

Targhee Talk

*The Newsletter of the United States
Targhee Sheep Association*



June 2013

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See your sheep in print!

Targhee Talk Submissions for the October Edition are due October 1st.

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

ustargheesheep@gmail.com

or through the U.S. mail:

Targhee Talk

Thank You USTSA Starter Flock Donors:

Deneke Family Targhees
Duane & Janet Deneke

CJR Farms
Warren & Judith Nellis

Cover Photo Courtesy of
Jeff & Leslie Nevens
Lodi, Wisconsin

And the 2013 USTSA Starter Flock Winner is . . .
Anna Hinchley - Cambridge, Wisconsin
 Daughter of Duane and Tina Hinchley



The USTSA is proud to introduce our 2013 Starter Flock Winner, Anna Hinchley, of Cambridge, Wisconsin. Anna is a 15-year-old freshman who lives with her parents, Tina and Duane, and her twin sister, Catherine, on a 100 head Holstein dairy farm in south-central Wisconsin.

Anna has been exhibiting animals through 4-H and FFA since she was in first grade (rabbits, chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, dairy goats, swine and dairy cattle), but has never shown sheep. They do own and breed a few Corriedale/Friesian crosses and she has shown their fleeces at the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival (winning Best of Show in 2011), but has never been in the sheep show ring. She has taken wool working classes run by a local artist, and has attended workshops on raising sheep.

Her family conducts dairy tours on their farms, and Anna can't wait to tell their guests and visitors about the Targhee breed. Besides milking, caring for calves, lambing, and helping with harvest, she also manages her own business raising and selling broiler chickens, and has started a honeybee hive.

Please join us in welcoming Anna and her family to the USTSA!

Update from 2012 Starter Flock Winner - Max Lane

"I think that I had a good year lambing and taking care of all of my ewes. After the sale, I had some money left so I bought six additional ewes from Montana State University. I put my ram in with my ewes in mid August. All of the ewes lambbed well, however I did lose a couple. All the lambs are looking good now. At the moment, they are out in the pasture enjoying the green grass. I have decided to take the ewe which was donated by Caleb Petersen to my 4H fair as a breeding project. So overall I did have a few troubles, but mostly I had a lot of fun taking care of my ewes and lambs."



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2013 Wisconsin Junior Targhee Sheep Association Starter Flock Winner...

Amber Borchardt - Watertown, Wisconsin

The WJ TSA is proud to announce their 2013 Starter Flock winner – Amber Borchardt of Watertown, Wisconsin. Amber is a senior at Watertown High School, and is an active leader in both the Watertown FFA, and the Jefferson County Lucky Clovers 4-H organization. She has experience with beef cattle, chickens and sheep through her aunt's farm, and exhibiting cattle at the Wisconsin State Fair, but she has never owned her own sheep, until now!

Amber already has plans to exhibit her new flock at 6 different shows this summer, including the USTSA National Junior Show. She also hopes to get her brother and cousin involved with the Targhee breed. Amber's mother, Rhonda, is very proud of her daughter and her accomplishments, and will be supporting her with her new flock.

Please join us in welcoming Amber and her family to the USTSA family!



Amber's new flock donated by (starting from the left) Andy Nevens of A&J Nevens Livestock, Todd Taylor of the University of Wisconsin, Amber, and Leslie Nevens of A&J Nevens Livestock.

Update from 2012 Wisconsin Starter Flock Winner - Darcie Rodeback

"I hit the ground running last year and entered 5 fairs and shows with the ewes that I had won. The Nevens' were wonderful teaching me how to fit and show the ewes and being incredible mentors. Overall, I was very successful and received 3 grand champions and 1 reserve. Since receiving my flock, I have been trying hard to promote Targhees as I have been very happy with them and think they are a great breed. The Nevens' were gracious enough to breed my older ewe and she had 2 ram lambs this spring which I will be taking to Nationals in July. This is also my last year in 4-H, so I will be signing up for all the shows again. I hope to go out on top but will always continue to promote Targhees and get everyone as excited about them as I am."



2013 USTSA Starter Flock Donations Still Needed

Greetings from the USTSA
Starter Flock Committee -

We want to thank all of those who have contributed to Anna's new flock!! Your generosity will never be forgotten. We are still in need of another yearling ewe or a gently aged ewe to complete her flock. If you have any interest, and are capable in donating her final animal, we would be very grateful!! If you are unable to make an animal donation, cash contributions towards purchases of additional animals at the national sale would go a long way towards building her flock.

