



OCTOBER 2023

Targhee Talk

STAY IN THE LOOP WITH UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!

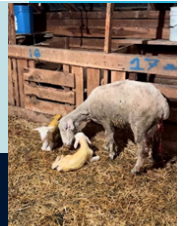
AT A GLANCE

- President's update
- Associated Registry
- junior member information
- Area Sales Results
- EBVs
- Upcoming Show and Sale information
- Starter Flock winner updates
- Board Meeting updates

(Photo from Trevor, starter flock winner)

From the President's Flock

From President Susie Skinner



My favorite time of year.... Jack O' Lanterns and Frost on the Fields...for some that means Fall lambing is underway, and for others it means getting rams in for Spring Lambs. For several it means both! Does our work ever let up? For your Board of Directors, we are busier than ever. There have been 2 meetings since the National Meeting. You have a great Board working for you. I hope that any concerns or questions you have will go directly to them. If I need to be involved, they notify me.

Let's welcome Jackie McMartin as your new Secretary/Treasurer. She will be working closely with you to make sure you get newsletters etc. in a timely fashion. If you know of a purebred or commercial Targhee breeder that we should be reaching, please let her know. Make sure you pay your national dues with the first transfer or registration of the year.

I cannot welcome anyone aboard (yet) as our new promotions person, but thanks to Dylan Laverell we have 6 outstanding candidates. Your Board of Directors have their resumes and cover letters and will meet in mid-October to select our person. We have applicants with "tons" of media experience and several with Targhee experience.

Special thanks to Scott Kilber for stepping up to edit this segment of Targhee Talk. From experience this is no small task, and we appreciate him (and possibly Bobbie) for getting this done.

I had a nice chat with Jeff from Associated Registry (read under separate cover) and I think with a little closer attention to detail we will have a better working relationship with them.

As we close 2023 and begin looking forward to 2024, I want to make request of each of you. If, and when you have a question, issue, or problem with the USTSA, please contact a Board of Director. We will have a few growing pains this year and with 3 new people in critical leadership roles, we may need some advice from you on how to handle things. Know that everyone is working to put Targhee Sheep in their best light. Happy Fall to each and every one of you.

Susie Skinner

Getting the Most from Associated Registry

We are obligated to Associated Registry for 3 years, so I thought a quick checklist of things to do to make the process easier for YOU and Associated is long overdue. I spoke to Jeff from Associated this week and this is what I heard him say:

___ They will take forms handwritten or in Excel format. (it makes it so much easier if the computerized format is in the same order as his work order is in). If handwritten, make sure it is easily readable.

___ Make sure all entries are double checked. Make sure things like birth dates, dam and sire numbers are complete and accurate, your flock tag prefix and number are furnished.

___ Make sure you add your dues to the first registration of the year.

___ Make correct payment to the Associated Registry Targhee Association.

___ Credit card number is correct and no, for your security he does not keep anything on file.

___ Include a work order.

___ Transfers are tricky sometimes because ewes and or rams are not registered, and you cannot expect Associated to hunt those down for you.

___ Transfers -make sure all names and phone numbers are correct.

___ Send in all registrations and transfers in a timely fashion.

___ Inspections-please put a name for who is inspecting these animals, I did, however, tell him not to hold papers for lack of name.

___ Make checks payable to Associated Registry

As we move forward, if you have any problems, please call Susie and she will try to mediate them in the next 24 hours. Daytime phone is 937-213-1359 and home phone 937-375-5671 (leave a clear message with return phone number).

Attention: Junior Association Members

Logan Johnson has accepted the role of Junior Association Advisor. He would appreciate it if all junior members could send him their physical address, email address, and phone numbers - along with their name and birthdate. That will help him keep everyone updated on junior association business. Thank you.

Logan's contact information:

Phone: (605) 350-5923

Email: loganjo2010@hotmail.com

Wyoming Ram Sale Results

53 head of Targhee Rams averaged 1688. High Selling Yearling Ram was from Von Krosigk Family Targhee for \$5000. High Selling Fall Ram Lamb was from Nielsen Targhee for \$1100.

Newell Ram Sale Results

10 Targhee Rams averaged \$800

2023 Montana Ram and Ewe Sale Results

A total of 277 bucks were offered and sold, for an overall average of \$1,485/hd, up from \$1,275 in 2022. The ram sale grossed \$411,400.

The blackface breeds averaged \$1,161 on 35 head, compared to \$1,157 in 2022. Four rams topped the blackface portion of the sale at \$1,700. Two from Dawe Suffolks of Big Timber went to Bauer Land and Livestock of Clearmont, WY and two from Heart Lazy P of Miles City went to Steadman Targhees of Miles City, MT respectively.

Rambouillet rams sold for an overall average of \$1,354 on 57 head, up slightly from \$1,261 in 2022. Helle Rambouillet of Dillon had the top selling Rambouillets, a pen of 2, purchased for \$2,600 each by the Sieben Ranch of Helena, MT.

