

Targhee Talk

*The Newsletter of the United States
Targhee Sheep Association*



October 2014

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See your sheep in print!

Targhee Talk
submissions for the
January Edition
are due December 15th.

Please send your great
Targhee stories,
pictures, and
newsworthy items to
ustargheesheep
@gmail.com

or through the U.S. mail:

Targhee Talk
8111 Foothill Lodge
Las Vegas, NV 89131

Cover Photo Courtesy of
Theresa Beaström
Pierre, South Dakota

NEW ASSOCIATION ADDRESS

Unfortunately just as many of you got use to the latest address, I've moved again...
The address is now:

8912 Saddle Red Ave; Las Vegas, NV 89143

UNITED STATES TARGHEE SHEEP ASSOCIATION Annual Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting of the U.S. Targhee Sheep Assoc. membership was called to order by President Warren Nellis at 3:30 pm on July 18, 2014, at the Animal Science Arena in Brookings, South Dakota. All directors were present except Russell Allred.

The 2013 annual member's meetings minutes were read. Jon Beaström moved to accept the minutes as read; second by Todd Taylor; Passed.

Warren Nellis recognized DATA, Jon Beaström, Marcia Stulken and Darrell Deneke for putting on a great Nationals so far. This is the largest show anyone can remember and had some great judges.

Warren than discussed some of the concerns and issues that had been raised to date regarding delays with registrations. It was explained the current program in place required double entry, with individual certificates taking up to 10 times longer than group certificates. As will be reported in the Registry Report, to date the number of registrations processed have topped what was done in all of 2013. The Board supports Mardy and her efforts in this voluntary position and have authorized funds to find a more streamlined program to aid in turntimes as the association continues to grow. Keep in mind that if a turntime of less than 21 days is needed, that is considered a rush.

The financial reports were presented consisting of a year-end comparison Profit and Loss and 2013 Year-end Balance Sheet. A registry report was also provided showing 2013 year-end figures in line with previous years. To date, however, more registrations had been done than all of last year. This also means that finances are well above 2013 earnings as well. Charlene Von Krosigk moved to accept; Judy Nellis seconded; passed.

Darrell Deneke gave a quick talk on the now completed pocket size Inspection Manuals. It had been a few years in the making with Dr. Jeff Held and Jack McRae, but improvements had been made on wool and pictures added to show confirmations. Previously the Association had required Certified Inspectors, but now that has been removed and these manuals are what members need to follow when seeing if their animals adhere to breed standards when getting ready to register them. Each family was asked to grab one and a copy would be mailed out to those not present.

It is time again to complete a Breeders Directory. Watch for announcements in the January Targhee Talk for pricing, etc. The hope is to complete the 2015 Directory before Nationals next year.

Jeff Nevens gave a report on the NSIP show. The ewe class was a good size this year, but there still needs improvement. If anyone is interested in joining the committee please let Mardy know, more people are needed. Todd Taylor than spoke of the advancements and improvements NSIP is trying to make. Reid Redden is now the chairman and is working vigourously to get commercial producers signed up. Data runs are now available every 2 weeks. There is a special for new enrollment or those that had not been active to have the enrollment fees waived for the next three years. Juniors are also eligible for free enrollment. Producers need to be raising what is demanded and this is a program that can help with that. Jeff Nevens went on to say that this isn't just for big producers. He uses the program on his small flock and it works for them to let him know where they need to improve.

UNITED STATES TARGHEE SHEEP ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting Minutes, continued

Jeff Nevens than reported on the Starter Flock program. It had been an exceptional year with two winners being award starter flocks. In the past donations for both ewes and cash had been down to the wire. Before May this year, they had enough ewes for the two flocks and cash donations had already come in over the cap. This was the sixth year for the program. Jeff receives a lot of calls from other organizations inquiring who the program works, simply a strong membership is needed backing it to back the donations needed. Jeff than introduced the two winners (Seth Schoon of White River, South Dakota and Hailey Kilbur of Ispwich, South Dakota) and their families.

Jennifer Vannest asked if the rules could be changed so that the Starter Flock winner could participate in the Junior Show. The Starter Flock Committee will review and see if any changes need to be made. Let them know if you have any recommendations. Dave Thomas has been the final judge for the last two years, meaning his term is up. Suggestions were asked for, Todd Taylor recommended Jeff Held do it again.

