The Conservation and Comeback of Heritage Breed Sheep

Presenters:

Jeannette Beranger
Senior Program Manager
The Livestock Conservancy

Producer Panelists: Leslie Johnson, Brian Larson, and Oogie McGuire

Host/Moderator: Jay Parsons

September 8, 2020

This webinar is made possible with funding support from the Let’s Grow Committee of the American Sheep Industry Association.
The Conservation and Comeback of Heritage Sheep
Wool Breeds – British Longwools

- Cotswold
- Leicester
- Lincoln
- Teeswater
British Breeds - White

- Clun Forest
- Dorset Horn
- Oxford
- Shropshire
- Southdown
British Breeds - Colored

- Black Welsh Mountain
- Jacob
- Shetland

LivestockConservancy.org
American Breeds – Spanish Descent

- Florida Cracker
- Gulf Coast
- Navajo Churro
- Santa Cruz
American Breeds

- Hog Island
- Karakul – American
- Romeldale/CVM
- Tunis
Hair Sheep

- St. Croix
- Wiltshire horn
Hair Sheep

- Barbados Blackbelly

*Not to be confused with American Barbados*
What we do

- Census
- Maintain herdbooks
- DNA analysis
- Field documentation
- Educational workshops
- Marketing & promotion

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Survey

Roving—price/lb --increase of 109%

Washed fleeces--price/pound increase of 38%

Combed wool—price/lb increase of 27%

HAIR--increase of 91% (SE2 interest boosted sales)

Biggest challenges—
general public not familiar with heritage breeds; both artists and providers need education on wool qualities; providers need marketing training to target their sales to the right audiences.
Heritage Longwool Breeds
Classic Longwools!

- Cotswold
- Lincoln Longwool
- Leicester Longwool
Lock/Staple Formation
Traditional Locks are Protective of Wool Quality!
Distinctive Head, Ears & Skin
UK Lincoln Longwool Genetics
1/4 to 3/4 UK Genetics
Half-Blood UK Rams
Thank You!
Kambar Farm
Anakus Karakuls
American Karakul Gathering 1993
Black Welsh Mountain Sheep

Oogie McGuire
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Black Welsh Advantages

- High Performance on Forages Alone
- Rugged Sheep that Survive
- Easy Lambing
- Excellent Meat Quality
- Butcher at Any Age
- Small Size
Black Welsh Disadvantages

- Non-Flocking Breed
- Horned Rams-Fencing Issues
- Slow to Medium Growth to Butcher Size
- Black Wool requires Creative Marketing
- Limited Gene Pool in North America
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