

The Katahdin Hairald



Quarterly Newsletter of Katahdin Hair Sheep International

Volume 12
Number 3
Summer 2000

President's Corner

Mark Dennis, Louisiana

Dear Katahdin Breeders and Friends:

We have been thinking *rain* since winter, and it has finally come these last two weeks here in southern Louisiana. I trust all our breeders have received your share of rain this spring providing you with bountiful pastures and that all your lambs are going to be in the 80-100 lb range at the 100-day weigh-in.

Sales Outlook

The demand is still very strong for good registered Katahdin Sheep. Inform KHSI Operations if you have Katahdins to sell or are looking to purchase, especially if you are new members. Current members need to let Operations know when your sales status has changed.

Many Katahdins are being purchased from breeders who may be out-of-state and a long distance from their new home. This is a good trend. Buyers trust those breeders to provide the

sheep and paperwork agreed to in their business arrangement.

I remind you that KHSI strongly recommends that it is the breeder/seller who takes responsibility to transfer the sheep to the new owner (pay fees and forward the certificate of registration to KHSI Registry). As a service to your customers, the sheep should be registered before the sale. The seller can provide the customer with a copy of the registration and health records. This prevents

many misunderstandings, and you will have a happy repeat customer. "Buyers know your breeder." I guess I can't say that often enough.

Breed Improvement Tasks

So many new projects have happened this year or are planned in the near future for Katahdin Hair Sheep. Dave Sweeney (North Carolina), chair of the KHSI Breed Improvement Committee, has done an outstanding service for our breed in his presentation, "Origins and Current Status of Katahdin Hair Sheep," on May 20, 2000 at Virginia State University Hair Sheep Field Day (copies available from Operations). Well done, Dave.

Also the committee has contacted the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP). The committee has already taken action to move fast forward to take advantage of this program (see report from committee). I recommend, members, that you get your flock involved in this new program. EPD's can be a very valuable tool to improve your flock and the Katahdin breed as well as being a great sales tool for buyers and sellers. Paul Rodgers (ASI) is coming to our Annual Gathering in Virginia, and we are planning to get Paul, Ed, Dave, Teresa, Laura, myself and others together to discuss exactly how the KHSI Registry and NSIP will work together.

Service Review

In our last *Katahdin Hairald*, I asked for your comments on KHSI services, positive or negative. I received none at the Southcentral Katahdin Hair Sheep Association meeting, where the subject was on the agenda and all input was very positive. Both Operations and Registry reported a slight increase in the numbers of people calling or e-mailing to check on the status of their papers. All of these requests received follow-up with information related to status,

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FYI from Operations

Teresa Maurer, Arkansas

Hello, everybody! My notes are short since all my "dogging" of our KHSI flock has resulted in an excellent crop of articles. Others have covered most of the points I would have made, so hurry on and read the rest of this issue! I am also extremely busy with Annual Gathering and Board meeting plans, financial reports for our accountant, and lots of calls and e-mails, along with the work needed to get the newsletter out and to the right addresses for current and new members.

Lynette Kreddig reports that the link to Alberta Katahdin Sheep Association web page is now at <<http://www.aksa.ab.ca>>. This page also has a link to KHSI and provides a broader outlook on Katahdins in Alberta.

Mike Bondy said that he and the Snippes did receive replies to the Canadian survey in the last newsletter regarding interest in forming a group which is still part of KHSI but providing more networking across

Canada as a whole (like regional groups function in the U.S.). However, before he reports to the *Hairald*, he would like to hear from more people, so dig out your Spring Issue or call Operations and we'll get you a copy to fill out.

Next newsletter deadline is October 16.

KHSI Members' Guide

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

- Register individual Katahdin sheep and record performance
- Maintain the distinct identity of the Katahdin breed
- Assist in promotion and marketing
- Encourage research and development related to the breed

Board of Directors—

President: Mark Dennis, <CountryOakRanch@juno.com>, 337-364-0422, Louisiana

Vice-President: Donna Watkins, <dwatkins@davesworld.net>, 309-365-5611, Illinois

Secretary-Treasurer: David Sweeney, <SCKatahdin@aol.com>, 919-851-2174, North Carolina

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Honorary: Donald Williams, 724-667-8461, Pennsylvania

Honorary: Charles Parker, <seedstock@iname.com>, 614-442-5991, Ohio

KHSI Operations—

- Teresa Maurer; PO Box 778; Fayetteville, AR 72702-0778; Phone and Fax: 501-444-8441; <khsint@earthlink.net>
- Contact Operations for the following: Inspection requests before May 15 (June 1 for Canada); forms for registration, membership and renewal; address changes or corrections on printed list or web; KHSI information; brochures (20 free per member per year, order additional brochures for 10 cent each) and other promotional items; information about sheep for sale or wanting to buy sheep; information to be put in the *Katahdin Hairald*.
- Office Hours (Central time): Monday and Tuesday evenings 7 - 10 p.m.; Monday mornings from 8 - 11 a.m. Calls any other evening after 7 p.m. will also be answered when possible. Answering machine and FAX available 24 hours.

KHSI Registry—

- Ed Martsolf; 1039 Winrock Drive; Morrilton, AR 72110; Phone and Fax: 501-727-5659; <ed.martsolf@mev.net>
- Send the following to the Registry: Completed membership applications and any materials having to do with registration of Katahdins (Animal Registration forms, transfers, etc.). Contact them also with any questions about registrations.
- Office Hours (Central time): Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Answering machine and FAX accessible 24 hours.

