Barbara Pugh, President

A check with Mr. Webster’s dictionary provides definitions as follows: **diverse** - differing from one another; **together** - as a unit. Those happen to be the definitions I picked at this particular moment to use in this note about the sheep industry, the people, and the animals.

Katahdin folks and their animals certainly fit the diverse definition. We are small flocks, large flocks, commercial flocks, research flocks; some animals are white, some spotted, some various shades of brown, some speckled; body types, haircoats, and carcass qualities also differ. Also, let me not forget that some are grass-fed, some are grain-fed, some a combination of both. The differences go on and on. The folks, and their attitudes and goals, who produce these sheep are equally as diverse.

Political correctness will not allow me to go down that path. Katahdin producers are a part of “growing” the sheep industry. For the second year in a row the sheep flock inventory has shown an increase. Recently I was able to attend the American Sheep Industry Convention. The theme for that convention had been “Strength in Numbers” and the convention included representation of ASI, American Lamb Board, National Lamb Feeders Association, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, and Western Range Association. These might be some entities which we don’t think too much about when we’re thinking about “our” Katahdins. Some of their needs and goals you might assume are different from ours; but there are also the similarities in production issues, health issues, National Animal Identification, legislative action and representation to only name a few possibilities. Together the people who have woolled sheep and the people who have hairsheep grow and improve the entire sheep industry.

Serving the needs of the diverse Katahdin group continues to be a goal of the Board. The Board, too, is diverse. Together we can accomplish more.

KHSI is pleased to release the 2005 Photo Contest Winners. Photographs were judged by the KHSI Promotions committee. Some of the winning shots can be found in this issue of the Katahdin Hairald. One photo has already made the cover of The Shepherd Magazine. We thank all the participants for submitting their photos. Winners will receive KHSI dollars that they can use to buy promotional items, or to pay for registrations, transfers or membership. First prize winners receive $50, second place, second place $25 and third place $10.

We will be repeating the photo contest in 2006. So, tune up your camera and start taking pictures. There will be two new classes this year. For the new shedding class,
Below are listed the KHSI Certified Hair Coat Inspectors. Requirements for being a certified hair coat inspector include being a member in good standing for two years and passing hair coat inspection training. Certification lasts for 3 years. Inspectors can obtain permanent status, if they take a training 3 or more years after the first. KHSI inspectors function as our KHSI ambassadors when they inspect flocks. Inspectors are taught to know the KHSI regulations for recordation and registration and to differentiate between A, B and C coated Katahdins. We thank the following members and also all those who have served as inspectors in the past.

Charles Adams .......... Alabama
Jeff Bielek.......................... Ohio
Kathy Bielek.................. Ohio
Mike Bradley......... Pennsylvania
Charles Brown ............... Maine
Steve Bull ...................... Iowa
Charles Calley .......... Vermont
Nancy Case .............. Missouri
Kay Cloyd ............... Kentucky
David Coplen .......... Missouri
Carolyn Cook ............ Missouri
Howard Covington......... Texas
Mark Dennis ................. Louisiana
Raphael Duhon.............. Louisiana
Mac Allen Edwards ....... Missouri
Robert Elliott .............. Texas
Harry Fisher .............. Pennsylvania
Lynn Fahmeier .......... Missouri
Laura Fortmeyer .......... Kansas
Joyce Geiler ............... Illinois
Richard Gilbert .......... Ohio
Jean Hamm ................. Alberta
Tim Hamm ................. Alberta
Naomi Hawkins .......... Ohio
Sue Ingram ................. Missouri
Darlene Jordan ....... Saskatchewan
Les Jordan ............... Mississippi
Randi Jordan ........... Saskatchewan
Joey Kelmer ............. Alabama
Rhonda Kelmer .......... Alabama
Billy Lansdell ............ Arkansas
Frances Landsell ....... Arkansas
Jim Lovelace .......... Missouri
Ed Martsolf .......... Arkansas
Jennifer Martsolf .... Arkansas
Tom Mewbourne .......... Virginia
James Morgan .......... Arkansas
Linda Neunzig .......... Washington
Barbara Powell .......... Georgia
Barbara Pugh .......... North Carolina
Imogene Ray .......... Missouri
Shannon Richardson .... Alberta
Carl Rosenkoetter ... Missouri
Cesar Sandoval .......... Zacatecas
Sharon Schafer .......... Saskatchewan
Susan Schoenian .......... Maryland
Michael Seipel .......... Missouri
Patricia Sienkiewicz ...... Virginia
Thaddeus “Ted” Sienkiewicz .... Virginia
Clarence Smart .......... South Carolina
Anthony Speyrer .......... Louisiana
Donna Stoneback .... Pennsylvania
Jerry Stoner ............ California
John Stromquist .......... Illinois
Mary Van Anrooy .......... Arkansas
Carey Wall ............ Arkansas
Larry Weeks .......... Virginia
Lisa Weeks .......... Virginia
Jeff White .......... Vermont
Glenn Wiygul .......... Mississippi
Sherrie Wiygul .......... Mississippi
Karleen Wolf .......... Kansas
Richard Wolf .......... Kansas
Ron Young .......... Ohio

2006 KHSI Certified Hair Coat Inspectors Recognized

2005 Photo Contest Winners, continued from page 1

take a few good pictures of Katahdins that demonstrate shedding. Also, we would like to reward our young photographers. We also have an Open Class in which only those who are younger than 18 and whose families belong to KHSI can submit. The full description of the photo contest will run in our Spring issue of the Katahdin Hairald. Photos are to be submitted on a CD.