The Targhee sale average was \$1,587 on 185 head. The high selling rams overall, were a pen of 2 Targhees, offered by Sampsel Livestock of Stanford, MT. The pen sold to Kristi Bohlander of Douglas, WY for \$8,000 each. Five Targhee lots sold for \$4,000/hd or higher.

Sale Gross on 277 rams: \$411,400

Purebred Rambouillet average on 44 head: \$1,265 (Low \$200, High \$2,600)

Crossbred Rambouillet average on 13 head: \$1,654 (Low \$1,500, High \$1,800)

Suffolk Ram average on 21 head: \$1,181 (Low \$500, High \$1,700)

Suffolk X Hampshire ram average on 14 head: \$1,132 (Low \$900, High \$1,700)

Targhee ram average on 185 head: \$1,587 (Low \$400, High \$8,000)

10h Annual MT Ewe Sale (September 13th)

A total of 1027 ewes sold, for an overall average of \$303/hd. The ewe sale grossed \$309,455.

John and Betty Sampsel of Hughes Newford Co, of Stanford, MT donated a yearling Targhee Ewe to kick off the Ewe Sale. The proceeds from the donation ewe were collected to support young MT producers to attend industry schools and events over the coming years. Together six donors raised \$3,400 for the cause.

We had two top selling lots of Targhee yearlings sell for \$500/hd. The Roeder family of Montana Sheep Company sold 10 head to Alexander Maus of Sentinel Butte, ND. The other top selling lot was 20 head offered by Wynn & Jeff Tauck selling to Nathan Weaver of Hettinger, ND. Bill Schaefer from Hoven, SD purchased 38 head on the grounds. The volume off-site buyer was Five-O Ranch of Lodi, CA purchasing 225 Helle Rambouillet yearling ewes from Dillon, MT.

Sale Gross on 1027 ewes: \$309,455

Total sale average of all ewes: \$303/hd

Whiteface yearling ewe average on 915 hd: \$313

Whiteface lamb ewe average on 68 head: \$151

Hair lamb ewe average on 30 head: \$283

Blackface ewe average on 10 head: \$392

Average on pens of 5: \$392/hd

Average on pens of 10: \$322/hd
Average on pens of 20: \$330/hd
Average on off-site lots: \$280/hd

Feel Overwhelmed with EBV's?

It used to be said that a good ram at the Montana ram sale was a twin born ram. Then when the advent of rapid micron testing became available to assess fiber diameter, the "good" rams also needed to be 64's spin count (for those who speak micron that's 20.6 to 22.04). Now, producers AND ram buyers must juggle 14 (or more) pieces of data, before they even see a ram! Getting bogged down and cross eyed at spreadsheets can be quite easy to do, if not assessing what NSIP EBVs are important or relevant to your operation.

Tom Brink, the CEO of the Red Angus Association said it best, "EPD fatigue is not terminal! It is found most often in producers that genuinely care about the genetics in their herds and are trying to make real progress with each successive generation." I believe that the Targhee breed is full of people who are looking to improve each year!

Targhees are found in a variety of operations and climates that make for divergent selection decisions. [Let's assess two different operations and maybe some EBVs that may play an important role in their selection decisions.](#)

Scenario 1: An extensive intermountain west operation in SE Wyoming that markets their lambs at weaning and is paid a premium for their fine wool clip. We can logically deduce that this producer may be more interested in growth traits, and wool traits. Looking for rams that are more positive in post weaning weight (PWWT), higher in fleece weight (YFW) and staple length (YSL) and lower in fiber diameter (YFD) are good traits to focus on. Other traits, like number of lambs born (NLB), may not best to look for extreme maximums, as many times large expansive rangelands may not be the most conducive for raising a lot of multiples.

Scenario 2: A farm-flock in Central Wisconsin that also operates their own custom lamb feeding enterprise. Places in the Midwest seem to have better feed resources that can more reasonably accommodate for more prolific ewes. Reproductive traits (NLB), growth traits (PWWT), and carcass traits, (like eye muscle depth (EMD)) should be EBVs of more concern.

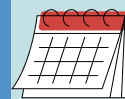
While these scenarios may seem oversimplified, I hope this exercise helps with making the search for the next stud buck a little easier. One thing to remember is that chasing the highest highs or the lowest lows doesn't automatically make the next great ram. Sometimes, ram selection is finding the right balance of

EBVs within acceptable ranges. All great rams in any operation have their “holes”, or places where we wish they could be better. Passing up a good ram based on one “hole” can be a costly decision.

Purchasing breeding stock is often an exciting time of anticipating what the next generation of rams and ewes will become. With careful consideration of phenotype and use of NSIP EBVs, we will continue to raise one of the best breeds in the industry.

Dylan Laverell

Mark Your Calendars! Plan to Attend!



Next National Show and Sale will be in Redfield, SD next July! Here are the details!

When: July 18 – 20, 2024

Where: Redfield, SD – Spink County Fair Grounds

Lodging Options for the 2024 USTSA National Show and Sale:

Super 8 Motel – 605 472-0720, Single and Double rooms available I have the entire hotel reserved for our event please tell them you are with the Targhee group when reserving your room.

