

Grilled American Lamb Skewers with Creamy Chipotle Sauce

Recipe by "Salt Pepper Skillet"

Prep Time: 1hr, 15 min

Cook Time: 15 min

Servings: 6



INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 lbs boneless American lamb shoulder (cut into 1-inch cubes)

MARINADE

- 2 tsp Diamond kosher salt
- 1 tsp each of black pepper, smoked paprika, fresh thyme (chopped), dried oregano (or fresh)
- red pepper flakes (optional, to taste)
- 2 garlic cloves (chopped)
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 limes, zested and juiced
- 1 tsp honey

CREAMY CHIPOTLE SAUCE

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup sour cream or crema
- 2 chipotle peppers from can
- 1 tbsp adobo sauce from the chipotle peppers
- 1 lime, juiced
- 1/4 tsp smoked paprika
- 1/4 tsp kosher salt

DIRECTIONS

- In a medium bowl, whisk together all the marinade ingredients. Add the cubed lamb to the marinade and stir to coat evenly. Cover and refrigerate, preferably overnight or for 8 hours
- Prepare the Chipotle Sauce: In a blender or food processor, combine all the chipotle sauce ingredients and blend until smooth. Taste and adjust seasoning with additional chipotle peppers or lime juice, if desired.
- Prepare your grill for medium-high heat cooking. Thread the marinated lamb cubes onto skewers, allowing excess marinade to drip off. (If using wooden skewers, soak them in water for 30 minutes before using to prevent burning.) Sear the skewers for 3-5 minutes per side, rotating them occasionally, until the lamb cubes are cooked through (130°F for medium-rare, 140°F for medium), about 10 to 15 minutes total, depending on the heat of your grill. Use an instant-read meat thermometer to verify doneness. Remove the skewers from the grill. Serve with the creamy chipotle dipping sauce on the side.

USDA recommends the following time and temperature parameters Ground Lamb Internal temperature of 160°F. All Other Cuts internal temperature of 145°F, with a 3 minute rest.



Christy Green
Executive Director
Missouri Sheep Producers
10220 CR 5120
Rolla, MO 65401



Cord Jenkins, President•573-578-0856•jenkinslivestock@gmail.com•Mac Finley, Vice-President•573-291-4187•mfranch58@gmail.com
Deb Minish, Treasurer•573-690-4088•Christy Green, Executive Director•573-578-0497•mosheepproducers@gmail.com

July 2024

Missouri Sheep Producers 2024 Spring Field Day

Missouri Sheep Producers held the annual Spring Field day on May 18, 2024 from 9-2 pm in GlenAllen, Missouri at Mesta Meadows Farm. The day started with Ed Crowley describing his operation from the pasture to wool sold on etsy , the farm to table shop they have created on the farm and agritourism. He



provided by Superior Meats and Missouri Sheep Merchandising Council. Everyone enjoyed different types of sheep milk ice cream provided by Mesta Meadows farm.

For the afternoon there was a member discussion panel lead by David Jae-

talked about how it had developed over the years and the ups and downs. Ed then took us on a tour of the farm from the milking barn to the electric fence paddocks. Next, Dr. Indi Braden spoke about different types of forage that can be used with sheep.



gers. Members were able to sit and discuss different problems they are having with their flocks. One of the biggest issues identified was marketing and how to get the best price for your sheep. Missouri Sheep Producers officers in attendance are working on some possible ideas.

Everyone had a good time and lots of information and ideas were given out. Thank you Mesta Meadows for hosting the event.

Missouri Sheep Producers 2024 Starter Flock Recipients

Each year the Missouri Sheep Producers accepts scholarships from youth wanting to start their own flocks. The board evaluates those applications and accepts three to award \$1000. The recipients have to purchase a ewe that will be bred by the spring. The recipients work with a Missouri Sheep Producers member throughout the year to help learn about flock development.

The 2024 recipients are Hadley Cline daughter of Brad Cline from Maryville, MO. Hadley is a member of Jefferson 4-H. She will be working with Jeffrey Baumann to help start her flock. Next is Sarah McLaughlin daughter of Jen McLaughlin from Troy, MO. She is a member of Hawk Point 4-H. Sarah will be working with Tamara Sissom to start her flock. Last is Levi Thompson son of Kevin Thompson from Fulton, MO. He is a member of Rising Sun 4-H. Levi will be working with Larry Henneke to start his flock.