2006 KHSI Certified Hair Coat Inspectors Recognized

3rd – Opal, Darla Noble, MO

KIDS AND SHEEP
(children must be under 18)

1st Tie – Fast Friends, Karen Kenagy, OR
1st Tie – Emma Showing Sheep, Darla Noble, MO
3rd – Feeder, Tina Howard, IN

OPEN CATEGORY

1st – Picture Pretty, Karen Kenagy, OR
2nd – Ram in Light, John Stromquist, IL
3rd – Fudge’s Twins, Joyce Geiler, IL

AGE

1st – Estampeda - Javier Lara, Queretaro, MX
2nd – Feeder Girls – Cathy Stahlman, IA
3rd – Baby’s Triplets – Darla Noble, MO

BEST PROMOTION OF KATAHDINS

1st - Julie & Twins , Joyce Geiler, IL
2nd - Twins, Cathy Stahlman, IA
3rd - Winter Ewes, Cathy Stahlman, IA

SCENIC

1st - First Snow, John Stromquist, IL
2nd - Lambs 2, Karen Kenagy, OR
3rd – “Estampeda”
Photography by Javier Lara, Queretaro, MX
2005 KHSI Photo Contest
First Place - Action
Requirements to enter the 2006 KHSI Sanctioned Sale are listed below. Animals will sell on September 16th, 2006. There will be more information on the sale in the Spring Hairald. The consignment forms will be posted at the KHSI website, www.khsi.org and available from KHSI Operations later in the year. If you have any questions, contact Jim Morgan in the KHSI Operations Office, 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net

- KHSI registered Katahdins are eligible. Members can also consign 87.5% ewe lambs
- Sale animals must not be docked or clipped
- Accurate recording of date of birth, type of birth (1-2-3-4), and type of rearing (0-1-2-3-4 measured at 30 days of age) must be provided for each animal
- Dam production records will be needed (number lambs born/reared each year of production)
- 60-day weight must be provided (taken on or around 60 days of age; 45-90 days of age, but prior to weaning). The date at which this weight is taken must be recorded.
- Birthweights and 120 day weights are optional, but are recommended.
- Consignment Fee of $20. Maximum of 2 animals/class. Classes include: Rams & Ewes for the following ages. Yearlings (9/1/04-8/31/05), Fall (9/1/05-12/31/05), Jan 1-Feb 15 born, Feb 15-Mar 31 born, April 1 and after. Separate class for 87.5% ewe lambs
- Other information required includes Interstate Health Certificates and Mandatory or Scrapie Flock Certification Program Tags

Coat Inspection Requests Due May 15th
Those members that have sheep that need coat inspection of sheep during 2006 should make inspection requests to the KHSI Operations Office by May 15th. Only sheep that are recorded at 87.5% require inspection before they can be registered. Sheep are inspected when they are a year of age and between May 1st and September 30th. Only certified inspectors can inspect for hair coat. Inspections are requested through the Operations Office at 479-444-8441

White Post Farms

Over 75 lambs on the ground at this time, and 25 ewes still to come in, well over a 200 per cent lamb crop.

You have an invitation to come and see our flock

• all R/R or Q/R
• all our lambs will be DNA tested

John and Steve Stromquist
White Post Farm
Durand, IL 61024
Ph 815-629-2159
e-mail j.stromquist@worldnet.att.net

Congratulations to Carrie Scott, our new Registrar

We are in the NSIP program, also SFCP.
Buying and Sale Venues for Katahdins in 2006

There are several buying and sale venues for Katahdins in 2006 that have been directed to our attention. KHSI periodically posts information on sheep sales as a public service. Posting sale and event information does not imply endorsement or verification of the claims of any sale or event. KHSI encourages the use of performance records and production data as the primary means of selecting sheep instead of using visual appraisal typical of most shows, sales, and auctions. Sales and events posted are not sanctioned by KHSI unless otherwise noted.

4/15/06 - North American Hair Sheep Association Sale Hamilton, TX.
Contact Philip Glass, P.O. Box 218, Water Valley, TX 76958 325-465-4267 Commercial and registered hair sheep can be consigned or bought.

6/17/06 - Scott County Hair Sheep Association 4th Annual Production Sale Gate City, VA.
Contact Pete Odle, Sale Chairman, 267-452-2772. Mostly commercial, some registered, some crosses. Ewes, bred ewes, ewe lambs, ewes with lambs at side and a few select rams.

6/21/06 - Midwest Stud Ram Sale, Sedalia, MO 573-442-8257 or www.breedersworld.com

7/08/06 - Center of the Nation NSIP Sale Spencer, IA.
Only breeds and sheep with EPDs (expected progeny differences) from the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) can sell. For more information, contact Banner Sale Management Service. PO Box 500, Cuba, IL 61427, 309-785-5058. Find the catalog in March at www.bannersheepmagazine.com. Entries due May 1st.

9/16/06 – Second Annual KHSI Sanctioned Sale at the Katahdin Expo at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri.
Contact KHSI Operations 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net for more information. Read about the information needed to consign animals to the sale on page 3 in this issue of the Hairald. Performance information will be available and required for each entry.

Dad,
How do you do it? At first, I wasn’t sure I could keep up, but I did good. My new boss seems very pleased. I’m recovering and just relaxing now—soaking up the California sun. There ought to be 40 or 50 little lambs running around here soon.
Say hello to Ma and Boss Stromquist.
— Lincoln
The KHSI Annual Expo, complete with educational presentations, the 2006 KHSI Sanctioned Sale and the KHSI Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Carver Farm located at Lincoln University in Jefferson City Missouri. Lincoln University, a member of KHSI with a Katahdin flock, has extended their welcome to all KHSI members to attend. The host committee led by KHSI Board Member, David Coplen, is setting the program now. Most events for the KHSI Expo will be held at Carver Farm.

The outline of the Expo is listed below. The host committee is in the process of confirming speakers and topics. More detailed information to follow in the Spring and Summer Katahdin Hairalds.

Thursday 9/14 – KHSI Board Meeting or Tour
The Tour will go to the State of Missouri Capitol Building, Historic Corps of Discovery Route (Lewis and Clark) and will end at a local Restaurant/Winery at “Bull Rock”. The restaurant is located on the Lewis & Clark Walking Path.

