

Targhee Talk

*The Newsletter of the United States
Targhee Sheep Association*



January 2016

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See your sheep in print!

Targhee Talk submissions for the April Edition are due March 15th.

Please send your great Targhee stories, pictures, and newsworthy items to

Ustargheesheep@gmail.com

or through the U.S. mail:

Targhee Talk
8912 Saddle Red Ave
Las Vegas, Nevada
89143

2016 USTSA Starter Flock Program

The U.S. Targhee Sheep Association will again be offering a free registered Targhee Starter flock to a deserving youth at the 2016 USTSA National Show & Sale. The winner must be present to receive the flock and will be awarded one (1) ewe lamb, one (1) yearling ewe, and one (1) brood ewe donated by members of the USTSA. Each animal will be a USTSA registered animal, and at least QR in Scrapie Codon 171 genotype. The winner will also receive a \$150 credit for use toward purchase of additional animals at the National sale courtesy of the USTSA.

Applications, due April 1st, are now available to download at www.ustargheesheep.org or by contacting Mardy Rutledge at the USTSA office (ustargheesheep@gmail.com or 702-292-5715). Any young person, ages 9-17, as of January 1, 2016, may apply. Applicants should possess a keen interest in the U.S. sheep industry, commitment to raising Targhee sheep over time, a firm belief in the abilities of the breed, and not currently own any Targhees. Applicants must demonstrate proof of care, facilities, and transportation. Aside from receiving the flock of sheep, the winning youth, will be paired with a Targhee breeder living near them who will act as a mentor.

2015 was the second year we received an outpouring of donations and was able to award two starter flocks. This, however, is contingent upon receiving enough donations. If you have the means and would like to donate, either a ewe or monetarily, please contact Jeff Nevens at 608-592-7842 or at aandjnevenslivestock@frontier.com.

Wisconsin Junior Targhee Sheep Association Announces 2016 Starter Flock Giveaway.

The Wisconsin Junior Targhee Sheep Association will be giving away a starter flock of three Targhee ewes in 2016 to a lucky Wisconsin youth. Applicants must be aged 12 to 17 as of January 1, 2016, must be a resident of Wisconsin, and must not currently raise Targhee sheep. The winner must also be eligible and agree to exhibit their animals at both the 2015 Wisconsin State Fair open sheep show and Wisconsin Junior State Fair sheep show. The winner will receive a combination of ewe lambs, yearling ewes and/or brood ewes, and take ownership of the animals before any 2016 State Fair ownership deadlines.

Applications are available on the website as well and due April 1st. Please contact Jeff Nevens at 608-592-7842 or at aandjnevenslivestock@frontier.com for any information.

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Attention Targhee Youth! An Important Opportunity Awaits You...

The United States Targhee Sheep Association is pleased to announce the launch of the Junior Targhee Ambassador Program. The purpose of this program is to promote the Targhee sheep breed, the USTSA/USJTSA organizations and their programs.

WHO: A USJTSA member 16 years as of January 1st, 2016, with at least two years of experience raising Targhee sheep. One national ambassador will be chosen.***

WHAT: Represent the Targhee breed at your local, state and national livestock shows by performing the required activities and documenting them via the media of your choice. If you are chosen for the ambassador position and your project portfolio goes above and beyond the official requirements you are then eligible to receive a scholarship from the USTSA!!!

WHEN: Ambassador's term is June 1st of 2016 through June 1st of 2017.

HOW: Send required application materials to the board of directors via Leslie Nevens USJTSA Advisor/ Ambassador Program Advisor by February 29th, 2016

***It is hoped that many juniors will apply for this opportunity. Although only one ambassador will be chosen this year, if we receive many applications we can expand the number of ambassadors for next year's program. If you are not selected this year you may apply again next year.

TO APPLY: Please visit the official USTSA website at www.ustargheesheep.org.

2016 National Show & Sale

The Wisconsin Targhee Association is excited to be hosting the 2016 USTSA National Show and Sale next July at the Arlington Public Events Center, Arlington, WI. The dates of the event will be Thursday, July 14th through Saturday, July 16th.

Accommodations at Nationals

Blocks of rooms from Tuesday night, July 12th, through Saturday night, July 16th, have been set up at 2 hotels in the area. It is advised that if you are not staying through any part of the weekend, to also ask for the non-block rate – it may be less expensive to go that way. These blocks and rates are held until June 12th at both hotels.

