# The Katahdin Hairald

Quarterly Newsletter of Katahdin Hair Sheep International

Volume 20, No. 1

www.KHSI.org

Spring 2008



# Welcome New Members

### October 2007 through January 2008

Brian LaPrairie of B-X	Cochise, Arizona
Chuck & Suzanne Bell	Texarkana, Arkansas
Christopher Chambers	•
Jean Haverty of Haverty Farm	Scottsburg, Indiana
David Walton	Clay City, Indiana
Peggy Egertsen	
Gil Burnett & Rick Calvo of Clover Hills Farm	Edna, Kansas
Kenneth & Donna Gentry	
Emily & Matt Hesse of Cumberland Pastures	
Jim & Heather Renfrow of Triple Kat	
Kenton, Deborah, Kolton & Dalton Seely of Seely & Sons	
Crystal Creek Farm	
Douglas & Betsy Brewer of BB Farm	Woodbine, Maryland
Peter Murtaugh	Damascus, Maryland
Brad & Karen Schott	Taneytown, Maryland
Brian Schiner	
Paul Van Gorp & Roberta Knutson	Long Prairie, Minnesota
Dr J A Schmidt	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Gordon Potter & Kathy Wheeler of Squamview Farm	
Patrick & Elizabeth Downing of Downing Acres	Burke, New York
William Orr	Greenfield, Ohio
Don & Sheila Farris	Cushing, Oklahoma
James M Mitchell	
Carla & Michael Green of Sweet Home Farms, LLC	Sweet Home, Oregon
Kathy Bylinowski	
Becky & Kristin Phillips of Phillips Funnee Farm	West Finley, Pennsylvania
JD & Kathy Kieffer of Caney Creek Farms	•
Michael Stumpff of Cedar Creek Farm	Georgetown. Tennessee
Paul & Myrna Ward	
Greg Finch of Vermont Lamb & Cattle Co	
Amy McVey & Melissa Frye of Grand View Farm	
Robert C Malsz of Fox Meadow Farm	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
David & Elizabeth Propst	, <b>U</b>
Phyllis & Farooq Siddiqi	Barboursville, West Virginia



"Keeping Up" Photography by Randy Grover, Illinois, 2nd Place - Open Category 2007 KHSI Photo Contest

## Spring 2008 VOLUME 20 | ISSUE 1



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Gail Hardy, Graphic Designer gail@xpressionsonline.us

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#### KHSI Registry

Carrie Scott, Registrar 777 Winrock Dr., Morrilton, AR 72110 501-652-0470, fax 501-727-6437 khsiregistry@yahoo.com

#### **KHSI Board of Directors**

President - John Stromquist Vice President - Ron Young Secretary - Kay Cloyd Treasurer - Leroy Boyd Diector - Michael Seipel Director - Wes Limesand Director - Robert Elliott

#### Advertising

Display Ad Rates★: Contact Operations for current rates and spec sheet. 479-444-8441, khsint@earthlink.net

Classifieds - 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, limit length to 40 words.

#### Ads for Summer '08 Hairald due 04/02/08.

★ rates for display advertising are subject to change upon approval of the Board of Directors.

Ad design available from: Gail Hardy, *Xpressions* 479-439-0726 • gail@xpressionsonline.us www.xpressionsonline.us



## Inside This Issue

Welcome New Members	Inside front cover
Director's Corner	2
Free Sheep Publications Available Through the Mail	3
2008 Expo Scheduled for Western Maryland	3
Know Your Enemy: The Amazing Barber Pole Worm	4
4th Annual KHSI Expo Sale Sept. 27, 2008, Boonsboro, MD	5
2008 SCKA Annual Meeting Set for June 13-14 in McComb, MS	3 6
Focus on EWE-TH	7
Youth Committee Targets New Initiatives	9
2008 Katahdin Hairald Changes Include Publishing Dates & De	adlines 10
The Girl and Her 4-H Lamb	
Meat Sheep Industry Shows Promise In Southeast	11
Minutes of The KHSI Board Conference Call Dec. 17, 2007	
Straight Talk by Dr. G. F. Kennedy	16
Katahdin Sale Round Up	18
Katahdins & Katahdin Breeders In the News	
Practical Websites for the Shepherd Online	
Conversations from the Field: Kathy & Jeff Bielek, Ohio Katahdi	in Breeders 21
Control of External Parasites	
American Sheep Industry Convention Report	
Hairald Calendar	
Katahdin Breed in Mexico	
Printed Publications for the Shepherd's Bookshelf:	
KHSI Member's Guide	
Classified Ads	
Useful Sheep Health Books	
Visual Appraisal of Katahdin Sheep	
2007 KHSI Photo Contest Winners Announced	
Advertisers Index (listed alphabetically)	

**Cover:** "Spring Grass" photographed by Karen Kenagy of Oregon, awarded First Place - Open Category in the KHSI 2007 Photo Contest; **Pictured Above:** "Saying Hello for the First Time" photographed by Karolina Fowler of Birth Hill Farm, Vermont, awarded 3rd Place - Best Promotion Category, 2007 KHSI Photo Contest



We escaped the winter for two weeks to go on a Caribbean Cruise. On our way to Galveston, Texas, we stopped our first night in Little Rock, Arkansas. Upon checking the map we found that Morrilton was only an hour away so I called Carrie Scott, KHSI Registrar, and told her about our trip and on our way home we would like to take her to lunch and visit with her. Carrie was excited and said she looked forward to seeing us. From there we drove to Galveston, Texas and it was there we boarded the Carnival Conquest for a seven day Caribbean Cruise. We had a wonderful time and the temperature was in the Nineties every day. We went on a 3-mile river ride on a bamboo raft in Jamaica. We toured the Island of Grand Cayman and visited a large turtle farm. Cozumel proved to be expensive as Marian wanted to go shopping.

The food aboard the ship was fantastic and I must have gained 10 pounds. As large as the ship is, it took only an hour to go through immigration and customs. That same morning we drove back to Little Rock, Arkansas.

On Monday with the help of our GPS, we had no trouble finding Carrie's home. Carrie was all smiles and invited us into her home. Carrie has a beautiful home and she purchased the 12 acres and house four years ago. She lives in the Petit Jean Mountain Area. It's easy to tell Carrie loves to read as she has a house full of books. She is very active in her church.

We had a wonderful time visiting with Carrie and had a chance to really get to know her. Carrie is the youngest of four children of John and Betty Scott. She was born in Western Pennsylvania, she graduated from Mohawk High School and went on to Waynesburg College and graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration. It was her Uncle Ed that offered her a job to manage his business. She came to Petit Jean Mountain and fell in love with the area.

We went to lunch just down the road a mile from Carrie's place, at the Rockefeller Center, a part of the University of Arkansas. We ate at the River Rock Restaurant. The weather was sunny and in the eighties. The entire area of Petit Jean Mountain is beautiful and a must see area.

It was getting late in the afternoon and we had to drive on toward home. We drove North and stopped in Missouri just North of the Arkansas line for the night.

The next morning I called home at 6:30 am only to find out they had an ice storm the night before-trees and power lines were down. That wasn't the worst. We were told there was 12 inches snow forecasted that night. We decided we would head straight home. Forty miles south of home it started to snow-twenty miles from home it was snowing so hard we could hardly see the road. We pulled into our driveway and we were stuck in the snow. We tried to back up but the car wouldn't move. We had no choice but to walk to the house.

Now it's February and we are now ready to start lambing.

Because we had such a wonderful time on our cruise, we look forward to going on a cruise the same time next year and we invite you to come along with us.

DON'T FORGET — MAIL IN YOUR 'OS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL WITH YOUR RENEWAL FORM



### **Warm Spring Katahdins**

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### 2008 Expo Scheduled for Western Maryland: a Hub of Katahdin Activity

#### by Susan Schoenian, Maryland

Testern Maryland is pleased to serve as the host of the 2008 KHSI Annual Gathering. The Sheraton Four Points Hotel (phone: (301) 790-3010) in Hagerstown will serve as the hotel headquarters. Other activities, including the sale, will be held at the Washington County Agricultural Center in Boonsboro (about 10 miles south). The nearby Western Maryland Research & Education Center is the site of the Western Maryland Pasture-Based Meat Goat Performance Test, one of only three pasture-based small ruminant performance tests in the U.S. Though the early fall seems far away, the months do fly by and we want you to be sure to mark your calendars and start planning now for the 2008 KHSI Expo from September 25-27.

Hagerstown serves as a commercial and industrial hub for a Tri-State area which includes much of Western Maryland, South Central Pennsylvania, and the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. Virginia is also a short drive from the Western Maryland border. Because Interstates 81 and 70 intersect nearby, Hagerstown is a major north-south corridor for travelers. Good roads make it easier to transport sheep efficiently.

While there is a regional airport in Hagerstown, most air travelers will want to book their travel through the major airports in Baltimore, Maryland; Washington DC, or central Pennsylvania. With four major airports within two hours driving distance of Hagerstown/Boonsboro --Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA), Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD), and Harrisburg (PA) International Airport (HIA) it should be easy to find a competitive airfare.

There are many attractions conveniently located to Hagerstown/ Boonsboro, including the Antietam National (Civil War) Battlefield, Harper's Ferry National Historical Park (WV), C & O Canal National Historical Park, Jonathon Hager House and Museum, Washington Monument State Park, Baltimore's Inner Harbor, Gettysburg National Military Park (PA), Annapolis (temporary capital of U.S. and home to the U.S. Naval Academy), Washington DC and its many sights and museums, and the Chesapeake Bay region, all within several hours of driving.

Hagerstown is a retail mecca, in the top 20 for retail space per resident. Hagerstown's Prime Outlets boast over 100 brand names. Bestselling author Nora Roberts settled in nearby Keedysville and owns a book store and hotel in Boonsboro. A Rural Heritage Museum is located on the Ag Center Grounds.

The educational program will focus on topics that are unique to the four-state region but we feel the information will be useful to sheep producers of all levels from around the U.S.. Meals will include a lamb and goat roast and an optional crab feast. You don't want to visit Maryland without tasting her famous blue crab, the pride of the Chesapeake.

Tentative program topics

- EPD s for beginners
- Commercializing EPDs
- Ethnic markets for sheep and lambs
- Producing for the ethnic markets
- Pasture management
- Growing and finishing lambs on pasture
- Selecting for parasite resistance
- Marketing Katahdin breeding stock
- Tour of the University of Maryland's Western Maryland Research & Education Center, featuring pasture-based performance test, forage variety trials and plots, and vineyards and orchards.

Editor's Note: Susan Schoenian (Shay-ne-un) will be the lead organizer and host for our September Expo. Susan is an Extension Sheep & Goat Specialist with the University of Maryland. She raises Katahdin sheep in her "spare" time.

### Free Sheep Publications Available Through the Mail

Selections by Jim Morgan and Teresa Maurer, KHSI Operations

ATTRA is the national sustainable agriculture information service which is funded by USDA and operated by the national nonprofit organization called National Center for Appropriate Technology If you are interested particular topics, you can use a tollfree number to ask questions about sheep and goats. Your question will be recorded and relayed to an appropriate ATTRA specialist, and you will receive a response by mail (or email). ATTRA tollfree phone lines are staffed 12 hours per day from 7 am-7 pm Central time. Farmers, ranchers, extensionists and others are welcome to call 1-800-346-9140 and order these FREE sheep-related materials.

- Small Ruminant Sustainability Checksheet—this is an excellent tool with questions to help you think through your sheep operation from soil management to marketing. If you need more information on the topics covered, then you can order the Resource Manual below.
- Small Ruminant Resource Manual (CD-ROM only, requires a computer but no Internet connection is needed).
- Managing Internal Parasites in Sheep and Goats

### **Know Your Enemy: The Amazing Barber Pole Worm**

### By Richard Gilbert, Ohio

It is remarkable how much has changed during the past decade in regard to how shepherds are advised to deal with internal parasites, especially *Haemonchus contortus*, the barber pole worm, the chief blood-consuming parasite of sheep in much of the United States and in many regions of the world.

Wild sheep adapted to mountainous terrain and high-elevation arid plains, and such rocky and dry ecosystems limit parasite survival. But farmers have moved sheep—and their parasites—into every conceivable climate and terrain, even swamps.

Shepherds may have forgotten past knowledge about controlling parasites without sophisticated dewormers, and, with the rise of dewormers, wooled sheep may have lost some genetic resistance to parasites. Ohio supported eight- to nine-million sheep during the Civil War. Today there may be fewer than five million sheep in the entire United States—Great Britain, a much smaller country has over ten times as many.

Experts told me when I began with sheep in 1998 to try to kill every worm, and this primarily involved drenching on schedule. In the past several years, we've been advised to shift to anemia scoring by visually appraising eyelid color. This limits drenching to animals that really need it and manages for worms rather than trying to eliminate them.

