

Targhee Talk

*The Newsletter of the United States
Targhee Sheep Association*



April 2013

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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

or through the U.S. mail:

Targhee Talk
7009 Via Campanile Ave.
Las Vegas, Nevada
89131

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 to have it added to the meeting agenda.

Cover Photo Courtesy of
Chrystal Sims
Sims Sheep Co.
Evanston, Wyoming

President's Notes

Greetings,

Thank you Mardy for the fine job you've been doing with the Targhee Talk and your secretarial service.

May all please note: Deadlines for Nationals, Targhee Wearables are available online, calendar of events, etc. If you see something needed, changed, or added contact Mardy, she is here to help.

Some personnel thoughts: When winter starts I'm looking for spring and some winter blues set in [BAADDD]. Temperature's cold, warmer, colder, warmer, colder colder, cost of everything up up up, hay and grain high, plus hard to find. First lambing period had 60 ewes, 45 days long, 30 dry ewes, thankfully the ewes were put with a second group and will lamb soon. While hauling 60 ewes home one door not latched equaled two on the road at 55-60 mph not good and lost as far as we knew, but a passer by caught and held them for us and they are still alive [Thank you God]. Lamb prices are not good, whoa is me. Spring is HERE! Thank you LORD birds are singing, temperature is rising, lambs are coming, YA!!

"Spring always follows Winter. And the more we have felt its sorrows and coldness, its melancholy or frustrations the more we are prepared to receive a joy that overflows." In Touch daily devotional, www.intouch.org. I trust we will see Jesus Christ in all new beginnings.

Hope to see you in July.

Your President, Warren Nellis

2013 National Show & Sale - July 18th-20th

Event and Entry Forms are now available for download on the USTSA website (www.ustargheesheep.org). Event and Entry Forms are due back to Jeff Nevens and Mardy, respectively, by **May 31st**. For those entering the 2013 National Show and Sale, please download the Entry Brochure Booklet, also available online. This booklet details all of the information, rules, and testing details consignors will need for a successful show and sale. 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.

Open Show Classes

The following classes will be offered at Nationals this year. For the Pen of 2 ewes, the winning bidder must take both ewes at the bid amount per head.

Ram Classes

Yearling Ram

NSIP Yearling Ram

Fall Ram Lamb

Spring Ram Lamb

Ewe Classes

Yearling Ewe

NSIP Yearling Ewe

Fall Ewe Lamb

Spring Ewe Lamb

Pen of 2 Yearling Ewes

Pen of 2 Ewe Lambs - Fall or Spring

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. **Class winners will receive placing ribbons. There is no need to tie your fleeces. Prepare the fleeces as normal, roll and place in clear plastic bags. Bags will be furnished if necessary. 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.**

Lodging & Recreation Options

The headquarters will be at the Comfort Inn & Suites, 5025 County Hwy V, DeForest, located at the Hwy V exit of Interstate 39/90/94. A block of rooms are available under "U.S. Targhee Sheep Association" for July 17th through July 21st at \$89 per night. Please contact them at 608-846-9100 to make your reservations. Hot continental breakfast, fitness center, swimming pool, lounge & bar and wi-fi are offered at this hotel. It is also pet friendly and offers trailer parking. Visit www.comfortinn.com/hotel-deforest-wisconsin-WI120 for more information.

Concessions

The Arlington Producers 4-H Club will be providing concessions starting Thursday for lunch so there will be food/drink available for purchase throughout the show and sale.

Benefit Auction Items

Consignees and members are encouraged to bring an item(s) for the Benefit Auction on Friday evening July 19th. Proceeds from the auction will help to defray the costs of the 2013 National Show and Sale, Junior Show and Starter Flock program. Members really enjoy the opportunity to bid on things from different parts of the United States. Foodstuffs with local flavor are always a hit. If you would like to bring/donate a door prize item, please bring with you to the banquet. If you are unable to attend but would like to donate an item, contact Mardy to make those arrangements. Thanks in advance for making the Benefit Auction fun and interesting!

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 Mardy at ustargheesheep@gmail.com no later Saturday, June 30th. 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. 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 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 18th through 7:00 p.m. Friday, July 19th. Winners will be announced at the banquet.

