Director's Corner

Barbara Pugh, KHSI President

Sheep producers should be proud of their grit and determination to “grow” their industry. The July 1, 2005 report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture showed an increase of 2% over a year ago in the total sheep flock; numbers of breeding ewes and market lambs were up; and the number of replacement ewes increased 9.7 percent year-to-year. This increase is good news for the whole sheep industry.

The Katahdin segment of the industry has some reasons to be proud, as well. At this point in the year, registrations and transfers are on track to exceed 2004 numbers and our membership has been increasing steadily. Demand for purebred and commercial animals is growing.

Katahdins had a lot of exposure during the year in display advertising, at livestock events, media publicity, written articles and web space. We have a story to tell about the quality of our animals, and it is so wonderful seeing it done at national, regional, and local levels by you and KHSI. Promotion of our breed remains a priority.

At the international level, the Canadians and Americans need to work cooperatively to get live animals moving between the two countries; and moving breeding animals into Mexico continues to be important to KHSI.

Did you know that our breed now has 25 Scrapie Certified Free flocks? That is a fine representation of our breed. Another thing – did you know that the Katahdin breed has more flocks in the

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As Katahdin Hair Sheep International begins its next twenty years as a breed organization, we are looking for ways to be a leader in the sheep industry that also benefit the Katahdin member/producers in the Association. To support the growth and needs of our members, the Board is requesting bids (which we are calling a Request for Proposal) in order to determine how we can expand our registry services in the most cost-effective manner.

Currently the Board has prepared specifications for the Request for Proposal which are being sent to national breed registries for their consideration and input in order to obtain quotes from multiple sources. Additionally, copies of the Request for Proposal may be requested through the Board Secretary, Naomi Hawkins, 937-839-1280, naomihawkins@hotmail.com.

Susan Schoenian, Univ. of Maryland Extension Agent demonstrates body condition scoring

Board Looks to Future with Registry Bids

National Sheep Improvement Program than any other breed – 26 in 2005. And we’re the only breed in NSIP with the ewe productivity trait.

At the Expo in Kentucky there was a desire for learning evidenced in each educational session. We would like to nurture that desire and strengthen our educational activities with KHSI.

Your new Board of Directors is excited about the beginning of the next twenty years for our Association. Let’s continue to provide quality animals to the purebred segment, as well as provide the animals that will serve the needs of the commercial industry.

I feel really honored to be the KHSI President for the upcoming year. Let me hear from you.
to enhance economically important traits, these EPDs predict the percentage of the lamb crop that will be weaned (lamb rearing rate) and the total pounds of lamb that will be weaned by each ewe in a flock.

The pounds-of-lamb weaned EPD identifies ewes that are most successful at producing the most pounds of lamb in a particular environment and management system. Highly ranked ewes could be successful triplet bearing ewes, or they could be consistent twinners with high milk and growth.

This composite trait rewards successful mothering that is coupled with adequate growth and milk production for the particular system. It lessens the issue of “I want only twins,” or “I want lots of triplets” by identifying maternal success with twins or triplets. In this way, the complex traits associated with mothering ability can be rewarded. It penalizes ewes that reject or lose lambs, or that lack prolificacy, milk, growth, and body condition necessary to breed back and repeat their performance consistently.

John Stromquist, who has more than 50 years of experience in sheep breeding and judging, showed attendees and prospective buyers how to check animals for structural correctness and genetic defects. He pointed out that while performance data are the first step in animal selection, sheep being considered for breeding must also be observed and handled for such functional aspects as pelvic width and lung capacity, as well as to eliminate genetic defects such as weak pasterns, posty legs, and defective mouths.

A renowned breeder, formerly of Columbia sheep, John Stromquist was elected to the KHSI board of directors during the Kentucky meeting. Also elected to the KHSI board during the gathering was veteran Ohio shepherd Ron Young, formerly a leading Suffolk breeder who has switched to Katahdins.

At the annual meeting, more evidence of the hair sheep revolution that Katahdins have led came in the form of news that the groundwork is being laid for hair sheep numbers to be assessed separately from wooled breeds by the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, according to Sherry Bertramsen, an agricultural statistician with the Kentucky field office.

In 2004, a total of 4,317 Katahdins were registered or recorded with the breed registry, an increase of 416 animals over the previous year, reported Ed Martsolf, KHSI registrar. Continuing problems with the U.S.-Canadian border being closed to animal transfers have severely reduced registrations being sent from Canada, he said. Membership in KHSI has been affected as well but currently stands at 509 dues-paying members as of October 31. In 2004, KHSI ranked 6th for all breeds in number of animals registered. Besides being the 20th anniversary of KHSI, 2005 also made history as the breed registered their 50,000th animal.

At a dinner concluding the anniversary celebration, Guy Flora, editor of The Shepherd, warned the Katahdin breeders about the checkered history of animal breeding. Unexpected consequences, both good and bad, begin to happen when humans mold animals instead of letting nature select breeders solely on the basis of which animals can merely survive, he said. “When you play with genes to change an animal, the other genes come marching along. That’s what breeds have to watch out for—something else that goes along (with what you are trying to accomplish).”

Flora endorsed rigorous scientific selection procedures, noting that the master English breeder Robert Bakewell had already learned in the 18th century that the value of a breeding animal is determined by the performance of its progeny—not by the animal’s own appearance. Bakewell shrewdly loaned rams to his neighbors so that he could compare how their lambs grew. In this way, Bakewell transformed the local sheep from feeble bags of bones into a vigorous, meaty...
Warm Springs Katahdins

“Thinking outside the Box” helps to develop superior Katahdins.

We rigidly select in order to attain the following traits:
1. Resistance to heat and humidity.
2. Resistance to internal parasites.
3. Resistance to foot rot.
4. Completely shedding coats as lambs.
5. Excellent carcass qualities.
6. Superior maternal traits.
7. Our stud rams are QR or RR.

A newly-developed software program named Ranch Manager -- SHEEP EDITION is proving to be a valuable tool

NSIP helps manage our sheep flock. It is one of several tools we use.

We think Theodore Roosevelt said it best:
“It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by the dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy course; who at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat.”

www.warmspringskatahdins.com
David & Nancy Maddox
Warm Springs, GA  31830 • 706-655-3407 • dbmaddox@alltel.net
animals. “Check this out. He actually kept records,” said Flora. “We’ve got to use more science. And it all starts with your record keeping. I want 250 pounds of lamb produced in 120 to 150 days from a ewe topped by a terminal sire. I don’t have it, but I want it. It takes more than the records, it takes more than the EPDs. But it’s going to take records to do it.”

New Zealand is far ahead of the United States in the use of computers in all phases of livestock production, he said. He visited a New Zealand packinghouse where all of the 11,500 lambs harvested that day varied in carcass weight by no more than .454 kilograms (a pound). In addition, the lambs—like all of New Zealand’s 30 million lambs marketed annually—were killed using halal methods so that they can be sold in Saudi Arabia.

While he thanked KHSI for its support of the American Sheep Industry Association—including formally joining ASI in 2005 and also having a member on ASI’s executive board—Flora challenged the organization to do more to promote lamb consumption and to increase production.

The American lamb crop would have to double to meet domestic demand, he said. “You have a lot of influence with the entire industry whether you know it or not. It’s time you got up on your hind legs and started using it.”

The annual meeting and Expo was hosted by Kentucky KHSI member Kay Cloyd, who was recognized and thanked by the KHSI board for her hard work that made the meeting a success.
KHSI Reviews History, Honors Founders at Annual Meeting

Richard Gilbert, Ohio

The process of melding a diverse gene pool into the composite Katahdin breed began 48 years ago, in November 1957, when Michael Piel of Maine imported his first hair sheep from St. Croix and began crossing them with wooled breeds. Charles Brown, who worked on the Piel farm for 31 years, was present at the annual meeting in Kentucky and was honored by KHSI.

After the death of Piel in 1976, his widow, Barbara, and Charlie carried on development of Katahdins, including the focus on performance assessment that has become part of KHSI culture. He helped to found KHSI and was its first registrar.

KHSI also honored Ed Martsolf during its celebration. Ed’s foresight in adopting the Katahdin when he was manager of Heifer Project International’s Arkansas education center led to an historic expansion of the breed.

He also was among the founders of KHSI 20 years ago.

Kansas Katahdin breeder Laura Fortmeyer was recognized as well. Laura joined the Heifer Project ranch in 1981 and over the next decade expanded the hair sheep flock to more than 300 ewes, primarily Katahdins. She helped to establish the breeders’ organization KHSI in 1985-1986 and served as KHSI’s operations manager through 1998.

As Mrs. Piel wrote in January 1985, “My best to you, Laura, and to Ed. It’s nice to know that you are out there pushing the Katahdins and believe in their promised future. It’s got to work. After all, how can it fail?”