If you happened to attend the 2012 show in Columbus, you had a chance to see how our junior ranks have grown, and how many of our starter flock winners attended the event. It was amazing!! This year will feature all but one previous winners plus two new Wisconsin Starter Flock winners. We are so proud of these great kids, their families, and all of you who have made it possible.

If you have any interest in making a donation, please feel free to contact us at anytime. We hope 2013 is a good year to you all, and for those of you who are traveling here next month, please be safe!

- Leslie & Jeff Nevens

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
3:00 pm	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)

President's Notes

A SEASON

One year or 100 years (more or less). I trust you are stronger & still becoming stronger with defeat and bitterness diminishing.

We all have had cycle's to which we become stronger, more mature, growing with knowledge and defeated, bitter, sometimes quitting with lack of understanding. I would like to ask you, Where are you with your Targhee sheep cycle? Have you 1 year or many years? Are you currently in or out? If you have any input for the betterment of the breed & Association, please share a comment. Maybe you were involved 50 years ago or just a year now.

My heart is rejoicing in our youth program. Many saw the need and it was voiced in a membership meeting with 3 or 4 starting a committee and one family Jeff & Leslie Nevens carrying the cause. Thank you Jeff & Leslie.

What can be done to encourage the leaders that really carry the association? The breeders who started, one's who are currently here, ones to come and maybe more so ones in the shadows. Please email, call or write me with ideas. I will print and pass them out at the Nationals. Thank you and hope to see you.

Your President, Warren Nellis

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

Bedding on Site

Saw dust will be put down on the floors to give the sheep good footing. If you prefer straw on top of that, it will be available for purchase during the event. Contact Todd Taylor at 608-332-4914 for details.

Phone Bids

We will have a cell phone available for phone bids on the morning of the sale. If you are interested in getting that number, contact Jeff Nevens at 608-592-7842.

Early Arrival

Pens will be available for early arrival Wednesday, July 17th at 5:00 pm. Contact Todd Taylor at 608-332-4914 to make arrangements.

Reminder

Products Labeled for Use on Sheep to Treat External Parasites:

Synergize Delice Ectiban Delice Atroban 11% EC Permethrin CDS

Members bringing sheep to the National Show & Sale are required to treat sheep for external parasites **at least 10** & no more than 30 days prior to the event. Please use products labeled for sheep. Producers can apply the product themselves. Just bring a note with your signature stating the treatment date, product, and dilution rate. Veterinary application is NOT required.

State Animal Health Regulations for Wisconsin

All livestock entering Wisconsin must have an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued by a licensed and accredited Veterinarian within 30 days of animal entry at the U.S. Targhee National Show & Sale. The physical address for the show is:

Arlington Agricultural Research Station
N695 Hopkins Road
Arlington, WI 53911

2013 USTSA Annual Members Meeting

The Annual Members meeting will be held Friday, July 19th at 3 pm at the Arlington Ag Research Station. Jeff Nevens and Darrell Deneke's terms expire this year. The Board will be taking nominations up until the Members meeting for the At-Large-East and Central Plains seats as well as finding out if Jeff and Darrell wish to seek reelection. Voting will commence at the meeting.

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 ustartheesheep@gmail.com to have it added to the meeting agenda.

Directions to Arlington Ag Research Station

Directions from 190/94/39 from North: take exit 119 (Lodi/Arlington) after curving around take a right to go east on Hwy 60. Follow that through Arlington to Hwy 51 jct. Take right and follow Hwy 51 to Badger Lane (I don't have those miles) go Right on Badger Lane (big red sign says Arlington Ag Research Station) go 1 mile to Hopkins rd. Turn Lt and you will see Public Events on the right.

Directions from 190/94/39 from South (Madison): take exit #132 (Madison/DeForest) and follow Hwy 51 for 8.5 miles to Badger Lane (big red sign says Arlington Ag Research Station) on left. Take left, go 1 mile to Hopkins Rd. Turn Left and you will see Public Events Center on the right.

Directions to hotel from Public Events Center for now: Take Badger Ln back to Hwy 51, go south (turn right) for 3.5 miles. Turn right on Cty V all the way through DeForest (you will pass the fast food eateries: Burger King, Subway, Arbys, McD's). You will cross over the interstate to reach the Comfort Inn. Do NOT take Cty I from the hotel, bridge is out over interstate on Cty I. Other alternate routes will be available upon arrival if needed.

