



Targhee Talk

The Newsletter of the U.S. Targhee Sheep Association
June - 2009

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President

At-Large-East:

Darrell Deneke
919 6th Ave Apt 2
Brookings, SD 57006
605-696-0167
darrell.deneke@sdstate.edu
Term expires: 2010

Vice President

Central Plains:

Bob Padula
3840 - 236th Street
Montevideo, MN 56265
320-269-7973
rfp@mvtvwireless.com
Term expires: 2010

Board of Directors

East:

Warren Nellis
8465 North Loomis Road
Coleman, MI 48618
989-465-6210
wjnellis@netzero.com
Term expires: 2011

At-Large-West:

Jack McRae
31 McRae Lane
Jordan, MT 59337
406-557-6266
jmcrae@midrivers.com
Term expires: 2009

Montana:

Ralph Lewis
342 Svenson Road
Reed Point, MT 59069
406-326-2306
lewisranch@ttc-cmc.net
Term expires: 2011

West:

Dean Von Krosigk
111 Hoot Owl
Riverton, WY 82501
307-856-3125
vonkrosigk@wyoming.com
Term expires: 2009

And the Winner of the USTSA Starter Flock is . . . Caleb Pedersen - Lesterville, South Dakota

See Page 4 for Caleb's winning essay!

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Spring is upon us and the busy summer activities have started. Time will fly by as we get ready for the National Show and Sale in Miles City. The Montana breeders have put a very nice event together for us. I hope to see many of you there as it gives a great chance to visit and talk "Targhees".

We had some tough storms in South Dakota and ranchers have reported some livestock losses as snow storms hit right during lambing and calving. I know some other states have had weather related problems as well. From the way it looks, however lamb prices are holding pretty well and demand for American lamb and wool stays pretty strong.

If you are a new Targhee breeder or haven't had a chance to attend a National Show and Sale, I would certainly encourage you to do so. This is probably the largest selection of quality Targhee rams and ewes representing a number of veteran and new Targhee breeders you will have to select from.

Hope you have an enjoyable summer and we will see you in Miles City!

Darrell Deneke - President, USTSA

2009 National Show & Sale - July 16-18th Miles City, Montana

Production, performance, lamb and wool. These are the fundamental characteristics of Targhee sheep. The Targhee was developed at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho during the 1920's. It is one of few uniquely American breeds.

Western pioneers demanded a breed of sheep, thick in natural fleshing, capable of producing high quality apparel wool, and adapted to rugged range conditions. Is it a lot to expect? No! Nearly 90 years of selection with the same set of standards and production goals has resulted in today's tremendous Targhee. In a time of incredible change and uncertainty, the focus within the Targhee breed has remained the same. As producers of high quality lamb and wool, we concern ourselves with the value of our product. As an association, for 58 years we have focused on our bottom line and yours.

For these reasons, we are pleased to invite you to the U.S. Targhee Sheep Association National Show and Sale in Miles City, Montana, at the Custer County Fairgrounds, July 16-18th. Come and see what Targhee sheep are about. Meet some of the top Targhee breeders in the United States. Come to know a gentle, gregarious, hardy group of sheep and people.

The 2009 National Show & Sale begins Thursday, July 16th at 2:00 p.m. with the National Junior Show for young people, the National Wool Contest evaluating shorn fleeces, and a Photo Contest highlighting memorable Targhee moments. The National Open Show begins at 10:00 a.m., Friday, July 17th. Yearling rams, ram lambs, yearling ewes, ewe lambs, and pens of three yearling ewes will be shown. A lamb dinner banquet will culminate the day's events. The U.S. Targhee Sheep Association National Sale will begin at 11:00 a.m. sharp on Saturday, July 18th. All animals shown in the National Open Show will be available for purchase at the sale.