KHSI Canada Representative—

- Mike Bondy, PO Box 999, RR 3, Picton, Ontario, Canada K0K 2T0, Phone: 613-476-6782, Fax: -4391, <mbondy@kos.net>

KHSI Web Home Page—

- <<http://www.KHSI.org>>

KHSI E-mail Chat Group—

- Go to <<http://egroups.com>> and follow directions to subscribe to KatChat

Newsletter Formatted by—

- Tina Williams, PO Box 764, Bolivar, MO 65613, Phone: 417-777-4075, Fax: -6181, <wordsetc@u-n-i.net>

KHSI Regional Groups—

Alberta Katahdin Sheep Association: Dianne Campbell, Box 12, Bindloss, Alberta T0J 0H0, 403-379-2155, <bdc@telusplanet.net>, <<http://www.aksa.ab.ca>>

Midwest Katahdin Hair Sheep Association: Donna Watkins, Rt 2 Box 148, Lexington, IL 61753, 309-365-5611, <dwatkins@davesworld.net>

Missouri Katahdin Breeders Association: Nancy Case, PO Box 87, Hartsburg, MO 65039, 573-657-1384, <agworld@socketis.net>

Southcentral Katahdin Hair Sheep Association: Sherrie Wiygul, 304 Griffin Road, Louisville, MS 39339-8124, 662-773-2956, <gswiygul@yahoo.com>

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Western Katahdin Sheep Cooperative: Sharon Schaefer, Box 568, Ituna, Saskatchewan S0A 1N0, 306-675-4410, <s.schaefer@canada.com>

From the Registry: Katahdin Economy Not Cooling Much

Ed Martsolf, Arkansas

Maybe recent adjustments and interest rates have cooled the general economy somewhat, but things seem to stay positive for the Katahdin Hair Sheep Economy.

Once again, the most recent month of June has broken previous records for the number of sheep registered (616) and exceeded previous months on transfers (186). To put that in perspective, there were only two months in all of 1998-1999 when registrations even exceeded 400. So far in 2000, June is the second month they have gone over the 500 mark.

At least two things are obvious. Efforts by the Registry and by some members to encourage new customers to become members are producing results (70 new members so far in 2000). And, the sheer volume of orders for paperwork and for information has grown significantly. For example, recent purchases by international buyers resulted in hundreds of registration and transfer requests arriving at the office in a very short period of time.

What does this mean for each KHSI member?

1. This is the right time to be in the Katahdin business. Having new players in the hair sheep market makes our seedstock more in demand, but we have to become more competitive.

2. Just as there is a longer line at a popular movie theater, your registration/transfer orders are in a longer line at the Registry. There is a fast line that still runs on a one week turnaround. Remember, that turnaround is figured from the time the papers reach the office mailbox to when it goes out, not when you send it and get it back. Postal services in all three countries we deal with are slow at times in delivery to us and from us for unknown reasons.
3. There is a slower line, though, and there are at least three ways to get into that line.

Following are three common elements that frequently are still found in orders coming to the registry.

- A. If your Animal Registration Form comes in and your sheep ID numbers do not match, your order will slow down.
- B. If you have (T) numbers listed anywhere as parents, that lamb cannot be registered without inspection of the parents with T numbers.
- C. If an OX number appears on the Animal Registration Form, that order will require additional research time.

Two more things that do not happen very often, but still occur, include:

1. Incorrect reading of fee schedule and the wrong amount sent with the order.
2. There are still some members who do not understand that if you sell a lamb that has not been registered yet, the transaction requires **both** a registration and a transfer fee.

In general, however, the interest and enthusiasm we hear from new and prospective customers is very encouraging!

Virginia State University Hosts Hair Sheep Day

David Sweeney, North Carolina

Over 50 interested sheep producers and potential sheep producers attended a hair sheep field day at Virginia State University on May 20. This event occurred largely as a result of the interest and efforts of Dr. Stephan Wildeus, Assistant Professor Research in the Small Ruminant Program at VSU and his staff. The Southeast Katahdin Hair Sheep Association (SE-KHSA) was also active in supporting this event, and three SE-KHSA members gave talks — David Sweeney spoke on the origins and current status of Katahdins, Genell Pridgen spoke about Dorpers, and Carol Postley presented the Wiltshire Horn.

In addition to these three speakers, Dr. Claude Hughes gave a presentation on the Barbados Blackbelly breed, and Linda O'Neill, board member of the St. Croix Breeders Association, spoke about the St. Croix breed. Also, Dr. Wildeus gave a summary of the hair sheep research that he directs at VSU.

Dr. Charles Parker (honorary KHSI Director and former Director of the U.S. Sheep Seedstock Alliance) gave a keynote address on the impact of hair sheep on the future of the U.S. sheep industry. He said the time is right for innovators and risk-takers to capitalize on economic, technology, and production trends as the paradigm shifts from wool to meat. He advised producers to accentuate the positive (adaptability/fitness, maternal ability, parasite tolerance, reproductive capacity), eliminate the negative (growth/maturing rate, feed utilization, slaughter weight), and don't mess with in-between (such as coat cover). He emphasized the importance of genetic tools for breaking the performance barriers, but also urged producers to avoid extremes by using balanced genetics. Participants in the field day had an opportunity to view the Barbados Blackbelly, St. Croix, and Katahdin flocks at VSU, as well as view specimens of Dorpers and Wiltshire Horn brought by Genell Pridgen and Carol Postley, respectively.

If you missed this information-packed day, you will have an opportunity to hear Dr. Parker and Dr. Wildeus at the KHSI Annual Gathering in September, as well as meet others who participated in the field day and shared their experiences with hair sheep.

President's Corner, continued from page 1

especially as the Registry was **extremely** busy with a flood of transfers and registrations related to buying, weaning and selling time.

KHSI offices are performing a great service for our membership, and I see dedication from their hearts to do the best job under duress — it's not the income, since that covers only a fraction of the time it really takes to respond to what members, customers, and even researchers need. We thank you.

It's been very unfortunate that a few people have used KatChat in a way that may lead to misunderstanding of KHSI by both members and those interested in Katahdin sheep. Because not all members participate on KatChat, it is difficult to tell how widespread certain experiences are, whether problems are only with KHSI services or what the "rest of the story" might be (including misunderstanding of agreements, By-laws, registration instructions, etc.). I feel the resulting confusion has been damaging to our association and breeders. To my understanding, KatChat was set up for breeders to share information and experiences related to production, marketing, observations on their farms, etc, and not as a way to air and resolve problems within the organization. Some members have privately called the discussion Spat Chat, at times, but they also recognize the discussion group's real value in sharing information that can help each other out as breeders.

I have chosen not to conduct KHSI business in this medium. Rather, I and other Board members can best deal with this through calls or letters received in a business-like format or manner. Problems received this way have been reviewed and addressed, though we understand that an answer may not always be to everyone's liking. We are here to serve all the membership.