Friday 9/15 – Educational Program and KHSI Annual Membership Meeting
Topics to be covered include presentations on the a) Economics of lamb production comparing forage, grain-based/full feed and accelerated lambing systems, b) Economics of marketing comparing marketing at the sale barn, whole freezer lamb and by the cut, c) Selecting genetics for lamb and breeding stock production which will include classes on introduction to EPDs and using EPDs (expected progeny differences) and d) Carcass evaluation

Saturday 9/16 – KHSI Sanctioned Sale, FAMACHA Training, Coat Inspector Training. There will be presentations on visual evaluation, using the performance information provided in the sale catalog and time to look over the sale animals. The sale will be followed by FAMACHA training (an easy method for determining if a sheep needs deworming) and Hair Coat Inspector Training at Birch Cove Farm, hosted by David Coplen and Carol Fulkerson. A lamb barbecue will follow the trainings.

The Expo Hotel is the Best Western Capitol Inn in Jefferson City. Please call and reserve your room and ask for the “National Sheep Conference”. (573) 635-4175. Tune into the next Katahdin Hairald for more details as our 2006 Expo comes to life!
What Coat/Fiber Type is Needed for the Commercial No-Shear Ewe?

Replacing Lamb Pelt Credit and More with a Premium Leather Market

By James Morgan, PhD

Does it have to be 100% hair? Does it have to shed completely?

The short answer is that there is a dearth of information. Producers do not know the fiber type array needed in hair sheep skins to provide leather for the high end USA civilian and military consumer. For meat lamb production, complete shedding is not necessary in most environments or management systems. Producers looking to eliminate the expense and labor required for shearing, docking and crutching do not require a ewe or lamb that is 100% hair or sheds completely.

Hair sheep skin characteristics are unique and highly valued for producing high-end leather apparel and upholstery. The USA Armed Forces specifies hair sheep leather as a component of many apparel items and upholstery. The use is significant. Dr Dennis Shelly of Texas Tech University’s Leather Research Institute estimates that 500,000 salted hair sheep skins are imported each year to meet the current demands of US Military contracts, alone.

What is unique about hair sheep leather? Mr. Constantin Rosu, of the W. B. Place/Day Leather Company at the North American Hair Sheep Symposium on October 7th, 2005 explained that leather from wool sheep is much softer than leather from goats and cattle but does not have the tensile strength needed for many leather products. Tanned hair sheep leather combines the desired attribute of softness that is found with wool sheep leather with the strength typical of leather from haired species such as goats or cattle. Skins from wool sheep contain a high density of the secondary hair follicle and less elastin. The secondary hair follicle is the source of wool fiber and elastin is a protein found in the skin. Both the high density of the wool follicles and the lowered amount of elastin result in leather from wool sheep having less strength. The decreased strength of wool sheep leather reduces its usefulness for certain products.

What percentage of hair versus wool is needed in the skin used for premium hair sheep leather production for high end leather markets? If the sheep seedstock industry had this answer, they would know the fiber type to select for and the cross-bred breeding schemes usable for lamb meat production while still producing a valued skin. The economics and marketing systems required to obtain value for hair sheep leather skins will be briefly addressed later in this article. Various experts have placed a value of a raw hair sheep skin at $5-$20. This premium can replace the value of a wool lamb pelt.

Emphasizing selection for a pure hair coat type reduces selection intensity for performance traits for improved meat production. Strongly selecting for hair in composite hair sheep ewes (e.g. Katahdin, wool x hair crosses) means de-emphasizing selection for pounds of lamb weaned per ewe. Ewes and lambs do not need to shed completely to eliminate shearing, crutching and docking.

At the North American Hair Sheep Symposium in San Angelo Texas October 6-8th, a hair sheep leather coat priced at $1200 contained 9 skins. Significant numbers of hair sheep skins are required by the US Department of Defense and high end civilian leather products such as golf gloves and coats. A portion of the leather components of fighter pilot helmets, seat upholstery and gloves are specified by the USA Department of Defense to be made from hair sheep leather. Currently, this leather is imported as salted skins from Africa, tanned and finished to industry specifications. Little if any hair sheep leather is provided by animals raised in North America.

Results of a preliminary study of leather quality of skins were presented at the North American Hair Sheep Symposium in San Angelo, Texas on October 7th, 2006 by Texas Tech. Tanned leather from lambs of various percentages of shedding, hair and wool were compared (50% Rambouillet x 25% St Croix x 25% Dorper; 25% Rambouillet x 25% St.Croix x 37.5% Dorper; 50% Barbados Blackbelly x 25% St. Croix x 25% Dorper; and 87.5% Dorper x 12.5% Barbados Blackbelly).

Dr. Shelly stated, "There were differences in leather quality of these crosses, but they were minimal and overall leather quality was good. However, there were significant differences on the basis of genetic defects of the skins. The 50% Rambouillet cross yielded skins with 50% more defects than the other three cross breeds, which gave comparable leather grade scores. Surprisingly, there was essentially no correlation between extent of hair coverage and softness (a typical wool sheep trait) of the resulting leather."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8
North Dakota State University

NDSU 2064 with her 2 month old and 10 month old daughters

an example of our accelerated lambing program combined with the important maternal traits the Katahdin breed possess

NSIP enrolled • Certified Voluntary Scrapie Free Flock since 4/15/2000

Look for NDSU at the Midwest Stud Ram Sale in June
KHSI National Meeting in September

We will have 40-50 January born ewe lambs available for sale from our commercial Katahdin flock of 150 ewes. These will all be multiple births, either RR or QR/AA genotype, and sired by sons of 038 and Sampson. These lambs are 7/8 to 100% Katahdin.

Sheep are also available for sale privately. Check with us for details and help with delivery, if desired.