A highlight of the Open Show on July 17th, will be National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) classes. In these classes rams and ewes will be evaluated on their Expected

USTSA National Show & Sale Schedule of Events

7/16 Wednesday

12:00 pm Pens available for early arrivals

7/17 Thursday

10:00 am Official arrival, Sifting of sheep begins.

Deadline for Sheep to be in the barn.

Health, registration, micron, & EPD paperwork to be turned in by this time.

Wool & Photo contest entries due.

2:00 pm Junior Show
Adult Showmanship following Junior Show

3:30 pm Wool Judging

6:30 pm Picnic at the Water Plant

8:00 pm Historic tour of Miles City

7/18 Friday

10:00 am National Show
Annual Membership Meeting following Show

7:00 pm Kids Pizza Party

7:00 pm Banquet followed by benefit auction

7/19 Saturday

11:00 am National Sale

Remember your Benefit Auction Item & consider donating to the Starter Flock Program!

National Show & Sale Continued . . .

Progeny Differences (EPD's) and physical appearance. U.S. Targhee sheep producers have one of the strongest and oldest affiliations with the National Sheep Improvement Program. The Targhee breed leads the nation in reliability and accuracy of sheep genetic evaluation. The Targhee data base has over 60,000 animal records objectively evaluated to help today's sheep producer choose the best quality stock to meet their breeding goals.

Because we trust the power of the breed, the USTSA has moved in a new direction. This year, for the first time, a Starter Flock will be awarded to a deserving youth aged 9-17. The recipient of the flock, is Caleb Pedersen of Lesterville, South Dakota. The USTSA received 16 applications from six states! The quality of applicants was outstanding. It is clear they and their families should be commended on the time and thought they put into their essays. Truly, all of these young people are bright lights for the future of our country.

It is an honor for the first USTSA Starter Flock to be given away in Montana and in Miles City. The Montana Wool Growers Association and Montana Stockgrowers Association within the last year have celebrated 125 years of shaping the Western frontier. Miles City was the endpoint of the great Texas cattle drives during the late 1800's. The area is rich in history and tradition. Several historic celebrations will highlight this history in the summer of 2009. Please come and share the character of the land, people, and livestock. The greatness of the era lives on in the courage of the people and continued commitment to developing high quality livestock – Targhee sheep. *For more information or to request a catalog contact the U.S. Targhee Sheep Association office at 406-467-2462 or www.ustargheesheep.org.*

Thank You 2009 National Show & Sale Consignors!
It is not too late to enter . . . contact the USTSA office for details

Consignor	NSIP Yearling Ram	Yearling Ram	Ram Lambs	NSIP Yearling Ewes	Yearling Ewes	Pen of 3 Yearling Ewes	Ewe Lambs
Anderson Family		1					
Ashle Anderson		1					
Wesley Anderson		1					
Darrell Deneke		1	1				1
Deneke Family		1					
Carolyn Green	1			2		1	
Mike & Thelma Green	1						
Bridget Kukowski		1			1		
Elisha Lewis		2			1		1
Ralph Lewis		2					
Rory Lewis		1	1		1		1
Ryan Lewis		2					
McRae Brothers	1			2			
Ian & Zoey McRae				1			
Kristin McRae-Bieber	2			2			
MT Sheep Co.			1				1
A & J Nevens Livestock		1	1				
Sieben Livestock Co.	1						
Tunby Ranch Targhees	1						
UW-Madison			2		2		2
Von Krosigk Family		2			2	2	
Totals	7	16	6	7	7	9	6

Photo Contest

The Photo Contest must involve Targhee sheep. There is no entry fee or limit on number of photos submitted. This contest is open to anyone whose immediate family has a USTSA membership. Entries must be accompanied by an uncut negative or a CD with image files. Each photo should be mounted on stiff backing. Name, address, and phone number should be on the back side of the entry. **Entries may be submitted electronically to the Secretary at roeder@3rivers.net no later than Sunday, July 5th. There is a limit of two electronic entries per voting membership.** Electronic entries will be printed on photo paper and posted with regularly submitted photos.