Deadlines to Remember for Nationals

- May 1** First day side microns can be taken
30 Data run due for NSIP
31 Entry and Event Forms are due to Mardy and Jeff
- June 15** Registrations and complete Catalog information due
- July 18-20** National Show & Sale

Please note the different mailing address for the entry forms. Email is also an acceptable method of entry.

8111 Foothill Lodge
 Las Vegas, NV 89131

USTSA Show & Sale Schedule of Events

7/17	Wednesday
5:00 pm	Pens available for early arrivals
7/18	Thursday
8:00 am	Official arrival & welcome of members
3:00 pm	Sifting begins - deadline for sheep to be in the barn
	Health, registration, micron, & EBV paperwork to be turned in at this time
	Wool & Photo Contest entries due
	Tour of University
6:00 pm	BBQ
8:30 pm	USTSA Board of Directors Meeting
7/19	Friday
8:00 am	National Junior Show
12:30 pm	Open Show
	Adult Jackpot
3:00 pm	Annual Membership Meeting
7:00 pm	Banquet followed by Benefit Auction
	Jr. Members' Pizza Party
7/20	Saturday
8:00 am	USTSA Board of Directors Meeting
12:00 pm	National Sale (Rams followed by Ewes)

Online Resources for the Sheep Industry

For the past several years, Susan Schoenian, Sheep and Goat Specialist with the University of Maryland Extension, has been conducting webinar short courses for sheep and goat producers. The short courses include 4 to 6 individual webinars and participants can log in from home.

Several topics are available to view including Breeding Better Sheep and Goats, Nutrition and Feeding, Spring Worms and Ewe and Doe Management.

These webinars are available at www.sheepandgoat.com/recordings.html. There are also links to the PowerPoint presentations that accompanied each webinar.

Also available is a one-hour archived webinar, Farm Animal Biosecurity - Manage Disease Risks on the Farm, for livestock producers and extension educators. This course was developed for the cooperative extension system and can be accessed at <https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/p5djh8qzde4/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal>.

Committee Reports

Junior Committee

The following are the new rules approved by the Board per recommendation of the Committee effective for the 2013 National Show and Sale.

Junior Show Classes:

1. Junior exhibitors must be no older than 19 years of age on January 1st in order to be of eligible age to show in the Junior Show Classes of that calendar year.
2. Junior exhibitors need to be official members of the USTSA Junior Association at the time of entry. This membership is already included in the family membership.
3. Junior exhibitors shall show sheep only registered in their name or sheep registered in their name in conjunction with siblings or family/farm name.
4. Junior exhibitors shall follow the entry deadlines of the open show in order to reserve pen space. There are still no entry fees for Junior Show Classes.

Junior Showmanship Classes:

1. A junior showman must meet the age guidelines above.
2. A junior showman will be allowed to exhibit a registered Targhee sheep borrowed from another exhibitor/breeder.

NSIP Committee

The following are the new rules approved by the Board per recommendation of the Committee effective for the 2013 National Show and Sale. A meeting will be held after the show to further evaluate these changes and continue adding/modifying as the NSIP Committee and membership see necessary.

1. Judging will be split 50/50 visual and record. If there is a tie, the sheep with the higher NSIP score will be used as the tie breaker.
2. Data to be submitted for May 30th run and will be judged on the following traits: 60 Day Weaning Wt, Maternal Milk Wt, Yearling Wt, Grease Fleece Wt, Fiber Diameter, Staple Length, and Number of Lamb Born. If an exhibitor is missing any of these traits in their records, it will be placed at the bottom of the rankings for that trait.
3. Judging of the data will be done by the producers the morning of the show using the following point system. Every trait will be given equal rating and all the animals ranked according to their EBV numbers with the "top" for each trait getting a 1 and the bottom getting the highest number. The individual rankings are tallied and the lowest overall score is given a 1, second a 2 and so on. If there is a tie, both animals will receive the lower number.
4. After the live placing is announced by the judge, the scores will be tallied while on lookers come in the ring to view the rams. The resulting placings will then be announced and explained and the top rams will then continue on to the championship round.
5. Provide a full wool report completed within 30 days of the sale.

There will be some lenience on deadlines this first year while everyone is adjusting. For the 2014 National NSIP Classes there will be no tolerance. If deadlines and guidelines are not adhered to, exhibitors will be asked to show in the Open Show Classes instead. The June 15th data run will be acceptable this year but keep in mind the records are also due to Mardy June 15th to be placed in the catalog. If you have any questions/concern, please contact Mardy.