For more information, please contact:

NDSU Animal Science Department • 100 Hultz Hall, Fargo, North Dakota 58105
Wes Limesand, Flock Manager • Sheep Barn: (701) 231-7782 • Sheepbrn@ext.ndsu.edu
Bert Moore • Office: (701) 231-7651
These results left many in the audience wondering: how much hair was needed in the coat to obtain a high quality leather. This dilemma draws attention to two very different issues: skins with defects will make leather with defects and what about the data from all wool versus all hair. If the study had included skins from lambs that were 100% wool (Rambouillet) and 100% hair (Barbados Blackbelly and St Croix), more would be known about the fiber characteristics in the leathers produced from these skins. But, genetic defects must be avoided if one is to have the greatest likelihood of making the finest quality leather; thus the 25% Rambouillet cross was effectively the “practical limit” in this regard because the 50% Rambouillet had half-again as many defects.

A partial answer to the question of why cross-bred lambs with different percentages of wool and hair produce similar quality leather may lie in a study cited by Dr Maurice Shelton, Emeritus Professor Texas A&M San Angelo. Dr Shelton spoke on the first day of the North American Hair Sheep Symposium and cited a study that found that 90% of the wool fleece is lost in the first cross of a true tropical hair sheep and a wool sheep. This study found that hair is dominant over wool. Is the 90% loss in density of the secondary wool follicle enough to get a high performance leather product?

Hair/shedding sheep skins do have value but to realize that value, skins will need to be collected by the packers, brined/salted and transported to the tanners in numbers that pay for this distribution system. This is already being done for wool lamb pelts. For the sheep producer to receive top value, there will need to be cooperative marketing, market development and merchandising. If the producers retained ownership through at least part of the process of going from a raw skin to a finished product, more financial return could be provided to the producers. If the producer receives 10-15% of the finished value of the raw product that goes into a 9 skin $1200 leather coat, then $15-$20 is a reasonable skin credit. Hair sheep producers have the Berry Amendment on their side. The Berry Amendment requires that if a domestically produced product exists, the US Armed Forces are required to buy the domestic product. This has been used by the wool industry to require the US Defense Department to source wool apparel from domestic sources. The same can be done with hair sheep leather. For those wool sheep producers that are not making money producing wool, developing a skin credit might replace the value of the lamb (wool) pelt.

The Texas Hair Sheep Association, newly renamed as the North American Hair Sheep Association, has received two grants from USDA to work on value-adding for marketing hair sheep skins. These initiatives are stimulating hair sheep leather research and market development.

To help direct the genetic selection of the fiber type for the no-shear ewe in North America, the agricultural research community needs to investigate the following: a) How much wool fiber can be tolerated in the skin of a lamb and still provide a premium leather? b) Can the skin from a lamb produced by a terminal wool sire x hair ewe cross result in a premium leather skin? and c) Are there any genotype x environmental effects? That is, will colder environments increase density of wool and decrease the quality of leather.

Harvesting premium leather from hair sheep lambs raised in the USA to make military products, fighter pilot helmets, golf gloves and other high-end apparel can increase income for the sheep producer. It is worth ending this article with a question asked by Dr Charles Parker, Emeritus Director of the US Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho. “Will the value from the leather be the third lamb from a hair sheep ewe?”

The author would like to thank Drs. Charles Parker, Dennis Shelly and Than-Kai Velan Palanisamy for comments on an earlier draft of this article. Misuse of leather and skin terminology is definitely not the fault of Drs. Shelly or Palanisamy. James Morgan raises Katahdins in Northwest Arkansas and works for Katahdin Hair Sheep International.
Hair Sheep Field Day in NE Oklahoma is a Success

Brother Joseph-Marie Owen presented results of a two year project funded by a USDA-SSARE Producer Grant (Southern Sustainable Agriculture, Research and Education) to 169 attendees on January 14th. The Clear Creek Monastery is 1000 acres of rocks, trees and a little soil. Raising sheep on this land is a significant challenge. Brother Joseph told listeners the Monastery’s approaches to economical fencing and using controlled burning and agroforestry to increase grazing land. Part of the grant was to investigate how grazing brush and forested land can be used to break gastrointestinal parasite cycles. A dominant theme of the 6 hour field day was how producers can decrease expenditures for fencing, working facilities and improving forage. The Clear Creek Monastery joined KHSI in 2004. Several KHSI members were present and KHSI materials disappeared quickly.

2005 KHSI Expo Sale Totals Corrected

The sale results previously issued in the Fall 2005 Katahdin Hairald contained an error for the sale totals on September 17, 2005. Included in the early figures released was an animal which did not reach the seller’s floor price and was considered to be a “No Sale”. The corrected totals are 25 animals sold for a total of $17,625. Average sale price per animal was $705.

If you want to find out about how the 2007 or 2008 KHSI Expo can come to your area
Contact KHSI Operations 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net

Warm Springs Katahdins

*If you’re looking for pretty -- she’s not it*

- Never has been shown, had a bath, or been off the farm
- Balanced all positive EPD’s
- Twin ram lambs 2005 - sired by ED3-30
- Twin ewe lambs 2006 - sired by HBS-0502
- At 120 days year 2005 lambs weighed 107 and 97 lbs. Sold into Arkansas and Florida
- Sire ED3-30 weighed 250 lbs. WSK 3109 weighed 150 lbs.
- WSK 3109 is sired by JF 00 076 (Julius)

**WSK 3109**

*Excellent EPD’s and Phenotype All in One Package*

www.warmspringskatahdins.com
David & Nancy Maddox
Warm Springs, GA 31830 • 706-655-3407 • dbmaddox@alltel.net

If you’re looking for pretty -- she’s not it

- Never has been shown, had a bath, or been off the farm
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**WSK 3109**

*Excellent EPD’s and Phenotype All in One Package*

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Warm Springs, GA 31830 • 706-655-3407 • dbmaddox@alltel.net
**Country Oak Ranch**

Katahdin Hair Sheep Breeding Stock Only

*Country Oak Ranch is Introducing Two New Breeding Sires*

- "MCD Pure Power"
  COR 05-22 Genotype RR, Twin, 226 lbs (1 year)

- "MCD Southern Gentlemen"
  COR 05-54 Genotype RR, Twin, 217 lbs (1 year)

*a limited number of their 2006 progeny will be available*

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

2006 Registered Katahdin Lambs Have Arrived

**Congratulations to Carrie Scott, KHSI New Registrar**

Visit Southcentral Katahdin Hair Sheep Association (SCKA) www.hair-sheep.com

**GOD BLESS AMERICA**

**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.

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

**Mark & Sara Dennis**

New Iberia, LA • 337-364-0422 • denn907@bellsouth.net

www.countryoakranch.com
Winter Hairald Calendar

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

April 15, 2006. North American Hair Sheep Association Sale in Hamilton, TX. Contact Philip Glass, P.O. Box 218, Water Valley, TX 76958 325-465-4267 Commercial and registered hair sheep can be consigned or bought.

