

## **2011 National Rambouillet Show and Sale**

*The American Rambouillet Sheep Breeder Association (ARSBA) held its 2011 Show and Sale in Pipestone, Minnesota on July 12th-16th, 2011. The week was highlighted by evening meals and social events that included a trip to Wild Water West in Sioux Falls, South Dakota for the Junior members. The show had contestants from as far away as California to Ohio, and from Texas up to North Dakota, and many of the states in between. The show is moved each year and plans for the 2012 Show and Sale will be held in Lubbock, Texas.*

*Champion Ram honors went to Dew Drop Farms of New York Mills, Minnesota, and Reserve Champion Ram was won by Melanie Jackson of Lubbock, Texas. Champion Ewe honors went to Bobb Bros. of Edgerton, Minnesota, and Reserve Champion Ewe was won by Crawford Family Rambouillets of Pipestone, Minnesota. Jim Forbes of Kaycee, Wyoming had Champion Ram and Ewe Fleece.*

*The sale was held on Saturday and yearling rams averaged \$1,120.83. Yearling ewes averaged \$813.33. the sale had a total of 153 head of sheep and averaged \$783.33.*

*The quality of the entries was very good and continues to improve every year, this years show was judged by David Cook from Ohio. The junior show was judged by Larry Miller of Jasper, Minnesota.*

*Friday evening the ARSBA held their annual banquet and awards at the Pipestone Country Club. The evening ended with a fund raising auction for the Junior Fund which raises money for the Junior Scholarships. Winners of this years scholarships were Isaiah Bauck from Minnesota, Mark Inbody from Ohio, and Herman Kerr from Texas.*

*For a complete list of class winners and photos please visit the ARSBA web site:  
[countrylovin.com](http://countrylovin.com).*

# KHSI 2011 Expo Schedule

## Thursday, September 15

- \* **Optional Tour:** (Tour fee includes bus transportation to all farms)
- \* **7:30 a.m.** Meet at the Crossings Inn Hotel in Pipestone, MN to board the bus to tour three lamb production farms in the Pipestone Lamb and Wool System.
  - ⇒ **Farm 1**—Wes Moser...800 ewes, fall lambing—intensive management and high input
  - ⇒ **Farm 2**—Randy Dombeck...900 ewes, intensive management and low input
  - ⇒ **Farm 3**—GF & Deb Kennedy, Gary Gorter...intensive management & high/low input, multi-species grazing, rotational grazing, hair sheep
- \* **6:30 p.m.** Pipestone Vet Clinic will provide a meal for Expo Attendees at the Kennedy Farm

## Friday, September 16

### Events at the Pipestone Vocational Technical School & Pipestone Fairgrounds

- \* **7:30 a.m.** Registration (registration fee includes all programs and meals for the day)
- \* **9:00 a.m. Welcome**
- \* **9:15 a.m. Workshop Session 1**...five concurrent sessions each 30 minutes in length. Choose three of the five presentations.
  - ⇒ **Phil Berg, MN West Technical College**—Sheep Nutrition & By-Products
  - ⇒ **Mike Caskey, MN West Technical College**—Changing the Sheep Industry
  - ⇒ **G.F. Kennedy, DVM, Pipestone Veterinary Clinic**—Ask a Vet
  - ⇒ **Jay Bobb, DVM, Pipestone Veterinary Clinic**—Ask a Vet
  - ⇒ **Larry Goelz, DVM, Pipestone Veterinary Clinic**—Ram Evaluation
- \* **11:00a.m.** **Dion VanWell, Watertown, SD**—Needs of the US Sheep Industry
- \* **12:00 p.m.** Lunch catered by “Tu Phat Girls”
- \* **1:00 p.m. Workshop Session 2**...five concurrent sessions each 30 minutes in length. Choose two of the five presentations.
  - ⇒ **Phil Berg, MN West Technical College**—Sheep Nutrition & By-Products
  - ⇒ **Mike Caskey, MN West Technical College**—Philosophy of Pipestone Production System
  - ⇒ **G.F. Kennedy, DVM, Pipestone Veterinary Clinic**—Ask a Vet
  - ⇒ **Jay Bobb, DVM, Pipestone Veterinary Clinic**—Shepherd’s Choice Products for the Sheep Industry
  - ⇒ **Larry Goelz, DVM, Pipestone Veterinary Clinic**—Internal & External parasite Control
- \* **3:00 p.m.** **Round Table of Five Presenters—Open Forum**...Bring your questions
- \* **5:30 p.m.** Dinner catered by “Tu Phat Girls”
- \* **6:30 p.m.** **KHSI Annual Membership Meeting**

## Saturday, September 17

### Events at Pipestone Fairgrounds

- 8:30 a.m.**.....**Sale Animal Display**
- 9:30 a.m.**.....**Dr. Jeff Held, South Dakota State University**—Session on Conformation & Soundness
- Lunch**—Concession stand staffed by Pipestone 4-H members
- 11:30 a.m.**...**Katahdin Expo Sale**—Commercial Katahdin Ewe Sale, Registered katahdin Ram & Ewe Sale
- 1:30 p.m.**.....**Hair Coat Inspectors Training**...will start 1 hour after the end of the Expo Sale.

*Registration will be available August 1st, 2011 @ the KHSI website, [www.katahdins.org](http://www.katahdins.org), or by calling KHSI Operations, 479-444-8441 or [info@katahdins.org](mailto:info@katahdins.org)*

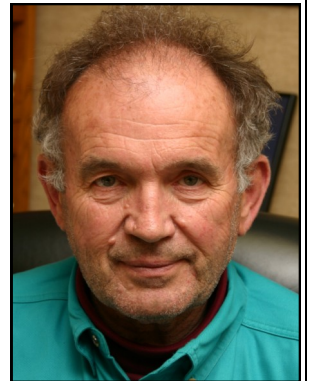
# Straight Talk

I am on the road again or should I say air, every flight was an hour late except the last leg single engine charter, so that worked. I was back for the Rambouillet show, playing catch up at the farm and clinic as well. A fast six days to be sure.