NSIP CORNER



Exporting NSIP Data from Pedigree Wizard (aka. Squeezing Chickens)

Good news! I have finished our taxes just in time for lambing. We have a few lambs on the ground, and I am glad to have completed my contribution to the annual colonoscopy of our great republic. After eating a wonderful lamb supper, I am writing this article and reflecting on how indignant I feel reporting every nuance of our lives to the federal government. However, keeping the same meticulous records for NSIP does not frustrate me nearly so much. (Most likely because I eat lamb regularly.) Electronically sending a tax return off into space and shipping sheep records to Australia are similar experiences. Send a check, push a button, and wait to hear something back.

The tremendous promise of NSIP is that we actually receive something back for our investment. The question is "How do we get information beyond the nicely printed Lambplan reports (pdfs)?" and "Where are the yearling sheep hiding?" Being good Targhee sheep producers, we like to look at our data forward, backward, and inside out. The helpful man standing over my shoulder reading this article says, "You have to squeeze it out – like squeezing a chicken to get the eggs out." Yep. That's what I was thinking.

Fear not, squeezing chickens or sheep is not necessary. I believe those who have used NSIP are most comfortable with Microsoft Excel as the format to review data. This article will explain how to extract data neatly. No chickens required.

The first step is to open Pedigree Wizard. On the index page, in the blue box on the left is a grey button which reads "Reporting & Utilities". Click it. On the next screen are grey buttons across the top. Click on the "Data Files" button. On the right hand side is a box with "Export" at the top. Click on the ".EBVs" button. This will bring up a smaller screen which says "Select" at the top. At this point, you will need to enter some values in the boxes with stars. For breed enter "61". For flock enter your flock number (ie."0020"). Then, enter a year range. I like to catch our oldest sheep. So, determine the range of oldest to youngest sheep in your flock such as 2003 to 2013. Next on the screen is a statement which says "Limit to flagged only". It is defaulted to "No". You have a critical choice at this point. IF you say "NO", every sheep born in your flock listed in the year range specified will appear in a file you are about to export. If you would prefer to see only currently active (or flagged) sheep, read the paragraph below. Otherwise skip down one paragraph. . . Oh look a chicken!

A flagged sheep means the sheep is marked for record export. Flagging your active ewe flock will pare down the number of sheep records exported. This can be a very useful tool. But it requires you close out of this set of screens and return to the main screen. In the blue box click "Breeding & Pedigree Display". With an inventory of your current sheep (Lambplan Reports or barn sheets) handy, click on the hand lens next to the blue box in the upper left hand corner and work your way through the Pick List to find your oldest active ewe. Click on her number. When her data appears on the screen, go to the upper right hand corner and check the flag box. If done properly, a check mark will appear in the box. Repeat the process until you have all of your active sheep flagged, ewes and rams. You will have to do this on an annual basis, removing sheep leaving your flock and adding sheep entering the flock.

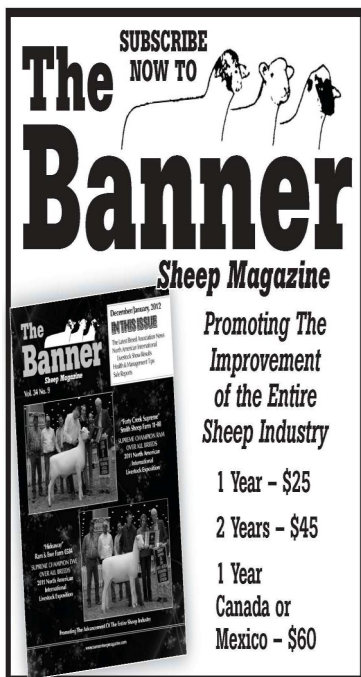
Once having made the decision to "flag" or not, click on the "Next" button. A smaller screen will pop up which says "Save as". I have not had much luck changing the export file name or the destination. It works best to leave everything alone here and click "OK". The next screen will either tell you how many records are being exported or ask if you want to replace the existing file. The correct answer is "Yes". The final screen will give you the file path and tell you how many records have been exported. Click "OK".

