

Hall of Fame Inductees



Ralph Lewis

Ralph grew up in eastern North Dakota and was raised around livestock all his life. After high school he went to NDSU and red shifted for one year for the "fighting bison" football team. He went to work at Yellowstone Park for 4 years before returning to ND to start a successful cable TV business that operated in ND and MN. In 1988 Ralph decided to sell the business, move to Montana and purchased 1000 head of sheep. He spent summers running 3000 head sheep out on the reservation in Hardin. He even spent time traveling with Ralph Miller ultrasounding sheep. After trying different breeds of sheep he decided he wanted to go with the white faced sheep. He bought his first 40 head of Targhee sheep from Carolyn Green in 1994. Ralph attended his first National Targhee Show and Sale in 1997 at Riverton WY. Ralph served on the board of directors from 1999-2008. He also served as the USTSA. He enjoyed the many years traveling to shows and hanging out with friends. He was also part of the team that they put on one of the best nationals in Columbus for the 50th anniversary. It included bus tours, white water rafting and live music from Ringing 5. I believe 2009 was the first time we got him to actually show a sheep. Other than ranching Ralph worked in Columbus Trading (local co-op) and became general manager. He turned a bankrupt business into profitable company paying back dividends in just a few short years. He retired in 2022 and went back to "just ranching". Ralph currently serves on the Beartooth Electric

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Tracie Roeder

Tracie was born in Pennsylvania to first generation Americans. The family moved from there to Sheridan, Wyoming and onto Missoula, Montana while she was a child. She attended the University of Montana as a History & Political Science major. However in a decision her father termed “seeing the light”, Tracie transferred to Montana State University, in Bozeman, for her senior year of college.

At MSU, Tracie received a B.S. (1994) and an M.S. in Animal Science (1996), specializing in Genetics and Microbiology. While at Montana State she met her future husband, Brent Roeder. Following their marriage, they moved to New Mexico where Tracie began her PhD program at New Mexico State. All plans changed with the birth of their first child. They came home to Montana.

Tracie’s introduction to Targhees began in 1991, while at the Red Bluff Research Ranch, a facility south of Bozeman owned by MSU. On their return to Montana, from New Mexico in 1998, Brent was employed by Sieben Live Stock Co., one of the nation’s premier breeders of Targhee sheep, and their family grew. In 2006, Roeders purchased their own place at Ft. Shaw, Montana. They named it Montana Sheep Company after a historic ranch which included what they now own. They produce registered Targhee sheep and have been consignors at the Montana Ewe and Ram Sales for 15 years. In 2017, they formed Montana Wool Company to market their fiber as high-quality wool blankets. In 2021 Montana Sheep Co started selling lamb locally through Central Avenue Meats in Great Falls, Montana, and received approval in December, 2024 to sell U.S.D.A. inspected and labeled Targhee lamb across state lines.

Tracie was Secretary/Treasurer of the U. S. Targhee Association from 2004 to 2011 and the NSIP Targhee Coordinator from 2000 to 2012. Currently, she sits on the Sheep Genetics USA board. The project she is most pleased with is helping enroll into NSIP, the developer of the Targhee breed, the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho. This consisted of entering 60,000 sheep records.