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.

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 ustartheesheep@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.

U.S. Targhee Sheep Association Online Sheep Sale

Members now have another way to advertise their Targhee sheep for sale through Facebook. Only current/active members are allowed to list sheep for sale but everyone can view the online group and postings. Visit Facebook at: www.facebook.com/

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2013 USTSA National Show Entries

	Member	NSIP	Yearling	Fall	Spring	NSIP	Yearling	Fall	Spring	Pen of 2	Pen of 2
Consignor	Number	Yearling	Ram	Ram	Ram	Yearling	Ewe	Ewe	Ewe	Yrl	Ewe
		Ram		Lambs	Lambs	Ewe		Lambs	Lambs	Ewes	Lambs
Allred Targhee's	T - 918		1, 2				3, 4				
A & J Nevens Livestock	T - 906	5, 6			7, 8	9, 10			11, 12		13 a,b
Braedon Hinker	T - 921		14								
BSC Targhee's	T - 971		15								
Caleb Pedersen	T - 941		16	17	18						
Charles Dwight & Family	T - 707			19	20		21	22	23		
Darcie Rodeback	T - 960				24						
Darrell Deneke	T - 615								25		26 a,b
Deneke Family Targhees	T - 903								27		28,29
Derek Pedersen	T - 953		30								
Desire Routier	T - 956		31								
Golden Willow Targhee	T - 696					32	33				
Jon Beaström & Family	T - 957		34, 35	36			37	38	39	40 a,b	41 a,b
Padula	T - 611	42									
Stulken Targhees	T - 230				43						
University of Wisconsin	T - 68		44, 45				46, 47	48		49 a,b	
Warren & Judith Nellis	T - 689		50, 51				52, 53				

2013 National Show & Sale Sponsors

Mid-States Wool Growers - Jr Champion & Reserve Rams and Ewes
Big Gain Wisconsin, LLC - Jr Showmanship Awards and the Jr Premier Exhibitor Award

Badgerland Financial - Junior Show
United Cooperative - Junior Show
Nasco - Junior Show
Roswell Wool - Wool Show Awards

Profiles Show Supply
Ewesful Gifts
Todd & Lynette Taylor
Cindy Rodeback
A&J Nevens Livestock

NSIP CORNER WITH TRACIE ROEDER



NSIP Update

It is June 20th one day before the official start of summer and my thermometer registered 49° F most of the morning. We have had tremendous storms in our region with numerous reports of golf ball sized hail. I drove through an area West of our place today where the crop devastation was complete - a 2 mile swath of crops not just leveled, but areas of fields looking as if plowed! Thankfully we escaped most of the damage. Such cold, wet conditions are helping my mission of staying indoors and writing this article. Ben is sitting across from me trying to simultaneously prepare for Montana Range Days and our county fair. He is attempting to look up a kinder, gentler name for "Bastard Toadflax". Too funny. If we can name a variety of toadflax something spicy, think of what we could do with Canada Thistle?!

Getting to the point, there are some changes on the National NSIP scene to report for this edition of Targhee Talk.

National NSIP Board

We had an NSIP Board conference call last Thursday evening, setting the course of NSIP for the immediate future. There are several exciting items to report. First and foremost we would like to thank Jim Morgan for serving as Chairman of the NSIP Board for many years. He oversaw the transition of the U.S. sheep genetic evaluation at Virginia Tech to Meat Livestock Australia's Lambplan. Jim has decided to retire, and in his place Dr. Reid Redden of North Dakota State University will be at the helm. This is a win-win for Targhee NSIP as Reid received his PhD at Montana State University in Ruminant Nutrition and is intimately aware of the needs of Targhee producers having worked with Dr. Rodney Kott. Cody Heimke, an American Lamb Board member and respected Shropshire breeder, from Stoughton, Wisconsin, will serve as Vice Chairman. Mary Langhus, longtime Columbia breeder from Big Timber, Montana, will serve as Secretary. Jack McRae is the new NSIP Treasurer, and Chair of the Finance Committee. I will retain a seat on the Finance Committee, and coordinate the generation of Sire Summary and Elite reports. Dr. David Notter will continue on as our chief genetic researcher for NSIP. I think we all know the importance of Dave's roll in NSIP. The high level of esteem and gratitude we have for Dave is hard to put into words. So, all in all, Targhee NSIP will be well represented at the national level.