That's a huge paradigm shift!

The change makes sense, given that we can't eliminate worms, and in trying to do so have created super worms immune from our drenches. But ten years ago, good shepherds in our region of southeastern Ohio, as in much of the nation with warm, humid weather, were deworming lambs every three to four weeks because of the barber pole worm, named for the red and white spiral of guts visible through its translucent body; the red color comes from sheep blood, its food, the white from its payload of eggs in the gravid uterus.

The more I've learned about *Haemonchus*, the more this parasite seems like a predator out of science fiction: tough, committed, and creepy. If we didn't hate these parasites so much, we'd be amazed by them.

Consider:

• Consuming blood at the commonly estimated maximum daily rate for an adult *Haemonchus* of 200 microliters, 5,000 worms could drain a quart of blood a day from a sheep. No wonder lambs die and ewes are sometimes weakened.

• The mature threadlike parasite is large as common sheep roundworms go – up to an inch long. The nematode uses a hook on its head to scrape the sheep's stomach and cause bleeding. And its saliva contains an anticoagulant to keep the

blood flowing: Every time one of the parasites detaches and wriggles to a new feeding spot, the first point of attack continues to bleed.

 An adult female barber pole worm can lay 5,000 to 10,000 microscopic eggs daily. In one recent study (see Figure 1 on page 26), a moderately parasitized flock of only forty-six lambs was found to be dropping more than 100 million worm eggs daily onto the pasture, according to William Shulaw, Ohio's extension-service veterinarian for cattle and sheep.

• *Haemonchus* eggs can hatch in less than a week in warm weather. The larvae climb grass blades in droplets of dew and wait to be eaten, protected by a tough sheath that helps them survive on pasture for more than a year under favorable conditions of warmth, moisture, and the shade provided by long grass.

• When sheep unwittingly consume larvae with the grass while grazing, the creatures enter the rumen and make their way to the abomasum, the sheep's true stomach. In only twenty-one days or less, an ingested female larva becomes an adult, mates, and begins producing eggs.

• A ewe grazing a moderately contaminated summer pasture may

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual KHSI Expo Sale September 27, 2008, Boonsboro, MD

The 2008 KHSI Expo Sale will be hosted near the East Coast. It will provide Katahdin breeders that live in the Eastern USA an excellent chance to view and buy superior Katahdins and also to consign Katahdins without driving 2 days west. All consigned sheep have performance information provided. Note that in 2008, the KHSI Sale committee will be working to increase the number of ewes consigned. The consignment rules are still being evaluated but will likely include consigning at least one ewe for every ram consigned.

Requirements to enter the 2008 KHSI Sanctioned Sale are listed below. Animals will sell on September 27<sup>nd</sup>. More information on the sale will be provided in the Summer Hairald. The consignment forms will be posted at the KHSI website, www.khsi.org or available from KHSI Operations. If you have any questions, contact Jim Morgan in the KHSI Operations Office, 479-444-8441 or **khsint@earthlink.net** 

- KHSI registered Katahdins are eligible. Members can also consign 87.5% ewe lambs
- 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 each year of production)
- 60-day weight must be provided (taken on or around 60 days of age; 45-90 days of age, but 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. Maximum of 2 animals/class. Classes include: Rams & Ewes for the following ages. Yearlings (9/1/06-8/31/07), Fall (9/1/07 - 12/31/07), Jan 1-Feb 15 born, Feb 15-Mar 31 born, April 1 and after
- Interstate Health Certificates (B. ovis tests for rams) and Mandatory or Scrapie Flock Certification Program Tags are required.

KHSI Recommends that sellers send papers and payment for registrations and transfers to the KHSI Registry, as a courtesy to their buyers. KNOW YOUR ENEMY, BARBER POLE WORM, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

consume as many as 30,000 larvae daily. The ewe's immune system prevents most ingested larvae from attaching, however. Lambs which die from parasites commonly have 5,000 to 10,000 worms in their abomasums.

• Although sheep can replace some lost blood volume by drinking water, their bone marrow and livers cannot so easily replace blood components, especially serum proteins and red blood cells. Once the protein drain is great enough, sheep cannot keep much water in their blood vessels anyway. Parasitized animals become sick and weak, although most of them appear outwardly healthy. In heavy infections, blood is simply lost faster than animals can renew it.

Thankfully, genetics is in the emerging forefront of tools to do battle with the barber pole worm, and Katahdin breeders have a head start in selecting for genetic resistance because of our breed's African hair sheep component. Sheep taken to humid and perpetually warm climates like Africa, South Ámerica, Florida and the Caribbean islands developed higher internal ability to discourage or shed parasites. Such sheep also heal faster internally from parasite wounds and may be able to increase their production of red blood cells and serum protein to offset parasitic blood loss.

About twenty percent of sheep in a flock are the heavy worm hosts, home to as much as eighty percent of the flock's parasites. Although selecting for more resistant sheep takes some time and effort, this trait appears highly heritable. Our most effective dewormer in the long run may turn out to be DNA, which can't yet be bought from any pharmaceutical company.

Author's Note: Richard Gilbert takes credit for any mistakes in research or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

### 2008 SCKA Annual Meeting Set for June 13-14 in McComb, MS



**Pssst...hey folks...it's me ... "Kat Ahdin"** with another update. I was wandering around McComb, MS the other night just minding my own business when I happened to notice those Burris folks in a meeting with a few other Mississippi SCKA (South Central Katahdin Association) members. They were making plans for that big sheep event I told you about before. It sure seems like these guys and gals are getting their act together for a fine time. Now, here's what I've found out so far, but I'll be glad to pass along more info as it becomes available. Maybe I can even get it to those SCKA and KHSI folks so they will post it to their websites....I'll do my best to get any updates included in the next newsletters too. But of course you can call those Burris folks anytime you'd like for additional info. I know that they would be happy to hear from you.

For now, just be sure to go ahead and mark your calendar for an informative and fun two day event. Remember, the 2008 SCKA Annual Meeting will be held June 14<sup>th</sup> in McComb, MS at the Pike County Fairgrounds. The tentative schedule is as follows:

#### Friday June 13<sup>th</sup>

Welcome Gathering and Sale Sheep Arrival

Arrival of Animals for Private Treaty Sales. \* Health Papers will be required on all sheep. All Sales will be solely between the buyer and seller.

Shackaloa Creek Ranch Farm Tour \* Those wishing to tour the farm of Earl & Mickie Burris will be able to do so Friday, Saturday (after the meeting) and/or Sunday as time permits. We will make every effort to accommodate those wishing to tour the farm.

### Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup>

Speakers / SCKA Annual Meeting / Private Treaty Sales

- Registration begins @ 7:30AM
- Guest Speakers Dr. Leroy Boyd / Jackie Nix, Nutritionist (SweetLix)
- Lunch Compliments of SCKA members (Earl & Mickie Burris, Ed & Deborah Flowers and Les & Amanda Jordan)
- 2008 SCKA Annual Meeting
- Private Treaty Sales / Hoof trimming and Photo Op "Demo" with Mark Dennis
- Tour of Shackaloa Creek Ranch available Saturday afternoon and Sunday AM

Area Hotels: All hotels are conveniently located right off the Interstate (I-55)

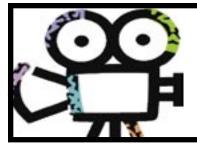
Please specify when you make your reservations that you are with SCKA. Any "discount" rate will be for early registrations. We will post the cut off date to the website once available and make every effort to keep you up to date. We look forward to seeing you in June for a fine time filled with information, fun, food and good old southern hospitality!

Hawthorn Inn & Suites (601) 684-8655	Best Western (601) 249-4300
Comfort Inn (601) 249-0080	Days Inn (601) 684-5566
Hampton Inn (601) 684-8655 (the area's	newest Hotel - opening February 2008)

### Signing off for now with your latest update, "Kat Ahdin"

\* Be sure to check the SCKA web site www.hair-sheep.com and KHSI web site www.khsi.org frequently for updates For additional info contact: Earl & Mickie Burris of Shackaloa Creek Ranch, 5734 MS Hwy 570, Smithdale, MS39664 at shackaloa@aol.com or Farm: (601)567-2513 or Mobile : (601) 551-6970

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# Focus on EWE-TH: Karise Price

Editor's Note: Michael Seipel, KHSI Board Member from Missouri, conducted the interview and provided the following introduction and article:

Karise Price lives with her parents, Robert and Kerri, and younger siblings, Abriana (15) and Grant (11), near Kirksville, Missouri. Karise, age 19, has been home-schooled all of her life and since graduating high school in 2006 has been continuing her education with various books and projects at home. I first met Karise

and her family at the Bethel World SheepFest in September 2007. Later in the fall, the Price family contacted me and ultimately decided to purchase ewe lambs. While this was clearly a family project, when I delivered the ewe lambs, I noted that Karise was the one who wrote out the check to pay for the sheep. I was impressed with the considerable initiative that this young woman was demonstrating in beginning this enterprise. Since a goal of the Youth *Committee is to share positive stories of* young people and Katahdin sheep, an interview with Karise Price seemed like a perfect subject for this issue's "Focus on Ewe-th". ~Michael Seipel

# How would you describe your current sheep and other farming/ livestock activities?

Currently, we own thirteen Katahdin ewes—our first flock of sheep, which I bought a few months ago. My siblings and I also own a few cows, which are looked after by our grandfather, although we are available to help him with the cattle when he needs us. As far as other farming activities, our family is in the process of beginning a Upick blueberry operation, which we hope to open for business this coming spring and summer.



Are other family members involved with your sheep and if so, how?

I actually bought the Katahdins to get our family started in raising sheep, but Daddy is greatly involved in our flock of Katahdins, and my brother Grant has helped out a lot also. Daddy and Grant prepared the barn as well as food and water facilities, and they help as problems come up with anything. They even help with the daily or weekly chores. It really is a family project.

### What was your first experience with sheep?

Most of my experience with sheep has come from caring for my grandparents' flock for about six years. My grandparents, who live next door to us, have owned sheep for a long time. Almost seven years ago my sister and I began helping to care for their small flock of sheep when they had to be gone. Eventually we took over looking after their sheep, and my grandfather gave us half the profits when they were sold. We gained valuable experience by holding most of the responsibility for the flock, yet having Granddad right there for help and advice. Thanks to him trusting his sheep

into our inexperienced hands, my sister and I got to learn about sheep and have a money-making project as well. This summer I felt that it was time for me to step down from taking care of their flock, so I gave my share of the responsibility to my brother, Grant. This worked out well, because shortly thereafter I bought the Katahdin sheep and now am able to focus my

whole attention on them.

### How did you learn about Katahdin sheep and why did you decide to make them part of your operation?

As I said, we are beginning a home business with the blueberry farm. Since we hope eventually to live completely off our land, Daddy knew we needed to diversify and have another business on hand besides the blueberries. If we wanted to raise livestock, the most realistic option for us was sheep, since they are much easier to handle and require less acreage per animal than cattle. As Daddy researched the different types of sheep, he found that Katahdins were hardy, parasite resistant, lambed easily, and didn't have to be sheared -a great, low maintenance choice for our first flock. We wanted to raise the sheep for meat and market animals, so Katahdins fit the bill well. At first I felt that I could not like hair sheep as much as "normal" sheep with wool. I had always loved the way the cute, woolly lambs looked, but now that I own Katahdins, I find they can be just as appealing and friendly as the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



more common breeds of sheep.

### What have you learned through the process of raising/caring for your sheep?

Probably two things I have learned, and am still learning, are that raising sheep takes a lot of responsibility and perseverance. I've learned I have to be observant to notice problems that are cropping up among my animals—and when problems happen, I shouldn't put off taking care of them, because they just get worse. Slacking off in my observation or work, especially during lambing, can be a matter of life or death to a sheep. It's much easier to be prepared for problems before they happen. One specific thing is – I know now that parasites are very persistent and can be a dangerous problem for sheep.

### What has been the biggest challenge encountered so far in raising and caring for your animals?

The biggest challenge every year, by far, is lambing time. There are so many problems that can arise during that season, including weak lambs, lambs getting mixed up with the wrong mother, lambs not getting enough milk, and ewes with health problems. The difficulties are all magnified in the winter, as my sister and I found last January. Since Katahdins are supposed to lamb more easily, and we are expecting our first lambs from them in June, I am hoping that this lambing time will go much more smoothly. Other things I have found challenging are getting sheep wormed and getting sheep to go where I want them to go!

What resources have you used to solve problems or answer questions about your sheep?

As we took care of our grandparents' sheep, we mostly asked Granddad when we had a question or needed help with a problem. Granddad grew up on a farm and has been a farmer most of his life, so he has accumulated a lot of hands-on knowledge about farming and livestock. Occasionally, we would consult a book or seek other information. Right now we have a book called *Storey's Guide to Raising Sheep* by Paula Simmons and Carol Ekarius that we are using. We have also attended the Missouri Livestock Symposium to learn about sheep for the past couple of years. The Sheep Festival in Bethel, MO. has also been a good place for us to be exposed to sheep and be around people who raise sheep.

