Katahdin NSIP Cheat Sheet: One-Page Reminder Summary of the Basics....

Recording Data

- Use the "Add & Change records" button in the main screen of Pedigree Master (PM) to get animal IDs in the system. Start with your oldest sires & dams if you are entering for the first time, so that they appear in the drop-down lists when entering progeny. Add as much information as you have on every animal in this page, then choose "save record".

- Each lamb gets a 16-character ID, which starts out with 64 (for Katahdins), then your 4-digit flock ID, then 4 digits for the year born, then 6 characters for the lamb's ID. KHSI's convention is that the last 6 are your flock's tag ID plus 3 digits reflecting the animal's tag number. E.g. 6400752012ABC001.

- Orphan-rears (bottle lambs): count them in the "born" count as normal, but list "1" as "reared" and any siblings still raised by the dam are counted separately. Encode the orphan as raised by foster ewe with an ID such as "0000BOTTLE".

- Died-at-birth (or soon after) lambs: code as DAB### for the last 6 characters. Include them in the "born" count, but not in the "reared" count for that set.

- Early lamb deaths (before 60 days): add to "born" count, but not to "reared" count for that ewe.

- Exposed ewes which did not lamb: use a fictional code for lambs, e.g. DRY001 in last 6 characters of ID; and put blanks or * in the born/reared fields.

- Animals designated as culls or commercial will not incur a database fee (up to 30% of the year's drop). Code them as "CU" or "CO" in the 11th and 12th characters of the ID before any post-birth weight submission. E.g. 6400752012**CO**0001.

- Groups: the "Group #" field at the top is the drop #: should almost always be the same. Except for crossbreds or for animals born outside of the regular season, or where ewes were fed differently during pregnancy. A drop spans <70 days. The drop-down number to the right of the weighing data is the group they were in up until that weigh date. Make up your own codes here to describe groups such as bottle lambs, wethers, or different rearing groups. Click on the textual name of the category and a help window will pop up reminding you of the age span of the group.

- Importing data from other sources: see separate instructions for how to dump data out of your favorite database program and/or Microsoft Excel, and import it straight into PM with a few clicks.

- When entering animals purchased from non-NSIP flocks, use your own flock ID and that animal's birth year, but include the source flock's KHSI flock ID in the last six characters, as appropriate. If others may have used that animal in NSIP breedings, attempt to use the same ID across all flocks so that animal's progeny are consolidated. Be careful to not use "prohibited" codes such as "CO"

Submitting Data

- Check your data in two steps. First, open the "Display" window, navigate to a lamb from this year's drop. Click the ""Group" highlighted text, and peruse the table of lamb crop data. If there is a mistake you can correct it right in this window.

- Next, in the main PW window, click the "Summaries, Validation, Backup & Exporting" button in the main PM window. Choose in your flock ID and years you want to check. This will give you an error/warning report- study it carefully. Go back and fix any errors you identify. Keep doing this until you get no errors (or at least no unexpected errors- it's ok to have warnings that lambs are out of the typical weight ranges, as long as the data is correct). It gives you the option to print the error list if you find this helpful.

- In the same window, choose "create backup", choose where to save the file on your hard drive, then send the zipped file to database@sheepgenetics.org.au Put in the subject line your NSIP flock ID, plus "Katahdin data" and your last name and/or farm name. The data is run twice monthly, schedule/due dates are here: http://www.nsip.org/

Getting Data Back from NSIP After You've Submitted

You get an email from Sheep Genetics. Click on the link inside the email to take you to the data download site, and search through the list until you find your flock #. It will start with 64 (the Katahdin code). Save the file to your hard drive, then run it (you may get a Windows warning click "more info" and "run anyway"), . It will prompt you for a password: this is in the title/header of the email they sent to you. This will update your database with the latest data.

Looking at the Data

- To export an EBV report: in PM, go to Reporting & Utilities-> Data Files Tab-> EBVs database and click the Copy button. Specify your flock #, choose the flag to limit to current animals only, so dead and sold ones don't show up... It will dump out a .dbf file in the export folder. You can open these in Microsoft Excel and then sort and analyze them to your heart's content.

- To look at data for sheep you bought from other NSIP flocks: do the same export as above, only choose the flock ID of the original owner/breeder of the sheep. Or leave that field blank and you'll get a superset of data related to your flock's progeny that you can filter in Excel.