



# PCKHSA

## Pacific Coast Katahdin Hair Sheep Association

# JAN 2011

Serving; ALASKA -- ARIZONA -- CALIFORNIA -- HAWAII -- IDAHO -- MONTANA -- NEVADA -- OREGON -- UTAH -- WASHINGTON



### 2010

This year was a busy one for many Katahdin breeders and PCKHSA members.

April started out at Blue Oak Ranch in CA for the Bleau's Spring Open House, Ruth demonstrated milking and cheese making with her Katahdin ewes. Her vet and another speaker also shared.

**Look at this lineup of spring ewe lambs at Clackamas Co Fair! Look like fun?**

A growing group of breeders spent many hours at Clark Co, Clackamas Co, Oregon State and Puyallup fairs educating the crowds about Katahdins.

Katahdins will be the featured breed at two of these fairs next year, come join the fun!

This a great opportunity to get our breed out in the public eye and keep the public aware of where their food comes from. We help people come to understand that animals can be raised for food humanely and have a good life before providing people with lean healthy meat.

There is much interest in the breed as more and more people look towards growing their own food and being aware of what goes into its production. People concerned about health find the Katahdin a good source of lean grass fed lamb and many are getting into the breed for their own meat needs as well as to have a few to sell.

**So as we go into this next year ask yourself what you can do to help.**

Want to be a board member? Write something for the newsletter? Do some research? Share some pictures? Give us feedback? Help plan an event? Show sheep or come help us show ours? We can always use more hands! Write or call soon!

### From the *President*;

As always, attending the KHSI Expo serves as a confirmation that Katahdins are a sheep breed with much potential. The 2010 Expo in Missouri was the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and one of the highlights was to hear about the history of the breed, as well as the association, as presented by Dr Charles Parker. Dr Parker also shared with us his vision of the breed into the future.

Recently, the National Restaurant Association asked over 1500 chefs what they thought would be the top trends in restaurant food in 2011. As reported in the NRA's online newsletter <http://tinyurl.com/23k5rrv>

"Tied at No. 1, with 86 percent of chefs identifying each of them as important trends, were locally sourced meats and seafood and locally grown produce."

Also included in the top 20 were "Hyper Local" such as "Restaurants with their own gardens, and chefs who do their own butchering, Farm/estate-branded ingredients" and "Artisan cheeses".

There is no question that the Katahdin breed is ideal for fitting into \*local\* lamb/mutton production, and/or sheep milk for cheese. There is also a strong demand for quality breeding stock.

Together we can accomplish more, than apart. Please join us for another year, and share some of the events that we have planned.

DJB



**PCKHSA**

**EVENTS**

<http://paccoastkat.org>

**UPCOMING**

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PCKHSA had 24 members this past year and interest is steadily growing as are the numbers of Katahdin breeders in the West.

Statements for 2011 dues are included with this newsletter. Please renew by March 15 to remain listed on the PCKHSA breeder's website listing. You can advertize free in the classifieds too.

You can renew and join using PayPal on the PCKHSA website. There will be an extra \$1 charge. Our PCKHSA site has been updated with new pictures from this years events! More events and pictures will be coming.

We are excited as we look towards what this coming year will bring.

Keep an eye on the news, Hair sheep are on the rise in the sheep industry and you can help us in our efforts to educate people of the value of the Katahdin and how well this breed fits into today's growing market.

## Are you feeding enough? Do you have lambs on the way?

It's often hard to decide what or how much to feed. You need to decide what you are expecting out of your flock. High production and fast growth? Moderate or low production and growth? Growing ewe lambs that will be bred soon? Bred ewe lambs? Maintenance of unbred lambs and or mature rams? Each of these groups requires different feeding strategies and handling.

High production; if your ewes are expecting twins or triplets this has already been decided for you, you must provide adequate feed for the growth of the lambs and maintenance of the ewe or you face a unproductive lambing season and probability of loss of lambs and or ewes.

Ewes going into the winter carrying singles or in high body condition carrying twins and having good winter pasture available may need minimal supplemental feed.

If your pasture is grazed short, not growing or in short supply you need to be feeding hay through the winter. Depending on the feed value of your hay you may need to feed grain or other concentrates to meet the nutritional demands of your sheep.

Any of these groups will need a salt/mineral supplement. This should have selenium added as well as vitamin E if you are feeding hay over 6mo old and good pasture is unavailable.