At this point, close out of Pedigree Wizard, and open Excel. It is important to open Excel before attempting to locate the file on your hard drive. Once Excel is open go to "File" in the dropdown menu and click on "Open". Locate the hard drive in the drop down menu – generally "Local Disk (C:)". The "Lambplan" folder will be listed. Click it. Double click on the "pw4" folder, and scroll down until finding a folder labeled "Export". Double click on it. At this point only Excel files will show up. Never fear, at the bottom of the screen where it says "Files of Type" click on the drop down arrow. Select "All Files". The file to look for is E_Export. Double click on it, and the (flagged or unflagged sheep) will appear in Excel in a somewhat familiar format. At this point there are a lot of columns which can be deleted. For the truly fearless, you can attempt to do this on your own. For those who are a little faint of heart cleaning up the data will be the topic of the next edition of NSIP Corner. (Hint: Of the 35 million indexes listed, the Western Range Index is the very last one titled "User Index".)

Perhaps we did squeeze a few chickens. Too be honest, I'm too tired to squeeze sheep. But, with a little practice, you can look at data in a comfortable format, and sort animals based on specific traits. Please feel free to contact me with any questions: Tracy Roeder, roeder@3rivers.net or 406-467-2462.

Did you know?
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If you are a facebooker,
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Free Advertising Space
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Do you have a Targhee event you would like to see promoted in 2012? Please contact the USTSA office (ustargheesheep@gmail.com) to list your event for FREE!

2013 USTSA Starter Flock Donations Needed

Greetings from the USTSA Starter Flock Committee -

The 2013 USTSA Starter Flock Program is shaping up to be another good one! Applications are coming in early, so we are expecting a good group of applicants for this year's award. A few breeders have approached us about donations, but we are still in need of animals. If you have a yearling ewe or a brood ewe that you would like to donate to the program, please contact us at 608-592-7842, or AandJNevensLivestock@frontier.com, to make the arrangements.

This program has turned out to be a great asset for our junior membership. If you happened to attend the 2012 National Show & Sale in Columbus, Montana, last July, you would have had the chance to witness first-hand what has been accomplished - over 25 junior members attended and exhibited at the show!!! And many of those entered the sale too!! This is what we had hoped would happen when we started this program 5 years ago, so we thank you in advance for any help you can provide. If there are enough animals donated, we would actually be able to provide two awards for the first time - what an amazing accomplishment that would be!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Wisconsin in July.

~ Jeff & Leslie Nevens - USTSA Starter Flock Chairpersons



Raspberry Glazed Lamb Ribs

Servings: 8

Preparation Time: 15 Minutes

Cook Time: 45 Minutes

Ingredients

- 4 American Lamb spareribs , trimmed
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 cup red wine vinegar
- 1/2 cup white wine or chicken broth
- 1/2 cup raspberry jam, seedless
- 1 green onion, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon water



Directions

Rub salt, pepper and paprika into lamb ribs. In medium saucepan, combine vinegar, white wine or broth, raspberry jam and green onions. Stir over medium heat until jam is melted. Stir together cornstarch and water; add to raspberry mixture and stir sauce until smooth and clear.

Place lamb ribs on rack in roasting pan. Cover and roast in 375°F oven for 30 minutes. Baste with glaze and roast an additional 10 minutes.

To Grill: Grill over medium-hot coals. Cover and grill 4 inches from coals for 30 to 45 minutes or until desired degree of doneness: 145°F for medium-rare, 160°F for medium or 170°F for well. Turn every 10 minutes. Brush on glaze during last 10 minutes of grilling.

Sheep News

Ovine Progressive Pneumonia Susceptibility Gene Testing

With the latest discoveries taking place with genetic markers for OPP susceptibility, there is a company running serum tests for the OPP genome. GeneSeek, based out of Lincoln, Nebraska, can run analyses on your animals for \$10-\$12 per head to determine how susceptible your flock may be to OPP. Go to their website, <http://www.neogen.com/geneseek/>, or contact them at 402-435-0665, for more information.

Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Offers Scholarships

An integral part of the Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-Op youth programming is the awarding of up to two \$1000 college scholarships annually. The scholarships are underwritten through the generous contributions of supporters who each year donate to or purchase items at the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival Auctions. Applications are due by June 15, 2013. A downloadable application form is available at www.wisbc.com.

