

# The Banner



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## On The Cover



The cover features Pine Knob Farm's texel flock, which has a history of making champions. PKF 1703 was the most recent National Champion Ewe after winning the Fall ewe lamb class at the 2017 Midwest Stud Ram Sale. PKF 1530 was the 2016 National Champion Ewe coming out of the yearling ewe class in 2014, and later went on to be named National Champion and Reserve National Champion respectively. These two ewes made the Texel breed's presence known that year in Sedalia when the gavel slammed and the pair walked off the sale block together for record setting \$10,000 apiece. A special thank you to Fisher Texels of Idaho and Julia Bredder of Virginia for their belief in this breeding program and purchase of the ewes featured on the cover.

Pine Knob Farm not only has been making elite females, but has also set some records with their rams. They bred and consigned the Reserve National Champion ram in 2012, National Champion Ram in 2014 and Reserve National Champion Ram in 2016. The popular 2015 National Champion Ram, PKF 1408 "Jacob", created a bidding war and sold for \$9,000. He has gone on to sire a tremendous set of offspring for both Pine Knob Farm and Fisher Texels. His lambs have commanded a higher price at the last two national sales. Pine Knob Farm's history of making stud rams was evident at the 2017 National Sale where all 4 champions were sired by a Pine Knob ram.

Pine Knob Farm was not always a big player at the National Sale. Rachael Gately, owner of Pine Knob Farm, acquired her first texel ewe lamb in 1999 as a gift from Ron Luginbuhl of Connecticut. The flock grew only from breeding that ewe and her offspring. No additional genetics were added until the acquisition of the Luginbuhl flock and the Erdman flock in the last few years. Today, Rachael runs roughly 30 Texel brood ewes along with her 15 Polled Dorset ewes. Rachael's family maintained the flock while she was away at veterinary school, and the sheep returned to the show ring in 2012 after graduation.

The Texel flock is making their presence known in the showing -- the 2016 show flock (pictured on the cover) was named 1st Flock and Premier Breeder at the Big E. That flock was anchored by "Nugget" who has sired an impressive set of spring lambs. The Dorsets continue to impress, with our most notable recent win being "Geno", the 2016 Reserve National Champion Ram at NAILE. He now stands at stud at Twin Oaks Dorsets. The farm's moto has been to raise an elite set of breeding sheep as evidenced by their success in show ring. Look for both flocks this Fall!

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