

# THE KATAHDIN HAIRALD

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Newsletter of Katahdin  
Hair Sheep International

## RAM MANAGEMENT

We would like to offer a few important reminders related to the fertility potential and breeding behavior of your Katahdin rams so that you can have confidence in the accuracy of parentage records for each lamb crop.

1. Katahdin lambs are fertile and able to mate as early as four to five months of age (or even younger in a few cases). Thus, intact male lambs must be separated from ewes and ewe lambs **no later than five months of age** if you do not intend for the ram lambs to breed these females.
2. If there are two or more males of any ages with a group of ewes or ewe lambs at one time, you cannot be confident which male has bred a ewe that lambs approximately five months later. Although older rams may appear to dominate, younger rams can sneak in a breeding as well, so you cannot assume a dominant ram has bred any ewe. Marking harnesses can be a useful management tool, however, because they do not work 100% of the time, they do not definitively indicate which ram has settled a ewe that is exposed to more than one at the same time. Color patterns are also a poor indicator of parentage. Any lambs born from multi-sire mating situations are not registerable, since the sire is not known with certainty, but may be recorded as 50% if from a registered Katahdin ewe.

## KHSI-CANADA

KHSI now offers a Canadian address for inquiries generated by our advertising in Canadian publications. Ellen Wise of Alberta has volunteered to serve as our Canadian "agent," responding to requests for information on the Katahdin breed and/or KHSI membership. It has been recognized that newcomers to the breed are more likely to contact an address within their own region or country for general information, and we hope this service will make KHSI more accessible in Canada. Thanks Ellen!

The address is:

**KHSI-Canada**

Box 48003, 40 Midlake Blvd SE  
Calgary, Alberta T2X 3L0  
403-652-3117 (phone/fax)

## FYI FYI FYI FYI FYI FYI FYI FYI FYI

- The KHSI Operations office has a new area code. The phone number is now **785-467-8041**. The old area code (913) will work until October 1998, but we are starting to make the transition. We also have a fax machine at that number now.
- We are still looking for your suggestions for agenda items and Board nominations for the Annual Meeting in September. Please contact Steve Camp (KHSI Secretary/Treasurer, 462 Green Spot Road, Lacrosse, WA 99143, 509-549-3321, [spcmail@televar.com](mailto:spcmail@televar.com)) or Laura Fortmeyer (KHSI Operations, PO Box 115, Fairview, KS 66425, 785-467-8041) by September 15.
- Congratulations to Larry & Lisa Weeks of Virginia on the arrival of their baby daughter, Lexi Elise, on July 2!

## 1998 GATHERING SITE

We are interested in your offers or ideas for sites for the 1998 Annual Gathering. Any site needs to provide decent accommodations for lodging, meals, and meeting space for up to 75 people, willing and able host(s) to plan the event, and enough Katahdin sheep in proximity to offer an inspector certification session. Educational and recreational resources in the area are desirable. Let us know of your suggestions! (We will want some background information.) Contact Laura Fortmeyer or Steve Camp by September 20.

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## PROMOTIONAL ITEMS AVAILABLE

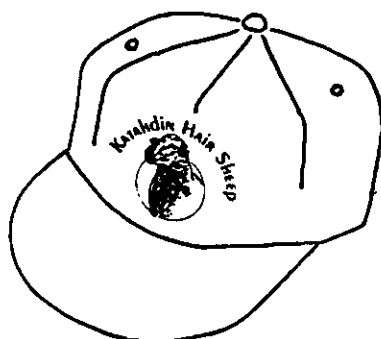
KHSI is now offering caps and T-shirts to help you promote Katahdins to the public. These are high quality items that are comfortable and should last a long time.

**T-Shirts:** 100% cotton

Colors: "Ash" gray or "Stonewashed Blue"

Sizes: X-Large, Large or Medium (for youth or small women)

Price: \$15 U.S./\$21 Can., postage paid



**Caps:** 5-panel cotton

Color: "Natural" with black bill

Price: \$10 U.S./\$14 Can., postage paid



We also continue to offer 12" x 24" aluminum farm signs and self-adhesive decals of the same design. The signs are priced at \$25 U.S./\$35 Can. and the decals at \$12 U.S./\$17 Can., postage paid.



All of the above items can now be ordered from Steve Camp, 462 Green Spot Road, Lacrosse, WA 99143, 509-549-3321, [spcmail@televar.com](mailto:spcmail@televar.com). Please send correct payment and clearly specify color and size for T-shirts. Note, shipping and handling costs will be deducted for items purchased at the Annual Gathering.



