



Targhee Talk

The Newsletter of the U.S. Targhee Sheep Association
April - 2009

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Spring in the West!



March 24th on a ranch two miles from Hammond, Montana
sheep are blocked in by a 10-foot snowdrift.

Photo Courtesy of Debbie Talcott

Hammond is 108 miles south of Miles City and just north of the Montana-Wyoming border.

U.S. Targhee Sheep Association National Show & Sale Miles City, Montana - July 16-18th!

Jack McRae, Mike Green, Randy Tunby, and Carolyn Green have checked in from their igloos to say they are busy preparing for our annual event this summer. The Entry Brochure and Forms are now available to download at the USTSA website (www.ustargheesheep.org), or contact the USTSA office to receive them through the US mail. All Event Registration forms are due back to Jack McRae by **May 27th**. All Show and Sale forms should be returned to the USTSA office by **May 27th** as well to ensure catalog listing. All sheep entered in the 2009 Show and Sale must be registered one month in advance by **June 16th**. Rules for the Show and Sale are listed in the Entry Brochure. Questions should be directed to Jack McRae (406-557-6266) or the USTSA office (406-467-2462).

950 County Line Road, Fort Shaw, Montana 59443 ♦ 406-467-2462 phone/fax ♦ roeder@3rivers.net

2009 Targhee Timeline

May 1 - Side Micron tests may be taken after today.

May 10 - Submission deadline for June Newsletter

May 27 - Deadline for receiving Entry and Event forms for Show and Sale

June 1 - USTSA Starter Flock Recipient notified

June 8 - Catalog and June newsletter mailed/available on-line

June 17 - Deadline for receiving registration applications for sheep entered in Show & Sale

July 16 - 18 - National Show & Sale in Miles City, Montana

July 27 - Show & Sale results mailing

August 17 - Sale settlements mailed

September 10 - Submission deadline for October newsletter

October 19 - October newsletter with show and sale highlights

December 10 - Submission deadline for January newsletter



Advice is like snow.
The softer it falls, the longer it dwells and the deeper it sinks into the mind and heart.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Articles/Photos for the June Newsletter are due to the Association Office by May 10th.

Meet USTSA Members

Rudy & Martha Erickson - Wilson, Wisconsin

1. Where were you born and raised? Is this where you now live?

My hometown was Spooner, Wisconsin, located in northwest Wisconsin. We have lived at Wilson since 1963, so we are close to being called old timers.

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

In 1953 I got a job at the Spooner Research Station picking rock for 50 cents an hour. That summer, my boss, Carl Rydberg, made arrangements with the Targhee Secretary to have two rams shipped by rail from Montana.

3. What is your favorite Targhee trait?

The trait that I like about the Targhee breed is lambing ease. The long legs and small head make it easier for lambing. I managed a meat breed of sheep at the UW-River Falls, where I was Director of the Farms. Many of these needed assistance when lambing, so my favorite books were sheep manuals.

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

The (Sheep) Industry is going through a lot of changes. One is the Wool Industry, where a lot of the wool after being graded, goes to the west coast and is shipped to China or India.

5. Are you married? Do you have children? How many? Is anyone else in your family involved in the sheep industry?

After high school I pursued my education at UW-Madison. While there, I met my wife, Martha. We were married in 1960. After a few years in the Army, we purchased our farm in Wilson. A few months later, I purchased a flock of sheep for my wife's birthday. Included in that flock were the two Targhee rams from the Spooner Experimental Station.

Registered Targhee sheep were being brought into Wisconsin by Bud Beastron and Leonard & Richard Wilson with sales at the fairgrounds in Portage, Wisconsin during the late 1960's. We purchased the first Targhee ewe for our oldest daughter, Lorry, in 1966 from one of these sales. The purebred flock kept increasing as Sheri and Mark joined 4-H. Our three children are all involved in Agriculture. Lorry is Director of the Wisconsin Cranberry Discovery Center in Warrens. Sheri is the Computer Support for Foremost Farms USA Cheese Factory near Wilson, and Mark also works at Foremost and farms with us in our beef and sheep operations.

Mark's children, Mitchell, Mike and Maddie also have shown Targhee Sheep while in 4-H. Mitchell and Mike are off at school, but are back at the farm when not in school. Maddie, a freshman in high school, has become a Polled Hereford owner, showing them along with the Targhee's.

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

No. Since retirement, I had to take over some of the chores on our home farm. I can't delegate it to the family anymore.



"We have always felt blessed meeting so many Targhee Breeders all over the US."

7. Other than raising sheep, what are some of your hobbies and talents? Do you volunteer your time for any religious or civic organizations?

I have always been involved with many sheep and beef organizations, Great Lakes, North Central and Mid States Wool Boards, Fair Board, and School Board. Over the years, our family published the Blat Sheet, Bull Roar and Targhee Directories, so they were well experienced in typing, stapling, folding and stamp licking.