Committee Work

I'd like to turn now to efforts at the KHSI committee and task force level which are receiving more attention. This is a **crucial** way that members can help move KHSI forward — it doesn't have to take a lot of time to make a big difference in how we can respond to changes in the sheep industry — please help! Look for a list of committees elsewhere in the newsletter. The Board is reviewing and updating the members of these committees.

Jim Morgan (Arkansas) has agreed to continue to monitor the USDA Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification program and keep us all informed on what happens. Thank you, Jim.

David Maddox (Georgia) will be Chair of the Katahdin Sheep identification requirements review committee. They will make recommendations at the September Annual Gathering. Seven or so years ago, I was chair of the same committee, and we proposed tattoo IDs in ears or microchips, but members at that time did not want to invest and purchase a tattoo or microchip kit. The present KHSI requirement is ear tag ID, and the recommendation is tattoo in ear or microchip.

Promotions

Show and Expo season is here. Make your plans to display your Katahdins — this is one of the best ways for you to advertise your stock and increase recognition of the breed. With a month's notice, Operations office can help you with photos, captions, brochures and other materials. Be sure to read the fine print when you agree to display. We were going to display at the Mid-South Ag Expo in Tunica, Mississippi. But in addition to the \$300 for 3 days I expected to pay, I found out that I was required to advertise at \$3200, so we cancelled.

Robert Elliot (Texas), President of Southcentral Katahdin Hair Sheep Association has written a wonderful article "Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch" about his Katahdin Hair Sheep operation in Caldwell, Texas. It appeared in the new Meat Sheep supplement of *Goat Rancher Magazine*. Well done, Robert!

Mexico Outreach

A letter has been sent to our Mexican members requesting input to appoint a KHSI Mexico Representative. Also, a special invitation has been sent to encourage Mexico member attendance at the Virginia meeting.

Board Changes

I am sorry to report that I received official notice from KHSI Director Ellen Wise of High River, Alberta, that she can no longer serve on the KHSI Board due to job opportunities that could not be turned down. I have accepted her resignation, as she desired.

Thank you Ellen, for your dedication and hard work, including hosting the KHSI Annual Gathering in 1999. Thanks also for your love of the breed and believing in Katahdin Hair Sheep. You served the membership in an honorable and business-like way. I thank you for your support of KHSI Services and the Board. We all send you our best in your new career.

Ellen had one year remaining to complete her term on the Board. Ellen was elected in 1998 to complete Mike Bondy's term, who resigned as President of KHSI that same year. A new Board member will be elected at the Annual Gathering to complete Ellen's term. Those breeders from Canada interested in serving should send your nomination letter to the Chair of the Nomination Committee or to Operations Office (see requirements listed elsewhere in newsletter). As we announced in the last newsletter, Steve Camp's term is ending, and a new Director will be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve a full five year term. Use the same process to indicate your desire to run.

Annual Meeting Important Information

I invite all KHSI members, family and friends to join us at Triple L Farm. The KHSI Annual Gathering is September 29-30, 2000 (see insert). We need you there! Bring your sheep to display!

I wanted to remind you of two things regarding the KHSI annual business meeting to be held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 30. Only paid up members and spouses can attend this meeting, and renewal must have been

President's Corner, continued

received at least 30 days before the meeting. New members are very welcome to attend the meeting, but must have joined at least 30 days in advance to be eligible to vote.

Agenda items must be submitted in advance of the KHSI Annual Meeting. September 1 is the deadline for the Operations office to receive items to be put on the agenda for the Annual Business Meeting (Saturday). You may also request that the item be placed on the Board Meeting agenda (Thursday). Only items received by September 1 will be scheduled and dealt with at the meetings. You may e-mail, phone, FAX, or mail these items to Operations. You may also send them in using the form in the Annual Gathering insert, even if you cannot be present. Don't miss this deadline if you have an item!

Sara and I are looking forward to visiting with you and seeing your sheep in Virginia! Lisa and Larry Weeks and Dave Sweeney and other members of the southeast group have worked very hard to bring you a great program and field day — please plan to be there!

SCKA Spring 2000 Meeting

Robert Elliott, Texas

On Saturday, May 6, an educational and social gathering was held at Glenn and Sherrie Wiygul's farm near Starkville, Mississippi. Approximately 20 people attended with one couple driving all the way from north Georgia with two sheep to be inspected.

In the morning was a session on implanting microchips in sheep. After discussing the advantages for those with sheep in programs such as the APHIS program for scrapie, Sherrie provided participants an opportunity to practice implanting AVID microchips into the shoulder area of some of her sheep using a syringe. The most difficult thing to master was keeping the chip in the syringe while inserting the needle into the sheep. We lost one chip in the hay and could not find it until someone remembered that we had a microchip reader which could locate it. We had a lot of fun trying to hold sheep still while attempting to stab a huge needle under the skin without losing the chip!

After a delicious lunch provided by the Wiyguls (the fajita made with lamb was to die for) and dessert provided by the Jordans (plus the puppy they brought — it kept my son nicely occupied), Mark Dennis demonstrated how to trim sheep hooves in order to avoid and to eradicate foot rot. He also showed us how he maintains individual health records on his sheep. This was followed by a session on fecal flotation by Sherrie and Glenn. They generously supplied the participants with microscopes and all necessary items (including the fecal matter — sheep, of course) in order to practice making a slide and reading the results. The hardest thing we experienced was learning how to focus the microscopes correctly so that we could view the eggs of different internal parasites.

At the end of the meeting, door prizes were given. The Wiyguls were very generous donating three microscopes to be given away, of which my son, Richard, won the first. Mark Dennis donated a bag of Moorman minerals; other prizes included KHSI shirts and caps.

We thank Glenn and Sherrie for putting together such a fine meeting and for providing us with lunch and door prizes. Truly, a well-done job!

The next meeting of the Southcentral Katahdin Hair Sheep Association will take place at the national meeting in Virginia, September 29-30. Then, in the spring of 2001, probably the first Saturday in May, we will meet at Rojo Ranch in Caldwell, Texas, for inspector training and testing and perhaps a sale if we can entice enough breeders from Mexico to attend. Plan to come!