Other items available through Laura Fortmeyer, KHSI Operations, PO Box 115, Fairview, KS 66425 include:

- Informational brochures about the Katahdin breed: 20 free per member per year upon request; \$10 U.S. each after that
- 3.5" x 5" postcards with a Katahdin ram's head (above) etched in gray on one side at 10 for \$1.50 U.S.
- For exhibits, KHSI members may borrow 8" x 10" photos and a 2' x 6' KHSI banner for only the cost of shipping. Contact Laura at the address above, phone 785-467-8041.

*The Katahdin Hairald* is the official publication of Katahdin Hair Sheep International whose purposes are to:

- register individual Katahdin sheep and record performance;
- maintain the distinct identity of the Katahdin breed;
- assist in promotion and marketing; and
- encourage research and development related to the breed.

Board of Directors:

Donald Williams, Pennsylvania ..... President  
 Steve Camp, Washington ..... Secretary-Treasurer  
 Mark Dennis, Louisiana  
 Piel Farm, Maine  
 Donna Watkins, Illinois

KHSI Operations:

• Laura Fortmeyer, PO Box 115, Fairview, KS 66425,  
 785-467-8041

KHSI Registry:

• Charles Brown, Piel Farm, PO Box 89, Abbot, ME 04406,  
 207-876-4430

Newsletter edited by:

• Tina Williams, PO Box 318, Fair Play, MO 65649,  
 Phone: 417-276-5597, Fax: -5677, [WordsEtc@juno.com](mailto:WordsEtc@juno.com)

# 1997 KHSI ANNUAL GATHERING

*Steve Camp, Host*

The Annual Gathering is soon to be on us, and, if you haven't made your plans to attend, may I suggest you do so promptly. We are looking forward to hosting you here in southeast Washington at a most pleasant time of the year! We expect the best aspect of the weekend to be the opportunity to get better acquainted with other Katahdin breeders from all parts of North America. The sessions offered should be informative and allow plenty of time for questions.

## PROPOSED SCHEDULE

### Thursday, September 25

2:00 pm Board of Directors' meeting, Ramada Inn, Spokane

### Friday, September 26

*Steve Camp's ranch, Lacrosse*

9:00 am Welcome and Introductions

9:30 am Inspector Training and Certification

11:00 am John Pierson—New Zealand style fencing display and information

12:00 pm Lunch

*Colfax Public Service Building, Main Street*

1:30 pm Roundtable discussion of management and marketing issues.

3:00 pm Dr. Jan Busboom, Washington State University, "Understanding Your Final Product—Meat"

### Saturday, September 27

*Colfax Public Service Building, Main Street*

9:00 am KHSI Annual Membership Meeting

12:30 am Lunch on your own

2:00 pm Randy Baldree, Washington State Cooperative Extension Service, "Managing Sheep Nutrition at Various Production Stages"

3:30 pm Linda Neunzig, Katahdin breeder, will explain and demonstrate artificial insemination in sheep

6:30 pm Dutch treat dinner at the Hilltop Restaurant in Pullman

## HOW TO GET THERE

Colfax is located 60 miles south of Spokane on Hwy 195. To get to Steve Camp's ranch take Hwy 26 west out of Colfax about 23 miles, and, just past the 110 mile post, turn left on Mud Flat Road. Go about 2 miles and take a left at the Y onto Green Spot Road. Steve's is the first place, on the left. The Saturday evening dinner will be in Pullman, south of Colfax on Hwy 195.

## AREA ATTRACTIONS

Within a 100 mile radius of Colfax the unique topography of the Palouse Hills offers some breathtaking sights for hiking and photography as well as shooting the rapids up Hells Canyon and white water rafting. I will be preparing a "sights and tours" brochure available by request. If I can be of any help, please don't hesitate to call, write or E-mail me.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Colfax, The Siesta Motel .....	509-397-3417
Steptoe, Hartley's Wheel Inn Motel, restaurant .	509-397-3195
Pullman, Holiday Inn Express, restaurant .....	509-334-4437
Pullman, Quality Inn, restaurant .....	509-332-0500
Pullman, Manor Lodge .....	509-334-2511
Pullman, Hilltop Motel, restaurant .....	509-334-2555
Pullman, Cougar Land Motel .....	509-334-3535
Pullman, American Travel-Inn .....	509-334-3500

