

## Corriedales in the United States

The history of Corriedales in the United States began in 1914. In that year the National Wool Growers Association requested that the USDA appoint a committee to visit New Zealand to select the best type of sheep in that country that had promise for this country. A special appropriation bill was passed in Congress. Professor F.R. Marshall, Head Sheepman in the Bureau of Animal Industry, and F.S. King, a noted Rambouillet breeder who represented the National Wool Growers Association, were asked to make the trip. They returned with sixty-five ewes and ten rams; all Corriedales that were taken to the government experiment station in Wyoming. In addition, Mr. King made a selection for the F. S. King Brothers Company consisting of twenty-five ewes and "Greenwood Lad", the Champion Ram of New Zealand. A year later thirty-five head were imported from the C.H. Ensor flock. The King Brothers flock became the first private flock in the United States, and in succeeding years imported some of the best Corriedales it could obtain from New Zealand and Australia. Eventually, the government sheep were moved from Wyoming to Idaho.

Before the first importations arrived, an exhibition flock was sent to the United States by C. H. Ensor for the Panama Pacific Exposition at San Francisco. I believe this shipment was also acquired by the Kings and later became the foundation of the H.T. Blood flock at Denver, Colorado.

In 1915 Frank King sold his interest in the F.S. King Brothers Company to his brothers, H.J. and J.H. King, who operated under the firm name of King Brothers. This remained a very active breeding establishment after the first importations. No surplus breeding stock was sold until 1930. IN 1948, 2100 Corriedale yearling ewes were sheared with an average fleece weight of 13.6 pounds. The flock was dispersed in 1949.

F.S. King established the Wyoming Corriedale Sheep Company at Cheyenne in 1916 with some of the original stock. In 1916 they were advertising five hundred ewes and rams that were being imported from New Zealand. His son, Arthur L. King, continued on with the flock. Art was later joined by his son, Jerry. In 1950, Art and Jerry made a sizable importation of ewes and rams from New Zealand. This flock continued to provide breeding stock to a large number of breeders for many years. Records indicate that in 1916 the Wyoming Corriedale Sheep Company obtained the exclusive agency in the United States and Canada for Ensor sheep. King Brothers Company had a similar agreement with Mr. Greenwood and some other New Zealander breeders.

F.S. King was also responsible for organizing the Wyoming Corriedale Society and founding the American Corriedale Association in 1916.

This is copied from the History of Corriedales in the United States (1914-2005) by Dr Gary Ricketts, Professor Emeritus, Department of Animal Sciences, University of Illinois