All of these recipients will be presenting their year long experiences at the 2025 Annual Missouri Sheep Producers Conference.

The 2023 recipients of the starter flock grant Henry Bescheinen, Anna McLaughlin and Madison Rapp will present their experiences at the 2024 Annual Missouri Sheep Producers Conference on November 23, 2024 at Lincoln University Carver Farm in Jefferson City, MO during the lunch hour. Plan now to attend the conference and hear the great things these your members are doing with their flocks.

Message from MSP President

Greetings, MSP members! I hope you and your family had a great fourth of July holiday! Summer is officially here! We are in the middle of county fair show season and I would encourage you to visit with 4-H and FFA sheep exhibitors at your local county fairs. Remember, one of our goals as MSP members is to support youth involved in our industry. The Missouri State Fair will be held in Sedalia on August 8 - 18. If you have never attended, I would encourage you to check out the schedule on the website and make the trip. Sheep will start showing on August 8 with market lambs and continue with breeding sheep through August 14. Also, MSP will have lamb cooking demonstrations at 1:00 PM on August 9, 10, and at 3:30 PM on August 11 in the Home Economics building. Also, in the Home Economics building, MSP will have a made with wool demonstration at 1:00 PM on August 12. Lots of opportunities for you to see and learn more about the Missouri sheep industry at the Missouri State Fair.

Summer is always a busy time on the farm; and this year has been no exception. This year, the majority of the state is in good shape concerning moisture; what a welcomed difference from this time last year! Most producers around the state have had successful hay crops, both on quantity and quality. If you purchase all or some of your hay, now is the time to make those contacts and secure your hay. Also, in a short 30/45 days we need to be thinking about applying fertilizer and managing any fescue forage we would like to stockpile. More information on stockpiling can be found from the University of Missouri Extension.

With all the busyness of summer, try

to schedule some time with family and friends. I was able to take my



family to Branson for vacation last week and we truly had a great time! Sometimes we think vacation has to be "far away" and that's not true! Our state is very diverse and beautiful; get out and enjoy it!

Sincerely,
Cord Jenkins
MSP President
jeninslivestock@gmail.com



2024 Missouri State Fair

The Missouri State Fair will take place this year with all the scheduled events listed below in Sedalia, MO. The mission of the fair is to promote excellence in Missouri agriculture, cultivate and support future leaders in agriculture, and provide

opportunities for the agricultural community to deepen consumers' understanding and appreciation of agriculture's role in their daily lives and the economy of our state. In regards, to the events taking place at the MSF for the sheep industry there will be youth sheep shows, open breeding shows, cooking and wool demonstrations and wool contest. The Fitting Contest and Lead Line are scheduled along with another year of the Youth Sheep & Meat Goat Judging Contest held on Sunday. In addition to the shows and contest there is agricultural equipment and products on display. The schedule of the sheep shows is listed below. Look forward to see you at the fair.

Wednesday, August 7—4 - H/FFA Market Lamb Showmanship @7:00 pm

Thursday, August 8— 4 - H Market Lamb Show @ 8:00 am FFA Market Lamb Show @ 1pm On - Hoof Open Lamb Carcass Show @ 7 pm

Friday, August 9- 4 - H/FFA Wheth- er Dam Show @ 7:30 am, Cooking with Lamb Demonstration @ 1 pm

Saturday, August 10— 4 - H Breed- ing Sheep Show @ 8 am, FFA Breeding Sheep Show @ 1 pm, Cooking with Lamb Demonstration @ 1 pm, Sheep Fitting Competition @ 6:30 pm

Sunday, August 11—Lead Line @1 pm, Cooking with Lamb Demonstration @ 3:30 pm, Youth Sheep Skillathon @ 3:00 pm, Youth Sheep & Meat Goat Judging Contest @ 3:30 pm, Katahdin Open Show @ 6 pm