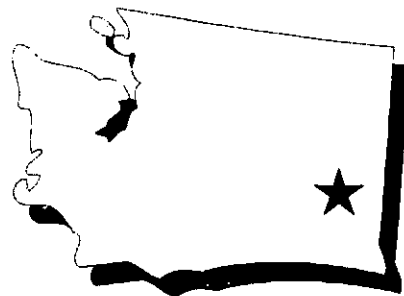
There are also some bed and breakfast accommodations in the area, and, for those who would like to travel by RV, there are ample hookups in and around Colfax.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Steve Camp, 462 Green Spot Road, Lacrosse, WA 99143,  
509-549-3321, E-mail [spcmail@televar.com](mailto:spcmail@televar.com)

Laura Fortmeyer, KHSI Operations, PO Box 115,  
Fairview, KS 66425, ph. 785-467-8041

*Let us know  
your plans!*



## MEMBERSHIP MEETING—TENTATIVE AGENDA

- I. Review Agenda
- II. Old Business
  - A. 1996 Meeting minutes
  - B. Treasurer's Report
  - C. Promotion Report
  - D. Canadian Katahdin Sheep Association
- III. New Business
  - A. Board of Directors Report
    1. Membership policies
      - a) Junior Memberships
    2. Registration policies
    3. Inspection policies
    4. Staffing review
  - B. World Sheep & Wool Congress (July 1998)
  - C. 1998 Annual Gathering
  - D. 1998 Budget
  - E. Setting Number of Directors *from elections*
  - F. Election of Directors
  - G. Election of Officers
  - H. Other Business

## CALGARY STAMPEDE REPORT

*Ellen Wise*

July of this year (1997) was an exciting one for Katahdin breeders in Alberta. We were accepted to show in the International Sheep Show at the Calgary Stampede. Billed as the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth, it is definitely one of the largest, if not *the* largest, livestock show in Canada. To be accepted at the Calgary Stampede gives a level of credibility and exposure that few other shows in North America can offer. We spoke about our breed to visitors from all over the world. In one day I spoke to people from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Scotland, Germany, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, England, and Holland as well as people from all over North America. Everyone was interested in Katahdins, and many took KHSI pamphlets home with them.

Seven breeders entered a total of twenty-two Katahdins at the Calgary Stampede International Sheep Show: Karen & Earl Pratt, Johanna & Lyle Weber, Shannon Richardson, Art & Ellen Wise, Margaret Kos & Laurie Rudd, Lynette Kreddig, and Tim & Jean Hamm. Every Katahdin entered was a very fine representative of the breed and the judge had his work cut out for him choosing the winners. We were judged on the same criteria as other meat breeds of sheep, selections being made on the basis of the structure of a meat animal. The judge, Mr. Neil Metheral of Glen Huron, Ontario, seemed quite impressed with the number and quality of animals represented. He was so impressed that, in a Trophy Class (Best Short Wool) he awarded

the Trophy to the Grand Champion Katahdin Ram over a wool breed! The Grand Champion Katahdin Ram was an impressive 196 pound ram owned, bred, and exhibited by Tim & Jean Hamm of Crossfield, Alberta. Grand Champion Ewe went to a superb ewe owned, bred, and exhibited by Lynette Kreddig of Mayerthorpe, Alberta. The award for Breeders Flock went to a beautiful group of animals owned, bred, and exhibited by Margaret Kos & Laurie Rudd of Whitecourt, Alberta.

All the Katahdin breeders who entered this show are to be commended for their spirit of good sportsmanship and camaraderie. What mattered at the Calgary Stampede show was the sheep themselves and the opportunity to compete on equal ground, promote a terrific breed of sheep, and have those sheep judged impartially using the same criteria as any other breed of sheep. The many Katahdin breeders who came to cheer us on and all of us who entered are already looking forward to next year's show. Competing on an international scale such as the Calgary Stampede can only result in increased awareness and progress for our breed. The Calgary Stampede International Sheep show is just that, International. It would be great to see some breeders from the U.S. and other countries! Next year promises to be bigger and better, and, if that includes the fun we had this year, hang onto your Stetsons!

## CARIBBEAN VISITORS

*Nancy R. Case, MKSA President*

It was our great privilege to host five visitors from two Caribbean islands on July 28 and 29. From the island of Trinidad: Patrick Samuel, Agricultural Assistant, Ministry of Agriculture; Radhicka Seerattan-Persad, Research Technician, University of the West Indies; Roxann Brown-Uddenberg, Laboratory Technician, University of the West Indies. And from the island of Grenada: Anthony Thomas, Livestock Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Francis Pierre, Agriculture Instructor, Ministry of Agriculture.