NLFA Leadership School Reminder

Only one month remains before the May 3 application deadline for this year's Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School. The 2013 school will be held July 14-17 in San Angelo, Texas, under the direction of Frank Craddock, Ph.D., of Texas A&M University.

The application, as well as a tentative agenda, is available at www.nlfa-sheep.org.

California Wool Handling Schools

Two wool handling schools will be held in California in May. Ron Cole, wool education coordinator for the American Sheep Industry Association, will be leading the courses.

Wool science 101, factors determining wool value, basics of wool handling and wool quality improvement programs are topics that will be covered on the first day of the training. The second day provides hands-on activities including shearing site set-up, fleece preparation, classing skirting and fleece comparisons. A variety of sheep will be shorn on this day to give participants hands-on experience with many different types of fleeces.

Dan Macon of Flying Mule Farm is hosting the May 11-12 class in Auburn, Calif. To register for this session, contact Dan at flyingmule@wavecable.com. The May 25-26 will be held in Eureka, Calif., and additional information can be obtained by contacting Jill Hackett at 707-845-0752 or jill@fermdalefarms.com.

Ranchers Develop Methodology to Respond to Drought

Like a general mapping out his strategy before going into battle, a rancher must be prepared to respond effectively to drought, one of the biggest threats to Great Plains ranchers. With the input of ranchers and advisers, a drought-planning methodology has been created to encourage more ranchers to develop advance plans.

Drought-planning concepts are examined in the current issue of the journal *Rangelands*. Noting that "a strategic objective of every ranch should be to strive for drought resilience," the National Drought Mitigation Center interviewed and brought together ranchers and advisers to develop this planning methodology.

The many aspects of a drought plan include how a ranch operation will maintain natural resources, production, financial health, customer relations and lifestyle. However, drought planning is essentially part of a larger vision for a ranch. This vision might include the importance of native grass, livestock, wildlife and people in its overall goals.

The article is available in the February 2013 issue of *Rangelands* at <http://srnjournals.org/toc/rala/35/1>.



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National Lamb Feeders Letter to the Sheep Industry

The NLFA Board feels an educational letter needs to be put out to the sheep industry that, in their opinion, will explain what has happened to our industry, marketwise, in the last couple of years. In 2011 there was a world shortage of sheep meat – Therefore, a shortage of wool, sheepskins and meat. This shortage was partially caused by a rebuilding of the Australian flock and a terrible storm that killed upwards of a million lambs in New Zealand. The US numbers had also been reduced which exacerbated the lambs available for harvest. We saw record wool prices, sheepskin prices and lamb meat and sheep meat prices.

As we moved into 2012, we saw major drought from California through the mountain states into the corn belt creating shortages of pasture, corn, hay and soybeans. Therefore, record high prices. In June, corn went from \$5.50/bu to almost \$8.00/bu. in 30 days. We also saw record fuel, fertilizer and food prices. A downturn in the European economy and slow recovery of the US economy, affected the demand for high end pelts for fashion garments, worldwide. The major world tanners were choking on a very expensive skin inventory. In June, the Chinese pulled out of the Australian skin market. The US skin market collapsed from a \$30 + skin to a minus \$12 skin. We all know that lambs in 2011 lambs were bringing anywhere from \$1.50 - \$2.30, and today from \$.70 - \$1.10.

Many producers are asking WHY? Most lamb feeders know why and definitely lamb processors know why. The facts are, that lamb feeders and processors took tremendous losses on livestock inventories as well as cold storage inventories. The livestock losses have been as high as \$200/hd for lambs. The cold storage inventory, depending on accounting procedures has either been written down and the losses taken, or the losses are yet to be recognized in the future.

Why were the losses so high? Most of the plants could not get the lambs harvested fast enough, because they were trying to recapture the record high cost of goods and tried to pass the cost on to their customers. Because the cost of gain was higher than the live market. The pelt market fell apart.

Why did the processor hold the market so long at the level they did? Because they could. Remember, there are only five major plants in the US and really only two that sell carcass lamb. The buyers of carcass lamb must be careful when supply is short, or they may not receive what they need. Therefore, it is necessary to pay the price the packer demands, in order to supply the market. Also, the processor was trying to recapture losses due to paying too much for the livestock. During 2011, we had record live prices, due to lack of adequate supply and the processor trying to meet volume demands and customer needs. The result being sales fell away and most consumers could not afford the lamb meat. Sale volumes at wholesale, dropped about 20%. Average lamb carcass weights went to record highs. We are slowly coming out of this terrible situation. The industry is at a new price level. Carcass weights are coming down and the volume of sales is increasing.

