

The Katahdin Hairald



Quarterly Newsletter of Katahdin Hair Sheep International

www.KHSI.org

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Fall 2003

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Larry Weeks, KHSI President,
Virginia*

I want to thank Tom Settlemire, Richard Brzozowski, and their group for being the hosts for the annual conference. Not only did Tom have to deal with Marilyn's failing health but the day before the conference was to start a severe wind storm came through Maine. This storm destroyed the two large tents that had been set up for the sheep and presentations. The Pineland staff and Tom's committee pulled out the stops to make arrangements for an exciting conference. I feel this was one of the best conferences not only because of the knowledge gained but during discussions many differing views were expressed without anyone taking offense.

As you can see from the election results I have been re-elected to serve as president. I want to thank Sharon Schaefer, Jim Morgan and Teresa Maurer for working with me this year to get me up to speed. The current board of directors has been busy laying the foundation for next year. KHSI is entering a new era. With the passing of Barbara Piel and retirement of Charles Brown the links to the beginnings of the Katahdin breed are fading.

Also disappearing is the vision Michael and Barbara founded for the breed. There were many dis-

cussions at the annual meeting in Maine concerning where we want the breed to go and what role KHSI should play. In the next few months committees will be discussing issues such as a name or slogan change, Katahdins and the show ring, commercial Katahdin flocks, and the role that regional associations have with KHSI just to name a few. With the passing of Donna Watkins and Pam Armitage-Sword who were both strong supporters and promoters of Katahdin Sheep and KHSI, there is a need for breeders to volunteer to serve on committees and the board of directors.

You will be seeing more in the next couple months about committees and their work. If you are interested in helping please feel free to contact a committee member, operations or myself. With money in the budget for conference calls for committees, e-mail and the new web page coming online, the goal of improving communication is attainable.

These are exciting times to be a Katahdin breeder. Just a few years ago when we went to sheep meetings and told people we raised Katahdin they would turn and walk away. Today people look for us at sheep meetings. When we started raising Katahdin in 1990 they were an obscure novelty breed. Now we are 4th in registrations and grow-

In closing I encourage everyone to read the newsletter, visit the web page and become involved in promoting KHSI and Katahdin sheep.

Thanks and best wishes for a new year!

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KATAHDIN BREEDERS MEET IN MAINE

Richard Brzozowski
University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service

The last time KHSI membership met in Maine for their annual gathering was ten years ago when the Piel Farm of Abbott Village hosted the meeting. This past October the meeting site was about 100 miles south at a beautiful site called Pineland Farms in New Gloucester. Participants came from all over the country for the four-day event. On the first day, many enjoyed the scenery of the bright, fall foliage, a cruise of Casco Bay and a delicious traditional lobster bake at the site of the North East Katahdin Hair Sheep Research Project.

The second day included a full schedule of practical workshops lead by professors, veterinarians and other experts at the Sheep Symposium. Wool and hair sheep producers were invited to take part in sessions that focused on genetics, health, monitoring internal parasites, record keeping, and marketing to ethnic communities. They also were able to interact with a professional meat cutter who addressed meat quality and a veterinarian who performed a sheep necropsy (post mortem). That evening, the group gathered for a wonderful lamb banquet prepared by the Pineland chef followed by a concert by the group Schooner Fare for sing-a-longs and traditional New England tunes. Over 125 people took part in the day's events.

The third day was filled with presentations, discussions and interactive sessions that focused on the exhibition and sale of Katahdins, fecal egg counts, eye blood color monitoring of parasites, hair coat certification, and the business meeting of KHSI members. The celebration continued to the evening with a menu of Katahdin lamb, Katahdin potatoes and a meal fit for royalty. A special time of honoring Pamela Armitage Sword and Mrs. Barbara Piel climaxed the day.

The energy level of participants continued through to Sunday morning as more than 30 people took part in a farm tour of the Katahdin flock at Pineland Farms (a part of the research flock) and a most interesting and informative stop at North Star Farm in Windham where they met Phil and Lisa Webster, nationally recognized breeders of Montadales and Cheviots. They viewed the sheep flocks, facilities, and equipment and discussed topics such as cultural practices, feeds, marketing, sales and exhibiting sheep. Tour participants gained several useful ideas.

The planning committee members were honored to host the 2003 KHSI Annual Gathering and are grateful to all participants and sponsors for making this a memorable experience for all. Conference proceedings are available for those who were unable to attend. For more information please see ordering info in separate article, or contact Richard Brzozowski at rbrz@umext.maine.edu.

RENEWALS ARE DUE!

Enclosed in this newsletter is the 2004 Renewal Form. (If it is missing, call 479-444-8441 to get another one sent.) Please make sure you send it in with your annual dues by **no later than January 31st** to stay in good standing as a member. Also, be sure to list any changes in your address, phone number or email that you may have had over the past year. Many thanks!

ORDERING INFO FOR ARTICLES FROM MAINE MEETING TALKS

These proceedings, bound in a loose-leaf notebook, contain practical articles from all of the speakers at the conference held in October, 2003 as part of the KHSI Annual Gathering in New Gloucester, Maine. The proceedings will be a useful reference for you and your sheep operation in the months ahead.

The list of topics includes: Bio-security - Your Responsibility as a Farmer Visiting Another Farm; Producing & Selling Sheep to the Ethnic/Religious Meat Markets; Sheep Genetics 101; Performance Standards for Exhibiting Sheep; Lamb Meat Quality Evaluation; Lamb Cuts and How to Cook Them; Make Your Meal Special with American Lamb; Sheep Products Find Many Uses; Lamb Recipes; Sheep Necropsy;

What Does NSIP Do? How Does NSIP Work? Designing a Proactive Health Program for Your Flock; Monitoring Internal Parasites in Sheep.

Order forms may be requested from KHSI Operations 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net. OR you may send a check made out to UMCE for \$20.00 per copy to the following address: Katahdin Proceedings-UMCE; PO Box 9300; Portland, ME 04104-9300. Be sure that you include your current and complete mailing address and phone number.

Call us!
479-444-8441

ANNUAL GATHERING REPORT: OCTOBER 16-19, 2003

Kay Cloyd, KHSI Director, Kentucky

Autumn in Maine was the setting for the Katahdin Hair Sheep International annual gathering. Approximately 125 Katahdin breeders from all over the United States and Canada participated in the event that took place at Pineland Farms in New Gloucester. Dr. Tom Settlemire, Professor of Biology at Bowdin College and Dr. Richard J. Brzozowski, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, hosted this outstanding four day conference.

High quality, pertinent seminars, combined with hands on activities were presented by specialists and experts in the fields of sheep genetics, parasite resistance, anatomy and physiology, health and maintenance, marketing and even techniques of butchering. Throughout the conference the emphasis was on genetics: the use of genetics to improve flock health and production, to develop parasite resistance and to make the show ring more meaningful.

Dr. Settlemire and Dr. Brzozowski are co-directors of the Northeast Katahdin Hair Sheep Project, a current research project supported by USDA-SARE. The project is designed to focus on the benefits of the Katahdin (mothering, lean carcass, easy lambers, etc.) while increasing frame and muscle and improving parasite resistance. One of its major goals has been to identify Katahdins that are more genetically resistant to parasite infections, (specifically *Haemonchus contortus* or barberpole worm). One method that they use for monitoring parasite infection is the FAMACHA Anemia Guide. This

procedure is done by exposing the inner membrane of the sheep's lower eyelid and comparing it to a card that has 5 varying shades of red to white indicating the hemoglobin level in the blood. Many of us have used eye membrane color to determine the need for worming, but this system provides a color chart which indicates degree of infection when compared to the exposed eye membrane of the sheep. One advantage of this test is that animals can be checked individually and wormed only if needed. It also enables monitoring those animals that have more natural resistance. By identifying and culling the less resistant animals the project now has a group of animals that require little or no worming. Several young rams from the project flock were on hand for our viewing. These rams were one to two years old and had never been wormed.

Members participated in a hands on workshop to learn how to use the FAMACHA cards and received their own cards. In another workshop the McMaster fecal egg count system was demonstrated. Eyelid color and fecal egg count monitoring used correctly and consistently can greatly reduce the need for expensive whole flock worming.