#### What has been the most rewarding aspect of raising livestock in general and sheep in particular?

I would say the most rewarding aspect of raising livestock is getting to observe the new life every year when the young animals are born. Although this is the most challenging time of the year, it is also the most rewarding. It's great to have the privilege of seeing a new lamb enter the world. There is

something amazing about watching a lamb learn to stand up, eat, and play for the first time. When the lambs are a little older I love watching them jump and play with each other. I find that I enjoy having a very small flock much more than a larger one. With a small flock I can know every sheep better, so that some of them are more like pets. It is also rewarding, when selling the sheep, to know that through our hard work we now have this group of lambs to sell.

### What are your plans and goals for your Katahdin sheep?

Our sheep are part of our goal to live off our land. We want to raise lambs for our own meat as well as raising lambs to sell.

### What are your future educational and career goals (in addition to sheep production)?

My goal is to devote my energies to building up my family, both now and in the future. I believe the family was instituted by God in the beginning as the foundation of society. If the structure of the family is allowed to crumble, our society will disintegrate along with it. The best way I can go about building up and supporting my family is, I believe, by being at home to help my father and further his plans. I desire to continue educating myself at home in a variety of subjects and skills, for the purpose of being better equipped to assist and serve my parents, others, and possibly my future husband and family.



SPRING 2008

## **Youth Committee Targets New Initiatives**

By Michael Seipel, Youth Committee Chair

The mission of the KHSI Youth Committee is to encourage, L support, and share information about youth involvement with Katahdin sheep. Beginning with this issue, the committee will present in each issue of the Hairald a "Focus on Ewe-th", which will contain photographs, articles, and interviews with and about young people working with Katahdin sheep. The committee is discussing other ideas to encourage greater youth participation with the breed association, at the annual expo and throughout the year, and will share these ideas in future issues of the Hairald.

Each Youth Committee member has provided a short description of their background and interest in youth activities:

Lee Brokaw: My name is Lee Brokaw and I am a senior at the University of Illinois majoring in Agriculture Economics and Crop and Soil Management. My parents, Patrick and Brenda Brokaw purchased their first group of Katahdin breeding ewes in 1995, and are currently breeding 160 Katahdin ewes to lamb December-March. My interest in the breed has grown as I have had the opportunity to raise and show a group of ewes both as a 4-H and FFA project in conjunction with my parents Katahdin operation. Throughout high school I was active in the FFA and my Supervised Agricultural Experience Program(SAEP) was in Sheep Production. I had 45 Katahdin ewes in which I kept detailed records and was judged at the Section, District, and State levels with other FFA students interested in sheep as well. This experience through the FFA allowed me to gain skills specific to running a business and afforded me the opportunity to understand the fundamental and detailed aspects of breeding and marketing sheep. Through my experiences in high school FFA and the numerous opportunities at the

college level, I have continued to remain active with the family farm and I greatly enjoy assisting my younger sister Mary with her FFA record book now. As a member of the youth committee I think it would be excellent to develop youth activities at the local, state, and national levels such as sheep clinics or social gatherings that would allow young people to interact with others interested in sheep. In addition, I believe it would be great to look at the development of a youth committee/board that consists of youth/young adults that would brainstorm and develop ideas that can be presented at KHSI meetings from a representative of their board. This would allow the youth to gain experience with holding an office but even more importantly allow them to have a stake in the future development of the breed. I am excited for the many opportunities that lie ahead in the Katahdin breed. The camaraderie within the breed and the growth of KHSI provides limitless opportunities for youth that are interested in sheep. There are more opportunities for youth interested in Agriculture now then ever before, and I am excited to press forth with the "Ewe-th" Committee to draw more young people and adults toward the Katahdin breed.

Kelly Isaak: My name is Kelly Isaak. I live near Carlyle, Illinois with my husband, Denny, and our two sons, Elijah who is 11, and Noah who is 9. We call our farm Lost Creek Livestock. I am a member of our school board and the county fair board. We have had Katahdins for 6 years. Prior to that I never had sheep, but grew up with Hereford cattle. We now have 45 breeding ewes and are trying to lamb every 8 months. Our goal is to supply a local retailer with lambs all year round and to supply other breeders with stock that has the potential to maximize production. I raised and showed Hereford cattle at local, state, and national levels. It taught me a lot of valuable lessons and I want my sons to have that experience with Katahdins. It is hard for children to see a reward in raising livestock just to improve the breed. We need programs to get them involved and reward them for their efforts. Memories of my summers almost always include livestock. I don't always remember going to the lake or playing summer sports, but I can recall which fairs I went to, what animals I showed, and the friends I made at the fair. I want my children to have those memories too.

Wendy Reinemann: My husband Bruce and I bought a small farm in Union Maine with the original intention of having a few horses for the family to ride. Well, the horses were quite green and the kids were very young, a combination that soon proved to not work out. But by an odd twist of fate the horses introduced us to a Katahdin ram lamb that we instantly fell in love with. Before we really knew it the horses were gone and we bought our first Katahdin ewes, mostly from the Piel's flock, and had our first lambs the following spring. That was 8 years ago and we are now happy to consider ourselves sheep producers and breeders. Our primary focus has been selecting breeding stock that has strong maternal traits (easy lambing, good mothering ability, ability to raise multiples easily, etc.) and parasite resistance along with a large carcass. We have been in the STAR Flock program in Maine and our goal is to build the flock to around 60 breeding ewes. To help us further improve our breeding program we are part of the NSIP (National Sheep Improvement Program). I guess it would also help to know a bit about us as people as well. Both Bruce and I studied Molecular Biology in college and enjoy using our scientific background in the management of our flock. I have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

### 2008 Katahdin Hairald Changes Include Publishing Dates & Deadlines

The Katahdin Hairald is going through a few changes. The issues are being lined up with the seasons. The Hairald will be mailed to arrive near the start of each season. The first issue of 2008, Volume 20 Issue 1, is this Spring Issue and it was mailed on or before March 1<sup>st</sup> to arrive near the start of Spring on March 21<sup>st</sup>. This is a change from the past in which the first issue was labeled as Winter. The Winter Issue will still be published as the final issue of the year. Here's the 2008 Hairald Publishing Schedule:

	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Summer</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<b>Winter</b>
Article & Ad Deadline Date	Jan 15	Apr 2	Jul 1	Oct 7
Mailing Date (Bulk Mail)	Mar 1	May 9	Aug 8	Nov 14

The Sale Roundup, Member Interview, Focus on Ewe-th and Katahdin Breeders in the News are new features of this issue. The Sale Roundup is a list of all the organized sales that include Katahdin Breeding Stock. Send the dates of organized Katahdin sales to KHSI Operations. The KHSI Member Interview is a way for KHSI to share interesting stories about members. In this issue, Kathy and Jeff Bielek's farm is in the spotlight. Kathy has received three grants for farmers/producers to identify parasite resistant Katahdins. In the Summer Katahdin Issue, the Katahdin Hairald will interview Henry Licciardello. Henry is the only Charter Member of KHSI who still belongs to KHSI.

KHSI is soliciting ads from commercial companies to help offset the cost of printing and distributing the Hairald. The first advertiser was The Shepherd Magazine, which has featured several articles on Katahdins over the years. In this issue, we have an ad from Premier One Supplies. Stan Potratz, owner of Premier, recently wrote about adding commercial Katahdins to his easy care flock of sheep.

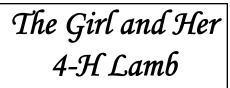
#### YOUTH COMMITTEE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

served as the Vice President of the Maine Sheep Breeders Association and chairman of the New England Club Lamb Sale. We are also coleaders of our local 4-H Sheep Club, the Lucky Shepherds and other local organizations.

**Michael Seipel:** Michael Seipel lives with his wife Cherié and children Abigail (10), Rebekah (7), and Gregory (3) near Callao, Missouri. Cherié and Michael have been raising sheep since 1996, beginning with three St. Croix ewe lambs and a borrowed Katahdin ram. The family flock currently contains 70 registered and commercial Katahdin ewes. Abigail and Rebekah are active with sheep projects through 4-H and Clover Kids. Gregory is active in trouble-making around the farm.

If you have ideas for youth programming, a suggestion of a young person who should be featured in "Focus on Ewe-th", or other comments for the Youth Committee, please contact us at **mseipel@truman.edu** or 660-768-5744.

Did your renewal packet get lost in the mail? Contact Operations at 479-444-8441 if you didn't receive the letter and form in January.



by Gary E. Ricketts Reprinted with permission. Jean is my name and I am 10. And a 4-H'er I happen to be. My project is a market lamb That is very attractive to see.

His name is Muscle Man And I believe you can guess why. He is very well-muscled And seems to catch everyone's eye.

Muscle Man and I make a good team. I feed him regularly, both grain and hay, And his water bucket is never empty, For I take good care of him each day.

He has plenty of room to exercise And he comes at my very first call. Rapid gaining describes him well As he has gained a pound per day overall.

I have learned a lot about sheep From Dad, Mom and brothers two. They have all supported me And give me sound advice in what I do.

The county fair will soon be here And to the 4-H show we will go. My lamb is very easy to handle, And my desires he just seems to know.

His weight is just about ideal And I will have him ready for this test. My family has prepared me well, And my effort will be the very best.

Hard work and dedication have not been lacking, So like everyone else I hope my lamb does well. However, if he does not win, I can still be very proud of our story to tell.

For he and I are winners Regardless of what the judge's opinion may be. My family and I have really worked together, And we have done our very best, my lamb and me.

## Next issue: Articles and Ads due by April 2



#### By Ben Norman

This North Florida Sheep Rancher Says The Increased Demand For Lamb Presents An Opportunity For Farmers In The Southeast

When Ron Prokop retired from his assistant fire chief job in Alachua County, Florida, he had no idea he would be giving up the excitement of fire fighting to raise Katahdin hair sheep on his 43 acre farm near Florala, Alabama.

"I started off raising goats, but we were having a lot of trouble with parasites. I got interested in raising sheep. After doing a little research, I thought the Katahdin sheep showed promise for the

area where I live. I've always been interested in producing the most meat for my labor. I guess this is what steered me toward the Katahdin sheep," says Prokop.

Prokop says he raised goats for about eighteen years, but was constantly having problems with intestinal parasites. "I had to worm my goats about every forty five days,



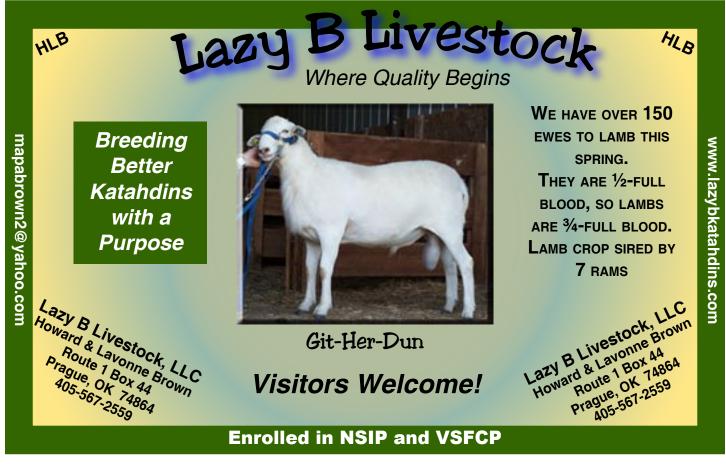
and still lost some to parasites. I started raising sheep in conjunction with my goat herd. I soon saw we were having much less parasite trouble with the sheep and were getting a better forage conversion with the Katahdin sheep than we were with our goats," says Prokop.

According to Prokop, Michael Piel, a Maine sheep farmer, devel-

oped the Katahdin sheep breed. "Piel took a St. Croix hair sheep from the Virgin Islands and crossed sheep until he got his desired conformation. When he was satisfied with his line of meat sheep, he had to decide on a name for them. The story goes that he looked up at a mountain near his home named Mt. Katahdin, so he named his breed the Katahdin sheep," says Prokop.

Prokop says there is a growing trend among wool producers to convert to the meat sheep. "The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



SPRING 2008

THE KATAHDIN HAIRALD • WWW.KHSI.ORG

# White Post Farm

### A Significant Difference



The Stafford family of Wyoming, pictured with Marian and John Stromquist. The ram is the 2nd highest selling ram of the 2007 EXPO sale

 NSIP Records available
 Volunteer Scrapie Program

Expecting lambs the first of February Demand for our sheep has been GREAT! Our 100 lambs were sold out by the first of Sept. 2007



John and Steve Stromquist White Post Farm Durand, IL 61024

Phone 815-629-2159 • email Stromquist@stateline-isp.com Please visit our new website www.stromquist-katahdins.com competition from foreign produced wool is hurting our domestic wool producers considerably. Some owners of wool producing sheep are buying Katahdin rams and crossing them with their wool-producing ewes to obtain an acceptable quality meat sheep for market. With the demand for lamb meat on the increase, producers are striving to come up with a sheep that doesn't have a lanoline taste like some wool producing sheep have. A hybrid produced from a wool producing ewe and a Katahdin ram results in a leaner cut of meat with an improved taste," says Prokop.