We hope that the sales people and CEO's at the plant level have learned a real lesson. You can price lamb and lamb cuts too high. We also know that lamb feeders can pay too much for feeder lambs and that will affect how and if they are in the market the year after a wreck like we had in 2012.

Let's look at what the industry has done for itself since the last major wreck in 2006 as well as the previous wreck in 2001. There has been a crop insurance program put into place, LRP Lamb, thanks to years of work by the ASI. LRP Lamb has put tens of millions of dollars back into the industry. A grower or feeder is able to help manage risk through this program. The Wool Superwash system is up and running, creating the availability of a washable wool product here in the US. The makers of garments do not have to source this product in Europe, but instead can find it here. Our American Military will use this wool in clothing for its practicality and safety. Electronic grading is sitting on the shelf – ready to go. We feel if it had been in place a year ago, it could have potentially helped avoid the disaster we have all faced. Electronic grading evaluates carcasses in real time. It can also provide the retail value of each carcass. This technology can be used to improve the efficiency of our industry by recognizing cutability and yield to retail sales. Electronic grading is being used in Europe and in the beef and pork industries here in the US.

Why not lamb? Certification of Ultrasound Technicians developed with the help of Iowa State and North Dakota State. These certification schools prepare technicians to be able to determine backfat and rib eye area in the live animal with great accuracy. The American Lamb Board has done a remarkable job given available resources and record meat prices in keeping American lamb in the news and in front of the American consumer. We must recognize the USDA for their purchases of American Lamb over the last several years. This has helped to alleviate hunger in the US, but also creates additional demand for our product. The lamb processor since 2006, has been discounting heavy and over fat carcasses. There has been a price spread between these light and heavy carcasses. They have continued to invest heavily in plant and equipment improvements to stay up with the demands of their customers and government agencies. "2012 was not done on purpose. It has been a real learning experience for everyone in our industry"

What can we do as an industry, to make a difference? The NLFA Board understands that a New Study has been approved. We wish the participants a positive result in discovering how the industry can improve itself. Producers can become more efficient – through increased lamb percentages, (2+2+2) is still an excellent program - through genetics, by selecting terminal sire rams with EPD's or at least known rib eye measurements. The American Lamb Board could co-op with processors to bring electronic grading into practice. Feeders could develop a strong relationship with a processor, rather than harpooning him when he is short of supply – and, vice a versa – the processor harpooning the feeder when he is long on supply. Our industry is very small and fragile. All segments need to be profitable for the sheep industry to be sustainable. These are the thoughts and ideas of the NLFA Board for your consideration.

Thank you for your time.

American Sheep Industry Convention

The American Sheep Industry Convention was held in San Antonio, Texas on January 22-26. Montana was very well represented at the convention with at least one producer from our state serving on almost every committee at the convention.

The main topic on everyone's mind was what happened to the lamb market in 2012. I attended several sessions dealing with this issue and cannot say that anyone had a definitive answer. Most sessions included packers, feeders and producers. The main consensus is that lamb prices got too high in 2011 and caused demand destruction, this slowed the lambs coming out of the feedlot and led to an increase in carcass weights and a decrease in the quality of product. This caused a build-up of supply of a poor quality product on a declining market. Imports stayed about the same mostly through ASI's efforts with the Tri-Lamb meetings. Reading the international news and talking to people from overseas, they saw roughly the same price declines and conditions we experienced.

The drought covering most of the continental United States has not helped the situation. It has been driving up the price of hay, pasture rentals, corn and just about everything else. Costs of gains on feedlot lambs at one point were around \$1.60 per pound of gain and feeders were losing upwards of \$200 per lamb. These dry conditions compounded the problems in the Imperial Valley. Several years ago upwards of 300,000 lambs were wintered there and moved to the feedlots as needed. The City of Los Angeles is now renting or buying huge amounts of water from the project and idling many 1,000's of acres. The rules governing lettuce production don't allow lettuce to be raised on fields grazed by livestock for 5 years due to the E coli scare. These conditions now mean that only about 80,000 lambs are wintered in the Imperial Valley. With ranchers all over the west facing short feed conditions and no place to hold their lambs, the only option left was the feedlot. By not being able to extend our lamb supply over several months, we now have too much lamb hitting the market at the same time. This is an issue that will have to be addressed for the future.