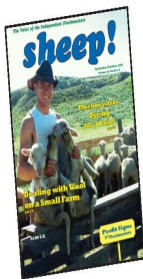
As many of you know, a 64 bit version of Pedigree Wizard called Pedigree Master, is now available for US NSIP producers. If you have not already downloaded the new program, contact Mary Sorenson at the national NSIP office to begin the process. (In the next edition of Targhee Talk, I will give an overview of the new program.) Targhee NSIP producers should have also received invoices for their 2012 Lambplan fees this past week. Why the delay? We were in final negotiations with Lambplan about pricing for the 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 lamb crops. Why so many years? Our fees will be set based on a 3 year rolling average of the US-Australian exchange rate along with changes Lambplan sees in their budgeting process. We can expect the per head rate to increase because of a weakened U.S. dollar. But, the increase will not be dramatic. Reid will be writing a letter to all NSIP producers shortly to explain our financial situation along with projected rate changes. That being said, the annual NSIP Enrollment fees are not changing. If you have not enrolled this year, please send those fees to Mary.

I know several Targhee NSIP members are excited to receive regular Sire Summaries and Elite Reports. NSIP has contracted with an individual to produce those reports. I will check them for accuracy, and then they will be posted. We will be doing this for all NSIP breeds. Terminal Sire breeds are first in line, then Range breeds, Maternal breeds, and Hair breeds. As I am just stepping into this position, I am not even going to attempt a time line as to when this project will be completed. However, our goal as a board is to have a minimum of four sets of Sire Summaries and Elite Reports annually.

Finally, since the transition is complete, our next short term goals are producer education, retention, and recruitment. Program and grant writing efforts will focus on those aspects of NSIP. Dr. Dan Morrill of Iowa State will provide oversight and expertise.

The next edition of Targhee Talk will be another installment on exporting data from Pedigree Wizard to Excel. In our last article we squeezed a few chickens, now it is time to crack the eggs! Until then, please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have (406-467-2462).

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VetGRAM App Released

The Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank program announced the launch of its first mobile application for smartphone and other mobile devices that use the Android operating system.

VetGRAM is a resource that provides comprehensive information about FDA approved food animal drugs, including approved indications, mandatory withdrawal times for various products from food animals, tolerance levels for active ingredients and other critical information.

This new app carries out user-defined searches and accesses all information in VetGRAM databases, without the need for internet connectivity.

Users select a species to search to view label information directly. In addition, VetGRAM Mobile App provides easy access to other useful resources, including listing of products that are approved and prohibited for use in food animals; and much more.

- reprinted in part from May 31, 2013 ASI WEEKLY

Junior Spotlight

Rory Lewis

1. Tell us about yourself.

I am 18 and just graduated from Reed Point High School, Montana. Next year I plan to attend college in Sheridan, Wyoming

2. When did you acquire your first Targhee sheep? How long have you raised them?

I've always had Targhee sheep.

3. What is your favorite Targhee trait?

Size

4. What is your best piece of advice to other 4-H or FFA members raising sheep?

Keep track of all records and purchases.

5. Is anyone else in your family involved in the sheep industry?

No. *(Rory doesn't consider what his family does as raising sheep!)*

6. Other than going to school, do you have another job?

Farmers Union Trading Co., Ranch Manager

7. Other than raising sheep, what are some of your hobbies and talents?

Hunting, fishing, and sports *(Rory was selected to the Montana 6-man football all-state team this year.)*

8. What is your favorite book?

Field and Stream

9. What is your favorite food?

Steak and potatoes

10. When I am grown, my future occupation might be:

A millionaire

11. The one thing people would be surprised to know about me is:

I'm 6'3"



Good luck Rory to you in all your future endeavors and please remember the USTSA when you become a Millionaire!

Lamb Checkoff Increase Effective June 13



The final notice approving the assessment rate increase for the Lamb Promotion, Research and Information Order was published in the May 14 issue of the Federal Register. The new rate will go into effect on June 13.

The amendment increases the lamb checkoff assessment rate from \$.005 to \$.007 per pound for live sheep and lamb sold by producers, feeders and seedstock producers. For sheep and lamb purchased for slaughter by first handlers, the rate would increase from 30 cents to 42 cents per head. The assessment rate change will generate about \$700,000 additional funds for program activities.