The demand for sheep and goat meat is strong in the northeastern part of the United States and in Florida, with a steadily increasing demand in Alabama. Along with the increased demand for lamb comes an increase in sheep producers. Most purchasers of sheep and goats in Alabama and northwest Florida do their own butchering, but that is also changing. A new processing plant is under construction on Highway 84 near Wixburg, Alabama. D & W processing plans to be processing goat and sheep within the next few months. They will be looking for meat quality animals and will pay the producer by the pound, rather than buying them by the head as they do at auctions. Sheep and goat producers can contact Mr. Wade Hussey at 334-806-6070 or huscowade@yahoo.com for more information.

Prokop says good fences and guard dogs are an absolute necessity for raising sheep. "We have two guard dogs that are very vigilant. I also have a herding dog that saves me a lot of time. We have mesh wire fences around the perimeter and use mesh wire for cross fencing, also. This type fence in conjunction with a good guard dog will prevent predation problems from domestic dogs and coyotes." Besides good fences and guard dogs, Prokop says sheep producers need to be very vigilant during birthing season.

Good forage is also critical for raising meat sheep. Prokop uses a no till operation- planting oats, rye grass, wheat, and four varieties of legume clover. He buys all his feed, seed, fertilizer, and soybean by products from the Florala Farmers Coop. "Pete Blackwell and the other employees are very knowledgeable and helpful. If they don't know the answer to a question, they will find out for you. I plant my winter forage by October 15 and want to be grazing winter forage by December 15. We then take the sheep off the winter grazing by April 15, and by May 15 we are cutting hay. We sell the surplus hay to the horse breeders in the area. During the summertime our sheep graze on Tifton 85 Bermuda grass," says Prokop.

Prokop is especially proud of Bruiser, one of his rams that is a grandson of the Canadian grand champion ram, Goliath. " Bruiser weighed 305 pounds at twenty two months of age. " In 1905, he had offspring's that dressed out 60%, which is an outstanding ratio. For comparison, an average goat will dress out about 47%. I'm shooting for an average of 60% dressed weight, and I believe I have the genetics to obtain it," say Prokop.

Rosemary, Prokops wife, is a registered nurse whose skills come in handy when it's time to worm and vaccinate the sheep. "I may be the head sheep herder most of the time, but when it comes time to doctor, all Rosemary lets me do is hold the sheep for her to administer the medi-

cine," laughs Prokop.

Rosemary is an avid animal lover herself with horses, birds, dogs and a large flock of geese. She says goose eggs make the richest, best tasting pound anyone cake has ever tasted.

"I've seen some pretty proper people forget their table manners when they bite into a slice of that goose egg pound cake," laughs Rosemary.

Ron and Rosemary Prokop have earned quite an excellent reputation in the southeast as producers of top quality Katahdin sheep. Anyone interested in acquiring Katahdin sheep can contact Ron at 850-834-3333 or by e-mail at Florida.katahdinhairs heep@gmail.com. For additional information on Katahdin sheep, contact John Stromquist, president of Katahdin Hair Sheep International, at 815-629-2159.

The author, Ben Norman, is a writer from Highland Home, Alabama. This article was originally published in the Cooperative Farming News published by the Alabama Farmers Cooperative. The editor, Jim Allen, and the author both gave permission to reprint.

The Katahdin Hairald is reprinting this article by request in its entirety.

### **Planning on Selling Stock** at the 2008 **KHSI Expo?**

Make sure you get birth weights, 60 day weights and 120 day weights.



NW AR • 479-444-6075 jlmm@earthlink.net

NSIP, SFCP certified scrapie free

# Minutes of The KHSI Board Conference Call Dec. 17, 2007

#### Submitted by Kay Cloyd, KHSI Secretary

Meeting was called to order by President John Stromquist at 8:10 pm. Present were Ron Young, Leroy Boyd, Wes Limesand, Robert Elliott, Michael Seipel and Kay Cloyd.

Secretary's report: Because the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting in Louisville was not an official meeting, no minutes were kept. A summary of our discussions at that meeting was used as a guideline for this conference call.

Treasurer's Report: Because we were without an elected treasurer there was no treasurer's report.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Election of the treasurer. Ron Young nominated Leroy Boyd and Michael Seipel nominated Robert Elliott for the office of treasurer. Wes Limesand moved to cease the nominations. John seconded it. Motion unanimously passed. After a short discussion, Leroy Boyd was elected treasurer.

Robert Elliot moved to vote on the following resolutions, Kay Cloyd seconded.

1. Be it resolved that David Coplen and Kay Cloyd are to be removed from all Bank of Fayetteville accounts (checking and 3 CDs) and that signatures for John Stromquist, President, and Dr. Leroy Boyd, Treasurer, be added.

2. Be it resolved that KHSI operations is directed to continue to schedule renewals of current KHSI CDs at the Bank of Fayetteville so that one CD matures each 3 months, and the face value and interest are automatically reinvested as they mature, unless otherwise directed by the KHSI board or treasurer.

Both of the above resolutions passed unanimously.

Currently KHSI holds one CD each: 90 day (matured on 10-1-07 and was automatically reinvested by the bank), 6 month (matures on 1-1-08) and 9 month (matures on 4-3-08).

### New Business

Committee appointments: John handed out the following committee appointments:

- Guidelines Committee: Ron Young will chair.
- Youth Committee: Michael Seipel, Chairman
- Web Page facilitator: Robert Elliott, Chairman
- Sales and Show: Wes Limesand and Ron Young, Co-chairs.
- Promotions: Kay Cloyd and John Stromquist. Co-chairs.

Job description for Operations: John asked Leroy, Ron and Kay to work on a job description for operations. It was agreed that we need to have the expectations of the contracted position of Operations be put into writing and then approved by the board. They are to have this ready by the next phone conference in January 2008.

Bylaws: It was agreed that we need to be thinking about revisiting the bylaws to see if there is a need to update any of them.

Hairald publishing dates: Wes is concerned that the timing of the Hairald mailing dates is not in our best interests- particularly around the June Sedalia sale and our annual KHSI sale in September. It was decided that Ron and Wes will work on the publication dates and report back to the board.

Registry Contract: Leroy asked if there was a copy of the Registry contract available. Kay was to call Naomi Hawkins to see if she had a copy and then make if available to the board.

Tax exempt status: The question of our tax exempt status was brought up. Leroy was going to check with Operations about this.

John announced that Premier has agreed to take the back page of the Hairald for one year.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm. EST.



# sunset Ridge Katahdins

### Winter is a Time of Expectations



### **Freckles**

3.4 lambs/lambing 27 lambs; death loss 0 60 day average litter weight - 187 lb. Her ram lambs consistently gain over one pound per day Her ewe lambs make excellent mothers

We have bred 200 ewes to quality QR and RR rams, due to lamb Jan.-Feb. 2008 lamb crop (ewe and ram lambs) available for inspection the first of June



Yearling Rams for Sale Year 'Round



Ewes like this are the economic factors that helped Grow our Flock

### A ram from Sunset Ridge Katahdins may be the key to starting your flock toward better economic returns

**Greg and Matt McGinnis** 1335 Ridgeline Road • Washburn, TN 37888 Home: 865-497-3085 • Cell: 865-310-7784 Email: sgmcginnis2003@yahoo.com

## Straight Talk

Reprinted with permission from Pipestone Sheep Newsletter, October 2007. Two members requested that this article be included in the Katahdin Hairald.

Sometimes I have difficulty coming up with something to write about. When Shannon, my girl Friday said the other day, "I need another article, "my response was, "I just gave you one." Incidentally she works hard and does a nice job of putting the sheep letter together. It's not easy to corral a group of Veterinarians and get them to write something in a timely and orderly manner. Something like herding cats.

Let's talk about sheep. My sheep shearer is taking a different job so he no longer will be shearing sheep on a full time basis. This is not an unusual situation. Small flocks all over the country are experiencing the problem. What is the answer? Some people have switched to goats. That's okay as long as they have a market and can figure a way to keep the kids alive.

### By Dr. G.F. Kennedy

Hair sheep are the other alternative. My friends in the more popular purebred breeds don't want to hear this. Quite frankly, they created the problem themselves. Who really wants to shear 400 pound rams and 300 pound ewes that are over a yard tall and shear six to eight pounds of medium wool worth about \$1.50.

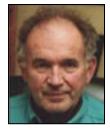
They make a fine terminal cross because of growth rate, but show ring has dictated tall, long, and narrow which hasn't had a positive effect on yield and primal cuts.

Dorper sheep fall into the hair sheep category but they still require a certain amount of shearing. Some don't shed as well as others and if they are used as a terminal sire, some of those carrying more wool cover are preferred. The other problem I experience with Dorper sheep under intensive management is that at 110 pounds, a good percentage of the carcasses will fall to yield grades four and five hanging a 60 pound carcass.

All hair sheep like to rub and they can

be a problem on fences and equipment.

The Katahdin sheep are an interesting breed. I characterize them as



a goat in sheep's clothing. There are differences, the lambs are vigorous at birth and there seems to be a fair amount of heterosis when it comes to disease and parasite resistance. Some of the present Katahdins are small and spindly. There are bigger and heavier muscled ones out there. Their flock book is open and a 7/8 percentage may become a purebred after inspection.

This offers an opportunity for the breed to get a lot better.

I think hair sheep in general offer a new paradigm for sheep people that can adapt to change. Low maintenance is a good thing. It encourages involvement and expansion. Maintenance and growth of the sheep industry in general has been the result of producers accepting hair sheep.

Improve your Flock with Blue Oaks Stock

70+ lambs on the ground end Jan. '08



Babies started coming Jan. 7 Weaned in April

### Call & Place your Order NOW

- one ram lamb @ 2 weeks was >30 lbs.
- one heavy milker ewe is feeding triplet girls who are visibly growing daily
- heavy ewe lamb crop

several RR & QR ram lambs

**Blue Oaks Ranch** 

Northern California, 60 miles NE of Sacramento Ruth & Robert Bleau

530-268-4699 • blueoaksranch@sbcglobal.net • www.blueoaksranch.org

# **Jt's -20 degrees outside** but things are heating up in the Lambing Barn!!



### "Stacked" RR Pictured at 20 months

Our outcross ram has developed the way we hoped he would: Massive, deep ribbed, structurally correct, long bodied, and sires early shedding lambs.



Here is a week old January Ewe lamb sired by "Stacked." She combines Sampson, New Design, and 038 on the bottom side.



This is a June born RR triplet by "Stacked." He has the masculinity, depth of body, thickness of top, and shedding ability (shown in winter coat) of his sire.

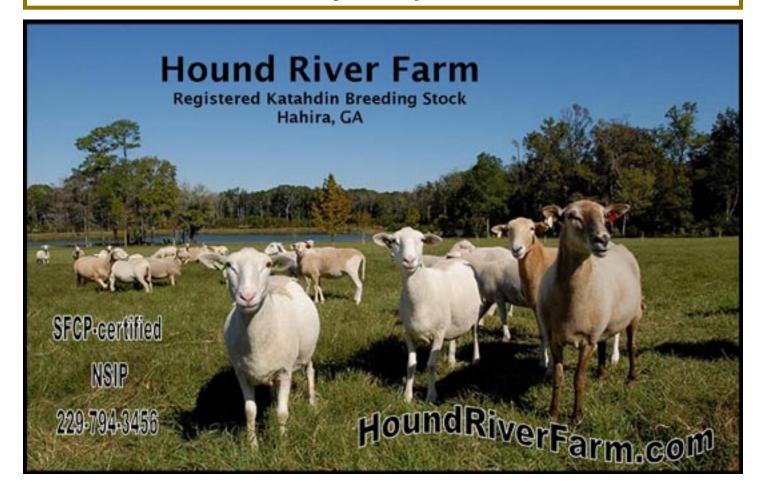
The 2008 Lamb Crop will be sired by Sampson, New Design, Stacked, and **380** (a Canadian Ram and the sire of "Stacked"). We AI'd 20 top ewes (mostly Sampson daughters) to **380** and have an exciting set of lambs born the end of January.

