

Targhee Talk

*The Newsletter of the United States
Targhee Sheep Association*



DJWANE MORVIL
Photography

January 2013

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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:

Cover Photo Courtesy of Dwane & Jaime Morvik Eastend, Saskatchewan

2013 National Show & Sale

Last summer at the Stillwater County Fairgrounds, the membership approved the return of the 2013 USTSA National Show & Sale to the Arlington Public Events Center in Arlington, Wisconsin. This was the site of the 2010 Show & Sale, and the Wisconsin contingent is looking forward to have members and friends return for another great event! The dates for the 2013 Show & Sale will be Thursday, July 18th through Saturday, July 20th. With the growth in our junior ranks over the past few years, 2013 may be the largest Junior Show in recent history!!

The headquarters will again 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 "US Targhee Sheep Association" for July 17th through July 21st at \$89 per night. Please contact them at 608-846-9100 to make your reservations.

More information will be published in upcoming issues of Targhee Talk, and on the USTSA website, as they become available. If you have further questions, please contact the USTSA office, or the show and sale chairpersons, Todd & Lynette Taylor at 608-846-5858, or Leslie & Jeff Nevens at 608-592-7842.

Deadlines to keep in mind

- **February 20th** is the first day NSIP entries can be sheared.
- **May 1st** is the first day side Micron tests may be taken.
- **May 31st** entry and event forms due. Entry forms and packets will be available in the April newsletter as well as online.
- **June 15th** all registrations and information for catalog due.

President's Notes

Greetings,

Past and Present

Past: I trust we all can look back over the year rejoicing in what's been and that you've had a blessed Christmas time sharing and receiving.

Presently: Looking into the New Year resting in the Mercy and Grace of God in Jesus Christ as it is available everyday the sun continues to rise.

As I was anticipating our family gathering for Christmas, three daughters, their husbands, and twelve grandchildren, I started rejoicing in the anticipation of being in the family of God and looking forward to meeting my Lord and Savior. (If you don't have this hope, please get a Bible and read the whole book of John. It is written that you might believe.)

Right now I'm looking forward to a Targhee family reunion in July with current family members, new members, hopefully returning past members, a larger youth group than last year, and new youth leaders stepping up to help Lynette and Leslie. A great place to visit is "Noahs Ark" which is a huge water park. Hope to see YOU!!!

Note about last Presidents Notes. Our trip to the Tetons was a gift from our children.

Your President,
Warren Nellis

2013 USTSA Starter Flock Program

The U.S. Targhee Sheep Association (USTSA) will again be offering a free registered Targhee Starter flock to a deserving youth at the 2013 USTSA National Show & Sale in Arlington, Wisconsin, July 18th-20th. 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 2013 sale.

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, 2013, may apply. Applicants should possess a keen interest in the U.S. sheep industry, commitment to raising Targhee sheep over time, and a firm belief in the abilities of the breed. 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.

2013 Wisconsin Junior Targhee Sheep Association (WJSTA) Starter Flock

For the second year the WJSTA is again looking to promote growth and visibility of the Targhee breed in Wisconsin, and to promote Wisconsin youth involvement and education within the breed. Any youth, age 12 to 17 as of January 1, 2013, who resides in Wisconsin, whose immediate family does not raise Targhee sheep, and who is eligible to exhibit at both the 2013 Wisconsin Open State Fair and Junior State Fair may apply. The winner will be awarded 3 Targhee ewes donated by USTSA members. Applications are available on the USTSA website as well as A&J Nevens Livestock website (myplace.frontier.com/~jrnevens/).

Applications are due April 1, 2013 to:
Wisconsin Junior Targhee Sheep Association
Attn: Starter Flock Program
N1225 Hillestad Road
Lodi, WI 53555

Donations are still needed. If you would like to donate a ewe and/or cash funds in lieu, please contact Jeff Nevens at 608-592-7842 or AandJNevensLivestock@frontier.com or Mardy at ustargheesheep@gmail.com.

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ASI Convention News

The ASI convention has become the place for sheep-industry related organizations to meet and exchange ideas. Joining ASI in San Antonio January 23-27 will be:

- National Lamb Feeders Assoc.
- National Sheep Industry Improvement Ctr.
- American Lamb Board
- Western Range Assoc.
- Food & Fiber Risk Mgrs
- National Livestock Producers Assoc. Sheep and Goat Fund Committee
- American Goat Federation
- ASI Women
- Make-It-With-Wool National Contestants

ASI is pleased to again announce the inclusion of an abridged Trade Show. The show provides companies an opportunity to display products, technology and/or services for convention participants.

Additional program, hotel reservations and registration information is available at www.sheepusa.org by clicking on the Events tab.