Nominations for Director Positions Sought

Each of KHSI's Directors are elected to serve a five year term. In 2000, two positions are now open for election, and we are now accepting nominations for both. One position for a 5-year term is due to the completion of Steve Camp's (Washington) term. A second position for 1 year term is due to a vacancy created by Ellen Wise's resignation. Director vacancies are filled and officers are elected at each Annual Meeting. The KHSI By-laws have further details (request a copy from Operations if you need one). If you have nominations or would be interested in being nominated, please call, e-mail, write or FAX Teresa at Operations: 501-444-8441 or <khsint@earthlink.net>

Qualifications for Board of Director candidates as adopted by the KHSI Board on September 17, 1998 are listed below. Candidates must:

1. Have held a KHSI voting membership for at least three years and continue the membership in good standing
2. Be a certified KHSI inspector
3. Provide a statement of ideals to improve KHSI and serve its members
4. Provide five KHSI member names as references
5. Be familiar with KHSI By-laws, registration and inspection policies, Ethics Commitment, Katahdin Breed Characteristics and Breed Standard and History of the Katahdin Breed
6. Promote KHSI and Katahdin Hair Sheep.

Breed Improvement, Anyone?

David Sweeney, Breed Improvement Committee Chairperson

The Breed Improvement Committee would like to find out if there are members interested in signing up for "field research" on how their flocks perform compared to other breeders using similar production methods. We envision two primary groups: one group of breeders would use a grain-based feeding program and another group would use a forage-based feeding program. We know that many breeders are opting for fast growth using creep feed and heavy grain supplementation of the lamb diet. Others are focused on a more extensive production model that seeks to utilize forages as the only or primary source of nutrients for growing lambs. It would be instructive to get some hard data on how Katahdins from different flocks perform in these two types of production systems.

How can we compare one producer's flock to another, you might ask. Isn't that like "apples and oranges?" The answer is EPD's (Expected Progeny Differences). Your careful records on weights and other selected factors are scientifically calculated along with the data from other producers, and EPD's are generated for certain traits. Cross-flock EPD's can be very helpful in identifying superior or above average performers whose genetics you would like to keep in your flock (or sell at a higher price!).

What will it cost me to do this, you may ask? Let's assume you already have a set of scales and are keeping weights and records on a regular basis. Let's also assume you have a personal computer. (We realize some producers may not have scales, don't keep records, and wouldn't touch a computer. If we added up the cost, time, and occasional aggravations for these things, you wouldn't want to do this anyway, so you can stop reading now.)

Now, if you're still with us, the one thing you might not have yet is software to calculate EPD's for sheep. Given the economics of the sheep industry, sheep management software is a bit of a mine field — for programmers and for producers alike. Some decent programs that were available a few years ago are now no longer supported or available. Nationally supported programs in both Canada and the U.S. have had their ups and downs. What we need is software that is available at a reasonable price, is supported now and likely to continue to be into the future, and has a sufficient number of producers using it so that meaningful data calculations and interpretations can be made. From the perspective of the Breed Improvement Committee, the two front-runners that meet these criteria are OVISSEY and NSIP. They each have their advantages.

OVISSEY was presented at last year's Annual Gathering in High River, Canada and has had financial support from the Canadian Sheep Federation in the past. Several Katahdin breeders in Canada are already using this program. This program is an excellent sheep management system that can do cross-flock EPD's and within flock EPD's. The Breed Improvement Committee is currently in dialogue with the folks at OVISSEY to determine if a group discount might be available and whether U.S. cross-flock data can be generated. Current pricing is \$295 for U.S. producers (one time fee for software only). If a group of at least fifteen U.S. Katahdin producers sign up, the price will drop to \$200 (U.S.). For Canadians, a one time fee of \$295

(Canadian) covers software only, whereas a yearly fee of \$150 (Canadian) covers software plus cross-flock EPD's. Canadian producers already have a discount as provided by the Canadian Sheep Federation.

One major difference between OVISSEY and NSIP is that OVISSEY is also a flock management and record keeping program. It will track multiple types of records for each animal. OVISSEY has database functions that allow

searching; for example a breeder could search for all animals that have had pneumonia or pinkeye or required worming outside the normal schedule or were over 100 lbs at 90 or 100 days. Once enough data is in the system, on your own computer OVISSEY will predict EPD's for lambs from matings of known sires and dams. For additional information, call 1-888-OVISSEY or e-mail <ovissey@magma.ca>.

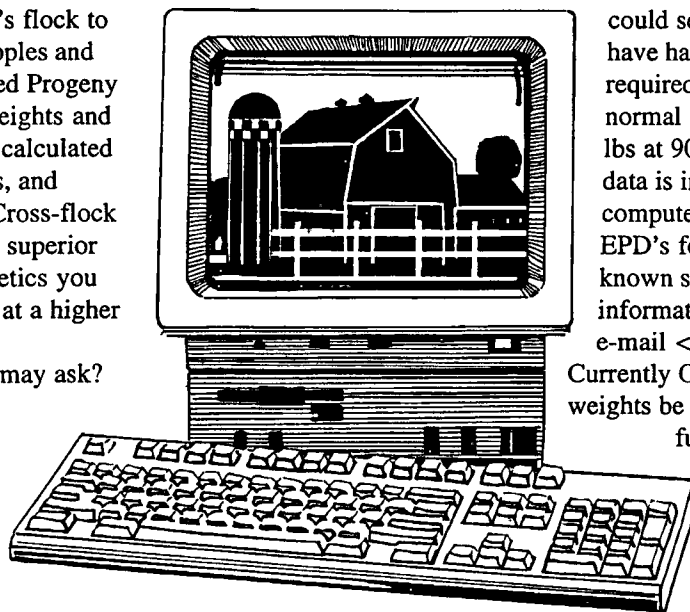
Currently OVISSEY requires that weights be entered in kilograms, but a future version will allow

users to switch between pounds and kilograms. If a producer is looking for a software program that will have most if not all of their flock health and production

records, then OVISSEY is a good candidate.

