or 1-937-839-1280. Naomi & Dean Hawkins. Lewisburg, OH near Dayton.

**Pennsylvania**

Proven Registered ‘03 Ewe lambs. Five 03 Ewe lambs all produced twins or triplets in ‘04. They are nice, large framed ewes with gentle dispositions. Priced from $250-$300. 4 Registered March ‘04 Ewe lambs. $200 each. All of our sheep are pasture raised with a minimal amount of grain, usually fed by hand. Cadie Pruss Lewistown, PA (717) 242-4154 or email [acadia@lcworkshop.com](mailto:acadia@lcworkshop.com)

**Texas**

White Ram Lamb. One all white ram lamb born April 15 2004. This lamb is out of my Goliath bred ram Price $250. Contact Gaylin Ratliff, Brownwood Texas. Phone # 325-646-4683 or email ratliffpvf@pgrb.com

30 Commercial Ram Lambs. Located in Northeast Texas, close to Oklahoma and 3 hours from Texarkana. Bred from QR registered Katahdin rams and parasite resistant, pasture raised Katahdin ewes. Tested for Brucella Abortus and Brucella Ovis last week. All are negative. Born Nov-Dec 2003 and Jan-Feb 2004. Most are over 100 pounds with some 135 pounds. Grass-fed, minimal grain supplementation. Most are white, a few spotted, all are polled. Sires are on site for viewing. Hardy, parasite resistant flock with excellent results on pasture. Priced at $150.00 each. Lynn Magedson [http://www.goodearthorganicfarm.com](http://www.goodearthorganicfarm.com) 903-496-2070 mail@goodearthorganicfarm.com

**Oklahoma**

Registered Ram Lamb. Quadruplet ram born Feb 04. $175. SFCP. Jill Deck (918) 445-2156 jilldeck2000@yahoo.com Tulsa Oklahoma

**Vermont**

Registered & Commercial Ram Lambs. Registered and commercial Spring ‘04 ram lambs available at weaning. Bred and selected for meat production on forage alone, without grain in the flock. SFCP (Scrapie Flock Certification Program) 05/03. [postwhit@sover.net](mailto:postwhit@sover.net) Kenyon Hill Farm, N. Pomfret, Vermont, 802-295-3211.

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Pre-Register for the Annual Meeting on the enclosed Registration Form
All info based on I-55. To get to the Pike County Fairgrounds where the KHSI gathering will be held, take Exit 15A, go east on Hwy 98 for approximately 0.9 mile, turn right on Holden Road. This is just past Joe’s Tractor. Stay on Holden road for approximately 1.4 miles to the end of the road. At the T-intersection, turn left and go approximately 1/2 mile. You will see the fairgrounds on your right. Turn right through the main gate. Go to the yellow building. It is the Eva Gordon Building.

The next exit on I-55 going north is Exit 17. It is the McComb Delaware Ave. exit. The Comfort Inn is here along with several eating-places.

The next exit on I-55 going north is Exit 18. The is the North McComb Veterans Blvd. exit. The Hawthorn Inn and Suites, our host motel and meeting place for the KHSI board will be here.

Coming from the south on I-55 the exits are 15A - 17 - and 18. Coming from the north on I-55 the exits are 18 - 17 – and 15A.