Look at the condition of the ewes;  
<http://www.google.com/images?hl=en&explds=27642&sugexp=ldymls&xhr=t&q=body+condition+scoring+sheep&biw=1296&bih=780>

The above address will take you to a site that has multiple examples of body condition scoring as well as advice on feeding. Click on the pictures to go to various information sites.

**May:** Lamb School day at KRK Katahdins  
Come learn how to prepare, train and show your Katahdins. We will be demonstrating how we do this and it should be a good learning experience. It is easier than you may think to take some lambs to the fair and this is a very good way to promote our breed as we educate people about Kathadins.

**Aug:** Both Clark Co Fair; August 5-14 in Ridgefield WA, and Clackamas Co Fair; August 16-21 in Canby, OR, will be having the Katahdin as their featured breed; this is a great opportunity to get your Katahdins out for many to see. We would like to see many of you participate!  
**The Oregon State Fair Aug 25-30** is another good place to keep the Katahdin in the public eye and show other sheep breeders some good productive Katahdin stock.

**Sept:** KHSI 7<sup>th</sup> Annual KHSI Expo and Sale  
Sept 15-17 Pipestone, MN Fairgrounds and Pipestone Voc. Tech. School. Tour on Thu 9/15 includes Iowa Lamb processing plant and two operations in the Pipestone Lamb & Wool Program. Educational workshops on Fri 9/16 will include presentations by nationally recognized sheep veterinarians from the Pipestone Vet Clinic and the Pipestone Voc. & Tech. Schools Sheep program. Sale Sat. Contact Jim Morgan at 479-444-8441 or [info@katahdins.org](mailto:info@katahdins.org) for more information.

**"THE FAIR" Puyallup Fair, WA, Sept 21-25**  
This is a fun filled fair with the largest variety of sheep shown in the nation. Over 25 breeds of sheep show annually and we want to keep the growing Katahdin breed out there for all to see!



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**KHSI Expo 2010** Several PCKHA members were privileged to attend the Expo this year. Marking the celebration of KHSI's 25th anniversary, sheep geneticist Dr. Charles Parker gave a special presentation at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri on September 17th after dinner.

The title of the 25th Anniversary presentation was "From Silver to Gold: Continuing the Katahdin Dream." He told us that in 1987 twenty-three breeders were accepted as charter members and began registering Katahdin sheep after a nationwide inspection. Now, 25 years later, KHSI has over 500 members and more than 70,000 registrations have been completed. These numbers put KHSI consistently among the top 6 sheep breeds, and our registry is one of the few that have increased since 2000. Katahdin registrations have doubled in the last decade, averaging 5,000 a year in the last 5 years.

Dr Parker spoke on the future of sheep in next 25 yrs. The "holy grail" of meat production "pounds of quality lamb weaned per ewe" is a measure of ewe productivity that is likely to become the profitability trait of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Sheep industry growth has been astounding in many areas of the country, 160% increase in total numbers since 1996.

He says Katahdins are heading the only segment of the U.S. sheep industry to show growth in the past 20 years. Their shedding coat, parasite resistance, mothering ability, and prolificacy have put them at the top of a newly emerging interest in raising hair sheep. "That's a historic impact"

Katahdins have also enrolled 50 flocks, 10% of KHSI membership, in the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP). This is 1/3 of all flocks of all breeds enrolled.

**July at Powell, Ohio;** Katahdins are one of just four easy-care breeds commercial lamb producers should consider for their ewe flock, sheep geneticist Dr. Kreg Leymaster told shepherds gathered for a regional genetics conference on "Breeding Sheep for a More Profitable Flock." Leymaster was one of four geneticists who spoke at the meeting sponsored by the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association and American Sheep Industry Association. Using a stabilized composite breed like the Katahdin offers a simpler way for commercial producers to take advantage of easy-care prolific genetics. But Leymaster said commercial shepherds should purchase from breeders who are making genetic progress through a program that results in Estimated Progeny Differences (EPDs). Ewe prolificacy, milking ability, and the pounds of lamb she weans are key maternal traits that can be improved by using EPDs.

The speakers' dominant theme was that shepherds should favor ewes that raise twin and triplet lambs—without assistance from the shepherd. Leymaster identified five key traits of a commercial ewe:

- She doesn't need any individual attention.
- She raises more than one lamb.
- The ewe and her lambs bond at birth, and lambs nurse quickly.
- Her milk meets the lambs' growth potential.
- Her lambs survive and thrive without intervention.