Katahdin breeders in the U.S. may be interested to know that the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) is fully operational again, though somewhat changed from before. NSIP works by first having purebred producers enrolled in the program collect and enter information on their animals. This data is eventually submitted to breed association offices and then to Virginia Tech University where the EPD calculations are made. EPD results then flow back to the breed associations for summation and then back to the individual breeders, either directly and/or through breed sire summaries and other reports.

NSIP enrollment costs for purebred producers are \$50 per flock and \$1.25 per breeding animal. Currently, only purebred animals are allowed in NSIP. To enroll, contact NSIP by phone at 303-771-5717 or by e-mail at <info@nsip.org>. Enrollment forms also are available at the NSIP web site at www.nsip.org,



Breed Improvement, continued

where additional information about the program may be found.

As an added plus for those interested in NSIP, the U.S.'s successful 201 trade action against imports from Australia and New Zealand resulted in a \$100 million Lamb Industry Assistance package with some of that money going to pay producers 50 cents per sheep enrolled in NSIP. U.S. producers must be enrolled by September 30, 2000 and submit their requests for reimbursement to the Farm Service Agency by October 13, 2000.

Paul Rodgers, the American Sheep Industry Association's Director of animal health and product services, is a key contact for the NSIP program and is expected to be a speaker at our Annual Gathering in September. The Breed Improvement Committee is working with Paul Rodgers and the KHSI Registry to prepare a process for handling enrollees in the NSIP program. We have some questions outstanding about this program that we hope to have answers for before or at the Annual Gathering.

If you've read through to this point in this article, you might be a candidate for signing up for OVISSEY or NSIP. Both of these programs would be extremely useful in our goal of obtaining data for our proposed "field research." Both programs will track maternal traits, which are the strength of the Katahdin breed, as well as rate of gain.

If you would like to work with the Breed Improvement Committee on this goal of cross-flock EPDs and production model data, please contact me as soon as possible. We need to know numbers of interested producers to determine things like price breaks for software, costs for handling paperwork at the Registry, and other logistics.

**KHSI 2000 Annual Gathering
in Virginia
September 28-30!**

Letter to the Editor

Dear Naomi and all,

Thanks for your Spring 2000 *Katahdin Hairald* response to my hint (smearing birth fluids on mouth of slow mother) which was published in the Winter 2000 *Katahdin Hairald*. Scrapie certainly needs to be considered (along with other possible disease processes) whenever we think about trying a different procedure.

You are possibly/probably right, but for a ewe-to-lamb bonding process to start quickly and simply (we want her to lick her newborn) this is still the best I know. In most cases, it is the ewe's own birth fluids being used. 'In flock' freezing of birth fluids for fostering purposes has not much more danger (if any) than lambing all ewes in same area, etc. 'Cross-flock' I wouldn't recommend this practice. Then the same goes for using colostrum from other ewes (OPP possibility) and I still do this if necessary (again I only use colostrum from within my flock). Thanks for the reminder and concern. The more we discuss pros and cons of various issues the better informed we'll all be.

Sincerely,

Sharon Schaefer, Saskatchewan
Breeder Education Committee

Katahdin E-Mail Lists

Tina Williams, Missouri

If you have e-mail access—

- Would you like to share a discussion forum with other Katahdin breeders?
- Would you like to quickly share information about sheep for sale or sheep you want to buy with other Katahdin breeders?
- Would you like a way to quickly ask experienced breeders about feeds, management, or disease?

If so, you might check out the four e-mail lists about Katahdins currently hosted on egroups.

To start your journey of joining, go to:

www.egroups.com

Then, type "Katahdin" in the search field and hit "Search." This will bring up a screen showing the four different groups you may sign onto.

KatChat is a open to members of any Katahdin regional or international group including KHSI.

KatahdinTalk is an unmoderated list open to the public.

MoKats is a list for any Katahdin breeder living in the state of Missouri.

KanuckKats is a new list open to any member of KHSI.

To join any of these groups, click on the name of the group and then, in the new screen, click on "Subscribe" under "Join now." Your membership will be delayed in the three member-restricted lists while the list owner checks that you are eligible to join. When that process is finished, (usually within a day or two) you will be sent a welcome message with important information about the list, and you will begin to receive list messages!

Welcome to the list(s) of your choice!

A Cornucopia of Research Projects

James Morgan, Arkansas

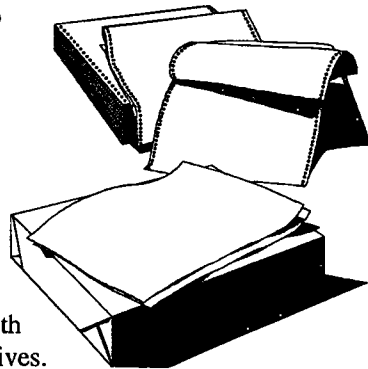
There have been only a few Government-sponsored research studies involving Katahdins over the years. However, in the last two years several new research projects involving Katahdins have been initiated or funded and will start in the next year. The KHSI Breed Improvement Committee thought that a summary would be of interest to KHSI members.

The brief descriptions of these studies and the proposed research will give a general flavor of the purpose of the research. We have been in direct contact with only a few, and I hope this brief report does justice to their studies. We spent several hours trying to find out about current studies, and these represent the ones that we have found or been told about. If anyone knows of other studies, especially those outside of the USA, we would really like to hear about them. Send us your knowledge! You also have a chance to learn about the research at the upcoming KHSI Annual Gathering September 29-30.

On Farm Research Funded by the Government.

Two projects were initiated by sheep producers, and one project is a cooperative effort of a professor and a group of producers. These projects have been funded by the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) through the SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) Program. One project was written by our KHSI members from Missouri. Congrats!