Sheep geneticist Charles Parker of Ohio was honored for his early recognition of the value of Katahdins and for his role in founding KHSI. Dr. Parker visited the Piel farm in 1980 and began encouraging the establishment of a registry. In 1985 in Dubois, Idaho, where he was director of the United States Sheep Experiment Station, Dr. Parker hosted a meeting with Charles Brown, Ed Martsolf, Laura (Callan) Fortmeyer, and attorney Don Williams to establish KHSI.

The late Don Williams, a distinguished Pennsylvania attorney and shepherd, was a lifelong Katahdin enthusiast. When Heifer Project was sending Katahdins around the world, Ed Martsolf recruited Mr. Williams’ help in legally incorporating KHSI.

Summary of a talk by Charles Parker prepared by Richard Gilbert

How big should Katahdin ewes be? In short, 145-165 pounds, said sheep geneticist Dr. Charles Parker, in an address to attendees of the North American Hair Sheep Symposium on October 8 in San Angelo, Texas.

Ewe body size is of particular interest to hair sheep producers, noted Dr. Parker. Changing breeds and selection have increased commercial lamb market weight by 45 percent in the past 50 years, with carcass yields of 60-70 lbs. now the norm.

However, there is now more demand for product diversity than at any other time in the U.S. sheep industry. “A dynamic ethnic market, religious holiday custom, and traditional commodity markets provide outlets for lambs with a 100-pound weight range—from 40 to 140 pounds!” Dr. Parker said.

The full production spectrum can be satisfied with mature ewes in the 145-165 pound range, he said. Straightbred hair sheep ewes, which feature retained hybrid vigor, are excellent for the lighter weight markets. For the 130-140 lb. commodity market lamb, 165 lb. ewes need to be bred to a large terminal sire breed, advised Dr. Parker.

A ewe must be large enough to have the body capacity to ingest enough food to supply milk for rearing twin lambs in a given production system, he said. “Size is important but its relationship to total lamb productivity and efficiency of production for hair sheep is too limited to be considered a primary factor in selecting for maternal performance to improve meat sheep production.”

“Remember, genetic balance is best for long-term selection!”

Ewe reproductive efficiency is the key profitability trait for 21st-century meat sheep production, he said. Reproductive efficiency involves fertility, prolificacy, mothering ability, and lamb growth and cannot be evaluated visually—performance and pedi-
degree records are needed, said Dr. Parker.

For instance, the genetic accuracy for prolificacy when saving a twin replacement ewe from a consistently twinning ewe can be three times greater than picking a twin from a ewe with an unknown maternal record. Of much greater importance, Dr. Parker added, are ewes that rear their twins.

He referred to a 12-year study for lifetime litter weight that underscored the following point: percentage of lambs weaned and lamb weight combined contributed more to ewe litter weight weaned than did ewe prolificacy alone. Dr. Parker revised his favorite Scottish poem, which advises shepherds to pick replacements from twins, to read:

   Ewes yearly twin raisers
   rich masters do make.

   Lambs from such raisers for
   breeders go take.

Of serious concern is the lack of selection for performance being practiced by shepherds throughout the sheep industry. A recent national survey by the USDA reported that 71.5 percent of sheep breeders consider “visual appearance” very important in ram selection. Dr. Parker said such rams are unknowns when it comes to genetically improving ewe ability to produce more pounds of quality lamb each year.

“Fortunately, during the past decade, sheep breeders have technologies available through the National Sheep Improvement Program to analyze objective performance information and predict genetic differences on an across-flock basis—or in other words to identify or locate the superior breeding value animals within a breed,” said Dr. Parker. “This is a revolutionary happening of great significance for the meat sheep industry.”

“At this transitional stage of the U.S. COMMERCIAL sheep industry, there is no more important economic trait than pounds of quality lamb marketed per ewe per year,” Parker said. “The release of the Ewe Productivity Trait by NSIP is arguably the most important thing to happen in the sheep industry in the last ten years.” Development of NSIP’s new Ewe Productivity Trait EPD, based on pounds of lamb weaned, is a major technological contribution for genetically improving meat production and profitability of sheep. Litter weight per ewe at weaning is a biological index strongly affected by related reproductive and maternal attributes.

Research studies at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, Dubois, ID, have shown that selecting for litter weight is associated with and improves prolificacy (number of lambs born), percentage of lambs weaned, lamb weight, fertility and ewe viability. “Optimal performance levels of the Ewe Productivity Trait reflect a genetic balance in harmony with the production environment and management conditions,” said Parker. “Folks, let me tell you - it doesn’t get any better than this.”

Historically, crossbreeding has been highly touted to improve meat lamb production because hybrid vigor can increase lamb performance by as much as 40 percent. But crossbreeding sheep has not been widely exploited in the United States due to the nation’s smaller-sized flocks, with the vast majority of flocks under 100 head, and the fear of introducing disease.

An advantage of composite hair sheep breeds like the Katahdin is that hybrid vigor without crossbreeding is a realistic option, said Dr. Parker. “A four-breed crossbred composite retains 75 percent of the heterosis value and a three-breed composite retains 62.5 percent.

“Obviously these same breed composites can be mated to terminal sire breeds to produce customized slaughter lambs for targeted traditional consumer markets. This within-composite mating plan not only simplifies breeding but further captures the advantages of crossbreeding.”

Another concern of many hair sheep producers is increasing muscling. Dr. Parker suggested that total lean carcass weight may be more important. Depending on the end market, muscling may or may not be an important trait, he said. “Perhaps of greater overall importance for hair sheep is rate of maturity to the desired end weight as determined by market condition (degree of fatness).”

A revolutionary degree of progress waits to be made in genetic resistance to internal parasites—a key adaptability trait for warm, humid regions that needs much more concentrated selection in hair sheep breeds, Dr. Parker said. Hair sheep lambs tend to exhibit variable early response to worm larvae but generally have a strong secondary, or acquired immune response, in contrast to wooled lambs that remain fully susceptible to infection for several months.

“Early selection evaluation beginning prior to 60 days of age is advised for resistant hair breeds and native gulf coast type sheep. Genetic resistance of sheep for gastrointestinal nematodes appears to be a major component for hair sheep adaptability and productivity in many areas of the United States.

"Parasite genetics are winning the battle. It’s time breeders get CONTINUED ON PAGE 15
Katahdin Breeder Carsten Pank Dies in Farm Accident

By Tom Pank, New York

Editor’s note: Members of Katahdin Hair Sheep International were saddened to learn of Carsten Pank’s death in October at the age of 74.

Carsten Jens Pank was born in Germany in 1931. The son of a captain in the navy and an opera singer, he was the oldest of five children, with two brothers and two sisters. Other than his brother Klaus who died as a toddler, he is survived by Ursel, Jan, and Marlise, all of whom still live in Germany.

From a very young age he wanted to be a farmer. Shortly after World War II, while in his early twenties, Carsten set off on his own and immigrated to Canada, where he worked various jobs (timber, mining, and agriculture) sometimes working at two jobs at time to gain knowledge and experience and to save for his dream.

In the late 1950s he went on a tour of Canada and the United States and by chance, while looking at various farming operations, met his future wife Renate A. Peining. They were married in 1959. Shortly thereafter, with his savings and some help from his parents in Germany, he was able to buy what became the family farm in Currytown, New York, (population less than 50) near Sprakers on Rt. 162. This region is in the Mohawk Valley, in central New York, between Albany and Utica.

With a small herd of Holstein cows and about 200 acres, he realized the start of his dream. Carsten loved this life, and enjoyed doing what most people considered very hard work. This was satisfying to him. On this farm, which later became 400 acres, Carsten and Renate raised four children, Christine, Johanna, Thomas, and Michael.

During this time Carsten farmed using the principles of biodynamic farming, and he wrote a book, *Dirt Farmer’s Dialogue: Twelve Discussions About Biodynamic Farming*, focusing on his difficulties in trying to farm in biological harmony.

His dairy farm included prized registered Holsteins that were selectively bred and became one of the more productive herds in the county. This level of operation continued until the mid-1980s when his youngest son, Michael (who had completed college and a father-imposed, mandatory outside work experience) partnered with Carsten. They built a new farmstead on Flat Creek Road, on property that had been purchased adjacent to the original farm.

This dairy was expanded to about 800 cows and a true agribusiness operation, which included crop farming on several thousand acres, a milk-hauling component, and even a soy-diesel plant to make both soy meal for feed and fuel for the tractors and generators powering the farm’s three-phase power which was not available from the local utility.

In the mid to late 1990s, over a period of time Carsten began to retire from this operation and he began to look at what he wanted to do in retirement. Carsten’s life interest was working with the land and animals. This meant that what many would consider a retirement of rest and relaxation was not possible. He could not sit still; he had to continue working with his hands, his mind, animals and the land.