NDSU Animal Science Department · 100 Hultz Hall, Fargo, North Dakota 58105 Wes Limesand, Flock Manager · **Sheep barn number (701) 356-3295** · sheepbrn@ndsuext.nodak.edu Bert Moore · Office (701) 231-7651



The KHSI Sale Committee is rounding up all the organized sales that include Katahdins. 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 khsint@earthlink.net

- June 7, 2008. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual North American Hair Sheep Association Sale in Bowling Green, Kentucky at the Barren River Regional Livestock Center. Contact Philip Glass, President of the North American Hair Sheep Association. Seminars 9-11. To consign contact Philip Glass at 325-465-4267 or dorper@wildblue.net
- June 14, 2008. South Central Katahdin Association Annual Meeting & Private Treat Sale. Pike County Fairgrounds, McComb, Mississippi. Contact Mark Dennis at 337-364-0422 or denn907@bellsouth.net for more information.
- June 14, 2008. 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Scott County Hair Sheep Sale held at the Home Place in Gate City, Virginia. Registered Katahdins, Commercial Katahdins and Katahdin crosses will sell. Sale Chairman is KHSI member, Pete Odle. His contact information is 276- 452-2772 or jodle@vt.edu. See also www.hairsheep.us.
- June 25, 2008. Midwest Stud Ram Sale. Katahdins show on June 23, 2008 and sell on June 25, 2008. Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO. Contact 573-442-8257 for more information.
- **August 2, 2008**. 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Center of the Nation NSIP Sale. Spencer, Iowa. Only sheep with EPDs from the National Sheep Improvement Program can be consigned. More information available from Jim Morgan at 479-444-6075 or jlmm@earthlink.net
- September 27, 2008. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Katahdin Hair Sheep International Expo Sale. Washington County Agricultural Center in Boonsboro, MD. Contact Jim Morgan, KHSI Operations for more information. 479-444-8441.



## Katahdins & Katahdin Breeders In the News

Editor's Note: This is a new feature of the Katahdin Hairald. It will be featured if we receive notification of interesting stories of Katahdins or Katahdin Breeders in the news.

**Cooperative Farming News** – Ron Prokop, KHSI Breeder from North Florida was featured in the Alabama Farmers Cooperative news magazine. (see article on page 11 in this issue of the Hairald; Meat Sheep Industry Shows Promise)

**TheCurrentEvents.com** – This is a national newspaper for students. Current Events ran a brief article on sheep producers turning to hair/shedding sheep. It was brief, but KHSI Operations is happy when articles are well written and very accurate. KHSI provided a picture for the brief article. The Katahdin breeder bought his sheep from long-time KHSI member, Richard Gilbert.

**Farming** – The following paragraphs are provided by Kara Dunn, author of the article.

In March 2008, Farming, the Journal of Northeast Agriculture, begins a 3-part series called "The Future of Farming Holds Hair Sheep in Northern NY." The series profiles two families starting with Katahdins, and one switching from wool sheep to a Dorper-St. Croix flock bought in from Texas. The articles look at the Earle and Tamara Travis family's interest in genetic markers and disease prevention, at retired Marines Bob and Leslie Wilson's disciplined approach to starting their new livestock venture, and at how Gene and Veronica LaMothe and their son Guy are developing an easy care system for their large flock. The Travises and Wilsons are KHSI members leading the charge for introducing the Katahdin Hair Sheep breed into Northern New York.

Breed info with comments from KHSI leads off the series that concludes with a sidebar on Planning for a Successful Small Livestock Enterprise and information on a Livestock Marketing Toolkit developed with funds from the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program (**nnyagdev.org**) and the New York Farm Viability Institute (**nyfvi.org**). Shepherdess, shearer, and a farmer-advisor to the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program, Sandy von Allmen says in the article, "Hair sheep are becoming a factor in the agricultural industry in Northern New York. The ease of raising them and their parasite resistance makes them attractive in an area where parasites are a very big issue. I am happy to see the hair sheep find a place here – more flocks and farms will help strengthen agriculture's place in the North Country."

KHSI thanks Editor Bob Montgomery and writer Kara Lynn Dunn for making this series on hair sheep possible. Learn more about Farming and see featured articles online at www.farming magazine.com (NOTE: Farming is a free magazine in the NE USA and the Eastern Great Lakes Area))

American Sheep Industry News – The Camptender Award was presented to Steve Smith of Abingdon, VA for his contribution to the expansion of the sheep industry

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

### **Practical Websites for the Shepherd Online**

Selections by Jim Morgan and Teresa Maurer, KHSI Operations

- Body condition scoring. A key tool to use for determining if ewes are getting enough or too much to eat. http://eesc.orst.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/ec1433.pdf
   A great visual guide and explanation for doing Body Condition Scoring in sheep. Can download from this website to your computer and print. Oregon State University Extension.
- Spreadsheet to calculate 60 day adjusted weights. Richard Stewart, a KHSI member, has written a very useful Excel Spreadsheet for doing 60 day adjusted weights. He has incorporated adjustment factors provided by NSIP Genetic Evaluation Center (Virginia Tech research group, Dr David Notter). Go to http://www.kansaskatahdins.com and look under What's New-Free Stuff.
- Maryland Small Ruminant Webpage. http://www.sheepandgoat.com/ Excellent resource. One of the key small ruminant websites in the world developed by Maryland Sheep Extension and KHSI member, Susan Schoenian. Regular newsletter can be read on line or printed. Be sure also to visit Sheep 101 site at http://www.sheep101.info/ and Sheep 201 at http://www.sheep101.info/201/
- American Sheep Industry (ASI) **www.sheepusa.org.** The largest sheep producers organization in the USA.
- National Center for Appropriate Technology operates the ATTRA Project (National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service) website **www.attra.ncat.org**. which features publications on sustainable small ruminant production, marketing, grazing, guardian animals, fencing, pasture and soil management and many others. There is also a toll free number 800-346-9140 that ranchers, farmers, extension agents and other agricultural professionals can use to call and ask specific questions that are not covered on the website.
- Southern Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control Excellent for up-to-date information on internal parasite control in sheep and goats. Use of FAMACHA, Copper Oxide, Tannins and Fungi to assist in the control

In the News, continued from page 19

in the southeast region of the United States. Smith is president and chief executive officer of K-VA-T Foods, which owns Food City, a retail grocery-store chain. He contacted the Scott County Hair Sheep Association regarding the production of lamb for Food City stores. Today, more than 200 sheep producers supply lamb to Food City based on a year-round fixed price for carcasses and recently celebrated the fact that since the project began, more than \$1 million has been paid to producers for their product. ASI gave the 2008 Camptender Award to Steve Smith at their Annual Membership meeting in Las Vegas on 1/25/08. Several members of this association are also members of KHSI. Most members of SCHSA sheep are raising Katahdin or Katahdin cross ewes. In his recorded acceptance speech for the ASI convention, Steve Smith said that during the summer months, 20% of Food City's produce comes from local farmers. Food City is supporting local farmers. At Food City supermarkets, you can buy Katahdin lamb.

**Associated Press** – KHSI Operations has not received verification of this, but an Australian newspaper supposedly published an AP story about Katahdins. KHSI Operations has not searched the web, but someone might be able to Google the AP story and send us a copy. of internal parasites is discussed. http://www.scsrpc.org/

 Oregon State University Extension – Sheep Page http://smallfarms.oregonsta te.edu/livestock/sheep.php

# Don't Miss Buyers!

To stay on the latest member lists on the web and in print, make sure you have sent in your 2008 dues. Send back the renewal form to let us know any changes in your contact info.

### Conversations from the Field: Kathy and Jeff Bielek Holmes County, Ohio Katahdin Breeders

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of member interviews in the Katahdin Hairald in which KHSI asks questions of Katahdin Breeders with an interesting story to tell. Kathy Bielek is a passionate enthusiastic breeder of Katahdins. She has received three small research grants for farmers/ranchers to do sustainable agriculture research. Her research grants have helped Kathy and Jeff Bielek evaluate techniques for selecting parasite resistant sheep.

**Note** – Text in italics are questions and comments from the Katahdin Hairald

Kathy and Jeff Bielek live on Misty Oaks Farm in Holmes County of North Central Ohio. Those of you who attend the KHSI Annual Expos will recognize Kathy as a regular attendee. For those of you who have talked to Kathy, you will know how passionate she is about raising quality Katahdins. On behalf of KHSI, Jim Morgan contacted Kathy Bielek in fall, 2007 for this interview.

How did you become interested in farming? Kathy said, "I was raised on a small farm. I had horses and a sister had goats and chickens." After leaving the farm, Kathy lived in Houston and Cleveland for years, but said she always dreamed of moving back to a farm. Her husband Jeff was raised in a suburb of Cleveland and bought their 100 acre farm in 1980. It's been a Certified Tree Farm since 1982 and they've planted over 20,000 trees since then. "We added the sheep when we moved here permanently in 1999."

*Why did you add sheep to your farm?* Bielek said: "The "correct" answer is that they are an easily managed livestock species easily incorporated into a sustainable system to control excess vegetation. The real story was that we had never even thought of adding livestock to our tree farm, but Jeff suggested one day that we attend the Ohio Sheep Day just for fun. Well, we did and I fell in love." Kathy laughed and said, "Every time Jeff complains about the sheep I remind him it was his idea in the first place."

*Why did you choose Katahdins?* Kathy replied "We did quite a bit of research and actually started out with Shetlands because they were small, hardy, adaptable and too cute to eat. I was convinced back then that I could never eat something we'd raised." The Bieleks hadn't had them long when Jeff decided that sheep farming needed to be more productive. Bielek said,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



**Ewe and Ram** 

# **Brokaw Farm**

"Striving to produce quality, good milking ewes and superior rams built up to our finest breeding specifications."



THE KATAHDIN HAIRALD • WWW.KHSI.ORG

"Jeff wanted his own flock of 'real' meat sheep." More research led the Bieleks to Katahdins. They found that the Katahdins sounded just as hardy, adaptable and easy to manage as the Shetlands. "Katahdins had the added bonus that they didn't need shearing." Kathy said that the only problem she had with them was their looks. "I remember saying to Jeff, "how can you want something that ugly?!"



Kathy Bielek and one of her high performance ewes.

Where did you buy your first Katahdins? Kathy said, "Well, we bought three ewes from Naomi Hawkins and a ram from Sharon Miller here in Ohio." That was just the beginning for the Bieleks. They enjoyed the Katahdins so much that summer that they traveled to Missouri and bought more ewes from long time members, David Coplen and Martha Weigers. Bielek said, "David introduced us to records and numbers which have opened up a whole new set of goals for our farm and flock". It wasn't long before the Bieleks sold their Shetlands. Kathy said, "Katahdins have such wonderful temperaments and were SO much easier to manage than the flighty Shetlands." Talking to Kathy, we found out that record keeping and use of numbers became even more important and they joined the group of Katahdin breeders submitting data to the National Sheep Improvement Program. She said, "Using EPDs, expected progeny differences, is a key factor in our ewe selection and ram buying."

What do you do besides farming? Does work help with your Katahdins and your farm?

Bielek said that she works part time at the Ohio State University's OARDC as program assistant for the organic program. "Although my work doesn't help directly with the sheep, the focus on sustainability has helped us define our management goals for the farm." Kathy told us: "The general atmosphere of learn-

ing on a large agricultural research center and the many contacts I've made have been invaluable!"

Do you raise other livestock or crops on your farm? Kathy said, "Besides the 100 acres of trees, we have chickens and a pair of Blue Slate turkeys." Bielek also mentioned that Jeff often raises a couple pigs and some broilers for the family. "That plus a lamb each year pretty much provides

all our meat. It is definitely a selling point and important to be able to tell your breeding stock buyers that Katahdin lamb is excellent and we eat it."

I know you have been involved in projects with Katahdins. Tell us a little about the grants you have received to study Katahdins.

Kathy told us that "In 2003 at the

KHSI meeting in Maine, we heard Dr. Tom Settlemire talk about his work with breeding for parasite resistance and first learned about selective deworming and FAMACHA.' FAMACHA is a card with five shades of red to cream that allows breeders to determine which sheep need deworming by the Barber Pole and duct tape.

when parasitized *Bielek collects fecal samples from very young lambs with diapers* by the Barber Pole *and duct tape.* 

in the USA). She went on to say that Tom's talk really helped clear up some of her questions about parasites which she had found so confusing. "The idea of selective deworming made a lot of sense to me and was something I wanted to try". Her boss at the OARDC encouraged her to contact Dr. William Shulaw who is the Ohio State University Extension Veterinarian. Dr Shulaw expressed interest in working with them. In 2004 they received a Warner Grant through Ohio State University to monitor their flock while they implemented the selective deworming. Kathy said, "I did fecal egg counts (FECs) every week on every ewe through lactation and on every lamb throughout the summer. " The Bieleks had used several sires that year. They were amazed at what they found. Bielek said, "Even though these were all registered Katahdins, every lamb from one sire had to be dewormed at least once that year, while not a single lamb of another ram needed to be dewormed. Another ram had lambs in between. This really enforced the idea of selecting for parasite resistant sheep."