1. Amy Hayner, Virginia — Developing a Dairy Hair Sheep: Assessing the Potentials. The project will involve crossing Katahdins with East Friesian and beginning the process of selecting a dairy hair sheep. The project will end before a dairy herd that sheds has been bred, but the preliminary data should speak to the feasibility of a dairy hair sheep.
2. David Coplen and Nancy Case, Missouri — Low-Input Pasture Finishing of Lambs. The main part of the project will involve finishing rams and market lambs on pasture, measuring rate of gain, a carcass study and ultrasounding the ones not butchered for the size of the loin-eye. They plan to finish up with a consumer panel for taste and palatability (project delayed and will start in 2001).
3. Dr Tom Settlemyre from Bowden College, Maine is working with several Maine sheep producers on a multi-year breeding selection study to select for increased size and parasite resistance in Katahdins. In the first year he will cross Katahdins with Dorpers and Suffolks with Gulf Coast Natives. In the 2nd year he will breed the F1s of the two crosses. In the 3rd year he will breed the F2 ewe lambs back to Katahdin rams to increase hair coat while continuing selection for size, parasite resistance and rate of gain. Animals will be maintained in a rotational grazing system for as much of the year as is feasible.



and purebred St Croix. She will be looking at the feasibility of Hair Sheep production in Arkansas. Some of the parameters Dr Burke will be investigating will be to compare carcass traits, lambing in both intensive and extensive systems (numbers of lambs and lambs weaned), accelerated breeding, measuring rate of gain on i) forage, ii) grain supplemented forage and iii) grain ration. She will be ultrasounding live lambs on a regular basis to determine fat cover and size of loin.

2. Louisiana State University — Drs Marcos Fernandez & Jim Miller. These studies have been ongoing for several years. They have been comparing several breeds including Suffolks, Katahdins, Gulf Coast Natives, St. Croix and Barbados Blackbelly. Traits measured and followed include lambing percentage, weaning percentage, weight gain, nutritional stress, parasite resistance/tolerance in young and adults, and carcass traits including tenderness and rib eye measurements. This is the first year for the carcass studies.
3. Clay Center, Nebraska — USDA-ARS Meat Animal Research Center, Dr Kreg Leymaster and Mike Wallace. They are preparing to do a multi-year study with a few thousand animals. It is a comparative cross-breed study evaluating lambing and weaning percentages on pasture and in the barn. They will be breeding Katahdin, Dorper, Dorset, and Rambouillet rams to Romanov ewes. The F1 ewe lambs will be bred to a terminal sire which will probably be Suffolk or Texel. The lambs will be evaluated for rate of gain and carcass traits.
4. Fort Valley State, Fort Valley State, Georgia — Dr Will Getz. Dr Getz has only been at Fort Valley State a few years and is currently building his flocks. He plans to compare parasite tolerance, carcass traits and weight gain, and lambing percentage in forage-based systems using Katahdin, Katahdin x Dorper and Suffolk Rams on black faced ewes. As his Katahdin numbers increase, he will be comparing Katahdin production to wool breeds.
5. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia — Drs David Notter and Scott Greiner. Evaluating the potential of hair sheep to decrease labor

Projects conducted by University Faculty and USDA Scientists

These are not placed in any particular order.

1. Booneville, Arkansas — Dale Bumpers Small Farm Research Center. USDA-ARS (United States Dept of Ag - Ag Research Serv.), Dr Joan Burke. Research involves purebred Katahdin, Dorper-St Croix crosses,

Research, continued

costs and internal parasite problems in easy-care lamb production systems. They will be comparing standard production traits of purebred Katahdins, Dorper crossbreeds and Dorset ewes bred to Suffolk rams. The standard production traits will include measuring fertility, prolificacy, lamb survival, pre-weaning and post-weaning lamb growth, and adult ewe size. Ewes and lambs will be evaluated for parasite resistance (fecal egg count and packed blood cell volume), and lamb carcass merits at slaughter will be evaluated using ultrasound.

6. Virginia State University, Petersburg, Virginia — Dr Stephan Wildeus. Comparisons of fertility and prolificacy during different breeding seasons with Katahdins, Barbados Blackbelly and St. Croix. Dr Wildeus is proposing a huge project that will involve collaborations with several Universities, USDA-ARS sites and other organizations. Hopefully, that research project will be funded.

I am very excited by all of these research projects. Most have a few limitations that the researchers acknowledge themselves. In most of these projects, the researchers are hampered by small budgets for animal acquisition. This leads to two major types of limitations in the data output. Two of the projects involving Dorsers only use Dorper crosses as compared to purebred Katahdin and other breeds. The Dorper offspring may show the results of hybrid vigor (heterosis) as compared to the purebreds. Other projects are using animals from a single or a few sire lines. This results in a limited genetic pool and thus the differences between breeds may actually be due to a sire line and not a breed difference. There are often not enough resources for large carcass studies, and thus the results may not show a significant difference because of the lack of numbers.

One of the proposed studies does have the budget for significant numbers of animal acquisitions (Meat Animal Research Center in Nebraska). This study indicates that Hair Sheep are finally being taken seriously by more individuals in the livestock industry. Thanks to all the researchers for their research with and their promotion of Katahdins.

If you would like to learn more about these studies, please contact me at 501-444-6075 or <jmorgan@comp.uark.edu>.

Calendar

August 3—Calloway County, Missouri Fair

August 18—Missouri State Fair Katahdin show (correction, as previous issue had incorrect date!)

September 2—MKHSA Annual Meeting, Bethel, Missouri

September 3—Katahdin Breeding Stock Sale, Bethel, Missouri

September 16—West Coast Regional Group meeting (see article below)

September 28-30—KHSI Annual Gathering, Virginia

October 6-8—Ozark Fall FarmFest, Springfield, Missouri

October 17-19—Katahdins will be exhibited at Sunbelt expo in Moultrie, Georgia (Dennis, Maddox)

November 3-4—Small Farm Today Conference, Columbia, Missouri

Ads in Newsletter

The *Katahdin Hairald* will print classified ads with a limit of 40 words per ad. Ads from paid KHSI members to buy or sell sheep will be free. Ads for anything else will cost the following:

	KHSI Member		Non-Member	
	US funds	Cdn funds	US funds	Cdn funds
1 issue	\$5.00	\$7.00	\$7.50	\$11.00
1 year/4 issues	15.00	22.00	25.00	37.00

Submit your classified ad text with payment to KHSI Operations.