In Sheep Genetics 101 Dr. Charles Parker, spoke about using practical genetics as a tool to improve flock productivity. Participants learned about effective selection and breeding systems for use on the farm. Keeping good records is the key to making any improvement program work. In another seminar he spoke about the need to have Performance Standards for Exhibiting Sheep.

With the growing popularity of the Katahdin breed, it is inevitable that exhibition will follow. He emphasized that we as producers need to set the standard of exhibition for the breed now. To avoid the pitfalls of breeding for "show" we must continue to value practical genetic/ performance data as well as phenotypic quality in our breed selection criteria. Breeding just for the biggest or best looking is not the direction we want to go. Dr. Parker presented a preliminary format that could be developed and sanctioned by the association that would include a greater emphasis on practical genetic/ performance in judging. A committee has been selected to work on this and will have a report in the months to come.

Dr. James Morgan presented the first Katahdin Sire Summary report based on cross-flock performance evaluation from the Katahdin NSIP Breeders Group. The 15 top sires listed were ranked by the NSIP (National sheep Improvement Program) based on evaluation of records from 22 Katahdin flocks from the USA and Canada. He was quick to point out that performance evaluations are great tools that can be used to select superior genetics and improve our flocks but they should be used wisely because they can also be used to the detriment of good breeding. Single trait selection, particularly selecting for the biggest, has ruined many livestock breeds, such as cattle that cannot calve on their own or chickens that are so top heavy they cannot walk. While many potential buyers look for the biggest, it is the job of all Katahdin breeders to keep in

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mind the need for balanced genetics. In other words, selections should be based on a combination of traits that produce good genetic progress and animals that produce high quality meat. We don't want large growthy lines that don't have enough milk to raise two lambs and/or have little or no parasite resistance.

Dr. Michael Opitz, DVM did an on-site sheep necropsy with a discussion of sheep anatomy and organ function. This was a rare opportunity to learn about sheep anatomy and many took advantage of it. Other sessions included selling sheep to the ethnic population with Dr. Susan Schoenian from the Western Maryland Research and Educa-

tion Center and Dr. Sandy L. Bushmich, DVM, MS from University of Connecticut with management techniques to prevent disease introduction on the farm.

Just for fun, many of us participated in a boat ride around greater Casco Bay, walking tour of historic Portland and/or went shopping at nearby Freeport, home of LLBean. At the end of the day we were treated to a wonderful Maine lobster bake at the farm of Brad and Sue Ray, of Buxton, Maine, home farm to the Northeast Katahdin Hair Sheep Project. We were able to see the research flock and discuss with those involved the work that is going on with the project. The next evening, after a delicious

lamb dinner at Pinelands we were treated to a concert by Schooner Fare, a folk group that was not only very entertaining and funny but also educated us about the local people and their customs. The conference ended on Sunday with tours of the Pineland farm's sheep flock and the Webster farm in Windham.

Many thanks to Dr. Settlemire and Dr. Brzozowski and all who were involved with time and effort and funding to make this gathering the tremendous success that it was. It was a great learning experience for all involved. Participants came home with practical knowledge and techniques that can be put to use on the farm.

KATAHDIN NSIP BREEDERS GROUP PUBLISH TRAIT-LEADING SIRES

Jim Morgan

Katahdin NSIP Data Coordinator

The Katahdin NSIP (National Sheep Improvement Performance) Breeders after 3 years of concerted effort are pleased to publish leading sires for four traits: 60 day Weaning Weight, 120 day Post-Weaning Weight, 60 day Maternal Milk and 60 day Maternal Milk+Growth Index. Rams are ranked by their EPDs (expected progeny differences) for each of these traits.

So far, 22 flocks have contributed records to this effort and in 2003, 16 flocks submitted data. Several more flocks will be joining the effort in 2004. After updating with this year's data, the entire Katahdin NSIP database now contains valid records on 3990 60-day weaning weights, 1196 120-day weaning weights, 1952 post-weaning (60- to 120-day) gains, and 2990 litter sizes. The average number of lambs

born for a 3-6 year old Katahdin ewe is 2.1 lambs/litter. This is a substantial number of records.

To be ranked, rams needed to have on average a) 20+ lambs raised in the same contemporary group with 20+ lambs of at least one other ram, b) to have had at least 10 daughters who have raised lambs in valid contemporary groups and c) to be genetically connected to rams in flocks of other Katahdin NSIP breeders. This provides a minimal level of accuracy so that performance is not based on a few records but on several lambs from each ranked sire.

The top fifteen rams for each of the four traits have been published and are available by contacting Jim Morgan, 479-444-6075; jlmm@earthlink.net or 18235 Wildlife Rd, Fayetteville, AR 72701. Work on publishing these results to a website is underway. Please email, call or write for your copies.

SHEEP HANDBOOK- NEW EDITION AVAILABLE

The 7th Edition of the Sheep Production Handbook is now available from several sources. This is well worth the price of \$49.95US plus shipping-it is a large book packed full of information on topics such as breeding and selection, forages, handling, health, marketing, nutrition and marketing.

To order directly from ASI (American Sheep Industry Association) call 303-771-3500 extension 32 from 7am-3 pm Mountain time.

Several of the sheep supply companies carry the book such as Premier, Mid-West Sheep & Wool Supply, Pipestone Veterinary Catalog.

LOOKING OVER THE FENCE

NOTES FROM THE CLOSING TALK BY DR CHARLES PARKER

2003 KHSI ANNUAL GATHERING

OCTOBER 18, 2003 AT PINELANDS CONFERENCE CENTER, MAINE

Editors Note: We really appreciated both the praise and the warnings in Dr. Parkers' remarks and thought it was important to share them with all the members. The following is a brief outline of the points presented by Dr Parker as he praised, challenged and set goals for Katahdin breeders.

A FEW OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE MEETING

- Great Program-excellent facilities, timely topics and wonderful entertainment—Schooner Fare on Friday night was a special musical treat.
- Arrangers—Tom and Dick did a great job and organized a great crew of helpers Brad and Sue Ray and the Maine Sheep Breeders Association members and University of Maine staff—A GREAT TEAM!
- And the FOOD—it was wonderful—I did miss the ME'LLT stew—Maine(ME) lamb(L) and lobster(L) tail(T) stew(S)—a surf and turf dish that MELLTS in your mouth!!

IS KHSI TOPPING OUT?? DON'T LET IT HAPPEN!

- Katahdins have been the fastest growing breed during the 1990's
- In 2002, KHSI was 4th in breed registrations!! (31 breeds included)
- Have registrations peaked?? Numbers of registrations have dropped slightly over the last couple of years, and breeders need to understand the factors behind this and come up with new strategies to keep registrations and the organization growing and quality of sheep high.

- Special program participation—Katahdin breeders are participating in these important programs

a) Scrapie Certification. Program—36% of U.S. KHSI breeders (115) are in, only Suffolks have more enrolled (400)

b) NSIP—16 Katahdin flocks—across flock evaluation and EPD's, are the top technology for enhancing genetic improvement.

- Katahdin sheep research—at more institutions than for any other breed ever.
- Jim Morgan's efforts should be recognized—he has benefited KHSI breeders by staying connected to institutions via his NSIP and breed research cooperation.

The U.S. Sheep Revolution is "HAIR", and KATAHDINS, "the breed whose time has come!" are leading the way!

PIEL VISION—

- began 46 years ago
- Barbara Piel carried the vision forward for the Katahdin breed, assisted by the able management of Charlie Brown.
- The Piel Dream for KHSI was "to know each other, share information, and work together to improve and promote Katahdins." (quote from B. Piel)

RE-AFFIRMATION OF THE PIEL DREAM—

- Continued development/improvement of the breed into the 21st century. Barbara Piel felt strongly that you should, "leave things better than you found them."

- That improvement process needs to evolve with time and be responsive to customers' wants/needs and technology.