Nothing ever really slowed him down or stopped him from doing what he wanted. At one time he severely injured his hand when cleaning out the chopper for the winter. While it was spinning down, he accidentally got his right hand in the knife chamber. Within a couple of weeks he was back milking with a bandaged hand.

He went through extensive physical therapy, and despite pain in the winter, and severely diminished use, he continued to work with what he had and at full pace. Anyone who met Carsten was greeted with a heartfelt handshake with a hand that was notably limited in motion from this accident.

After extensive research, much discussion and thought, Carsten decided on working with Katahdin hair sheep. He researched meat goats and other sheep breeds first.

In spring of 2000 he finally decided to breed Katahdins after attending a hair sheep symposium at Virginia State University and hearing a keynote speech by Dr. Charles Parker and a speech on the history and status of the Katahdin breed by KHSI secretary-treasurer David Sweeney.

In the summer of 2000 he bought ewe lambs from two sources, including the remaining flocks from the Piel Farm, in Maine, where the Katahdin breed was created. Members of Katahdin Hair Sheep International and readers of *The Shepherd* became familiar with his enthusiasm, his generous sharing of his experience, and his passionate conviction that the Katahdin remain a performance-based breed.

After being a registered Holstein breeder for thirty years, he wanted to apply his breeding experience to the Katahdin. When asked what his goal was with this new hobby and the work involved with it, he stated that he thought he could have an impact on the breed.

Continued on page 9
At the time of Carsten’s death, he had some 700 Katahdin ewes, 40 rams and ram lambs, and seven Maremma guard dogs. The new sheep farmstead was constructed on Rappa Road on a parcel that he had purchased over the years overlooking the valley where Flat Creek is located.

This farmstead was designed to be efficient and easy to operate. Carsten himself did all of the design and most of the construction with some help from local contractors and friends. His barn for lamb feeding was featured on the February 2005 cover of The Shepherd.

In late June of 2002, Carsten’s mother passed away in Germany at the age of 101. Sadly, within a week, he would also experience the tragic death of his son Michael, the one who followed his footsteps, in an aircraft accident on the farm.

This was a very difficult time for Carsten in that he knew he was unable to run Michael’s expansive operations. Having moved towards retirement, combined with this loss, his heart was not in it. Michael’s widow, Colleen, continues this operation currently.

It was fortunate that Carsten had this retirement hobby, in that he was able to work through this by engrossing himself in the sheep. This was very therapeutic for him.

Carsten was active in the Katahdin sheep industry. He went to many meetings and on occasion spoke and wrote about topics he felt were important. Carsten was also involved in research experiments involving Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP). He was trying to eliminate OPP from his flock and thought he had discovered a method of quickly checking the possibility that there was some immunity to the disease in particular animals.

On October 23, 2005, when Carsten did not return home as planned, Renate went to look for him and after not finding him, called for help. On the farm is a pond of more than four acres, with an adjacent pasture. That evening they found his canoe, which appeared to have been capsized in the pond. The canoe paddle and Carsten’s hat were also found in the water.

Things at that time did not add up, as it was a cold and wet day, not one for a canoe ride on the large pond. And Carsten had planned to take a load of sheep to auction in New Holland, Pennsylvania, early the next morning.

We will again be taking orders for DNA tested ewes and rams (like the pictured ewe).
Fall 2005

NSIIC, ASI and NCERA-190 Co-Sponsor Two Symposia in 2005: Management of Gastrointestinal Nematodes in Sheep and the Hair Sheep Workshop

By James Morgan, PhD

The National Sheep Industry Improvement Center (NSIIC) funded two events this summer. Both of these events were co-sponsored with the American Sheep Industry (ASI) and NCERA-190. NCERA-190 is a regional technical committee of sheep animal scientists funded by US Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (USDA-CSREES) that meets annually to identify, report on and collaborate on research needs for USA sheep meat and sheep dairy industries. ASI will be posting transcripts or links to the two symposiums at their website this winter.

The Hair Sheep Workshop symposium was hosted by Dr Stephen Wildeus of Virginia State University in Petersburg Virginia June 21-23, 2005. Over 100 attendees including sheep scientists, industry and government representatives and many producers filled the meeting auditorium to capacity. Dr Wildeus has worked with hair sheep for over 25 years. Previous meetings covering hair sheep research met in 1980 and 1990. Dr Stephen Wildeus organized the Workshop to update the sheep industry, producer and research communities on the current status of hair sheep research since the last hair sheep symposium in 1990.

Summarizing the research presented over the course of three days is difficult because of the diversity of information and topics. But there were several take-home messages for producers and industry. A dominant theme from all presenters was that hair sheep are easy-care sheep and that their utility goes beyond the “no shearing” quality. Another important point is that the parasite resistance and heat/humidity tolerance of hair sheep are leading to increased sheep production in the humid southeastern region of the United States, a region not usually considered important for sheep production. The twelve oral presentations were from institutions in Arkansas, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia and the Virgin Islands with multiple presenters from Arkansas and Virginia. Poster presentations extended the geographical representation of scientists to Kentucky, Maine, South Dakota and Hungary. Data from hair sheep registries indicates that a large component of hair sheep are raised in the southeastern and southern USA, but significant numbers are also raised in the Midwestern, mid-Atlantic and Pacific states. Few hair sheep are being registered in the inter-mountain west, where commodity wool production is still important.

Dorper and Katahdins are holding their own with two classic maternal breeds, the Dorset and Rambouillet, at the USDA Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska. This study is currently evaluating crossbred ewes consisting of the four maternal breeds, Dorper, Dorset, Katahdin and Rambouillet crossed with Romanovs. Initial results show that production from these two hair sheep breeds is similar to and for some parameters may prove better than the two wool maternal ewe breeds used in the study. Research at Booneville, AR USDA-ARS, Louisiana State, Virginia Tech and Virginia State Universities demonstrates that the Caribbean hair sheep breeds, Barbados Black Belly and St Croix, have superior parasite resistance to wool breeds. Intermediate in resistance to the Caribbean hair breeds and the wool breeds is the Katahdin, a composite breed developed from both hair and wool sheep and selected for shedding, growth and muscling.

Many presenters mentioned that hair sheep worked well for the eastern lamb market which rewards 60-90 pound reproductively intact lambs with tails and docking lambs over 100 pounds. Purebred hair sheep are not commonly used to produce US Choice lamb with live weights of greater than 125 pounds. Another concern of the sheep industry is how to replace the lamb pelt value in wool carcass lambs. Substantial amounts of hair sheep leather are being used in the leather industry in the USA, especially for contracts with the US Department of Defense. Upwards of 1,000,000 hair sheep hides are being imported into the USA for high end gloves, jackets and helmet linings. Capturing this leather market for US hair sheep producers can replace the loss in lamb pelt credit for lamb producers, but will require development of channels to retain and process leather hides. Other strengths noted for hair sheep were reproductive efficiency and aseasonal breeding.

Even with over 23 presentations, posters and talks, scientific research on hair sheep in North American meat production has a...
long way to go. Most agricultural research institutions lack funds to include large numbers of sheep with diverse representation of genetics to fully evaluate hair sheep in different production systems. It is readily apparent that hair sheep have a place in meeting the demand for sheep meat, especially for systems that do not reward the production of wool or a wool pelt. The first presenter at the symposium was Dr Eric Bradford, Professor Emeritus from the University of California, Davis and one of the first hair sheep researchers in the USA. Dr Bradford made one of the most important points in the workshop. He emphasized that the USA has imported small numbers of animals belonging to a few hair sheep breeds to develop the USA and North American hair sheep populations. Bradford encouraged researchers to evaluate more hair sheep breeds present in Africa and Latin America to determine if these genetic resources contain production traits needed for the future of the USA sheep industry.

“Sheep: Management of Gastrointestinal Nematodes in Sheep”, a symposium organized by Dr Joan Burke of the USDA-ARS Small Farm Research Station in Booneville Arkansas, was held on July 25, 2005 in Cincinnati Ohio as part of the annual meeting of the American Society for Animal Science. The symposium was well attended and the presentations were excellent. The first speaker, Ray Kaplan, DVM, PhD, pointed out that barber pole worms, *Haemonchus contortus*, are increasing their resistance to available anthelmintics (dewormers). Dr Kaplan reported sampling nematodes from one small ruminant operation in the USA in which 100% of the *Haemonchus contortus* are resistant to all three classes of dewormers (anthelmintics) and that *Teladorsagia*, the brown stomach worm, were 100% resistant to two classes of anthelmintics and 80% resistant to the third class. Dr Kaplan said all was not lost with that farm (it was a goat operation). With appropriate changes in management and with the alternative parasite management strategies of the Southern Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control (www.scsrpc.org) the farm would be able to continue raising goats. It should be noted that if a sheep operation bought goats from the above mentioned farm and mingled them on pastures with sheep, they would soon have the same anthelmintic-resistant worms in their sheep.

