

MISSION:
"SUPPORTING,
PROTECTING AND
PROMOTING
NEBRASKA'S SHEEP
AND GOAT
PRODUCERS"



Newsletter

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

JAN/FEB 2021

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Lambing & Kidding Schools
- Colostrum "Liquid Gold"
- How young is too young to breed
- Producer Spotlight

Lambing & Kidding Schools

The Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers will be holding two Lambing and kidding clinics for producers. On January 30th the clinic will be held in Seward, NE. That day will start with registration at 9:00 am CT at Burch Livestock, LLC, 2935 Little Salt Rd, Seward. The other clinic will be held on February 6th in Bayard, NE with registration at 9:15 am MT at Bobby Jo's Branding Iron Café, 533 Main St., Bayard.



Both days will be packed full of educational information for your upcoming or ongoing lambing and kidding season. There will be speakers at both locations that will be talking about nutrition of late gestation, lamb and kid health and many more topics. We also will be having farm tours in each location of lambing and kidding operations.

The cost of the clinics is \$25-Non-members, \$20-Members and \$10-Students which includes handouts, lunch and snacks. We will also be offering a virtual clinic for the January 30th Seward location at \$15-Non-members and \$10-Members. Membership to join the association is \$45/year for a Regular Membership (family household), \$125/year for a Business Membership and \$20/year for a Youth Membership. To register or become a member, email ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com, mail in the form included in the newsletter, call Melissa at 308-386-8378, or visit our website www.nebraskasheepandgoats.org. Please check out our flyers for these events attached in this newsletter.

We are strongly encouraging everyone to wear masks and practice social distancing at both events.

It is that time of
year again!

Renew your
Membership
for 2021 now!!

If you have ques-
tions please con-
tact a board mem-
ber or Email
Melissa at
ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com

2021 NS&GP Photo Contest

Mark your calendars now, as the deadline for the 2021 NS&GP Photo Contest is February 15th. All entries must be submitted by 5 p.m. mountain time on that date. The top finishers in each category will receive a prize and be featured on promotion items for the NS&GP.

This time, we would like to invite any member with sheep, goats, protection animals (llamas, donkeys, etc.) to submit photos in that category, as well."

Photographers are advised to submit photographs in the largest file size possible. We encourage entrants to provide both horizontal and vertical photos. The four categories in this year's contest are:

1. **Action** – Photographs of activities such as moving/trailing sheep and/or goats, lambing, tagging, feeding, shearing, etc.
2. **Scenic** – Photographs of sheep and/or goats outdoors located. Photos entered in this category cannot include people.
3. **Working Dogs and Protection Animals** – Photographs in this category should show herding dogs, livestock guardian dogs or any other livestock protection animal in their natural environments. Photos must also include sheep and/or goats in some fashion, as proof that these truly are working animals.
4. **Open** – Photographs with subject matter that does not fall into the four above-listed categories.

Other contest rules:

- NS&GP can use or reproduce all entries at the discretion of NS&GP. In addition, entries will not be returned.
 - NS&GP is not required to notify photographers when photos are used in materials.
 - Photographs can be submitted via hard copy or electronically.
 - All entries must be at least 3 inches by 5 inches, color or black-and-white, high-resolution photos (larger sizes encouraged).
 - Entries must be submitted in the name of the person who took the photograph.
 - Entries are limited to two per category per person.
 - The following needs to be included with each submission: title of photo; category (from the five listed above) into which it is being entered; photographer's name; mailing address; phone number; email address; and approximate location/date of photo.
 - If there is a particular story or background that goes with the photo, please include that, as well, with the entry.
- Entries should be emailed to Melissa Nicholson at ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com with the subject line of NS&GP Photo Contest. Those mailing photos should send them to NS&GP; P.O. Box 1066; Chadron, NE 69337.



Registration Open for 2021 ASI Annual Convention

Mountains of Opportunity await at the 2021 American Sheep Industry Association Annual Convention, but sheep producers won't have to leave the comfort of their own farms or ranches to attend the first-ever virtual convention on Jan. 28-29.

Attend council and committee meetings, vote for ASI officers and set policy that will guide the American Sheep Industry for years to come simply by registering and logging in for this historic online convention.

While we'll miss the opportunity to see America's sheep producers face-to-face in January, a virtual meeting was a necessity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Join us online as we give the latest presentations on sheep industry topics, new lamb companies, the American wool testing laboratory and as we conduct the essential business of governing the American Sheep Industry Association. The cost is only \$25 to attend. You have till January 22nd to register.

[American Sheep Industry Association - Event Summary | Online Registration by Cvent](#)

Colostrum: "Liquid Gold"

When raising sheep and goats (and other livestock), the importance of high quality colostrum cannot be over-emphasized. Colostrum is so important that sometimes it is called "liquid gold."

All mammals produce colostrum. It is the thick, yellowish "first milk" that is produced by the female after she gives birth (parturition). Colostrum is rich in energy, protein, vitamins and minerals. Most importantly, it contains maternal antibodies that help protect the newborn from disease pathogens during the early part of its life. Ewes and does only produce colostrum for about 24 hours (plus or minus a few hours) after delivering their offspring.

The type of antibodies the colostrum contains depends upon the antigens to which the dam was exposed to (by disease exposure or vaccination). Ewes and does should be vaccinated in late pregnancy for overeating disease (clostridium perfringens type C & D) and tetanus (clostridium tetani) so that they will pass antibodies for these diseases to their offspring via the colostrum.

Pregnant females should be kept in the location where they are going to lamb or kid for at least 14 days prior to parturition. This gives them time to manufacture the correct antibodies for their specific lambing and kidding environment.

All newborn mammals need colostrum. While it is possible for a lamb or kid to survive without colostrum in a relatively disease-free environment, the likelihood of disease and death is much higher in lambs and kids that do not receive adequate colostrum. Orphan lambs and kids are often more susceptible to diarrhea and pneumonia because they did not consume enough high quality colostrum.

