



New hornless sheep has unpredictable color patterns but is often black and white, brown and white, or gray and white.

## MULTI-COLORED SHEEP HAVE TWO DIFFERENT LENGTHS OF FLEECE

### New Breed Of Sheep

Virginia sheep farmer Kathy Sterling and her husband have spent the last 15 years developing what they think is a fantastic new breed of sheep - "a hornless, multi-colored sheep with two different staple lengths of fleece."

The Sterlings, who operate "Black Sheep Farm" near Berryville, Va., say their Harlequin breed is a small, meaty sheep that finishes out at about 100 lbs.

"We got the idea for a new breed when we started noticing lambs with different grey or black color patterns," says Kathy. "Frequently, the lambs had a lot of white markings on their tail, legs, head, throat, and stomach. We thought we could take those characteristics and combine them with other breeds to make a new breed with unique color patterns and fleece characteristics. Our new Harlequin breed is totally different in color and general appearance from any other animal in the world," says Kathy, who notes that the color and pattern of the sheep resembles the black and white spotted "Harlequin" coloring found on some Great Dane dogs.

The Sterlings started with purebred Southdown rams and also used Lincoln, Corriedale, Border Leicester, Tunis, Dorset, Romney, and Karakul rams. The ewes were mostly crossbreds, selected for conformation, grey or black coloring, good fleece characteristics, and mothering ability. About six years ago, the first true Harlequins were

born - lambs with vivid patterns of black and white, brown and white, or gray and white.

"The color and pattern of the markings are unpredictable. It definitely makes it exciting to go out to the barn each day - you never know what the lambs will look like," says Kathy. "One lamb was born with a perfect "IH" on its side, which pleased my husband who's a die-hard International Harvester fan.

"We now have about 60 sheep. Over half of them are all black, brown, or gray, about a fourth are Harlequins, and the rest are all white. Most of the ewes have twins, with a few triplets each year and some singles, usually from yearling ewes. We keep all of the spotted ewe lambs and sell all but one or two of the Harlequin rams. Ram lambs sell for \$200 to \$300. A Harlequin ram lamb bred to solid colored ewes will probably produce about 25% spotted lambs. The rest of the lambs will have white socks, head, or tails. Some of the lambs have blue or partial-blue eyes."

Sterling says many of the Harlequins have two different staple lengths of fleece, with darker fleece up to 3/4 in. shorter than white fleece. "We sell the fleece to hand spinners who like it for its quality and color," says Kathy.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Black Sheep Farm, Box 91, Berryville, Va. 22611 (ph 703 955-3229).



Miniature steel-wheeled Rumely rides and drives almost like the real thing and is powered by a "hit and miss" 1 1/2 hp Deere stationary gas engine.

## OLD "OIL PULL" RUMELY, ARTICULATED 4-WD

### Built-From-Scratch Miniature Tractors

"People get a kick out of them," says Albert Rothenburger, Lampman, Sask., about his home-built miniature "oil pull" Rumely tractor and articulated 4-WD tractor equipped with dual wheels.

The 6-ft. long, 4-WD tractor is powered by a 20 hp Continental 4-cylinder gas engine off an old 1944 International 62 combine. It's equipped with 15-in. dual wheels from a junked self-propelled swather and has hydrostatic steering.

"The combine engine didn't have a starter so I had to install one off another tractor. The tractor is equipped with two hydraulic pumps - one to operate the steering cylinder and one to raise or lower rear-mounted implements. I built a dozer blade and pull-type land leveler for it."

Rothenburger narrowed up a pair of rear ends off Ford Model T cars for the drive axles. The straight axle in front is steered by a pair of cables. Tie rod ends off an old truck are pushed or pulled by a hydraulic cylinder for articulated steering.

The miniature Rumeley tractor is modeled after old 1920's-era Rumeley tractors that ran on kerosene. The steel-wheeled tractor, made mostly from scrap iron, rides and drives almost like the real thing. It's 5 ft. long and 3 ft. high. It's powered by a "hit and miss" 1 1/2 hp Deere stationary gas engine. Its 3-speed transmission comes from a Model A car. Rothenburger built his own

transfer case, using chains and sprockets to gear the transmission down. The differential comes from a Model T.

"It makes a good parade tractor and really draws a crowd," says Rothenburger, who spent three weeks building the tractor. "I call it 'Hope' because I was still painting it the night before its first parade. I told a friend that I hoped it made it through the parade without breaking down.

"The water pumps on real Rumelys were known to leak and so does mine. It's mounted under the tractor. The tank on my miniature Rumely is mainly for looks. Engine exhaust runs through a pipe to the tank where it makes a mellow sound just like the old tractors did. The exhaust comes out of an opening in the top of the tank so it looks just like the real thing," says Rothenburger, who notes that he didn't build the tractor exactly to scale, but simply proportioned components according to the size of the wheels.

Rothenburger used steel tubing to build the front and rear axles. He used steel wheels off an old harrow for the tractor's front wheels, and the wheels off a horse-powered binder for the rear wheels. The steering gearbox was salvaged from a 1929 Chevrolet car.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Albert Rothenburger, Box 5, Lampman, Sask., Canada S0C 1N0 (ph 306 487-2225).

## Build-It-Yourself "Country Cat House"

If you want to really pamper your cat, build a house for it to live in, says Thomas Karlson, Silver Lake, Minn., who came up with a nifty design for a 4-ft. high, three-story "country cat house" complete with wall-to-wall carpeting, interior ramps between floors, and a pair of "sundecks".

"It's fun to build and helps keep cats off your furniture. It's also a great conversation piece. When they first see it some people think it's a dollhouse," says Karlson, an architectural consultant who does woodworking as a hobby. "Anyone with woodworking experience can build it in two or three days."

Cat house has a 24-in. sq. base and is made from cedar siding and oak trim, with handsplit cedar shingles on the roof. Roof covers only the front part of house, leaving room for an open "penthouse" on top of house at rear. There's also a cantile-



Karlson's 3-story cat house has interior ramps between floors and 2 "sundecks".

vered deck outside second floor window. Step-by-step illustrated blueprints and a complete material list sell for \$14.89 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling. Cost of materials is about \$120.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Cat House Co., Box 289, Silver Lake, Minn. 55381.



This 6-ft. long, 4-WD tractor is powered by a 20 hp Continental 4-cylinder gas engine taken from a 1944 International combine.