TOP OF THE MIND ISSUES

- Breed potential is GREAT! and biologically speaking, UNEXPLORED
- KATAHDINS—the premier maternal breed of the 21st century—adaptable, easy managed—a "farmer friendly"—practical field sheep.
- Improving/Merchandising—GOAL—"programs to achieve/equate market value with utility (genetic) value as determined by seedstock buyers" Parker, WSWC, NZ, 2001.
- Recognizing Customer Wants/Needs - Customers want:
 - a) Documented lines of Katahdins (sheep) that are genetically superior for parasite tolerance
 - b) Genetic Insurance for scrapie prevention- select for scrapie resistance sheep (codons 136/171)
 - c) Use NSIP/EPD's to increase and document performance of economically important traits.
 - d) To do: select for Katahdins that are foot rot tolerant—the technology is here!

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT-FUTURE GOALS FOR KATAHDIN BREEDERS

- a) Adequate/acceptable size/muscling/carcass value.
- b) Explore/Develop the skin market-it has the potential

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monetary value to be the 'third' lamb for a ewe producing twins! The value received for hair sheep skin leather could become a significant source of income.

- c) Assess the eating qualities of Katahdin market lambs—especially flavor and tenderness. Promote research to determine if Katahdins have superior taste or nutritional qualities.
- d) Market Development—international markets are there for the “getting” but take effort and networking-consider working with USLGE, FAS, and USDA/APHIS.

EXHIBITS/SHOWS

- State Fair & other agricultural agri events-NEEDS: promotional/educational materials to display with animals.

- Advancing your breed with INNOVATION—Information Technology—IT’s time has come!!
- Approaches to work on: Develop standards for SANCTIONED KHSI EXHIBITS. Insure via performance that quality sheep are exhibited at such events and sales. Advertise via the KHSI web site. Consider accepting mail bids via cyberspace. Make “IT” (information technology) use innovative for Katahdins and stand out among all the breeds—head the class with 21st century innovation. This issue is at a critical attention need status for KHSI.
- Assess how to reach out to the youth in an educationally enriched way. Establish education/recognition activities. For

example, the 2003 KHSI Destination Maine Youth Scholarship—12 to 18 years of age—was a great start.

MAKING IT HAPPEN—

- KHSI’s budget is very limiting! Your budget should be double the current level to continue breed development/improvement, promotion and market expansion.
- Need to profile your membership. Recognize the professional talent that exists. Define programs and issues that need advanced, then ORGANIZE the people and resources within the membership to go forward.
- Grants are available—but it takes more staff to address and assist in grant identification and preparing proposals—

NOTE ABOUT DISPLAY ADS

Due to requests from members who would like to feature more information about their sheep and their farm, the KHSI Board has asked Operations to offer new ad options. We now can offer insert space for ads, which can be emailed to us camera ready (in .jpg, .psd, or .tif format). If you don’t have a way to make your own ads, Gail Hardy of Xpressions (who currently does the layout of the *Katahdin Hairald*) has offered to build your ad for you for \$25/full page ad, \$18/half page ad, and \$15/quarter page ad. She can be reached at 479-824-3809 or xpress@pgtc.com.

Display ad rates (camera ready) are: • \$30 for ¼ page • \$55 for ½ page • \$100 for full page

Please call or email Operations if you would like to place a display ad: 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net.

KHSI Financial Report			
18-Oct-03	Approved Budget 2003	Actuals Projected 2003	Approved Budget 2004
Revenue			
Memberships, Registrations	45,000	45,514	45,000
Other	<u>1,000</u>	<u>809</u>	<u>1,580</u> Note 1
Totals	46,000	46,323	46,580
Expense			
Registry	16,500	15,341	16,900
Operations	7,500	7,875	8,000
Can, Mx Reps	135	50	100
Ads, Web, Promo	5,000	4,060	5,000
Bank Charges	15	0	15
Insurance	1,650	1,763	1,940
Items for sale	400	309	400
Office Supplies	1550	1,607	1,600
Postage	3500	3,817	3,800
Printing, Copying	3,000	3,185	3,200
Prof Services	400	400	400
Phone	3,750	3,088	3,100
Reimbursements	1,500	2,229	1,000
Annual Mtg	500	500	500
Records Security	100	100	100
Committee Expenses	500	500	500
Subscriptions	0	25	25
	46,000	44,849	46,580

Note 1: this category includes bank interest, promotions sales, inspection reimbursements from breeders, ad & web sales

MINUTES OF THE KHSI ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2003

PINELANDS CONFERENCE CENTER; NEW GLOUCESTER, MAINE

Submitted by Sherrie Wiygul

Attendees: Jeff & Kathy Bielek (OH), Mike & Linda Bradley (PA), Richard Brzozowski (ME), Charlotte Burley (ME), Bill & Kay Cloyd (KY), Carolyn Cook (MO), Robert & Richard Elliott (TX), Harry Fisher (PA), Doug & Laura Fortmeyer (KS), Richard Gilbert (OH), Dean & Naomi Hawkins (OH), Sue Ingram (MO), Ed Martsolf (AR), Teresa Maurer & Jim Morgan (AR), Katie Morgan (IN), Brad, Linda, Mattie & Sam Neunzig (WA) Linda O'Brien (MD), Carsten Pank (NY), Charles Parker (OH), Charles & Rita Pearson (TX), Blanche Perkins (IN), , Jeff White & Pam Post (VT), Barbara Pugh (NC), Imogene Ray (MO), Bruce & Wendy Reinemann (ME), Susan Schoenian (MD), Tom Settlemire (ME), Ken & Lilae Shope (PA), Ted & Pat Sienkiewicz (VA), Clarence Smart (NC), Donna Stonebeck (PA), John & Marian Stromquist (IL), Jim and Doreen Van Vleet (NY) Doug & Taunya Webster (IA), Larry & Lisa Weeks (VA), Martha Wieggers (MO), Sherrie Wiygul (MS).

NOTE: If you attended the membership meeting, but don't see your name, it was probably because you forgot to sign in during the membership meeting. Let KHSI Operations know, and we'll be glad to add your name to the final record of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order the afternoon of Oct. 18 by President Larry Weeks.

I. It was decided that a moment of remembrance for the late Pam Armitage-Sword and

Barbara Piel would be held during the banquet to follow the annual meeting.

II. The agenda was reviewed; no changes were made.

III. Old Business—Lisa Weeks moved and members voted yea to accept the minutes of the 2002 annual meeting.

IV. New business followed:

A. Larry Weeks gave the President's Report. He mentioned that board members had communicated via conference calls and email throughout the year. He reported that board members were committed to growth of the organization and an intention to include commercial breeders in the organization. An enhanced website will soon be available. Identifying individuals to lead inspector training is a goal of KHSI for the coming year. Darlene Jordan will become the Canadian KHSI representative. The role of the Mexican representative is being evaluated.

B. Teresa Maurer gave the 2003 financial report. \$500 appropriated for the Vision Committee will be used for all committee work. It is estimated that the projected expenses will be \$44,849, under the \$46,000 estimated for 2003. Laura Fortmeyer moved that the budget be accepted and it was unanimously.

Regarding the projected 2004 budget of \$46,580, Ted Sienkiewicz moved for ac-

ceptance and the membership voted aye.

C. Ed Martsolf gave the Registry report which showed a trend of decreased registrations and recordations. In the future the Registry will break out registrations and recordations separately in the report.

D. Teresa Maurer gave the Operations report. Reported were accomplishments (phone and email contacts, information packets sent out, ads placed in publications, development of a website with breeders pages, increased use of the newsletter via email, coordination of inspections, promotion displays, the newsletter and election ballots, communication with regional groups, updating and extension of the membership database, support of the annual meeting, and treasury duties). She asked for feedback from members.

E. A powerpoint presentation by Sherrie Wiygul centered on the 2004 KHSI meeting to be held in Mississippi October 7-9.

F. Regarding the 2005 KHSI meeting, Brad and Linda Neunzig have suggested meeting at their farm in Washington. Other bids will be requested in Hairald.