Leslie Nevens spoke for the Junior Committee. They had been very busy this year developing by-laws for the now formed US Junior Targhee Sheep Association. They are still working on forming a Junior Ambassador program.

Seven partipants had returned for the first Youth Futurity Show. Each will be given a check before the sale splitting the \$405 jackpot. Nine ewe lambs had been nominated so far and will be marked with an F in the catalog. The nomination fee is \$15. The starter flock ewe lambs are also eligible. This is a work in progress with rules to be published soon.

Sifting committee had only sifted two. Spoke of the high quality of entries this year.

The Board is looking to form a new Show Committee to help keep evolving rules for the National Show. It was suggested a member from each district be on the committee. Warren specifically called out the need for a minimum wool length due to 40% of the judging suppose to be on the wool. Jon Beastro, Jennifer Vannest, Charlene Von Krosigk and Elisha Lewis volunteered.

The need to set a floor price for the sale was than discussed. Darrell moved to set at \$300; Caleb Pedersen seconded; Passed. Members were reminded that they were free to set a higher price floor on their stock as well. Elisha reminded everyone they are allowed to set their own floor price, just give to the auctioneer prior to entering the sale ring. Commission will still be charged at the top bid if the reserve is not met.

Mardy gave a report on the website and newsletter. Not many changes had been made to either. She asked that members submit personal news, pictures, etc so the membership can better keep up with them and make it more personable.

Warren than discussed the site of the 2015 National Show and Sale. The normal order is to have it held in Montana next. Carolyn Green offered to be the hosting committee chair person.

2 board members were up for reelection – Warren Nellis and Elisha Lewis. Both agreed to be placed for re-election and the floor was opened for any other nominations. Carolyn Green moved to cast an unanimous ballet to reelect Elisha; Betty Sampsel seconded; Passed. Marcia Stulken than nominated Todd Taylor for the East region. Todd accepted the nomination. Dean Von Krosigk moved to close nominations; Braedon Hinker seconded; Passed. Ballots were given out and counted with Todd Taylor winning.

Charlene Von Krosigk brought up the need for a better packet to be given out to new members. Currently membership certificates, directory, and registration applications are sent out.

Jon Beastro than showed the membership pelts SDSU had done that were to be awarded to the Champions with one extra one to be auctioned off. They were alternated white and black with a sheep profile in the middle.

Dean and Charlene Von Krosigk were recognized for donating a ewe lamb for the Russell Allred buy back auction on Saturday. Charlene said the ewe had Bob Innes breeding and was one of the last chances to get the best bloodlines in the west. Elisha Lewis was recognized for organizing the benefit and said items were also being brought to the banquet auction.

Members were than invited to take a tour of the campus with Jeff Held.

Caleb Pedersen moved that the meeting adjourn; second by Jamie Skinner; passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mardy Rutledge
Secretary



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President's Notes

My thoughts and prayers go out to the Erickson family... Rudy was an important part of not only the USTSA, but of livestock and youth programs throughout the country. I feel rather privileged to have some of his animals in our flock. He will be missed...

Hearing Terry Beaström, at his Hall of Fame induction, speak about some of the challenges that the Targhee breed has faced over the years was an eye opening experience. But the good people of the USTSA have come together in the past for the common good of the breed. I sense we may be coming towards another crossroad. And the reason I say this is that I have been approached by people, both from within and from outside the USTSA, with concerns about the road our breed is traveling down. The message I have received from those outside of the USTSA is a warning to not let our breed turn into what their breeds have become. More precisely, don't let Targhees turn into a "show ring breed" by losing the characteristics that have made them great. It has been noticed by a nationally recognized judge that the Targhees he is seeing are becoming taller, longer and more slender. Yet our breed standards on confirmation do not mention these adjectives; rather, words like broad, smooth, well muscled, thick and deep are used. Wool should be 40% of our scorecard, yet judges are having a difficult time determining the quality of fiber they are evaluating.

The crossroad is coming, and as a breed association, we need to decide, together, what road we are going to travel. Are we going to become a breed designed for the eyes, or are we going to stay a breed designed for the producer? Are we going to risk losing traits that have made the breed productive and efficient in order to better compete against other breeds in the ring? These are very serious questions that I hope we, as respectful individuals, can discuss and determine what future path we will take. Please feel free to share your thoughts with me and other board members – we need to know what you think! I thank you in advance for your vital input.