A key take-home point of the symposium was the incredible complexity of the sheep x environment x nematode interaction. Over and over again, presenters would make a point demonstrating that in a particular environment or management system, the susceptibility of sheep to barber pole worms would be based on a different aspect of the management or environment. In the Virgin Islands, Dr Kaplan sampled sheep for parasites on the dry desert-like side and on the tropical wet side. The sheep on the desert side were heavily parasitized but not where it was wet, opposite to the dogma that parasitism increases in wet environments. The take-home message was that the high level of nutrition available on the rainy side of St Croix allowed the sheep to handle barber pole worms, while nutritionally stressed sheep on the dry side were more susceptible to the low levels of worms on dry pasture. Nutrition and its...
Make plans to attend these Special Events

Country Oak Ranch will have Katahdins on display/sale

- Southcentral Katahdin Assoc. Annual Meeting, June 10, 2006, Conroe, TX.
- Midwest Stud Ram Sale, June 19-21, 2006, Sedalia, MO.
- Sunbelt Agricultural Expo., Oct. 17-19, 2006, Moultrie, GA.

Country Oak Ranch is introducing Two New Breeding Sires

- "MCD Pure Power" COR 05-22
  Genotype RR, Twin, 187 lbs (10 months)
- "MCD Southern Gentlemen" COR 05-54
  Genotype RR, Twin, 174 lbs (10 months)

a limited number of their 2006 progeny will be available

"If it’s in the RAM, it will be in the LAMBS"

Mark and Sara send their gratitude to all those folks who purchased breeding stock from Country Oak Ranch in 2005

- Country Oak Ranch had the high selling Katahdin Ram and Ewe Lambs in the recent KHSI Expo Sale in Versailles, KY.
  - The high bid for COR 05-46 Katahdin Ram, RR, was Dave & Sue Ingram, owners of DSI Katahdins, West Plains, MO. at $1700.
  - The high bid for COR 05-67 Katahdin Ewe, RR, was Robert & Ruth Bleau, owners of Blue Oaks Ranch, Grass Valley, CA. at $1200

- Country Oak Ranch had the high selling Katahdin Ram in the recent North American Hair Sheep Sale at San Angelo, TX.
  - The high bid for COR 05-56 Katahdin Ram, QR, was Scott McGregor owner of McGregor Ranch, Eldorado, TX.

To all Katahdin Breeders and Friends,
Wishing you all the Joys of the Holiday Season and the Best in the Year to come.
GOD BLESS AMERICA

Mark & Sara Dennis
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www.countryoakranch.com
role in preventing mortality to parasites were stressed by different speakers. Another fascinating interaction between environment and the barber pole worm was that of ambient temperature and *Haemonchus* larval survival time. In SE Asia (Malaysia), 30-40 days of pasture rest is enough to kill off the *Haemonchus*, while in Northern Europe and the cooler regions of North America, *Haemonchus* larvae survive for 14-16 months. So, depending on ambient temperatures and moisture, *Haemonchus* larvae may survive 30 days or well over a year. Consistent hot temperatures are more lethal than freezing temperatures. But again the complexity of environment, worm and sheep interaction comes into play. Warm temperatures lead to faster worm life cycles and more risk while the larvae survive. Cold temperatures lead to longer larval survival on the pasture but slower life cycles. Moist habitats increase larval survival as well.

The looming problem, development of anthelmintic resistant populations of nematodes, can be prevented if producers and veterinarians quit practicing whole flock deworming practices. Deworming all lambs every 3 weeks means that newly deposited worm eggs on the pasture are only from worms that are resistant to that dewormer. Deworming all ewes in the fall or at lambing leads to the same problem.

Jim Miller, DVM, PhD from Louisiana State University (LSU) presented “Immunological Aspects of Parasite Control”. He showed results from studies that ranked the following breeds in terms of parasite resistance: St Croix > Gulf Coast Native > Katahdin > Suffolk. Work at LSU has also found that sheep with genetics for resistance to *Haemonchus* can be identified by doing fecal egg counts on Gulf Coast Native lambs at weaning and at 4-6 months during the late summer when pasture levels are high. Sheep can be selected for parasite resistance.

Dr. Miller has collaborated with the third speaker in the symposium, Noelle Crocket, PhD at Utah State. They are working on a project to identify specific genes or markers that lend parasite resistance to Gulf Coast Native sheep. Dr Crockett has identified candidate regions of sheep chromosomes that are associated with parasite resistance. From a scientific perspective it is very interesting that similar projects with the Romney in New Zealand and the Merino in Australia are all identifying different chromosome regions that correlate with parasite resistance. But that won’t make it easy for breeders to pay for a “genotype” test to identify parasite resistant sires. These results indicate that the interaction between sheep and parasites is complex and different breeds appear to be using different immunological mechanisms to provide parasite resistance.

Thomas Terrill, PhD of Fort Valley State University in Georgia spoke about work using plants to control parasites in sheep. Initial work indicates that the legume, *Sericea* lespedeza (a noxious weed in some states), is effective at decreasing *Haemonchus* levels. The tannins in *Sericea* appear to be anthelmintic agents. This fits with evidence that the tannin-containing plants such as chicory or Quebracho have anthelmintic activities. The work is preliminary and once again appears to be a complex interaction between the ruminant and the worm and the environment. Dr Miller pointed out at the Southern Society of Animal Science meetings in February 2005 that tannins from different plants would need to be individually investigated. Initial work indicates that different plant species produce tannins that are chemically unique, affect different species of nematodes and act on different regions of the gut. What does this mean for small ruminant producers? It means that it will take several years to work through the different tannins, determine their effectiveness and develop management strategies for their use. Tannins will probably be part of the tool box used by many small ruminant producers to control parasites in the future. Some researchers have suggested that a pelleted form of *Sericea* lespedeza might be available for feeding to control the barber pole worm, *Haemonchus contortus*.

The final speaker in the parasite symposium, Michael Larsen, PhD, from the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Denmark, spoke about research involving a fungus, *Duddingtonia flagrans* that lives in the soil and in fecal pellets. The technique decreases pasture load which contributes to less ingestion of nematode larvae by sheep. The fungus is effective, but sale and distribution of the fungus is awaiting a veterinary or pharmaceutical supply company to take on the project, get Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approval and predict they can market it at a profit. Note: the fungus does not kill the parasites in the sheep but it kills the parasites in the feces and helps keep pasture infestation low. To get the fungal levels high enough in the fecal pellets to significantly decrease nematode larvae, fungal spores need to be
fed to the sheep daily. The approach that is most practical for the producer is to give a bolus to the sheep or goat that would release spores into the feces for months. This fungus can be a key component of nematode control in the USA, but will depend on a company developing a product and a marketing program.

In summary, presentations at the Hair Sheep Workshop in Virginia document that hair sheep are working in multiple production systems including those that require easy care sheep or performance in the humid southeastern USA. The Management of Gastrointestinal Nematode Parasite in Sheep symposium documented the complex relationship between parasite, sheep, management and environment. Multi-drug resistant nematodes exist in many small ruminant flocks and herds and producers will need to change to selective deworming of only the subset of sheep that require treatment to maintain effectiveness of anthelmintics. Most producers in humid regions will need to add more parasite control techniques to their toolbox including use of new alternative nematode control techniques such as the Duddingtonia fungi or effective tannin-containing forages. Selecting parasite resistant sheep will also be imperative for many producers.

Author’s notes: Results of the two symposiums will be available at the American Sheep Industry website. Go to www.sheepusa.org and click the “Research & Technology link”. At this page, click “Other Research”. For the sheep parasite symposium, you will be directed to the following website at the American Society for Animal Science, http://adsa.asas.org/recordings/2005/national/. At time of the writing of this article, the presentations for the Hair Sheep Workshop were scheduled to be published at the ASI website in late 2005 or early 2006.
Mendelian genetics out of the pea patch and fight back. We have the technology and genetic variation to close-out this nemesis,” Dr. Parker told his audience.

Another trait that needs work is aseasonal breeding. The need for a year-round lamb supply has intensified with increased ethnic and religious holiday demand. “Most of the ten religious holiday dates vary across years but collectively there is a holiday event that occurs in every month of the year with exceptions of June, July, and August,” said Dr. Parker. “Hair sheep breeds appear to have a longer breeding season than wool breeds.”

Resistance to scrapie and footrot are also important. Seedstock raisers should test animals for scrapie resistance at both codons 136 and 171 to identify animals with genotypes AA, RR, and QR, he said. Such testing should be of special importance for hair sheep breeders because of the opportunities in the expanding hair sheep market.