May 15, 2006. KHSI Hair Coat Inspection Request Deadline. If you have animals that need a hair coat inspection, contact KHSI Operations by this date to insure 2006 inspection. 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net.


June 10, 2006. South Central Katahdin Association meeting in Conroe TX at Howard & Susian Covington’s (see SCKA article on page 16 in this issue of the Hairald).


June 20, 2006. KHSI Hair Coat Inspector’s Training. Green Ridge, Missouri (near Sedalia) at Brent & Lisa Cloud’s. The time of the event will be announced in the Spring 2006 Katahdin Hairald.

June 20, 2006. Midwest Katahdin Hair Sheep Association Meeting. Sedalia, MO. Meeting will be in the evening. Place and time to be announced in the Spring issue of the Katahdin Hairald. (See MKHSA article on page 16 in this issue of the Hairald)


July 8, 2006. Center Of The Nation NSIP Sale. 1:30 pm Saturday afternoon, Clay County Fairgrounds, Spencer, Iowa. This sale will include Katahdins and other breeds that receive EPDs (expected progeny differences) as part of the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP). More information is available on the “Events” page of the KHSI website www.khsi.org or by calling Jim Morgan at 479-444-6075.

September 14-16, 2006. KHSI Expo and Annual Meeting. Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO. (Preliminary details presented on page 5 of this issue.) Educational events and a KHSI sanctioned sale.

September 16, 2006. KHSI Annual Sanctioned Katahdin Sale. Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO. Performance information will be available on all animals being sold (see article on page 3 in this issue of the Hairald). The KHSI website will be updated with information as the year progresses, www.khsi.org Contact KHSI Operations office for more information, 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net
producing ewes are commonly the “hidden ones” in the flock. They cannot be recognized by their appearance but can be accurately identified from learning about their performance.

Body size, growing ability, soundness, body conformation, degree of muscling are traits of interest in producing uniform quality meat products but are not highly genetically related to ewe productivity. In some cases when these appearance traits are selected to extremes, they can have strong negative affects on the components of ewe productivity. This detrimental relationship has also been observed for other livestock species.

If looks are deceiving, how do we identify the madams?

Fortunately, twenty-first century genetic research and electrical engineering technologies have provided twenty-first century sheep raisers with the most powerful selection tools ever to identify genetically superior animals and display their performance in a user friendly way. All Katahdin breeders have access to the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP). This program is well designed/tested to evaluate individual performance across flocks so breeders can identify the best genetics available within their flock and breed on a common basis of comparison. More importantly, in 2004 researchers at Virginia Tech using Katahdin data from producer flocks on NSIP developed an Expected Progeny Difference (EPD) analysis for percentage of lambs raised and total litter weight at weaning (the ewe productivity trait, EPT). Katahdin breeders are the first to have EPD/EPT information available. Now we can find those hidden ones, approximately one eminent madam out of every ten ewes in your flock. This is a major technological advancement for the Seedstock sector of the U. S. sheep industry.

Now that we can find them how do we best use our madams?

First, let’s consider the aspects of flock improvement through selection. Ram selection has been credited with changing flock performance by 70-90 percent for most heritable traits. This potential is achieved by selection intensity (percentage retained for breeding) and breeding rate (ewes per ram) where fewer rams than ewes need to be selected for breeding and can be used over years during a ram generation.

Limited recognition/appreciation has been given to the genetic importance of the ewe because she provides so few lambs in comparison to a breeding ram during her tenure in the flock. Note, one breeding principle provided by Robert Bakewell in the eighteenth century that has passed the test of time is "breed
KHSI Awards New Contract for Registry Services

By Richard Gilbert, KHSI Vice President

The Katahdin Hair Sheep International board of directors has awarded the contract for the KHSI Registry to a new service provider. Effective immediately, send your annual membership dues, paperwork and payment for animal recordations, registrations and ownership transfers to:

Carrie Scott, Registrar
KHSI Registry
777 Winrock Drive
Morrilton, AR 72110
501-652-0470
khsiregistry@yahoo.com

Annual membership dues are currently $50 for all categories. Registry fees remain unchanged. For a registry fee schedule, please see the web site www.khsi.org.

Carrie Scott has moved the registry office, not far from the old registry headquarters on Petit Jean Mountain. She is available to handle Registry business Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. Central Standard Time.

The KHSI board was pleased with the response for the call for Registry services and that there were good options to evaluate. The board voted unanimously to contract with Scott, with her duties beginning officially on March 1, 2006. She will be familiar to many in KHSI, as she has worked in the KHSI registry office since 2001 for Ed Martsolf, who did not bid on renewing his contract as registrar. He served as registrar for 8 years, a period of unprecedented growth in registrations that culminated in KHSI registering its 50,000th animal in 2005.

The KHSI board passed a resolution thanking Ed for his service as registrar and for his foresight in seeing the potential of Katahdins. Ed began a Katahdin flock when he was the manager of Heifer Project International’s Arkansas education center and later helped to establish KHSI 20 years ago.

Carrie Scott grew up in western Pennsylvania on her grandfather’s dairy farm. She graduated from Waynesburg College in 2000 with a degree in business management. She moved to Arkansas that fall and began working in the Registry office about a year later.

