Welcome New Members

November 2010 — February 2011

New Youth Members

Pearl M Daskam ........................................................................... Holly, CO
Isabelle Jackson ........................................................................ Lake City, FL
James Rance Miller of Bungalow Farm .................................. Sweeden, KY
Luke Troyer of Riverside Katahdin ......................................... Harrodsburg, KY
Natalie T Hodgman of Waldoview Farm ................................. Winterport, ME
Matthew Beatty of Thousand Oaks Ranch .............................. Carl Junction, MO
Tyler Kirkweg of Shauck Livestock Farm ................................. Eldon, MO
Mary Evelyn Peckenpaugh of Bowen Angus Farms ................. Dyersburg, TN

New Voting Memberships

James Golden of Wolf Creek Farms ........................................... Pell City, AL
Randall Kidd of Bryan Farm .................................................. Huntsville, AL
Alan Stewart 4S Farm Inc ......................................................... Centre, AL
Mark & Terri Burton ................................................................. Rudy, AR
Elaine & Doug Mills of Katahdin Mills Farm ............................. Harrison, AR
USDA-ARS Dale Bumpers Small Farm Research Ctr., Attn: Joan Burke .. Booneville, AR
Christopher Pryor of P Cross 4 ................................................ La Junta, CO
Jim & Amelia Tompkins ............................................................. Jasper, FL
Donna Sikking of Four S Farms, LLC ....................................... Pineview, GA
Steven Brady of Band B Katahdins .......................................... New Hope, KY
Daniel & Barbara Byler of Clearview Farm .............................. Munfordville, KY
Roy D Jordan of RDJ Farms .................................................... Dodson, LA
Clay Winder of UP Hill Ranch ................................................ Butler, MO
Elizabeth Brown of Finch Farm ............................................. Trumansburg, NY
Connie Dickson ......................................................................... Avoca, NY
James Leach of Leach Farms ..................................................... Martville, NY
Amy Wilcox of Clyde River Farms ........................................... Clyde, NY
Richard Nettell & Ginger Bruton of Wolf Pond Farm .............. Wilmington, NC
Jeff & Barb Salter of Jefara ........................................................ Cameron, NC
Stephen & Lydell Steiner of Lydell Steiner, LLC ...................... Dalton, OH
Kara Kenagy of Wandering Pine Ranch ................................. Canby, OR
Catherine Martin of Poverty Acres Farm ................................. Liberty, SC
Garry Freier ............................................................................. Mitchell, SD
Sam Kennedy of Glendale Farm ............................................. Columbia, TN
Jim Sewell of Sewell Sheep Farm ............................................. Sweetwater, TN
Ted & Angie Fletcher of Rocky Cove Katahdins ..................... Duffield, VA
Bryan & Lindsay Helvey .......................................................... Maple Valley, WA
Susan & Richard Gauger of Cedarglen Farm .......................... Glen Flora, WI
Donald J King of King’s Katahdin Farm ................................. Bowler, WI
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Piel Farm continued to experiment with crosses to increase size and growth, but was always disappointed with wooliness and maternal performance. By the early 80’s, a few flocks of Katahdins were derived from the Piel Farm. Of special note was Paul Jepson of Vermont who also worked on outcrossing, especially with the St. Croix.

The next player in developing Katahdins was the nonprofit organization, Heifer Project International (HPI), based in Arkansas. Michael Piel had wanted hair sheep to be included in HPI’s work, and Katahdin sheep were exported to communities in Latin America and West Africa in the 1970’s and 1980’s. The HPI Livestock Center in Perryville, Arkansas, ended up with extra sheep that were not needed for these shipments. These sheep included Piel Farm Katahdins, Barbados, and Suffolks from California.

In 1980, Ed Martsolf at the HPI Center stepped up as a new visionary for the breed. Ed had raised sheep in Pennsylvania and was intrigued by hair sheep. He recognized that they were adapted to Arkansas and could do well in a wide variety of humid and subtropical environments, as well as their native Northern region. He saw opportunities for Katahdins, such as adding sheep to graze with cattle, which would diversify farm enterprises. A hair sheep enterprise at the Center offered a breeding stock supply for HPI to export as well as a sheep that could work in the Southern US.

Through the 1980’s the flock expanded at HPI, primarily by means of upgrading with several sheep sources: Katahdin ewes purchased from Mr. Jepson, mixed-breed percentage hair ewes from the Ohio Research and Development Center, and Barbados, St. Croix and Suffolks from the existing HPI flock. Katahdins proved to be adaptable, unique sheep that were well-suited for small farms. The potential for the breed appeared unlimited as it began to get exposure and attention through HPI’s efforts. Demand began exploding, especially with attempts to end the U.S. wool subsidy amplified.

It was also during the 1980’s that HPI and Piel Farm staff got acquainted and exchanged a few animals. Ed Martsolf wanted a breed association to organize and educate breeders, verify genetics and promote the breed. However, Barbara Piel was against it, because her husband Michael felt that “breed associations ruin breeds”, and Paul Jepson also opposed it. Eventually, Mrs. Piel was convinced because she realized that as numbers of Katahdin sheep expanded, breeders would need services, pedigree authentication and authoritative representatives. Dr. Charles Parker also influenced Barbara’s reconsideration of the issue.

In 1985, an organizing meeting for the association was arranged at the U.S Sheep Experiment Station (Dubois, Idaho) through Dr. Parker’s invitation. Charles Brown, farm manager, represented Piel Farm, Ed Martsolf and Laura Callan represented HPI, Don Williams attended as attorney and Charles Parker served as consultant to the group. Incorporation documents were agreed to and signed, and Katahdin Hair Sheep International (KHSI), Inc. was established.

Later that year, a few breeders met at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville and determined inspection protocols for the breed. In 1986 and 1987, all known Katahdins were inspected by Stan Musgrave of Maine, except for Jepson’s flock in Vermont and a couple small California flocks. In 1987, the original flock book for the breed was established with Charles Brown and Piel Farm as Registrar. Heifer Project International served as Secretary.

In 1991, the HPI organization decided to disperse its flock. KHSI then became a completely independent organization and continued to grow its membership. Laura (Callan) Fortmeyer continued to serve as the KHSI Operations officer which included communications with breeders, writing instructional materials, tracking members, organizing inspections, assisting the KHSI Board and annual meeting hosts. In late 1998, Laura stepped out of her KHSI Operations role to have more time for her own family and farm.
From Silver to Gold: Continuing the Katahdin Dream

Presented by Charles Parker, Honorary Member of KHSI
At the 2010 KHSI Expo on Sept. 17, 2010 in Jefferson City, Missouri

Editor’s note: Part 1 was published in the Winter Issue of the Katahdin Hairald which you can access at the KHSI Website. Click on KHSI Forms at top of page and choose Winter 2010 Katahdin Hairald.

What History and Statistics Can Tell Us

Let’s look at some other patterns of interest. If you look at sheep-raising numbers in past times, there are some positives during economically difficult times. KHSI needs to be looking at these trends. Right now, we are looking at the lowest US lamb supply in more than 70 years, but we are also seeing historic high lamb prices. In the US, more than 100 million ethnic customers consume 58% of available lamb, averaging about 5.6 lbs per person per year. In San Angelo, Texas 94% of sales are non-traditional feeder lambs, a significant niche market. Katahdins can expand into more of the operations which are marketing to ethnic consumers.

At the 2010 KHSI Expo on Sept. 17, 2010 in Jefferson City, Missouri

In the 2007 agriculture census, 2.2 million farms were tallied, with 82,000 of these categorized as sheep operations. 94% of sheep operations have less than 100 head. Therefore an estimated 77,000 flocks have 36% of the US sheep inventory. In a 2009 American Sheep Industry survey, 28% of those responding said they had no wool sales. The hair sheep population is not separated out, but estimates are that there are 400,000-500,000 in the US, making up 8-10% of the US sheep inventory.

Looking at beef, there are 680,000 beef cow herds with less than 100 head, and 598,000 with less than 49. Opportunities abound for Katahdin yearlings and meat from Katahdin country.

Continuing The Katahdin Dream

Michael Piel took Katahdins from a dream to a vision to an ideal. He wrote about meat sheep without wool, one that was prolific, hardy and with acceptable meat conformation. He used breed diversity to create the genetic balance for his ideal that became known as Katahdin. Passion makes dreams possible!

But change abounds — so where do we go from here? Dr. J. L. Lush, the father of modern animal breeding, states that the first step in any animal breeding program is to decide “what is ideal”. At this time an adaptable “non-shearing” sheep is what “got you to the big dance” but meat production performance is what will “keep you dancing”.

The purpose of raising sheep varies according to our interests. For many, you have already defined/established your ideal. Some will continue to emphasize selection based on appearance and enjoy the social aspects of shows, sales and competition. Most of the more than 40 US Breeds follow this “traditional” pattern of breeding.

Others will find the challenge of genetic improvement for “making the best better” through the adoption of new technology, both a rewarding and fascinating biological endeavor.

Regardless of your personal ideal, the future of the Katahdin breed will depend upon breeders selecting for a portion and/or all of the following attributes:

a) adaptability—ability to handle climatic diversity and show gastrointestinal parasite resistance under diverse conditions
b) reproductive efficiency—is influenced by number of lambs raised/ewe per year. Reproductive efficiency includes selecting

Continued on page 4
Keeping Up The Katahdin Reputation
In a Year that We Can Probably Sell Any Ewe That Walks

Jim Morgan, KHSI Operations Office

This year is shaping up to be a good year to be in the sheep business. Lamb prices are at an all time high. The KHSI Operations Office is receiving calls and emails for ewes. Since December there have been a record number of calls for groups of 100 ewes (they are posted at the KHSI Website, Classified Ads). It is definitely a good time for most of us to be in the sheep business.

In fact, it has been said that “you can probably sell any female sheep that can walk to the barn and back for a premium”. But with that comes a responsibility as a Katahdin breeder. We all have ewes that need to go to slaughter and not be sold as breeding stock. And there are buyers ready to get into the sheep business who do not yet have the basic knowledge to be successful in the sheep business.

Looking at orders for 100 or more ewes as well as other recent orders, we have some general observations. These requests indicate that these are probably novice sheep buyers, because they are using cattle criteria to write their orders. For example, listing the buying time as December-February may show that they do not know that the best selection of ewes is between May and October. After years with decent markets, ewes left in January are often poorer in quality. As another example, recent orders specify two-to-three-year old ewes. It is much more common in the beef business to steer clear of heifers (first time calving cows) — but in the sheep business, shepherds often buy first time lambing ewes. These buyers may not realize that ordering two-to-three-year old ewes may also mean that they miss some excellent ewelambs, and may end up purchasing culled animals.