8. What is your favorite book? See question 3 - sheep manuals.

9. What is your favorite food? Being Norwegian, you would think my favorite food would be Lutefisk, but I prefer Potato Dumplings.

10. The one thing people would be surprised to know about me is: I also was treasurer for many groups, so would you believe I can't type or balance a check book ?

A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words.

Unknown

Junior Member Profile

~ Ortmann Sisters ~ Jocie & Carma

Lustre, Montana



Carma

Jocie

1. Tell us about yourself? (age, grade, place you live).

Jocie: I am 16 years old, in the 10th grade, and live in Lustre, Montana.

Carma: I am 12 years old, in 6th grade, and live in Lustre, Montana.

2. When did you acquire your 1st Targhee sheep? How long have you raised them?

Jocie: I got my first Targhee when I was 6 years old. So, I have raised them for 10 years.

Carma: I got my first Targhee when I was 6 years old. I have raised them for 6 years.

3. What is your favorite Targhee trait?

Jocie: The very soft wool.

Carma: The lambs with their mothers in the pasture.

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

Jocie: Keep only the good mothers.

Carma: Look for spots on the lambs when they are born.

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

Jocie: Yes, my whole family.

Carma: Yes, everyone in my family.

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

Jocie: I babysat for a lady expecting twins last summer.

Carma: I help run the farm, and raise potatoes with my Grandma for Farmers' Market.

7. Other than raising sheep, what are some of your hobbies and talents? Do you volunteer your time for any religious or civic organizations?

Jocie: I enjoy reading, scrapbooking, and going to Farmers Market with my Grandma in the fall.

Carma: I like riding horses, going to picnics at church, reading, and learning to knit.

8. What is your favorite book?

Jocie: I don't have one favorite I enjoy all Christian romance books.

Carma: The Sand Dune Pony

9. What is your favorite food?

Jocie: Coca Cola and pizza.

Carma: Mac and Cheese.

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

Jocie: I do not know at this point in my life.

Carma: I would like to be a librarian or a receptionist.

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

Jocie: I have been home schooled all my school life.

Carma: I am named after my Aunt.

Welcome New Members!

Craig & Barb Reiter

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Gulliver, Michigan
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Norvel Nay & Kim Stewart

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Apply Now for 2009
Howard Wyman Sheep
Industry Leadership
School in Colorado

The annual Howard Wyman Sheep Industry Leadership School, sponsored by the National Lamb Feeders Association will be held in Greeley, CO, June 28 to July 1, 2009. Applications for the 2009 school must be submitted by May 1, 2009.

The 2009 Leadership School program will be under the direction of Ron Cole, formerly with USDA's Livestock and Grain Market News and now an industry consultant. "The 2009 program will focus on the sheep feeding industry in Colorado, which is the most concentrated lamb feeding area in the U.S.," said Cole. "Tour sites will include several lamb feedlot management systems, slaughter and processing facilities, an ethanol production plant with corn by-products utilized in the sheep industry, plus the CSU livestock facilities."

Interested sheep men and women with any level of experience may apply by completing a brief application and submitting a short essay explaining their background in the sheep industry and what they would like to learn. The selection committee will review the essays and select a class of 25 participants, ages 20 or older to attend. Special attention is given to those individuals with long-range plans for remaining in the sheep industry. Applications are due **May 1st**. Contact the NFLA: 503-364-5462 or info@nfla-sheep.org.

Ralph Dreyer

~ Wolf Point, Montana ~

Ralph Edwin Dreyer was born December 24, 1917 at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth, MN, the oldest of three children, to Lauritz A. and Inga Johansen Dreyer. He made his first trip home to the Dreyer Ranch at Red Rock Springs 23 miles northwest of Circle at just a few weeks of age. It would remain the corner stone of his life for the next 91 years. He attended Hillside School riding his horse and sometimes a team and sled to the 4 miles to school. He graduated from Circle High School and attended Montana State University in Bozeman, returning to Red Rock Springs to continue ranching.

On December 27, 1946 he married Ruth Grainger in Wolf Point. They had two children, Danny and Laura, and a foster daughter Sedly Dyckman. Ralph was a prominent livestock producer both state and nationally receiving several awards for his wool. He was the first producer to grade wool on his sheep through a selection program in connection with Montana State University. He was a step ahead of his time.

In 1960 Ralph was selected by the government as an Agricultural Ambassador for a people to people tour to South America. He spent a month touring ranches, meeting with diplomats, and exchanging ideas.

Ralph left the ranch in 1976 moving to Glasgow. He continued raising registered Targhee Sheep. Ralph was always community minded, and quickly became a part of the Glasgow community. He was well known for his barbeque expertise serving as many as 6,000 people at the Glasgow Centennial and the Governor's Cup Walleye Tournament. Ralph was an avid hunter and fisherman. He and Ruth enjoyed snagging salmon and traveling throughout the world. He was a member of the First Lutheran Church, Montana Woolgrowers, Montana Stockgrowers, Eastern Star, Masonic Lodge, Albedoo Shrine, and Sons of Norway. Ralph was Honorary President of the Montana Woolgrowers and served on the Valley County Republican Central Committee for several years.