New Zealand researchers at Lincoln University have identified gene markers for immunity to the costly disease of footrot, Dr. Parker reported. “United States sheep breeders should become interested in this gene-marker test for use in selecting foot rot tolerant breeding sheep.”
KHSI Expo 2005: List of Consignors & Buyers

KHSI Board of Directors and the KHSI Expo 2005 planning committee extend a sincere thank you to the consignors and buyers who made the Expo 2005 Sale a success. Average price was over $700/animal. Top selling ram was $1700 and top selling ewe was $1200.

We would especially like to thank the consignors. They took a significant risk without knowing how successful the sale would be. Consignors paid for health certificates, transported animals a few weeks after Hurricane Katrina with high fuel prices and uncertainty about how many buyers would attend this first time sale. Most of the consignors told us that they could have received $350 or more for their animals without transporting and without taking the gamble. All sellers received above average prices for the breed and many were well paid for the risk. The consignors deserve a healthy round of applause for taking the risk and helping KHSI put on their first successful sale.

The other significant part of the sale is the buyers. Without them, it wouldn't have worked either. We extend our thanks to the buyers. Also, several people worked hard to help put on the Sale including, in no particular order, Susan Schoenian, Laura Fortmeyer, John Stromquist, Kay Clody, Barbara Pugh, Fred Pugh, Teresa Maurer, Kathy Bielek, Jeff Bielek, Charles Brown, Dean Hawkins and Naomi Hawkins. Several others pitched in and help move animals, set up pens and load the sold animals. Ken Townsend provided extra equipment for the sale.

A very, very special thanks goes to Larry Sansom, a professional, talented and very instructive auctioneer who donated his time and was a significant part of the success.

CONSIGNOR # 1
MEADOWLARK FARM
Virginia & Tom Street
Sedgwick, KS
Prefix - MDW
- Lot 101 Ram Lamb - MDW 0505, $450, Terry & Pat Huey of Stendal, IN
- Lot 102 Ram Lamb - MDW 0529, $525, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD

CONSIGNOR # 2
COUNTRY OAK RANCH
Mark & Sara Dennis
New Iberia, LA
Prefix - COR
- Lot 103 Ram Lamb - COR 05-06, $725, Lester Davis of Aberdeen, NC
- Lot 104 Ram Lamb - COR 05-46, $1700, Dave & Sue Ingram of West Plains, MO
- Lot 105 Ewe Lamb - COR 05-03, $1050, Bob & Ruth Bleau of Grass Valley, CA
- Lot 106 Ewe Lamb - COR 05-67, $1200, Bob & Ruth Bleau of Grass Valley, CA

CONSIGNOR # 3
BIRCH COVE FARM
David Coplen & Carol Fulkerson
Fulton, MO
Prefix - BC
- Lot 107 Fall Ram Lamb - BC R 96-23, $425, Bob & Ruth Bleau of Grass Valley, CA
- Lot 108 Ram Lamb - BC R 28-22, $425, Stapleton Farms of Nickelsville, VA
- Lot 109 Ram Lamb - BC R 41-22, $400, David A Ackerman of Andrews, NC

CONSIGNOR # 4
WHITE POST FARM
John, Steve & Marian Stromquist
Durand, IL
Prefix - SWP
- Lot 110 Ram Lamb - SWP 05-153, $1600, Bob & Ruth Bleau of Grass Valley, CA
- Lot 111 Ewe Lamb - SWP 05-118, $1050, Bob & Ruth Bleau of Grass Valley, CA
- Lot 112 Ewe Lamb - SWP 05-177, $1175, Bob & Ruth Bleau of Grass Valley, CA

CONSIGNOR # 5
FAHRMEIER FARMS
Lynn & Donna Fahrmeier
Wellington, MO
Prefix-FAH
- Lot 113 Ram Lamb - FAH 05-016, $375, Stapleton Farms of Nickelsville, VA
- Lot 114 Ram Lamb - FAH 05-018, $625, Dave & Sue Ingram of West Plains, MO

CONSIGNOR # 6
MILL BRANCH FARM
Linda O'Brien
Huntingtown, MD
Prefix - MBK
- Lot 115 Ram Lamb - MBK 05-016, $375, Stapleton Farms of Nickelsville, VA
- Lot 116 Ram Lamb - MBK 05-018, $625, Dave & Sue Ingram of West Plains, MO

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17
• Lot 115 Ram Lamb - MBK 19, $500, Terry & Pat Huey of Stendal, IN
• Lot 116 Ram Lamb - MBK 21, $525, Lincoln University of Jefferson City, MO

CONSIGNOR # 7
WADE-JEAN FARM
Donna & Doug Stoneback
Perkiomenville, PA
Prefix - WJF
• Lot 117 Ram Lamb - WJF 0537, $325, Glenn Robison of Peebles, OH
• Lot 119 Ewe Lamb - WJF 0535, $450, Bob & Ruth Bleau of Grass Valley, CA

CONSIGNOR # 8
BUCKEYE ACRES GENETICS
Ron & Carla Young
Van Wert, OH
Prefix - BAG
• Lot 120 Ram Lamb - BAG 396, $525, John Wall - Alma, AR
• Lot 121 Ram Lamb - BAG 387, $500, Joseph Irwin W Terre Haute, IN
• Lot 122 Ewe Lamb - BAG 412, $375, Bob & Ruth Bleau of Grass Valley, CA
• Lot 123 Ewe Lamb - BAG 430, $350, David Ackerman of Andrews, NC

CONSIGNOR # 9
JUBILEE KATAHDINS
Laura & Doug Fortmeyer
Fairview, KS
Prefix - JF
• Lot 127 Ram Lamb - JF 05175, $775, Tom & Linda Fortner of Keokuk, IA
• Lot 128 Ewe Lamb - JF 05078, $700, Bob & Ruth Bleau of Grass Valley, CA
• Lot 129 Ewe Lamb - JF 05185, $875, Bob & Ruth Bleau of Grass Valley, CA

KHSI Board Election Results

We welcome 2 new directors, John Stromquist and Ron Young to the KHSI Board of Directors, and we congratulate Naomi Hawkins on her re-election to the Board. All will serve 3 year terms. We also thank Les Jordan, who completed his term, for his service on the Board.

The KHSI Board Officers for 2006 are:
Barbara Pugh, President
Richard Gilbert, Vice President
Naomi Hawkins, Secretary
David Coplen, Treasurer

Here’s a summary to introduce you to the two brand new members:
John Stromquist (Illinois) has lifelong experience with several sheep breeds including Hampshires, Suffolks and Columbias. His interest in Katahdins began in 2000 and led him to buy Katahdins in 2002. He and his son Steve have now grown the Katahdin flock to more than 50 ewes. They are members of the Scrapie Flock Certification Program and enrolled in NSIP (National Sheep Improvement Program). Over the last 2 years, John worked very hard and contributed a lot of time to making the sanctioned, performance-based Katahdin sale in September this year a great success.

Ron Young (Ohio) has been raising sheep since 1965 when he started his Buckeye Acres farm with Suffolk ewes. He purchased his first Katahdin ewes in 2001, and was very pleased with ease of lambing and maternal qualities of the Katahdins. Therefore in 2003 he began expansion of his hair sheep operations so that today he manages 70 registered Katahdin ewes. His experience with two separate 6 year terms of service on the National Suffolk Board and 11 years on the National Scrapie Oversight Committee will be extremely valuable to the KHSI Board.
2005 Annual Membership Meeting Highlights

Barbara Pugh, North Carolina

The 2005 KHSI Annual Membership Meeting on September 17, 2005 in Versailles, Kentucky was attended by 59 members and 3 guests from 20 states. The Board members present were Richard Gilbert, Acting President; Barbara Pugh, Secretary; David Coplen, Treasurer; Kay Cloyd and Naomi Hawkins. Director Les Jordan was unable to attend the meeting due to Katrina’s impacts on his Mississippi farm.

Sherry Bertramsen, Ag Statistician from the Kentucky Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service gave a report regarding the new questions involving hair sheep on the upcoming Agricultural Census form. She encouraged us to sign up for and complete the Census to increase the numbers of hair sheep involved in the first collection of data.

Richard Gilbert gave the President’s Message, highlighting all the work the BOD and Committees have accomplished this year, especially in the area of promotions. He also thanked everyone involved with the successful first sanctioned Expo and Sale, the educational sessions, and facilities.

David Coplen thanked Richard for taking over when President Larry Weeks resigned during the summer, adding that Richard had done an outstanding job as Acting President. He also explained Director Les Jordan’s absence from the meeting and how Les was still without electric due to hurricane Katrina.