Funds collected under the Lamb Checkoff Program are used for promotion, information, research and advertising of American lamb. The board's expenditures for administration are limited to 10 percent or less of total revenues.

This is the first assessment rate increase in the program's decade history.

"The American Lamb Board (ALB) requested that the U.S. Department of Agriculture amend the Lamb Promotion, Research and Information Order about two years ago," said Megan Wortman, ALB executive director. "The additional resources will allow ALB to expand resources for the industry and increase our efforts in research and promotion. There are so many exciting opportunities to increase awareness about the many benefits of American lamb."

"The industry has gone through a challenging couple of years and the market has shifted dramatically since the board first requested the assessment increase," said Dan Lippert, ALB chairman. "We believe that a strong marketplace is critical to the long-term success of the American lamb industry. We take very seriously the responsibility of effectively investing the industry's additional resources and will focus our time during our June meeting on setting priorities and designing programs to use the additional funds to help promote American lamb and re-build demand."

Additional information about the assessment rate increase is available at www.lambcheckoff.com or www.regulations.gov.

- Reprinted from ALB Press Release

From the Secretary's Desk

Please be sure to use the following new mailing address for all correspondence with the USTSA office, effective immediately :

**8111 Foothill Lodge
Las Vegas, NV 89131**

I'm noticing the following two common errors I wanted to remind everyone one about. First, when submitting registrations a date of inspection and signature is needed at the top of the first page of the registration application. Second, on all transfers, the date of sale needs to be provided.

Thank you for your continued patience,
Mardy Rutledge

MONTANA RAM SALE

Eastern Montana Fairgrounds
Miles City, MT
September 12, 2013
10:45 Lunch . Noon Sale

For 88 years, one certainty in the sheep industry has been the quality of rams at the Montana Ram Sale.

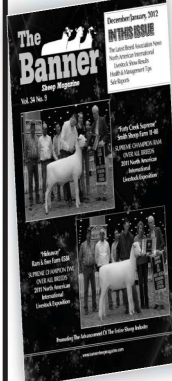
MONTANA WOOLGROWERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 1693-HELENA, MT 59624
406.442.1330-mwga@mtsheep.org



This year's sale will again be broadcast on the internet via <http://frontierstockyards.com/>. You will be able to preregister and bid watching the live feed or call any of the 14 Targhee breeders who have consigned 210 rams to the sale to place a bid. The catalog will be available online at www.mwga@mtsheep.org a week prior to the sale.

If you plan on attending the sale, Montana Woolgrowers will be hosting a retirement party, meal included, for Dr. Rodney Kott. Dr. Kott has dedicated 33 years of his life to helping producers in Montana and across the nation. The event will take place at the fairgrounds on Wednesday, September 11 starting at 6 P.M. Hope to see you there and good to everyone at the National Show and Sale.

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Free Advertising Space
for Targhee Events

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

Targhee Tails & Trails



Norma Ruzicka June 22, 1929 - May 16, 2013

Norma Martha Ruzicka, 83, of Highmore, passed away Thursday, May 16, 2013 at the Highmore Health in Highmore, SD.

Norma Martha Jacober was born June 22, 1929 to Jacob and Martha (Nesper) Jacober at Ridgeview, South Dakota and baptized in the Lutheran faith. After the loss of her mother at the age of 8, her siblings helped raise her. She attended school at Ridgeview through the 8th grade, and then attended Gettysburg High School. After graduation, she attended Green's Beauty School in Rapid City, which brought her to Miller to be employed by Ida's Beauty Salon. She married the love of her life, Dennis Ruzicka, on June 3, 1953 in Pierre. To this union, two daughters were born, Marcia and Glenda.

Even with her busy lifestyle of helping with farm work, she found time to be a 4-H leader for many years, and be active at gardening, sewing, and cooking for the hired help. She was a wonderful cook for all who came to the house. With her beautician background, she fixed hair for many aunts and uncles. Dennis and Norma enjoyed trips traveling all over the United States, which included Hawaii and Alaska. Due to a stroke in 1999, she lost her ability to verbally communicate with people. She lived on the family farm until April 2008 when she resided at the Highmore Healthcare Center. One of the highlights during her stay was being crowned the 2008 Healthcare Snow Queen.