Newborn lambs and kids have limited energy reserves and need rapid access to colostrum to maintain body temperature and survive,

especially those born when it is cold. Lambs are born with low vitamin A reserves. Colostrum is usually rich in vitamin A and helps to build stores in the newborn.

Colostrum is also the first source of Vitamin E for the lamb or kid. The Iron content of colostrum is 10 to 17 times higher in colostrum than normal milk. Colostrum also has laxative qualities and helps to eliminate fecal matter in the newborn's digestive tract.

Research has shown that livestock vary in the quantity and quality of colostrum that they produce. Younger females tend to produce less colostrum than mature females. Inadequate nutrition during late pregnancy can reduce the quantity and quality of colostrum.

In most underfed ewes, the lambs' needs for colostrum often exceed the ewe's production whereas females which are well-fed in late pregnancy usually produce more than their babies need. At the same time, Oregon researchers found no differences in the amount and quality of colostrum produced by ewes with body condition scores ranging from 2.5 to 3.5 [5].



Continued on page 4

Goat Breed Spotlights

Spanish



Country of Origin Spain
 Type of Breed—Meat and brush-clearing
 Breed Weight – Bucks
 200-250 lbs
 Breed Weight – Does
 100-150 lbs

Spanish goats were brought to North America in the 16th century by Spanish explorers discovering the new world. They “seeded” the islands of the Caribbean with small herds of these goats to be a food source for sailors on subsequent trans-Atlantic journeys.

Because so many of these goats were allowed to become feral and adapt independently to the landscape and environment of the Americas, Spanish goats became a breed that thrives in any climate, is parasite-resistant, kids well, and has great mothering instinct. As American agriculture evolved in the late twentieth century, rather than breeding Spanish goats for specific agricultural needs, developing them into dairy, meat, or fiber goats, these tough, local goats were instead crossbred to improve other imported goat species. Spanish goat crossbreeding helped imported meat and fiber goats better adapt to conditions in America, where Spanish goats had been thriving for centuries.

Today, people are taking a new look at Spanish goats, with a fresh appreciation of their unique characteristics, and an eye toward preservation. Spanish goats have a straight profile which can sometimes be slightly convex. Bucks have long horns that flare up and out laterally, with a twist at the tips. All colors of coat are acceptable.

While studies are limited, there is also research that shows that due to their ease of kidding and excellent mothering, Spanish goats produce higher-weight kids very efficiently. Spanish goats are extremely hardy, able to thrive in a variety of climates and on forage that would not be sufficient for other animals. They are highly resistant to parasites and worms and are excellent kidders and excellent mothers. Today, many breeders prefer these goats’ meat because, although they are small in size and don’t give as much milk as other breeds, their versatility and ease of care make them a reliable producer year after year. They are also very popular for brush-clearing and improving pasture for grazing animals, or imply to improve the landscape.

Pros

- Spanish goats produce a hearty amount of savory meat.
- They have a high resistance to parasite and diseases
- Spanish goats are a multi-purpose breed
- They’re efficient at brush-clearing
- Spanish goats can breed out of season

Cons

- They don’t produce much milk
- Spanish goats have a bit of a fight in them and can be hard to handle

Toggenburg Goats



Country of Origin Switzerland
 Type of Breed—Milk production
 Breed Weight –
 Bucks—Approximately 170 lbs
 Does—Approximately 120 lbs

The Toggenburg goats are known for being one of the oldest dairy breeds in the world. This is a traditional breed that hails from the Toggenburg and Werdenburg re-

gion of the canton of St Gallen in eastern Switzerland. British Toggenburg goats are known to produce milk with a higher quality.

The first registered Toggenburg herd book was started in the 1600’s. They were first imported to America in the early 1890’s but they have been a popular breed in the country ever since.

Toggenburg goats have a rich history that explains why they are one of the most famous and most recognizable dairy brands in the world. This a medium-size breed. Mature males reach an average height of 34-38 inches, while females will grow to a height of about 30-32 inches.]

They are smaller than other Alpine breeds, but they do weigh about the same. They have a soft short/medium hair that lies flat. Tassels are not an uncommon feature. Their fur is sold varying from light fawn to dark chocolate. There is no preference for any shade.

Toggenburg goats have distinct facial markings, such as white ears with a dark spot in middle, two white stripes down the gape from the muzzle to the eyes. It is OK if the markings are cream instead of white, but that is not the best indication. Their ears are always erect and alert while their facial features may be dished or straight, but never Roman.

The hind legs are white from hocks to hooves while the forelegs are white from the knees downward. A dark band below the knee is acceptable. Bucks are also known for have a pronounced beard.

Their milk is flavorful and delicious, a favorite around the world. Their milk can be used to make all sorts of dairy products such as milk, butter, ice cream, and others. A typical Toggenburg goat can yield up to 1625+ lbs of milk per lactation. Their milk has a minimum fat content of 3.56% and minimum protein content on 2.9%.

Thanks to their high productivity, this is one of the most sought after breeds available around the whole world. It is good to remember that this breed performs better in cooler weather. These goats tend to be a little more high-strung than other goats.

Pros:

- They can withstand cold climates
- The does have strong maternal instincts
- Lactation can last from 18 months to 20 months
- Toggenburg produce sweet, high quantities of milk

Cons:

- If you don’t have experience, they might be very hard to handle
- This breed doesn’t have the greatest temperament
- They’re skilled in breaking out of their confinement

Colostrum: "Liquid Gold"

Continued from page 2

Lambs and kids should nurse as soon after birth as possible in order to receive adequate colostrum. After parturition, it is a good idea to strip each teat to remove the wax plug and make sure the ewe or doe has enough colostrum to feed her offspring. Antibodies are large protein molecules that can only cross the intestinal wall and enter the bloodstream of the lamb during the first 24 to 36 hours of life. Absorption is most efficient the first few hours after birth.

