

# Targhee Talk

*The Newsletter of the United States  
Targhee Sheep Association*



**May 2022**

### Inside this edition:

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### See your sheep in print!

Targhee Talk Submissions for the June Edition are due May 26th.

Please send your great Targhee stories, pictures, and newsworthy items to [ustargheesheep@gmail.com](mailto:ustargheesheep@gmail.com)

or through the U.S. mail:

Targhee Talk  
PO Box 955  
Chinook, MT 59523

### Can't attend Nationals and the Annual Member's meeting?

But have a concern or suggestion to help make the Association run smoother, contact Mardy at 702-292-5715 or [ustargheesheep@gmail.com](mailto:ustargheesheep@gmail.com) to have it added to the meeting agenda.

Cover Photo Courtesy of  
Lacy Raisler  
Wisconsin

## 2022 National Show & Sale - July 18-20th

The Montana Targhee Sheep Association is honored to be hosting the 2022 USTSA National Show & Sale. It will be held July 18th through July 20th at the Sweet Grass County Fair Grounds, in Big Timber, Montana.

Entry Forms and the Entry Brochure Booklet are now available for download on the USTSA website ([www.ustargheesheep.org](http://www.ustargheesheep.org)). Please review the booklet as it details all of the information, rules, and testing details consignors will need for a successful show and sale. Entry forms are due to Mardy by May 31st.

To receive copies of the Event and Entry Forms, along with the Entry Brochure booklet, through the U.S. mail, contact Mardy at 702-292-5715 or [ustargheesheep@gmail.com](mailto:ustargheesheep@gmail.com).

Exhibitors will be allowed to enter one ram with no ewe requirements. However, for each additional ram entry, TWO ewes must be entered. The sale committee reserves the right to limit numbers once entries are in to keep class sizes reasonable.

### Targhee and Commercial Wool Show

Classes:

Ewe fleece 62 & finer

Ram fleece 62 & finer

Ewe fleece 58 & 60

Ram fleece 58 & 60

Wool entry is \$5 per fleece, with a two fleece limit per class. There is no need to tie your fleeces. Prepare the fleeces as normal, roll and place in clear plastic bags. Entries can be mailed if you are not able to attend the event but would like to enter the wool show. Arrangements can be made to send entries back.

### Junior Show Requirements

See Entry Brochure for full set of rules. Reminder that all sheep entered need to be registered in exhibitors name or that of a family member. This year juniors are also required to sign a Code of Conduct to be returned to Jesse Taylor at 67-C Osprey Rd Laramie, WY 82070 or email: [jamtarghees@gmail.com](mailto:jamtarghees@gmail.com). These are due prior to Nationals.

### Online Auction for the 2022 Nationals

The Montana Targhee Association is in talks with Frontier Live to auctioneer the National Sale. They are based out of Big Timber and should be a great fit. This will mean online bidding will be available and a listing of the catalog on their website. More details will be posted in the June newsletter as to what will need to be submitted to complete the online catalog. Pictures will need to be sent in, but don't have specific details yet on how many, if videos can be submitted, et.c. To learn more about Frontier, you can visit their website at [www.frontierlivesale.com](http://www.frontierlivesale.com). A printed catalog will also be designed as usual to be handed out at the National Sale.

### Lodging options for 2022 National Targhee Show and Sale

Super 8 (\$127/night) - (406) 203-4757. 20 rooms have been reserved in the Targhee Show and Sale Block.

River Valley Inn (\$135/night) - (406) 932-4943. 5 rooms reserved in the Targhee Show and Sale Block

Lazy J (\$99/night) - (406) 932-5533. 5 rooms reserved in the Targhee Show and Sale Block

Don't forget about VRBOs or Airbnbs. There are many around the Big Timber Area. Camper parking is available at the fairgrounds, but there are no hookups.

Please give Dylan Laverell a call if you are having trouble finding lodging. 406-930-0216

## 2022 USTSA Annual Members Meeting

The Annual Members meeting will be held Friday, July 19th at 2:30 pm at the Sweet Grass County Fairgrounds. Julie Ward and Bryan Allred's terms expire this year. The Board will be taking nominations up until the Members meeting for the At Large West and West seats as well as finding out if Julie or Bryan wish to seek reelection. If you would like to run or make a nomination, please contact Scott Kilber or Susie Skinner. Voting will commence at the meeting.