Barbara Pugh recognized the presence of Charles Brown, the manager of the original flock of Katahdins, owned by Michael and Barbara Piel. Charles and other key founders and contributors were honored that evening at the banquet (see article on page 6).

Teresa Maurer presented the Financial Report and the projected 2006 Budget, both approved. The 2006 proposed budget contains an unprecedented $10,000 for the promotion of Katahdins.

Ed Martsolf gave the KHSI Registry Report including the following:

- **2004**
  - Registrations 3489
  - Recordations 828
  - Transfers 1959

- **2005**
  - Registrations 2733
  - Recordations 541
  - Transfers 1505

Ed introduced Carrie Scott, who works with Ed on the Registry and he thanked the membership for continuing to register and record their animals.

Jim Morgan gave the KHSI Operations Office Report, including marketing, membership growth, web site, correspondence, displays, newsletter, Expo support and phone support for buyers, members and potential members.

Richard Gilbert, for the Breed Improvement Committee, presented a report on multiple Katahdin genetic packages used in different management and production systems. He outlined the Core Traits for these packages. He also discussed a future web site addition on the most frequently asked questions about Recording Katahdins.

The Promotions Committee report by Barbara Pugh highlighted better advertising of Katahdins in more magazines and events than ever before, two new banners purchased for use by the membership at Katahdin events and continued improvements to the web site.

Laura Fortmeyer, for the Showing Guidelines Committee, listed the committees ideas and goals associated with expos and sales, and led the members present in a discussion to give the committee ideas and feedback. She thanked the Expo organizing committee especially for their time and effort.

One of the final items at the meeting was a discussion on the 2006 location and date. The membership seemed to favor returning to Kentucky as one option, with other suggestions being Missouri and Maryland. September was chosen as a preferred month to avoid hauling animals in extremely hot months. The KHSI Board also accepted comments regarding ways to increase youth participation.

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KHSI – On the Road and In Print

Since the last newsletter, KHSI has been represented at several locations and publication venues by members of KHSI. The Arkansas Sheep Day sponsored by the Dale Bumpers Small Farm Research Center (USDA-ARS) had two Katahdin displays. Both the South Central Katahdin Association (SCKA) and KHSI were in Booneville AR on October 1. The next weekend, KHSI and SCKA were back on the road again with displays at the North American Hair Sheep Symposium in San Angelo Texas (10/4-10/6). Articles by KHSI board of director members have been in “The Shepherd”, a national publication with international distribution and in “The Sheep Connection”, a regional publication. For 10 days in November, Kay Cloyd displayed Katahdin sheep and hosted a booth at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, KY. KHSI thanks members for writing articles, hosting booths and displaying sheep.
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Introducing

NDS 4484 QR “Pay Day”
Born 12-6-04
Sired by: DJF 226L “Sampson”
Dammed by: NDS 2008
Pictured at 10 months

This young stud is the product of our Canadian-U.S. bloodlines. His combination of soundness, length, depth of body, masculinity, easy fleshing, and growth has us looking forward to his first lamb crop.

His numbers include:
- Birth wt: 12#
- 60 day wt: 60#
- 120 day wt: 124#

His grand dam has been a “work horse” in our flock, lambing 5 times in the 38 months we have owned her, and producing 10 lambs and raising them all!

North Dakota State University
Fargo, North Dakota

Barn: 701-231-7782 • Office: 701-231-7651
Email: sheepbrn@ndsuext.nodak.edu

News Flash
change that to “Lambing 6 times, 12 lambs in 48 months!”
Editor’s Note: We received a wonderful letter from KHSI members, Ruth and Bob Bleau. Here are some excerpts for you to enjoy.

To all our Katahdin Friends:
Bob and I are fairly new to Katahdin sheep breeding and this was the first year we have attended the KHSI EXPO and annual meeting. We had a great time at the conference and we especially valued the educational sessions. The education we received in three days is invaluable to us. We found all of the participants to be very friendly, helpful and informative. We believe that the sharing of information is critical to all breeders and promotes healthier and more productive animals.

As we previewed the auction animals we realized that this was a golden opportunity to acquire some top quality breeding stock from all over the Eastern US to infuse our herd with new blood. However, we had no way to get them to California.

While searching for transportation we were introduced to David Coplen of Birch Cove Katahdins in Fulton, Missouri. David agreed to transport any of our purchases to his farm and care for them until we were able to come and pick them up. This saved us 15 hours of driving and solved the problem of what to do with the animals after the auction until we could come from California with our trailer to pick them up. Without David’s support we would not have been able to accomplish this. We would like to give a very special thank you to David for his support.

I flew back to California on Sunday after the Expo. I left early Tuesday morning and we drove straight through to Missouri, stopping only for rest and food breaks and short naps. We arrived in Fulton on Wednesday evening where we spent the night and got a good night’s sleep. At six o’clock on Thursday morning David kindly helped us load the sheep and we headed back to California. We arrived home at Blue Oaks Ranch on Friday evening after having a tire wheel go bad near Reno and limping home on three wheels of the trailer. All the sheep traveled very well and arrived in excellent condition.

We have had all of our flock gene tested and on October 11 we began our fall breeding program. All the new sheep have integrated well with the flock and are contentedly making babies.

We want to thank all the people who made this very special event possible.

Sincerely,
Ruth and Bob Bleau
Grass Valley, CA

Barbara Pugh, North Carolina

As in the 2005 KHSI Expo Sale, 2006 Expo Sale consignors will be expected to collect information to provide for the sale catalog. Much of the information needed is standard information that most breeders record. Final regulations and deadlines for the sale will be published in a later issue of the Katahdin Hairald, but this article will give you a checklist for the basics so that you don’t miss collecting the information. Deadline for sale entry will be published at a later date.

Breeders consigning Katahdins to the sale will need to provide the following required information on each animal:
• date of birth
• type of birth
• type of rearing (as of 30 days of age)
• dam annual production history of number born/reared
• 60-day weight and date taken.

Optional information includes:
• birth weight
• codon 171/136 tests
• NSIP EPD’s
• 120 day weight and date taken.

Required documentation includes:
• KHSI registration certificate
• documentation of any codon test results (if submitted)
• official notice of enrollment date/status if flock is enrolled in a Scrapie Flock Certification Program.

All consigned animals must have a government issued scrapie program tag. Interstate health papers must accompany animals to the sale. Animals must not be tail-docked or clipped.

Further notes: 60 day weights do not have to be taken exactly at 60 days of age. They can be taken from 45-75 days of age, but prior to weaning. 120 day weights can be taken from 90-150 days of age, but at least 30 days after the 60 day weight. More information can be obtained from KHSI Operations Office at 479-444-8441 If an animal has EPDs, they will be publicized in the Expo Sale Catalog.

Letter of Thanks
KHSI EXPO 2005 Sale Catalog Provided More Performance and Production Information than Standard Sale Catalogs

By Jim Morgan
KHSI Operations Office

The KHSI 2005 Expo Sale was a success. We believe that part of the success can be attributed to requiring more information from the sellers and providing more information for the buyers. Below are samples of sale animals listed in two different formats. First, two animals with fictional data are listed as they would be in a standard national sale catalog. Following that is a listing of these same two animals in the format used for the KHSI 2005 Expo in Versailles Kentucky.

The objective of these listings is to indicate how much information was available for buyers at the KHSI Expo compared to most sales. The sample animals and flocks are fictional. Expected Progeny Differences were not required for the KHSI sale. Required information for the KHSI sale included: KHSI Registration #, Date of Birth, Sire & Dam ID, Dam Date of Birth, Birth/Rear Type, 60 day Weight and Dam Production Record. Additional information was optional, such as Birth Weight, 120 day Weight, Codon 171 and 136 Testing, and EPDs. One animal was enrolled in NSIP, and the other was not. Knowing adjusted weights, dam production records, number born/number raised, and birth type are important for making informed selections. In the KHSI sale, buyers had access to this information. For those consignors that were enrolled in NSIP, EPDs allowed buyers to factor out environment, feed differences and birth type and raising type from the weights of lambs.

While we cannot say that this added information alone increased sale price, the average price for Katahdins at the KHSI 2005 Expo was over $700. The expanded performance information was available and unique to this sale.

KHSI EXPO SALE FORMAT

PREMIER KATAHDINS
Jo & John Doe
479-444-8441
Happy Town TX 00000
SFCP 4/11/00

LEADER KATAHDINS
Sara & Sally Smith
479-444-8441
Leader, FL 00001

001 Ram Lamb – XXX 05 059

002 Spr Ram Lamb

60 day WW 1.1

120 day PW 2.0

60 day MM 1.3

60 day MM+G 1.8

% LC - The Number Born, or Percent Lamb Crop, EPD evaluates genetic potential for prolificacy.