To receive more information about the trade show, email Judy Malone at judym@sheepusa.org.



**American Lamb Board
Now Soliciting
Sponsorship Proposals**

The American Lamb Board (ALB) has allocated \$20,000 in FY 2013 to sponsor local lamb events including fairs, festivals, cooking demonstrations, seminars etc. The sponsorship dollars are intended to help offset the cost of lamb for sampling and demonstrations, event advertising and publicity, promotional materials, etc.

All sponsorship proposals are due no later than January 15, 2013. For more information click here and for questions or to discuss promotional ideas, please contact Rae Maestas at 866-327-5262 Ext.3

As a reminder, ALB also has a variety of tools available to support local American Lamb promotions, including a new Lamb Jam how to kit, and much more! Please contact Courtney Quinn at 866-327-5262 Ext.5 or Courtney@americanlambboard.org for a complete description of tools available.

Meet the Newest Board Member

Russell Allred

1. Where were you born and raised? Is this your current locale?

I was born in Nephi, Utah. I grew up in Fountain Green, Utah and have lived here all of my life except the two years I was going to school.

2. When did you become acquainted with Targhee sheep? How long have you raised them?

My Father and I researched many breeds of sheep. We liked the traits of the Targhee's best. We went to Dubois, ID at the Experiment Station. That is where we got our start in this breed. That was about 8 years ago.

3. What is your favorite Targhee trait?

I have been impressed with their mothering abilities, also their milking abilities.

4. What is the greatest issue facing the sheep industry and/or American agriculture?

Here in Utah access to public lands is one of the greatest issues we face. 79% of the total land mass in Utah is owned by federal or state government. The large sheep herds in Utah run mainly on those public land.

5. Are you married? Do you have children? How many?

Yes, I have been married for seventeen years to my wife Jenny. We have three girls. Braille is fifteen, Savannah is twelve, Cheznie is six. I am the fifth generation in raising sheep.

6. Do you have an occupation other than farming or ranching?

I am a journeyman lineman for Springville City Power.

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

I do not have time for a hobby between high school rodeo and every sport you can think of plus dancing. I do good just to try to keep up. I am also an asst. Scout leader.

8. What is your favorite book?

I don't have time for reading.

9. What is your favorite food?

Homemade bread.

Thank you Russell for volunteering time you didn't have to help make USTSA a better organization!



Junior Spotlight

Joelle Nevens

Joelle had a very successful 2012. She was the USTSA Junior Premier Breeder and, as pictured to the right, Reserve Supreme Ewe Wool Breeds at the Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival.



1. Tell us about yourself.

18 yrs old and a college freshman in Lodi, Wisconsin.

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

We first started showing Targhees when I was 11 and we have had them for the last 7 years.

3. What is your favorite Targhee trait?

My favorite trait is the long legs lambs have when they're born.

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

Have a lot of patience with their animals and the time it takes to raise a flock.

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

My parents and brother, as well as the last 7 generations of my family.

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

Yes, I work in the food court of a local gas station.

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

Some hobbies are reading and playing the piano.

8. What is your favorite book?

"Monsters of Men" by Patrick Ness

9. What is your favorite food?

Cheese. Luckily I live in Wisconsin!

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

I have absolutely no idea...

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

I own a pet Chinchilla.



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Do you have a Targhee event you would like to see promoted? Please contact the USTSA office to list your event for FREE!

ASI 2013 Calendars

With the year end upon us, the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) is making available the remaining 2013 ASI calendars on a first-come first-served basis. The calendars are great to give to your banker, farm service employees, feed store folks or anyone else that you who might enjoy a nice sheep calendar.

Contact the office at 303-771-3500. There is no charge for the remaining calendars.

Targhee Wearables!!

USTSA's line of clothing and accessories are now available for purchase year round. You can view the current inventory and prices on the USTSA website's homepage.

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

Don't forget to join USTSA on Facebook!

Watch our Facebook page for those buying and selling Targhees, latest news, and issues facing fellow breeders.

NSIP and Junior Committees Update

Thanks to the following volunteers that offered to help USTSA. Its not too late if anyone else would like to join.

Junior Committee

Leslie Nevens
Elisha Lewis
Brailie Allred

NSIP Committee

Judith Scanlan
Betty Sampsel
Robert Padula

Tri-State Meeting Hosts Wool Panel

Many U.S. wool buyers, warehousemen and wool processors gathered at the joint Idaho, Wyoming and Utah Wool Growers meeting Nov. 9-10 to discuss the 2012 wool season and to provide insight into the upcoming year. The panel consisted of Larry Prager and Scott Lammers, Center of the Nation Wool; Jason Banowsky, Lempriere USA; Mike Corn, Roswell Wool; Dan Gutzman, Pendleton Woolen Mills; Will Griggs, Utah Wool Marketing; Terry Martin and Rick Honaker, Anodyne Wool; and Bruce Barker, Great Plains Wool Co.