Leymaster reiterated that the top three sheep profitability factors were identified 20 years ago and still apply: percentage of ewes lambing; number of lambs born; and lamb survival. He added that producers should not be limited to a goal of raising twins; some ewes can raise triplets efficiently.

As reported by Richard Gilbert, Ohio KHSI member in both the Shepherd and the Hairald

The keynote speaker on terminal sires, Dr. David Notter, formerly of Virginia Tech and now working at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station at DuBois, Idaho, has studied the relationship between muscling and carcass value. For commodity markets, rams that sire fast-growing lambs should be favored over those that appear to be more muscled, Notter said. Like Leymaster, he said maternal qualities are the key to profitability regardless of sire breed.

KHSI honorary life member Dr. Charles Parker, Ohio State University professor emeritus of animal science, addressed history, trends, and issues in sheep genetics. Parker said the system has "stalled out on 18th century genetics" and advised attendees to crossbreed with a prolific breed or get Katahdins. Noting that the current average U.S. lambing percentage is only 108 percent, he said, "That is sick. Miserable job. You can't select for singles for 50 years and expect to have twins. Tradition is the greatest predator we have. It isn't coyotes."

### **Check out the news;**

Across America more and more articles are being published about Hair Sheep and Katahdins are one of the top two breeds that are getting the most attention. **The Shepherd and Sheep** have some interesting articles on this fast growing segment of the sheep industry. They fit well into a sustainable agriculture model and with those who wish to reduce time and management with their small ruminants.

**Hobby Farms** quotes Dr Charles Parker as saying "US sheep inventory shows that between 2000 and 2005, hair sheep breed registrations increased 83.5% while all other breeds combined decreased by 14%. Katahdins and Dorpers alone accounted for 15.6% of total sheep breed registrations"

"Hair sheep have above average milk production as well as increased lambing percentages, mothering abilities. disease and parasite resistance and more."



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### Join US!

If you aren't a member of KHSI, become one. <http://www.khsi.org> You get four beautiful color copies of the Katahdin Hairald online and by mail. Place free ads on the KHSI website and magazine. Fees are less and free handouts are available.

Join your local group PCKHSA at <http://paccoastkat.org> We have free classifieds for members and an "Ask the Vet" link.

Our site is growing with more information, more members, events and pictures.

Social networking is a fast growing way to connect with buyers, share pictures, stories and educate the public. PCKHSA has a Facebook page; <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=41380&id=165881396776844&saved#!/group.php?gid=317587374481> Check it out!

### Our Mission Statement

The Pacific Coast Katahdin Hair Sheep Association (PCKHSA) is committed to promoting Katahdin Hair Sheep as a superior meat, milk, and breeding source, and helping our members develop marketing outlets for the meat, milk, and breeding stock. We are dedicated to improving the breed through selective breeding, inspections and culling programs. We will share and increase our knowledge and skills through participation in educational programs.



### Classifieds

Two Registered Katahdin Rams. 10 months old, both from triplets. Extremely healthy, nice rams. \$250.00 each. Call 707-785-2982 or [juliebea@hughes.net](mailto:juliebea@hughes.net) Pictures available, please email and ask. Delivery negotiable.

Reserve your 2011 lambs now! These sheep lamb easily on their own, shed well & have been selected for good growth, size, muscling, lbs of lamb weaned per ewe and milking ability while keeping all the good easy-care Katahdin traits. Lambing out of season as yearlings and again 7 months later. 225% lamb crop weaned. Testing neg for OPP. Certified Scrapie Free, NSIP. RR rams \$375, QR rams \$300, ewes and ewe lambs \$275, discounts on 3 or more. Contact Karen Kenagy 503-351-6978 <http://paccoastkat.org>. Email for pictures or contact Karen at [krkenagy@hotmail.com](mailto:krkenagy@hotmail.com), [www.krkkatahdins](http://www.krkkatahdins) See KRK Katahdins on Facebook

### YOUR AD HERE!

Remember as a member you can place a free ad on the PCKHSA site and it will also automatically be added to the next newsletter.

Let people know what you have or what you are looking for.

We can also help each other out by referring interested parties to each other when we know what is available from different member's flocks.