If we conclude that many of these “sheep wanted” ads are from those new to sheep, we as Katahdin breeders need to act responsibly. If we sell to buyers knowing that they are going to fail, or if we sell any ewe that walks, we will have lots of new Katahdin raisers who will tell the ranching and farming communities that Katahdins don’t work.

We recommend that you check with your buyers to make sure they understand how to manage sheep. While Katahdins are easy-care, they do need to be managed somewhat differently than cattle. Check on their fencing: 4 strand barb wire is not enough. Do they have predator protection?

Short term easy profits can lead to a long-term black eye for the Katahdin breed. Good customer service, good quality stock will keep the Katahdin breed healthy for many years.

It is a great year to be in the Katahdin business. We can all work together so that it is always a great year to be in the Katahdin business.

FROM SILVER TO GOLD, continued from page 3

for prolificacy, maternal behavior, lamb survival— at lambing, milk production, number of lambs weaned. All of these traits need to be packaged in a trouble free/ easy care sheep.

c) aseasonal breeding—for “year around” lamb supply
d) early lamb growth and maturity for the selected lamb market(s). Beware of emphasis on excessive frame.

Note: 1 divided by age at market x 150= growth efficiency, where “150” represents the age at which traditional market lambs reach the ideal weight and condition (degree of fatness)/maturity; this value should vary with production system and ideal markets
e) carcass value. Some emphasis on conformation and muscle development. Take note of the USDA-MARC research on the myostatin gene in the Texel breed.

If you have trouble finding the “ideal selection road”, turn onto “Holy Grail Drive”. I assure you, it will take you to the bank!! Holy Grail Drive, otherwise known as “pounds lamb weaned/ewe exposed” is the profit road.

Yogi Berra once said, “If you don’t know where you are going, you might wind up some place else.” So, you need to define your ideal!

OTHER THINGS TO WATCH ALONG THE WAY

The need for genetic diversity is paramount for making genetic change through selection. That diversity also helps with heterosis retention without having to implement cross-breeding. The dairy cattle industry is being forced to cross out to breeds with 50% of the milk production to gain heterosis to improve disease resistance and longevity and to find the genetic diversity needed to continue identifying superior performance.

My advice to Katahdin breeders is that several of you need to keep the “back 40” well fenced and grazed.

What breeds need to be considered for that back 40? My suggestions include the Red Heads. There are a few adapted flocks of Tunis with commercial production emphasizes that need consideration. Earlier, we mentioned the myostatin gene in Texels. Also watch the development of the composite maternal breed at USDA-MARC for performance traits easily captured.

KHSI— keep your flock book open!! My caution to you is that any form of inbreeding eventually decreases genetic diversity, negatively impacts lowly heritable traits, establishes genetic status quo and eventually causes breed stagnation. Also, avoid selection for extremes. Balanced genetics will stand the test of time.

Bio-security is important. Foot rot is a “no-no” disease that can put you out of business!! If you do buy it, plan to trim, treat, isolate and cull.

IN CLOSING

In the U.S. commercial sheep industry, there is a critical need for profitable meat sheep genetics, to rebuild and survive!

The U.S. hair sheep population could easily reach 25-30 % of the total sheep inventory, or one million plus, during the coming decade.

With continued performance selection, Katahdins can be a transcendent, inter-generational, breed of significant importance to the sheep industry. as you go “from silver to gold” during the next 25 years.

My personal vision for “the breed whose time has come” is: “the best is yet to come!!”
Ewes That Don’t Milk

By Dr. Bill Shulaw, OSU Extension Veterinarian

Editor’s Note: Dr Shulaw is a well known Extension Veterinarian from Ohio State University who does a lot of work for US sheep producers. Dr Shulaw edited the chapter on sheep health for the SID Sheep Production Handbook that many of us own. Part 1 was published in the Winter 2010 Katahdin Hairald, which you can see at the KHSI website, www.katahdins.org by clicking on KHSI Forms at the top of the page.

In the previous article we described the basic signs and causes of mastitis in ewes. Mastitis caused by bacteria can be acute or chronic. Acute mastitis often results in obvious signs in the ewe such as being off feed, feverish, and dehydrated along with changes in the milk. Chronic bacterial mastitis may not result in obvious signs or changes in the milk but may lead to loss of secretory tissue and scarring in the udder with reduced milk production. We also discussed the so-called “hard bag” syndrome caused by the virus that is considered the cause of ovine progressive pneumonia (OPP). In this syndrome, the ewe is often not visibly ill and the producer may not realize that she doesn’t have much milk until the lamb(s) is starving or grow(s) poorly. A common characteristic of flocks that are infected with the OPP virus is the presence of excessive numbers of orphan lambs.

It is not always easy to determine whether ewes that don’t seem to have enough milk have nutritional problems, chronic bacterial mastitis, OPP, or some other condition. Generally speaking, when several ewes in the flock that appear to be healthy, well fed, and in good body condition have firm or swollen udders and unthrifty lambs, mastitis should be suspected. Bacterial mastitis often affects only one half of the udder, although both halves can be affected. The milk may be off-colored and have flakes, but it may appear normal. The udder may or may not be swollen or hot.

If the OPP virus is the primary cause of a firm, swollen udder, both halves are usually affected. The udder is not hot to the touch, and it may not be really hard. Often it may actually appear normal, but there is very little milk in the udder. The ewe often has no signs of illness.

When more than the occasional ewe seems to be milking poorly, udder problems are suspected, or too many lambs are starving or unthrifty, it is time for some diagnostic work and help from your veterinarian. This situation is a flock problem, and examining several ewes is most helpful in determining what the problem might be. Laboratory culture of milk samples from typical ewes is useful in determining whether bacterial mastitis is present. Staphylococcus infections in sheep seem to be the most common bacterial cause of chronic mastitis and udder damage leading to reduced milk production.

Infections during the dry period can cause damage to the udder, and frequently the bacteria are gone by lambing. If typical bacteria are isolated from milk samples from several ewes, it may indicate that the primary problem is bacterial. Often these result from unsanitary environmental conditions where the ewes are housed or damaged to teat ends from trauma or soremilk (orf) virus. Damage to the teat end makes it easier for bacteria to get into the udder to cause mastitis. Improving the sanitation in the ewes’ environment and careful management of their nutrition at weaning time can reduce this problem. Treatment of the udder at dry off with dairy cow mastitis preparations has been used on some farms. However, there are no FDA-approved products for sheep, and this practice can result in drug residues. It should only be done in consultation with a veterinarian. Lastly, it is questionable whether this practice can be economically justified as a routine practice.

While sampling the ewes for bacterial mastitis, it is usually a good idea to collect blood samples for testing for OPP virus infection. As this blood test detects antibodies to the virus in the blood, it can tell us whether the ewe is infected. Because infected ewes are infected for life, the presence of test-positive ewes indicates the virus is present in that ewe and on the farm. However, a positive blood test does not tell us that the firm udder we are seeing has been caused by the OPP virus. It only indicates the infection is present, but infected ewes in an infected flock often have no visible signs. If most ewes with hard udders are test-positive for the OPP virus and few of them have bacteria in the milk, it is very likely that OPP virus is the culprit. In many flocks, a close inspection of the flock will reveal other signs of the presence of OPP virus. These include thin ewes that tire easily and ewes with swollen, painful joints.

We have used another technique to help determine whether these udder problems are caused by the OPP virus. Your veterinarian can use a biopsy tool (we use the TruCut biopsy needle) to get a sample of udder tissue. This sample can be placed in formaldehyde and sent to a laboratory where it can be microscopically examined for changes that are characteristic of the OPP virus infection. The ewe’s teat should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and the biopsy needle can be inserted through the teat canal and on into the udder tissue for taking the sample. A sample from a single ewe may not be diagnostic of the flock problem, but samples from several ewes will usually provide evidence for OPP infection as the cause of “hard bag” if the virus is present. Often a problem flock will have several ewes that have had these udder problems and which can be sampled.

It is possible to find both bacterial mastitis and OPP virus infections in the same flock; perhaps even in the same udder. However, if enough samples are taken it is usually possible to sort out the real troublemaker. In assisting several veterinarians working with flocks with hard udder problems, we have frequently observed the following when OPP virus is the main problem: high rates of test-positive ewes on random sampling – usually 60% of ewes or higher; microscopic changes in udder tissue that are compatible with OPP virus infection; and the presence of other signs of OPP virus infection such as some thin ewes and some cases of swollen, arthritic joints. Postmortem examination of some of these culled ewes may provide additional evidence for OPP virus infection.
From the Feed Trough . . . Grain on Grass - Let's Do the Numbers

By Woody Lane, PhD

Okay, raise your hand — how many of you have supplemented grain to animals while they were grazing on pasture and were disappointed with the response? Don’t be shy; keep your hands up. Well, you’re not alone. Twice during the past year I’ve read scientific papers that reported the same thing, and those researchers were not only disappointed with the results but were also puzzled. After all, why wouldn’t extra grain provide enough surplus energy to overcome intake problems and increase daily gain or milk production?

Because you wouldn’t expect it.

First, the standard answer. In every university course called “Livestock Nutrition 101,” there is a session when the instructor lectures students about the practical issues of supplementing grain to grazing animals. Essentially, his message boils down to the precept that grain will “replace” some of the forage and therefore will not provide as much extra nutrition as you’d expect. The instructor continues with an example: if a ewe was consuming 6 lb of forage, adding 2 pounds of corn will not simply boost her intake to 8 lb.

Most of the corn will replace some of the forage, and total feed intake will rise only 0.5 lb or so. Since the TDN value of corn is 88% (all nutritional values in this article are on a dry matter basis), and the TDN value of the forage is, say, 65%, the net effect of all this supplement is only a modest increase in nutrient intake — and certainly not as much as the 1.6 lb of TDN that you’d expect from 2 lb of corn (90% DM at 88% TDN). The students dutifully write this down and perhaps ask a question or two, and the instructor then moves on to the next topic, maybe something about the effects of chewing gum on hippopotamus growth or whatever.

Elementary, my dear Watson, elementary.

Now, let’s move beyond this simplistic explanation and look at grain supplementation in more depth. Grain doesn’t just “replace” forage. Grain also profoundly changes the rumen environment, and these changes can sometimes offset much of the extra energy supplied by the grain. Nutrition textbooks typically list this phenomenon as the Associative Effects, but let’s see what these effects really mean. Oh yes, you can put your hands down now.

We need to start with four assumptions: (1) the supplement consists of corn or barley or a multi-grain mixture and does not contain any added buffer such as sodium bicarbonate, (2) a significant amount of grain is offered, (3) the pasture is reasonable quality with a TDN value of 65%, and (4) the grain is offered only once each day, which is the typical procedure on most farms. These assumptions, of course, imply the following: that the supplement does not contain any added buffer, that the supplement is consumed rapidly. The last assumption is fairly obvious to anyone who has ever fed corn on pasture. Aside from protecting yourself against being run over, you’ll observe that the animals will nearly always inhale the supplement — they gobble it up as fast as their mouths can move. No dainty manners here. In all the years of feeding supplements, I’ve never seen animals step back to save some grain for a future late-night snack.

