Katahdins in the U.S.
Piel Farm vision 1957-70’s

- Meat sheep can make faster progress if no need to select for wool traits
- Diminishing profitability of wool - why bother?
- Improve production efficiency to serve New England lamb market
- Substitute sheep for herbicides and mowing, for ex. electric transmission lines
Dr. Charles Parker vision- 80’s/90’s

- Emphasize utility/maternal traits for efficient lamb production
- Agriculture needs easy-care sheep
- Select for parasite resistance and out-of-season lambing
- Use science-based sheep performance assessment
Heifer International vision- 70’s/80’s

- An adapted sheep for the Southern U.S.
- Low-maintenance small ruminant for smallholder farmers in developing countries and for multi-species grazing in North America
Katahdin Hair Sheep Int’l

- Incorporated 1985 with stated purposes:
  - Protect identity of the breed
  - Record pedigree and performance
  - Growth & education of breeders
  - Encourage promotion
  - Pursue research and development
  - Increase efficiency in animal husbandry and the quality of food resources
1993 KHSI Board meeting-What do you see in 10 years for the Katahdin breed?

- Predictable hair coats
- Legitimacy as a commercial ewe
- Improved muscling
- Consistent twinning and mothering
- Diversity of production situations
- More Katahdins in Latin America
- More research being done on the breed
More 1993 predictions:

- Crossbreeding with terminal sires for 125# market lambs
- Some flocks selected for parasite tolerance and out-of-season lambing
- Performance evaluation that increases value
- Regional sales & field days
- Marketing clubs of breeders
- Creative promotion of the breed by individuals

THE BREED WHOSE TIME DID COME!
Role of Katahdins this century:

- vegetation management
  - hundreds of applications, every region
- agricultural product processors
- meat for special meals
GUARD THE LEGACY

- Productive
- Easy-care
- Adaptable