KHSI SALE GLOSSARY AND FOOTNOTES

n/a- not applicable or data not collected

NSIP - National Sheep Improvement Program

SFCP - Scrapie Flock Certification Program, USDA-APHIS

Adj Wt - Adjusted weight. Calculation of adjusted weights uses standard formulas that adjust the weight of a lamb, for sex of lamb, number born, number raised and aged of dam.

EPDs - Expected Progeny Differences are provided by the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP). NSIP genetic evaluation is provided by Dr Dave Notter at Virginia Tech. EPDs evaluate relative performance of animals raised in different flocks and different years. By evaluating “relative performance” and the use of advanced mathematical and statistical analyses, EPDs are more accurate at determining the relative genetic merit of animals than other methods. EPDs factor out environmental differences including but not limited to nutrition, number born/reared, heat and humidity. EPDs are a more accurate estimate of genetic potential for growth than raw weights, adjusted weights and/or mature size.

Using EPDs - A simplified approach is that an animal with a value greater than zero is predicted by NSIP and the standard mathematical practices used to be above the breed average for that performance trait.

EPD Definitions:

WW - 60-Day Weaning Weight EPD

PW - The 120-day Postweaning Weight EPD.

MM - The Maternal Milk EPD provides an indication of the genetic merit for mothering ability and is mostly genetic differences in ewe milk production potential.

M+G - This Milk plus Growth index combines information on weaning weight and maternal milk EPDs.

%LC - The Number Born, or Percent Lamb Crop, EPD evaluates genetic potential for prolificacy.
Resources Corner
List of websites and books for information

We have had several questions in the last few months asking for more basic sheep raising information. In response, we are developing a list of resources for beginning and experienced shepherds. Good information is now available at different websites and, for those who have Internet access, the need to have a hard copy library is decreasing. Many new Katahdin owners are requesting information on fencing, health and facilities. Due to time limitations, KHSI Operations is unable to mail or write about all these topics. In the next several issues of the Hairald and at the KHSI Website, several resources for sheep producers will be identified.

Increasingly, state and provincial agricultural educators will be posting information to the internet. We understand that many shepherds don’t have a computer or have a computer hooked up to the internet. However, more and more public institutions have internet available. For example, most public libraries have resource staff that will help individuals find websites and navigate computers. Libraries also offer interlibrary loan services that allow you to check out sheep books available from other libraries. In future issues, we will add resources for our Canadian members as well. We plan to provide listings for more books, publications, websites and other information sources. Please send us titles or locations of your favorite books, websites and publications!

1. Printed Books & Publications
   a. SID Sheep Production Handbook. 2002. Now on CD and searchable. (The CD makes up for the lack of an index in the book and using the search function is better than a website) – Available from American Sheep Industry Website, [www.sheepusa.org](http://www.sheepusa.org) or by calling 303-771-3500. Includes 10 chapters on genetics, reproduction, predator control, nutrition, health, management, facilities and marketing.
   c. General Fencing Information – Lots of sources. Every farm/ranch is different and fencing needs evolve over time. Information on fencing is available in the SID Sheep Production Handbook mentioned above. Another source is the Premier catalog. The Premier catalog is an excellent place to start. While we don’t agree with all their recommendations as being the best, they are not far off in our opinion. Read the Premier Catalog and then price out sources that provide similar materials or slightly better options. [www.premier1supplies.com](http://www.premier1supplies.com), 800-282-6631 or 319-653-7622 for your free catalog. ATTRA (see info on the program in the website section) has a free publication on livestock fencing and you can call 1-800-346-9140 to request your copy.
   d. The Veterinary Book for Sheep Farmers. 1990. David Henderson. Old Pond Publishing. Distributed in North America by Diamond Farm Book Publishers, Alexandria Bay NY. Written by a DVM in Great Britain. Very comprehensive and appropriate for the shepherd who prefers more information and lots of pictures. Since, it is written for Britain, there are minor mismatches for terminology (e.g. Orf instead of sore mouth, gimmers, hoggs, hill flocks) and a few diseases that are present in North American, but not in Great Britain and vice versa. But still our favorite book for understanding sheep health issues.
   e. Gates’ Practical Guide to Sheep Disease Management. 2000. 3rd Ed. N Gates, GF Kennedy, GD Sronk, JD Bobb, BR Kerkaert, JL Goelz. Midstates Printing, Aberdeen, SD. 3rd Edition is edited by Doc Kennedy and the Pipestone Vet clinic. Good explanations of the common diseases associated with sheep production with practical treatment and prevention guidelines. Information in this book is more directly applicable to commercial flocks that are drylotting ewes during winter and/or feeder lambs and those with more biosecurity risks such as showing or regular buying of animals from sale barns. Flocks with sheep always on range or pasture or with fewer biosecurity risks may not need the aggressive vaccination or preventative measures suggested. This book has more information on doses in a practical format than most sheep health books.
2. **Websites** -
   a. **Body condition scoring.** A key tool to use for determining if ewes are getting enough or too much to eat.  [http://eesc.orst.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/ec1433.pdf](http://eesc.orst.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/ec1433.pdf)
      A great visual guide and explanation for doing Body Condition Scoring in sheep. Can download from this website to your computer and print. Oregon State University Extension.
   b. **Spreadsheet to calculate 60 day adjusted weights.** Richard Stewart, a KHSI member, has written a very useful Excel Spreadsheet for doing 60 day adjusted weights. He has incorporated adjustment factors provided by NSIP Genetic Evaluation Center (Virginia Tech research group, Dr David Notter). [http://www.kansaskatahdins.com](http://www.kansaskatahdins.com) (more information is available in the article on page 26, “Free Software” in this issue of the Katahdin Hairald.)
   c. **Maryland Small Ruminant Webpage** [http://www.sheepandgoat.com](http://www.sheepandgoat.com) - Excellent resource. One of the key small ruminant websites in the world developed by Maryland Sheep Extension and KHSI member, Susan Schoenian. Regular newsletter can be read on line or printed.
   d. **American Sheep Industry (ASI)** - [www.sheepusa.org](http://www.sheepusa.org). The largest sheep producers organization in the USA.
   e. **ATTRA National Sustainable Agricultural Information Service** – Site for publications, information and resources for agricultural practices that promote sustainable & organic agriculture and decrease dependence on chemicals. There are publications on sustainable small ruminant production, marketing, grazing, guardian animals, fencing, pasture and soil management and many others. NCAT-ATTRA also features a toll free 800 phone number that ranchers, farmers, extension agents and other agricultural professionals can use to call and ask specific questions that are not covered in their publications. [www.attra.ncat.org](http://www.attra.ncat.org) 800-346-9140. They have a free CD on small ruminant production that can be mailed.
   f. **Southern Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control** – Excellent for up-to-date information on internal parasite control in sheep and goats. Use of FAMACHA, Copper Oxide, Tannins and Fungi to assist in the control of internal parasites is discussed. [http://www.scsrpc.org/](http://www.scsrpc.org/)
   g. **Oregon State University Extension – Sheep Page** [http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/livestock/sheep.php](http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/livestock/sheep.php)

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**Silver Katahdin Jewelry Piece - Holiday Sale!**

Would you like a special remembrance or gift for your favorite Katahdin raiser? Thanks to KHSI member, Cesar Sandoval, we have a new promotional item to offer. This beautiful 3 dimensional silver ram’s head is cast in pure Mexican silver and it is about ½” long. It has been hung on necklace links and made into earrings but it could be used on a charm bracelet or incorporated into a pin, cufflinks or other pieces—use your imagination! The holiday sale price of each silver piece (comes in its own box) is $15 plus shipping (about $4). A portion of each purchase is donated back to KHSI. These can be ordered by emailing khsint@earthlink.net or calling 479-444-8441.
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 February 1 to Operations: 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net.

**Classified Ads**

**SHEEP WANTED**

**LOUISIANA**

Registered Katahdin Ram. Above Average growth (180+lbs at one Year or 300+lbs at two year) White, Polled, A coat, twin, Sire & Dam with A/AA coats, prefer records, black hooves, enrolled in SFCP & NSIP Programs, genotyped at codon 171 RR or QR. Mark Dennis (337)364-0422 or denn907@bellsouth.net

**CALIFORNIA**

Registered Katahdin Ram. Registered Katahdin Ram from Katahdin NSIP Flock. In the top 10% for growth EPDs at 60 & 120 day and prolificacy. 60 day Weaning Wt greater than 1.1, 120 day Post-Weaning Wt greater than 1.8 and % Lamb crop -5% to +5%. Ram should be white, polled with an A coat and Sire and Dam with A/AA coats. Prefer records, black hooves, enrolled in SFCP, genotyped at codon 171 RR or QR. Mark Dennis (337)364-0422 or denn907@bellsouth.net

**SHEEP FOR SALE**

**CALIFORNIA**

Northern California. Registered Breeding Ewes & Ram. Seven proven ewes and 1 ram. Ewes bred to lamb in January. Contact Kathy Jaskot, Browns Valley CA 530-741-2692, kjaskot@infostations.com.