So here’s what happens when this grain is supplemented to grazing ruminants: The starch in the grain enters the rumen and ferments at a very fast rate, much faster than fiber. The rumen bacteria that ferment this starch produce end-product acids (VFAs — volatile fatty acids) so quickly that these acids overcome some of the buffering capacity of the rumen, driving down the rumen pH from its normal level of 6.2–6.5 to less than 5.8, at least for a few hours each day.

The lower rumen pH causes problems for the species of bacteria that ferment fiber. The lower rumen pH reduces their populations and activities, thus slowing down the rate of fiber digestion. Because the undigested fiber remains longer in the rumen, sensors in the rumen wall alert the animal’s neural feedback system that the rumen is still full. Which tells the animal to reduce its feed intake. Since we assume that the animal eats all its supplemental grain, any reduction of feed intake must come from the amount of grazed forage.

Therefore, grain supplementation on pasture results in a lower intake of forage and also a lower digestibility of that forage. And for those who are still following me, this effect would be more pronounced with grass than with a legume such as clover or alfalfa.

Why? Because grass contains higher levels of potentially-digestible fiber than legumes, and it’s the fermentation of this potentially-digestible fiber that is most depressed by the feeding of starch.

Now, let’s do the numbers. Our example will be a 154-lb ewe suckling twins in early lactation (using the 1985 NRC Nutrient Requirements for a 70-kg ewe). This ewe requires 4.0 lb of TDN to support her milk production and minimize her early-lactation weight loss. If she grazes pasture containing 65% TDN with a daily dry matter intake of 4.0% of her body weight, she would eat 6.16 lb of dry matter (= 4% of 154) containing 4.0 lb of TDN, which nicely meets her requirements.

But ... let’s say that we want to increase milk production or prevent loss of body weight, so we’ll offer this ewe a daily supplement of 2 lb of corn (= 1.8 lb of dry matter). Since corn is 88% TDN, this supplement will provide 1.58 lb TDN. And of course, our ewe will gladly eat all the corn quite rapidly.

If we assume that the ewe’s dry matter intake will rise slightly — to 6.8 lb — then her forage intake will be 5.0 lb (= 6.8 minus 1.8 of corn). If we ignore the associative effects of the starch and assume that the original nutritional value of the forage remains unchanged at 65% TDN, we can calculate that 5.0 lb of forage will provide 3.25 lb TDN (= 65% of 5.0), making a total TDN intake of 4.83 lb — which is a 21% increase of digestible energy intake due to grain supplementation.

Hmm, so far, 21% looks pretty good.

But we can’t ignore the associative effects of starch on fiber digestion, can we?

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Focus on EWE-TH —

Isabelle Jackson

Editor’s Note: Isabelle Jackson, age 9, is a new youth member of KHSI. Her grandmother, KHSI Board Member Roxanne Newton (aka “GiGi”) conducted the following interview. Isabelle lives in Lake City, Florida.

Isabelle, tell us a little about yourself.
I live in Lake City Florida with my parents, Joe and Danielle, my 2 year old sister, Allie and my dog Hunter. I am in the 4th grade at Summers Elementary School. I like to play softball and ride my scooter. I enjoy going to my GiGi’s farm (Hound River Farm) because I can play with all her dogs and help her with the sheep.

Why are you interested in sheep?
I am interested in sheep because I want to become a Veterinarian. My favorite time of year is when the ewes have lambs. It’s really fun to watch the lambs play. They are so fast.

Tell us about your 4th grade science project involving Katahdin ewes.
My science fair project was about finding out if GiGi’s “Ewe Up-Scale” will predict which lambs will grow better. My grandmother rates the ewes’ mothering behavior when they lamb and she calls it her “Ewe Up-scale”. Each ewe is scored on how quickly and how well they lick’um up, feed’um up and warm’um up. She sent me data on 20 ewes and their lambs. I averaged the weight of the lambs at 60 and 120 days. The lambs’ average weight from ewes that scored a 1 or 2 was compared to those whose dam scored a perfect 3 on the Ewe Up-Scale.

What were the results of your research project?
The scale predicted that lambs grow much better if their dam scored higher on the Ewe Up-scale. The Ewe Up-Scale is a great tool for use by shepherds in order to make their flocks better and their work easier.

Do you own any sheep? If so, what are your future plans?
GiGi gave me a Katahdin yearling ewe for Christmas. I was so surprised. Her name is Silky, and she’s solid black. I can’t wait until she lambs! I plan to build my ewe flock so I can make money to save for college.

Of course not. Therefore, if we accept that associative effects apply to our situation, then we must reduce the TDN value of the forage from 65% to, say, 55%. Now let’s redo the numbers with this new TDN value.

Our ewe consuming 5.0 lb of this forage will now only receive 2.75 lb of TDN from it (= 55% of 5.0). Adding the 1.58 lb TDN from the corn gives her a total daily intake of 4.33 lb TDN, which is only 8% above her original energy requirements. Not exactly something to write home about. In the highly variable world of real-time grazing, a TDN boost of only 8% would be lost in the normal background variation.

Let’s put this in perspective: in our example, the supplementary grain provided +0.83 lb TDN when we didn’t include associative effects in our calculations but only +0.33 lb TDN when we did include them. The difference between these two numbers represents a 60% drop in supplemental TDN from the corn (= 0.5 as a % of 0.83). Which number is correct? Well, how many times have you been disappointed by the performance of grain-supplemented animals on pasture?

There is, of course, an alternative way of looking at this situation: even if the animals didn’t perform as well as expected, at least we can be assured that they were happier with all that corn.

Woody Lane is a nutritionist in Roseburg, Oregon. He operates an independent consulting business “Lane Livestock Services” and teaches nutrition, sheep, beef cattle, and forage workshops across the United States and Canada. His email address is woody@woodylane.com. This article was first published in 2004 in The Shepherd.
From the Field: Bob & Amanda Nusbaum
Potosi, Wisconsin of Bonus Angus Farm
Integrating Sheep into an Extensive Registered Beef Cattle Farm

Editor’s Note: This is the first article in a series to be published in the Hairald, profiling different models for beef and dairy operations that have added sheep. The items in bold are questions and topics that we asked Bob and Amanda about, followed by their responses. Their system is forage-based with minimal winter supplementation and their meat lamb market is under100 pounds, allowing use of a smaller, more efficient ewe.

Brief profile:
Bob is retired from nearly 30 years of Animal Science teaching and extension work at Virginia Tech and the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He still does part-time teaching and consulting when not farming fulltime. Amanda has been a stay-at-home fulltime mom and farmer.

Since 1984 we have run a registered Angus operation with a commercial sheep operation. Historically we have run about 60-85 brood cows and 85-120 Katahdins. The goal on our grass-based farm has been to optimize forage utilization and minimize expenses. Our April calving and May lambing is done on pasture. We fence-line wean the calves about September 1. We don’t castrate the ram lambs so they must get weaned about August 1 while the ewe lambs stay on the ewes and self wean. Our mean for the Angus has been exclusively seedstock. Our sheep sales have been a combination of seedstock and commercial meat production. We are currently in the process of recording/registering our flock so we can utilize EPD’s in our selection program.

How long have you raised sheep?
The sheep were added to the cattle operation in 1984 when I had to teach a sheep production course at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. The original ewes I purchased for “indoculation” were crossbred woolies that were upgraded using Polypay rams. In 1992 that flock totaled about 70 Polypays and was sold and replaced with 10 Katahdin ewes from Steve Radakovich of Earlham, Iowa.

Why Katahdins?
Steve had no experience with sheep and after hearing about his complete lack of problems after his first lambing season, I began to investigate the breed. We’ve never looked back. They lamb without difficulty, are great mothers, have resistance to parasites, shed rather than shear and are tough sheep that adapt to a wide range of environments. We range from 100 °F with high humidity to 30 below zero. They withstand both extremes equally well.

What is the market and when do you market?
Market lambs are sold through two local sale barns or local buyers. We try to compare commission, sale costs and current market prices with each. Commission recently soared to 10% at one sale barn. After weaning, all of the ram lambs are fed a high roughage hay ration with some supplemental grain. Normally, we sell 20 to 25 commercial rams annually in the fall for breeding. We prefer to sell the remaining ram lambs for the Christmas holidays if the market is very strong. We may sell them in the fall for breeding. We try to sell the remaining ram lambs for the Christmas holidays if they average at least 85 pounds and the market is very strong. We may sell just the heaviest ones then to test the market. Otherwise, we’ll continue to feed them until the market improves which it usually does closer to Easter. We’ve seen some buyer resistance to ram lambs weighing over 100 pounds, so we like to market them just before they hit that weight. Our ram lambs can easily make that weight by Easter without being pushed. On the ewe side, we always seem to have female buyers for mature ewes or ewe lambs. We try to maintain a nucleus of around 85 superior ewes so our flock size fluctuates every year based on buyer interest. We usually have stock dog trainers looking for sheep every spring, so our open yearling ewe lambs are candidates for this market.

Management and genetic goals of the cattle
Our management goals are simple. Profit = selling price – expenses. We can’t control the market but we certainly can control the expenses. We want cattle that will not incur expenses. Feed, labor and adaptability problems all can create expense. Our genetic goal is to select cattle traits that will fulfill our management goal of producing low-cost, tough cattle that can survive in an extensive (vs. intensive) management system. The phrase “never buy an animal from an environment that is better than yours” is sound advice. We want the cattle and sheep that we sell as breeding stock to survive and thrive for their buyers.

Most beef operations measure success with higher production levels such as heavier weaning weights. The thinking here is that a heavier weaning weight is equated with a higher profit. Unfortunately, most economic analyses correlating levels of production (weaning weight average) to net profit is zero. That means an operation with a weaning weight average of 700 pounds may not be any more profitable than one with a 400 pound average. The difference maker is expense. Cutting expenses by 10% results in more net profit than increasing production by 10%. We have concentrated on this in the cattle and the sheep are no different.

Katahdin selection goals
Our sheep and cattle goals are similar. Our philosophy is “one touch management”. The only time we want to handle a sheep is when they are tagged as lambs. We don’t want to shear, drench, trim feet, pull a lamb, strip teats, raise orphans, vaccinate or give antibiotics. All of these “expenses” can be significantly reduced or eliminated through intensive genetic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
selection. Mothering ability is heritable but many shepherds select for prolificacy first (increasing a production level). Keeping only replacement ewe lambs from dams that were “perfect mothers” will eventually eliminate lots of lambing headaches (reduces expenses). All of our pasture raised, self-weaned ewe lambs are exposed to rams on December 10th. The ones that lamb in the spring are considered as potential replacements. After that they are selected on other expense reducing traits: shedding, good feet, parasite resistance and mothering ability.