Worm (the most common worm

Bielek said that the work in 2004 led her to apply for a USDA-SARE

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

## **Control of External Parasites**

### Dr. C.L. Vlietstra

Reprinted from the October 2007 Pipestone Sheep Newsletter in its entirety, by request and with permission. The breeding season is a very important time to emphasize the control of external parasites. Whether they fly, jump, or crawl, these parasites can spread dangerous diseases and impair the reproductive performance of your flock.

Biting insects have been known to spread Cache Valley virus. Mosquitoes are known to do this, and it is thought that gnats can do the same. If you're not familiar with Cache Valley virus, it can cause abortions and birth defects, most notably joints fixed at an abnormal angle (arthrogryposis) and brain deformities that can be seen as oddshaped skulls and live-born lambs that are weak and uncoordinated. Though attempts have been made to manufacture vaccines, the most effective method of control is to reduce bug populations by treating standing water or fencing off bogs or swampy areas.

This disease was first seen in the warmer/drier Western regions, but has since been diagnosed throughout the U.S. Applying a topical fly/ lice product like Ultra Boss will help control the insect populations on the animals. In addition, a premise spray should be used if the conditions warrant. Premise sprays could be used in and around shelters.

Less commonly, ticks have been shown to aid in the spread of Q-fever, a dangerous cause of abortion that can also make humans very sick. The same topical products used for flies and lice.

Other diseases that do not cause

abortions may still decrease reproductive performance. A bad case of heel mites in a ram will cause him to be painful on his hind legs, leading to less time spent breeding ewes. The most effective treatment for heel mites is dipping the feet in Taktic, and treating early in the course of disease greatly speeds recovery.

The mere nuisance-factor of nasal bots can decrease performance. Topical products should help decrease the activities of the adult flies on sheep, but infections must be treated with an approved wormer, usually Ivermectin or Dectomax.

Editor's Note: Before using products suggested in this article, be sure to check with your local veterinarian about appropriate treatment and disease risks caused by lice, mites and insects for flocks in your region.

#### CONVERSATIONS FROM THE FIELD: BIELEK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

(USA Dept of Agriculture, Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education) farmer/rancher grant for 2005. She worked with Dr. Shulaw and Dr. Charles Parker, a retired USA sheep scientist and honorary KHSI member to develop a sustainable parasite management plan for the flock, including selecting for resistant sheep. Kathy said they continued to use the FAMACHA system of selective deworming and again performed FECs every week on ewes and lambs. "Ewes lambing as yearlings in 2005 that had been selected for their low FECs had significantly lower average FECs than the ewe flock average during lactation." They again observed that lambs sired by certain rams had lower fecal egg counts. "Overall, significantly fewer lambs required deworming in 2005 than in 2004 based on FAMACHA score of 3 or higher."

Kathy said that the work in 2005 led to another SARE application and funds for 2006 and 2007. "This time, I asked for help from sheep breeders in the North Central SARE region

and had several volunteers from three states". She told us that the participants included KHSI members, Naomi Hawkins, Richard Gilbert, Donna Stoneback, Dave Coplen, Sue Ingram, Doug & Mary Emrick, Jim Orr, Bill Pope (commercial Katahdin breeder)and Leah Miller (Dorset breeder). Leah compared lambs sired by Hampshires and Katahdins. "We again worked with Drs. Parker and Shulaw from Ohio, and were fortunate that Dr. David Notter from Virginia Tech expressed interest in our project. He was able to do a statistical analysis of the data which provided a level of accuracy not otherwise attainable. Data from both years have been submitted to the Katahdin FEC EPD/parasite resistance project with the National Sheep Improvement Program, Bielek said. "The project was successful in that each farm was able to identify individual animals that appeared to be more parasite resistant than their contemporary group and could be kept as replacement seed stock."

You have been a frequent attendee at

the KHSI Annual Meeting/Expo. What are your favorite experiences or presentations and have you learned much?

Kathy said "KHSI provides one of the best meetings Jeff and I have ever attended. We both love the focus on learning and improvement in this breed." She went on to tell us that the chance to meet, interact with, and learn from other breeders at the meeting is so important. The educational sessions have always been useful and pertinent. "We love the opportunity to see the beautiful and productive animals at the sale. In fact, we bought a wonderful ram at the 2006 sale in Missouri."

We thank Kathy for taking time to talk to sharing her experiences with KHSI. KHSI also thanks Kathy for taking time to procure grants and do research to help Katahdin producers with gastrointestinal parasite work. We hear that Kathy has applied for another SARE (Sustainable Agriculture, Research & Education) grant for 2008 and is speaking at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National SARE Conference. We wish her luck.

### **American Sheep Industry Convention Report**

#### James Morgan – Arkansas Katahdin Breeder

The American Sheep Industry (ASI) had its annual membership meeting in Las Vegas Nevada January 24-26, 2008. There were several Katahdin breeders and hair sheep breeders in attendance, along with several university extension and research faculty members who work with Katahdins or hair sheep. A few highlights:

Scrapie Updates - Dr Dianne Sutton, of the National Scrapie Program and USDA-APHIS (USA Dept of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service) reported on scrapie eradication. From 2006 to 2007, as surveillance increased, the number of scrapie-positive black faced-sheep identified during slaughter <u>and</u> the number of new scrapie positive flocks both decreased by more than 33%. Dr Sutton said scrapie eradication is working. In a personal conversation, Dr Sutton said she appreciated the active participation of the Katahdin breeders in supporting scrapie eradication.

The Rectal Biopsy Test for testing for scrapie in live sheep and goats has been approved. It is easier and is less stressful on sheep than the third eyelid test and is a significant improvement.

Nor98, a non-classical form of scrapie, has been found in five USA sheep in five different flocks. No clinical signs were observed in any of the five cases. Positive animals included individuals that were white face, black face and mottled and mostly older animals, aged 8, 8, 16, and 3 years, and one classified as "aged". These are much older than most animals with classical scrapie. One Nor98 Scrapie positive sheep was RR at codon 171. There is still much to learn about the biology of Scrapie and other diseases caused by prions. The take home message is that selecting sheep that are RR and QR and participating in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) greatly decrease the risk of acquiring scrapie and transmitting it, but are not 100% preventative (very close, but even the best practices still carry some small risk).

Sheep Genetics: The future of selecting superior sheep - Selecting superior sheep will change dramatically in the next 10 years and possibly as soon as the next two-three years. There were three presentations on sheep genetics and selecting for performance. Dr Dave Notter of Virginia Tech talked about the current status of performance evaluation of sheep and small ruminants in the USA. Dr Ronnie Green of USDA's Ag Research Service in Washington DC and Dr Noelle Cockett of Utah State University presented information on the international effort for sequencing the sheep genome (98% completed). I (Jim Morgan) gave a presentation on selecting genetics for superior performance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. All three presentations indicated that the best methods for selecting superior sheep in the near future will involve a combination of EPDs (expected progeny differences) and DNA tests. It was suggested that, to stay internationally competitive, in the next 2-10 years sheep breeds will need to participate in DNA tests that identify genes and gene markers in their breed for superior performance. Many breeds may need to cross-breed and grade up to bring in important traits. For example, the Katahdin breed might decide to bring in a version of a gene that increases loin eye area by 10%, or another that increases resistance to foot rot. Both DNA tests and EPDs greatly increase the accuracy of selecting superior sheep.

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 **khsint@earthlink.net KHSI Dues are Due**. Have you paid them and sent in your membership update form?

Apr 02, 2008. Ads and articles due for the Fall 2008 Katahdin Hairald.

**June 13-14, 2008**\*\*. SCKA (South Central Katahdin Association) Annual Meeting & Private Treaty Sale. Pike County Fairgrounds, McComb, Mississippi. Contact Earl & Mickie Burris for more information at **shackaloa@aol.com** or 601-567-2513 or 601- 551-6970

July 1, 2008. Ads and articles due for the Fall 2008 Katahdin Hairald.

**Sept 25-27, 2008**\*\*. 2008 KHSI Expo. Includes educational workshop and a premier Katahdin Sale. Boonsboro/Hagerstown, Maryland

**October 7, 2008.** Ads and articles due for the Winter 2008 Katahdin Hairald. Sales are listed in the Sale Roundup Feature

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

Hairald Calendar

### Katahdin Breed in Mexico

#### Alejandro Ferrer, DVM, PhD and KHSI Mexico Representative

Over the last 10 years, the Katahdin breed in Mexico has demonstrated its productivity in national flocks. They can be observed in commercial herds with Pelibuey and Blackbelly crossbreeds, as well as in registered operations. They are being raised throughout the whole national landscape from North to South and from East to West, as well as in the many different climates and regions that we have in Mexico.

The first Katahdins arrived from the USA and some years later, animals were brought from Canada.

Thanks to the great work and efforts of Katahdin producers in Mexico, Katahdins rank as the second largest breed in terms of registrations produced by the Sheep Breeders Mexican Association (AMCO). The organization promoting the Katahdin breed within AMCO's structure is called CRIKAMEX. Formed by Katahdin breeders, CRIKAMEX's objective is to promote the breed and its many qualities through brochures, magazines, technical articles and direct promotion in different fairs around the country.

Currently, a specialized magazine has been produced to include the Katahdin's history in Mexico. The magazine promotes the breed

goals, contains the national breeders directory, outlines its current activities and future development, and features different existing livestock farms.

It is important to mention that success of Katahdins in Mexico is due to the fact that they are consistently very productive in the field. Katahdins have an open breeding season, excellent prolificacy and good weight gains in different cellent lamb for the demands of the Mexican market.

It is of paramount importance that the breed has received great promotion from breeders in different fairs around the country. The level of competition in the runways is very high. There is a specialized annual national fair that is attended by the best Katahdin breeders in the country and 5 to 6 other events during the year. In all these events, the competition level and livestock quality are excellent.

This competition level has forced the breeders to focus on producing better animals each year, which reflects in the quality of the livestock observed in the runways. This quality has allowed for a large number of exports to Columbia, Ecuador and Guatemala.

Our National Expo will be held on April 2008 in the city of Aguascalientes. During the event a worktable (discussion) will be carried out between representatives of USA, Canada and Mexico in order to reach common agreements to promote the Katahdin breed to the World scene.

We expect to have the attendance of all breeders, both national and international.

Best wishes for this New Year from all Katahdin breeders in Mexico to our dear friends in the USA and Canada.



lent prolificacy and good National Sheep Expo in Queretaro, Mexico in Dec. '07. weight gains in different KHSI members include Dr Alejandro Ferrer (far left of cross-breeding programs. back row), Dr Javier Lara (far right of back row) and Oscar Katahdins produce an ex- Cesar (middle of back row in black shirt).

### Printed Publications for the Shepherd's Bookshelf:

Selections by Jim Morgan and Teresa Maurer, KHSI Operations

1. **SID Sheep Production Handbook** published in 2002. Now on CD and searchable. (The CD makes up for the lack of an index in the book and using the search function is better than a website) – Available from American Sheep Industry Website, www.sheepusa.org or by calling 303-771-3500. Includes 10 chapters on genetics, reproduction, predator control, nutrition, health, management, facilities and marketing.

2. **Storey's Guide to Raising Sheep.** 2001. Paula Simmons & Carol Ekarius. Published by Storey Books. Great resource for beginning shepherds and experienced shepherds.

3. General Fencing Information – Lots of sources. Every farm/ranch is different and fencing needs evolve over time. Information on fencing is available in the SID Sheep Production Handbook mentioned above. The Premier catalog is also a good place to start. While not everyone agrees with every Premier recommendation, in our opinion they offer excellent information. Call 1-800-282-6631 for a free catalog or visit: www.premier1supplies.com.

There is also a free publication on livestock fencing available from the ATTRA National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service by calling 1-800-346-9140.

4. Management-Intensive Grazing: The Grassroots of Grass-Farming. 2004. Jim Gerrish. This short book contains 56 chapters that are extremely valuable in planning a grazing operation. A very readable overview from someone who has sheep and cattle experience in several regions of the country. Call Green Park Press at 1-800-748-9808 for ordering information. for faulty assumptions but would like to thank Jim Morgan, Ph.D, and William Shulaw, DVM, for help in understanding and interpreting some information.

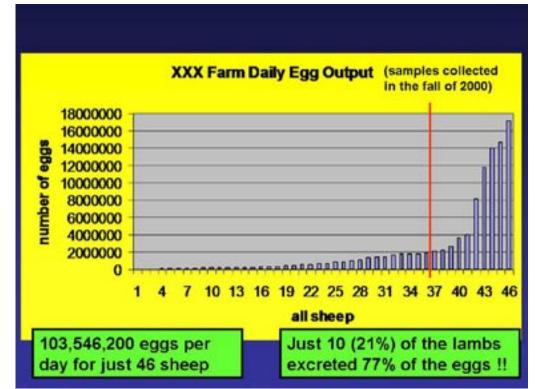


Figure 1: Number of Barber Pole Worm Eggs Deposited Per Day for a Lamb Flock

(See article that begins on page 4 of this issue).



