

ONLY SPOTTED BREED IN THE U.S.

Jacob Sheep Sport Four To Six Horns

Four horns and the markings and coloring of a Holstein cow. That's a quick description of Jacob sheep, the sole spotted sheep breed in the U.S.

You might think that this is a new exotic crossbreed but, according to Ed Barraclough, Issaquah, Wash., the breed dates back to England in the 1700's. "The breed was almost extinct in 1970 until a group in England formed an association and set breed standards," he explains.

Barraclough, who had never raised sheep before, now has 14 of the Jacob breed and coordinates registration of the breed in the U.S.

"Their colors range from black and white in younger sheep to gray and white in older animals. Their distinct coloring makes their wool popular with handspinners who can make colored garments with undyed wool. Spinners also say they like the "handle" of the wool. Good, clean Jacob rag wool can bring \$5.00 a pound versus about \$1.50 a pound for other wool," says Barraclough.

The sheep usually have four horns, but sometimes have just two or as many as six horns. On four-horned sheep, two of the horns go straight up out of the top of the head up to 18 in. long. The other two horns curve down from the side of the head. Barraclough notes that the animals develop a full set of horns by the time they're three years old. He notes that they don't have any special feeding or drinking problems because of the horns, although in a few cases their



About 300 of the breed are in the U.S.

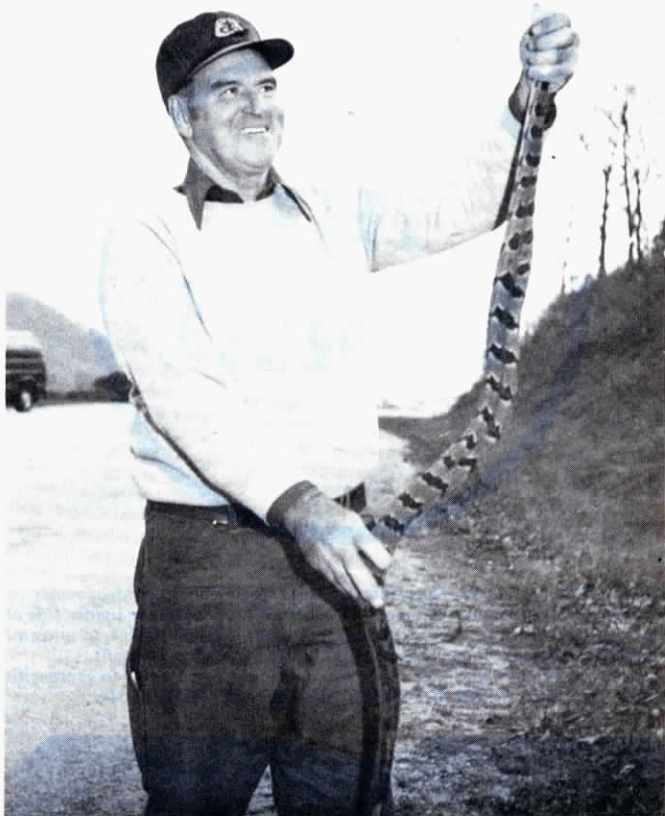
front horns will curve forward making it difficult for them to graze.

Barraclough says Jacob sheep are ideal for people not used to raising sheep because the breed is "maintenance free." "They're highly resistant to disease, lamb themselves and are excellent foragers," he explains.

He estimates that there are 300 of the rare breed in the U.S. The breed cannot be directly imported from England although animals can indirectly enter after going through a five-year quarantine in Canada.

Barraclough says the price for a Jacob ewe or ram ranges from \$350 to \$500.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ed Barraclough, 3424 225th S.E., Issaquah, Wash. 98207 (ph 206 392-6008).



Roberts says he's never been bitten by a rattler, but he carries a snake-bite kit — just in case.

GOOD DEMAND FOR RATTLESNAKE MEAT, SKINS AND RATTLERS

Wisconsin Farmer Hunts Rattlesnakes For Profit

By Wally Schulz

Wisconsin farmer Woody Roberts, of Barneveld, moved onto a rattlesnake infested 500 acre farm 54 years ago. The reptiles came down from the hills and were found around the farm buildings and even lurking beneath the leaves of garden vegetables.

"I started a one-man war against these poisonous reptiles," says Woody. "When my four sons grew up to be teenagers, they joined me in the sport of rattlesnake hunting."

Woody used to collect a bounty on rattlers, but not anymore. He's discovered a profitable market in selling rattlers.

"Today, I capture them for their meat, skins, rattlers and head," Woody points out. "There's good demand for rattlesnake meat which I sell for \$5 a pound. I get real excited when I capture an extra large rattler that's big around in circumference. This size has a beautiful skin for decorating cowboy hats. I get from \$4 to as high as \$12 for snake skins marketed for this purpose."

Woody has never been bitten by a rattler. "One mistake can mean your last in this business. I always have

an emergency snake-kit on hand to administer first aid. It could save my life or someone else's.

"A rattler doesn't always rattle when it's about to strike," explains Woody. "Sometimes they've had their rattles destroyed and they aren't able to give this warning."

Today, Woody's farm has long since been cleared of rattlers. He and his sons still go up into nearby hills to hunt them in their dens. Wally says he usually dons a pair of tennis shoes, so the reptiles can't hear him approach.

He also carries a pair of 36 in. long snake-pinchers so he can reach out and capture them as they lie sunning themselves at the den.

Most of the rattlers he captures are 3½ to 4 ft. long, but he's captured a few that measured up to 64 in. These are exceptionally large ones . . . record size.

"I can't wait for a warm spring day to arrive," says Woody. "It's then I sneak back to the hills to hunt rattlers. It's an exciting sport with plenty of hair-raising experiences."

600 MEMBERS AND GROWING

The "Two Cylinder" Deere Tractor Club

The distinctive chug-chug of the two-cylinder John Deere tractor is no longer a familiar sound in the countryside, but interest in these tough little workhorses lingers on in rural America.

That interest, in fact, is so strong that enthusiasts have formed their own organization called the "John Deere Two-Cylinder Club". Headquartered in North Dakota, it is growing rapidly and currently numbers nearly 600 members nationwide and in Canada. President LeRoy Klein says, "We now have members in 38 states, 5 Canadian provinces, and one member each in England and Sweden."

Membership is made up of both men and women, and the only requirement is to have an interest in John Deere two-cylinder tractors and to pay the \$5 per year annual dues. Members receive a bimonthly news-

letter that provides a place to buy, sell, or trade tractors, parts, and accessories.

"We also hold two meetings a year at different locations around the country," says Klein. "Last year, we held our first 'slow race' in connection with the annual threshing demonstration in Makoti, N. Dak."

The Two-Cylinder Club features models built from 1923 to 1961. Klein's own tractor is a 1953 R diesel tractor.

"There's growing interest in antique tractors, and several other makes have tractor clubs," says Klein. "We give support to other clubs."

Anyone interested in becoming a member can join by sending \$5 annual membership dues to: FARM SHOW Follow-up, LeRoy Klein, John Deere Two-Cylinder Club, Box 3164, Minot, N. Dak. 58701.