Monday, August 12— Montadale Open Show @ 9 am, Dorset Open Show @ 11 am, Southdown Open Show @ 1 pm, Made with Wool Demonstration @ 1 pm, Hampshire Open Show @ 6 pm

Tuesday, August 13— Tunis Open Show @ 9 am, Natural Colored Open Show @ 11 am, Dorper Open Show @ 1 pm, Suffolk Open Show @ 3 pm, Shropshire Open Show @ 6 pm

Wednesday, August 14— AOMB Show @ 9 am, AOWB Show @ 10:30 am



Check Your Junk or Spam Mail

We have heard from several members that they are not receiving emails or newsletters electronically but are on the mailing list. If you aren't getting emails from mosheepproducers@gmail.com please check your junk or spam mail because it is probably being sent to that folder. If you locate the email mark it as safe or not spam so that you will receive future emails from us.



Australian and American White Sheep Champions of the Lamb Meat Market

Mark Fechtel/Fechtels Farms: 573-690-5380

Kim Harrison/Harrison Valley Farms: 573-590-0643

Darren Hoffman/Hoffman Family Farms-
County Line Acres: 660-297-0969

Missouri State Fair Kickoff

Missouri State Fair held it's annual kickoff on June 13 in the Matthewson Expo Center. Mac and Misty Finley and Christy Green from the Missouri Sheep Producers along with other commodity groups from the state offered appetizers for the attendees. MSP served meatballs on a skewer made from meat supplied by Superior Meat and Missouri Sheep Merchandising Council.



Attendees really enjoyed the samples of lamb that we had to offer. Many of them this was their first time sampling lamb. MSP is excited to have opportunities to share lamb.



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Invasive plants, browse and forages for sheep and goats

Mohan Acharya
State Extension Specialist
Lincoln University, MO

Sheep will graze 60% grass, 30% forbs and 10% browse while goats will graze 20% grass, 20% forb, and 60% browse if it is available. Therefore, goats are natural browsers.

They prefer to keep their heads up and graze above their shoulder height. Some of the common browse plants goats typically have a preference are: Mulberry, Blackberry, Multiflora Rose, Mimosa, Greenbriar, Blackgum, Poison Ivy, Winged Elm, Beautyberry, Walnut, Oak, Hickory, Wild Cherry, Locust, Cedar Bark, Sassafras, and Persimmon.

Forage species that we plant are similar for sheep and goats, although preference are quite different. Cool season forages for sheep and goats are tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass,

orchardgrass, white and red clover, vetch and alfalfa. Warm season forages are switchgrass (better for goats), bermudagrass (typically not planted for goats), crabgrass, sudangrass, cowpeas, pearl millet and soybeans. For winter grazing, annual ryegrass, stockpile fescue, wheat, triticale, cereal rye, barley and oats are commonly used in Missouri (Source: Missouri Department of Conservation).

Invasive weeds that goats utilize are thistle, ragweed, wild parsnip, blackberry, mulberry, vetch, poison ivy, sericea, buckthorn, garlic mustard, honeysuckle, leafy spurge, multiflora rose, thistle, and oriental bittersweet (source: goats-on-go).

Goats are excellent for brush control. They consume winged elm, hickory, buckbrush, greenbriar, blackberry, different kinds of locust, yucca, oak, cedar, and sumac.

Grazing animals don't eat poisonous plants unless forced to do so. <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/farm-ranch/pest-management/weed/poisonous-weeds.pdf> contains full list of plants poisonous

with colored pictures of plants for detail reference.

[Dr. Mohan Acharya is a small ruminant specialist for Missouri and will be available as a guest speaker for sheep and goat events at no costs inside Missouri. His email is AcharyaM@lincolnu.edu. This article is made possible through NCR SARE partnership grant].

2024 Columbia Sheep National Show

At the recent Columbia Sheep National Show, Champion Ram and Supreme Champion Fleece was awarded to Don and Lois Wissmann, Raspberry Meadows Farm, Leasburg, MO. This year's show was held in Spanish Fork, Utah. Judge was Will Griggs of the Utah Wool Growers Association.



Heat Stress Management in Sheep

David Brown, Sheep & Goats Specialist
University of Missouri Extension.