These individuals were taking part in the USDA's Cochran Program, which aids developing countries in building agricultural and economic ties to the United States. When their visit was being arranged, they expressed an interest in meeting with possible exporters of Katahdin sheep and semen. They were to spend two weeks at Elite Genetics, in Waukon, Iowa, learning artificial insemination techniques.

I arranged a five farm tour through central and eastern Missouri, intending to give our visitors a variety of management situations and breeding philosophies. First stop on the first day was our farm, where there is quite a lot of stock on 10 intensively managed acres. We then took them to the great symbol of American low culture, the mall, for lunch at the food court. We then proceeded to the Martha Wieggers farm, where they could see hundreds of Katahdins on a large acreage. David

Coplen then joined us for supper in a Columbia restaurant and later, a tour of a farm that raises dairy goats, cattle, and St. Croix/Katahdin-cross lambs. Day two took us to the Jim Lovelace farm in the afternoon where we not only saw a large Katahdin flock, but also emus and even salamanders! The evening was spent at Gary & Diane Delaloye's farm where we not only saw Katahdins and dairy goats, but were treated to one of Diane's terrific home-cooked meals.

While we talked to our visitors, we learned many things about their islands, culture, and agricultural practices. On Trinidad, animals aren't raised on pasture, but kept in pens, where the grass is cut and brought to them! The Grenadians were already using Katahdin rams in a crossbreeding program with their Barbados Blackbelly ewes and were very pleased with the increased muscling of the lambs. Thanks again to Laura Fortmeyer for sending these people our way.

If you are interested in being on the list for cooperative export sales, contact Laura Fortmeyer; if you are interested in collecting and/or exporting semen, contact Elite Genetics at (319) 568-4551, fax (319) 568-6370, e-mail: [EltGenetic@aol.com](mailto:EltGenetic@aol.com) or go to their web site at <http://www.rams4ewe.com>

## DEVELOPING A PHILOSOPHY OF BREEDING

*Excerpted from A Conservation Breeding Handbook by Phillip Sponenberg and Carolyn Christman. Reprinted with permission of the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy.*

A basic and guiding philosophy is that single most critical component of any breeding program. A breeder's first task is the development of a purpose in breeding animals. This may seem obvious, but it is very often overlooked, with the result that breeding is done with little progress toward any goal. Perhaps even worse than an aimless approach is a breeding program that chases after fads dictated by the show ring or other people. Such a program is constantly acquiring discarding, and thus wasting genetic resources in a futile attempt to catch up to the current leaders in the breed.

A philosophy of breeding combines the elements of genetics, selection, and husbandry in order to accomplish a goal. If a philosophy is in place, every animal and every mating can be evaluated relative to the goal, giving purpose and identity to the herd or flock.

### THE PHILOSOPHY OF CONSERVATION BREEDING

The philosophy of conservation breeding has as its objective the management of a breed as a genetic resource for the future. The goal is to maintain the breed's original genetic identity, including its production potential, by using selection criteria consistent with the breed's history. In addition, selection is made for physical soundness. This means that sound animals of breed type will be used in reproduction, with careful attention to maintain all existing bloodlines.

The conservation philosophy focuses on the *group* of animals rather than on the individuals. Attention is placed on the herd or flock, and the genetic variation present is managed so that this smaller group serves the breed's long term genetic needs.

The most dramatic management change required by the conservation philosophy is the selection and use of a relatively larger number of individuals (particularly males) for breeding. In addition, a sound animal somewhat lacking in appearance or performance but representing less common genetic variants may be used for mating instead of one which is superior in appearance or performance but whose genes are already well represented in the herd or flock.

The popular interpretation of the word "conserve" is to save things exactly as they are, but this is not exactly the case. Living animals continue to evolve, and conservation allows these changes to occur. Conservation of livestock and poultry includes their continued use and evolution in the habitat of agriculture. Those breeds that are treated as museum pieces will surely become extinct.

### THE PHILOSOPHY OF BREEDING IMPROVEMENT

The philosophy of improvement breeding has as its goal the increase of performance for production or conformation traits in a breed, herd or flock. The idea of making animals more useful, productive, and beautiful has always been the driving force in the breeding of the domestic species. To understand the

philosophy of improvement breeding, however, it is necessary to go beyond its broadest objectives and look at how breeding for performance is practiced today.

Within the improvement breeding philosophy are two distinct and sometimes opposing objectives: increase of uniformity in a population and production of outstanding individuals. The first objective guides most production animal breeding programs, since herd or flock uniformity, especially of performance, is highly desirable. The second, concentrating on individual performance, is more common in horse breeding and in the production of show stock of any species.