A general opinion was that the 2012 wool market was driven by a declining economic situation across Europe in conjunction with a warmer winter across the northern hemisphere, both resulting in disappointing garment sales last year. A larger inventory of garments resulted in less processing into fabrics, which ultimately resulted in less demand and lower trends in global raw-wool prices. The declining value of the U.S. dollar and the corresponding increase in the value of the Australian dollar was another contributing factor. It was also noted that the declining demand for goods forced China, the world's largest wool processing country, to reduce overall production of finished garments.

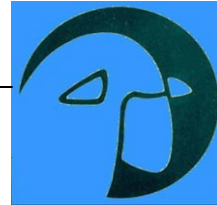
Consensus among the buyers and warehousemen was that continued better preparation of U.S. wools would result in broader demand and a wider array of uses of U.S. wools, regardless of micron. Specifically, the continued removal and separation of bellies from fleeces, topknots, leg wool, tags and second cuts and any off colored wool due to stains. Buyers and processors continued to note the problems being experienced with black fibers in white wool, contamination of hair-sheep fibers and poly contamination. Excess branding paint and markers were also discussed along with suggestions for handling paint on cold days, application recommendations (keep brands to 4 mm or less) and the axiom that "less is better" when applying paint.

The panel expressed the need for a larger supply of wool to meet the demand. Reduced supplies from declining sheep numbers have resulted in higher overhead costs for all segments of the wool industry. Due to the large volume of wool needed for processors to minimize costs, any problems or issues that occur with the wool results in higher costs.

It was reiterated that developing a plan with the shearing crew can reduce contamination as well as decrease the stress for the sheep and the labor during harvest. Making contact with the buyer or warehouse representative to discuss potential wool outlets can also assist in proper wool preparation.

~ reprinted in part from ASI News

NSIP CORNER



NSIP at our Fingertips Part II

This is the second in a two part series about the National Sheep Improvement Program.

The National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) in the U.S. provides the framework for the genetic evaluation of sheep. Australia's Lambplan is the engine that provides the analysis. The first article in this series highlighted the NSIP website (www.nsip.org) and information U.S. producers can find there. This article will focus on the partnership website Sheep Genetics of Australia's Lambplan (www.sheepgenetics.org.au), and its unique features for making the most of the computer software (Pedigree Wizard).

If you haven't visited the Sheep Genetics website lately, it has been updated and more user friendly. One thing immediately apparent to U.S. producers is that we have left the United States and are glimpsing into Australia's sheep industry. Take some time to click on the different tabs across the top to see what folks are doing on the other side of the ocean. We often forget whether we are U.S. or Australian producers, we face similar issues.

As mentioned in the previous article, Targhee NSIP's elite sire summary based on the U.S. Range Index can be found on the NSIP website (www.nsip.org). However, since we are Lambplan users, Targhee producers might want to look at the elite summary for the Maternal Index. This is the closest Australian index Lambplan offers to the U.S. Range Index. It provides some interesting contrasts to our own index and what Australian producers value in similar types of sheep. On the home page click on Breeding Services, then Maternal, and look at the Top 150 sires lists.

Most Targhee producers have been enrolled in NSIP and Lambplan since we have entered this partnership. But, if you are new to the system or just want to refresh your memory, the Getting Started tab has some great information. Under this drop down menu, the spot you want to particularly look at is the FAQs. Here is a nice rundown of what Sheep Genetics provides, a review of the unique animal ID number, and definition of management groups.

The Membership and Service provider tabs are specific to Australian producers, but the Resources tab is where you can focus your attention. In this drop down menu is the Brochures and Fact Sheets tab. The one I have found most useful is the Pocket Guide. It is a great summary of everything we are evaluating through Lambplan. It is clear and easy to understand. Another fun and useful resource is Visual Sheep Scores. This is a great guide for evaluating sheep phenotypically (or visually) for undesirable traits. There are scoring systems for key traits such as wool color, wool character, dust penetration, face pigmentation, conformation, and face cover. If you are having trouble coming up with a consistent system for looking at these traits, this is a good resource. Also under the Resources tab is the Guide to Quality Data. This guide is more in depth than the Pocket Guide to Lambplan, discussing management group techniques and how to have effective progeny records.

These two articles are just a quick overview of the information available at the NSIP and Sheep Genetics websites. Like so many things, it is in our best interest to learn as much as we can about the programs offered to us. Often times, however, it is a bit of a chore. Setting aside a little time now and again is the best way to tackle a new project especially when the weather is cold and we are stuck inside.