High quality colostrum contains 50 mg or more of immunoglobulin-G (IgG). The concentration of immunoglobulins in colostrum decreases rapidly after parturition. An Oregon study showed that IgG concentration in ewe's milk diminished to zero by 23 hours post-partum. Therefore, the sooner colostrum is consumed, the better. Thirty minutes is considered optimum whereas 18 hours is considered a must.

Lambs and kids that are too weak to nurse can be fed colostrum with a nipple bottle or stomach tube. It is recommended that lambs receive 10 percent of their weight in colostrum by the time they are 24 hours old. This means that a 10 pound lamb should receive one pound (16 ounces) of colostrum within 24 hours of birth [3]. Colostrum should be fed at blood temperature (102-103°F, 39-40°C), 2 to 4 ounces at 3 to 4 hour intervals. A 60 cc syringe holds 2 ounces of colostrum.

Colostrum sources

The best source of colostrum is from the lamb or kid's own dam or another female that has recently given birth. If this is not possible, fresh or frozen colostrum from other females in the flock can be used. Colostrum from females from the same flock is the best source of colostrum because it will have custom-made antibodies. When using colostrum from another flock or herd, try to choose a farm with a similar disease status.

Dam	Best source
Another female in flock	Best substitute
Female in another flock	Next best
Ewe or doe from another farm	OPP/CAE risk
Cow	Lower in fat, Johne's risk
Commercial colostrum replacement	Contains IgG
Commercial colostrum supplement	No antibodies
Milk replacer	No antibodies
Homemade colostrum	No antibodies

Colostrum sources

It is always a good idea to milk out ewes and does that have extra milk (colostrum) and to freeze it for later use. Females which give birth to singles often have enough colostrum for a second offspring. You can milk ewes and does out by hand or use a colostrum collection device, e.g. Udderly EZ™.

Cow colostrum can serve as a substitute for lamb and goat colostrum, but because cow's milk is not as nutritious as ewe's milk, more volume (about one third) must be fed to lambs. Milk from the colored breeds is better because it is higher in fat. Though Johne's disease is not as common in sheep and goats as it is in cattle, it is advisable to get cow colostrum from a herd that has tested negative for Johne's.

Frozen colostrum should be thawed slowly in a warm water bath. Do not use direct heat or this will destroy the antibodies. A microwave can be used to thaw colostrum if it is heated for short periods of time on low power.

It is best to freeze colostrum in small quantities because once frozen colostrum is thawed, it cannot be re-frozen. Ice cube trays work well to freeze small

quantities of colostrum. Once the trays are frozen, the colostrum cubes can be stored in zip lock bags.

Frozen colostrum can be stored for up to 12 months [4]. A study conducted in 2001 by the University of Tennessee showed that the freezing and thawing of colostrum did not destroy the components in the milk which provide resistance to E. coli challenge in newborn lambs [6]. Colostrum can be refrigerated for one week before quality (IgG concentration) declines.

It's important not to confuse colostrum "supplements" with colostrum replacements or substitutes. Be sure to read the labels carefully. A colostrum product that is unable to raise the blood concentration of IgG above the species standard is called a colostrum supplement.

Colostrum supplements are nutritious and can be used to increase the amount of IgG fed when no other source of colostrum is available, but they cannot replace high quality colostrum. They do not contain sufficient quantities of antibodies. They are often marketed as colostrum replacements, which they are not. A Spanish study concluded that kids receiving a commercial colostrum did not acquire the necessary immunity as compared to kids consuming fresh sheep and frozen goat colostrum [10].

Colostrum products that contain IgG are regulated by the USDA Center for Veterinary Biologics. Any product that able to raise serum IgG concentration above 10 mg/ml may be called a colostrum replacer. These products are bovine serum-based products that contain at least 100 g of IgG per liter, plus fat, protein, vitamins and minerals needed by the newborn calf. In trials, calves fed colostrum replacers have performed as well as calves fed maternal colostrum. Land O'Lakes recently developed a colostrum replacement for lambs and kids [9].

Lamb or kid milk replacer is never a substitute for colostrum. It should not be fed until the lamb or kid has received adequate colostrum, usually over 24 hours of age.

Diseases transmitted in the colostrum

Some diseases are transferred from the dam to the offspring via the colostrum and milk. Both Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP) and Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE) are transmitted in this manner. These diseases are very similar and can be transferred between species. A lamb that consumes colostrum from a CAE-positive doe can test positive for OPP and a kid that consume colostrum from a OPP-positive ewe can test positive for CAE.

To prevent the transmission of either disease from positive dams to offspring, the offspring should not be allowed to nurse positive dams. They should be fed pasteurized colostrum or cow colostrum. The bacteria that causes Johne's disease can also be transmitted through colostrum, though it is not the primary mode of transmission.

References and further reading

- [1] [PDF] Importance of Colostrum or Kids - SweetLix
- [2] The Importance of Colostrum to Newborn Goat Kids - Onion Creek Ranch
- [3] [PDF] Colostrum and Health of Newborn Lambs - Iowa State University
- [4] [PDF] Colostrum Requirements of Newborn Lambs - Pipestone Vet
- [5] [PDF] Effect of ewe body condition at time of lambing on colostrum IgG concentration
- [6] [Abstract] Effect of freezing colostrum on resistance of neonatal lambs to experimental infection with e. coli
- [7] Colostrum management - Volac
- [8] Colostrum and Colostrum Management - CalfNotes.com
- [9] [PDF] Land O'Lakes Colostrum Replacement - Product Information
- [10] [Abstract] Passive transfer of immunity in goat kids fed refrigerated and frozen goat colostrum and commercial sheep colostrum

This article was written in 2007 by Susan Schoenian.

