

Hall of Fame Inductees



Clover Meadows: Cal & Julie Ward

Julie grew up on a cattle ranch in Gardnerville, Nevada, where she was actively involved in 4-H, showing cattle and sheep alongside her brother and sister. She excelled at livestock judging and traveled all over for competitions. After high school, Julie attended college to become a certified public accountant and financial planner. For many years, she worked and developed her own CPA firm where she had a long and highly successful career while raising a family in Sheridan, Montana, all the while maintaining a passion for the agricultural industry.

Cal grew up in Malta, Idaho on the family ranch. Raising cattle and sheep was a long standing family tradition, as his grandfather had owned multiple large bands of sheep in Idaho and parts of Utah. The Ospital name was synonymous with quality and premium market stock. Eager to travel the world, Cal joined the Marine Corp soon after high school. After his service, with unmatched work ethic, Cal returned to his roots and began managing beef cattle operations in Montana.

In 2006, Julie and Cal Ward, purchased a historic property in the heart of the Ruby Valley just outside of Sheridan, Montana. They re-established the original homestead name, Clover Meadows Ranch. In 2012, their journey with the Targhee breed began alongside Julie's sister, Nancy Benson, laying the groundwork for what would become a reputable name in the purebred sheep industry. Since then, Cal and Julie have continued to grow Clover Meadows Targhees into a trusted producer of NSIP breeding stock.

Cal and Julie show passion for the industry's future, which shines brightest close to home. Sponsoring several youth starter flocks, encouraging the younger generations with a passion for agriculture and sheep production, hosting local FFA chapter breeding projects, and previously serving on the National board. In their own family, they have passed down their love for raising sheep to the next generation, inspiring their grandchildren, Addison and Jace Hellwinkel, to establish and raise their very own flocks.

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Todd & Lynnette Taylor

Growing up in the Rockies, Todd and Lynnette have been involved in the livestock industry from the start. Lynnette grew up on cattle ranches in Wyoming and Colorado working alongside her father as the oldest of 3 girls. Todd grew up in Laramie, Wyoming where his dad managed the sheep program for the University of Wyoming. They met while at junior college at NJC in Sterling, Colorado. They were married in July of 1993. Since then they have had 4 kids who have since all grown up in the sheep industry and have all taken jobs that keep them working in the agriculture industry and still have their own breeds of sheep.

Todd took the job working at UW-Madison in 2001 and moved the family from Texas to Wisconsin. They have been bringing sheep to the Targhee National since 2003, showing and selling sheep with their 4 little kids in tow. Raising kids in the show ring has been something that Todd and Lynnette are very proud to have had the opportunity to do. They spent their summers traveling the country as a family to various national shows, showing, selling and promoting sheep. Todd has been on many national breed association boards, including the Targhee board and the NSIP board. He has been active with ASI through his position at UW-Madison going to conventions and taking his kids with him to get them involved in a broader aspect of the sheep industry. He helped with the starter flocks when that program got started and has been a mentor to several starter flock winners and their families. He also had a hand in starting the futurity program and getting that off the ground and running for the juniors. Investing in the future of the sheep industry and its youth members is something both Todd and Lynnette are passionate about.

They began raising Targhees in their personal flock after dispersing their oldest daughter Jessica's flock of Columbia sheep. At the time, their nieces, Abby & Maggie Stalbaum, still wanted to raise show a wool breed for their 4-H Projects, but wanted something more moderately framed and liked that the Targhees hold more true to traditional range sheep. They were able to get some ewes from a couple of starter flock winners who were looking to disperse and wanted their flocks to go to other Juniors that would continue their genetics. JAM Targhees has since grown to include and then was transferred to Jessica after Abby and Maggie aged out of 4-H and FFA. All of their kids are still active in the sheep industry in one way or another, Jessica and her Fiance, Chase, live in the Arlington, Wisconsin area where she raises Targhees, she was involved in the Albany County 4-H & FFA sheep projects while she was in Laramie and is on the board of directors for the WI Sheep Breeders Coop. Hannah and her husband Matthew live in Kansas City and put on sheep specific skillathons for the All American Junior Show and Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival. Justin lives in Arlington, Wisconsin and raises Lincolns and Polypays and sells some high dollar polypay genetics, he is also heavily involved with the ASI Young & Emerging Entrepreneurs program. Hayden raises Hamps, Southdowns and Club Lambs and is working for a club lamb breeder in Indiana. Todd and Lynnette have always and will continue to support their kids in their various endeavors and continue to support the future generations of the sheep industry and the continued education, research and improvement of sheep in the nation's agriculture industry.

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Robert “Steve” Thompson

In this, the 100 th anniversary of the Targhee breed’s initial crosses at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, Dubois, Idaho, and the 75 th anniversary of the formation of the U.S. Targhee Sheep Association, we recognize the contributions of a founding member of this association.

Robert “Steve” Thompson was born in 1910, in Heppner, Oregon. His parents owned a livestock ranch near Heppner, where Steve grew up. He graduated from Oregon State University in 1933, and married Gwendolyn Evans that same fall. Steve and Gwendolyn had three children: Terry, Judith, and Janet.

He was employed by the Farm Security Administration until 1941, when his father died, and Steve returned to manage the family ranch. In 1945 he purchased Targhee sheep from the Sheep Experiment Station at Dubois, Idaho. When the Targhee Association was formed, Steve was assigned membership number 14.

The first meeting of Targhee breeders took place at Dubois, Idaho, on May 16-17, 1951. Although Steve did not attend this meeting, he was appointed to a committee of six to study other breed associations and to research how other breeds such as Columbias had handled forming a registry from scratch. This committee developed the framework, the first by-laws of the Association, and many of the steps needed to develop a breed registry from inspected commercial western white-face sheep.

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Targhee Association was held September 27, 1951, in conjunction with the annual sheep sale at the Sheep Experiment Station. Directors were Curtis Hughes, Henry Hibbard, Henry Yoppe, Leo Pfister, and Julius Nordby, who was the Director of the Experiment Station at Dubois. Before the next board meeting, in December 1951, Nordby informed the association that he could not be listed as a director but could act in an advisory capacity. Steve Thompson was then elected as one of the original five directors.

Steve served one three-year term on the board, then in 1954 moved with his family to Pendleton, Oregon, where he was employed by the Northwest Livestock Production Credit Association as a field man for the eastern Oregon region. Even though living in Pendleton, Steve continued to ranch at Heppner. In 1978 Steve and Gwendolyn moved to Wilsonville, Oregon, where Steve died in 1989.

With Steve’s induction in the Hall of Fame, all of the Association’s original board members have been so honored.