Survivors include her husband, Dennis of Highmore; two daughters: Marcia (Loren) Stulken of Highmore and Glenda (Bob) Leisinger of Highmore; two grandchildren and their families: Matt Leisinger (Kathy Schlepp) and Bailey, Natalie and Brody of Highmore and Laurie (Jerry) Woodward and Jessica and Weston of Custer; and one sister, Helen Hubner of Valley City, ND.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters: Freda Johnson, Rose Lenick and Lydia Becken; and five brothers-in-law.

Cull Ewe Market Weakened

Cull ewe prices at auction were down 60 percent in some parts of the country compared to this time last year. By comparison, slaughter lamb prices were down 28 to 33 percent. In South Dakota, in particular, cull ewes dipped below 20 cents per pound. Cull ewe prices are lower this year due to a combination of factors including increased supply, lower quality ewes and possibly lower domestic and export demand for mutton.

In general, ewes are in poorer condition this year, which affects the quality grade and price. The wide-spread drought has challenged feeding conditions and some ewes enter sale barns with a poor body condition--relatively thin with little muscle tone. In May, utility-graded ewes brought as low as 11 cents per pound.

A closer look at U.S. Department of Agriculture data revealed that mutton imports are up, U.S. mutton exports and live sheep exports are down and live sheep slaughter is also down. In January to April, the estimated U.S. adult sheep slaughter was down 33 percent from September through December last year. Compared to the first trimester 2012 to the same period this year, adult sheep slaughter was down 7 percent. In the first quarter, U.S. mutton imports were up 21 percent quarterly to 9 million pounds and up 72 percent year-to-year. Reduced U.S. mutton exports are likely affecting ewe prices in the country also. In the first quarter, total U.S. mutton exports were down 19 percent quarterly to 2.2 million pounds and down 32 percent from this time a year ago.

In the first trimester of 2013, Australian mutton exports to Mexico were 16 times higher than the last four months of 2012, while the year-to-year increase was four times higher, or up 315 percent to 1,338 tons.

The bottom line is that with increased mutton imports both domestically and in one of our major export markets, reduced exports and increased seasonal supplies especially in drought-stricken areas, the prices for cull sheep are lower. Unfortunately, this collision of factors has depressed cull ewe prices, but hopefully, rain will bring greener pastures, lower feed costs and more optimism about breeding stock.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

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.wisstatefair.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.wisconsinssheepandwoolfestival.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

Heffinger Ram Sale

Heffinger, 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
October 10, 2013
www.utahwoolgrowers.com
or 801-960-2610

Activist Groups Sue USSES

Four environmental activist groups are asking a federal judge to order the temporary shutdown of a sheep research station on the Idaho-Montana border that they say is harming the region's grizzly bear population.

The lawsuit filed Friday, May 17, in U.S. District Court in Boise, Idaho, against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contends the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station (USSES) is operating under a biological opinion that states no known grizzly bear deaths have occurred in the recent past near the station.

The groups contend that information they obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request shows that within the last eight years there have been grizzly bear deaths near the sheep station in the Centennial Mountain Range. As a result, the groups want the federal agency to complete a new biological opinion that considers all the grizzly deaths in the area.

The American Sheep Industry Association views the latest lawsuit a continuation of the harassment of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) research officials by anti-livestock and anti-grazing activists. USDA has spent over \$2 million responding to lawsuits and fulfilling National Environmental Policy Act requirements.

USSES, established in 1915, conducts research on sheep reproduction, genetics, growth and development, range management and quality of meat and wool. The station has about 2,000 domestic sheep on 1,765 square miles of land, including 27,930 Agricultural Research Service acres.

- ~ reprinted in part from May 24, 2013 ASI WEEKLY

Scrapie Eradicate It! Newsletter Available

In a cooperative effort between the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) a quarterly newsletter about the scrapie eradication program has been developed for state and federal partners. This publication updates field staff with ASI published information. The May issue is now available at www.sheepusa.org/get_page/pageID/39.

Registration Opens for Traceability Forum

The Food and Drug Association's new rules for "Traceability for Livestock Moving Interstate" took effect on March 11, but the issue of livestock traceability in the United States is far from resolved. To review compliance, successes and challenges with the current system and to evaluate future needs in animal disease traceability, the National Institute for Animal Agriculture and the U.S. Animal Health Association will host a Joint Strategy Forum on Animal Disease Traceability in Denver on Aug. 6-7.


Registration for the event is now open and the organizers have released a tentative agenda for the joint forum.

Read more and register for the forum at www.animalagriculture.org



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