McDaniel: Beware – trapping your dog may not be illegal

Rodger McDaniel

The fuse has been lit on the most volatile issue of which most Wyoming people are unaware. If you are not a trapper or have not had your pet die a horrible death in a trap laid alongside a trail on public lands, you probably know nothing about the debate quietly being fought between trappers and those who think trapping should be regulated.

Full disclosure. I learned of the conflict from my wife, an animal rights advocate, involved with other Wyoming people encouraging the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission to enact trapping regulations.

I chose to write about the controversy for two purposes: to make people aware of it and, in the hope that those on both sides of the issue will make this a matter of greater public dialogue.

Trappers point out that their hobby or vocation is protected in the Wyoming Constitution. It is true that Article 1, Section 39 of the constitution mentions trapping. It also refers to hunting and fishing. And it subjects all three pursuits to regulation. Specifically, the provision says it is not intended to “diminish other private rights or alter the duty of the state to manage wildlife.”

Among those “other private rights” is access to public lands. Virtually unregulated, trapping significantly limits the ability of the public to fully enjoy public lands without the threat of injury or death to pets or children.

Game and Fish does not keep data about unintended injuries or deaths caused by trapping. However, a trapping-regulation advocacy group does. Wyoming Untrapped collects reports on the multiple incidents when those freely enjoying hikes or camping with a family pet on public lands have experienced tragedy.

Most are surprised to learn that traps are set close to trails in popular mountain venues. A Wyoming travel website, travelwyoming.com, invites people to enjoy trails in areas like Vedauwoo. “Mountain bikers, hikers and trail runners can progress tirelessly on trails among the pine and aspen trees with views of the Medicine Bow Mountains.”

The Wyoming Untrapped website warns those using public lands. There is good reason to beware. Last month, a couple was hiking at Vedauwoo with two dogs. The dogs were near the trail when one, stopping to sniff what turned out to be bait, was seized by a hidden trap. Although the dog and its humans were traumatized, the dog limped away alive. The dog’s owners said, “We had no idea that traps were even something to worry about while exploring public lands.”

Other pets have not been so fortunate. Mac, for example died near Pavillion. This beloved family dog was “caught in a POWER neck snare (an extremely lethal device) set for bobcats.”

A Casper nurse took her two dogs to an area they often visited. The dogs exercised by running on the sandstone outcroppings. Both dogs were killed by a hidden M-44 cyanide bomb.

These incidents all harmed pets. But, any of them could just as easily have taken the life of a small, curious child. Maybe your pet; perhaps your child.

Christy Stewart was with family, walking her dog up Wickiup Knoll Trail outside of Afton, same as she’d done almost every day for the past four years. Her dog, a 3-year-old Pyrenees named “Sage,” practically grew up on that run. Sage died, trapped on that trail.

“Out of sight for just minutes, the dog caught a scent of fresh meat used to bait a bobcat snare. It didn’t take long. Sage suffocated, hung in a trap just 20 feet off the trail.

“Afton game warden James Hobbs investigated the incident and reported the trap, baited using a cubby set, was legal.”

Therein lies the problem. Not one of these tragedies was the result of any violation of law or regulation. A growing number of public lands users are asking the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission to solve that problem by enacting reasonable trapping regulations so they can safely use public lands without exposing their pets and children to deadly, hidden danger



New Extension Website for all things sheep and goat!
[Nebraska Extension Sheep and Goat | Nebraska Extension \(unl.edu\)](#)

Targhee

Breed spotlight

Mature Body Weight	Ram	200-300 lbs.
	Ewe	140-200 lbs
Average Fiber Diameter	Micron	25-21
	Spinning Count	64-58
Grease Fleece Weight	Ewe	10-14 lbs
Yield		45-55 %
Staple Length		3-5"



Developed in 1926 at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho, the Targhee has $\frac{3}{4}$ fine-wool and $\frac{1}{4}$ long-wool breeding from Rambouillet x Columbia and Rambouillet x Lincoln x Corriedale crosses. The Targhee is a medium to large-sized, white-faced breed with wool on the legs and is adaptable to varied climate and forage conditions; they are predominantly located in the intermountain and northern states. They herd well, produce good quality market lambs, and yield a heavy, medium-wool fleece with good staple length.

The Targhee is one of America's youngest breeds. The breed was named after the National Forest where the animals grazed during the summer. The forest was named for a chief of the Bannock Indians who had lived in the area in the 1860s.

HENRY HAMPSHIRE

H

DALLAS HENRY

269-953-4609

BLUE HILL, NE 68930

The Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers are always looking for energetic people that would like to be on the board.

How do you get on the board?

You must be a current member of the association and a sheep or goat producer. That it! Send your letter of inquiry to ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com with a short bio about yourself and your experience in the industry.

TEXAS SHEEP & GOAT EXPO

LUNCH AND LEARN MINI SERIES

JANUARY 20, 2021
FEBRUARY 3, 2021
12:00 - 1:00 PM

NO FEE REQUIRED

Speakers:

- Dr. Reid Redden**
Associate Professor and Extension
Sheep and Goat Specialist
- Jake Thorne**
Extension Associate, Sheep & Goat

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

TOPICS:

Supplementing sheep
and goats without
breaking the bank

Early pregnancy
determination to add
profit to your operation

REGISTER IN ADVANCE:

<https://agrilife.zoom.us/j/92814042552>

OR

CALL IN THE DAY OF:

+1 (346) 248-7799

AND ENTER

Meeting ID: 928 1404 2552

Upcoming Events for 2021

Jan. 19, 2021 - Birth Management for Sheep & Goats (Part 2 of 4) - Online - [Commerce.cashnet.com/msu](https://commerce.cashnet.com/msu)

Jan. 26, 2021 - Birth Management for Sheep & Goats (Part 3 of 4) - Online - [Commerce.cashnet.com/msu](https://commerce.cashnet.com/msu)

Jan. 28-29, 2021 - ASI Annual Convention - Online - www.sheepusa.org

January 30, 2021—Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers Eastern 2021 Lambing and Kidding School. Seward, NE—ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com

Feb. 1-3, 2021 - Montana Advanced Wool Harvesting School - Billings, Mont. - Brent Roeder at roeder@montana.edu.