May you and your families be blessed during the upcoming holiday season!

Your President,
Jeff Nevens

2015 National Show & Sale

The 2015 Nationals will be held in Montana. Dates and place have not been finalized yet. More details will be released as they are finalized in the upcoming newsletters.

Deadlines to keep in mind

- May 31st entry and event forms due. Entry forms and packets will be available in the April newsletter as well as online.
- June 15th all registrations and information for catalog due. Registrations will incur a rush fee after this date. Information received for the catalog will not be included after this date. For the benefit of the Association and to best provide potential buyers and newcomers with a quality product, please submit as much information as possible by this date.

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Small Ruminant Toolbox Now Available

On Pasture

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) has compiled manuals, powerpoint presentations, videos and more into a "Toolbox" for small ruminant producers and educators. It's a collection of practical, proven materials covering a wide variety of topics, including pasture and herd management, marketing, pest management, quality of life and whole-farm sustainability. This re-issue of the toolbox that was created by Linda Coffey of NCAT and a team of goat and sheep specialists now includes a 60-page Small Ruminant Sustainability Checksheet to help farmers adapt their practice to the changing realities of the marketplace and their farm. It is the centerpiece of the toolbox, and was a critical missing piece before the project started, according to Coffey. "Although the whole-farm planning is important for success, the topic is not typically covered in sheep and goat production workshops."

Part of the Power Point presentations includes the Tennessee Master Meat Goat Producer Program, which was launched four years ago by Tennessee State University Small Ruminant Extension specialist An Peischel, to aid producers in improving production management skills and increase profitability. "Getting the kind of information out to Extension agents, students and farmers that is reliable and of good quality is extremely important," said Peischel, adding "It's easy to do a search on the Internet, but to find exactly what you are looking for from a reliable source is challenging. This Small Ruminant Toolbox provides those quality educational resources all in one place."

Steve Jones, a small ruminant specialist with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service says "The greatest benefit of the Small Ruminant Toolbox is exposing the producers to the research and applying that research on their farms. "For example, we conducted two on-farm demonstrations using forage brassicas as an alternative to feeding hay and supplement. We estimate that farmers saved \$2 a head on average as a result of the on-farm demos. One farm in particular, so far has saved over \$3,000 and the potential is there to save up to \$15,000."

The Small Ruminant Toolbox is available online at www.sare.org/ruminant-toolbox. You can also order a jump drive containing all the toolbox information. The price is \$5 each, plus \$3 for shipping and handling. Want more information? Contact Linda Coffey at lindac@ncat.org or call ATTRA at 800-346-9140. - See more at: <http://onpasture.com/2014/09/22/small-ruminant-toolbox-now-available/#sthash.Htm1Rbll.dpuf>

Looking for the perfect Christmas Gift?

USTSA offers a wide line of Targhee Wearable in a variety of sizes for adult and youth. Pictures of some of the products are on the website. Contact Mardy Rutledge for a full list of products and sizes and to place orders.

Adult T-Shirts	\$10.00
Adult Hoodies	\$20.00
Youth T-Shirts	\$10.00
Ball Caps	\$15.00
Camouflage Beanies	\$15.00
Gray or Pink Skull Caps	\$12.00



**Welcome New
USTSA Members!**

Kurt Mitton
Wellsville, UT

Michael Krause
Stoddard, WI

Halyee Kilber
Ipswich, SD

Seth Schoon
White River, SD

Kilber Family
Ipswich, SD

Cassie Duran
Napavine, WA

Justin & Amy Winston
Fairfield, MT

2014 Western Regional Ram Sale Results

The following are a sample of ram sales Targhees were present at.