If you have any other concerns or suggestions to help make the Association run smoother, contact Mardy at 702-292-5715 or [ustargheesheep@gmail.com](mailto:ustargheesheep@gmail.com) or your region's Board Member to have it added to the meeting agenda.

**Official agenda will be published in the June Newsletter with forms for proxy voting. Per Roberts Rules of Order, only business that is in the published agenda will be discussed at the annual meeting.** Please email Mardy these items prior to May 31st. .

### 2021-2022 Officers & Directors

**President & Central Plains Director** - Leroy Pedersen; [leroy@koletzkyimplement.com](mailto:leroy@koletzkyimplement.com), 605-660-2981

**Vice President & East Director** - Susie Skinner; [twins2@hughes.net](mailto:twins2@hughes.net), 937-375-5671

**Montana Director** - Dylan Laverell; [laverell.dylan@gmail.com](mailto:laverell.dylan@gmail.com), 406-930-0216

**West Director** - Bryan Allred; [ballred@cut.net](mailto:ballred@cut.net), 435-445-3528

**At Large West Director** - Julie Ward; [clovermeadowsmt@gmail.com](mailto:clovermeadowsmt@gmail.com), 406-596-0668

**At Large East Director** - Jeff Nevens; [aandjnevenslivestock@frontier.com](mailto:aandjnevenslivestock@frontier.com), 608-592-7842

### Upcoming Calendar of Events

May 11 - Sheep Genetics USA: Improving Genetic Tools to Enhance Profitability Webinar - Online - Register at [www.register.gotowebinar.com/register/1855429584679709452](http://www.register.gotowebinar.com/register/1855429584679709452)

May 15 - Small Ruminant Animal Husbandry & Herd Health Class - Claremore, Okla. - [www.shepherdscross.com](http://www.shepherdscross.com)

May 20 - Livestock Guardian Dogs and the Law Webinar - Online - [agrilife.zoom.us/j/92152755922](https://agrilife.zoom.us/j/92152755922)

May 22 - Mid-States Hair Sheep Cooperative Small Ruminant Field Day - Bull Tackle Feed Co. in Lexington, Neb. - [www.midstatescoop.com](http://www.midstatescoop.com)

June 4-6 - 71st Annual West Virginia Purebred Sheep and Goat Show and Sale - Tri-County Fairgrounds in Petersburg, W.V. - [www.wvsheepandgoatsale.com](http://www.wvsheepandgoatsale.com)

July 10-11 - Grazing Hills Fiber Arts Festival - Viola, Idaho - [www.ghfiberfest.com](http://www.ghfiberfest.com)

July 15 -17 - U.S. Targhee Sheep Association National Show & Sale - Redfield, S.D. - [www.ustargheesheep.org](http://www.ustargheesheep.org)

July 17 - Washington State Sheep Producers Annual Ram & Ewe Sale - Grant County Fairgrounds in Moses Lake, Wash. - [www.wssp.org](http://www.wssp.org)

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## Don't miss out on Lamb Summit

Now is the time to register for the 2022 American Lamb Summit. Registration is limited to 250 individuals and slots are filling up fast, with more than 100 people signed up within the first few weeks of registration.

Sponsored by the American Lamb Board and Premier 1 Supplies, the second American Lamb Summit is booked for August 8-9 in Lansing, Michigan. Cost is \$200 per person for the main conference. An additional tour on August 10 costs \$125 and will be limited to 36 people. You can register online for both events at [LambSummit.com](http://LambSummit.com) "Lamb Summit 2022 will help the industry and its individual members identify strategies to increase the value of their US Lamb and network with progressive industry leaders and producers," said Stan Potratz, founder of Premier 1 Supplies.

American Lamb producers, direct marketers, feeders, educators, packers and processors will all find something of interest at the Summit. Session topics across the 2-day event will focus on genetics, yield and carcass quality, production practices, health and nutrition, taste and customer expectations, environmental concerns, and maintaining a competitive edge in today's U.S. and world markets. "There's no sitting back to see what may or may not happen. Our industry's viability requires action based on the best information possible, and that's what we intend to offer," said Peter Camino, ALB chairman.