In ram selection we first want excellent feet with nice even toes and black pigment. We want very large testicles and a great coat. We have never trimmed a foot on any Katahdin and we don’t want to start. After these, we want proven parasite resistance. We are in the process of upgrading our flock to 100% registered so that we can select for and document parasite resistance. If all of these are satisfied, we look at other production traits such as growth.

**What grazing management models do you use for your cattle & sheep?**

Our pastures are in an active flood plain that makes fencing more difficult. A large river bisects our property so interior fences are mostly polywire and step-in posts. The sheep will not cross the river but we do rotationally graze them with the cattle on one side. We graze the cattle alone on the other side and periodically send them to adjacent, rented woodland pastures for two to three weeks of set stock grazing. This works well for vacations and rests our home paddocks.

**What changes have you made to your farm to handle sheep?**

Cattlemen have lots of questions when contemplating the addition of sheep to their operation. The major ones are fencing, facilities, predation and mineral supplementation. Our perimeter fence is either 6-strand barbed wire or 5-strand electric. Both work equally well for either species. We have a commercially purchased sheep chute system incorporated into our cattle handling facility, so we can handle either species without extra setup time. For many years we had fed the same mineral containing selenium and copper to the sheep and cattle with no apparent problems. In the last few years we have gone to a kelp/salt mixture mostly to add pink-eye protection to our cattle, and it is currently fed to both species, again, with no apparent problems. [Editor’s note: mineral systems should be designed to fit each operation’s soil, forage and purchased supplements. In many other areas, copper in the cattle mineral may be toxic to sheep and sheep are also sensitive to low selenium levels.]

For predator control we have used dogs, donkeys and llamas and we’ve found that any of these options can be excellent, average or poor. Once cattlemen understand these issues, they are then worried about lambing, feeding, castrating, etc., etc. These types of buyers with no sheep experience have appreciated our selection pressure to produce and sell “easy care” sheep.

**Lessons from raising cattle that affect sheep philosophy and vice versa**

Mature size in beef cattle increased steadily from the 70’s to the 90’s. This brought problems with calving difficulty, late puberty, low pregnancy rates, decreased longevity and lower carcass quality. We see the same trend happening in the Katahdin (and other) breed. Many breeders want larger ewes and rams with more size and growth. First of all, why is larger mature size necessary? What is given up to achieve more growth or size? There is no “free lunch”. One can’t increase production without incurring a cost (heterosis probably included). Where is optimum mature size and do we recognize it when we get there? In our operation, we have chosen to concentrate on traits that reduce costs, and one of these is to maintain moderate ewe size. Our ewes average about 130 pounds and our cow weight has decreased from 1400 pounds to about 1250. We feel big ewes and big cows are unnecessary, and, in fact, unsustainable. Bigger females generally require supplemental grain feeding to maintain uninterrupted annual production. The future of ruminant meat production will become more forage based because the cost of fossil fuels will make feeding grain prohibitive.

**Grazing objectives for sheep and cattle**

Our objectives are similar for both because we run them together all the time. We try to increase our grazing days every year and reduce hay feeding. Comparing the cost of a day of grazing to a day of feeding hay is significant.

**Co-management of cattle and sheep**

They share ground level mineral feeders (kelp is our choice), waterers and handling facilities. Most cattle fences will contain sheep although we do make some temporary, 2-strand polywire fence for the sheep whereas the cattle need only one wire. Neither group has access to buildings in the winter. They eat hay together that is from unrolled round bales.

**Calving and lambing times**

We used to calve and lamb in February and March and it became increasingly difficult to justify. The high nutritional demands for the last third of pregnancy and early lactation happen during some of the coldest months that also require increased feed intake by the ewe/cow. This coupled with the fact that we are feeding our most expensive feed makes cold weather birthing very questionable from a cost standpoint. We sell our yearling bulls in May, so April 15th calving is about as late as we can go and still sell well-developed bulls. We lamb in May as the weather is more consistently warm and it gives the ewes a chance to increase body condition with a few weeks of grazing before lambing.

**Target Densities**

Most research advises running one ewe per cow to improve profitability. We try to maintain (and sometimes exceed) this ratio. The addition of ewes to a cow herd or stocker operation increases pounds of gain produced per acre without reducing cattle numbers. In fact, pasture quality and plant diversity improves. Many of our ewe sales have been to cattle operations for this very reason. Most cattlemen have no, or little, sheep experience thus our quest to produce problem free sheep.

Many cattle and sheep operations that feed hay for too many months are either not managing their grazing adequately or are probably overstocked or both. We continually address both of these problems in trying to achieve

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 10**
2011 KHSI Expo Sale Requirements

Requirements for both Commercial & Registered Sheep Sales:
- Consigned sheep must be at Pipestone Fairgrounds by 5 PM, Thu Sept 15, 2011.
- Sheep must be genotyped QR or RR at codon 171. Papers from genotyping company must be turned in by the time that consigned sheep are checked in.
- Interstate Health Certificates are required. Certificates must include a statement from the Veterinarian that flock is free of contagious foot rot. Rams must have a B. ovis negative test within 30 days of sale.
- All animals are required to have either Mandatory or Scrapie Flock Certification Program tags.
- Consigned animals must be bred and raised by consignor.
- One pen of Commercial Ewes or a Registered Ewe must be consigned for each Registered Ram.

Requirements for Commercial Katahdin Ewe Sale:
- Minimum weight of 70 pounds for Spring Ewe Lambs
- At least three-fourths Katahdin
- Age Classes: Yearling (9/1/09-8/31/10), Fall ewe lambs (9/1/10-12/31/10), Spring Ewe Lambs (Jan 1-May 31)
- Consigned as pens of 3 or pens of 5 ewes (not as individual ewes)
- Shed over 2/3 of body (ewes must not be shorn or clipped; commercial ewes may be tail-docked)
- Consignment Fee of $20/pen
- Expo Sale committee has the right to reject commercial ewe sale entries.

Requirements for Registered Katahdin Sale:
- 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 are required (number lambs born/reared for each year of production)
- 60-day weight must be provided (taken on or around 60 days of age; 45-90 days of age is allowable, but must be done prior to weaning). The date at which this weight is taken must be recorded.
- Birth weights and 120 day weights are optional, but are highly recommended.
- Consignment Fee of $20 per animal. Classes include Rams & Ewes for the following ages: Yearlings (9/1/09-8/31/10), Fall (9/1/10-12/31/10), Jan 1-Feb 15 born, Feb 15-Mar 31 born, April 1 and after

Don’t Wait! Reserve Expo Hotel Rooms Now!
The 2011 KHSI Expo in Pipestone promises to be an outstanding event! The location is in a beautiful and popular part of Minnesota. There are plenty of good hotel rooms available, but we believe the hotels are filling fast and early for a high school reunion and other events happening the same weekend. For this reason, KHSI strongly encourages you to call and reserve your rooms now. We know we say this every year, but this year it is critical for you to plan ahead, so we say it again: please reserve now to avoid disappointment. “If you snooze, you may lose” your chance to snooze in your first choice location!

Hotels include:
- Crossings Inn (new) 507-562-1100 $79.90 per night plus tax
- Calumet Inn 507-825-5871 $61.00 per night plus tax
- Super 8 507-825-4217 $80.88 per night plus tax
- Royal River Casino 605-997-3746 $55.00-65.00 per night plus tax

The first three hotels are in Pipestone, while the Royal River Casino hotel is located in Flandreau, South Dakota, about 15 miles west of Pipestone.

NOTE: It does not cost you anything to reserve a room and hold it with a credit card. Hotels have cancellation policies that allow you to call and cancel within the period they specify and there is no charge to your card. This allows you to be sure of a room, but also allows you an option to cancel if your plans change. Be sure to ask about the hotel cancellation policy when you call to reserve your room.

Questions? Please contact KHSI Operations at 479-444-8441 or info@katahdins.org

Don’t Forget! Send in Your Sheep Producer Ram Survey to Virginia Tech

This is an excellent survey and a great opportunity for Katahdin breeders to find out more about how the sheep community buys rams. In the 2011 KHSI Renewal Packet mailed at the end of January 2011, was a Sheep Producer Ram Survey. Virginia Tech is developing a pasture based Ram Test station. Part of the process is to survey the sheep community about number of rams used, number purchased and how the rams are selected. The survey is anonymous. Data collected will not be associated with the name of the farm/ranch submitting survey.

Virginia Tech will provide KHSI with a summary of the results. These useful results can help KHSI better serve Katahdin ram buyers.

You can fill out the survey online at www.vtsheep.apsc.vt.edu or you can call or email KHSI Operations to get another copy at 479-444-8441 or info@katahdins.org.

FROM THE FIELD: BOB AND AMANDA NUSBAUM, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

our long-term goal of reducing hay feeding to less than two months per year.

Ten years down the road
Our goal is to produce registered (cattle and sheep) breeding stock that are self-sufficient and parasite resistant that reach puberty early, raise their offspring with no help, maintain annual production without supplemental feed, adapt to a wide range of environments and provide beneficial genetics to other herds or flocks.
2011 KHSI Expo Program Features
Commercial Production and Sheep Health

Doc Kennedy of Pipestone Veterinary Clinic and Wes Limesand, KHSI Board member, who are serving on the 2011 Expo organizing team, have provided us with a sneak preview of what we can look forward to in Minnesota in September. Doc, Wes and others are designing the 2011 Expo program to emphasize excellent practical information about raising and marketing lamb. Though still preliminary, we hope the following snippets will give KHSI members and other shepherds a glimpse of the strengths and experiences that are coming together to make the KHSI event at Pipestone truly unique.

Intensive Production Systems. - One stop on the Thursday tour is at a sheep operation that has put $500,000 into new state of the art sheep production facilities. A second stop on the Thursday tour will be at a sheep operation that modified existing dairy farm structures into sheep facilities. This region of the U.S. has ready access to grains, byproducts from the ethanol industry and soy byproducts. This is an excellent chance to see intensive production.

On Friday, we will hear from Dion Van Well, who feeds 50,000 head of feeder lambs each year in South Dakota and handles 140,000 market-ready lambs per year. It will be an interesting and informative perspective on the sheep industry.

Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program is based in Pipestone and our tour will take us to some of their featured operations. This is a successful lamb marketing group with over 35,000 ewes producing lamb year around. The cooperative has a forward contract that rewards quality carcasses. For many years, producers have continued to add ewes, quit their day jobs, and lease out their row crop farm land, even during years when lamb prices for the rest of the country were low.