The National Sheep Improvement Program is exactly what its name implies. The goal of NSIP is to improve the U.S. national sheep herd. We all know beauty is in the eye of the beholder. However, beauty for lamb and wool buyers is a consistent, high quality product. The difference between 18 micron and 22 micron wool is difficult to discern with the naked eye. But, to the owners of Smart Wool or Ibex, the difference is whether their end product is soft and able to be worn next to the skin or a scratchy shirt no one wants to wear or for that matter buy. To be competitive in today's market sheep producers need to use the technology available to develop the kind of product of which the world will take notice. NSIP can help us accomplish that goal.

Census Forms Coming

Forms collecting information for the 2012 Census of Agriculture will soon be mailed out by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Conducted every five years, the census is a complete count of all U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them.

"The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) utilizes this data as it prepares briefs and comments about the industry," commented Margaret Soulen Hinson, ASI president. "As we answer questions from the media, members of Congress and state and federal agencies, the census is the main source of information that we rely on, so I encourage all operations, regardless of size, to respond."

Completed forms are due by Feb. 4, 2013. Upon receipt of the form, producers can either fill out the form and mail it back or fill out the census online via a secure website, www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Lambplan ID #'s can now be on Registration Certificates

After several requests, there is now a place on the registration certificates to include the Lambplan ID's. Simply provide the information in the last column of the Registration Applications with the Scrapie numbers to get the numbers added.

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bwilliams@rtconnect.net
Term expires: 2015

Targhee Tails & Trails

Targhee Inquiries

⇒ Namaste Farms Shepherdess is looking for 16 pounds of raw Targhee fleeces for a breed study. - Natalie Redding, littleeee@mac.com, namastefarms.com

How Much of Your Grocery Bill Goes to Farmers?

To kick off the year, the National Farmers Union recently released their latest "Farmer's Share" report. It is based on calculations derived from the monthly Agricultural Prices report that comes from USDA NASS and is compared to price points of common grocery food items at a Washington, D.C. Safeway supermarket. According to USDA's Economic Research Service, farmers and ranchers only receive 15.8 cents of every food dollar spent by consumers outside the home in the United States. Additionally, more than 80 cents of every food dollar is spent on marketing, processing, wholesaling, distribution and retailing.

"It's easy to forget the true value of our farmers and ranchers, who in some cases are only making pennies to the dollar on their goods, while we're at our local supermarket," said NFU President Roger Johnson. "Our Farmer's Share report reflects the true value that our farmers and ranchers are receiving."

Go to http://www.nfu.org/images/December2012_Farmers%20Share.pdf for the full listing.

~ reprinted from Northern Ag Network



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Upcoming Calendar of Events

January	<p>6-8 Michigan Sheep Breeders Association Annual Meeting, Lansing, MI</p> <p>23-26 2013 ASI Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX</p> <p>27 ASSC National Sheep Shearing Competition at the Convention Center in Rapids City, S.D</p>
March	<p>22-24 Michigan Fiber Festival (www.michiganfiberfestival.info)</p>
April	<p>1-5 Washington Beginner Shearing School, Moses Lake, WA (Sarah Smith 509-754-2011 or smithsm@wsu.edu)</p> <p>19-21 Minnesota Shearing School, Hutchinson, MN (Doug Rathke 320-587-6094 or lambshop@hutchtel.net)</p>
June	<p>8-9 9th Annual Iowa Sheep & Wool Festival</p> <p>21-23 Midwest Fiber & Folk Art Fair, Grayslake, IL (www.fiberandfolk.com)</p>

Finding Targhees

Looking for Targhees? Watch the website for a current listing of Fairs and Ram Sales where Targhees will be entered. If you would like to add any to the list, please contact Mardy at 702-292-5715 or ustargheesheep@gmail.com.

Sheepdogs Featured in New Documentary

(Jan. 1, 2013) Just this past October, Sheep Industry News (SIN) ran a story about the Solider Hollow Classic Sheepdog Championships, describing the event, its people and its sheep. An entertaining new documentary has just been released which dives much more deeply into the people and the competition. Documentary filmmaker Andrew Hadra traveled to South Africa, Ireland, Canada and across the United States to capture the story. SIN recently spoke with him about the film.

You can learn more and purchase the DVD on the movie's website at <http://sheepdogmovie.com> and check its Facebook page at Away To Me (Sheepdog Movie).

~ reprinted in part from SIN

Eastern & Mid-Western State Fairs

Mid-Western & Western Sales

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.wisconsinsheepandwoolfestival.com or
920-674-7148

Center of the Nation NSIP Sale

Spencer, Iowa
TBD July 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
TBD September 2013
dianelc@wyowool.org or
307-265-5250

Montana Ram Sale

Miles City, Montana
TBD September 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

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