As the summer months set in, producers should watch their animals for heat-related illnesses. Although sheep can tolerate heat better than other livestock species, long-term exposure might have devastating effects on their health and performance.

Sheep tend to eat less when they are heat-stressed as their bodies try to manage the excess heat. Decreased feed intake leads to weight loss, nutrient imbalance, and poor productivity. Heat stress occurs when the animals are unable to regulate their body temperatures. Animals may reach a point where they cannot dissipate enough heat to maintain body thermal balance.

Temperature humidity index (THI) is the best measure of livestock environmental stress. Heat stress is considered severe in sheep when the THI is between 84 and 86 F. A THI above 86 F is considered extreme. The National Weather Service has forecast THI of 95-100 F within the coming weeks.

Open-mouth panting is an important visual indicator of severe heat stress in sheep. Producers may employ a panting assessment to determine the level of discomfort in their flock.

- Mild heat stress. Animals may show mild to fast panting, but with a closed mouth. Rapid chest movements will be easily observable.
- Moderate heat stress. Animals show fast panting, progressing to mouth slightly open, but the tongue is not extended beyond the lips. Rapid chest movements will be easily observable.
- Severe heat stress. Rapid, open-mouth panting will be seen, with the neck extended, head

held up and tongue extended.

- Extreme heat stress. Open-mouth panting will be seen, with the tongue fully extended and the head often lowered. Deeper breathing will occur, with a reduction in the panting rate for short periods.

Other signs to look for are crowding at water source, shade seeking, increased respiratory rate, immobility or staggering, and drooling.

Producers should adopt a multidisciplinary approach to lessen the impact of high heat and humidity. Consider these strategies:

- Access to plenty of clean, cool water is extremely important during hot weather. On average, sheep will drink 1-2 gallons of water per day. Lactating animals will drink more. A research report from University of Maryland Extension showed that sheep drink 12 times more water when it is dry, and the temperature exceeds 100 F.
- Sheep should not be sheared in extreme heat. A thick fleece acts as insulation against temperature changes. It has been documented that sheep with a 1-inch fleece tolerated higher temperatures than sheep with less wool.

- Animal should not graze during the heat of the day. Encourage early morning or late evening grazing to maintain normal feed intake.

- Provide nutrient-dense diets during periods of high heat and/or humidity. Less body heat is produced when livestock are fed grain rather than poor-quality forages. Feed additives such as live yeast and vitamins C and E are essential to offset the impact of heat stress.

- Provide shade in the form of Quonset huts, polydomes or carports. Mature trees are a low-cost option and provide excellent shade and shelter for grazing animals. When livestock are housed in barns, an evaporative cooling system with water in the form of mist or sprinkling is recommended, but do not let these areas become wet and muddy.

- Monitor for signs of distress. Clinical signs of heat stress include continual panting, rapid breathing, weakness, inability to stand and rectal temperature over 105 F. Death may occur with a rectal temperature over 107 F as the animal's cells begin to degenerate.



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**University of Missouri Veterinary Students
Annual Spring Visit to Harrison
Valley Farms**

Written by Kim Harrison

This past April, we had the pleasure of hosting a group of University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine students at our farm, Harrison Valley Farms, for a tour of our sheep operation. This was the fourth year we have been doing these tours. Typically, 15–20 third- and fourth-year veterinary students and one of their instructors, a veterinarian familiar with our operation, spend several hours during or right after lambing season listening to me talk about our “sheep journey,” as we walk through the sheep barn and a small pasture lot to view sheep, and visit with our livestock guard dogs. Our farm is one of several farms and livestock handling facilities these students visit throughout the semester as a part of an elective production medicine class.

Most of these students have never been on a sheep farm. Their backgrounds and future veterinary focuses are varied. Dairy, swine or poultry confinement, beef cattle — ranching or feed lot, camelids, equine, and mixed practices are all mentioned when I ask them to share what livestock or animals they would like to



work with upon graduation. I thoroughly enjoy trying to pique their interest in sheep!