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delivery arrangements can be made at these events for a small fuel charge

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KHSI Memb	Der's Guide	
The Katahdin Hairald is the official publication of Katah	din Hair Sheep International, which provides education	
<ul> <li>about:</li> <li>registering individual Katahdin sheep and recording per</li> <li>maintaining the distinct identity of the Katahdin breed</li> <li>approaches to promotion and marketing</li> <li>summaries of research and development related to the</li> </ul>		
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- Promotions Kay Cloyd & John Stromquist
- Web page facilitator Robert Elliot

01/08

### **Classified Ads**

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. Ads for the Summer 2008 Hairald are due **April 2, 2008**. Contact KHSI Operations, 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net

### SHEEP WANTED

### LOUISIANA

Butcher Lambs. Meat Lambs. 50-100 lbs. Nabill Kased has opened a cafe along with his ethnic grocery store in the suburbs of New Orleans. He needs meat for both and has asked me to contact Katahdin breeders. He wants to feature Katahdin lambs at both places. He is working toward farm fresh semi-organic eatery. Please call him if you can deliver lambs. 504-400-2191. Posted by Les Jordan, KHSI member from Mississippi

### SOUTHERN INDIANA

Bottle Lambs. Wanted, New born bottle lambs. Prefer female. Southern Indiana. 812-865-3140 hudelson@lo strivergamefarm.com

#### TENNESSEE

Weaned Wethers & Ewe Lambs. 2 to 4 months of age and under 55 lbs. Top prices paid. FOB Lynnville, TN. No foot problems and at least lst CDT or Covexin 8 shot must be given. Deloused and wormed. Jan-Feb delivery. Discount for rams; horns; and B or C coats. Contact **cherrym@realtracs.com** or 931-527-0225

### SHEEP FOR SALE

### ALABAMA

Southern AL. 14 Registered Exposed Yearling QR/RR Ewes. Born 12-06. Sire is RHP5-10 & great-grandsire is Loaded Wagon. Ewes are QR/ RR and exposed to RIC00242 out of CBS-16. \$4500 for all or \$350 each. SFCP-Certified Scrapie Free. Joey & Rhonda Kelmer. Contact 251-446-7587 or **ricochetaussies@yahoo.com** 

### SHEEP FOR SALE

### CALIFORNIA

Northern CA. Registered Rams and Ewe Lambs. Packages available: Unrelated ram and ewes. Hal Higgins, Oroville, CA 530-679-2128 or higginshairsheep@sbcglobal.net Sheep for sale year around.

Northern CA. Registered RR/QR Breeding Flock. Selling whole flock. Exceptional quality. 20 head of ewes 1-5 yrs old. Most bred to RR rams due in mid Feb. Premier Breeder and Exhibitor at Oregon State Fair every year attended. \$200-\$500/ewe or sell as a package at a serious discount. Jackie Hagberg. 559-674-4355

### COLORADO

Western CO. Registered & Commercial Flock. Selling a package flock. 10 registered & commercial. None older than 2.5 years. Proven ram is 2 years. \$1000 OBO for the whole flock. Also 1 registered Katahdin yearling ram for \$100. 970-874-5439 or **Logos423@gmail.com**. Chet & Amy Wise in Delta, CO.

### GEORGIA

Southern GA. Registered Ram & Ewe Lambs. Registered & Commercial 07 Rams. Ram & Ewe lambs born Jan/Feb 08, available soon. 07 Reg/ Comm rams. Proven 3 yr old QR ram. SFCP-Certified Scrapie Free. NSIP. www.HoundRiverFarm.com Milledge & Roxanne Newton, Hahira, GA. 229-794-3456 or mcnjr53@yahoo.com

### INDIANA

Northern IN. Registered Bred Ewe Lambs. 12 nice registered ewe lambs out of RR sires bred to RR rams. In SFCP. Due to lamb start-

### SHEEP FOR SALE

ing 3/20/08. Ewe lambs born Jan-Feb 2007. Contact Robert Frantz of Warsaw, IN. 574-267-4308 or **bobandruthie@bnin.net** 

### IOWA

North Central IA. Bred Commercial Ewe Lambs. 12 Commercial bred/ exposed ewe lambs. \$175 or all 12 for \$1750. All are QR and exposed to RR rams. Contact Steve Bull for more information @ 641-420-7535 or angus50456@yahoo.com

North Central IA. Registered Flock. 17 registered exposed ewes (4-RR & 13-QR) due in April. Also one registered RR ram, white with black hooves. \$4,300 for flock. Would be willing to sell separately. Contact James Casey at 641-425-1799 or 641-454-3263

### KANSAS

SE KS. Commercial Ewes & Ewe Lambs. 600 fancy, bred, forage ewes and ewe lambs. Sell small to large groups. Katahdin & Katahdin/ Dorper crosses. Fortmeyer breeding. Transportation available. Rick Calvo 620-922-7312, 620-922-3141. Selected for easy care. Edna, Kansas.

### KENTUCKY

Central KY. Registered RR Ram Lambs. Born 4/07. All twins or triplets. Certified scrapie free flock (SFCP), EPD's available. Contact Kay Cloyd, 859-254-2840 or **kaycloyd@cs.com** in Lexington, KY.

KY. Registered Ewe & Ram Lambs & Yearling Rams. Lambs born Nov/Dec 07 Registered wormed and shots healthy. Ready in Feb or

### **Classified Ads, continued**

### SHEEP FOR SALE

Mar. 3 yearling rams - solid white or brown & white. 502-376-1842 or **deb orahseely@bellsouth.net**. Deborah & Kenton Seely, Bloomfield KY.

#### MISSISSIPPI

Southern MS. Registered QR Yearling Rams. 6 QR rams all twins - yearlings - excellent bloodlines - \$250 each. Contact Les & Amanda Jordan, 601-684-1205 or **lajordan@wildblue.net** in Summit, MS.

SW MS. Registered QR Ram Lambs. Born March -April 2007. 2 rams available. Will be registered at time of sale. Joined Scrapie Certification Program (SFCP) in 3/06. \$350 each. Deborah Flowers, 601-532-6060 or **flowers4@ftcweb.net**. Berrytown Farms, Meadville MS.

#### MISSOURI

SW MO. Registered Mature Rams. 2 rams available and both are adult rams born in 05. Both have sired many offspring, \$250 each. Contact Harvey Kent at 417-582-0025 or **vetkent@cebridge.net** Ozark Mountain Sheep, Ozark MO.

SW MO. Commercial Exposed Ewe Lambs. 15 Jan-Apr 07 born ewe lambs. In with ram since 10/31/07. \$175 per lamb or \$160 per ewe if the whole group is purchased. Doyle Weaver in Nevada, MO. 417-667-5294 or **dwhaug@sofnet.com** 

Northern MO. Registered & Commercial Ewe & Ram Lambs. 20 Feb/Apr 07 ewe lambs from certified scrapie free flock. Twin/Triplet Born. \$300 each or 10% discount if you take all 20. 4 Feb/Mar 07 ram lanbs. 1 RR, 2 QR & 1 QQ lamb. \$300 for RR & QR, \$200 for QQ. Mac Allen Edwards. 800-663-0934

### SHEEP FOR SALE

### NORTH CAROLINA

Central NC. Registered/Recorded Yearling Ewes. 20 conditioned and ready for Spring breeding. Ewes with NSIP performance records. All are QR/RR. Voluntary Scrapie program since 4/19/05. Prices based on quality and quantity selected. Fred & Barbara Pugh, Cedarbrakes Farm, Pittsboro 919-542-4164 or **bpugh1601@earthlink.net** 

NC. Commercial Ewe Lambs. 20 Feb/March 2007 ewe lambs. All are white, pasture raised, \$150 each. Can also supply non-related registered ram lamb. Lester Davis, Aberdeen, NC, 910-944-1889 or **lester@aberde enparts.com** 

### NORTH DAKOTA

Commercial Katahdin RR Ram & Ram Lamb. Thick, heavy muscled, good rate of gain. 1 born 4/06 twin out of a ewe lamb, white in color-\$175. 1 born 3/07 single, brown in color-\$250. Pictures available. Contact Luke Lillehaugen 701-280-0938 in the evenings or leave message at any time or contact **lillehaugen@ca bleone.net** 

### OHIO.

Ohio. Registered Mature RR Ram. Exposed Registered Ewes. Registered Ewe Lambs. Registered Katahdin 3 year old ram RR at Codon 171. Registered bred ewes and ewe lambs out of this ram. Call 937-698-6297 before 8 p.m. If no answer, leave message. P.C. Alcorn in West Milton, OH.

NE OH. Registered Mature QR Rams. Proven rams not related with good coats & temperaments.. 4 yr old QR, brown ram for \$300. 2 yr old QR, white for \$250. Both have

### SHEEP FOR SALE

long torso, no foot rot, all natural pasture fed in summer, hay/grass fed in winter. Photos available. Shawn or Susan 330-540-1495 or **nhi@cboss.com** 

### OREGON

Western OR. Registered & Commercial Ewe Lambs. Several young registered and commercial Katahdins ewes available. These girls have lots of color and will make a great addition to your breeding herd. Near Portland. Prices vary. Contact us for more information. Ted Ashkar at 503-631-7471 or heehaw@ccwebster.net

Western OR. Registered QR & RR Ewe Lambs. July twin born ewe lambs out of yearlings out of excellent IL & MT rams. \$250. Also, Dec 07/Jan 08 lambs out of several IL & MT bloodlines. Call to reserve. Flock has tested negative for OPP 2x. In. SFCP & NSIP. Pictures. krkenagy@hotmail.com or 503-266-6702 Canby, OR

### PENNSYLVANIA

Western PA. Registered 2 yr old RR Ram. Born Feb 06. White in color \$200.00 Contact Kim or Jack Bailie at 814-256-3852 or **farmchik1993@win dstream.net** 

PA. Registered Ewe Lambs. 30 purebred April-born ewe lambs for sale. All total pasture raised twins and triplets, or singles from yearling ewes. All well grown despite the drought. Excellent bloodlines. \$250 each. York County, Pa 17362. 717-225-8837 or utting.farm@gmail.com www.maranathameadows.com

Business Card Ads in the Hairald for members advertising sheep are currently \$15 b/w or \$25 color.

# Classified Ads, continued

### SHEEP FOR SALE

### TENNESSEE

Registered Mature Ram. Six year old, proven, registered ram for sale. \$300.00. Solid white. Contact Tony or Anita Keatts at 931-232-7859 or **TAKeatts@hughes.net**. Visit us at **www.keattsfarm.com** Indian Mounds, TN

#### TEXAS

South Central TX. Registered Ram Lamb. Born April, 2007. Beautiful all white QR, long-bodied, approximately 120 lb. Flock in mandatory scrapie program. Also, taking reservations for 2008 lambs, which should begin arriving in March. Contact Ann or Ken Willmann in Helotes, TX at 210-695-9223, or **kewinvest@satx.rr.com**.

#### VIRGINIA

Registered Bred Ewe Lambs. Registered RR & QR Rams. 40 ewe lambs. Born Mar/Apr 07. Rams in 11/12/ 07. Several different bloodlines, superior genetics. SFCP. Forage based flock, good parasite resistance. Vaccinated. Pasture lambing. \$350 each. Rams \$800-\$1000 Teresa Glass glassview@hotmail.com or 540-291-1784

### WASHINGTON

Eastern WA. Registered Ram Lambs. Registered twin ram lambs. One is red with speckled face, the other is brown. Sire bloodlines came from VJ Pinto Ranch in Montana. Born July 07. \$175 each. Wether for sale, \$75. Jake or Linday at JWL Ranch **atvs@netscape.com** or 509-935-0729 Addy, WA.

### ARTICLES & AD DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE APRIL 2

### Useful Sheep Health Books

Selections by Jim Morgan and Teresa Maurer, KHSI Operations

Two books are listed below. Also, there is a good section on Health in the SID Sheep Production Handbook listed on page 25 in this issue of the Hairald.

The Veterinary Book for Sheep Farmers. 1990. David Henderson. Old Pond Publishing. Distributed in North America by Diamond Farm Book Publishers, Alexandria Bay NY.



Written by a DVM in Great Britain. Very comprehensive and appropriate for the shepherd who prefers more information and lots of pictures. Since, it is written for Britain, there are minor mismatches for terminology (e.g. Orf instead of sore mouth, gimmers, hoggs, hill flocks) and a few diseases that are present in North American, but not in Great Britain and vice versa. But still our favorite book for understanding sheep health issues.