The optional tour is sponsored by the Michigan Sheep Producers Association and will highlight lamb packing plants and retailers who specialize in sales to the non-traditional lamb market, particularly the Detroit area's Arab-American population. The tour includes a lunch banquet feast at Al-Ameer Restaurant, the largest Middle Eastern restaurant in the area.

To learn more and register, go to [LambSummit.com](http://LambSummit.com). Don't miss this amazing opportunity to learn more about our industry and the value of US Lamb.

## 2022 National Show & Sale Schedule July 18-20th in Big Timber, MT

Sunday, July 17th

Noon – pens available

Monday, July 18th

8:30 am – National Junior Show order

Yearling Ram

Fall Ram Lamb

Winter Ram Lamb

Spring Ram Lamb

Yearling Ewe

Fall Ewe Lamb

Winter Ewe Lamb

Spring Ewe Lamb

Best Fleece on Live Animal

Junior Showmanship (Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Pee-wee)

Noon – Lunch

1 p.m. – Wool Entries due

2 p.m. Open show entry sifting begins – deadline for open show sheep to be in the barn. Health, Registration, Micron, and EBV paperwork due.

4 p.m. – Junior Targhee Association Annual Meeting

6 p.m. – Picnic at (Wool Warehouse)

8:30 p.m. – USTSA Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, July 19th

8:30 a.m. – Junior Futurity Ewe Show

9:00 a.m. – National Open Show: Show Order

NSIP Yearling Ram

Yearling Ram

Fall Ram Lamb

Winter Ram Lamb

Spring Ram Lamb

NSIP Yearling Ewe

Yearling Ewe

Fall Ewe Lamb - born before January 1st.

Winter Ewe Lamb - born before February 15th

Spring Ewe Lamb - born February 16th and after

Best Fleece on Live Animal

1 p.m. – National Wool Show Judging

2 p.m. – Special Event

2:30 p.m. – USTSA Annual Association Meeting

6 p.m. – Social hour at Sweet Grass County Fair Grounds Pavilion

7 p.m. Awards Banquet

Wednesday, July 20th

10 a.m. – Presentation of the USTSA Starter Flock Award

10:30 – National Sale (Rams followed by ewes)

### Deadlines to Remember for Nationals

**May 1** First day side microns can be taken  
**31** Entry and Event Forms are due

**June 1** Data run due for NSIP  
**10** Registrations and complete Catalog information due

## President's Notes

SPRING IS THE NEW WINTER THIS YEAR! WHILE THE MOISTURE IN THE MIDWEST IS WELCOME, I HOPE THE WEATHER HASN'T BEEN DEVASTATING TO YOUR NEWBORN LAMBS, CALVES, AND COLTS. IT HAS ALSO BEEN A STRUGGLE IN MY AREA TO KEEP THE BIRD FLU AWAY FROM OUR DOMESTIC POULTRY FLOCKS.

IN THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND THE ENTRY FORMS AND RULES FOR THE UPCOMING USTSA NATIONAL SHOW AND SALE IN BIG TIMBER MONTANA. I AM ANTICIPATING STRONG NUMBERS AND WILL LOOK FORWARD TO RENEWING CONVERSATIONS AND FRIENDSHIPS. PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS ARE WHAT REALLY DREW MY FAMILY TO THE TARGHEE HERD! IN THIS TIME OF CANCELLING CULTURE, I URGE EVERYONE OF US TO REMEMBER WE ARE ALL HUMAN. USE THE GOLDEN RULE ("DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU") IN DEALING WITH PEOPLE AND SHEEP FOR THAT MATTER.

HERES TO A GREAT REST OF THE SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER.

GOD BLESS THE USA AND USTSA

SINCERELY LEROY PEDERSEN

## Starter Flock Update

The Starter Flock committee is currently reviewing all the submitted applications. This has been an incredible program to bring not only youth, but their families, into the organization. Thank you to all past donors, both with animals and cash contributions. This year, like many others, we're looking for animal donations to possibly be able to award more than one starter flock. Typically the award consists of a ewe lamb, yearling ewe and one mature ewe. We have waived from that lately being heavy on yearling ewes and an additional ram! If you are able to donate, please contact Scott Kilber or the secretary, Mardy Rutledge.