2014 Ram Sale Averages				
	Rambouillet	Columbia	Suffolk	Targhee
Newell Ram Sale	\$ 669.12	\$ 627.50	\$ 656.48	\$ 740.91
Montana Ram Sale	\$ 890	\$ 358	\$ 605	\$ 1141.35
Wyoming Ram Sale	\$ 1097	\$ 714	\$ 1137	\$ 826
Utah Ram Sale				\$ 741.67

Wyoming Ram Sale

Top Targhee
\$ 1150 Von Krosigk Targhees
18 Head Sold - Average \$826

Total Sales		Targhee	
Lots:	129	Lots:	12
Gross Sales:	\$ 239,600.00	Gross Sales:	\$ 14,875.00
# head	244	# head	19
#head sold	228	#head sold	18
Average:	\$ 1,050.88	Average:	\$ 826.39
WWGA:	\$ 23,960.00	WSRS %:	\$ 1,487.50
No Sales:	16	No Sales:	1

Montana Ram Sale

1st Annual Montana Ewe Sale was held. Consignors to the historic event were Lehfeldt Rambouillet-Lavina, Dallas Sheep Outfit-Wilsall, Graves Sheep Outfit-Circle, Hughes Newford-Stanford, Green Ranch-Melville, Bieber Land-Brockway, Halverson Ranch-Big Timber, and Blue Bell Sheep-Molt. The 470 white faced yearling ewes in 15 lots sold at a brisk pace and averaged \$319 per head with buyers from Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota.

304 rams were offered at the 89th Annual Montana Ram Sale. A new all-time high selling ram at the sale was a single Targhee ram consigned by Sieben Live Stock Co. and sold to the partnership of Jack McRae of Jordan, MT and Jon Beastrom of Pierre, SD for \$7,100. The record was actually broken twice in the day with Carolyn Green's Targhee Test Ram selling to Simms Sheep Co. of Evanston, WY for \$6,900 earlier in the sale.

With the rise in lamb and beef prices over last year, this year's range ram average rose from 284 head at \$784 in 2013 to 298 head at \$1,042 this year. Other stud and test rams were: MSU Targhee Stud to Big Dry Angus for \$1,400; Sieben Live Stock Targhee Stud to Dilts Ranch Co. of Douglas, WY for \$4,400; Carolyn Green Targhee Stud to Bridle Bit Ranch of Gillete, WY for \$3,000; We'll see everyone next year with even more quality yearling ewes and rams at the 90TH Annual Montana Ram and 2nd Annual Montana Ewe Sale in Miles City, MT.

Newell Ram Sale

The 69th Annual Newell Ram Show & Sale was held September 18th & 19th in Newell, SD. The show was judged by Ron Sutherland, Hillsdale, WY.

The overall sale average was \$650.69 per head

We had 148 registered buyers from SD, MT, WY, ND, NE CO, MN, WA, MO

Targhee Ewes - Breed Champion (fall lamb)-Beastrom, Jon Pierre, SD

Targhee Stud Rams - Breed Champion Ram (yearling)-Beastrom, Jon Pierre, SD

Reserve Breed Champion (fall stud ram)-Beastrom, Jon Pierre, SD

Targhee Average \$740.91



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Want to be More Involved in USTSA?

Here's your opportunity. If you would like to join any of the below committees, please contact Mardy.

The NSIP committee, consisting of Betty Sampsel, Bob Padula and Judy Scanlan, are responsible for establishing all rules for the NSIP classes at the National Show & Sale regarding deadlines, what EBV's will be evaluated, judging criteria, etc. They will help keep the USTSA better in line with the changes in this arena and to help promote Targhee's involvement in NSIP.

The Junior Show/Membership committee, consisting of Jennifer, Vannest, Elisha Lewis and Leslie Nevens, help to manage our growing Junior membership and promoting to new junior members. It will also be responsible for such things as setting the rules for Nationals regarding eligible ages, who is allowed to participate, etc. Junior members are encouraged to volunteer to help represent their peers concerns and ideas as well.

The Youth Futurity committee of Jon Beastrom and Todd Taylor have already volunteered to spearhead the USTSA's latest venture to help increase junior participation. They will be responsible for setting all rules and policies for this new program.

At this years Nationals a committee was created for National Show Committee consisting of Jon Beastrom, Jennifer Vannest, Charlene Von Krosigk, and Elisha Lewis. They will set out to monitor and suggest changes to the current show and sifting rules to ensure the breed is adhering to breed standards in the show ring.

2015 USTSA Directory

Its that time again!! Be watching for the January newsletter for detailed information and rates for the upcoming directory. The goal is to have it completed prior to Nationals. We are looking for anyone interested in helping procure advertising from outside business in the directory and newsletter. If you have the interest and time, please contact Mardy.