Attending the KHSI annual meeting for the first time in 2005, Scott said she was impressed with the potential for growth and new services, such as recordations and registrations made by Internet instead of submitted only by mail or facsimile.

“I’m glad I have this opportunity to continue providing services to Katahdin breeders,” she said. “We hope to eventually give the option for breeders to use web-based registrations. It’s exciting. There is room for growth, and I see more interest in recordations that will move into registrations.

“I think the Katahdin breed will get that next 50,000 sheep registered faster than the first 50,000. As I continue to improve customer service and get a web-based program set up, there will be more opportunity to register sheep.”

The Madams, continued from page 13

the best to the best.” Question, can breeders create superior rams from just any ole ewe? Obviously not! Ram selection intensity and breeding rate are important during the years of ram use but breeding value of a ram at a giving point in time is EQUIALLY dependant on the average breeding value of both parents!

Finding/using distinguished MADAMS as mates with outstanding sires is the only way to create superior young sires—thus “mating the best to the best” to create better offspring for the next generation. It has been interesting to study NSIP records and learn that the highest EPD values for the madams are as good and generally superior to those of the rams chosen as breeding replacements. Ram generation interval can additionally be shortened when superior young sires can replace lesser valued older ones. This turnover is directly dependant on using superior breeding value ewes as mates to create the outstanding young sires.

Through modern performance evaluation methodology ewes and rams can be found that will contribute significantly to more rapid improvement of lamb meat production. For those interested in efficient production, acquiring quality genetics is clearly a blue chip investment for the sheep enterprise in this century.

The next generation of young “best sires” in the Katahdin breed depends on the mating the “best” rams with yet “even better” madams—possibly ones in your flock! Get to know your MADAMS, they are the hard working, hidden ones that can make a difference!

KHSI 2006 Renewal & Information Update

In a separate mailing from this newsletter, you will soon receive a current KHSI membership list and a KHSI Renewal and/or Information Update form. Please check the membership list to ensure that your contact information is correct and complete.
**Welcome New Members – November 2005 to February 2006**

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<tr>
<th>Province/State</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
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<td>Alberta</td>
<td>Norma R Smith</td>
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<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Herbert Howard</td>
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<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>James A Hopkins</td>
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<td>California</td>
<td>Susan Clarabut</td>
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<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>Ronald, Sally, Mark, Alta, Terry, &amp; Carolyn Howard</td>
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<td>Idaho</td>
<td>Steven A &amp; Candis S Spenner, Steven P Landreth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>James &amp; Deana Casey, Sharon &amp; Don Harbison, Kevin Morrow</td>
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<td>Iowa</td>
<td>Lonnie Campbell</td>
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<td>Illinois</td>
<td>Ray D Stike</td>
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<td>Idaho</td>
<td>Ralph &amp; Amy Tarr</td>
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<td>Iowa</td>
<td>Joanne &amp; Jeff Hasser</td>
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<td>Iowa</td>
<td>Jennifer &amp; Glenn Oelke</td>
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<td>Missouri</td>
<td>Edward &amp; Deborah Flowers</td>
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<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>James Whittington</td>
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<td>Missouri</td>
<td>Michael J &amp; Dena E Cummings</td>
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<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>USDA–ARS Meat Animal Research Center</td>
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<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>Luke &amp; Maynard Lillehaugen</td>
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<td>Ohio</td>
<td>“Dean, Tim, Gary, Deric &amp; Jacob” Luginbill</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Michael &amp; Vicki Pasterik</td>
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<td>James &amp; Judy Burns</td>
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<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>Gregory McGinnis</td>
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<td>Texas</td>
<td>Billy &amp; Marla Flint</td>
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<td>Texas</td>
<td>Sindy Durham &amp; Brenda Tschaar, Ronald D &amp; Linda Ulbrich</td>
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<td>Texas</td>
<td>Edgar O &amp; Carla A Williams</td>
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<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Clay &amp; Gail Brinson</td>
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<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Ed Stapleton</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
<td>Jake &amp; Lynda Wheaton</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
<td>Chet &amp; Amy Wise</td>
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<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>Allen &amp; Cathy Halweg</td>
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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

2006 Board of Directors

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Vice President: Richard Gilbert, gilbert@ohio.edu, 740-698-6042, Ohio
Secretary: Naomi Hawkins, naomihawkins@hotmail.com, 937-839-1280, Ohio
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Director: Ron Young, buckeyea@bright.net, 419-495-2993, Ohio

Honorary: Charles Brown, Piel Farm, cwbiii@localnet.com, 207-876-4430
Honorary: Charles Parker, cfparkner@aglaia.net, 614-459-9270, Ohio

Canada Representative: Darlene Jordan, ran.dar@sasktel.net, 306-746-4361
Mexico Representative: Dr. Javier Lara, ranchoayj@yahoo.com.mx, 011-52-442-2450632 (home); 011-52-442-1730731 cell

KHSI Registry:
• Carrie Scott, 777 Winrock Drive; Morrilton, AR 72110
  501-652-0470; khsiregistry@yahoo.com

• Contact the Registry 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 (note: printable forms available at the website, www.khsi.org.
  - Address changes or other corrections on printed list or Web
  - Brochures (20 free per member per year; additional 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 11 am-2 pm, and Monday and Tuesday evenings 7-10 pm. Calls on other evenings after sunset or anytime on the weekends will be answered personally whenever possible.
• Answering machine, FAX and email: available for messages 24 hours per day.

KHSI 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 (note: printable forms available at the website, www.khsi.org.
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• Answering machine, FAX and email: available for messages 24 hours per day.