G. Those who have not cast their Board of Director ballots by mail were asked to turn them in.

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H. Committee reports followed:

1. Jim Morgan of the Promotions committee discussed the website/breeders pages that will soon be available at about \$50 a year. Other topics covered were paid ads in the newsletter, a request to accept the newsletter by email to save money, the placement of ads in several print publications, and the intention to pick a new slogan for KHSI.
2. Laura Fortmeyer gave the report for the Breed Improvement committee. She discussed performance evaluation by means of NSIP, giving continued thought to upgrading, dissemination of current research affecting our breed, and identifying the scrapie resistance gene.
3. Linda Neunzig mentioned the Katahdin show at Sedalia and asked for feedback from

members about the new show format featured at this Maine meeting.

4. Following the committee reports, breakout sessions of committee members and interested KHSI members took place. Items suggested during these sessions included a contest for a new slogan with free ad space for first and second place winners.

There was no additional new business.

V. Election of officers followed.

- A. Elected to three-year positions were Barbara Pugh and Kay Cloyd. Larry Weeks was elected to a two-year position and Richard Gilbert was elected to a one-year position.
- B. Laura Fortmeyer moved that the ballots be destroyed and the membership so voted.
- C. Clarence Smart moved the meeting be adjourned and the membership voted to do so.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS, OFFICERS AND THANKS

Mail and in-person ballots were counted at the October 18 membership meeting in Maine. We welcome back Larry Weeks (VA) as a returning board member, as well as 3 new board members: Kay Cloyd (KY), Richard Gilbert (OH) and Barbara Pugh (NC). We offer many thanks for the hard work of Sharon Schaefer and Sherrie Wiygul, who have served their full terms. We are grateful for the extra time and energy they put in as KHSI officers-Sharon as President, and Sherrie as Secretary.

Following the KHSI membership meeting, the KHSI Board decided on the following officers for 2004:

- President - Larry Weeks
- Vice President - Linda Neunzig
- Secretary - Barbara Pugh
- Treasurer - Robert Elliott.

Updated contact information for all board members can be found in the Members Guide in this issue.

Come South to Mississippi for 2004 KHSI Meeting!

Sherrie Wiygul, Mississippi

Les and Amanda Jordan, Glenn and Sherrie Wiygul, and members of SCKA (Southcentral Katahdin Hair Sheep Association) will host the 2004 KHSI Annual Meeting on October 7-9, 2004 near McComb, Mississippi in Pike County. The site is 70 miles from Baton Rouge, LA, 75 miles from Jackson, MS, and 85 miles from New Orleans, LA which all have service by major airlines, and McComb is served by the Amtrak train. The Pike County Fairgrounds will provide meeting rooms, and facilities for the KHSI annual meeting, private sheep sales and inspector training. Lodging is available at many motels in the McComb area, and Percy Quinn State Park has camping facilities.

Sessions are planned on ruminant nutrition, management of grasslands, parasite management, and carcass evaluation. Space for appropriate vendors will be available, and we welcome your suggestions for vendors or companies to contact. A tour of a local processing plant, and an optional trip to New Orleans will also be offered. Additional details will be available in later issues of the Hairald, and on the KHSI website at: www.KHSI.org.

Have you been wanting to let over 500 KHSI members know about your sheep?

There is a way!

Purchase a display ad for the KHSI Newsletter.

See more details on page 6

WHITE POST FARM

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MCD Big-Time COR 0-80
2.5 year wt. 274 lbs. QR

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MCD Pace-Setter, COR 3-08, 7 mo., wt. 124 lbs. QR

Trefoil Farm Katahdins

OUR INTRODUCTION TO KATAHDINS

In April of 2000 my wife and I decided to retire from a medium size (600 cows) dairy partnership with our son, and to breed meat sheep that need no shearing, as a retirement project. The following month we attended "Hair Sheep Day 2000," a hair sheep symposium at the Virginia State University, at which Dr. Charles Parker was the keynote speaker, and KHSI Secretary Treasurer, David Sweeney spoke about the history and current status of the Katahdin breed. We had arrived at this hair sheep symposium with a serious interest in the Dorper breed; until May of 2000 we thought "Katahdins" were potatoes. We saw our first Katahdin sheep at the Virginia State University Research Farm — and they compared well to the Dorpers we had seen before.

Back from Virginia, we took a trip North, and visited three Katahdin breeders in Canada. A few weeks later, we combined a vacation trip to the rocky coast of Northern Maine with a visit to the place of origin of the Katahdin breed, the Piel Farm in North-Central Maine — and we liked what we saw.

A CONDENSED HISTORY OF THE KATAHDIN BREED

Katahdins are a relatively young, highly adaptable, and very prolific hair sheep breed. This American breed was started in the nineteen fifties by the late Michael Piel, when he began to cross Caribbean hair sheep with various wool breeds. His objective was to develop a meat sheep (single purpose) breed that needed no shearing. Michael Piel had named his new breed after Maine's highest mountain, which rises at a distance of about fifty miles to the North-East of the Piel Farm — Mt. Katahdin.

After Michael Piel's untimely death in 1976, the development of the Katahdin breed was continued at the Piel Farm by his widow, Barbara Piel, and Piel Farm General Manager, Charles Brown. It was also continued at various other farms, since Michael Piel had already started to share his new breed with other interested breeders. In 1985, Katahdin Hair Sheep International (KHSI) was founded and a registry started. Within the following one and a half decades, KHSI grew into the fifth largest sheep registry in America. There are approximately as many Katahdin sheep in Canada as in the USA.

PIEL FARM BREEDING CONTINUED

On our second visit to the Piel Farm, in late summer of 2000, we learned that, due to Mrs. Piel's advancing age, the Piel Farm operations were scheduled to be closed by the fall of the next year. Spring of 2001 was to be the last lambing season at the Piel Farm. It was probably a matter of coming to the right place at the right time — we purchased seventy-five ewe lambs, nearly the entire ewe lamb crop of that year, from the Piel Farm. In the following year (2001) we bought an additional fifty-one ewe lambs from the Piel Farm. We also bought a total of five young rams (3 born in 2000 and 2 in 2001). Selection of these rams was exclusively based on Piel Farm production records and on bloodlines, so as to make it possible to continue the Piel Farm breeding for at least the next two generations without inbreeding. When I arrived at the Piel Farm to pick up the last load of sheep, I sadly noticed a realtor's shingle at the entrance to the Piel Farm.

With the last purchase from the Piel Farm, we had closed our ewe flock. For the near future we have committed TREFOIL FARM to continue the Piel Farm breeding, with an additional selection emphasis on internal parasite tolerance. We also want to maintain what Katahdins are and are not — efficient forage converters and not show ring sheep. If, in breeding Katahdins, Barbara Piel and Charles Brown were making genetic progress, as I firmly believe they did, then we were fortunate to bring the latest editions of Piel Farm genetics to TREFOIL FARM.

Carsten J. Pank

Trefoil Farm/Sprakers, NY 12166/(518) 673-5859

MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Kay Cloyd and her husband Bill manage a flock of 25 ewes on their 24 acre farm near Lexington, Kentucky. She has been secretary of the Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers for 3 years, which has given her valuable knowledge of the sheep industry. That experience also put her in contact with many breeders as well as researchers at the University of Kentucky. She has been a member of KHSI for 5 years, and an inspector for 3 years and has regularly promoted Katahdins, especially at the North American International Livestock Expo (NAILE) for the last 4 years. Her goal is to produce good quality breeding stock and she is interested in selecting for scrapie resistant genes. Three years ago she introduced Canadian genetics with the intent of increasing frame size and muscling. "I see my service on the board as a great opportunity to reach hundreds of sheep breeders and spread the word about our breed".

After starting a pasture poultry business 10 years ago, Richard Gilbert discovered six years ago that sheep suited him and his southeastern Ohio farm. He currently has a flock of 50 ewes, including a growing number of recorded ewes, 3 registered rams, and 4 newly purchased registered ewe lambs. His orientation is as a grazer, selecting for performance on forage and mothering ability to permit lambing on pasture in the spring. He feels that the Katahdin is an excellent maternal ewe, moderately prolific

and an easy keeper. He participates in the NSIP (National Sheep Improvement Program) for Katahdins and feels that it can be a powerful tool in identifying and selecting superior sheep that can then be spread to raise the overall level of the Katahdin breed. "Parasite resistance will become increasingly important and documented resistance should become a selling point for the breed in general. It can set the Katahdin apart."