We have been working hard to publish the sheep letter electronically. I think we are finally getting there. Many of you will receive a hard copy as well. Annual purchases of \$200 or more will get you the hard copy or you may subscribe for a fee of \$20. Everyone will receive the electronic version if you are on our mailing list or request to be.

My Facebook is up and running. It is not a chat site but where we will publish the most current and most interesting askavet questions. If you have a question it may be answered at askavet on our website. I will occasionally post timely information on that site as well. There is a link to Facebook on the website.

The Rambouillet Show and Sale was very successful, 300 sheep from California to Texas to Ohio and elsewhere. Well over 150 people attended many of the events. Scott Crawford and Dr. Bobb and many of our people made substantial contributions to the events success.



We expect the Katahdin Expo in September to be equally successful. The Katahdin event will consume less days but will be very intensive and direct with attendees exploring educational opportunities in sheep health and management as well as an opportunity to explore a relatively new breed in the upper Midwest. You will be surprised in what you see. This breed is fast becoming the most practical sheep in America. I personally invite anyone interested in the sheep business to attend. Your efforts will be rewarded.

I need to spend some time on current health and management problems. The weather has been hot and down right miserable. I would say evil.

Visiting with Deb at the lodge, we had 98 degree temps and she had 42. On the return trip, first time I have worn shorts and a jacket.

We placed on Facebook a heat advisory management directive from the Minnesota Board of Animal Health that was for cattle but many of the ideas will apply to sheep as well. We have been losing a few pigs in our managed farmer owned facilities. Despite our efforts when it doesn't cool off at night its tough. Many of you will say you northern folks are complaining about something we deal with all the time. I agree to a point but I have been receiving calls from warmer areas of the country that are much warmer than normal as well and it is a challenge.

I think there are some basic things that need to happen. One of my pastures didn't have shade, I opened the gate and they haven't been back, that will result in a sort but the sheep are taken care of. Provide ample opportunity for animals to get out of the sun. Shaded areas need to be well ventilated either naturally or with fans and fly free as much as possible. Fly control is important because sheep exert energy fighting flies which will increase body temperature. Fans, fly bait, pour-ons, sprays, and foggers can all help. Remove manure packs, they are a source of heat and fly larvae. Don't let animals accumulate in some dark hole in a barn fighting flies and no ventilation.

When you think about feed, if you are hand feeding, cut back some. If self feeding, be sure adequate palatable hay, loose salt and bicarb are always available. The energy into the animal increases the body temperature and the fatter the animal, the less it can tolerate.

I believe adequate Vitamin E and Selenium levels are essential. Heat stress can precipitate white muscle disease. I use Vitamin E when treating stressed animals.

Acidosis may occur, keep the baking soda, bicarb, free choice and don't forget salt. When the weather cools, animals regain their appetite. This can be a train wreck. Better to settle for a slower rate of gain, its going to be slower anyway.

What will be the final outcome of this? First and foremost any animals with serious underlying disease problems may die or become clinically sick, particularly those with respiratory problems. Fertility will be challenged. Rams suffering from heat stress may be infertile for up to eight weeks so keep that in mind, take care of your rams. Ewes will lose condition, pregnancy rate and lambing percentage will drop and the length of the lambing period will be extended. If warm weather continues, a later breeding date may be advisable.

I will try to get this version of Straight Talk out electronically because I do believe there are some urgent situations out there that need correction.

In June we added 111 new sheep customers. We welcome you and all the repeat customers as well. We thank you for choosing us. I am excited about the sheep business and have been for a long time. The electronic thing is new and an efficient way to disseminate information in a timely fashion. While like anything else it has its challenges and we are working on them and will get better. In this business I am overwhelmed by the gratitude shown for answering questions. Most are not complicated to me but I am finding out that a lot of sheep and goat people don't have adequate veterinary service and information available. I expend a lot of time at it, which I enjoy.

Occasionally I offend someone. Primarily because my opinion may be different than theirs. To those individuals I would say I have a right to my opinion as well as they do theirs. With me, what you see is what you get, no more, no less. Confrontation brings resolution and progressive change is essential to survival. I will continue to be out spoken on issues that I see as a benefit to the industry, translated, I reserve my rights of free speech. The title of this article is STRAIGHT TALK.

Thanks again from all of us at the Vet Clinic for supporting our business. We will do our very best to support yours and the industry. Hope to see some of you at the Minnesota State Fair and the Katahdin Expo.

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Veterinary services, procedures, biologicals, and drugs mentioned in this publication represent the personal opinions and clinical observations of the contributing author. They are in no way intended to be interpreted as recommendations without the consent of the producers own practicing Veterinarian. We strongly urge that producers establish a patient-client-veterinarian relationship that allows extra-label use when there are no drugs approved for treatment or if approved drugs are not effective. This procedure allows veterinarians to go beyond label directions when "prudent use" is necessary. The limited availability of drugs and biologics in this country is a major factor in restricting the growth of the sheep industry and allowing producers to compete in the world Market place.



# Now's the time to Vaccinate!

Dr. Kennedy—

*"In my own flock I vaccinate for vibrio. Thirty days prior to breeding the first time, followed by a second shot at mid gestation, subsequent years I give a booster at mid gestation. This is an important tool aiding in the prevention of late term abortions."*

**Campylobacter Fetus- Jejuni Bacterin—Product # 5253**

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