Comfort Inn & Suites, Madison North – 5025 County Hwy V, De Forest, WI, 53532. Located at intersection of County Road V and Interstate 39/90/94. Direct phone: (608)-846-9100. Contract rate of \$109/night. Mostly double queen rooms, but there are a few king rooms available at same rate. Pet friendly, indoor pool, and empty trailer parking allowed.

Quality Inn & Suites – W9250 Prospect Drive, Lodi, WI, 53555. Located at the intersection of Highway 60 and Interstate 39/90/94. Direct phone: (608)-592-1449. Contract rate of \$99.99/night. Mostly double queen rooms, but some king rooms available at same rate. Pet friendly, indoor pool, and empty trailer parking allowed.

More information regarding specific items will be made available in later editions of Targhee Talk. We hope everyone is looking forward to coming to Wisconsin in 2016!

USTSA Show & Sale Schedule of Events

7/13	Wednesday
5:00 pm	Pens available for early arrivals
7/14	Thursday
10:00 am	Sifting begins - deadline for sheep to be in the barn Health, registration, micron, & EBV paperwork to be turned in at this time
12:00 pm	Wool & Photo Contest entries due
3:00 pm	National Junior Show, immediately followed by the Youth Futurity
5:30 pm	Adult Jackpot
6:00 pm	Dinner
8:30 pm	USTSA Board of Directors Mtg
7/15	Friday
10:00 am	Open Show
12:00 pm	Wool Show
2:00 pm	Annual Membership Meeting
3:30 pm	Annual Meeting And Junior Assoc. Annual Meeting
6:30 pm	USTSA Social
7:00 pm	Banquet followed by Benefit Auction
7/16	Saturday
12:00 pm	National Sale (Rams followed by Ewes)

ATTENTION USTSA COMMITTEES

Reminder any changes you would like made for the 2016 Nationals need to be submitted to the Board by April 1st for approval to be included in all 2016 National publications going out the end of April.

All Committees are open to volunteers. There is still time to join if you would like to, contact Mardy.

Current committees are:

Show and Sale
NSIP
Junior Show
Youth Futurity

President's Notes

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families! Hoping that the season brought you peace and joy! Unfortunately, I can only imagine how difficult it was for one of our junior association members, Max Lane. His father, Calvin, suddenly passed away before Christmas. Our hearts and prayers go out to you and your family, Max.

With the new year comes other new things for the USTSA. The junior committee has been working diligently on the Ambassador Program, and will be rolling it out early this year. It will provide an opportunity for a junior member to make an impact on the growing interest in the Targhee breed; and in turn, the program will be making an investment in the future of that junior member. Please look at the junior committee report for more details on this exciting new program. For some, spring lambing may be in full force by the time this message is published. What a great time of year to look at the future of your flock! Do you like where it's trending? Are there aspects that you would like to improve? Even if your flock isn't enrolled in NSIP, you can still benefit from those who are. Looking at individual traits of animals you may be considering adding to your flock that are enrolled in NSIP can help guide your genetic choices. If you have questions, please ask any of the USTSA members who may also be involved with NSIP. We are excited that the 2016 nationals will be coming back to Wisconsin this summer. Plans are underway, and we will be updating the membership as we get closer. If you have suggestions, please bring it up with any Wisconsin breeder, or any board member. We want to make this an event that our members and buyers enjoy and want to attend!

Many thanks to all of you who make the USTSA such a great organization!

Your President,
Jeff Nevens



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2015 In Review from ASI

ASI Celebrates 150th Anniversary - 2015 was dedicated to the observation of the sheep industry being the oldest livestock association in the United States. We owe a great debt of gratitude to those producers who saw a need and a purpose to organize as the National Wool Growers in 1865. Industry work is still done collectively to promote the virtues, policy and profitability to each of our farms and ranches.

H-2A Shepherd Special Provisions - The Department of Labor proposed changes to the H-2A special procedures for shepherding. Adoption of one of the wage methodologies proposed by the sheep industry updates the salary while retaining most of the provisions that have been in place for decades that allow our industry to use this important program.