Barbara Pugh, from Pittsboro, North Carolina, has 24 years of experience with sheep, including direct marketing of meat at a retail level. Their location near metropolitan areas allowed her to work with other sheep producers to maintain a year round supply of butcher lambs to meet the local demand. She and her husband began with woolled sheep, and tried Katahdins out of curiosity. Now their 75 ewe flock is predominantly Katahdins. She has worked for many years with the North Carolina Sheep Producers Association and the Virginia Sheep Federation, and has gotten to know a lot of producers around the southeast. "The sheep industry needs a year round supply of healthy, lean lambs that suit consumer demand and provides a profit to us as farmers. Katahdins have a place in this picture and we need to bring it into clearer focus for commercial sheep producers. Registered breeders need to be sure to provide what the commercial breeder needs."

DARLENE JORDAN APPOINTED AS NEW CANADIAN REP

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Darlene Jordan has been appointed as Canadian Representative for KHSI. In 2004, her name and number will appear in KHSI ads in publications that reach Canadian sheep breeders, so that she can answer questions and send out information about the breed and the organization. Darlene will also help serve as a liaison between Canadian Katahdin breeders and the Board.

Darlene and her husband Randy live on their farm south of Raymore, Saskatchewan, staying busy with more than 200 Katahdin ewes, their dog and a guardian llama. We're proud to say that 146 of their ewes are KHSI registered. They began their Katahdin operation in 1993, and Darlene became a permanent inspector in 1999 when KHSI met in High River, Alberta. She says, "I have shared in many of the joys and trials that other producers have experienced these past years, and I am looking forward to assisting others and KHSI."

Darlene can be emailed at ran.dar@sasktel.net or phoned at 306-746-4361, and you can write her at: Box 309, Raymore, Saskatchewan, S0A 3J0.

**Renew your
membership by
January 31st**

**2005
Meeting
Site
Needed!**

The KHSI Board has announced that it will be accepting proposals for the 2005 KHSI Meeting site. To submit ideas for meeting location, just email a short letter of interest to: khsint@earthlink.net or send to: KHSI Operations, PO Box 778, Fayetteville, AR 72702. We are also happy to talk to you about your idea at 479-444-8441. You may also request some background materials that we have on hosting an annual meeting by calling or emailing us. **Deadline for submission is March 1, 2004.**

Welcome New Members – July through November, 2003

Darren & Pete Neels	Alberta
Frank & Rosaline Wasowicz	Alberta
Greg Marshall	Nova Scotia
Roger D Comstock	Alabama
Lauren, Josephine & Laurie Lauing	Alabama
Jeff & Lisa Huntington	Arkansas
Fred & Larisse Mullens	Arkansas
JoAnne & Dayman Beams	California
Janis Lubker	California
Jane Sommers	California
Elaine Vogt	California
Carol Postley	Florida
Neil Parker	Illinois
Glenn N Yoder	Illinois
Phyllis A Warman	Indiana
Marcia King-Brink	Iowa
Cheryl & David Saunders	Iowa
Scott R & Sharron A Long	Kansas
Thomas Murphy	Kentucky
Grady & Carolyn Poor	Kentucky
Hansel Scott	Kentucky
Inga Stephens	Kentucky
Richard Drousseau	Louisiana
Hilliard "Bob" Smith	Louisiana
Elvin Soileau	Louisiana
Rich & Connie Morrison	Michigan
Rick Maierhoffer & Bill Byram	Missouri
Sam & Amy Niederhelm	Missouri
Jeff, Tammy, Ben & Dan Vemmer	Missouri
Dwayne & Sue Watson	Missouri
Brenda & Jim Sheets	Nebraska
Michael & Philippa Katz	New York
Steve Modlin	North Carolina
Gary Scott Winter	North Carolina
Frank Stahl	Ohio
Debra Janes Blake	Oregon
Barbara Griffin	Oregon
Lauren Henry & Roland Sonnenburg	Oregon
Rick & Jennifer Barefoot	Pennsylvania
D.Wayne & Carol Strout	Pennsylvania
Elizabeth Utting	Pennsylvania
Mrs Joni Ferris; William & Vivian Wentling	Pennsylvania
Page-Wald Exotics	South Dakota
Chris Wilson	Tennessee
Dennis & Elena Anderson	Texas
Randy & Paula Ayers	Texas
Larry Holamon	Texas
Jimmy & Alice Josey	Texas

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Welcome New Members, continued from page 10

Charles & Rita Pearson	Texas
Gaylin Ratliff	Texas
Gilbert Wright	Texas
Jim & Deb McKenna.....	Virginia
Billie M Lemmel.....	Washington
Jean & Eric Lindholm.....	Washington
Dave Woodhouse	Washington
Judith & Joseph Dondlinger	Wisconsin
Arnold Studnicka.....	Wisconsin

REMEMBRANCE FOR PAM SWORD

Teresa Maurer and Jim Morgan

With great sadness, we learned that KHSI Board Member, Pamela Armitage Sword, passed away from a brain tumor on September 25, 2003. She was an active member of KHSI since 1996 and brought to us a very positive attitude, a deep love for her Katahdins and a desire to work together for the common good of all. Pam was among the first to initiate movement of quality Katahdins across the US-Canada border. In addition to serving as secretary for the board and doing a great job representing KHSI in Canada, she showed patience and perseverance in chairing a recent committee to revise the KHSI by-laws. One of our good memories of Pam, was standing in the lobby of the hotel in Mexico last year and hearing her break into song—her voice was a special talent along with her sheep breeding skills. Linda Neunzig gave such a wonderful picture of her visit to Pam in the summer, describing how Pam was still enjoying sing alongs and laughing and having a great time with her visitors.

Pam's husband Ian plans to continue her vision, which she described once in these words: "I

believe we are standing on the threshold of an exciting growth period for Katahdin sheep. I think that if we can offer high quality, good-sized sheep, interest will only grow. I do see further opportunities for cross-border marketing and mutual cooperation for the benefit of KHSI breeders. Katahdin breeders, regardless of where they reside, what other associations they belong to, or whether they are a purebred or commercial operation. If we work as a unit, with a common goal of promoting high quality Katahdins, the opportunities in the future for all breeders would seem to be endless."

If you wish to remember Pam in a special way, two organizations have been selected as possible recipients of memorial donations.

1. Red Deer Hospice Society
D3617 - 50th Avenue
Red Deer, Alberta
T4N 3Y5
2. STARS (helicopter-ambulance service)
1441 Aviation Park, NE
Box 570
Calgary, AB
T2E 8M7

MARILYN SETTLEMIRE MEMORIAL

Editor's Note: These excerpts are printed in tribute and thanks for the work that Tom and Marilyn Settle mire contributed to the KHSI Annual Meeting and to the shepherds of Maine.

Marilyn Louise Settle mire, 66, died October 25, 2003 at Brunswick Hospital after a long struggle with Pulmonary Fibrous, an auto immune disease of the lung. She was born in Lima Ohio, and married Tom in 1960. They lived in Ohio and North Carolina before coming to Maine in 1969, where she and her family ran a vegetable and sheep farm in Brunswick since 1971. She was a nursery school teacher in Brunswick for 23 years — working at both the Recreation Center Preschool and Learning Land Nursery School. In 1977, she was a member of the group that founded the Brunswick Farmer's Market Association. For many years she marketed lamb produced on the family farm at both the downtown market and Crystal Springs Farm and enjoyed spending her Tuesdays with a wool spinning group.

The Marilyn L. Settle mire Scholarship Fund is being created in her honor to provide opportunities for children with need to attend a local preschool. Contribution to the fund may be to: The Marilyn L. Settle mire Scholarship Fund, Fleet Bank, Maine Street, Brunswick, Maine 04011.

Registry: edmartself@lakewebs.net

COMPOSTING OF DEAD SHEEP

Compiled by Jim Morgan

(Editor's note - Over the past several years rendering companies and many local processing plants have forced sheep farmers to dispose of their own dead sheep, lambs and lamb processing wastes. This is due to the "potential" presence of the scrapie prion in sheep carcasses. The KHSI Hairald strongly suggests that each sheep owner check for legal regulations for composting and disposing of carcasses in their states/provinces and counties. These differ and composting is not an option in all localities).