**Gates' Practical Guide to Sheep Disease Management**. 2000. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. N Gates, GF Kennedy, GD Spronk, JD Bobb, BR Kerkaert, JL Goelz. Midstates Printing, Aberdeen, SD. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition is edited by Doc Kennedy and the Pipestone Vet clinic. Good treatment of the common diseases associated with sheep production with both treatment and prevention guidelines. Information in this book is more directly applicable to commercial flocks that are drylotting ewes during winter and/or feeder lambs and those with more biosecurity risks such as showing or regular buying of animals from sale barns. Flocks with sheep always on range or pasture or with fewer biosecurity risks may not need the aggressive vaccination or preventative measures suggested. This book has more information on doses in a practical format than most sheep health books.

Make a Mote on your calendar for the upcoming Katahdin Sales. See the listing on page 18 for more information.

# **Visual Appraisal of Katahdin Sheep**

### Dr Kelly Bruns, PhD, South Dakota State University

Author's Note: This is the first in a series of articles designed to discuss the visual aspects of sheep selection. The author, as a Katahdin breeder, would like to preface that the success of the Katahdin breed has been to first and foremost select for those traits that make the breed unique, which the author feels is the breed's distinguishing maternal characteristics. No visual measurement will ever tell us how good a mother ewe will be, how vigorous her offspring will be, or how forage-adaptable they may be. Discipline in retaining these traits will keep attracting new breeders to the breed, as they are tired of the lack of selection emphasis put on maternal traits of other breeds.

Editor's Note Dr Bruns was a presenter at the 2007 Katahdin Expo in Fargo, ND.

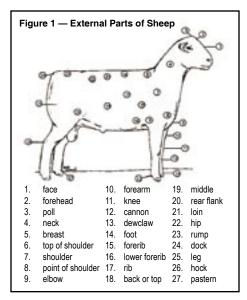
### PART I. STRUCTURE -

ANGLES AND FUNCTION.

ntroduction. A minimum degree of structural correctness is needed in all species of animals. It assumes greater importance in some classes of livestock than in others. For example, it is of utmost importance in the horse, because of its activity, which generally places a greater degree of stress on the skeleton than is the case with other species. In sheep, structural correctness contributes greatly to longevity. Structural problems in the ram or ewe may be slight or of little concern, but when these traits are passed on to their offspring, after several generations they can become severe enough that unsoundness occurs.

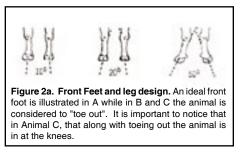
Structural soundness is not an all-or-none proposition as skeletal defects usually occur in varying degrees. Additionally, breeders may have different opinions based on previous experiences as to what is acceptable or not. There is a range of acceptability within which the animal can function efficiently. It becomes important to know which structural defects are more apt to impair the sheep's acceptability when selected for breeding or offered for sale.

Most structural defects are heritable to some degree and should be particularly discriminated against in sires selected for the production of replacement females. A good understanding of the anatomy of the animal is needed when discussing structural correctness. Figure 1 shows the parts of the sheep.



The purpose of this article is to characterize structural problems associated with sheep. It is important to note that the windows of acceptability are different between breeders. However the author feels that structural correctness is a high priority as it may only take one generation to make an animal bigger or heavier muscled, but it will take multiple generations to fix a structural defect.

**Feet**. The hoof should be large and show good depth of heel and should be symmetrically shaped, with toes equal in size and shape. An animal with short or shallow toes will wear the hoof off unevenly which results in frequent trimming. Uneven toes will also put undue strain on the pasterns, hock, and even as high as the hip, resulting in the animal moving improperly to compensate for the inadequate structure of the hoof. In sheep, hooves are not nearly as selected for as in cattle. Sheep breeders often are satisfied with continual trimming of hooves. Greater awareness of hoof size and structure will greatly improve a breeder's ability to make improvement in skeletal correctness and save time with foot care.



The direction which the feet point is also of great importance. Figure 2a. shows the condition of an animal

being splay-footed, which is commonly known as toeing out. The defect is usually associated with being knocked-kneed which is when an animal's knees angle inward. An angle of 10 degrees is considered normal to ideal, with angles greater than a 30 degree turn outward is unacceptable. Figure 2b shows an ani-



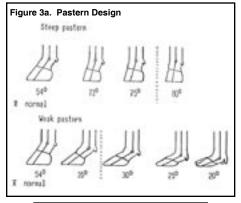
Figure 2b. Front Feet and leg design. Image an animal that toes out. Note how the pastern favors to the inside.

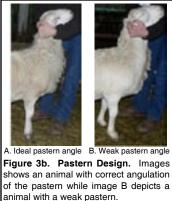
mal which is considered as splay-footed.

Pigeon-toed is not as common as the splay-footed defect. However, it can be just as serious of a problem when it becomes extreme. Pigeon toed is the opposite of splay-footed with the animal's toes angling inward. It is often associated with a narrow base stance, with uneven weight distribution on the outside toe of the hoof.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Pasterns. Some would debate which is the greater problem to the animal: steep pasterns or weak pasterns. However, steep pasterns place stress on the skeleton because the shock absorbing ability of the front limb is reduced, while weak pasterns create less than desirable angles of the hock. Experts on skeletal correctness in cattle have concluded that the ideal slope of the pastern should be 54° degrees. I believe this is also an ideal angle for sheep as well. Figure 3a depicts changes in the degree of slope of the pastern. An example of an animal with a weak pastern is shown in Figure 3b.

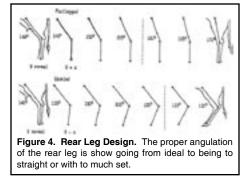




We usually notice weaker pasterns more often than steep or straight pasterns. In both cases, angulation of the pastern is highly heritable and greatly affects the breeding soundness of rams as well as the longevity of both ewes and rams. Steep pasterns are also highly correlated to the slope and angulation of the shoulder. If greater selection emphasis is put on selecting sheep of greater skeletal frame, careful awareness must be given to proper angulation so sheep do not become too straight.

**Hind Limb**. The hind limb of a structurally correct animal should exhibit the following characteristics. 1.) It should have an acceptable angulation to the hock when viewed from the side. 2) The hind legs when viewed from the rear should be straight with the animal standing square.

Figure 4 is the diagram of a beef animal, but the concept and structural deficiency remains the same. An animal that has too straight of an angle is considered to be "postlegged". Animals with too much set or too little angulation is considered to be "sickle hocked".



The post-legged condition is perhaps the most serious skeletal defect. Animals that have posty hindlegs often have pasterns with too steep of an angle as well. Male animals with this defect often have greater trouble when mounting females for breeding. In severe cases, animals with this condition are apt to become arthritic in the joint.

The sickle-hocked condition is a serious problem if it reaches proporextreme tions and is greatly exemplified with weak hind pasterns. Severe sickle-hocks may also affect the ability of rams to service ewes.

Figure 5 shows the structure of the hind limb when square while animal B is cow hocked and viewed from behind.

A typical abnormality is a condition referred to as cow-hocked. The condition is relatively common but seldom has a detrimental effect on function. Animals that are typically cow hocked may also be lighter muscled than average.

Front Limb. The ideal front limb should exhibit the following characteristics. 1) It should have adequate slope to the shoulder. 2) The legs should be straight when viewed from the side as well as from the front.

Animals that do not have adequate slope to the shoulder are considered straight shouldered. Animals that are too straight typically have a short, choppy stride with the front legs setting down hard. Typically these animals are tall at the point of their shoulder, but at their neck-shoulder juncture you will notice that the neck comes out of the shoulder at a perpendicular angle and is more parallel to the ground than desired. Animals with proper angulation should typically have a slope of 54° degrees. At this slope, the neck will come out high on the shoulders and be carried well. Animals that are too straight may be ewe-necked or down-headed.

Often times when an animal is too straight in the angulation of its shoulder or weak-pasterned, they can become "bucked-kneed" or over in the knee. An animal with a correct knee should be straight up and down and in line with the forearm and cannon bone. A knee that

pitches forward of a line perpendicular to the ground is considered "buck-kneed". The animal in figure 3b can be considered over in his knee.

Next time, in Part II, we will discuss the esthetic characteristics of an ideal animal, which relate to balance and eye appeal.

toes out.

SPRING 2008



Figure 5. Rear Leg Design. Animal A stands

### **2007 KHSI Photo Contest Winners Announced**

Another excellent group of photos were entered in the 2007 KHSI photo contest. We thank all the participants who sent KHSI pictures. Winners receive Katahdin Bucks and can use them to buy KHSI T-shirts, pay for registration and transfers, and annual membership fees. Prize levels are \$50 for first place, \$25 for second place and \$10 for third place. You will see many of these pictures over the next year in the Katahdin Hairald and the KHSI website. Some will be used for magazine ads and promotions. Once again, we thank all those who sent entries.

Start snapping pictures now for the 2008 contest. Contest regulations will be printed in the Summer issue of the Katahdin Hairald.

### **BEST PROMOTION**

- 1<sup>st</sup> (Tie) -Taking Count, Randy Grover, Illinois
- 1<sup>st</sup> (Tie) -Yearlings with July Twins, Karen Kenagy, Oregon
- **3**<sup>rd</sup> Saying Hello for the First Time, Karolina Fowler, Birch Hill Farm, Vermont

ACTION

- 1<sup>st</sup> Calling in the Flock, Karen Kenagy, Oregon
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Crash, Randy Grover, Illinois
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Action, John Stromquist, Illinois

### Scenic

- 1<sup>st</sup> March in Oregon, Karen Kenagy, Oregon
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Montana Girls, Karen Kenagy, Oregon
- **3**<sup>rd</sup> Fall Flock, Lindsay Hodgman, Maine

#### KIDS & SHEEP

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wow! What A Bundle, Lindsay Hodgman, Maine
   2<sup>nd</sup> Buddies, Well You
- Know, Lindsay Hodgman, Maine
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Brianna and Friends, Karen Kenagy, Oregon SHEDDING

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mohawk, Randy Grover, Illinois
- 2<sup>nd</sup> A Little More To Lose, Lindsay Hodgman, Maine

**3**<sup>rd</sup> Half-way There, Randy Grover, Illinois

### Open

- 1<sup>st</sup> Spring Grass, Karen Kenagy, Oregon
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Keeping Up, Randy Grover, Illinois
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Every Family Has One, Gene Schlag, Wisconsin

#### YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHERS No Entries

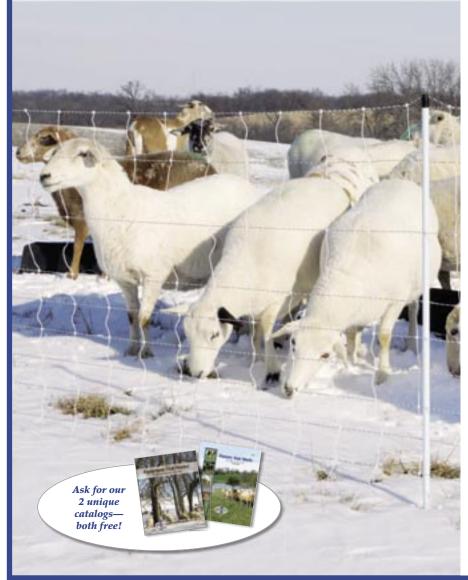


"Action" Photography by John Stromquist, Illinois, 3rd Place - Action Category 2007 KHSI Photo Contest

### Advertisers Index (listed alphabetically)

Blue Oaks Ranch, Robert and Ruth Bleau, California	16
Brokaw Farm Katahdins, Patrick, Brenda, & Lee Brokaw, Illinois	21
Country Oaks Ranch, Mark and Sara Dennis, Louisiana	
Hound River Farm, Milledge Newton, Georgia	
Jubilee Farm, Doug & Laura Fortmeyer, Kansas	
Lazy B Livestock, Howard & Lavonne Brown, Oklahoma	
North Dakota State University, Wes Limesand, North Dakota	
Premier Supplies, Iowa	back cover
Round Mountain Farm, Jim Morgan & Teresa Maurer, Arkansas	
Round Mountain Farm, Jim Morgan & Teresa Maurer, Arkansas Shepherd Magazine, Ken & Kathy Kark, Ohio	4
Round Mountain Farm, Jim Morgan & Teresa Maurer, Arkansas Shepherd Magazine, Ken & Kathy Kark, Ohio Sunset Ridge Katahdins, Greg and Matt McGinnis, Tennessee	4 15
Round Mountain Farm, Jim Morgan & Teresa Maurer, Arkansas Shepherd Magazine, Ken & Kathy Kark, Ohio	4 15 2
Round Mountain Farm, Jim Morgan & Teresa Maurer, Arkansas Shepherd Magazine, Ken & Kathy Kark, Ohio Sunset Ridge Katahdins, Greg and Matt McGinnis, Tennessee Warm Springs Katahdins, David and Nancy Maddox, Georgia	4 15 2 12

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