Scrapie Rule - The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service proposed changes to the scrapie rule amending changes to the risk groups, increasing the use of genetic testing, reducing movement restrictions and modifying recordkeeping requirements. Comments were due by Dec. 9 and the industry now waits for the release of the final rule.

Domestic and Bighorn Interaction - Legislation signed into law in December 2015 directs the Forest Service to identify allotments suitable for sheep grazing, to engage with the Agricultural Research Service to ensure the best scientific understanding of where disease transmission occurs and to identify and implement actions to resolve issues on allotments with a high risk of disease transmission.

Let's Grow Funds Projects - In two rounds of grant reviews, the Let's Grow Committee awarded 26 grants infusing more than \$450,000 into the industry to improve productivity efficiencies.

Lamb Retains COOL - Country of Origin Labeling was preserved for the U.S. lamb industry while it was repealed for beef and pork. ASI policy has long supported the identification of lamb.

MPR Reauthorized - Mandatory Price Reporting was reauthorized through 2020. Proposed changes to the program will result in a greater volume of information being available to lamb producers to utilize in making their selling decisions.

Section 32 Lamb Buys - The Agricultural Marketing Service issues three separate lamb buys resulting in the movement of 1.4 million pounds of lamb leg, shank and shoulder and leg roasts valued at more than \$7.5 million. These purchases are key to counter the influx of cheap product moving into our market because of the strength of the U.S. dollar and to supporting lamb prices at the farm and ranch gate.

USSES Stays Open in 2015 - Language was included in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill to reject the President's budget request regarding the termination of research programs, redirection of research programs or closure of research locations, to include the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station.

ASI Market App Gets Updates - Two calculators were added to the ASI Market App - a wool calculator and a gestation calculator. In addition, a breakeven calculator, additional Eastern lamb markets, direct links to auction barns and hay reports were added. The calculators are available for both android and iPhone users and can be downloaded through your App Store by searching for ASI Market News.

Sheep and Lamb Inventory - The sheep and lamb inventory as of Jan. 1, 2015, increased by 1 percent from the same time in 2014.

LRP-Lamb Insurance - The sale of the industries Livestock Risk Protection-Lamb insurance resumed on May 4 providing producers protection against unexpected declines in market prices.

Court Determined Department of Labor Violated Law -- The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in June invalidated Department of Labor (DOL) rules that exempt herder employers from key labor protections, including wage-and-hour rules and requirements for workers' housing conditions. In October, the DOL was told it must engage in the notice-and-comment rulemaking process to set wage and housing requirements for cattle, sheep and goat herders under the H-2A visa program, but it does not have to do so on an expedited basis. These special procedures are critical to the operation of the H-2A herder program.

President

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**Targhee
Wearables!!**

USTSA's line of clothing and accessories are available for purchase on USTSA website's homepage.

If you don't find the size or color you're looking for, please contact Mardy for ordering.

Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program Lambing Course

Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program Lambing Time Short Course and Bus Tour, February 5th and 6th 2016

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the 2016 Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program Lambing Time Short Course and Bus Tour which will be held on February 5th and 6th in Pipestone. We have an excellent program planned and we will be touring two outstanding sheep operation. The program starts with an optional Friday afternoon hands on computer record keeping session using Microsoft Excel and Shearwell Data FarmWorks software program. Friday evening and Saturday morning sessions will cover lambing time management and health topics. Saturday afternoon will be spent touring and viewing two successful sheep operation.

Topics include: Practical OPP Reduction Plan, Responsible Antibiotic Use, Late Gestation Management, Making Lambing Time Easier, Identifying and Treating Common Ewe and Lamb concerns, and Getting Lambs off to a Good Start

The purpose of this short course and bus tour is to help producers recognize and effectively deal with common lambing time problems. We are fortunate to have highly qualified sheep veterinarians on the program to share their thought on common lamb and ewe health problems. Touring two top area sheep operation in the afternoon will provide an opportunity for individuals to see firsthand how other sheep producers recognize and deal with lambing time problems. You will see how they lay out their lambing barn, set up creep pens, graft lambs, dock, vaccinate, feed and management of their lambs and ewes. The farm demonstration session will provide an excellent learning opportunity.

For those who are unable to attend our short course and bus tour please consider our web based Lambing Time Management Series which consists of 6 recorded topics that can be view through an Internet connection in the comfort of your home or office.