The composting of dead animals, even large cows and hogs, has increased in recent years. More than a few Universities have done research and have or have had demonstration composting facilities. Check with your local extension agents and universities for suggestions for your specific climate and government regulations. Good composting procedures will kill disease organisms (viruses and bacteria and coccidia) and make the resulting organic matter safe for putting on pastures, gardens and fields.

There are three resources that I would like to draw attention. The article by David Greene and the website photos produced by Dr Irwin would work well together. For a more in-depth treatment you can order a copy of the Composting Animal publication from NRAES (see below for information).

A) David Greene's article is excerpted from the Maryland Small Ruminant Website <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/> - The specific location of David Greene's article is <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/articles/compostsheep.html> (Text of article below).

B) A website produced by Lyndon N. Irwin, PhD, Professor of Animal Science, Southwest Missouri State University has several photos that can take you step by step through the process of building and using a sheep composting pile. <http://agsmsu.edu/compost.html>

C) Also an excellent publication available from The Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service (NRAES), Cooperative Extension in Cornell, NY. The website url that describes this field guide is <http://www.nraes.org/publications/nraes114.html>. The Field Guide to On-Farm Composting, NRAES-114, is available for \$14.00 per copy plus shipping and handling from NRAES, Cooperative Extension, PO Box 4557, Ithaca, New York 14852-4557. Shipping and handling for one copy is \$4.25 within the continental United States. New York residents, add 8.25% sales tax (calculated on both the cost of publications and the shipping and handling charges.) If ordering more than one book or if ordering from outside the United States, contact NRAES for shipping rates and possible quantity discounts. Orders from outside the United States must be prepaid in U.S. funds. All major credit cards are accepted, and checks should be made payable to NRAES. For more information or a free publication catalog, contact NRAES by phone at (607) 255-7654, by fax at (607) 254-8770, or by e-mail at nraes@cornell.edu. To learn more about

NRAES, browse through their entire catalog, and order books on-line, visit their web site at www.nraes.org.

"Composting dead sheep"

by David L. Greene,

County Extension Director,

Maryland (retired)

Since renderers no longer pick up and dispose of sheep, producers have few options in the disposal of sheep and sheep products. Because of the concerns over groundwater pollution, burying sheep is not practical or recommended in most cases. Incineration is the best alternative, but is very costly, therefore not very practical for small and mid-size sheep producers.

Composting is a recycling process where bacteria and fungi decompose organic material in an aerobic (oxygen present) environment. Organic wastes, in this case dead sheep, are transformed by bacteria into a soil-like material similar to humus.

The composting process generally occurs in two stages: primary and secondary. During the primary stage, a higher rate of biological activity results in rapid composting and higher temperatures in the bin. Conversely, the secondary stage has lower biological activity resulting in lower temperatures.

In composting, the material mix is very important. The mix requires the proper balance of carbon and nitrogen. When this balance occurs along with adequate levels of air and water, the composting process results in nearly complete disposal of dead sheep with little odor and run-off. A carbon to nitrogen ratio of 25

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

to 1 is best, with the sheep supplying most of the nitrogen.

The concentration of oxygen in the mixture is very important. Air is trapped in the material used for composting. As the bacteria multiply, oxygen is used up and additional oxygen must be re-supplied for the composting process to be successful. Turning or mixing the pile after the process slows down will add oxygen and help it to restart the composting process.

The carbon source is also very important in allowing air penetration and holding moisture in the pile. Green (undried) sawdust has been the carbon source of choice in large animal composting. Wood chips will work also, but more attention must be given to monitoring the pile to be certain the correct moisture is present, as chips tend to dry out faster than sawdust. To encourage bacterial growth and rapid composting, the mixture must be 50-60 percent moisture. If a handful feels moist, but no water can be squeezed from it, the mixture is probably okay.

Monitoring the process with a three foot composting thermometer (which can be purchased in most garden supply stores) will show if the pile is heating up properly. When the temperature of the pile declines below 100° F, adding water and stirring to provide oxygen should cause the pile to heat up again. When temperatures remain above 130° F for three consecutive days, disease-causing pathogens within the pile will be destroyed.

After the composting process has completed, usually in 6-8 weeks for active composting and 15 to 20 weeks for inactive, the

material can be spread over pastures and crop fields. A good time to clean out the composter is when the manure is hauled from the barn. A manure spreader does a good job of breaking up some of the larger bones that may not be fully decomposed.

How to Get started? Usually only one bin will be needed for most flocks under 25 to 30 ewes. Bins should be at least six (6) square feet and possibly eight (8) square feet for larger breeds. Do not build bins larger than necessary since larger bins require more carbon material (sawdust, chips, manure etc.). The boards on the sides of the bin should have gaps of one-half to three-fourths inches for proper airflow. Bins should be located close to buildings and a water source, but not in direct contact with the flock. A roof over the bins is recommended, but is not necessary if a tarp can be used during periods of excessive rainfall.

Larger flocks will require two bins. Dead lambs, afterbirth, or material returned from the butchering process can all be composted by this method as well.

Begin with at least one (1) foot of sawdust in the bin before placing in the dead animal. Situate the carcass so that at least a foot of carbon material (sawdust in this case) is between the animal and the bin sides. Cover the carcass with one and a half feet of material and monitor every few days. Recent research has indicated that a 120 lb. carcass will require about twelve (12) cubic feet of sawdust.

Personal experience over the last four years has shown this process works well, is a labor saver, is low in cost, has little odor, does

not promote the growth of flies or other annoying insects and is environmentally friendly.

For more information, contact NRAES (www.nraes.org or 607/255-7654) to purchase "Field Guide to On-Farm Composting" for \$14.)

SILENT AUCTION FOR RAM BENEFITS 2004 KHSI ANNUAL MEETING

The ram was very generously donated by Vaughn & Naomi Johnson, Pinto Ranch, Livingston, MT. You can view the ram and his information at the SCKA website, www.hair-sheep.com. All money received will be used by the SouthCentral Katahdin Hair Sheep Association to help finance the 2004 KHSI Annual Meeting in Southern Mississippi. Vaughn & Naomi have been using Canadian ram lines on their hay and forage ranch. The largest ram used to sire many of their sheep was "Goliath" who weighed 360 pounds. Go place your bid today!! If you don't have web access, call or write a postal letter to Operations and we will confidentially place your bid for you.

Sign up for an
Electronic version
of the
Katahdin Hairald
khsint@earthlink.net

KHSI WEBSITE UPDATE

The KHSI Website has undergone a revision. The first part is working well and we invite you to visit. There are still two main projects left to finish on this round of the website revision. www.khsi.org

HOW CAN YOU USE THE NEW WEBSITE? The membership list is now searchable. You can go to the website and search for a current member by prefix, farm name, state, sheep for sale, SFCP, NSIP participation, WCFHP or any of several other possibilities.

- a) For example, you may have heard that John & Jane Doe have Katahdins for sale, but you don't know what state. The website can now help you out.
- b) You want to see how many flocks in Illinois have sheep for sale and are in the SFCP program.
- c) A buyer wants to find all the flocks that have sheep for export in Alberta or in Nebraska.

For all of the above cases, you or prospective buyers can now search at the website. If you don't have access to the web, you can call the Operations Office and ask us to help or ask a fellow breeder with internet access to check for you. We see this list as a great asset for linking buyers with sellers.

HOW CAN YOU USE THE NEW WEBSITE IN THE FUTURE?

We need to publish several pictures to the new website. Our goal is to change these frequently. So, if you would like to have a picture of your sheep at the website, send us your pictures by mail or by email. We look forward to receiving pictures and making the website more attrac-

tive and more exciting for prospective buyers.

