

Sheep 2023

Lone Birch Farm

Flock Description

The Lone Birch flock consists of unregistered pure Icelandic and Icelandic-Shetland crosses. Both are in the northern short tail category of sheep breeds, a more primitive group having been less 'improved' for industrial commercial management. Their fleece is 'open' having fewer follicles per square inch than a Merino sheep. They also produce less lanolin than Merino. These traits give the animals better skin ecology and lend well to home scale wool washing and processing.

These breeds take longer to grow to full-size and are ultimately smaller than modern meat breeds (120-180 pounds), we find the flavor and texture of their meat to be incredible. We have milked our Icelandics. They produce a lower volume of fluid milk than goat or cow but a *much* higher concentration of milk solids (proteins, fats, sugars, minerals) this results in a higher yield of cheese with less whey. The flavor is sweet and rich when ewes are on green pasture and more sour and nutty, excellent for cheesemaking when fed dry material as in early spring before turning out on pasture.

Being a passionate flockster I could go on and on about the characteristics of these animals, this flock produces beautiful wool and pelts, rich milk, gourmet meat, and are rugged creatures well suited for the Alaskan climate.

Wool For Sale

Fiber quality steers the flock breeding program, we have a variety of colors including white, silver, cream, carmel, chocolate, black. Sheep are sheared on-farm, gently.

- **Raw** "in-the-grease" whole fleece range \$40 to \$115
- Raw available for on-farm sales only, buyers visit farm by appointment

- **Washed** whole fleece \$55 to \$120
- Washed fleeces on display at Woda Botanicals retail store downtown Homer, AK.

- Small quantities by request

Sheep For Sale

Lambing season is April - May 2023

- Ram lambs will be raised intact this year, our flock produced some excellent potential herb sires this year, its a good year for rams!
- Lambs may be reserved by deposit of \$75, selection is based on order of deposit.
- Lambs can be weaned for their new homes as early as 2 months old
- Pricing is based on parents' vigor (esp mothering), fleece, multiplicity of births
 - **Summer Lamb Pickup (June - August)**
price range \$500 to \$650
 - **Proven/Mature Ewes & Rams**
none available at this time
- We do not breed our ewes before 1 year of age.

Before Considering Purchasing a Live Sheep please be prepared to describe your:

- 1) **secure grazing areas (fencing!)**
- 2) **winter housing**
- 3) **a plan / budget for winter feed (hay)**

We will ask you to confirm your preparedness to receive live animals before reservations are accepted. Pricing for live animals only covers sale of animal, if you are seeking consultation about starting your flock or managing your flock please see below.

We do not offer group classes or trainings at this time.

We do offer individual consulting re: infrastructure, feed, health and more.
Consulting services are billed by the hour, inquire for pricing and availability.

Stud / Breeding

Our flock typically includes 2-3 rams, pure Icelandic and/or other northern short tail.

If you would like to discuss the possibility of breeding your ewes to our rams please provide us with specific information including

- 1) **where/who your ewes came from**
- 2) **ages**
- 3) **your preferred breeding and birthing schedule**
- 4) **transportation options**

**Ask about buying a Ram for breeding then meat. A wise financial option.

Meat For Sale

- We do not sell cut and wrapped meat
- Customers purchase a whole live animal and make arrangements for slaughter
- Get on the call list (no obligation). Meat Lambs sell out every year
- In September we call to confirm and schedule, **pickup October/November**
- On farm slaughter available
- 2023 pricing will be set in September. Early estimates are \$450-\$600 per animal

I recommend the following books:

Animal Care

Natural Sheep Care - Pat Coleby

Holistic Goat Care - Gianacis Caldwell

Storey's Guide to Raising Sheep - Paula Simmons and Carol Ekarius

Fiber Books

Spinning and Weaving with Wool - Paula Simmons

Fundamentals of Feltmaking - Patricia Spark

Contact Information:

Phone calls are the preferred method for our first conversation

Carolyn shoutforsprouts@gmail.com (907) 299-0487 voice/text

Best of luck in your wooly endeavors.