

Historic-Foundation & Multi-Bloodline Composites

KARAKUL SHEPHERDS ALLIANCE ~ *where the flocks gather*



Onion Creek Karakuls

~~ Conservator of the Hagerman Historic-Foundation Bloodline ~~
Mary Carol's story

The first Karakul I ever saw, I bought at the sheep and goat auction in Goldthwaite Texas in 1986. She was a lamb and all alone. I didn't know what she was and neither did the auctioneer. The people who worked the auction barn had never had a sheep like that [covered in black curls] come through before. I paid sixty something dollars for her. I researched and found out she was a Karakul. I bred her, of course not to a Karakul, because I didn't have one and didn't know where to get one anywhere near Texas. Unfortunately, she got pregnancy toxemia and died before she had her triplets. I have always been curious as to where she came from. Now, looking back on that day, I realize what a perfect example of the breed she was. I located Julie DeVlieg [AKSR Registrar] and bought a copy of The [Karakul] Handbook written by [Lowry] Hagerman. Anyway, I was hooked. I had to have more.

I have always selected for fleece, because that is what fascinates me about Karakuls. I still do look at the fleece first, even though I [don't sell much or often]. When I started accumulating sheep from other breeders, the Hagerman line was about all I could find, so I wasn't necessarily seeking it out. It just happened to be the only [bloodline] available where I was willing to drive to buy. I've traveled many miles over the years to buy [Karakul] sheep.

My flock did well during the five years I did not introduce any new genetics [about 2009 to 2014]. I never had any deformed lambs or lambs that didn't survive for mysterious reasons. Everyone remained healthy.

What I like about my flock now is the size. I have 18 ewes and I used 3 rams this last breeding season. I'd like to keep it around 18, no more than 20. I have varied colors and fleece types. I try not to get obsessed with a particular trait and ignore everything else trying to achieve perfection in that one trait. A lot of times other aspects of the animal suffer when you concentrate too heavily on one trait. I just strive for healthy animals.

~Mary Carol Buchholz, Onion Creek Karakuls,
Dripping Springs, (central) Texas, January 2020