State Fair Results

If you have other results you would like included, please submit to the USTSA office by December 15th for publication in the next newsletter.

SD Junior Wool Classic Targhee Show

- **Champion Targhee Ewe** – Jonalyn Beastrom. Also named Supreme Champion over all breeds



- **Grand Champion Junior Sheep Showmanship** – Lucas Pedersen



SD Junior Wool Classic Targhee Participants



- **Champion Targhee Ram** – Jon Beastrom Family
- **Reserve Targhee Ram** – Duane Deneke Family
- **Grand and Reserve Champion Fleeces** – Jon Beastrom Family



South Dakota State Fair 4-H Breeding Sheep Champions

Champion Targhee Ewe & 4th Overall
Jonalyn Beastrom

Reserve Targhee Ewe - Haylee Kilber

Champion Targhee Ram - Jacob Beastrom

Reserve Targhee Ram
Katelin Deneke



SD Open Wool Classic Targhee Show

Champion Targhee Ewe & Res. Supreme Champion Overall
Jon Beastrom Family

Reserve Targhee Ewe - Braedon Hinker



Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival

Open Wool Breeds Division

Targhee:

Champion Ram: A&J Nevens
Livestock

Reserve Ram: Anna Hinchley
Champion Ewe: Catherine Hinchley

Reserve Ewe: UW-Madison

Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival Junior Breeding Sheep Show:

Wool Breeds Divisions

Targhee:

Champion Ram: Andy Nevens
Reserve Ram: Joelle Nevens
Champion Ewe: Anna Hinchley
Reserve Ewe: Andy Nevens



Junior Reserve Supreme Ewe
Anna Hinchley

Junior Supreme Ewe
Justin Taylor

Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival Wool Show Results

Junior Show Fleece Show Results

Division 1 – Commercial White

- 1 - Andy Nevens
- 2 – Andy Nevens
- 3 – Joelle Nevens
- 4 – Andy Nevens

Open Fleece Show Results

Division 1 – Commercial White

- 1 - A&J Nevens Livestock
- 2 – A&J Nevens Livestock
- 3 – Cody Heimke

Wisconsin State Fair Results

Premier Targhee Exhibitor - Jon Beastrom Family

- **Champion Senior Targhee Ram** – Jon Beastrom Family
- **Reserve Senior Targhee Ram** – Jon Beastrom Family
- **Champion Senior Targhee Ewe** – Jon Beastrom Family
- **Reserve Senior Targhee Ewe** – Jon Beastrom Family
- **Champion Junior Targhee Ram** – Andy Nevens
- **Reserve Junior Targhee Ram** – Joelle Nevens (pictured right)
- **Champion Junior Targhee Ewe** – Andy Nevens
- **Reserve Junior Targhee Ewe** – Joelle Nevens (pictured right)



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Meet the Newest USTSA President

Jeff Nevens

1. Where were you born and raised? Is this your current locale? Just outside of Milwaukee, Wisconsin – really a “city boy”. Now living on my in-laws farm in Lodi, Wisconsin.

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

The first time I met my future father-in-law was at the 1984 Wisconsin State Fair. They had full strings of both Targhees and Shops. Having no agriculture background at the time, I think he gave me a “test” that day by asking me to show a yearling Targhee buck all by myself in the open show!! Was more than a little unnerving... We purchased his last remaining Targhee ewes in 2004 and have carried on the family tradition ever since.

3. What is your favorite Targhee trait? I feel they have to be one of the most self-supporting breeds around. Really a “hands-off” breed that can take care of most things on their own – rarely pulling lambs, no late night barn checks, great milkers and great mothers.

4. What is the greatest issue facing the sheep industry and/or American agriculture?

In the broadest picture, I think it is lack of education of the American public about where their food comes from and how it gets to them. I say that because I have been on that side of things, and I feel fortunate that I have had the opportunity to gain some knowledge in the agriculture business. And in regards to the sheep industry, I think it is the relatively low level of lamb and wool consumption in the US as compared to other nations. Again, education of the public about our industry is critical to its survival.