We have also have started on the Breeder's Pages. The Breeder's Pages will function as mini-websites for KHSI members and will be located at the KHSI site. First, they will be designed so that they load quickly and buyers can quickly move through several pages and view several flocks. Each page will have a standard template with room for a) four pictures, b) farm/ranch name & contact information, c) three text boxes for i) breeding and/or management objectives, ii) sheep for sale information, and a iii) table for breeding animal information. Start collecting your pictures. This site will be ready by January 1, 2004 and will cost \$50/year. KHSI members will be able to update their pages and changes will be placed to the web within a week of submission. Members will be able to submit changes themselves and change sheep for sale information frequently as well. There will be step by step instructions that will make it easy for all of us who have yet to take the step to publish information to a website.

Comprehensive prefix list at the website. There have been numerous requests for a list of prefixes so that members can identify the breeders of the animals on their five generation pedigrees of their registered Katahdins. The goal will be to have list each prefix registered with the KHSI Registry with the name of the breeder and the state/province their farm/ranch is/was in. We plan to update this list quarterly. (NOTE: This feature will not be up until early in 2004—keep visiting the site to watch for this feature).

The KHSI Operations Office would like to thank all that have helped with the development of this project over the past few years. A few key comments from several people have really helped take this to a new level. Among many who helped us, we would especially like to thank Dave Sweeney (NC), Sue Ingram (MO), Glenn Wiygul (MS), Laura Fortmeyer (KS) and Nancy Case (MO). Several others have contributed with ideas, inspiration and corrections as well, Kay Cloyd (KY), Richard Gilbert (OH), Mark Dennis (LA), Charles Parker (OH), and Barbara Pugh (NC).

A BIG THANKS TO NANCY CASE FOR ALL OF HER WORK ON THE WEBSITE

We in the Operations Office and the KHSI Board would like to acknowledge all of Nancy Case's work on the KHSI website from 1998-2003. This position was basically volunteer. She was responsible for maintaining, contracting for service and updating the KHSI site. Without Nancy's efforts, KHSI would not have had a website. Thanks Nancy!! The KHSI website has helped sell quite a few sheep over the years and helped provide information to prospective and new Katahdin Owners. You can personally thank Nancy Case at 573-657-9297 or PO Box 87, Hartsburg, MO 65039 or agworld@case-agworld.com. We haven't quite let her go yet as she still helping with a few parts of the website (e.g. Sheep Wanted/For Sale Site) during the transition.

SCRAPIE RESISTANT CODON FREQUENCIES: OF Q & R AT CODON 171

report from the KHSI Breed Improvement Committee

In the Spring 2003 issue of the Hairald, the Breed Improvement Committee requested that any Katahdin breeders who had done some codon 171 testing of their animals report their results so they could be pooled to help assess the frequency of Q's and R's in the Katahdin population. Data was collected from 17 breeders and institutions for 388 sheep with the results as shown.

In reviewing the results with genetic researchers, the take home message is that absence of any reported cases of scrapie in Katahdins is most likely due to lack of exposure to sheep with scrapie. Katahdin breeders should not assume that the lack of scrapie in the breed is due to any innate resistance of Katahdins to scrapie (see note below). Breeders should be aware of the risks for the breed.

KHSI is following scrapie policy in the US and Canada with the hope of keeping members alert for any new changes in regulations. At this point, the Breed Improvement Committee does not see a need to recommend that KHSI members increase selection for R at codon 171. But it is recognized that import/export restrictions and future regulations for sheep transport between provinces and states could make the knowledge and presence of RR and QR sheep in Katahdins a very high priority. There is increased risk for breeders who commingle their Katahdins with breeds of sheep with higher incidences of scrapie and for breeders who sell sheep to flocks that commingle breeds that have scrapie. Selecting for RR sheep may also be used

as a tool and promotion to increase the value of Katahdins.

Note from Kreg Leymaster, PhD on Q & R Frequencies in Katahdins, USDA-ARS Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska.

Genetic variation at codon 171 of the prion gene has been asso-

ciated with susceptibility to natural scrapie in several breeds of sheep. The R allele (amino acid arginine) is associated with increased scrapie resistance, whereas the Q allele (amino acid glutamine) is associated with increased susceptibility to the infectious disease scrapie. When exposed to the disease, QQ

sheep may become infected, whereas QR and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

	QQ	QR	RR	Total	Q	R
No. animals	139	201	48	388	61.7%	38.3%

OPERATIONS NOTES

Jim Morgan and Teresa Maurer

Proper Address for Registration Papers, etc: Please make sure you send your registration papers, transfers and dues to: KHSI Registry, 1039 Winrock Drive, Morrilton, AR 72110. We have been seeing an increase in the number of people sending these things to Operations here in Fayetteville. While we do send them on to the Registry right away, it does mean an additional postal mail delay.

Renewals are Due No Later Than Jan 31: Several people have requested reminders on when dues are required each year, so here's a review. Dues pay for one calendar year of KHSI membership from January to December. Dues are due by January 31 of the year you are paying for. This is the best deal for you! If you pay later in the year, you will still only be paid up through December, and you will lose valuable months of exposure on the breeders list and website. Here is a tip for customers that you have in the fall: if they join as NEW members anytime between October-December, they get those months PLUS a full year of membership the next year.

Who Writes the Newsletter? We received this as a recent question and thought that other members might be wondering. The answer is that "WE DO AND YOU DO". What we mean is that we (Teresa and Jim) write many of the articles for the newsletter, and Teresa edits all of them. Whenever an article has no name listed, that means that we have written them. But YOU can take a turn-each issue you will see that members do contribute and we ENCOURAGE that. It's not hard-if you have an idea, you can call or email Operations and we will help you through. Our members especially love to hear about what is happening on each others' farms They also like to read about production or marketing tips, approaches to selecting good sheep, and how you solved problems on your farm.

KATAHDIN-SPECIFIC WEIGHT ADJUSTMENT FACTORS AVAILABLE

Report from the KHSI Breed Improvement Committee

Have you wondered how to legitimately compare the growth rate of a single ewe lamb raised by a yearling to a twin ram lamb raised by 4 year old ewe? The ability to make adjustments to weight data so that you can compare has been around for a long time. Now we have adjustment factors that are specific for the Katahdin breed, derived from thousands of records submitted by Katahdin breeders through the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP).

These adjustment factors allow the breeder to adjust pre-weaning weights for age of ewe, sex of lamb, number born and number raised, so that the performance/growth rate of lambs from different ewes can be compared irregardless of sex of lamb, age of ewe or number raised. Since the age of each lamb is slightly different when weighing, one must also adjust each lamb weight to a standard age. The following formulas are taken from American Sheep Industry SID Sheep Production Handbook and are basi-

cally the same as those used in other countries.

The process for adjusting the weights of your lambs to a standard is below. It is a two step process.

- A) First you need to adjust for the age (in days) at weighing. You don't have to weigh all lambs exactly at 50 or 60 days

of age. You can weigh them all on the same day and then adjust to your standard age. For example if you weigh your lambs and they range in age from 45-75 days, you can adjust all to 50 days or 60 days.

- B) The second step is to apply the adjustment factor that cor-

$$\text{Age adjusted wt} = \left[\frac{\text{actual wt} - \text{birth wt}}{\text{age when weighed}} \times \text{Adjustment age} \right] + \text{Birth Wt}$$

A ewe lamb weighed at age 66 days; born and raised a twin to a yearling ewe. Weighed 45 lbs. Birth weight 7.5 lbs

$$\text{Age adjusted wt} = \left[\frac{45 - 7.5}{66} \times 60 \right] + 7.5 = 42.1 \text{ lbs}$$

Adjusting for age of ewe, number born and raised and sex of lamb. Use **1.49** for a twin Katahdin ewe lamb born to a yearling ewe. From the table at the end of the article, scan the first row (yearling ewe (1) raising a ewe lamb) and go to the column "2-2" (twin born – twin raised) and you find 1.49. The 1.49 is multiplied by the "age adjusted wt" to get the 60 day adjusted weaning weight.

$$60 \text{ day adj wt} = 42.1 \times 1.49 = 62.7 \text{ lbs}$$

Contact Operations for a display ad to show off your sheep.
479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net

SCRAPIE RESISTANT CODON FREQUENCIES. CONT'D FROM PAGE 15

RR sheep are considered resistant with few exceptions. In the absence of exposure to the disease, sheep will not become afflicted regardless of their genotype (QQ, QR, or RR). Therefore, the lack of afflicted sheep does not necessarily indicate genetic resistance in a flock or breed, which seems to be the case for Katahdin.