## Pipestone Lamb and Wool Facility Tour, June 7th, 2022

The Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program, dedicated to changing sheep production to make it more profitable for producers, is excited to offer an idea filled sheep facility tour. The Pipestone Lamb and Wool program offers this tour every other year and this will be the seventh tour offered. The purpose of the tour is to give producers an opportunity to see various types of sheep facilities, including the latest innovations in sheep buildings, handling systems, feeding systems and facility layout.

The tour will be a full day, visiting five Lamb and Wool producers with new and remodeled facilities. All of these operations have devised their buildings and feeding systems to reduce labor and enable them to run larger numbers of ewes with the same labor. Tour participants will see lambing barns, hoop barns, remodeled buildings along with various feeding systems designed to reduce labor and minimize feed waste. In addition, this will be an opportunity to hear the philosophy of sheep production from successful sheep producers.

Tour participants are also welcome to attend a working chute display and demonstration on Monday, June 6th beginning at 5:00 p.m. with a demonstration beginning at 6:00 p.m. Multiple sheep equipment handlers are planning to be present and have equipment on display.

Visit our website [www.pipestonesheep.com](http://www.pipestonesheep.com) for registration information and to view additional information about tour stops. Registration forms and additional information about our facility tour are available on our web page or individuals can contact the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Management Program, Minnesota West Community and Technical College, P.O. Box 250; Pipestone, MN 56164, (800) 658-2330, [philip.berg@mnwest.edu](mailto:philip.berg@mnwest.edu) or [ann.kolthoff@mnwest.edu](mailto:ann.kolthoff@mnwest.edu).

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## 2022 United States Targhee Sheep Association Junior Ambassador

Why be an Ambassador? To promote the targhee breed, the USTSA, the USJTSA, to assist these organizations and their youth programs, to mentor starter flock winners, and serve as a positive role model for junior members.

Youth 15 years old as of January 1st, 2022, who is a member of the United States Junior Targhee Association (USJTSA) and who has at least two years of experience raising targhee sheep are eligible.

Responsibilities of an ambassador will be required to perform the following duties at a minimum of three shows and or livestock events during their term. Duties consist of creating a targhee display for public viewing, and interacting with the public to educate and answer questions about targhee sheep. It is up to the individual to design an interesting display and presentation based on their own experience that shows their appreciation for targhee sheep. These are the minimum expectations.

Please see USTSA Junior Ambassador Program Rules for the complete description. Deadline to apply is May 31st. Questions - contact Jessie Taylor at [jamtarghees@gmail.com](mailto:jamtarghees@gmail.com).

## Help Available for Livestock Death Losses Due to Blizzard

April blizzards may bring May flowers, but blizzards can also cause newborn calves and other livestock to become smothered, trampled and die due to the conditions created by adverse weather. These death losses can create an emotional and financial burden for livestock producers.

North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension specialists encourage ranchers to inquire about the Livestock Indemnity Program provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA).

"The Livestock Indemnity Program provides benefits to agricultural producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease or by attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government," says Karl Hoppe, NDSU Extension livestock systems specialist at the Carrington Research Extension Center. "Eligible weather events include earthquake, hail, lightning, tornado, hurricane, flood, blizzard, wildfire, extreme heat, extreme cold, straight-line winds, and eligible winter storms."

The Livestock Indemnity Program applies to the loss of cattle, poultry, swine, sheep, horses, goats, bison and other eligible livestock.

A fact sheet for the livestock indemnity program is available on the FSA website. Search "FSA Livestock Indemnity Program." The fact sheet provides what is eligible livestock, eligible loss conditions, payment rates, how to file for the Livestock Indemnity Program and loss documentation.

"Ranchers must file a notice of loss with FSA within 30 days of when the loss is apparent," says Hoppe. "They also must file an application for payment no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss occurred." The Livestock Indemnity Program requires a deduction for normal mortality and these need to be documented, he adds. These normal mortalities do not have to be weather related. The occurrence of an eligible loss condition in and by itself – does not determine eligibility for eligible livestock losses. The livestock owner or contract grower must provide evidence acceptable to FSA that the eligible cause of loss not only occurred but directly caused loss or death.

LIP payments for owners are based on national payment rates that are 75 percent of the market value of the applicable livestock as determined by the USDA's Secretary of Agriculture.