All entries become the property of the USTSA and will ***NOT*** be returned. This year photos will be judged by popular vote of viewers. Ballots and a ballot box will be placed near the Targhee display area. The voting period will be from 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 16th through 5:00 p.m. Friday, July 17th. Winners will be announced at the banquet. Cash prizes will be awarded as follows: \$20 – 1st place; \$10 – 2nd place; and \$5 – 3rd place.

Lodging Options

Two special rates have been secured for USTSA members seeking lodging during the 2009 National Show and Sale in Miles City, Montana. They are as follows:

Guesthouse Inn and Suites

A block of rooms is reserved July 15 (Wednesday) through July 18 (Saturday) with checkout on Sunday. The rate is \$83.00 per night plus tax. Rooms will be held until June 30. Each room will have two queen beds. The telephone number is (406)232-3661 or www.guesthouseintl.com.

Please use code "USTSSS" to get this special rate.

Super 8

Another block of rooms is reserved at the Super 8 for the same dates as listed above. The rate is *\$53.00 plus tax per night (\$58.21 total). Again, rooms will be held until June 30. Each room will have two beds but they do not have that many with queen beds. The phone is (406)234-5261 or www.super8.com.

Additional Lodging Options:

Best Western War Bonnet Inn (406) 234-4560 or www.bestwestern.com

Motel 6 Miles City (406) 232-7040 or www.motel6.com

Comfort Inn Miles City (406) 234-3141 or www.comfortinn.com

Holiday Inn Express (877) 863-4780 or www.hiexpress.com

Olive Motel (406) 234-2450

Miles City KOA - Space for tents and RVs. Also rent cabins. RV rental is \$35 per night. (406) 232-3991 or www.koakampgrounds.com

A Few More Show & Sale Details . . .

Bedding on Site

There will be bedding available for purchase at the show/sale grounds during the event.

Auction Items

Consignors and members are reminded to bring an item for the banquet auction. Proceeds from the auction help to defray the costs of the 2009 Show and Sale. If you would like to bring door prize items, they will be given out during the Friday evening banquet.

Phone Bids

We will have a cell phone available for phone bids on the morning of the sale. If you are interested in making phone bids, contact Jack McRae at (406)557-6266. The sale cell phone number will be (406) 977-6121.

Early Arrival

Pens will be available for early arrival Wednesday, July 15th at noon. If you know you will be in early, let Jack McRae or Tracie Roeder know.

Wool Show Classes:

Ewe fleece 62 & finer
Ewe fleece 58 & 60
Ram fleece 62 & finer
Ram fleece 58 & 60

Wool show entry is \$4 per fleece, with a two fleece limit per class. Class winners will receive placing ribbons. Fleeces will be judged Thursday afternoon, July 16th, following the Junior Show. There is no need to tie your fleeces. Prepare the fleeces as normal, roll and place in a clear plastic bag. Bags will be furnished if necessary. If you would like to send a fleece to exhibit, it can be shipped to the USTSA office: 950 County Line Road; Fort Shaw, MT 59443

2009 Targhee Timeline

May 1 - Side Micron tests may be taken after today.

May 27 - Deadline for receiving Entry and Event forms for Show and Sale

June 17 - Deadline for receiving registration applications for sheep entered in Show & Sale

July 16 - 18 - National Show & Sale in Miles City, Montana

July 27 - Show & Sale results mailing

August 17 - Sale settlements mailed

September 10 - Submission deadline for October newsletter

October 19 - October newsletter with show and sale highlights

December 10 - Submission deadline for January newsletter

Introducing the USTSA Starter Flock Winner !

Caleb Pedersen - Lesterville, South Dakota



Caleb

Daisy

My name is Caleb Pedersen. I will be twelve on June twenty-fourth. I live on a farm four miles south and one west of Lesterville, South Dakota, and I live with my Mom, Rebecca, my Dad, Leroy, and two younger brothers Derek and Lucas. On our family farm we raise sheep, cattle, grain and alfalfa.