Feb. 2, 2021 - Birth Management for Sheep & Goats (Part 4 of 4) - Online - [Commerce.cashnet.com/msu](https://commerce.cashnet.com/msu)

February 6, 2021—Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers Western 2021 Lambing and Kidding School. Bayard, NE —ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com

April 15-17, 2021 - Sheep Shearing School at Shepherd's Cross - Claremore, Okla. - www.shepherdscross.com

March 3-4 - Missouri Shearing School - Lincoln University - Amy Bax at 573-681-6190 or BaxA2@lincolnU.edu

April 21 - Designing Your Sheep & Goat Grazing System - Online - www.wisc.edu

July 10-11 - Grazing Hills Fiber Arts Festival - Viola, Idaho - www.ghfiberfest.com

Sept. 18-19, 2021—NS&GP Goat AI Clinic - North Platte, NE— More details will be coming soon.

Sept 25-26, 2021—4S Goat Expo—North Platte, NE—s4goatexpo@yahoo.com

Oct. 6-10 - Trailing of the Sheep Festival - Wood River Valley, Idaho - www.trailingofthesheep.org

October 16-17, 2021—NS&GP Annual Conference and Meeting - Norfolk, NE—ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com for updates

**Renew your memberships to the
NEBRASKA SHEEP AND GOAT PRODUCERS!!
You can go to the website**

<https://nebraskasheepandgoat.org/> Or email us at ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com

The Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers Association newsletter is the only statewide publication serving exclusively sheep and goat producers. If you have livestock, products, or a service to sell, this is how you get it to the audience you're trying to reach.

Size of Advertisement

Business Card

Quarter Page

Half Page

Full Page

Cost Per Issue

\$5-member, \$10 non-member

\$10-member, \$20 non-member

\$20-member, \$40 non-member

\$40-member, \$80 non-member

Interested in learning more? Contact Melissa Nicholson at ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com or 308-386-8378.

MARKET NEWS

Weekly National Market Prices for Wool

Category	2021 Loan Rate	Effective Repayment Rate 1/6/2021	LDP Rate
CLEAN PRICES in \$ per Pound			
<18.6 Micron	3.87	4.36	Not Available
18.6 – 19.5	3.56	3.86	Not Available
19.6 – 20.5	3.44	3.47	Not Available
20.6 – 22.0	3.40	3.24	\$16 LDP Available
22.1 – 23.5	3.06	2.76	\$30 LDP Available
23.6 – 25.9	2.96	2.30	\$67 LDP Available
26.0 – 28.9	.98	1.31	Not Available
> 29 Micron	.40	.83	Not Available
GREASE PRICES in \$ per Pound			
Ungraded Wool	40 cents	0 cents	\$40 LDP Available
Unshorn PELT	6.865 lbs X Ungraded Wool LDP		\$2.0595 LDP Available

LDPs are not available when the repayment rate is above loan rate.

Market Summary, Week Ending January 1, 2021

Commercial Feeder Prices, (\$/cwt.), Medium and Large 1 2, St. Onge-Newell, SD: \$141-\$200 per cwt. for 48-126 lbs. (12/17); Billings, MT: \$172-\$207 per cwt. for 79-109 lbs. (11/30)

Slaughter Prices – Live, negotiated, 137-154 lbs. for \$144.50-\$163.00 per cwt.

Slaughter Prices – Formula, Not reported due to confidentiality.

Slaughter Prices Comprehensive Information—Formula & Negotiated, Not reported due to confidentiality.

Equity Electronic Auction, No sales.

Lighter Weight Slaughter Lamb Prices, 60-90 lbs., From 3 weeks ago: San Angelo, TX: \$242-\$320 per cwt.; New Holland, PA: \$220-\$295 per cwt.

Federally-inspected slaughter (Week ending 12/19/20): 40,551 head

Cutout Value/Net Carcass Value (1), \$402.69 per cwt.

Carcass Price, Choice and Prime, YG 1-4, Not reported due to confidentiality.

Boxed Lamb, weighted average prices (\$/cwt.), Trimmed Loins 4x4 691.63, Rack, roast-ready, frenched (cap-on) 1,647.21, Rack, roast-ready, frenched, special (cap-off) 2,108.87, Leg, trotter-off, partial boneless 572.55, Shoulder, square-cut 363.92, Ground lamb 615.74.

Imported Boxed Lamb, weighted average prices (\$/cwt.), AUS Rack (fresh, frenched, cap-off, 28 oz/up) 809.25, AUS Shoulder (fresh, square-cut) 323.78, AUS Leg (fresh, semi boneless) 395.69, AUS Rack (frozen, frenched, cap-off, 28 oz/up) 818.86, NZ Rack (frozen, frenched, cap-off, 20 oz/up) 725.71, AUS Shoulder (frozen, square-cut) 268.79.

Exported Slaughter Ewes, 0 head

Wool, (\$/pound clean), delivered FOB, Prices from October 2020: 18 micron (Grade 80s) NA, 19 micron (Grade 80s) NA, 20 micron (Grade 70s) 3.40, 21 micron (Grade 64-70s) 3.22, 22 micron (Grade 64s) 3.16, 23 micron (Grade 62s) 2.66, 24 micron (Grade 60-62s) 2.46, 25 micron (Grade 58s) NA, 26 micron (Grade 56-58s) 2.20, 27 Micron (Grade 54-56s) NA, 28 micron (Grade 54s) 1.55, 30-32 micron (Grade 50s, Grade 46-48s) NA, Merino Clippings NA.