West Coast Regional KHSI Group Forming

Pam Stone and Marcia Schultz (both in California) want to announce to members that they are working together to form a regional association. Tentatively named the West Coast Regional Group, they hope to include members from all over California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. The first organizational meeting and educational clinic will be held on September 16. For more details, contact Pam at <p.stone@worldnet.att.net> or 530-639-1753 or Marcia at 916-682-7456 or <r-m-schultz@softcom.net>.

Scrapie: Proposed APHIS Rules for Regulating Movement of Sheep and Goats in USA

James Morgan, Arkansas

Dr. Dianne Sutton, of the APHIS (Animal Plant Health Inspection Service) program of USDA has said that their current expectations are that final regulations will be published this fall and implemented in December 2000 or January 2001. Earlier this year, Dr Sutton had predicted that there would be a second chance to comment on the proposed regulations, but this comment period will **not** occur. The impetus for these new regulations is to increase competitiveness of the U.S. Sheep Industry in the world market by eliminating scrapie in the United States.

These regulations will not affect movement of sheep and goats between countries but will limit movement and sales of sheep and goats within the United States.

Dr Sutton said that the good news is that all states are choosing to comply. This means that with the proper identification, sheep and goats will be able to move among all states for sale and shows and go to your local sale barn (interstate commerce). By complying, a state will be considered a "Consistent State." Without consistent state status, even sales at sale barns would have been prohibited. Final approval of a consistent state status will require that APHIS approves the state animal identification plan, approves the state process for complying and approves the state process for quarantining animals or flocks with identified cases of scrapie.

While the exact form of the regulations is unknown at this time, to the best of my knowledge, sheep and goat producers will have to comply with their State Animal Health Office in the ways outlined below. Each state will probably have slightly different regulations. With two disclaimers (the final form has not been published, and no two officials interpret the proposed regulations in the same way), I will then suggest that, for USA sheep and goat producers to legally market off-farm, they will have to implement the following regulations.

1. All breeding stock will have tags or tattoos that are approved by their State Animal Health Office. All animals with intact reproductive systems, no matter the age or destination, are required to be identified. While it is unlikely they will enforce the ID system at less than 3-4 months of age, to be legal, intact ram lambs will be required to be identified at birth. To legally move an animal off the farm, to the show, through the sale barn, to another state, the sheep and goats will need to be identified.
 - a. The ID system has to be tamper proof. (Contact your state Animal Health Office and get involved. Without involvement from sheep producers, they may select a tag that is tamper-resistant but is not practical.)
 - b. The ID system will include a farm ID (provided by the state) and a unique animal number. (With your involvement, some states might allow/approve KHSI animal ID as acceptable, and a KHSI member might be able to use one tag for both the state animal ID and the KHSI animal ID.)
2. Records of the sale of an animal must be kept by seller for five years.
3. There will be some form of indemnification for scrapie positive animals. (As I understand it, good records should prevent whole flocks from being disposed of. Knowing the dam and having lambs tagged or tattooed will help.)

4. Movement of animals to a slaughter facility will be less strictly regulated.

The rationale for these regulations is to be able to trace animals back to the flock of origin if they develop scrapie.

- A. Five years is considered to be the incubation period for scrapie (therefore, keeping records of sales for five years makes sense).
- B. The science behind the spread of scrapie is still controversial. But, the best evidence appears that all scrapie is passed to other sheep and goats via the placenta and after-birth from ewes that have the scrapie agent (prion). It may also spread from processed feeds with infected sheep or goat meat (ruminant meat by-products are not supposed to be used in processed ruminant feeds in the U.S.). Therefore, most if not all scrapie is believed to be passed directly from the dam to the offspring (need to know flock of origin so that the dam can be identified and all of her offspring either tested, quarantined or disposed of). There is some evidence that an animal nosing a placenta with scrapie can contract it. Sales records will enable APHIS to trace back to all farms where the infected animal has been. The whole idea is to be able to trace back to flock and dam of origin.

Now to spice things up: the rest of this article offers my personal opinions.

- A. Whether this proposed "cure" for scrapie is worth the hassle and expense remains to be seen. In my opinion it is, but I will take this opportunity to say that scrapie is not a huge financial burden on the sheep industry. Currently, there are no documented cases of scrapie in Katahdins. It hardly seems worth this huge effort for a state and nation-wide ID system for a disease with little if any financial impact for the vast majority of producers. Several other diseases have a much larger impact on our pocketbook than scrapie. With that said, if scrapie ever jumped species to cattle (bovine spongiform encephalitis — BSE or mad cows disease) and from there to humans as some informed scientists believe happened in Great Britain, the sheep industry in the U.S. would probably die for good.

Scrapie, continued

- B. I am hoping that a cheap test for scrapie will be available soon that will eliminate killing/autopsy and the five year sales records.

Currently, the eyelid test is on track to be validated, and it is reported to be an effective test for animals at least 18 months of age and will cost less than \$20 (U.S.). This test i) is a definite improvement over having to remove the brain from the suspect animal to confirm scrapie, ii) allows detection of scrapie prior to five years of age and iii) prevents several generations of progeny from that infected ewe "going up in smoke."

- C. Eradication of scrapie will be of great importance for the sheep industry. Knowing that we are not potentially passing spongiform encephalitis to other animals including humans will ease my mind and increase breeding stock and potentially meat sales to other countries. (Nothing against the Kiwis, but we all know that Katahdin meat tastes better than the New Zealand lamb sold here.)
- D. Also, don't figure that you can escape this hassle by converting from sheep to other livestock. Most University Researchers and Animal Health Specialists are predicting that all livestock will be required to have a unique animal ID system within five years. It has been suggested that this ID system for scrapie is just a test for the livestock with larger numbers (cattle, pigs and chickens). It is not a way for "Big Brother or Sister" or the IRS to count your livestock, but is designed to i) trace diseases, ii) trace improper use of pharmaceuticals, and iii) trace meat contaminated with bacteria or other toxins back to the farm or ranch of origin. While it is a hassle it could benefit us by improving consumer confidence in the quality meat that Katahdins can produce.

One final suggestion, contact your State Animal Health Office and find out what they are proposing for you to do to identify your animals.