I am interested in Targhee sheep because my grandpa had Targhee bucks when my dad was younger and they liked them. They produce high quality wool which can be used for clothing. Targhee sheep have big solid lambs and are good mothers with good milk production. My grandpa said that they also have a nice disposition.

I help with all the sheep chores, including feeding corn, hay, bedding them down and watering. My brothers and I are responsible for the bottle lambs. We help give shots, paint numbers to match the lambs to their mothers and put rubber bands on the lamb's tails. I also help my dad grind feed and I clean all of the barns with the skid loader and haul the manure to the fields.

In our thirty-two by sixty-four insulated barn we have twenty-two lambing pens and two family pens. We have a big hayloft that we fill every year with alfalfa and straw. We also have a microwave, refrigerator, and vet supplies in the lambing barn. Our sheep have two other barns and lots to stay in until the lambs are weaned. After the lambs are weaned they are fed and sold as fat-lambs. We have a Featherlite stock trailer to haul them to the sale barn in. The ewes graze on four pastures. Our donkey Oscar guards the sheep while they're grazing in the pasture. Our half Border Collie/White Pyrenees dog Daisy will protect them from the coyotes at home. We currently have about one hundred eighty Columbia/Rambouillet ewes. They are bred to Suffolk/Hamp bucks. We want to expand with our own replacements.

My intentions, if I were to win the Targhee sheep starter flock contest, would be to expand the flock with the replacement ewe lambs. I would use the money earned from the bucks and wethers to save money for my college education and I would also give some to my church. I would be able to learn more about the Targhee sheep breed through first hand experience. I would learn how to keep records of each sheep, in case something happens to them like bad teeth, illnesses, broken legs, bad bags/milk or a belly rupture. This will help to improve my math skills and to learn how to better manage a flock of sheep. If given the chance to win the Targhee Starter Flock, I would be able to raise targhees like my grandpa 25 years ago, and that would be cool!

Fluer Family Cover Story
in May 2009
Western-Farmer
Stockman

Read about the Scott & Kelly Fluer family in the May issue of the Western Farmer-Stockman. The article is "Big Dreams, Small Acres". Scott visits with writer Robert Waggener about their family operation generating additional income on small acreages, and grazing cattle and Targhee sheep while improving the land. "It's truly a family operation. I think something like this makes for better kids. It gives them responsibility and goals . . . it definitely brings our family together."

*Submitted by
Charlene Von Krosigk*

Articles/Photos for the
October Newsletter are
due to the
Association Office by
September 10th.

Thank You to the Following USTSA Starter Flock Donors:

High Point Targhees - Vernon & Juanita Bundt
Green Ranch - John & Carolyn Green
Montana Sheep Company - Roeder Family
Montana Targhee Sheep Association
Sieben Live Stock Company - Chase & Emily Hibbard
Von Krosigk Targhees - Dean & Charlene Von Krosigk & Crew

USTSA Starter Flock Update

The USTSA Starter Flock Committee is proud to announce Caleb Pedersen as it's first recipient of registered Targhee sheep. There were sixteen applicants from six different states. All would have been worthy choices. It was difficult for the committee to narrow it down to five finalists. The five finalists were: Jo Eike, Fargo, OK; Bobbi Jo Kronberg, Forbes, ND; Greg Marchini, Bakersfield, CA; and Karoline Rose, Three Forks, MT.

Additional young people who applied were: Holly Andersen, Dillon, MT; Riley Christensen, Battle Lake, MN; Myla Cundall, Powderville, MT; Shaye Jungwirth, Hoven, SD; Justin King, Hammond, MT; Gus Kronberg, Forbes, ND; Caleb Reichhardt, Butte, MT; Destiny Schafer, Twin Bridges, MT; Quinn Trindle, Fort Benton, MT; and Katie Walker, Braddock, ND.