Sheep Health. - Bring your sheep health questions. Doc Kennedy says that there will be three Pipestone Veterinary Clinic staff present during an open forum on sheep health. The audience will be divided into three rooms and each vet will take questions from the audience for at least one hour. All will return to one group and the vets will highlight the most interesting questions and answers for the whole group.

Practical Sheep Education. - Also on the program are Philip Berg and Mike Caskey who teach at Minnesota West Community & Technical College. This school hosts the most extensive online sheep management courses in the USA. They also organize three sheep tours every year.

We thank Doc Kennedy for his invitation to come to Pipestone and his willingness to host the 2011 KHSI Expo.
SCKA Farm Tour, Annual Meeting & Private Treaty Sale

Darrell Adams, ADO Sheep, Louisiana

Mark your calendars! Start making plans to attend the 2011 SCKA Farm Tour, Annual Meeting and Private Treaty Sale! Our 2011 event will be held June 10-11 at the Beauregard Parish Fair Grounds in Deridder, Louisiana.

Friday, June 10th: Sheep can be unloaded at the fairgrounds beginning at 10 AM for the Private Treaty Sale which will run throughout the two day event. Pens are available and Interstate Health Papers will be required on all livestock entering the fairgrounds. NOTE: To unload sheep: Turn at the corner of Hwy 171 and Ryan’s. Turn left directly behind Ryan’s to the sheep barn.

Later Friday afternoon (4:00 PM): Farm Tour will be held at ADO Sheep, Singer Louisiana (Hwy 27 south, approximately 30 minutes from Deridder). Following the tour, the group will meet back in Deridder for supper (Dutch Treat) and socializing.

Saturday, June 11th: (9:00 AM). Welcome! The day starts with several interesting speakers on different topics to promote the sheep industry. Lunch will be provided by ADO Sheep at noon, followed by the Annual Meeting and Private Treaty Sales.

There are three motels available in Deridder. I found the best rate & nice rooms at the Country Inns of Deridder which is about 4 blocks north of the fairgrounds and next to Wal-Mart. Group rate is $55.00 per night with ample parking for trailers if needed.

Directions to fairgrounds: If coming from the east on I-10, exit at US 171 North. If coming from the west on I-10, exit at US Hwy 27 north to 171. Fairgrounds will be on the left. If you are coming from the west on US 190, go to junction of Hwy 190/27&171 and turn north on 171. And if coming from the north, just go south on Hwy 171 out of Shreveport, LA.

Please come and enjoy yourself! If you have questions, you can reach me at: (337) 515-4342 or email me (Darrell) at ado.1@centurytel.net

2011 Katahdin Hairald Deadlines

Need to submit articles or display ads in the Katahdin Hairald? Below is the working schedule for the rest of 2011. Arrival of the Katahdin Hairald in member mail boxes typically ranges from 1-3 weeks depending on bulk mailing deliveries by the US Postal Service.

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HOUND RIVER FARM KATAHDIN SHEEP

“SURVIVE AND THRIVE”

Pasture raised. No feedlots!

SARE project participant for parasite resistance. Deworming is based on FAMACHA scores and on–farm testing. 95% of our lambs have never been dewormed.

Ewes are evaluated at lambing for mothering behavior.

Detailed health & production records available on all sheep.

We participate in Lambplan, a selection tool based on estimated breeding values (EBV’s).

All lambs sold for breeding stock have balanced EBV’s, many in the top 5% for the breed.

Stud rams are selected based on parasite resistance, growth, muscling, and high balanced EBV’s.

Scrapie-free certified flock since 2005.

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Hahira,GA  229-794-3456
HoundRiverFarm.com
We found LHB Doc in 2009 on the way to the SCKA meeting in Georgia. We had a few lambs last year and will probably take a yearling ram to Sedalia this year from this sire.

**Certified Scrapie Free Flock**

**FOR SALE**

**Mature Ewes**
We will offer 100 mature Katahdin ewes starting in June. We will sell in groups of 10 or more. Some ewes will be registered, some commercial.

**2011 Lamb Crop**
If you need bone and muscle with good growth, THEY’RE HERE.

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Certified Scrapie Free

Grandsons Gunnar and Cole Jessee
feeding top bred Katahdin ewes

Ewes are ready to lamb

NOW TAKING ORDERS
for ram and ewe lambs

2011 should be a great year for us.

Dr. Leroy H. Boyd Memorial Katahdin Junior Show

The Dr. Leroy H. Boyd Memorial Katahdin Junior Show will be held at Sedalia, Missouri on June 22, 2011 at 3:30 pm. This follows the Katahdin Sale at the Midwest Stud Ram Sale. Catherine Boyd and family will sponsor a traveling trophy for top exhibitor. The Chairperson of the show is Dr Helen Swartz and she will be assisted by Howard Brown, chair of the KHSI Youth Committee. This show is for Registered Katahdins only. Animals sold in the 2011 Midwest Stud Ram Katahdin Sale are eligible for the Junior Show. The ownership of the sheep may be either the Junior or Junior’s family at time of show. Early entry fee is $2 and late entry fee is $5. One entry per class and per exhibitor. Health regulations and class breaks will be the same as Midwest Stud Sale. The Judge will be Wes Limesand of Fargo, North Dakota. Youth requirements are that they be active 4-H or FFA members, 21 years old and under. The Showmanship contest is free and there will be two classes. The KHSI Board of Directors approved the sponsoring of the Dr Leroy H Boyd Memorial Katahdin Junior Show. Deadlines for early entry will be posted at the KHSI website. NOTE: Champion-Ram & Ewe plaques have been donated by Helen Swartz. Reserve Champion-Ram & Ewe plaques & ribbons have been donated by Larry Mead.

Past KHSI Board Member, Dr Leroy Boyd, Remembered

Dr. Leroy H. Boyd, 75, died early in January, 2011. He was born and raised in Ellis County in western Oklahoma. He received a bachelor of science degree in animal science from Oklahoma State University and master of science and doctoral degrees in animal science from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Boyd was on the faculty of the Animal Husbandry Department (later Animal and Dairy Science) at Mississippi State University and during his 38 years of service, he taught courses related to sheep, horses, livestock judging and Western Equitation. He maintained a lifelong interest in sheep, judged sheep competitions at livestock shows in 32 states, kept a small flock of sheep and trained Border Collies. Dr. Boyd served on the KHSI Board of Directors from 2007 through 2010. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Catherine Robertson Boyd; two daughters: Susanne (David) Purvis of Houston, Texas and Diane (Jeffrey) Schultz of Tuscaloosa, Alabama; grandchildren: Rebecca and Timothy Purvis and Nathaniel Schultz.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Leroy Boyd Memorial Scholarship Fund, MSU Foundation, P.O. Box 6149, Mississippi State, MS 39762 (or at http://msufoundation.com/) or to the Capital Campaign, First Baptist Church, 106 E. Lampkin Street, Starkville, MS 39759.

The KHSI Board of Directors donated $100 to the Leroy Boyd Memorial Scholarship Fund at Mississippi State University.
Using Sheep Behavior for Easier Management & Better Production

Jim Morgan, Arkansas Katahdin Producer

Paying attention to either instinctive or learned behavior can make management of animals easier. Shepherds need to be on the lookout and realize when they observe a sheep behavior that they can utilize. With sheep, most of my revelations about using behavior to help management come from managing hunger. It is an easy one to observe. It is not easy to set up the experimental situation to actually test the following observations, but they have been working for me for several years.

Managing hunger to decrease choking when feeding supplements. Sheep will ingest grain and supplements so fast that they will snort it down their trachea (windpipe). Most of the time they recover (after much slime or foam around the mouth) but they do risk asphyxiation. Avoid or minimize feeding cracked or ground grains to help this situation. Choking on soy hull pellets is very common. Soy hull pellets are a moderately priced by-product and consist of fermentable fiber which keeps the rumen at a healthier pH compared to corn or barley. Too much corn (i.e. starch) can drive the pH down (more acidic) and inhibit rumen function, so soy hull pellets are a great resource for getting the pH back to a better level. For several months, every time I fed soy hulls, I had at least one sheep that inhaled soy hulls and choked for a while before recovering.

We observed that if the edge of the hunger was taken off first with some other feed, we had many fewer cases of choking and slime. For most of the year, in our rotational grazing system, we allow access to new forage every day. I learned that if the sheep were allowed to go graze new forage for an hour or two to take the edge off their hunger, and then called back to the troughs to be fed soy hulls, there was much less choking and sliming. The same can be done with hay. If your management system is to limit feed hay, the shepherd can feed the hay and then come back in an hour or two and feed the supplements.

There are alternatives, such as adding molasses or soybean oil to minimize dust and prevent “inhaling” of supplements. These alternatives are not always available.

Moving sheep through areas of high quality forage to a target pen or pasture. We regularly move our sheep outside permanent paddocks pastures to new paddocks year round without a dog. Most of the time, one person can handle 80 sheep with just a can of corn or soy hulls. In our system, during late gestation and through 180 days of age ewes and lambs are given access to new grass every day. The sheep are moved past apple orchards and tempted by apples but they usually follow with no problem. However (most of you can relate to this) moving sheep past really good forage often results in the sheep scattering. What do you do if you don’t have a dog? You spend 20 or 30 minutes trying to get them where you want to go or call for help and hope the sheep don’t get into trouble during the process. A good herding dog would help, but that is not an option for all of us. Experience has shown us that if the sheep are really hungry, they are much less likely to follow my shaking can of corn to the next pasture. If we do our rotations before they are really hungry, they are much more likely to follow. If I have waited too long and the ewes have been a little short of forage overnight, they will stop and graze and my easy 30-90 second move becomes 20-30 minutes. So, I try to make sure the sheep are not too hungry before I do moves past the orchard. The other thing I have learned over time is that if the moving mob breaks down and scatters to eat, I let them graze for 10-15 minutes. They take the edge off their hunger and when I shake my can of soy hulls after 15 minutes, they start right up and follow. Or I can spend that same 15-30 minutes chasing them all over the place trying to get them to move to the next paddock.

Many would say that helping with a move is what herding dogs are for, but most of the time, our system does not give a herding dog enough regular work. We have seen some advantages to not having herding dogs. Leading sheep to a new location is documented as less stressful than using dogs. Aggressive herding dogs that aggressively attack the flight zone of the sheep are especially stressful (see Burt Smith’s Moving ‘Em: A Guide to Low Stress Animal Handling). But I will admit that having humans chase sheep that are not going where you want them is more stressful on the sheep and the herding human than having a good herding dog.