Planning for the students’ visit starts in early March. As a part of my effort to have a good working relationship with our MU veterinarians, I meet with them off the farm at least once a year. I take the 1 or 2 veterinarians we work most closely with to lunch, and we talk about what went well and the challenges we worked through with our sheep and cattle operations during the past year. I prepare reports of our sheep flock and cattle herd that include data on lambing and calving counts, health issues, death losses, supplements tried and more. In addition to this information enabling our vet-



erinarians to better help us, these reports are provided to the students to review as class material. Then, the students are required to prepare questions to ask me during their visit. I am always impressed by their questions! These are highly intelligent and thoughtful students. I tell the students I will answer any question they have. I really like being transparent with them. Some of the questions this year were as follows:

Why did you originally choose to raise Katahdin Hair Sheep? Why are you transitioning to Australian and American White Sheep? What differences do you see in these breeds?

When and where did you market your Katahdins and where will you market your “Whites?”

What do your sheep sell for?

What are you feeding your sheep and why? Do you rotational graze? Do you multi-species graze? Why, or why not?

How do you handle parasite management? Do you deworm after lambing? Why or why not?



Secure Sheep and Wool Supply

American Sheep Industry Association, April 2024

If foot and mouth disease (FMD) is found in United States livestock, Regulatory Officials will limit the movement of animals and animal products to try and control the spread of this very contagious animal disease. Foot and mouth dis-

ease (FMD) is not a public health or food safety concern. Meat and milk are safe to eat and drink.

The Secure Sheep and Wool Supply (SSWS) Plan for Continuity of Business provides opportunities to voluntarily prepare before an FMD outbreak. This will better position premises with sheep that have no evidence of infection to:

- Limit exposure of their animals through enhanced biosecurity
- Move animals to processing or another premises under a movement permit issued by Regulatory Officials

- Maintain business continuity for the sheep industry, including producers, haulers, packers and wool processors during an FMD outbreak.

If you would like more information about biosecurity and resources to help create an operation-specific, enhanced plan check out seuresheepwool.org.



- Expand your knowledge with informative seminars and hands-on workshops led by industry experts.
- Mingle and meet new friends, expand your network, and have a fantastic time.
- Browse vendors featuring sheep-related products and services.
- **Opportunity on Saturday to buy or sell top-quality sheep.**

Topics Include:

• Drawing Blood & Giving Vaccines	• Udder Health
• Breaking Down a Lamb Carcass	• NSIP for Beginners
• Conformation	• Taking Good Promotional Pics
• Marketing on Social Media	• Hoof Care
• Ram Breeding Soundness	• Birthing Problems
• Drought Management	• Reproductive Management

Friday evening social will include a lamb cook off followed by appetizers and drinks. Look forward to seeing you there!!

**AUDRAIN COUNTY 4H CENTER
21509 HIGHWAY D
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REGISTER NOW
<https://katahdins.org/expo-signup>



Save the Date

Missouri Sheep Producer Annual Conference

November 23, 2024
Jefferson City, MO

Lincoln University Carver Farm



Network with other Missouri Sheep Producers members and non members through different workshops and lamb lunch.

FREE to everyone, so invite your fellow shepherds. Youth activities will be taking place during the adult workshops so shepherds of all ages are welcome to attend.

Missouri Sheep Producer Board Elections

As the annual meeting approaches we will be electing the officers for the board that include the treasurer and district 2, 4 and 6 and two at - large members. Currently serving in those positions are:

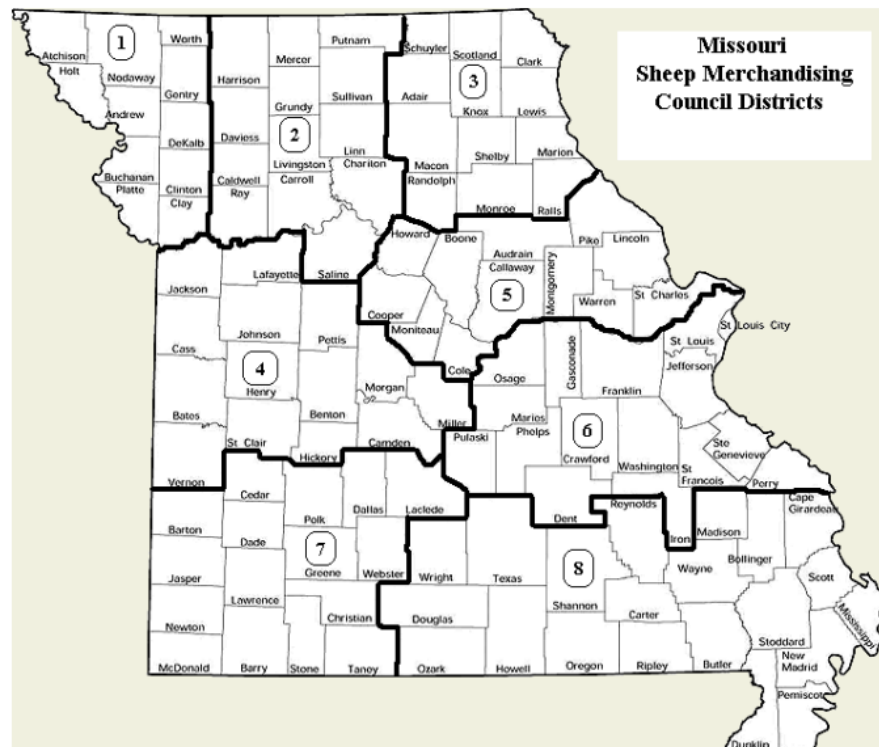
Treasurer—Debra Minish,
District 2—Rod Jermanovich,
District 4—Matt Schmidt,
District 6—Elizabeth Kiefer
At - Large Positions— Britton Francis and Jonah Lasater.

Several members are not eligible to serve again due to term limits, so MSP needs members willing to serve. The board meets two to three times a year in person at the annual meeting annual budget meeting in February and in August at the Missouri State Fair. All other board meetings are held virtually through Google Meet or through a teleconference call.

In order to serve on the board you must be an MSP member in good standing. If you would like to see a district map it is available at www.missourisheepproducers.com. All positions are two year terms. If you would be interested in running for one of these positions please notify Cord Jenkins or Christy Green.

Missouri Sheep Merchandising Council Delegates and Voting

The Missouri Sheep Merchandising Council is a vital source of funding for the Missouri Sheep Producers. The purpose of the Missouri Sheep Merchandising Council is to conduct a campaign of market development through research, education, and promotion of lamb and lamb products, wool and wool products. The focus and intent of this program is to increase demand for lamb and wool for the benefit of the sheep industry and thus Missouri pro-



ducers.

The Council receives funding from a fee of twenty - five (25) cents per head of sheep and one (1) cent per pound of wool that is to be collected at the point of first sale on all sheep and wool produced and/or marketed in Missouri. The Missouri Department of Agriculture is the Collection Agency for these fees.

The Council meets the first Saturday in February in Columbia to allocate funds for the year. The council is selected by delegates that are chosen by the MSMC and the MSP. Each year different MSMC districts are up for election. This year District 1, 6 and 7 are up for election.

If you did not receive a ballot to vote for the positions on the Missouri Sheep Merchandising Council in September of 2024, chances are you are not registered to vote or you have not voted in the past 3 years and have been marked inactive .

Any registered sheep producer is eligible to vote in his/her district. Non - registered producers or those who may have become inactive may register at their local Farm Service Agency or electronically at <http://agriculture.mo.gov/councils/>

Continued University of Missouri Veterinary Students Annual Spring Visit to Harrison Valley Farms

What kind of fencing do you use? Why? What predators do you have? What is the difference between predator load and pressure?

What breed of LGDs do you use? Why this breed? What are your challenges with LGDs?

How do you use veterinarians for your sheep? What is the typical cost for a veterinarian visit based on when you call a veterinarian for assistance? How do you think veterinarians should market their services to sheep producers?

The fun part of answering these questions is it makes me think about why we do what we do! And I firmly believe this kind of open communication strengthens our relationship with our veterinarians and ultimately benefits our animals, which helps our farm profitability. When I bought my first sheep, I knew absolutely nothing about raising sheep. Zero. During the years we have had sheep, the MU veterinarians we have and are working with have been an integral part of our success.