KHSI Committees: (Call 479-444-8441 to volunteer!)
• Shepherd Education - Richard Gilbert
• Promotions - Barbara Pugh
• Showing Guidelines - Ron Young
• Breed Improvement - Richard Gilbert
• Nominations - Kay Cloyd
Joyce Geiler, Illinois

The Midwest Katahdin Hair Sheep Association will again be holding its annual meeting in conjunction with Midwest Stud Ram Sale in Sedalia, Missouri the week of June 19, 2006. The meeting will be held after a meal together on Tuesday evening, June 20. KHSI members are also invited to join us. Details about time and place will be in the next Hairald.

In association with the meeting, KHSI is planning an inspector training on June 20th.

MKHSA is excited to report that we have doubled our membership this year through a special new member offer. Revenue generated has enabled us to do additional advertising which includes photos. In addition to our regular breeder listings in magazines, we have a full page photo ad in the widely distributed Ohio’s Country Journal Spring Livestock Directory and a photo ad in the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival Booklet with a distribution of 5000.

Barbara Pugh

Pocket-sized farm flock record books were distributed at the annual meeting in Lexington in September, 2005. More copies have been printed and are available by request. Promotions Committee felt they would be useful for producers to share with their customers. Katahdin sheep are pictured on the cover. This would be an excellent gift to hand to breeding stock buyers to remind them of your flock. The farm flock books have a space on the inside cover to put your contact information. We suggest that you print a small label or have one printed that you can paste into the book. To make handling and shipping efficient, they will be available at $5 for four books. Send your request to Barbara Pugh, 5332 N. C. 87 North, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Payment made to KHSI should be included.

South Central Katahdin Association to Meet

The South Central Katahdin Association (SCKA) invites Katahdin raisers to come to Howard and Susian Covington’s farm in Conroe, Texas for some Southern Hospitality on Saturday, June 10th. It starts at 9:00 AM. Outstanding door prizes will be awarded throughout the day. The first event is a presentation by Paul Nester, USDA on Fire Ant Control. The second presentation will be by Jim Morgan, KHSI Operations & Shepherd magazine Contributing Editor, speaking on Parasite Control and Selecting for Resistant Sheep. Lunch will be barbecue lamb, beef and chicken fajitas. After lunch, Jim Morgan will do FAMACHA training which will be followed by a demonstration of proper hoof training by THE HOOF MASTER himself, Mark Dennis.

Katahdin sheep will be on display and private treaty sales. If possible, a KHSI hair coat inspector training will be conducted. More information will be available in the Spring Katahdin Hairald and in the SCKA newsletter. Come enjoy the hospitality of the Covingtons at 12125 Willis Waukegan Rd, Conroe TX 77303 (north of Houston), 936-264-1015, hsc@consolidated.net

Don’t miss out on the door prizes, a chance to buy superior Katahdin stock and enjoy some of the best hair raisers in the country.

Nominations Needed for KHSI Board of Directors

KHSI Board of Directors are elected for three year terms. To be eligible, a person needs to have been a member in good standing for three years and be a KHSI certified Hair Coat Inspector. Kay Cloyd is chairing the Nominations Committee. If you have questions about running for office, contact Kay Cloyd, a current Board member or KHSI Operations. (Kay Cloyd, 859-254-2840, kaycloyd@cs.com of Lexington KY; KHSI Operations, 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net).

MKHSA Annual Meeting and News

KHSI inventory now contains promotional clothing items as follows. Orders can be processed through KHSI Operations. We have fleece vests, t-shirts and ball caps with the KHSI logo. There are silver Katahdin Ram heads that a jeweler could modify for charm bracelets, earrings or lapel pins (silver ram heads-$15, hats-$10, fleece vests-$35, t-shirts-$15; shipping/handling is $5.00/item). Farm signs will be available later in the spring.
Resources Corner
List of websites and publications

This regular column in the Katahdin Hairald lists resources available to shepherds. There have been several questions over the last year from members and prospective members who are looking for more information. If you have books, websites or information that has helped you in your sheep operation, let us know. We are working to list both informative websites and paper publications.

1. Printed Books & Publications
   a. How to Direct Market Your Beef. 2005. Jan Holder. Published by Sustainable Agriculture Network. Beltsville, MD. ($14.95 + $5.95 s/h – 301-374-9696, sanpubs@sare.org or www.sare.org/WebStore). Though written about beef, it is excellent for both the beginning and experienced lamb meat marketer as well. Information and advice on labeling, differentiating your product, marketing by the half or whole, by-the-cut, dealing with your processor, selling to restaurants, economics. Practical experience. This is the best publication on direct marketing meat that I have seen (reviewed by Jim Morgan).
   c. Management-Intensive Grazing: The Grassroots of Grass Farming. 2004. Jim Gerrish. Green Park Press. (Available through the Stockman Grassfarmer or Amazon.com). Jim Gerrish is famous in the grass-farming community for his work at the Grazing Systems Research Center in Linnaeus, Missouri. His book is a complete primer—from the man who invented the term “management-intensive grazing,” with the emphasis on management. The chapters are short, clear and cover every aspect of grazing. It is an excellent introduction to grass farming and a good refresher for the very experienced (reviewed by Richard Gilbert).

2. Websites –
   a. www.sheep101.info/201/ - Sheep 201 Website – A beginners guide to raising sheep. Great pictures of production systems, diseases, and text for reading. A new website developed by Susan Schoenian, KHSI member and Univ of MD extension agent. This is an excellent site. As this site is updated and finished, it may be one of the only sites you need to go to. Definitely a “a go-to-person and go-to-site for information”. (Note – I am partial to good books and sites with excellent disease pictures and information) (reviewed by Jim Morgan).
   b. www.critterhaven.biz/index.html - This is a Barbados Blackbelly site that has lots of links, free downloads of record forms, annotated list of articles and books, articles that the site owner (Carol Elkins) has written about raising sheep. Plus a chance to learn more about another breed of hair sheep (reviewed by Richard Gilbert).
In compliance with the KHSI Board of Directors policy, sheep for sale advertised by members in the Hairald must be Katahdins or Katahdin crosses. Ads for the next issue are due May 1st to Operations: 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net.