Most improvement programs focus on performance for a single production trait or a few production traits. These include rate of weight gain in beef cattle, volume of milk produced in dairy cattle, and speed in race horses. The disadvantage of this approach is its reliance on very narrow selection criteria. If *every* animal lacking superb performance for this trait is culled, variation in other traits is reduced. If *every* animal with superb performance for this trait is bred, then other undesirable characteristics may be perpetuated.

A more sound approach to improvement breeding selects animals based on several traits rather than on a single trait or a few traits. Such a program results in more balanced performance animals and fewer genetic losses.

### CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

The philosophy of improvement need not conflict with the philosophy of conservation, and it is always desirable to include both in a breeding program. They conflict only when improvement represents a departure from the historic uses and characteristics of a breed. Such transformation usually implies loss of a breed's genetic heritage.

*A Conservation Breeding Handbook* was written to provide individual breeders and breed associations with a clear and useful description of conservation breeding. The *Handbook* is a softcover book, 136 pages long, with a resource list, glossary, and index, illustrated by 90 photographs, charts, and drawings. To order, send \$12.95 plus \$3 shipping to ALBC, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312; call 919-542-5704 or fax 919-545-0022 with VISA/Mastercard orders.

#### Katahdin Informational Booklets

The Midwest Katahdin Sheep Association has available for sale a 20 page booklet including Katahdin History, Breed Characteristics and Standard, KHSI Membership and Registration Requirements, General Sheep Management and Resources. They are priced at 65¢ each for MKSA members or \$1 each for non-members (U.S. funds) with postage extra. Contact Tina Williams, PO Box 318, Fair Play, MO 65649, 417-276-5597, WordsEtc@juno.com to order your copies to hand out to new or potential buyers or for your own reference.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Travis & Jackie Baycroft ..... Alberta  
 Jack & Lillian Brooks ..... Alberta  
 Barry & Diana Fastwood ..... Alberta  
 Tom & Carol Irvine ..... Alberta  
 Barbara Holmstrom Family ..... Alberta  
 Glenn McNair ..... Alberta  
 Sylvia Safranka ..... Alberta  
 Kathleen Seely ..... Alberta  
 Ted & Janna Ondrak Family .... California  
 Charlie & Catharine Brown ..... Illinois  
 Jeff & Amy Crump ..... Illinois

Victor & Cheryl Shelton ..... Indiana  
 Larry G. Jensen ..... Iowa  
 James & Francie Southern ..... Kentucky  
 O.J. Fontenot (associate) ..... Louisiana  
 Gerald & Arliss Dennison ..... Michigan  
 Joe & Jody Miller ..... Michigan  
 John & Sandra Brandt ..... Missouri  
 Pearl J. Ray ..... North Carolina  
 Anton Voegelé ..... Nova Scotia  
 Lee & Mary Musgrave ..... Ohio  
 Derryl McLean ..... Ontario

Kay & Dexter Walter ..... Oregon  
 David & Audrey Bogdan ... Saskatchewan  
 Bill & Patty Garland ..... Saskatchewan  
 Victor & Shirley Janzen .... Saskatchewan  
 Irwin & Karen Kish ..... Saskatchewan  
 Joe & Dorothy  
 Marcoux Family ..... Saskatchewan  
 Colleen & Glenn McMillan .. Saskatchewan  
 T.O. Harwell ..... Texas



## **WORLD SHEEP & WOOL CONGRESS**

The fifth "World Sheep & Wool Congress" will be held in Pomona, California July 14-20, 1998. The Congress is a relatively new event held every three years and is being coordinated by the breed organizations based in the U.S. Previous events were in Canada in 1986, Tasmania in 1989, Argentina in 1992, and England in 1995.

Site of the Congress is "Fairplex," The Los Angeles County Fair, Hotel, and Exposition Complex. It offers exhibit and convention space, a large livestock area and several show rings, and a Sheraton Suites Hotel and RV park with all amenities.

A great variety of sheep will be exhibited, and several breeds will hold shows and sales. Seminars will be conducted with an international view. Topics will include genetic

improvement and reproductive technologies, marketing and promotion, exporting and importing, sheep dairying, environmental issues and animal welfare.

The conference will prove an unforgettable opportunity to meet with your colleagues and see first-hand what is happening in sheep breeding, management, marketing, and export around the world. Several pre- and post-conference tours have also been arranged showing the diversity of sheep production. This is anticipated to be a very popular conference with global attendance. You will be hearing more about this in the future—put it on your calendar!



**KHSI**

c/o Laura Fortmeyer  
 PO Box 115  
 Fairview, KS 66425