Hosting these visits with future veterinary graduates is also my way of saying “thank you” and “paying it forward.” If your farm is near a higher education institute that offers veterinary or livestock focused degrees, I would highly encourage you to reach out to them and establish a relationship with the instructors. Get to know them. Make yourselves available to their students. It truly is a win-win opportunity!

This year with the help of our Missouri Sheep Producer's Executive Director, Christy Green, each student took home a copy of a current ASI “Sheep Industry News” magazine. The students really appreciated

a “take-away!” So, thank you, MSP!

Author Information:

Kim Harrison is a current Missouri Sheep Producer member. She co-owns Harrison Valley Farms with her husband, John. Their farm is in mid-Missouri, about 30 miles north of the state Capital in Jefferson City. They currently raise and market Australian and American White Sheep, and registered South Poll Grass Cattle seed stock. They use Great Pyrenees/ Maremma/Anatolian cross livestock guard dogs. Kim has spoken at small farm focused conferences as well as written articles on a variety of small farm topics. Her email is KHarrison@Harrisonvalleyfarms.com or call 573-590-0643.

2024 Midwest Stud Ram Sale

The 2024 Midwest Stud Ram Sale took place in Sedalia, MO during June 11-15. The total sales were \$1121650, unofficially from www.midwestsale.com. Below the breed totals are listed:

Babydoll Southdowns—\$33100
Rams—\$5400
Ewes—\$27700
Columbia—\$2450
Rams—\$7900
Ewes—\$1300
Corriedale—\$39850
Rams—\$9400
Ewes—\$30450
Dorpers—\$32250
Rams—\$15500
Ewes—\$16750
White Dorpers—\$22650
Rams—\$13500
Ewes—\$9150
Hampshires—\$60400
Rams—\$26500
Ewes—\$33900
Katahdins—\$188550
Rams—\$72650
Ewes—\$115900
Montadales—\$52550
Rams—\$16550
Ewes—\$36000
Natural Coloreds—\$11200
Rams—\$2800
Ewes—\$8400
Polled Dorsets—\$14150
Rams—\$3900

Ewes—\$10250
Polypays—\$800
Rams—\$400
Ewes—\$400
Rambouillets—\$2800
Rams—\$1000
Ewes—\$1800
Shropshires—\$5300
Rams—\$1700
Ewes—\$3600
Southdowns—\$81450
Rams—\$16850
Ewes—\$64600
Suffolks—\$96400
Rams—\$39250
Ewes—\$57150
Texels—\$71800
Rams—\$23850
Ewes—\$47950
Tunis—\$9250
Rams—\$3850
Ewes—\$5400
Valais Blacknose—\$1600
Club Lambs—\$12550
Crossbred WS/WD—\$108450
Rams—\$31200
Ewes—\$77250
Dorper WS/WD—\$1500
Dorset WS/WD—\$47350
Rams—\$14000
Ewes—\$33350
Dorset Advantage WS/WD—\$24900
Rams—\$5400
Ewes—\$19500
Hampshire WS/WD—\$141450
Rams—\$52800
Ewes—\$88650
Natural Colored WS/WD—\$34000
Rams—\$17500
Ewes—\$16500
Speckle Faced WS/WD—\$15850
Rams—\$7000
Ewes—\$8850
Suffolk WS/WD—\$9050



Missouri Sheep Producers
Scholarship

Missouri Sheep Producers believes in investing in the future of our producers. Each year Missouri Sheep Producers offers four \$500 scholarships to high school seniors or currently enrolled college students. Applications are available year round on the MSP website under youth programs at [www. Missourisheep-producers.com](http://www.Missourisheep-producers.com). Applications are due each year by May 15. This year the recipients are Clara Bailey, Andi Belt, Lane Falch and Kaelyn Walters.