Ralph is survived by his wife of 62 years, Ruth Dreyer of Wolf Point, Montana, daughter Laura (Ross) Bleazard of Wolf Point, his grandchildren; Justin (Heather) Bleazard of Washington, Erica Bleazard, and David Bleazard, both of Wolf Point, and five great grandchildren; Bailey and Beckum Bleazard, Lauren, Alexandra, and Isabelle Crawford, and his foster daughter, Sedley Barsness (John) of Laurel and their children Christy, (Seth), and Brigg, several nieces and nephews, and a cousin Lillian Stahl of North Carolina.

USTSA Starter Flock News

As of this writing sixteen applications from six states have been received by the USTSA office for the first annual Targhee Starter Flock! The flock will be awarded to a deserving youth at the 2009 National Show & Sale in Miles City, Montana - July 16-18. The recipient can expect to be notified in writing by June 1st. Any youth ages 9-17, as of January 1, 2009, whose immediate family does not raise Targhee sheep was eligible to apply. The winner 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. Along with the flock the youth will also receive a \$150 credit for the purchase of additional sheep at the sale.

Applications were due in to the USTSA office by April 1st. From there the applications will be sent to Starter Flock Committee members who by May 1st will rank the applications. All references to the names and locations of the individuals will be blacked out. The top five applicants will then be sent to a sheep industry representative to make the final selection.

The purpose of the USTSA Starter Flock program is to promote growth and visibility of the Targhee breed, and youth involvement and education within the breed. We are still looking for animal and cash donations for the Starter Flock. For more information on how to donate, please contact Jeff & Leslie Nevens (608-592-7842 AandJNevensLivestock@verizon.net) or the USTSA office. Thank you!!!

Invest in our future
donate to the
Starter Flock
Contact Jeff &
Leslie Nevens

Targhee Tails & Trails

Montana Shearer Takes Third Place

Clancy Ortmann, from Lustre, Montana, placed third in the Beginning Shearer Division of the Black Hills Stock Show Sheep Shearing Contest held February 1st in Rapid City, South Dakota. He is son of Sam & Nancy Ortmann and brother to our Junior Members profiled - Jocie and Carma.



WINNER #1 Six-night trip for two in Oman, courtesy of Adventure Center.

My wife and I were driving from Jackson Hole, Wyo., to a microbrewery in Idaho. We were halfway there when we came upon a man who waved a flag and told us to slow down. We assumed there was road construction ahead, but when we turned the corner, we saw hundreds of sheep crossing the road. Our timing for the stampede was perfect! *Eric Gongora, Woodstock, Ga.*

The great photo to the left is from the December 2008/January 2009 issue of Budget Travel, page 90. The magazine ran a photo contest perhaps? Note the caption on top: "Winner #1 - Six-night trip for two in Oman". Hmmm . . . Thanks Jeff & Leslie Nevens!

Page 5
 Found in an old family bible of Duane & Judy Richards - Submitted by Jeff & Leslie Nevens:

Scours in Lambs

Mr Editor: - Please inform me how to cure scours in young lambs. I have lost all my lambs so far. They were extra strong until about thirty-six hours old, when they would get the scours and die in a few hours. The ewes have plenty of milk, perhaps too much. Could the ewes that have lost their lambs be induced to breed this month?

Answer: Give thirty drops of the following in one tablespoonful of new milk: Gasoline, one ounce; Pearson's creoline, one ounce; mix, give two times daily until better, and give very slowly. With the exception of one or two breeds, ewes do not breed until about August 1st.

Disclaimer: This is NOT a recommended remedy for Lamb Scours. The article is undated and quite old. It is provided as a humorous distraction from the ailments of life and spring lambing!



Coyote problem solved !

Thank You USTSA members for the terrific pictures and Targhee news!!! Keep

Todd Taylor shares the amazing picture at left. Todd writes: "This is quite a picture. Don't know where it was taken. It was forwarded to me from a fellow in Eastern Montana." If you can ID the photo, please let us know.

Oregon Agri-Business Council Road Sign

Brett Fisher of Chiloquin, Oregon sent in a copy of this road sign produced in Oregon by the Agri-Business Council. He writes: "I was reading the Oregon Farm Bureau magazine or newsletter (I can't remember which) and saw this article about crop or breed identification signs. I thought that would be pretty cool since most people don't know a Targhee from a Suffolk as they drive by farms and ranches. There's this "all sheep look the same" perception out there. And, we think the Targhee breed is special. So I looked up the website and emailed to find out if they had a Targhee sign. You know the rest."

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