A special booth will be set up at the 2009 Targhee National Show and Sale honoring all of the applicants and our winner, Caleb Pedersen. Please be sure to stop by and see the wonderful essays written by the applicants. Also, impressive were letters of support written by parents, and advisors. Truly, the knowledge of the sheep industry, optimism, and strength of character shown by these young people and their families is wonderful!

Meet Your USTSA Directors

Robert F. Padula - Montevideo, Minnesota

1. Where were you born and raised? Is this your current locale?

No, I was born in a Minneapolis hospital and raised in Anoka, MN.

2. When did you become acquainted with Targhee sheep? How long have you raised them?

In 1982 another 4-H member showed a Targhee ewe lamb at our county fair; I was not impressed with it. I worked with Targhee sheep at the University of Minnesota.

My college advisors, Drs. Bill Boylan and Verl Thomas were instrumental in teaching me that sheep were more than just show animals and both were strong supporters of the Targhee breed, record keeping and the NSIP. Both of these men held Targhee producers in high esteem, never gossiped about growers and always talked positively about Targhee producers and their sheep. As I found out, "Targhee sheep" is more than just an animal.

I purchased a few Targhee ewes in 1991 at the National Show and Sale to cross with Columbia rams. Because our flock was already enrolled in NSIP, we just added the Targhee sheep. The first year we got a black lamb from one ewe and that didn't sit too well. Being the EPD trait leader for colored fibers was not a goal we had set. But we liked the crosses and planned on using Targhee rams on Columbia ewes in the future.

In 1993, I purchased a group of yearling ewes from Carolyn Green and have raised registered Targhee sheep since.

3. What is your favorite Targhee trait(s)?

Moderate size and wool. We found out that we could run 4 Targhee ewes with the same feed and resources it took to run 3 Columbia ewes and could get 2-3 more lambs. Also because the wool is finer, wool income is greater.

4. What is the greatest issue facing the sheep industry and/or the Targhee breed?

For the Targhee breed it is NSIP. Bio-fuels are a huge problem for the US sheep industry.

5. Is anyone else in your family involved in the sheep industry?

The Padula family raised sheep in the mountains of southern Poland. My parents and two brothers raise sheep in Anoka. When I bought a farm in Montevideo 12 years ago, my days of being the absentee sheep manager ended and I had to start raising them myself. It was much easier when they did all the work.

6. Do you have an occupation other than farming or ranching? What is it?

I used to work for the Extension service; but as soon as I could - I retired. I do some private consulting.

7. Other than raising sheep, what are some of your hobbies and talents? Do you volunteer your time for any religious or civic organizations?

I'm involved with Lions, Knights of Columbus, MN Lamb & Wool producers, Farm Bureau, help out with 4-H and have even played church league softball. I like outdoor recreational activities. I've been known to play hockey and duck hunt.

8. What is your favorite book?

I prefer monthly periodicals, but only for the articles. I do like reading old sheep production books and also taking information from other species and applying it to sheep husbandry. I suspect we would be further ahead in the sheep industry if the ivory tower did not spend so much time and effort re-inventing the wheel.