Registered flock. 2 yr proven ram and 13 ewes, ages up to 2 yrs, most proven, most bred for Jan.-Feb. lambs. Sell individually or as package. Also two llamas. Details and pricing info at www.serpentinefarm.com or call 530-268-9004

**GEORGIA**

Registered 05 Ewe Lambs. Ewes: 1 Jan. 05 $300 and 7 April 05 $300 each-excellent bloodlines. 4 years in volunteer scrapie program SFCP and in NSIP. Contact Barbara Powell, c.f.powell@att.net or 706-663-9127

Registered 05 Ram Lambs. January RR twin born ram lamb $400 and January QR twin born for $300 - Both are well muscled with good hair coats and very gentle. We are in our fourth year volunteer scrapie program (SFCP) and participate in NSIP. Contact: Barbara Powell - c.f.powell@att.net

**ILLINOIS**

Registered Yearling RR Katahdin Ram. Lex is all an all white, large framed yearling ram that has completed his second breeding season (which runs all year long in my flock). He tested RR for the scrapie gene and is $400. I also have a few March 2005 sons of Lex left for $250. I am keeping Lex’s daughters in the flock, and am looking forward to the next lamb crop. The flock is enrolled in the SFCP. Lost Creek Livestock Carlyle, Illinois. For more info, please contact me, Kelly Isaak, at lostcreek@netwitz.net or 618-495-2938.

**INDIANA**

SE Indiana. Registered 2 Year-Old Katahdin Ewes. Bred to QR Ram and will lamb in Feb.$300.00 HAW@Seidata.com 812-839-3639

SE Indiana. Registered Mature Black Ram and Ram Lambs. 3yr old black QR ram NICE $450.00 Reg. ram lambs, Jan-Feb born, brown-black- white- your choice $200.00 HAW@Seidata.com 812-839-3639

**IOWA**

NE Iowa. Registerable Ram Lamb. May born out of Bull’s flock in Iowa. Born and raised 100% on pasture. SFCP. Reddish coat with white feet. $250. Contact Darin and Danielle Rulapaugh, 319-240-3564 or 319-635-2176. ddfje@iowatelecom.com or www.suaspontefarm.com

**SW IDAHO**

Registered or Commercial Ram/ Ram Lamb. Need a ram ready to go. froghorn@froghorn.com (208.793.2630) Lauren Johansson

**SW VIRGINIA**

15 Registered Ewes and Ram. Within 300 miles of SW Virginia and will travel to North & South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky and Maryland. Contact Vincent Gilmer, 276-889-2505 or vgilmer58@yahoo.com of Lebanon VA.
### SHEEP FOR SALE

**Pasture raised, not grained. Good body length & beautiful smooth coat. $300. Tom/Linda Fortner. tfortner@interl.net 319-524-6299.**

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**Central Kansas. Registered RR Ram Lambs and QQ Ewe Lambs. February/March ’05 Selected Ram lamb for sale. He is a twin lamb from a good framed, productive ewe and has exhibited growthiness and balanced structure; he is genotyped RR/AA at Codon 171/136. Four commercial registered ewe lambs (QQ). Tom & Virginia Street, Meadowlark Farm, Sedgwick KS, (316) 796-0659.**

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**Kentucky. Registered Ram Lambs. Three ram lambs. 7/8ths Katahdin ramlamb (March born). All QR, white-two with black hooves. 60 and 120 day weights available. Member Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP- 4.5 years) and NSIP (one year). Contact Kay Cloyd 859-254-2840 or kaycloyd@cs.com.**

Registered Ram Lambs. 3 Ram lambs: 2 RR, 1 QR, all March born twins, black and white. $300-$350. We also have 3 Katahdin/White Dorper percentage ram lambs, white, good commercial breeding stock,$250.Shepherd’sDream, Martin & Stacia Fadgett, 270-737-8412 (leave message), ashepherdssdream@aol.com.

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**Mid-Missouri. Registered and Commercial Rams and Commercial Ewes. Feb 2005 born. Mid Missouri region. Priced $175.00 - $225.00. Contact James Willhoit 660-248-5276 or jamiewilhoit@hotmail.com.**

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**New York. Registered RR & QR Ram Lambs. 2 RR, 2 QR. Born April 2005; all are from twin births. All tested OPP negative. Entire flock tested for OPP on August 2005. All are white except one RR who is brown. We are a SFCP flock and our sheep are grass fed and extremely healthy and happy. $350 for RR and $325 for QR. We also have some beautiful brown QQs and black and white QQs. We are located in upstate NY on the Vermont border. Photos available on request. Please contact michaelkatz@direcway.com or call 518-642-0150. Summerfield Farm, North Hebron, NY.**

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**Oklahoma. Commercial Two Year-old Ewes. Eighty two year old ewes for sale. Buyer top-picks from 150. Ewes selected from a long-established forage operation on the Texas-Oklahoma border that did not use anthelmintics or grain. Contact David Lewis in Talula, OK. David@GooseIslandFarm.com 918-275-8113.**

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**Pennsylvania. Registered Spring Born Ram Lambs. Spring born ram lambs - meaty, twins out of twins. White or colored. Some QR. Nice hair coats. (Sire from Country Oak Ranch, Mark Dennis). We’re just off I-80 and Route 220. Contact Ken and Lilae Shope, Bellefonte, Centre County, PA.**

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Continued on page 26
Free Software for Doing Katahdin Specific 60 Day Adjusted Weights

By Richard Stewart, KHSI Member from Kansas

The Katahdin Hairald, Vol 15 # 4, Fall 2003, ran an article by Jim Morgan explaining how to evaluate lambs under differing conditions of litter size, age of ewe, number raised and lamb sex. Dave Notter, PhD and coworkers at Virginia Tech and the Genetic Evaluation Center for the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) provided Katahdin breeders with adjustment factors specific for the Katahdin breed, which increases accuracy of adjusted weights. These Katahdin specific adjustment factors are derived from thousand of lamb records provided by the Katahdin breeders who submit data to NSIP. We used the information to track our lamb crop from this spring and are finding the 60 day adjusted weights are a fairly accurate method for forecasting lamb development.

The table of adjustment factors and the indexing (sex, ewe age, litter size and rearing environment) required a lot of time, a calculator and entirely too many 'oops factors' for our taste. To expedite the process we devised a spread sheet page for Excel and adapted it to Microsoft Works as well.

You can download a copy of either or both files here for your use. Both files are setup for an 800 x 600 page size so you may want to do some adjustment to make the sheet better fit your screen. A "Readme.txt" file helps with the use of the spreadsheet. If you change the layout be sure to check the "ReadMe.txt" file -- it will tell you which rows or columns should be left alone.

The Excel version has one macro to help with printing -- Works doesn’t have macro features. Both files and their companion ReadMe.txt file were zipped and converted into self extracting archives. Simply download your choice then mouse click the name. You’ll need to tell the extractor where to install the contents.

If these files prove useful we’ll replace them with more automated versions. Please let us know if you have any difficulties using the spreadsheet. Richard Stewart at 12062 K-16 Hwy, Valley Falls, KS 66088 or to rstewart@giantcomm.net.

Hairald Editor’s Notes. This Excel Spreadsheet works very well and sure saves a lot of calculator time or time programming your own computer spreadsheet. You can download the Excel Spreadsheet from Richard Stewart’s website, www.kansaskatahdins.com. Make sure that the file has the .exe extension before double clicking, otherwise the file will not self extract. Richard is looking for feedback. The formulas for calculating 60 day adjusted weights are standard for the industry and can be taken from several publications, one being the SID Handbook for Sheep Production available from American Sheep Industry (see the Resources Corner article on page 22 in this issue of the Hairald). You can send comments about the spreadsheet for doing adjusted weights or questions to Richard at 12062 K-16 Hwy, Valley Falls, KS 66088 or to rstewart@giantcomm.net. Note we plan to work with Richard to also provide 120 day adjusted weights in his Excel Spreadsheet in the future.
The Katahdin Hairald is the official publication of Katahdin Hair Sheep International, whose purposes are to:
• register individual Katahdin sheep and record performance
• maintain the distinct identity of the Katahdin breed
• assist in promotion and marketing
• encourage research and development related to the breed

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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 at other times 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- 5 pm. Answering machine and FAX accessible 24 hours.

KHSI Committees: (Call 479-444-8441 to volunteer!)
Breed Improvement, Shepherd Education, Promotions, Expo/Sale Committee
Wishing you and yours a safe and joyous holiday season.