The normal mortality rates for cattle in North Dakota are:

Calves weighing less than 400 pounds - 4.6%

Calves weighing 400 to 799 pounds - 1.5%

Calves weighing 800 pounds or more - 1%

Adult cows - 1.6%

Adult bulls - 2%

Hoppe advises ranchers to contact their local FSA office for Livestock Indemnity Program details and requirements as soon as possible so the proper records are collected. These may include pictures with time and date of dead livestock.

###

NDSU Extension/Farm Service Agency

## A Refresher of Targhee Standards

There has been discussion lately on Targhee standards, both from members and also brought to the attention of the Board. This is the time when many of us will be evaluating our flock for replacements and/or show entries. It seemed timely to write a "refresher" of Targhee Standards for all of us to follow when making these decisions. There are two references for members to look to in this regard. A Targhee Inspection Manual was last published in May 2014 with the help of Jack McRae, Darrell Deneke, and Dr Jeff Held. This manual was originally written in May 1992 with the input of numerous Targhee breeders, inspectors and university personnel nationwide. A good portion of this manual is also reprinted in the National Directory and Standards last printed in 2018. This article will not attempt to address all points in the manual, but a summary thereof. Members are encouraged to review this manual and, if not available, to contact Mardy for a copy. The directory is re-published every 3 years, so is up for renewal this year.

As stated in the inspection manual, the inspection process should include:

Body and conformation- A visual inspection from a distance so that views from front, side and rear may be secured to give an idea of size, balance, width and depth of body, covering of the head, straightness of legs, conformation and breed type. A Targhee ram should weigh between 200-300 pounds; a ewe 140-200 pounds. It is recommended only the top 1/3 of rams be registered unless there are one or more traits superior enough to benefit the breed. It is important to know what the Targhee breed type is because a Targhee does not equal another breed's strong points, eg. a Rambouillet's wool or a Columbia's size. Targhee Standards should be studied so that we do not try to make the Targhee fit another breed's standards.

What faults are not allowed if an animal is to be registered:

Horns- Not allowed but scurs that are not attached and less than one inch are acceptable if they can be easily removed. A polled depression is desirable.

Jaw Irregularities- An underbite or overbite not allowed. The teeth of the lower jaw should meet the upper jaw about the thickness of a quarter behind the upper jaw {1/4 inch}.

Inverted eyelids- Can cause blindness and are highly inheritable.

Wrinkles on body- No wrinkles on body, hind quarters or back. A few wrinkles on the neck are allowed as long as they do not continue above the neck. Wrinkles are highly inheritable also.

Testicle deformities- Testicles on mature rams must be at least 30 cm and of equal size. A split between the testicles of more than 1/3 is not acceptable. They should be free of lumps, hard spots, or epididymis.

Faces should have wool over the poll and down the forehead, not completely bare heads. There should be a channel from the lower eyelid to the muzzle of at least two fingers width to prevent wool blindness.

Wool- The staple length should be a minimum of 3 inches at 12 months of age. Ewes should produce 10 to 12 pounds of grease wool, rams 16 to 22 pounds of grease wool. Desirable micron is 22.05 to 24.94 micron (60's to 62's spinning count). The coarsest acceptable micron on the side is 26.39. Sheep finer than 22.05 are acceptable but only with sufficient staple length. Fleeces should not vary more than 2.8 microns {2 spinning counts} from side to britch. Fleeces should be dense, uniform, and attractive in character. There should be no off-color wool or belly wool above a line from the flank to the pit of the front leg. No black or brown color in the fleece is tolerated. Pigment on the face, ears, feet or lower legs is tolerated but only if no larger than a quarter. There should be no medulated fibers or kemp in the wool.

As per the directory "The Inspection Policy of the Association for registration is that animals must be examined by owners or official inspectors to meet Targhee standards. Many Targhee breeders have their ewes and rams examined by an official inspector in the belief that an unprejudiced opinion is best. It is recommended that new breeders have their flock examined by an official inspector to aid setting type and wool standards in the flock." There is a list of inspectors in the 2018 directory, which needs to be updated. But any experienced Targhee breeder can help with this process, maybe for a tank of gas and a meal. We encourage members to consider this outside opinion before registering animals.

We all believe in the tremendous attributes of our Targhee sheep. It is our responsibility to uphold the standards and integrity of the breed. Sometimes the decisions can be difficult, but they must be made for the good of the breed and the Association.



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