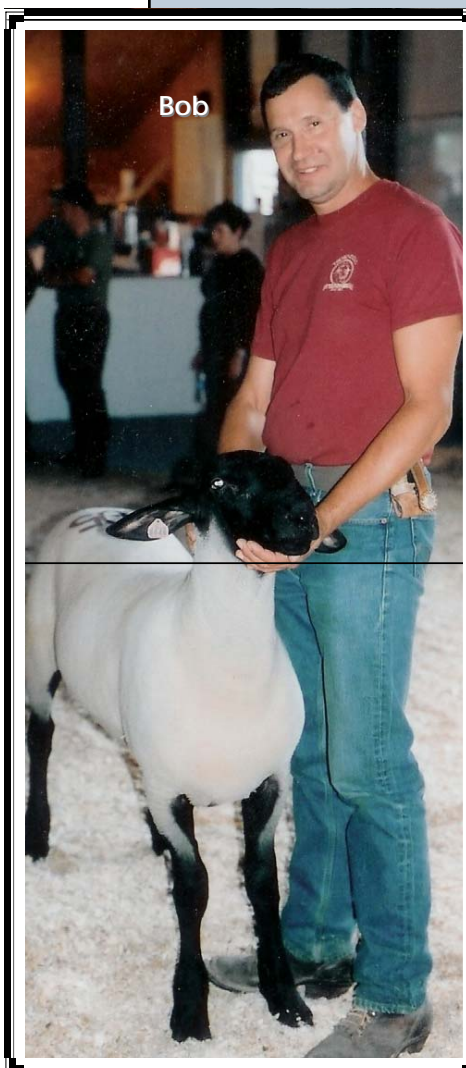
9. What is your favorite food? Pizza

10. The one thing people would be surprised to know about me is:

Contrary to what people are told, my wool training occurred in Minnesota, not Montana. I was a "red-shirted freshman" for the University of Minnesota wool judging team. Bill Boylan was not only the coach, but he also taught wool science because wool evaluation was more than just "the show ring" where you subjectively ranked 4 fleeces on a table. One block away from the U of MN in Minneapolis, North Central Wool Marketing had their grading warehouse and wool testing laboratory - so I was trained in wool biology and fiber development, fiber metrology/testing and wool evaluation all at the same time.

Pipestone Sheep for Profit School

The Pipestone Lamb and Wool program will conduct a Sheep for Profit School July 8-11, 2009 in Pipestone, Minnesota. The purpose of the school is to help producers improve their sheep management skills; increase the profitability of their sheep operation and form business relationships. The school will be intense and combine lecture, group discussion and visit two outstanding Pipestone area sheep operations. Contact: 1-800-658-2330 or www.pipestonesheep.com



Charles A. Pitkin
Callaway, Nebraska

~ Loved the Lord, his family, farming and community ~

Charles A. "Chuck" Pitkin, 58, of Callaway, died March 31, 2009 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. He was born May 22, 1950, at Callaway to Charles John and Mildred Anna (Lange) Pitkin. Chuck attended elementary school at West Cottonwood District #254, graduated from Callaway High School with the class of 1968, and then went on to further his education at Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte, graduating in 1970.

After college he returned to Callaway where he worked construction as a carpenter and then in the 1970's, went back to his love of farming. He raised Black Angus cattle and Targhee sheep, especially enjoying raising his Angus bulls. Chuck was a man of many talents and could fix anything and in his spare time enjoyed hunting.

His first marriage blessed him with three children: Charlie, Katie and Emily. He met the love of his life in December 2006, Gayle (Fripp) Evens, and they were married July 7, 2007, at the United Methodist Church in Callaway. His marriage to Gayle brought her three children into the family: Peter, Maria, and Timothy.

Chuck was always very active in the Methodist Church, his love of the Lord and love of children led him to teach Sunday School and Jr. High Youth Group. He was also an active member of Emmaus community. Chuck loved being with his family and will be so very missed.

Survivors include his wife: Gayle Pitkin of Callaway; mother, Midred Pitkin of Callaway; children, Charlie Pitkin of Chadron, Katie and Emily Pitkin of Fairbury; Gayle's children, Peter Evens of Aptos, Calif., Maria Evens of Seattle, Wash.; six step-grandchildren; brother Ken (Jill) Pitkin of Callaway, and nephews Ryan and Chad Pitkin.

Chuck was preceded in death by his father, Charles and sister, Beverly. Funeral services were April 3, at the United Methodist Church in Callaway, with Pastor Jerry Schwarz officiating. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery in Callaway. Memorials are suggested to the Family for later designation. Timm-Reynolds-Love Funeral Home in Callaway is in charge of arrangements.

Ask Me About ...

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U.S. Targhee Sheep Association
950 County Line Road
Fort Shaw, Montana 59443