

The Banner



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On The Cover

Featured on the front cover is "Forty Creek Supreme", Smith Sheep Farm's 11-8, a January Montadale ram lamb that was named the Supreme Champion Ram at the North American International Livestock Exposition for 2011. "Forty Creek Supreme" was bred by Smith Sheep Farm located at Stewardson, Illinois. The Smith's Montadale flock is a continuation of the Marshall Sork Flock which was established in 1946, making it the oldest flock east of the Mississippi. Even with trends and fads, Sork and Smiths have raised this out standing Montadale breed through the good times and bad for four generations and will continue to raise them for many more.

"Forty Creek Supreme" is an example of the hard work and excellence that Smith Sheep Farm strives for every day. He comes from a long line of champions. His pedigree starts off with the 2001 National Champion Montadale Ram at NAILE, "KB" Daniels 254. "KB" sired a son named "KB Jr." Smith 0308 that was Jr. Champion and Reserve National Champion Montadale Ram in 2003. "KB Jr." then gave us "Crowned Up," Smith 0640, 2007 National Champion Montadale Ram. "Crowned Up" sired Smith 0857, aka "Black Leg," the sire to Smith 10-2, the Reserve National Champion Montadale Ram, NAILE 2010. "Black Leg", a ram that we used hard but never showed, then gave Smith Sheep Farm "Forty Creek Supreme" 2011 National Champion Montadale Ram and the Supreme Champion Ram over all breeds.

Smith Sheep Farm is a four generation farm that is family owned and operated by Greg and Cinda Smith, sons Chad and Ethan, Chad and Ethan's wives Brigit and Annie, and grandsons Wyatt, Briar, and Ty, the little guy.

The Smiths also have a quality flock of Polled Dorsets as well as serving as the home of Phantom Hills Fitting and Training Suffolks owned by Ethan, Annie, and Ty.

At Smith Sheep Farm we try to produce structurally correct, free moving, straight spine sheep with style and breed character.

I, Greg Smith, wish to thank God for giving me "Forty Creek Supreme" for giving me the knowledge to feed and care for him, for giving us Ethan to fit him and for sending Travis Hoffman, Brian Forsee, Steve Taylor, and Dusty Rincker, four men with the intelligence and integrity, to recognize "Forty Creek's" qualities and name him Supreme Champion Ram. We are truly blessed.

If you are traveling through central Illinois and wish to visit about sheep, take time to stop in at the Smiths. We are always ready to talk about good sheep. You can reach Ethan by calling 217-343-1717 or Greg by calling 217-644-2496 (home) or 217-962-0431 (cell). We wish all a Blessed New Year.

Gracing a portion of the cover is "Hideaway" Ram and Ewe Farm 0584. "Hideaway" was bred, fed, fitted, owned, and shown by Ram and Ewe Farm: Jeremy, Jamie, Austin and Justin Etzler. She is a daughter of Ram & Ewe 405, a "RSVP" daughter, and sired by "S & P" Saylor Twin Oaks 616.

Ram & Ewe Farm was established in 1996, with the absorption of the family flock started in 1989. At this time, there were a few select females added as they became available and a new focus set. Since that time, the genetic strategies have been and continue to be the most rewarding. Paying close attention to soundness and structure without disregard to breed type or breed traits has paid dividends. Ram & Ewe Farm practices line breeding, accelerated lambing schemes and has embraced technology through Embryo Transfer Programs. The couple also own and operate AJ Hamps, which was established in 2005, as well raising guard dogs.

The Etzler's have had past success and recognition as well. They have raised several Best Head Award winners in both the Ram and Ewe divisions including the last 3 consecutive Ram winners at NAILE. Along with various state fair Champion and Reserve Champion awards, major sale Champions and Reserve Champion awards and division winners they have raised 2 National Reserve Champion rams at NAILE (1 sold to and shown by Turtle Mead), 1 National Reserve Champion Ewe at NAILE, 1 National Champion Ram (shown by Turtle Mead) and now "Hideaway" the National Champion and Supreme Champion Ewe at 2011 NAILE. In addition they also bred this year's National Futurity Award winning fall ewe lamb "Fun in the Sun" RE 0607, shown by Kylie Shakle. The Shakle family also won this year's Best Head Ram Award on "Whiskey" RE 0599. 2011 has proven to a "lucky" year and by looks of the fall lambs 2012 looks promising.

The Etzler's would like to thank everyone throughout the years for the support and faith in their program and those who have helped in every step along the way. Ram & Ewe Farm plans to attend the Ohio Doret Sale, (National) Illinois Doret Sale, Big Ohio Weekend, Midwest Stud Ram, and livestock is always available off the farm. They look forward to servicing their past customers and building future customers, meeting new friends and enjoying the competition and comrodery of the livestock world. Jeremy and Jamie would like in to invite you to the farm, they are located just 1 1/2 miles off I-71 south of Columbus, Ohio or 20 miles South East of I-70 to view their flock of Polled Dorsets and Hampshires (AJ Hamps). Contact them at 740-874-9244 (Home) or 614-989-4025 (Cell) also jetzler@att.net.

Luck= when preparation meets opportunity!