Edelweiss Inn – Bed n Breakfast, 605 499-8026. They have 5 rooms with a mix of beds, each room has its own bathroom.

R&L Lodge N Inn – 605 460-2158. This is an apartment style lodge. This would be a good spot for a large group or family.

Rustic Haven Inn – 605 460-1252, Apartment style 4 bedroom / 2 bath.

Jim River Ranch – Farmhouse in the country about 8 miles from town. 605 765-8494.

Camping is also an option. There are 20 camper hookups with electricity and water right at the Spink County Fair Grounds.

Updates from Last Year's Starter Flock Winners:

This year has been really fun. There were so many new things I learned and am learning. I am really thankful for you all for letting me ask questions and always finding me an answer. This year I had 2 nice little ewe lambs that we just weaned. It was a little rough at first during lambing, but I figured it out. I also took 2 of my ewes to the fair for my wool breeding project, and they ended up getting grand champion! This year I turned my buck out to 8 ewes, and they are all doing really well. I recently had to find a new buck, because the buck I had died a couple days after I had got his papers. I have had some struggles, but I am very lucky to have many people who are willing to help me night and day, and I thank them for that.

Lynley Conrad

One year ago, I was awarded the starter flock from this great association. Although there's trouble with any operation whether it's cattle, goats, or sheep, there are so many highlights and being a recipient was just one of them.

This year, I experienced numerous memorable events. One of them was shearing the registered ewes myself. It was great to be able to shear a registered Targhee, who produced a heavy, dense, white fleece.



I'm sure that I'm not the only one who likes lambing. I like the anticipation of what the next generation will accomplish and how they will perform.





I was also happy to go to the Nationals, and although I was not able to show my own sheep, I was still able to be a little competitive in the ring.

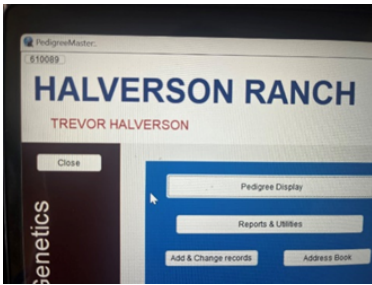
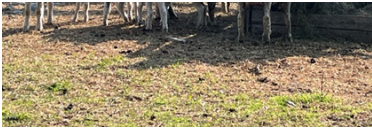


One more big accomplishment that I enjoyed was adding my animals to NSIP. I'm very interested in their genetic background and how that correlates within how they will perform.

The thing that I have enjoyed most, though, is not the sheep, but the people that I have had the pleasure to meet and the relationships that were made. It is the amazing people that make it an association and I am grateful to be affiliated with this organization.

Trevor Halverson





Please consider helping if you can!

We are looking for Starter Flock Ewe donations for 2024. If you are willing to donate an aged ewe, yearling ewe, or ewe lamb, please contact Scott Kilber at (605) 380-5262 or scott.kilber@agtegra.com to donate or to ask questions regarding a donation.

Summary of USTSA Board Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2023



All board members were present for the meeting. The transition from Mardy is going slower than planned and many hurdles are being encountered. We are having trouble with one of the banks getting names switched on the accounts. Most of the transition has been done with Jack McRae and Jackie McMartin doing most of the work.

Discussion of payment of entry fees and sheep at the national sale. Motion by Dylan to require that all entry fees be paid prior to check in at the National Show and Sale. Scott second. Motion passed

unanimously.

Discussion about paying for purchased sheep with funds from sold sheep. Motion by Jack that all sheep must be paid for at the conclusion of the National Sale and not be deducted from sale proceeds. Dylan second. Motion passed unanimously.

The reason for these two motions was to clear up confusion on keeping books and with a volunteer Treasurer we do not want to complicate things any more than we have to. This is also just not good business practice for us to be doing. We will also be checking into options for buyers to use credit cards or some other form of electronic payment.

Mardy's resignation was officially accepted effective August 31st, 2023. The Association thanks Mardy for her years of service to the organization.

Committee Updates:

Starter Flock – Last year's winners submitted updates to the October Targhee Talk. This year's winners are off to a good start.

National Show and Sale – Junior show judge is confirmed. Lodging and location is lined up. Auctioneer is tentatively lined up. The Sale Veterinarian is lined up. Open Show judge is tentatively lined up. Still working on food and other details.

Juniors – They are looking at updating their bylaws and will have a meeting on October 15th.

Promotion – Need to look at promoting the Targhee breed farther west. Utah Wool Growers Association may be a good partner to work with out there.

Registration – Notes on how to improve and speed up your registrations is included in an article earlier in this Targhee Talk.

Membership – Discussion about growing our membership especially active members. Ideas to explore are an online registered ewe sale. NSIP program to encourage registrations.

The Promotions position was also discussed in length. Resumes for candidates were evaluated and we are scheduling interviews. We hope to have this position filled sometime this fall. The board was very pleased with the quality of applicants who applied.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Kilber

***Note: Mark your calendars!**

There will be a USTSA Winter Meeting on January 20th, 2024. Zoom link will be sent your way in an upcoming Targhee Talk publication.

Reach Out!



Contact Information found here!

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