Australian Wool, (\$/pound clean), delivered FOB, From 3 weeks ago: 18 micron (Grade 80s) 4.16-4.71, 19 micron (Grade 80s) 3.69-4.18, 20 micron (Grade 70s) 3.32-3.76, 21 micron (Grade 64-70s) 3.15-3.56, 22 micron (Grade 64s) 3.08-3.49, 23 micron (Grade 62s) NA, 24 micron (Grade 60-62s) NA, 25 micron (Grade 58s) NA, 26 micron (Grade 56-58s) 1.96-2.22, 28 micron (Grade 54s) 1.31-1.48, 30 micron (Grade 50s) 1.07-1.21, 32 micron (Grade 46-48s) 0.77-0.87, Merino Clippings 2.09-2.37.

(1) The cutout value is the same as a net carcass value. It is a composite value that sums the value of the respective lamb cuts multiplied by their weights. It is also the gross carcass value less processing and packaging costs.

Source: USDA/AMS

To breed or not to breed? Breeding ewe lambs and doelings

Should ewe lambs and doelings be bred to produce their first offspring when they are approximately one year of age? Or should you wait until they are yearlings to breed them for the first time? The answer depends. There are many factors to consider and pros and cons to each breeding decision.

Breeding ewe lambs and doe kids allows you to exploit their reproductive and genetic potential. It is well-documented that ewes that are mated as lambs will have a higher lifetime production than ewes that are mated for the first time as yearlings.

One of the most compelling reasons to consider breeding ewe lambs and doe kids is genetic improvement. Your lambs and kids should have the best genetics on your farm. Breeding them early will reduce the generation interval and accelerate genetic improvement.

At the same time, ewe lambs and doe kids have lower conception rates, give birth to fewer offspring, produce less milk, and are more likely to experience problems during the periparturient period. In addition, there may be sacrifices in growth. Ewes and does that are bred early may not catch up (in weight) until their second or third mating. For this reason, producers who show yearlings often delay breeding.

Size (weight) is a more important consideration than age when deciding if/when to breed ewe lambs and doelings. Ewe lambs and doelings should achieve approximately two-thirds of their mature weight (at the start of the breeding season) before being bred.

It is often necessary to feed some grain to get ewe lambs and doe kids big enough for breeding. At the same time, ewe and doe replacements should not be fed for maximum gain, as this could be detrimental to future milk production. Fat deposits in the udder, caused by overfeeding, may negatively impact milk production.

Though heavily influenced by nutrition, ewes and does vary in the age at which they reach puberty (sexual maturity). Some breeds of sheep may not reach puberty until they are almost a year of age. Crossbred females usually reach puberty earlier than purebred females. Ewe lambs born in the fall are not likely to conceive until the next fall.

It makes sense to breed ewe lambs and doe kids away from the main flock, as they are less competitive for the male's service. Ewe lambs and doe kids should not be bred to males with large birth weights or heavy front-ends. They should be bred to males from the same (or smaller) breed. Nor should they be mated to large males that could cause them injury.

Because pregnant ewe lambs and doelings are still growing, they have higher nutritional requirements than mature females. They are also less aggressive at the feed trough. For these reasons, they should be fed and managed separately from mature females. In fact, they should not be mixed with the mature flock until they have weaned their first offspring. Better yet, they should not be mixed with mature females until they are bred for the second time. Yearlings that are nursing offspring, especially multiples, should be more closely monitored for signs of internal parasitism (worms).

With good management and nutrition, producers can successfully breed ewes and does to produce offspring at approximately one year of age. Without good management and nutrition, breeding ewe lambs and doe kids can be disastrous.

References and further reading

Avg. mature weight, lbs. (kg)	Minimum weight to breed, lbs. (kg)
60 (27)	40 (18)
70 (32)	47 (32)
80 (36)	54 (25)
90 (41)	60 (27)
100 (45)	67 (30)
120 (55)	80 (36)
140 (64)	94 (43)
160 (73)	107 (49)
180 (82)	120 (55)
200 (91)	134 (61)
220 (100)	147 (67)
240 (109)	160 (73)

Breeding replacement ewe lambs - Illini SheepNet and Meat GoatNet

[PDF] Reports on breeding ewe lambs (1979) - Oregon State University

[WORD] Should we breed ewe lambs? - University of Wisconsin
A study of breeding ewe lambs - published in 1930 by J. Anim. Sci.

This article was written in 2010 by Susan Schoenian. It was last updated in 2015.

Sheep and Goat Identification Requirements

The purpose of identifying sheep and goats is to enable trace back of scrapie-positive animals to their flock or herd of origin, and to trace animals out of infected flocks. The following animals are required to be identified with official scrapie tags when a change of ownership occurs:

- All breeding sheep regardless of age.
- All sheep over 18 months of age.
- All sexually intact sheep and goats for exhibition.
- All sheep determined by a state or federal official to be scrapie-positive, exposed, suspect, or high risk animals.
- All sheep and goats from non-compliant flocks (flocks whose owners decline to comply with the provisions of the scrapie control program, or who violate its provisions).
- All sexually intact goats that are: (a) registered; (b) are used for exhibition; (c) are used for milking; or (d) have resided on the same premises with sheep.
- All intact feeder sheep sold at an unrestricted sale.*

*An unrestricted sale at a livestock market is one in which breeding, feeding and slaughter sheep are sold the same day. Currently, all Nebraska sheep markets are operating as unrestricted sales. All ewe and ram lambs sold at these unrestricted sales will need to be identified regardless of age, unless they are nursing their dam. This also applies to goats for feeding, which have commingled with sheep.

RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

All persons who buy, sell or otherwise deal in the ownership or acquisition of sheep and/or goats are required to maintain records on their animals for a period of five years. Persons selling or buying sheep or goats must record the following information:

- The number of animals sold or purchased;
- The identification of the animals sold or purchased;
- The date of sale or purchase;
- Name, address and phone number of the person to whom animals were sold, or from whom animals were purchased; and
- Species, breed or class of animals sold or purchased.

Katahdin Sheep

Mature Body Weight:

Ram 175-250 lbs.
Ewe 120-160 lbs.

The Katahdin breed originated in Maine from crosses of the St. Croix, Suffolk and Wiltshire Horn. They are a woolless, easy-care sheep capable of high performance in a variety of management systems. Katahdins possess excellent mothering abilities, are good milkers, prolific and have an extended breeding season. Their hair coat can be any color or color pattern and they possess unusual tolerance to heat and humidity as well as cold environments. Katahdins are the largest of the hair breeds and naturally produce a lean and well-muscled carcass with excellent meat flavor.

The Katahdin breed originated at the Piel Farm in north central Maine where Michael Piel was an innovator and amateur geneticist who enjoyed raising livestock. His first intentions related to establishing a sheep enterprise were to use sheep to graze power lines instead of spraying or mowing the vegetation. He then developed other ideas on how to employ sheep for land management.

Three "African Hair Sheep" as they were called then, were imported to Maine from St. Croix on November 21, 1957. Through breeding many types of sheep with rams they were able to develop the breed they wanted. They have demonstrated wide adaptability. In cold weather, they grow a very thick winter coat, which then sheds during warm weather. Their smooth hair coat and other adaptive characteristics allow them to tolerate heat and humidity well. Katahdin are also significantly tolerant of internal and external parasites and if managed carefully require only minimal parasite treatment.

Ewes and rams exhibit early puberty and generally have a long productive life. Mature ewes usually have twins, occasionally producing triplets or quads. A well-managed and selected flock should produce a 200% lamb crop. Rams are aggressive breeders, generally fertile year round, and can settle a large number of ewes in the first cycle of exposure. With selection a flock can consistently lamb throughout the year. The Katahdin ewe shows a strong, protective mothering instinct, usually lambing without assistance, and has ample milk for her lambs.



Lambs produce a high quality, well-muscled carcass that is naturally lean and consistently offers a very mild flavor. Lambs are comparable to other medium-sized maternal breeds in growth and cutability. Lambs are desirable for specialty markets at a variety of ages and weights, wethers are appropriate for conventional North American markets at 95 to 115 pounds.

Katahdins are docile so are easily handled. They exhibit moderate flocking instinct.



Nebraska Sheep and Goat Producers
Association and Nebraska Extension Present:



2021 LAMBING AND KIDDING SCHOOL

Date: Saturday January 30, 2021

Locations: Burch Livestock, LLC , 2935 Little Salt Rd, Seward Nebraska
Seward County Fairgrounds, 400 North 14th Street - Seward, NE
Lucky M Boer Goats, 2500 Branched Oak Rd, Davey, NE

Cost: In-Person: \$25-Non-Members, \$20-Members, \$10-Students (Handouts and Lunch Included)

Virtual: \$15-Non-member, \$10-Member

To register, e-mail ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com or call Melissa Nicholson: 308-386-8378 **by January 26, 2021**

9:00 CT Registration at Burch Livestock

9:30 Tour Birch Livestock - Topics include: "Care of Young Lambs" & "Condition Scoring Ewes"

11:30 Leave for Seward County Fairgrounds

11:50 Lunch

12:20 Randy Saner, Nebraska Extension Educator, North Platte Nebraska
"Getting Facilities Ready for Kidding and Lambing"

1:00 John Magnuson, Land O'Lakes Nutritionist
"Economical Feeding Programs for the Ewes and Does"

2:00 Rachell Gibbs, University of Nebraska - Lincoln , NE
"Health concerns during kidding and lambing"

3:00 **Travel to Lucky M Farms:**
2500 Branched Oak Rd, Davey, NE

3:00 - 5:00 Hands on Tour: Topics to include:
Body condition of does
Care of the young goats
When and how to assist difficult births



2021 Lambing & Kidding School - See prices above

Due January 26th

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Attending _____ Sheep _____ Goat _____ e-mail: _____

E-mail: ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com or call 308-386-8378 or send to:

NE Sheep & Goat

PO Box 1066

Chadron, NE 69937



**Nebraska Sheep and Goat Producers
Association and Nebraska Extension Present:**



2021 Western LAMBING AND KIDDING SCHOOL

Date: Saturday February 6, 2021 9:15am-4:00pm

Registration: Bobby Jo's Branding Iron, 533 Main, Bayard NE - 9:15-9:45 am

Cost: In-Person: \$25-Non-Members, \$20-Members, \$10-Students (Handouts and Lunch Included)

To register, e-mail ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com or call Melissa Nicholson: 308-386-8378

BY February 1, 2021

9:15 MT Registration - Bobby Jo's Branding Iron Cafe' - 533 Main St. Bayard, NE

9:45 MT Travel to Julie Kappen's Farm 10803 Rd 89 Bayard, NE

10:00 MT Hands on demonstration and discussion at the farm

Tour of sheep farm and facilities – Julie Kappen

Management practices – Docking, Castrating, Tubing, Deworming Etc – Rob Zelinsky, Hubbard Feeds

Proper use of vaccines - handling vaccines, injection sights, deworming – Jessie Fulton - UNL

Use of synchronization – CIDERS - Jessie Fulton - UNL

Body condition scoring – Ivan Rush, Sheep producer

12:00 Lunch featuring delicious American Lamb – Bobbi Jo's Branding Iron, Bayard

1:00 Late gestation/lactation nutrition and management of the ewe and doe

Lamb and kid dry lot feeding - birth to weaning

Rob Zelinsky, Hubbard Feeds

2:00 Our sheep operation – accelerated lambing, use of synchronization, marketing

Jesse and Brittney Fulton, Minatare NE

2:45 – Production of meat goats, Virgil Hagel, Goat producer Bayard, NE

4:00 – Have a safe trip home.