Training lambs to eat new foods. This can be applied to any unfamiliar seasonally available food source that the adult ewes eat and weaned lambs are unfamiliar with. For years we kept the ewes out of the landlord’s large apple orchard (500 trees) and grazed the weaned lambs under the trees. The ewes loved the apples and the landlord liked the apple drops to be removed, but we had not figured out how to graze the ewes under the trees without tree damage (we have figured it out in the last 3 years, but that is another management story). Lambs to 210 days of age rarely chew on the bark of the apple trees but the ewes will chew on younger trees or on younger branches of older trees. One year, we moved the ewes with lambs before weaning along the edge of the orchard and used electrified netting to protect the trees while allowing access to apple drops. It is not a good idea to be between a ewe and an apple drop if they have learned how good apples are. The ewes had access to apple drops and several of the lambs started eating the apples. This was the first time in 10 years that lambs in the sheep flock had eaten apples. In the next few weeks, we reinforced the behavior and more lambs ate apples. After weaning, we were able to graze the lambs in the apple orchard and remove a good share of the drops. There is a lot of energy in the apples that needs to be balanced with fermentable fiber and protein.

Increasing forage intake in 120-180 day old ram lambs. The limbic system is a key part of a sheep’s nervous system that regulates activities that we as shepherds are interested in. It helps regulate on an instant by instant basis whether a sheep eats now or later, drinks water, rests and ovulates. The limbic system does this (using various parts of the brain) by integrating sensory input from the environment (e.g. quality of forage, temperature, humidity) with internal physiology (fat storage, blood sugar,
KHSI Board of Director’s Meeting Minutes 12-8-10

7:09 President Ron Young called meeting to order.


Motion by Roxanne Newton to approve Financial Report. Second by Howard Brown. Motion carries by voice vote.

2) James Morgan presented letter from IRS.

Motion by Howard Brown. Second by Lee Wright to have Operation send abatement letter to IRS certified mail. ASAP. Motion Carries by voice vote.

3) Motion by Carl Ginapp. Second by Wes Limesand:
   a) That KHSI Operations forwards end of year Financial reports to KHSI’s CPA by January 21 of each year.
   b) That KHSI BOD approves the yearly 990s in an April Board Meeting (due May 15, can extend to August 15 with request).

Motion carries by voice vote.

4) Motion by Lee Wright. Second by Howard Brown. KHSI Canadian Registrations, Recordations and Transfers will be $7.00 with late ones being $14.00. All money is Canadian currency.

Motion Carries by voice vote.

5) James Morgan asked to research insurance options for regional groups and bring any results to next meeting.

6) President Ron Young appointed Wes Limesand, John Stromquist and Howard Brown to look at options differentiate between recorded and registered animals at shows.

Motion by John Stromquist. Second by Howard Brown to adjourn. Motion carries.

Transfer Fee Increased on January 1, 2011

Make sure that you use the most recent Work Order form to calculate the amount you pay when sending in fees for registrations and transfers. KHSI included a new form with your renewal/update that we sent out at the end of January. If for some reason you don’t have the new Work Order forms, please download them from the KHSI website www.katahdins.org or email info@katahdins.org or call 479-444-8441 to request them.

If you are transferring animals, always check twice to make sure that you mail all work to the KHSI Registry in Milo Iowa. Sending an incorrect fee amount or sending to the wrong location can result in delays.

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Nonmembers are charged double rates for Registry Services.

Using Sheep Behavior, continued from page 15

how full the rumen is, internal temperature, water levels). Following is an easy way to think about how this works: a) if nutrient levels and fat levels in the body are already high, it takes much higher quality and quantity of food for the limbic system to activate the sheep to leave the shade, get on its feet and go forage b) if nutrient levels in the sheep are lower, it is much more likely that the sheep will get active and eat. Shaking a bucket of corn will overcome snoozing in the shade almost every time, but forage is different.

The following example applies best to a “forage only” system. High input supplement systems drive the limbic system toward eating. Let’s use the example of young ram lambs (120-180 days of age) as a class of sheep in which there are competing drives that often outweigh food and weight gain. Just watch your ram lambs this year: their adolescent behavior may remind us of a Junior High locker room (this is normal behavior for ram lambs). If the quality of forage is moderate, it is much more likely the output of the limbic system will be for the ram lambs to do locker room type behavior rather than graze. There are competing drives. If you need more gain in your adolescent rams, provide better quality nutrition to outcompete the drive to chase buds around. Then the ram lambs will spend a much greater proportion of their time eating and gaining weight and go to market sooner.

You can observe this in all classes of sheep. Their limbic system integrates internal nutritional assets and requirements with forage availability, environmental temperature and conditions—the output behavior is determined by that integration. Nutritional requirements differ for growing lambs, lactating ewes, dry ewes and so for the same forage and environment, the integration is different and the output behavior will also be different. With good observations and creative management we can use behavior to our advantage.

Author’s Note: I am collecting more examples of using sheep behavior to manage better. Please send your observations to Jim Morgan at jimn@earthlink.net or 18235 Wildlife Rd, Fayetteville, AR 72701
Sheep Buying Station Opens in SW Arkansas

Jessee Duckett, Arkansas

Many states are underserved in terms of having good auction sales for sheep. The local auction may have one or two buyers who buy lambs until they have enough lambs to make it economical to take a trailer to a better sale barn. In Arkansas, the standard is for lambs to move through two or three sale barns and eventually to larger auctions in Texas.

The Goat and Sheep Producers of Arkansas have opened up a buying station in Hope, Arkansas. Prices for lambs, ewes and goats are posted on the website on the Friday before the Saturday sale. All sheep are bought. Sheep are graded on quality and seller is paid immediately for the sheep. The buying station provides a sale venue for sheep from SW Arkansas, North Louisiana, SE Oklahoma and NE Texas. Order buyers from 6-8 states bid prior to each sale. Sales are the 2nd Saturday of March, April, September, October, November and December.

For more information, contact Jessee Duckett, PO Box 146, Hope, AR 71802, 870-777-4041 or 870-703-7321, or visit the website: www.goatproducersofarkansas.com

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. 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 info@katahdins.org

**May 27-29, 2011.** National Meat Goat and Hair Sheep Symposium. San Angelo, Texas. Sponsored by Angelo State University & Texas AgriLife Extension. Registration deadline is April 15th.


**June 22, 2011.** Dr. Leroy H. Boyd Memorial Katahdin Junior Show. 3:30 PM. Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, Missouri.

**August 12-13, 2011.** Midwest Katahdin Hair Sheep Association Educational Event & Private Treaty Sale. Mason City, Iowa. Social time around a campfire on Friday night August 12. Educational speakers on Saturday August 13. Contact Steve Bull, Manly, Iowa at 641-420-7535 or angus50usa@yahoo.com (more information in the next issue of the Katahdin Hairald).


**NOTE:** Sales are listed in the Sale Roundup Feature elsewhere in this issue.

---

**Brokaw Farm Katahdins**

**Superior Genetics to Improve Your Flock**

Lambs available the first of April!

**CALL TODAY!**

Patrick, Brenda, and Mary Brokaw

Stronghurst, IL 309.924.1510

pbbrokaw@monmouthnet.net

Breeder Page at KHSI.org!
What Can a Marking Harness Tell You?

Jim Morgan, Arkansas Katahdin Breeder

Many flocks use marking harnesses on their breeding rams to help manage their lambing ewes. While the most common use is to predict within a few days when a ewe will lamb, there is other information that can be discerned from using a harness. They are not a hundred percent in catching all matings, but in our flock about 90% of the time, the marks do catch the mating that leads to settling of the ewe. Typically, a shepherd will do the first cycle using a light color and then near the start of the second cycle change to a different color. In our flock, the color of the crayon is changed on day 14 to day 15. In our system, about one out of 20-30 ewes doesn’t mark, but she goes ahead and lambs.

Prior to the start of lambing, based on the markings, it is possible to make a chart of the predicted order of ewe lambing. In our system the vast majority of ewes lamb at 147 days +/- 2 days. When walking through the ewe flocks, it saves us some time to only closely look at the ewes that are predicted to be close. We find it useful.

But what else can a marking harness tell you?

Ram fertility. One year every ewe in one breeding group marked in the first 15 days. Then at day ten in the second cycle every ewe was marked again after changing the color of the marking crayon. It told us that the ram wasn’t very fertile. If only one or two ewes had marked with a different color, and if the vast majority did not remark in the second cycle, you blame the ewe. A marking harness can alert you to an infertile or sub-fertile ram that only settles half or so the ewes per cycle. It is better to know that information 3-4 weeks into the breeding season, rather than much later!

Managing a prolapsing ewe. Ewes occasionally prolapse in our system, about 1 out of 80 lamblings. Knowing when the ewe is predicted to lamb helps determine how to manage that prolapsing ewe. If there is only a week before the expected lambing date, we would use a harness. If 3-4 weeks, we would probably resort to suturing.

Late gestation nutrition - Earlier in our shepherding careers, we noticed that the average gestation length increased from our 147 day average to 150 days. Our lambs were born about 1.5 lbs light on average (several 6.5 to 7.5 lb lambs). Both of these were quantifiable. Our perception was that it took 2 days after birth before any of the lambs were hopping and jumping around. The vast majority of lambs were pretty lethargic (an unquantifiable observation unless you have a stop watch and live out there with the lambs). But the behavioral observation fit with the other data. Conclusion: Our flock had some nutritional event during late gestation.

Ewe switching breeding groups and thus exposed to a ram not in the mating book. That year, we were using a green crayon in the first cycle for one ram and yellow for another ram in his first cycle of the breeding group. After the third cycle, I noticed a yellow marked butt in the green group. After checking eartags, sure enough, we had a ewe that went over or through two 32 inch electrified cross-fences and around some electro-net. Never would I have considered that a ewe would do that, since we rarely have ewes that get out. I now use different colored crayons for the rams in their separate breeding pastures. This is important for maintaining accurate sire records for registering lambs.

Switching between rams or putting in the clean-up ram. For registered lambs: when switching between rams, it is important to know the sire. Safe waiting periods are ten days or maybe even two weeks. When using harnesses you can shorten the break between taking one ram out and putting in another to 4 days. Rarely have I seen a ewe breed for longer than 36 hours. You can be certain that a ewe that didn’t mark with the previously harnessed ram and then marked 4 days later with the new ram was bred by the 2nd ram. But only if the shepherd goes out every day and carefully looks at each ewe for marks. It is important to watch lambing dates. If the gestation length for a ewe doesn’t make sense so that you can be certain who the sire is, then it is best not to register the lambs.

Open Ewes - Rarely, we have ewes that don’t lamb. Marking records can help decide whether the ewe should be culled. If the rest of the ewes in the same breeding group lamb, then we look back at the marking harness records. We have had open ewes that marked each of three successive cycles. This indicates she was cycling but not settling and is good candidate for culling. The one in 20-30 ewes that does not mark, usually goes ahead and lambs. But if they do not mark and do not lamb, it is good evidence that they were not cycling and are candidates for culling.