The reported frequency of the resistant R allele in Katahdins (38.3%) implies that at least 50%

of Katahdin rams and ewes should be either QR or RR (genetically resistant). Producers can increase the frequency of R by initially using only rams that are either QR or RR. This practice will increase R, eventually allowing producers to use only RR rams and leading to fixation of the favorable allele in Katahdin without limiting the genetic base of the breed.

rects all lambs to the same standard, no matter if they are a triplet, twin or a single or born to a 4 year old or a 1 year old ewe. The example provided below is a 60-day weight for a twin ewe lamb raised by a 1 year old ewe. The adjustment factor is taken from the table on page 17.

The KHSI Breed Improvement Committee would like to thank the Katahdin NSIP breeders for providing the data and to Dave Notter, PhD and his lab at Virginia Tech for calculating adjustment factors specific for the Katahdin breed.

Multiplicative Factors to Adjust Katahdin Weaning Weights for Type of Birth and Rearing and Ewe Age

Adult (3-6 yr old) ewes rearing single ewe lambs are the base (1.00)

		Type of Birth-Rearing						
Sex of Lamb	Ewe Age	1-1	1-2	2-1	2-2	3-1	3-2	3-3
Ewe	1	1.17	1.43	1.31	1.49	1.35	1.60	1.81
Lamb	2	1.03	1.23	1.13	1.27	1.17	1.30	1.45
	3-6	1.00	1.14	1.05	1.17	1.08	1.23	1.38
	7+	1.01	1.20	1.10	1.23	1.13	1.25	1.44
Ram	1	1.06	1.30	1.19	1.36	1.23	1.46	1.65
Lamb	2	0.94	1.12	1.03	1.16	1.06	1.18	1.32
	3-6	0.91	1.04	0.96	1.06	0.98	1.12	1.26
	7+	0.92	1.09	1.00	1.12	1.03	1.14	1.31
Wether	1	1.12	1.37	1.26	1.43	1.30	1.54	1.74
Lamb	2	0.99	1.18	1.08	1.22	1.12	1.25	1.39
	3-6	0.96	1.09	1.01	1.12	1.04	1.18	1.32
	7+	0.97	1.15	1.06	1.18	1.08	1.20	1.38

Classified Ads

*In compliance with the KHSI Board of Directors policy, sheep for sale advertised by members in the Hairald must be Katahdins or Katahdin crosses. Ads for the next issue are due **January 15th** to Operations: 479-444-8441 or khsint@earthlink.net.*

SHEEP FOR SALE

Alabama -

Registered Katahdin and KatahdinxWhite Dorper lambs for sale, born Feb 2003. Roger Comstock, 962 County Rd 94, Bridgeport, AL 35740; daytime-256-495-2407; evenings 256-495-2307. Email at rccom@bellsouth.net

Arkansas -

Registered and commercial Rams and Ewes of different lines available.. SFCP (Scrapie Flock Certification Program). These include three 2001, five 2002 and seven 2003 rams. Registered and commercial ewes bred for 2004 in-

SHEEP FOR SALE

clude ten 2002 ewes and thirty-five 2003 ewe lambs. 501-893-6158-ph/fx or jovc@earthlink.net, Mary Van Anrooy of Clinton AR (near Little Rock)

Iowa -

Bred ewes: 1 to 10 bred ewes. Assorted ages, lambs to 5 years old. All are enrolled in the NSIP and have a SCRAPIE Date of May 2000. All are due to lamb Mid March and there is a choice of 2 different sire line. Contact Steven Bull, North Central Iowa (641)454-3097 or email at angus50456@yahoo.com. Check out web page at <http://www.>

SHEEP FOR SALE

redbarnkatahdins.250x.com
\$275.00 each or all ten for 2500.00.

Illinois -

Ewe lambs: 26 Jan-Feb born Katahdin ewe lambs for sale. Registerable. Reasonably priced. West-central Illinois. Patrick Brokaw family, pbbrokaw@hcil.net. 309-924-1510, Stronghurst, IL

Kentucky -

Ram lambs, certified RR at codon 171. Born March-May 2003. All sires and dams registered and have A coats. Kay Cloyd, Lexing-

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KHSI MEMBER'S GUIDE

The Katahdin Hairald is the official publication of Katahdin Hair Sheep International, whose purposes are to:

- register individual Katahdin sheep and record performance
- maintain the distinct identity of the Katahdin breed
- assist in promotion and marketing
- encourage research and development related to the breed

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KHSI OPERATIONS:

- Jim Morgan and Teresa Maurer; PO Box 778; Fayetteville, AR 72702-0778
Phone and FAX: 479-444-8441; khsint@earthlink.net
- Contact Operations for the following:
 - Request inspections before May 15
 - Information packets sent to public
 - Forms for: breed history, breed standards, membership, renewal, BLANK animal registration forms and instructions, other KHSI information
 - Address changes or other corrections on printed list or Web
 - Brochures (20 free per member per year; additional at cost) & promotional items
 - Information on members with sheep for sale, anyone wanting to buy sheep
 - Articles, ads, and comments to be published in the *Katahdin Hairald*
 - Volunteer for KHSI Committees
 - Annual meeting information
- Office Hours (Central time): Monday mornings 8-11 am, and Monday and Tuesday evenings 7-10 pm. Calls on other evenings after sunset or anytime on the weekends will be answered personally whenever possible.
- Answering machine, FAX and email: available for messages 24 hours per day.

KHSI REGISTRY:

- Ed Martsof; 1039 Winrock Drive; Morrilton, AR 72110
Phone and FAX: 501-727-5659; edmartsof@lakewebs.net
- Contact the Registry for the following:
 - All questions about registration, recording, transferring, upgrading procedures
 - Send the following to the Registry:
 - > Completed membership and renewal applications
 - > Renewal and new membership dues
 - > Completed forms for registering, transferring, recording Katahdins
- Office Hours (Central time): Monday through Friday 9 am- 5pm. Answering machine and FAX accessible 24 hours.

KHSI COMMITTEES: (Call 479-444-8441 to volunteer!)

Breed Improvement, Breeder Education, Promotions, Show Guidelines

Classified Ads, cont'd.

SHEEP FOR SALE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

ton, Kentucky. 859-254-2840, or email: Kaycloyd@cs.com

Ohio -

Ewes: Flock of 30 registered ewes, 3 1/2 years old and younger. Some commercial ewe lambs available. We practice pasture lambing. Samuel M. Yoder, 2386 CR 200, Dundee, Ohio 44624.

Pennsylvania -

Registered Katahdin Ram. Born 3/5/01. White, polled. Enrolled in SFCP. \$250. Gary LaBuda, Marietta, PA 717-575-9207. Email: glabuda@earthlink.net

SHEEP WANTED

Roger Mauney of Gastonia, NC wants 100 Commercial and Registered Katahdin Ewes. Groups of 20 or more ewes will work. Call 803-927-6607 (w) or 704-861-8735 (h)

CM Connelly of Alamo, TN wants 20-30 head of commercial Katahdin ewes. He has a buying radius of 150 miles of Memphis, TN. 901-734-6004.

Prem Ramcharan of Florida is looking for 100 good quality commercial Katahdin ewes and 4 registered Katahdin rams. He will buy in lots of 25 ewes. Prem is located half-way between Ocala & Tampa, FL. 813-494-8036.

GUARDIAN OR WORK DOGS FOR SALE

Registered Australian Shepherd female for sale. Red bi, very flashy, working bloodlines (Hangin Tree and Slash V). 22 months old. Also Blue Merle female 1 year old, same mom and dad. Asking 500.00 each, no training, but both want to work. Rhonda Kelmer 251-446-7587. Atmore, Alabama. Email to: ricochetaussies@yahoo.com

Send address & web corrections to Khsint@earthlink.net or
P. O. Box 778, Fayetteville, AR 72702



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