2021 Lambing & Kidding School - See prices above.

Due by February 1st

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Attending _____ Sheep _____ Goat _____ e-mail: _____

E-mail: ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com or call 308-386-8378 or send to:

NE Sheep & Goat

PO Box 1066

Chadron, NE 69937

Membership Application 2021



Membership Level

- ☐ \$125 Gold, Business, and Corporate Membership
 ☐ \$45 Regular Membership (Family Household)
- ☐ \$20 Youth Membership (up to 18 years old)



Contact Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Website _____



Type of Operation (Circle all that apply)

Sheep Producer	Auction Market	Guard animal/herd dog provider
Goat Producer	Agribusiness	4-H/FFA member, Extension Educator
Sheep Feeder	Trucker	Shearer
Goat Feeder	Stock Buyer	Other _____



Interests (Circle all that apply)

Purebred flock/herd	Shearing	Pasture management/weed control
Commercial flock/herd	Feedlot	Sustainable farmer/rancher
Hobby Farm	Beginning farmer	Service Provider
Marketing	Specialty products	Other _____
Predator Control	Youth livestock shows	



What breed of sheep or goats do you raise? _____

Would you be interested in a Coop marketing? _____

If you raise wool sheep do you sell fleeces directly? _____

Would you be interested in direct sells? _____

Do you want to be listed in our breeder directory? _____



Submit Form & Payments

Mail this completed form and a check
(payable to Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers):
Nebraska Sheep & Goat Producers
Attn: Melissa Nicholson
PO Box 1066
Chadron, NE 69337

Submit Membership
Application Online

You can also apply online at
www.nebraskasheepandgoat.org/become-a-member-2

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Source: Ibex | shop.ibex.com



Producer Spotlight

Dan Stehlik of Curtis, NE is our producer spotlight to start out our 2021 year. He operates a 75-head purebred Dorset and F1 Dorset-Suffolk-cross accelerated lambing program while he teaches Ag Mechanics full-time at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA). Dan is currently serving his second year with the NSGPA Board of Directors. He previously served 9 years with the Kansas Sheep Association (KSA) Board and was state tour director in 2013. He also served on the Kansas Farm Bureau Sheep and Goat Advisory Committee with one of his two years as Committee Chair. Stehlik was nominated by Kansas and Texas Sheep Associations and Kansas Farm Bureau for an ALB position in 2015.

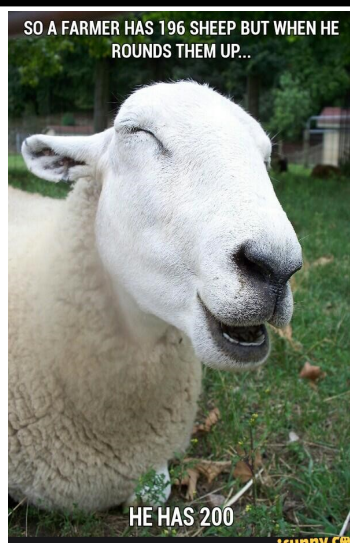
Dan started his sheep enterprise while teaching high school agriculture at Concordia, KS in 1999 with three cull Dorset ewes. These provided 3 bottle lambs for an ag project in the school shop and \$150 cash upon resale of the ewes. This small beginning grew to 100 ewes by 2009. As facilities increased, numbers increased to pay the way. As numbers increased, facilities needed to increase. And so on.

Stehlik has assisted 15 Kansas high school and former students with starter flocks and mentor situations. One former protégé went into the medical profession and claimed her experience with vaccinations stimulated her interest in that field. Some bottle lambs today are provided for a handicapped girl to feed. Dan provides lambs for the Frontier County 4-H Catch-A-Lamb project and assists the county fair as Sheep Superintendent. Many of Dan's lambs go to college as lab activities for the Vet Technician program at NCTA. These lambs are used to train future Veterinary Technicians in the proper techniques for vaccinations, banding, blood draws, worming, ultra sounding, fecal analysis, and occasional post-mortem examination. 'Daaan likes to claim these trips to college make his lambs smarter as they all call his name when they come home and teach the others to do the same. Some ewes are used with district FFA and collegiate judging practices and competitions.

Production emphasis is toward twinning, rebreeding, and milking ability, with secondary criteria toward daily gains and carcass quality. Three lamb crops every two years are targeted with half the flock lambing alternatively with the other half in the months of January, September, and May and then repeating the other half. Thereby reducing rams needed; reducing needed indoor facility size and spreading facility use; spreading marketing, feed needs, and labor; and reducing weather or disease risk for the entire group.

Lambs per ewe (groups of 25-35) at weaning, seems to alternate between 175% and then 125% the next lambing and back 175% again. A group high of 189% was achieved for January 2017. Several 125-130-pound lambs have yielded 69-70-pound carcasses. Stehlik sells most of his lambs live with a target of 140 pounds. While in Kansas Dan also marketed lamb meat wholesale and retail through a local produce business that featured organic, grass-fed, and other meats not readily available in stores.

Stehlik's primary interest in sheep promotion is the economic impact flocks of 50-100 ewes or more can impart upon a local community. Stehlik's operation in Kansas did more than \$300 annually with at least 20 individuals or companies. On an animal unit or average per hour basis for all inputs, producing sheep can be a lower start-up investment; have greater annual return on investment; be lower financial risk; and have faster returns than some other livestock enterprises. He emphasizes sheep can be a means for the next generation to be included in a farming operation that has traditional expansion roadblocks.



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