For more information visit our web page www.pipestonesheep.com or contact Jodi Christensen, jodi.christensen@mnwest.edu (507) 825-6806.

2016 ASI Convention Updates

Convention App - The 2016 ASI Convention App is 'live.' The app can be downloaded for free by going to your App Store and searching for Whova - Networking at Events. After downloading, sign up on Whova with the email address that you used to register for the convention and you can get access to the event schedule, look at the agendas and see the list of speakers. The attendee list is available, top sponsors are highlighted and the hotel information is accessible. Get the most current information by downloading the Convention App!

East Coast Storm - Attendees who might be impacted by the winter storm that is predicted to hit the eastern part of the United States are reminded to contact the hotel if there are any changes to your arrival date to alleviate any undue charges. To reach the Scottsdale Plaza Resort, call 480-948-5000. If you are staying at the Scottsdale Resort and Athletic Club, call 480-344-0600. Reservations must be changed or cancelled 48 hours prior to arrival.

Weather - The weather app says Scottsdale will have sunny skies next week with daytime temperatures in the 70's, dipping into the 40's over night. Perfect temperatures to wear your light wool jackets and sweaters!

Upcoming Calendar of Events

January	
9-11	San Angelo Shearing School and Certified Wool Classing School - reid.redden@ag.tamu.edu
27-30	ASI Annual Convention. Scottsdale, AZ
February	
4	Black Hills Stock Show, National Sheep Shearing Contest and Sheep Dog Trials at James Kjerstad Event Center on the Central State Fairgrounds, Rapid City, South Dakota. Contact Dave Ollila at David.Ollila@sdstate.edu
5-6	Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program Lambing Time Short Course and Bus Tour. Contact Jodi Christensen, jodi.christensen@mnwest.edu, (507) 825-6806.
17-19	Certified Level I Wool Classing School at the Barnhart Ranch in Ellensburg, Washington. For more information, contact Kittitas County Sheep Producers at 509-968-3538
March	
5	Lambing on Pasture Field Day in Auburn, Calif. The workshops cater to new and aspiring sheep producers and are designed to help students gain the knowledge necessary to operate a small-scale commercial sheep flock. Visit ucanr.org/foothillfarming for more information and a list of other upcoming workshops.
12	Arlington Sheep Days: Public Events Facility, UW-Madison Arlington Agricultural Research Station, Arlington, WI. Contact Jill Alf, 608 868-2505, wisbc@centurytel.net or www.wisbc.com
19-21	Montana State Wool Harvesting School - MSU Red Bluff Research Station - sharon.henderson@montana.edu or 406-994-3415
April	
6-10	Washington Beginner Shearing School, Moses Lake, WA (Sarah Smith 509-754-2011 or smithsm@wsu.edu)
16-19	Annual Shephard's Extravaganza, Puyallop, WA (www.shepherds-extravaganza.com)
May	
7-8	Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, Fredrick, MD (www.sheepandwool.org)
28-29	May 28 & 29, 2016, Great Lakes Fiber Show, Wayne County Fairgrounds, 199 Vanover St., Wooster, OH, Sat.10-5 & Sun.10-4, Free admission. Contact 330-264-9665, info@greatlakesfibershow.com or www.greatlakesfibershow.com
11-12	California Wool Handling School, Auburn, California (Jill Hackett at 707-845-0752 or jill@ferndalefarms.com)

2016 Shearing Schools

March 3-5, 2016
Missouri shearing school, Jefferson City, MO. Call 573-681-5321 or cliffordra-thertc@lincoln.edu

March 22-23, 2016
University of Kentucky Beginning Shearing School Versailles, KY
Contact: Don Ely; 859-257-2717 or dely@uky.edu

April 4-8, 2016
Washington State Beginning Shearing School Moses Lake, WA
Contact: Sarah Smith; 509-754-2011; smithsm@wsu.edu

April 9, 2015
Washington State Advanced Shearing School Moses Lake, WA
Contact: Sarah Smith; 509-754-2011; smithsm@wsu.edu

April 15-16, 2016
Maine Two-Blade Shearing School New Gloucester, ME
Contact: Richard Brzozowski; 207-781-6099; richard.brzozowski@maine.edu

May TBD, 2016
California Beginner Shearing School Hopland, CA
Contact: cemendocino.ucanr.edu/sheep_shearing_school



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