**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

### SHEEP WANTED

#### TENNESSEE

12 Registered Ewes and a Ram. I would like to purchase approximately one dozen registered Katahdin Sheep and a ram. I would be willing to travel up to 200 miles to pick up the sheep (Knoxville area). I only want top quality stock. Jim Sewell jsowell@tractorsupply.com

#### TEXAS

100% Registered Rams Wanted. Proven young rams will be considered. Looking for solid white or definite blanket paint pattern in black and white, or brown and white. Will travel to pick up animals meeting the criteria. Call Leo Purcell, Brownwood, TX at 325-784-5924.

### SHEEP FOR SALE

#### ALABAMA

Registered and Commercial Ram and Ewe Lambs. Born Feb 06. Volunteer Scrapie Program since 6/01. Located in NE part of the state. 256-495-2307 - evenings rccom@bellsouth.net

#### PENNSYLVANIA

15 Registered Bred Ewes and/or Ewe Lambs. Wanted to buy registered bred Katahdin Ewes and/or Ewe Lambs scrapie tested QR or RR. We are willing to travel 1500 miles from Pittsburg, PA. 814-256-3852 or farmchik1993@hotmail.com

#### ARKANSAS

Registered and Recorded Ewes and Rams. Ages vary from lambs to 4 yrs and the ewes have proven to be terrific mothers and have been under the FAMACHA program for parasite resistance. Unfortunately, due to job changes, I must reduce my flock size. Approximately 40 ewes (between registered and recorded) are available along with 7 rams. Pricing based on number and type purchased, but will range from $175 to $250. Please contact Jeff Huntington at 479-462-3266 or jhunterton@arkbest.com for further information and/or pictures.

#### CALIFORNIA

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

Registered Ram Lambs. Ricochet Farms has 2 -QR Ram Lambs born 10-05, $350 each. Ram lambs are twins. For informa-
Classified Ads, continued

Sheep for Sale

More lambs available later when 5 Registered Katahdin ewes lamb in late January or February. Also, 2 Adult Registered Ewes for sale. Good blood lines, beautiful coats and very well cared for. For more information about the sheep available call: 707-482-4653 and ask for Pam

ILLINOIS

Registered and Registerable Rams and Ewes. Due to health problems, we are in need of selling our flock of five sheep. 1 Registered proven black ram (3 years old), 1 black ram w/ horns (yearling), 1 yearling registerable black ewe. A set of twins black ewe lambs (9 months old). All have a good temperament, good with children. Proven ram came from the farm of Perkins and Terrel in IN. The rest are from our ewes we bought from the Brokaws from Stronghurst, IL. Asking $700 for all five animals. The proven ram is the Sire of the rest of the sheep listed. Can email pictures if needed. Toby and Cathy White, Browning, IL. 309-329-2429 or 217-248-9239, whiteranchsheep@aol.com

NEW YORK

Registered Rams and Yearling Ewe Lambs. Trefoil Farm and the Pank Family will be dispersing the flock. Currently, Ewes not bred for Spring lambing are available. New crop of lambs from a 400 ewe flock are available later in the year. Farm located in Sprakers, NY. Contact Carsten’s son, Tom Pank on availability of sheep. tpank@AccuBid.net or 301-898-9164

OREGON

Fall-Born Registerable Lambs. Twins of twins, or triplets. Good Weights, meaty. Registerable. Photos on request. lyndam@centurytel.net, Linda Martin, 541-259-5975

Pennsylvania

Mature Commercial Katahdin Ram. A purebred 4 yr. ram for sale, born and raised a twin, sire of twins. Nice ram, but related to too many ewes in the flock. White, good hair coat. Located just off I-80 and Route 220. Contact Ken and Lilae Shope, Bellefonte, Centre County, PA (814) 355-5506, leave a message. khs1@psu.edu

Registered and Commercial Katahdin Rams and Ewes. We have ram and ewe lambs for sale. Meaty, registerable or commercial twin/triplet lambs out of twin/triplet parents. A few RQ. Born April and June. Some white; & some colored: black and white, & chocolate and white. Located in Bellefonte, PA; just off Interstate 80 and Route 220. Contact Ken or Lilae Shope; 814-355-5506 and leave a message or katahdins@lycos.com

TENNESSEE

Registered Ewe. Born a triplet on 2/03. Breeds off season. Lambs twins with out assistance, very productive, healthy and easy to handle. Selling because I do not need to breed out of off season. We are 30 mile south of Nashville in Thompson’s Station. Edy Johnston (615) 496-1961 or penelope372@yahoo.com

WASHINGTON

Registered Ram and Ewe Lambs. Dancing Pines Ranch is downsizing. Registered proven adult ram, Buckwheat, is a beautiful cocoa color (Born 3/04) Very friendly, eats from hand, like to be rubbed and brushed. Can email photos. Asking $550.00. Two gorgeous registered chocolate colored ewe lambs born 2/11/06 out of a ewe and the above ram. This dam always twins. Lambs have white tipped feet and top of head. One is deep brown and the other lighter. $135.00 each. Ask for Bob or Marta (509) 486-8401 or dpranch@direcway.com

January & February 2006 Registered Lambs. Ewes $135, rams $175 and wethers $75. All colors. Lots of pintos. Talk to Gordon in Tonasket jans4x4@televar.com 509-486-4267

GUARDIAN ANIMALS FOR SALE

TEXAS

Great Pyrenees Pups. Pups will be raised with sheep and goats. Parents work well with goats, sheep and poultry. Whelped late January 06, weaned and ready late March 06. First vaccination, worming and vet inspection $200.00 each. Certificate of health, shipping, etc. at buyers expense. Paul and Lynn Magedson, mail@goodearthorganicfarm.com 903-496-2070, http://www.goodearthorganicfarm.com, Celeste Texas
Send address & web corrections to khsint@earthlink.net or P. O. Box 778 Fayetteville, AR 72702

Remember
Inspection Requests due May 15 to KHSI Operations Office 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net