Making Culling Decisions. Occasionally, a flock will run short on winter feed. In the midst of winter, trying to decide which ewes to cull can be difficult. Marking harness records could tell you which ewes did not mark or which ewes marked multiple times. These ewes have a lower probability of lambing and may be better candidates to cull. A ewe that always takes 3 cycles to settle makes management harder.

Selecting aseasonal lambing ewes. This task is a little tougher, since there are more variables including ewes that cycle (and are marked) and do not settle, rams that mark several ewes but have low semen counts or are sterile. But that said, marking records provide the shepherd with more information about his/her ewes and their cycling in the spring. If some ewes mark, then you know that the ram is detecting estrous. The marking harness provides information about what percentage of the ewes are cycling. Also, if a ram marked most of the ewes but no ewes lambed, it would indicate that many of the ewes were aseasonal but that the ram had fertility issues.

Catching the ram. We often remove rams from the breeding pen without taking all the ewes back to the sorting CONTINUED ON PAGE 19
Katahdin Sale Round Up

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 emphasizing 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 sale to be posted. 479-444-8441 or info@katahdins.org


July 29-30, 2011. 6th Annual Center of the Nation Sale. Clay County Fairgrounds in Spencer, Iowa. Open to all NSIP members with current EBVs. Sale order will be established by sector. Maternal: Polypay and Katahdin, by their respective indexes. Terminals: PWWT within breed. Wool breeds: Targhee and Colombias, by the Western Range Index. Contact Mike Park for info, parkwoodhillfarm@gmail.com

August 12-13, 2011. Midwest Katahdin Hair Sheep Association Private Treaty Sale and Educational Meeting. Mason City, Iowa. Contact Steve Bull for more information. 641-420-7535 or angus50usa@yahoo.com. (More information to follow in the next issue of the Katahdin Hairald)

**September 17, 2011. 7th Annual Katahdin Hair Sheep International Expo Sale.** Pipestone Fairgrounds, Pipestone Minnesota. Expo Sale to include registered stock as well as pens of commercial Katahdin Ewes. Contact Wes Limesand, Expo Sale Committee Chair, 701-235-2114 or Jim Morgan at KHSI Operations, 479-444-8441 or info@katahdins.org

**October 8, 2011. 5th Annual Midwest Hair Sheep Sale.** Washington County Fairgrounds, Salem, Indiana. Contact Washington County Sheep Association, Dave Embree, 812-755-4414 or Purdue Extension Washington County 812-883-4601. More information about this year’s sale and consignment will be available at http://www.wcsheep.org (see Katahdins and Katahdin Breeders in the News article in this issue of the Katahdin Hairald for information about last year’s sale.)

**- Indicates there is an article with more information in this issue of the Hairald.

**What can a Marking Harness Tell You, continued from page 18**

pens. The sheep could be in a distant part of the rotation or across the highway from the sorting pens. By dropping a little grain or alfalfa hay on the ground, the harness straps make it handy for us to catch and control the ram as we get it out of the pen or into a cage on the trailer or back of the truck.

Problems with harnesses. Harnesses are not always the cat’s meow and they do not work for everyone. If the pastures or pens have brush or junk that can catch a harness, a ram could get caught or become entangled, and maybe even be severely injured. It takes more management to check the pasture and reduce the chances of rams being entangled in the woods or metal scraps. Crayons can be purchased for three sets of temperatures (hot, warm, cold). The wax of the crayon needs to melt at daytime temperatures in order to mark the ewe. A hot crayon will not melt if the temperature is 30 degrees F. A cold crayon will melt all over the ram if the ambient temperatures are in the 70s or 80s, thus requiring replacement. If temperatures change dramatically, the shepherd needs to catch the ram immediately and change the crayons to keep the harnesses working. Harnesses can also rub the ram raw, if not kept adjusted correctly. They can cause bleeding. Some folks say the harnesses are only 25-50% successful in helping to identify ewes that are marked and when they will lamb. Harnesses are less useful for those with jobs off the farm that do not allow them to see the ewes in the daylight every day to check for marks. Some rams have a light touch or maybe a cooler chest and are less likely to leave marks. When ambient temperature is really cold, a ewe with a thick coated butt is also less likely to mark.

In summary, marking harnesses are a useful management tool. They provide much more information for managing your flock than just telling you when a ewe is likely to lamb.
The Katahdin Hairald is the official publication of Katahdin Hair Sheep International, which provides education about:

- registering individual Katahdin sheep and recording performance
- maintaining the distinct identity of the Katahdin breed
- approaches to promotion and marketing
- summaries of research and development related to the breed

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KHSI Registry:

- KHSI Registrar: Karey Claghorn
  - KHSI Registry, 15603 173rd Ave., Milo, IA 50166
  - Phone – 641-942-6402, Fax – 641-942-6502; Email – registry@katahdins.org
  - Contact the Registry with questions about registration, recording, transferring, upgrading procedures.

KHSI Operations:

- Jim Morgan and Teresa Maurer; PO Box 778; Fayetteville, AR 72702-0778
  - Phone and FAX: 479-444-8441; info@katahdins.org
  - Send the following to Operations - Completed membership applications, renewal forms and dues
  - Contact Operations for the following:
    - Request inspections before May 15
    - Information packets sent to public
    - 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, Wednesday, Friday (10 am - 3 pm). Calls at other times including evenings and weekends will be answered personally whenever possible.
- Answering machine, FAX and email: available for messages 24 hours per day.

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  - Contact the Registry with questions about registration, recording, transferring, upgrading procedures.

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- Nominating/Election: Mark Dennis - 337-364-0422
- Youth/Education: Howard Brown - 405-567-2559
- Expo Sale: Wes Limesand - 701-235-2114
- Website: John Stromquist - 815-629-2159 or Howard Brown - 405-567-2559

Breed Improvement Guidelines:

- Laura Fortmeyer – 785-467-8041

Hairald Publishing:

- Wes Limesand - 701-235-2114

Registry Liaison:

- Wes Limesand - 701-235-2114

KHSI Member’s Guide 11/10

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- Answering machine, FAX and email: available for messages 24 hours per day.
SHEEP WANTED

FLORIDA
NW FL. Registered Ewes. Looking to purchase 4 or more registered ewes. Contact Captain Wayne Rowlett at 850-547-1333 in Bonifay, FL.

GEORGIA
NW GA. Market Lambs. I am looking for 4-6 lambs to grow out for harvest in late 2011. Need by mid to late spring. Greg Hutchins of Bowdon, GA. 770-377-5380 or theheritagefarm@yahoo.com

KENTUCKY
SW KY. Commercial/Registered Ewes. Wanted 100+ commercial or registered ewes & rams (2 yr olds). Bob Rush of Greenville KY. 404-403-9146 or special1@centurytel.com

NEW YORK
Central NY. Bred Ewes. Looking for 2-3 bred ewes for my son’s sheep project. Do not have to be registered but do have to be healthy. We are in central NY state & would prefer to buy locally. Will consider a bred ewe and an unrelated ewe lamb. Shere Crossman of Crossman Family Farm. West Winfield, NY. 315-822-6654 or crossmanfarms@live.com
NY & Surrounding States. Bred Commercial/Registered or Unbred Ewes. Looking for groups of at least 10 ewes or 100 plus ewes (yearling-3 yrs old). Will travel to NE PA, NJ or Western CT & MA or VT. Contact Maurice Dalton at 516-333-2000, ext 105 or mdalton@rosenmgmt.com

NORTH DAKOTA
Registered RR Ram Lamb. Want to buy RR Ram lamb. Must be able to breed by fall of 2011 and must be of good genetics. Contact Dennis in Brocket, ND. 701-655-3589 or dmaixner@polarcomm.com

100 Commercial Katahdin Lambs. We need to buy up to 100 commercial Katahdin lambs. Call Kent of Pfennig Farms for details 701-220-6410 or kpffennig@bektel.com

OHIO

CENTRAL/SOUTHERN OH. 100 commercial 2-yr old ewes, bred if possible. Dave Ditmer. Hillsboro, OH 937-466-9532, david.ditmer@gmail.com

Pennsylvania
NW PA. Ewes & Ram. Looking to buy 2-5 Katahdin ewes 2-3 years old. Also looking for a ram. We are located in NW PA, Titusville area. Brenda Malone at jbmcool@usachoice.net or 814-671-4747

SE States
Weaned Lambs. I am interested in contracting for any feeder lambs from weaning up to 75 pounds for growing out to market. Prefer lambs from pasture-raised operations. Will take lambs not making your grade for breeding stock. Specifically interested in Southeastern states up to VA and west to La. Contact Scott Justice at info@mosshillfarms.com or 803-247-2471

Virginia
NORTHERN VA. Yearling ewes. Want 4 hair sheep for 1½ acres. Mark Gonzales, Fredericksburg, VA. gonzoinstepdj.com

Alabama
SE Al. Registered Yearling Ram & Ram Lamb. Jan ’10 born QR ram sired by “Trendsetter” & May ’10 born RR ram sired by WSK 4198. Both rams have great genetics. $350 each. SFCP certified Scrapie Free. Frankie & Michelle Stiefel, Sand Mountain Katahdins, Section AL. 256-599-4506, frankiestiefel@centurytel.net

Sheep for Sale

Round Mountain Katahdins
Performance-Based Selection on Pasture
Selecting for stock with balanced EPDs and superior Lbs Lamb Weaned
Jim Morgan & Teresa Maurer
NW AR • 479-444-6075
jim@earthlink.net

Classified sale ads for Katahdin or Katahdin-cross sheep are free to all KHSI members in the Katahdin Hairald and at the KHSI website. For the Hairald, please limit length to 40 words. Sheep Wanted Ads can be placed for free for non-KHSI members. Classified Ad Content due April 12th, 2011 to KHSI Operations Office for Summer 2011 Hairald. Contact KHSI Operations, 479-444-8441 or info@katahdins.org.
SHEEP FOR SALE

ARKANSAS

NW AR. Mature Registered Ram. Excellent structure & muscling. Vigorous breeder for several years. An excellent addition to any flock. Have several excellent daughters & need new ram. $250. Contact Terri Burton 479.806.4148. Rudy, AR

NORTHERN AR. Mature Commercial Ram. Excellent structure & muscling. Has been a vigorous breeder for two years. An excellent addition to any flock. Have several excellent daughters and need new ram. Elaine Mills of Katahdin Mills Farm, Harrison, AR. 870-365-0169, demills07@windstream.net

KENTUCKY

SOUTHERN KY. Registered QR & RR Ram Lambs. Ready to breed now. 2010 born. Pasture raised only. Top 10% of crop advertised for sale. No foot problems or required deworming. Jeff Emmerling, Magnolia KY. 270-528-4288 or j.emmerling@srtc.com Photos & more info at www.jandmsheep.com