Clara Bailey is the daughter of Ryan and Melissa Bailey from Curryville, MO. She is a 2024 graduate from Bowling Green High School. Clara plans to attend University of Missouri-Columbia to study Agricultural Education. She would like to be able to return to her home county to teach. During high school she was involved in FFA, FBLA, FCA, NHS, DECA, Interact Club, Softball, Basketball,



Andi Belt is the second recipient, who is the daughter of Travis and Jessi Belt from Leonard, MO. She is a 2024 graduate from North Shelby High School. Andi plans to attend University of Missouri-Columbia and major in Agricultural Education. She would like to be able to return to Northeast Missouri to teach. Andi wants to be able to give back to her community and agricultural industry because of what they have given to her. During high school she was involved in FFA, Agriculture on the Move, National Barn 2 Door, National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Basketball, Softball and Color Guard.

Cheer, Golf, Concert Choir and Show Choir.

Clara’s introduction to the sheep industry came from winning a lamb. She has been able to create a business of Bailey Show Lambs with her family from that one lamb.

Clara says the sheep industry has helped her to grow into the person she is today. Her sheep have taught her a lot, but the people have taught her more. The many wonderful people in the sheep industry are very willing to lend a helping hand when needed and not when expected. The people in the industry are always there when you need it and when you don’t. This industry is family, everyone may not have faced the same struggles, but we have all been through something in one way or another and are always there to help. The sheep industry is something at first she didn’t know she needed, but now is something she is deeply thankful for and can’t wait to see flourish.



Andi has been showing sheep from a very young age. She shows pure-bred Southdowns. Andi said that the relationships formed from showing are some of the best. Andi says the industry has taught her integrity, passion, work ethic and learning to laugh while learning from failures which have shaped her into the person she is today. Andi started her own business her sophomore year of selling meat to consumers that has grown through the years and crossed over to other states. She feels that the sheep industry has helped her to find her passion for working with youth and pointed her toward her future career.

Next is Lane Falch who is the son of Phillip and Sara Falch from Farmington, MO. He is a 2021 graduate from St. Paul Lutheran High School. Lane is currently a Senior at University of Missouri-Columbia majoring in Animal Science. He is considering ruminant nutrition and extension outreach where he can work with young farmers while also learning from seasoned producers to gain knowledge

while gaining traction in the industry. Lane wants to be able to give back to the industry that has given so much to him. During college, Lane has been part of the Mizzou Student Section Leadership Team and Mizzou Animal Sciences Representative Team. In high school he was part of the Farmington FFA and Bear Creek Kids 4-H where he now gives back as the sheep project leader.

Lane started his experience with sheep through a bottle lamb that has grown into a nationally competitive multi-breed seedstock and market lamb operation called Falch Farm. Through the years Lane has tried different breeds but has settled with slick shorn Shropshires.

Lane stated that the show ring is exciting and fun but he looks forward to many other aspects of the sheep industry as the years have passed. He has learned about breeding, raising and being able to give back. Lane says the industry has allowed him to be able to give back to younger showmen and help them get started out. He has been able to work with older breeders through his seedstock operation. By doing this he feels it is helping him to make more functional



breeding decisions that keep his flock in a neat balance between exotic show ring look and commercially viable market lambs.

Kaelyn Walters is the last recipient, for 2024. Kaelyn is the daughter of Eric and Kristin Walters from Centralia, MO. She is a 2024 graduate from Centralia High School. Kaelyn plans to attend Western Illinois University majoring in Secondary Mathematics Education. Her goal is to eventually obtain a doctoral degree and teach at the University level but knows there will be steps along the way to get to there. Kaelyn wants to be able

to make a difference in someone’s education by having a positive impact in a subject people tend to struggle with. During high school Kaelyn was involved in FFA, 4-H, Key Club, National Honors Society, Beta Chi Pi, Softball, Basketball, Track and Field, Dance, Chamber Choir, Orchestra and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Kaelyn started at a young age with a bottle lamb. She has continued to grow her flock and is currently raising Hampshire influenced club lambs.

Kaelyn said that her time in the industry has shown her to never give up. She expressed how her placings at shows were not great but she didn’t give up and had a breakthrough where she was able to win a class in the wether dam show at the Missouri State Fair. Kaelyn says that the industry has helped her to gain a work ethic that has paid off in the classroom and will carry over into her college career.

MSP is happy to be able to support these young adults as the move toward their future goals. These four recipients will be recognized at the Missouri State Fair on Saturday, August 10 during the Shearing Contest in the Sheep Pavilion.