5. Are you married? Do you have children? How many? My wife, Leslie, is really the sheep expert of the family, and I thank her for all that she has taught me over the years! She comes from long line of sheep producers, which includes our two children, Joelle and Andy, who are the 6th generation on Leslie's side of the family who have raised sheep. Her father, Duane Richards, and her grandfather, Glenn Richards, started raising Targhees on our farm over 50 years ago!

6. Do you have an occupation other than farming or ranching? I am a scientist / pharmacist as a primary profession. Leslie is the true shepherdess of the family!

7. Other than raising sheep, what are some of your hobbies and talents? I love to hunt and fish, and enjoy antique firearms! We belong to the Lodi United Methodist Church, and I have served on and chaired many committees over the years. I am also a licensed amateur radio operator, and currently serve on the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Cooperative board of directors.

8. What is your favorite book? Overall, I don't read a lot for enjoyment since my jobs have involved a great deal of reading. But when I do, I have enjoyed reading about history and non-fiction sports.

9. What is your favorite food? This is a tough one... My father used to say “some people eat to live, and others live to eat.” And I am in that second group! My favorite would probably be a traditional Thanksgiving Day meal – turkey with all the trimmings!!

10. The one thing people would be surprised to know about me is: There are probably a couple of things, but I guess it would be that I brew my own beer.



Thank you Jeff for your continued time and effort in helping USTSA!

Position available for Project Coordinator Grow Our Flock

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI), is seeking a Project Coordinator for a three- year national initiative to increase sheep industry productivity and producer profitability. This month the initiative received the first fiscal year budget approval of \$500,000 with the understanding that it is a three-year commitment with expectation of similar funding each year.

The coordinator would be responsible for communicating with sheep producers and feeders to identify existing local/regional groups of commercial growers and facilitate the creation of new producer networks to enhance efficient production and marketing of wool and lamb throughout the United States. To meet this objective, the coordinator would be expected to use efficient educational and communication technologies and to establish and/or coordinate efforts to create productivity benchmarks for the industry.

It is anticipated that \$350,000 would be available annually from the budget for support of these groups. The coordinator would also be responsible for coordinating with interested state sheep associations with a budget of approximately \$50,000 to enhance mentorship of beginning sheep producers as well as support two existing state association projects scheduled through 2015.

The coordinator could be a contracted position or an employee with a salary/contract budget range of \$80,000 to \$100,000.

Qualifications:

Required: Graduate degree in the areas of animal science, agricultural economics, agriculture education, or related field. Prior experience in education, direct or allied animal industries (especially sheep), strong communication skills both interpersonal and with groups is desired.

All inquiries should be completed by October 31, 2014.

Contact Peter Orwick, ASI Executive Director for additional information and interest in the contract at porwick@sheepusa.org or call (303) 771-3500 x 33.

Helping Spread the Word About Targhees

Elaine Wilson of Everett, Washington shared a couple of pictures from their local fair last year with their granddaughter Cassie. "We always try to do a lot of education as we live in a city and lots of people are clueless about farming."

Thanks for sharing Elaine and thanks for great example of what we could all be doing to help educate those not familiar with Targhees!



President

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Term expires: 2017

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307-738-2378
bwilliams@rtconnect.net
Term expires: 2015

Free Advertising
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Do you have a Targhee event you would like to see promoted in 2014? Please contact the USTSA office (ustargheesheep@gmail.com) to list your event for FREE!

Targhee Tails & Trails

Rudolph "Rudy" Erickson

Rudolph A. Erickson, age 76, of Wilson, Wis., died at his home on Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014, after a short illness.

Memorial Funeral service for Rudy will be on Tuesday, October 7 at 11:00 a.m. at St Bridget's Catholic Church, Wilson, Wisconsin.

Visitation will be on Monday, October 6, 2014 from 4-8 p.m. at Keehr Funeral Home, Spring Valley and also at church for one hour prior to the service on Tuesday.

Rudolph A. Erickson, age 76, of Wilson, Wis., died at his home on Thursday, Oct. 2, 2014, after a short illness. Rudy was born Jan. 3, 1938, to Rudolph W. and Dorothy L. (Heisterkamp) Erickson in Evergreen Township near Spooner, Wis. He graduated from Spooner High School in 1955. Rudy enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Madison at age 17 and graduated in 1959 with a bachelor's degree in animal science. He completed a master's degree in animal science at UW-Madison in 1969.