LOUISIANA

2011 Registered Lambs. Taking orders now. Russell Adams of RF Adams Farms in Franklinton, LA, Washington Parish. 985-515-9406 or rfadamsfarms@rfadams.com

MARYLAND

Registered, Recorded & Commercial Lambs; Recorded RR Ram. Lambs available in spring. Yearling ram, Twitter, Katahdin/Dorper, recorded 81% Katahdin, proven breeder, RR genotype. University of Maryland, Campus Farm, Crystal Caldwell, 301-405-1298, crystalc@umd.edu

MISSISSIPPI

SOUTHERN MS. Registered RR Mature Ram. 3 Yr twin born, white A coat. Barbara Slater, BV Farms, New Hebron, MS. bvfarms@windstream.net, 601-792-9214

MONTANA

Eastern MT. Commercial & Registered Rams. Spring Lambs. Commercial purebred Katahdin yearling rams & one 4 yr old registered ram. Will have 50 commercial ewe & ram lambs & registered ram lambs for sale this spring. Taking orders now. Christy Kemp, River Breaks Kathadins, Glendive, MT. 406-366-0366, crwkemp@yahoo.com

NORTH CAROLINA


OHIO

West Central OH. Registered Ewes & Ewe Lambs. 18 healthy ewes (10 months-2 years), raised on pasture & forage. Variety of colors. SFCP. Beth Bear, Rambling Acres Farm, Covington, OH. bksears@gmail.com or call 937-448-0101. www.ramblesacres.com

Southern OH. Registered Ram Lambs. 100 ram lambs. Choose from all colors, very nice lambs. Codon 171 tested. Teresa Elliott, Gold Strike Farm in Sciotown, OH. 740-256-9247, goldstrikeboergoats@yahoo.com, www.goldstrikeboergoats.com

Pennsylvania


TENNESSEE

SE TN. Mature & Yearling Rams. Two Feb 09 QR rams, one white singlet, one brown & white twin. Four Feb/Mar 2010 QR rams. Michael Stumpff, Cedar Creek Farms, Georgetown, TN. 423-505-4274, mstumpff@yahoo.com


Katahdin Breeders

In the News

1. Pipestone Veterinary Clinic Catalog – 2011. For the second year in a row, Doc Kennedy has provided good information about Katahdins to the sheep industry. Page 1 of the catalog gives a brief biography of his work in agriculture. There are brief descriptions of his work in large animal veterinary medicine and his sheep enterprises over the years. Doc mentions that the Finn breed had a large impact on sheep production because their incorporation into some new composites and cross-bred ewes created a ewe with 200% lamb crops. Going on, it is worth quoting one paragraph from Doc’s brief biography and the cover photo of the catalog. “I am now fascinated by Katahdins. Their durability, low maintenance and proficiency makes them a sure bet for flocks in the Midwest and elsewhere. I think they have the opportunity to be major contributors in stabilizing the sheep industry. I witnessed how the Finns contributed in their time. The potential for Katahdins is many times that. There is a new paradigm in the making.”


The Washington County Sheep Association held its 4th Annual “Midwest Hair Sheep Sale” on October 9, 2010, at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Salem, Indiana. 17 farms consigned sheep from Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia. Breeds sold included Katahdin, Dorper, White Dorper, Painted Desert, Royal White, St Croix and crossbreds. A starter flock of 1 ram and 4 registered Katahdin ewes sold for $1550 and was consigned by Big H Livestock of Washington County Fairgrounds. 17 farms consigned sheep from Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia. Breeds sold included Katahdin, Dorper, White Dorper, Painted Desert, Royal White, St Croix and crossbreds. A starter flock of 1 ram and 4 registered Katahdin ewes sold for $1550 and was consigned by Big H Livestock of Virginia. Consigned sheep were registered and commercial. The 2011 sale date is October 8, 2011. For more information, contact Washington County Sheep Association, Dave Embree, 812-755-4414 or Purdue Extension Washington County 812-883-4601. More information about this year’s sale and consignment will be available at http://www.wcsheep.org
JUBILEE FARM
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25 years experience with Katahdins
NSIP since 1994 • SFCP Certified flock
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Replacement Ewes & Ewe Sires
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One hundred ewe flock
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Utilizing Lamb Plan EBVs

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Business Card ads in the Hairald for
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Katahdin Hair Sheep
Quality RR
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Show Stock
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stromquist@statelineisp.com • www.stromquist-katahdins.com

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First Certified U.S. Lamb Ultrasound Scanners Complete Course in 2010

A course to train and certify people to use ultrasound scanners for sheep was held in June 2010 in Ames, Iowa. It was hosted by Dr Dan Morrical of Iowa State University. Dr Scott Greiner of Virginia Tech did the training. This was the first certification program for lamb ultrasound work to be held in the U.S. Thirteen scanners were certified.

The training was modeled after ultrasound scanner certification used in the beef and pork industries. A key issue with ultrasound work is repeatability. The images received from ultrasound work are fuzzy and it takes practice and skill to be accurate and consistent. The images are used to determine the loin eye area and amount of back fat and are important measures used to help predict the genetics of carcass merits.

The purpose of the certification is to provide sheep producers with a list of scanners that have passed a test. A list of the certified scanners may be found at the National Sheep Improvement Program website, on the NSIP Info page at www.nsip.org.

Currently there are certified scanners in California, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Oregon, Virginia and Wisconsin.

A future fact sheet will be published about age and weight ranges to ultrasound loin eyes. The U.S. sheep industry will be doing loin eye depth, similar to sheep industries in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. Currently, it is recommended that rams be ultrasounded at market ages and weights. The acceptable age range is 90-180 days of age. This certification class was supported by the American Sheep Industry Association. Plans are on the table to do another lamb ultrasound certification class on the east and west coasts in the next few years that will provide certified lamb scanners in more states in the country.

Registry & Membership Numbers – Good Trends

KHSI Operations

For the third year in a row, sales of registered Katahdins increased. Transfers are an indicator of sales and they are highest since the peak year of 2006. If the total number of Recordations are excluded from the comparisons, numbers are at the second highest level in all categories. Membership numbers rebounded from a low year in 2009 to the second highest on record.

Keep up the good work of promoting and selling Katahdins!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>REGISTRATIONS</th>
<th>RECORDATIONS</th>
<th>TRANSFERS</th>
<th>TOTAL REGISTRATIONS &amp; RECORDATIONS</th>
<th>TOTAL REGISTRATIONS &amp; RECORDATIONS ACTIONS</th>
<th>VOTING MEMBERSHIP</th>
<th>YOUTH MEMBERSHIP</th>
<th>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</th>
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<td>4979</td>
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<td>5086</td>
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<td>1711</td>
<td>3899</td>
<td>5610</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>NA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Resource Shelf

1. 2011 ASI Convention Presentations Online

   The diverse talks offered during the 2011 American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) Convention in Reno, Nevada are now available on the ASI website. To access them, go to www.sheepusa.org, click on ‘Resources’ in the upper left corner, and then choose ‘Presentations’ in the column on the left. There you will find useful current information on topics such as 2011 Sheep Industry Survey by USDA NAHMS (National Animal Health Monitoring System), Scrapie Program Update, and Ethnic Lamb Buying and Preparation Behavior and Preferences, and more.

2. Need a DVM that provides Small Ruminant Reproductive Services? or Do You Want To Find A Sheep Vet?

   The American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners (AASRP) is now asking their members to indicate whether they provide reproductive services for sheep and/or goats. Reproductive services include: embryo transfer, semen collection and evaluation, laparoscopic AI, transcervical AI and ultrasonography for pregnancy diagnosis.

   This information is available at the website: http://aasrp.org/index.cfm

   Currently the link to do the search is about halfway down on the right part of the home page and is called “Looking for reproductive veterinarian?” A shepherd could select laparoscopic AI and a state (e.g. Ohio) and see if there are any DVMs (veterinarians) listed for your part of Ohio who do laparoscopic AI. There are some limitations. AASRP just started asking DVMs to list their reproductive services for sheep. So it will take a while for all DVMs to list their services but you should keep checking back. Also many of the DVMs who do sheep work do not yet belong to AASRP.

   Even if you do not wish to do AI or embryo transfer, the website can help you find small ruminant practitioners in your area. On the upper left part of the home page is a link called “Find a Vet” to search for all DVMs in AASRP. The functions allow you to input zip code or town. You can also use the state or school that DVM graduated from as the search term. Again keep checking the website because new names are being added regularly.

   Editor’s note: The American Sheep Industry (ASI) suggested to AASRP that they list DVMs who provide reproductive service, so we can thank ASI for being the sparkplug for this helpful service. If you don’t use computers or have internet, most public libraries offer internet services. Take this article into the library and ask the reference librarian for help or ask a neighbor or young relative whose school may have internet.

Send Your 2011 Dues in Today

Do Not Forget!

Do Not Forget!

Do Not Forget!

a) Send all Registration Applications and Transfers to KHSI Registry in Milo Iowa (even if the “old style” Certificate has Morrilton AR)

b) Transfer Fees are $5 - not $3

c) Throw away the old blank Registration Application Forms that say to send to Morrilton, AR

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KHSI 2011 Expo Schedule

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE - PIPESTONE, MINNESOTA

September 15 Thursday
Optional Tour: Meet at Hotel at 7:30 AM to Board the Bus
AM – Tour Iowa Lamb – A major lamb processing plant in Hawarden Iowa
PM – Tour two sheep production farms in the Pipestone Sheep Project
5:00 p.m. ........ Expo Sale Sheep check-in at Pipestone Fairgrounds

September 16 Friday
Events at Pipestone Vocational Technical School & Pipestone Fairgrounds
AM ................ Vocational Technical School
   Educational Sessions. Topics include health, nutrition, marketing, etc.
   Speakers include:
   Mike Caskey & Philip Berg of Minnesota West Technical College.
   Doc G.F. Kennedy, J.D. Bobb, DVM, J.L. Goelz, DVM of Pipestone Veterinary Clinic
   Dion Van Well – Waterton South Dakota Lamb Feeder and Marketer
Lunch.............. Catered by "Two Fat Sisters"
PM ................ Vocational Technical School
   Educational Sessions: Continued
   KHSI Annual Membership Meeting
   At Pipestone Fairgrounds
6:00 Dinner....... Catered by "Two Fat Sisters"

September 17 Saturday
Events at Pipestone Fairgrounds
8:30 a.m. ........ View Sale Animals
9:30 a.m. ........ Session on Conformation & Soundness
12:00 noon ...... Sale – Registered Katahdin Rams & Ewes Sale, followed by Commercial
                Katahdin Ewe Sale