Your local veterinarian, even if he or she is just a cattle or horse specialist, will know how to contact the State Office. It may not be too late to get involved and a) help them find a tamper-proof tag that actually works for sheep and does not rip out, b) let them know you are concerned about the ID/Consistent State program for scrapie and c) help them formulate their procedures that will be regulating your livelihood with sheep (and goats). Also, it will be useful to plan ahead and know what kind of tag you will need before the supplies are bought out.



KHSI Committee List

Following are the active KHSI committees and contacts. If you would like to join a committee, please contact the member listed, or call Operations for more information:

Nominations	Mark Dennis, Louisiana
Breed Improvement	Dave Sweeney, North Carolina
Promotions	Nancy Case, Missouri or Robert Elliott, Texas
Market Development	Donna Watkins, Illinois
Member/Breeder Expansion	Laura Fortmeyer, Kansas
Breeder Education	Sharon Schaefer, Saskatchewan
Showing Guidelines	vacant
Junior Membership	vacant



Welcome New Members

Tammy Bennett	Alberta
Gordon Grant	Alberta
David & Debra Shalapay	Alberta
Jamie & Mia McGuire	Arkansas
Nicole & Carla Young	Arkansas
Jenny Boklaschuk	British Columbia
Roy Smith	British Columbia
Ray & Marcia Schultz	California
Hank & Nancy Spurlock	California
Frank & Cindy Toste	California
Marjorie Van Noy	California
Kennon & Kathryn McLendon	Georgia
Bob & Dawn Henderson Family	Illinois
Zane & Corrina Tally	Illinois
Tom, Tina & Samantha DeKemper	Indiana
Jamie & Sharon Gill	Indiana
Roger & Lois Hooley	Indiana
Bonnie Schamberger	Kansas
Peter & Laura Van Horn Family	Kansas
Houston Doucet	Louisiana
Eddie Ortego	Louisiana
Randy Soileau	Louisiana
R. Gerardo Alanis L.	Mexico
Albert & Shirleen Brookings	Missouri
Michael Chapman & Elaine Mayes	Missouri
Carey & Tammy Davison	Missouri
Jim & Deanna Haslag	Missouri
Richard & Anita Franssen	Nebraska
Deborah & Stanley Brown	Ohio
Terry & Penny Johnson	Oklahoma
Jeffrey & Cynthia Kerns Family	Oklahoma
Cheryl Boone	Oregon
Christine Xthona	Oregon
Harry & Nancy Fisher	Pennsylvania
Leonard Supchak	Pennsylvania
Kim Senko-Cooper	South Carolina
Joseph & Theresa Hood	Tennessee
Sherry & Billy Ebarb	Texas
Lynn Magedson	Texas
Jerry & Deborah Simon	Texas
Bobby Bays	Virginia
David Redwine	Virginia
Susan Richards	Washington
Gordon Smith	Washington
Jeff & Marilyn Westlund	Washington



Classified Ads

For Sale—

Julie Rosgen/Bruce Thompson (AB), with export sheep,
403-823-9274, <jb2@telusplanet.net>,
<www.telusplanet.net/public/jb2>

Robin Bird (AB), registered rams and ewes twin and
triplet born, also 75%/25% Katahdin/Dorper
recorded rams and ewes born spring 2000,
780-963-0725.

Kathy Britton (MB), has sheep for sale. 204-546-2229
<kbritton@mb.sympatico.ca>

Janice Fairfax (ON), registered two year old, yearling
and ram lambs, many colors, large, 519-
369-5675, <faxterfarm@yahoo.com>

Mary Van Anrooy (AR), 15 mature ewes and 10
mature rams and, from 2000, 8 ram lambs, 50 ewe
lambs, and 90 wethers, 501-893-6158.

Lynn & Donna Fahrmeier (MO), 8 registered ram
lambs and 1 registered yearling ram,
816-934-8651, <lfahrmeier@msn.com>

Debbie Brown (OH), ram and ewe lambs,
419-394-2467

Ron & Lucy Pylkki (OR), 14 rams and 8 registerable
ewe lambs born May, 2000, mostly white, some
color, \$200, 541-773-2181, Baahewe@aol.com

Bob Moore (IL), about 30 50% Dorper/50% Katahdin
ewes, 618-684-3829.

Jo Van Hoy (OR), 1 white ram, no horns, short yearling, some freckles on face, out
of Dick Johnson ewe and Jingles ram (big), 509-773-5988,
<blackpackranch@hotmail.com>

Eric Gavin (IA), 2 rams born in 1999, also 6 ram and 6 ewe February 2000 lambs,
319-848-4496

Mark Dennis (LA), 15-20 January born ewes, 337-364-0422

Pat Olson (IN), 7 white and colored ewes which lambed in May (twins and singles),
prefers to sell at least 5 ewes with their lambs, 219-988-7351

Karen Didier (NE), 3 registered rams, including 1 all-white, 25 ewes (2-4 years
old), 11 bred ewes. Prefers to sell as group, but call if interested in any,
402-387-0259

Victor & Cheryl Shelton (IL), ram lambs, 812-254-9207, <vshelton@dmrct.net>

Wanted—

Walt Davis (OK near the TX border on the Red River) wants 20-100 ewes, will
pick up, <wwdranch@aolcom>

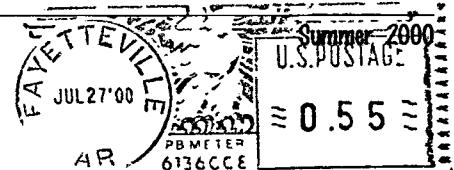
Ed Martsolf (AR) shopping for top quality rams that are a twin out of twin, proven
breeders, 100 day weight over 100 lbs with no creep, excellent conformation
especially leg and loin, and any color, 501-727-5659

Bob Moore (IL) wants white, heavy, large-framed registered Katahdin ram from a
flock selected for white coats, 618-684-3829

Debbie Catalina (OR) wants 2 Katahdin ewes, registered, high quality, as
foundation stock for small flock. Prefers bred ewes carrying lambs. Also ram
that may be bred with the ewes and their offspring in future,
<cowwgirldebbie@yahoo.com>

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Katahdin Hairald



KHSI

c/o Teresa Maurer
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Fayetteville, AR 72702-0778

John & Ruth Getz *LAST ISSUE*
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