Rudy was joined in marriage to Martha Ann Prem of Plain, Wis., on Feb. 20, 1960, at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Rudy served as First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and was stationed at various army bases, including Fort Knox, Kentucky. After being discharged in 1962, Rudy was employed as a fieldman for Central Livestock Association for 4 years, and later served as the interim UW-Extension agriculture agent and the interim 4-H agent in Dunn County for 2 years. In 1969, Rudy was hired as the farm manager of the UW-River Falls lab farms, a position he held for 27 years until his retirement in 1996.

While at UW-River Falls, Rudy also held a part-time appointment as a UW-Extension livestock specialist. In that role, Rudy judged numerous county fair livestock and carcass shows, taught sheep clinics around the state, was a sheep shearing instructor for many years, and judged state fair wool and shearing contests.

Rudy had a life-long passion for sheep, starting when he was a member of the Evergreen Valley 4-H Club and later as a Spooner FFA member. During high school, he worked at the UW Spooner Agricultural Research Station when the first Targhee sheep were introduced into Wisconsin. After buying his own farm, Rudy purchased a flock of sheep, which included the two rams that he had helped unload at the Spooner railroad yard for the research station. Rudy continued raising sheep for more than 60 years, selling the last of his flock in the fall of 2010.

Along with raising sheep, Rudy had a herd of Polled Hereford cattle from the early 1960s to the present, along with having a few pigs, chickens, rabbits, geese, pheasants, cats and border collies.

Over the years, Rudy was involved with the following sheep organizations, often serving as an officer or board member: National Targhee Sheep Association, Wisconsin Targhee Sheep Association, Wisconsin Columbia Sheep Association, Wisconsin Hampshire Sheep Association, Wisconsin Sheep Producers Association, Indianhead Sheep Association, and Mid-States Wool Cooperative.

He also was active in the Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association, Northern Wisconsin



Finding Targhees

Looking for Targhees? Watch the website for a current listing of Fairs and Ram Sales where Targhees will be entered. If you would like to add any to the list, please contact Mardy at 702-292-5715 or ustargheesheep@gmail.com.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

November	
5-7	Minnesota Lamb and Wool Producers Association Annual Meeting, Chaska, MN
7-8	Utah, Idaho and Wyoming Wool Growers Association Annual Meeting, Park City, UT
8	Michigan Sheep Breeders Association Annual Meeting, Vicksburg, MI
22-24	Shearing and Classing School, Hettinger, ND
December	
5-6	Montana Wool Growers Association Annual Meeting, Billings, MT
6-7	Wisconsin's annual Beginning Sheep Shearing School at Arlington Agricultural Research Station, Arlington, Wisc.
13	Ohio Sheep Improvement Association Annual Meeting, Wooster, OH. Roger High 614-246-8299, rhigh@ofbf.org
January	
28-31	2015 ASI Annual Convention, Charleston, SC



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NATIONAL SHEEP IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

National Farm to School Month

Farm to school brings local or regionally produced foods into school cafeterias; hands-on learning activities such as school gardening, farm visits, and culinary classes; and the integration of food-related education into the classroom curriculum. To help schools create or strengthen an existing program, the Farm to School Planning Toolkit was recently launched to provide tips and examples, insights, and research-based resources. The accessible guide enables schools, school districts and community partners to map out and build on their program's vision.

Research shows that children in schools with farm to school programs eat more fruits and vegetables and are more willing to try new, healthy foods—positive steps in the right direction in the battle against childhood obesity. By instilling smarter, more nutritious behaviors, we make it easier for our future leaders to grow, thrive and reach their highest potential.

The toolkit is available from the USDA along with more information on the program at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school>.

Targhee Talk

8912 Saddle Red Ave.
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Ask Me About ...

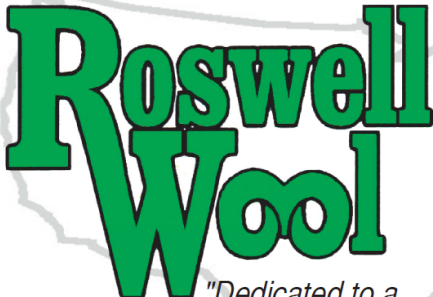


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