The main thing our industry need right now are timely spring snows and rains. It would sure solve a number of problems so we could work on the others we can control.

~ Brent Roeder, Montana Wool Growers

Montana Hosting Sheep Symposium

Integrating Advanced Concepts into Traditional Practices sheep symposium will be held at the Museum of the Rockies on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman, Mont., on June 19. All producers are encouraged to attend this informative and timely symposium.

A list of distinguished speakers includes Rodney Kott, Ph.D., Impact of Research on the Sheep Industry; David Anderson, Ph.D., The U.S. Lamb Market; Rebecca Cockrum, Ph.D., Applying Genomic Selection Technology to the Sheep Industry; Thomas Craig, DVM, Sheep Parasites: Problems, Resistance, New Products and Practices for Parasite Control; Rachel Frost, Ph.D., Alternative Grazing Strategies for Industry Diversification and Rangeland Improvement; Keith Inskip, Factors Related to the Ewe That Affect Prolificacy in Sheep; Peter Orwick, ASI Initiatives for Industry Growth; Kim Vonnahme, Ph.D., Maternal Environment Impacts Fetal and Offspring Outcomes in Sheep; John Walker, Ph.D., Sheep, Black Swans and the Future of Agriculture; and Travis Whitney, Ph.D., Alternative Feeds: For a Temporary Crisis or Permanent Problem.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Patrick Hatfield at 406-994-7952 or hatfield@montana.edu.

Sheep Producers Cautioned to Watch for Polio

Polio is a disease that can become a problem in some sheep flocks, NDSU Extension Service sheep specialist, Reid Redden, warns.

It is characterized by the death of brain cells and is different from human polio, according to Neil Dyer, director of NDSU's Veterinary Diagnostic Lab.

Rising feed costs have many livestock producers, including shepherds, looking for less-expensive alternatives to traditional feedstuffs. However, some of these changes may result in animal health problems if diets are not balanced adequately for vitamins and minerals.

The primary cause of polio in sheep is thiamine deficiency, or a disturbance in how the body uses thiamine. Thiamine (vitamin B1) is produced naturally in the rumen of sheep on a normal diet.

Feeding high-grain diets to ruminants can predispose them to polio because it slows thiamine production in the rumen and increases mechanisms that degrade thiamine produced in the rumen.

Other causes of polio in sheep include elevated levels of sulfur in the diet or sulfates in the drinking water and eating plants such as bracken fern and horse tail that contain enzymes that can cause polio.

Polio is most often seen in lambs from a few weeks to 6 months old; however, it can affect sheep of any age.

The complete story is available at www.northernag.net.

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Targhee Tails & Trails



USTSA's Newest Member

The USTSA would like to welcome Levi Paul Williams born February 1st, weighing 8 lbs. 15 oz. and 21 1/2 in. long. Proud parents Bridget and Nathan Williams noted he's looking forward to showing Targhees with his brothers! Congratulations Bridget!

2013 Montana FFA Star Greenhand is a Targhee Producer

Ben Roeder of Greenfield representing Choteau High School was recently named the 2013 Montana Star Greenhand at the State FFA Convention. Ben competed successfully against seven other District Star Greenhands in Creed Speaking, an exam, an interview, and review of his Supervised Agriculture Experiences (SAEs). For Ben's SAEs he chose to enter his registered flock of Targhee sheep sighting the use of NSIP records to aid in the production and sale of his first ram at the 2012 Montana Ram Sale. The second part of Ben's SAEs is the development of a sheep shearing enterprise through which he has become a certified American Sheep Industry shearer.



During his interview, Ben recounted growing up in the sheep industry, and noted the tremendous support he has received from his family, Chase & Emily Hibbard of Sieben Live Stock Company and John & Carolyn Green of Green Ranch Targhees. He also noted the grant through the ASI Sheep Improvement Center written by Wade Kopren and Lisa Surber to continue his shearing education and the gifting of shearing equipment.

Ben is the son of Brent and Tracie Roeder and grandson of Billy and Betty Roeder of Fredericksburg, Texas, and Douglas and Gloria Roark of Missoula, Montana.

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Upcoming Calendar of Events

April	
1-5	Washington Beginner Shearing School, Moses Lake, WA (Sarah Smith 509-754-2011 or smithsm@wsu.edu)
18-21	34th Annual Shephard's Extravaganza, Puyallop, WA (www.shepherds-extravaganza.com)
19-21	Minnesota Shearing School, Hutchinson, MN (Doug Rathke 320-587-6094 or lambshop@hutchtel.net)
29	Roswell Wool Sale, Roswell, NM (Mike Corn 575-622-3360 or mikecorn@roswellwool.com)
May	
3-5	Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, Fredrick, MD
11-12	New Hampshire Sheep & Wool Festival, Deerfield, NH (www.nhswga.org)
11-12	California Wool Handling School, Auburn, California (Jill Hackett at 707-845-0752 or jill@ferndalefarms.com)
June	
4	Roswell Wool Sale, Roswell, NM (Mike Corn 575-622-3360 or mikecorn@roswellwool.com)
8-9	9th Annual Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival
21-23	Midwest Fiber & Folk Art Fair, Grayslake, IL (www.fiberandfolk.com)

Eastern & Mid-Western State Fairs

Ohio State Fair

Columbus, Ohio
July 24 - August 4, 2013
www.ohiostatefair.com or
888-OHO-EXPO

Wisconsin State Fair

West Allis, Wisconsin
August 1-11, 2013
www.wistatefair.com or
800-884-FAIR

Nebraska State Fair

Grand Island, Nebraska
August 23- September 2, 2013
www.statefair.org or
308-382-1620

South Dakota State Fair

Huron, South Dakota
August 29 - September 2, 2013
www.sdstatefair.com or
800-529-0900

Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival

Jefferson, Wisconsin
September 6-8, 2013
www.wisconsinssheepandwool
festival.com or
920-674-7148

Mid-Western & Western Sales

Center of the Nation NSIP Sale

Spencer, Iowa
July 27, 2013
www.nsip.org or
wclones@fmctc.com

Choteau Sheep Expo

Choteau, Montana
September 7, 2013
www.choteausheepexpo.com
or 406-859-3890

Wyoming Ram Sale

Douglas, Wyoming
September 10, 2013
dianelc@wyowool.org or
307-265-5250

Montana Ram Sale

Miles City, Montana
September 12, 2013
www.mtsheep.org or
mwga@mtsheep.org
406-557-6266

Hettinger Ram Sale

Hettinger, North Dakota
TBD September 2013
Lyle Warner 701-255-1183

U.S. Sheep Experiment Station Ram Sale

Online Sale
TBD, August 2013
aeddins@uidaho.edu or
208-374-5364

Newell Ram Sale

Newell, South Dakota
September 19-20, 2013
www.newellramsale.com or
605-490-7413

Utah Ram Sale

Spanish Fork, Utah
TBD October 2013
www.utahwoolgrowers.com
or 801-960-2610

Will Your State Be Represented in D.C.?

Members of the ASI Legislative Action Council, along with member-state sheep assoc. leaders, will be in Washington, D.C., May 6-8.

The purpose of the visit is to bring the message of the sheep industry to the nation's capitol and coordinate updates on wool, lamb, trade, sheep disease and protection programs with U.S. Dept. of Ag. Visits with federal policy makers regarding legislation and meetings with ag and land mgmt agencies about programs that affect the business of sheep producers in this country are being planned.

Producers interested in participating should contact their state association or Peter Orwick at porwick@sheepusa.org by April 15.

Indianapolis Neighborhood Employs Sheep

This is ingenious or ridiculous, or both. The Green Shepherd Project has three parts:

1. Employ sheep to maintain unkept lawns at Indy's many vacant houses,
2. to hire a homeless veteran to tend the sheep to move them from yard to yard, keep them safe from stray dogs, etc, and
3. the air we breathe would benefit because gas-powered lawn mowing gives off more funk than you'd think

Read the entire story at www.thestarpress.com/article/20130313/NEWS06/130313008.

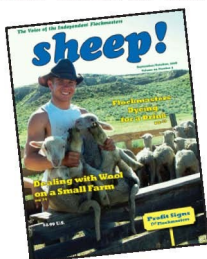
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