

THE SAINT JOSEPH'S
Chronicle

"We write frankly and fearlessly but then we 'modify' before we print". - Mark Twain

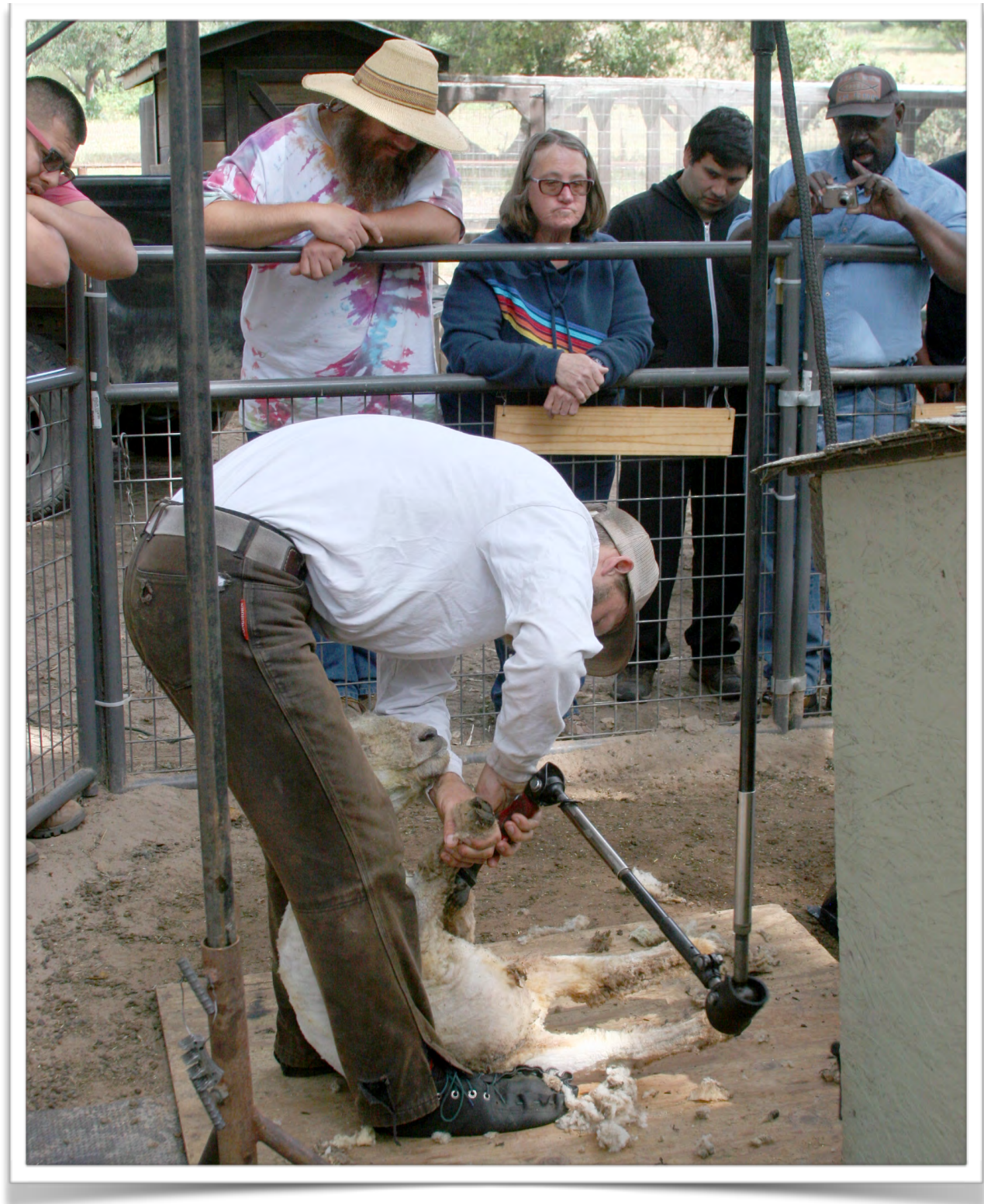


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MEET THE PRESS



SAVANNAH ANDRESON

"I do sports. I play Golf and Bocce Ball. I like to hang with my friends. I like to take care of my Mom. I grew up in Santa Maria. I have cousins that live in Orcutt. I like working at Oak Creek Farm with my friends. I like to open the door for people when they need help."



ANTOINETTE ELLIS

"I was born in California. I like to cook and I like to make things. I like to learn new things. I like goats and chickens and cats. My favorite goat is named Hans. I have nice friends. I like to do things with my friends and family. My best friend is funny. My favorite food is pizza."



JACOB DOLAN

"I grew up in Santa Maria. I am very hardworking and I get the job done! I enjoy working with my hands. I am going to work on my old truck, it is a working project that I want to go to school to learn more about. I definitely love to cook. I am also a nice and kind person."



KEVIN DONAGHEY

“I am 57 years old. I have general education requirements completed. I am pursuing a major in language and arithmetic. My hobbies are horticulture and animal care. I am single. I like to keep busy with my schedule, work is a big benefit in my opinion. I am a Lompoc native. I choose to commute for environmental benefits. I appreciate renewing the arts. I keep entertained.”



CORY CULMER

“My name is Cory Culmer. I was born here in Santa Maria. I am a red/black stripe belt in Taekwondo. I like to help my classmates at Taekwondo. I like going different places. My wife and I go together to the movies. I enjoy getting out and meeting new people in our community.”



JEANNIE MATTER

“My name is Jeannie. I grew up in Santa Maria. I am hardworking. I recently retired and now have more time to be an Explorer. I am a good friend and I like animals. I have always been The Chronicle's #1 Fan.”



STEVE SALUTAN

"My name is Steve. One of the things that I like to do is run the sound system at my church. I am a friendly guy with a good attitude. I have family in Guadalupe, Santa Maria, and Lompoc. I enjoy BBQ'ing with my family, occasionally we cook a pig. I love to ride my bike. I ride it anywhere! I really like working on cars. I am a Chevy guy. I have a Camaro that is a Father/Son project with my Dad. I am handy and like to fix things. I like using power tools. My favorite power tool is...all of them!"



ROBERT BOBB

"I play golf. I can hit up to 55 yards on the driving range. I am pretty good at golf. I made four birdies in a row! I am a wrestling fan, I have all the movies at home. I have met Stone Cold Steve Austin. He gave me a t-shirt with his autograph, but I won't wear it at Oak Creek Farm because I don't want it to get dirty. I am a good guy and I like to help people. I do a lot of things with my church. I enjoy volunteering. When I was in ROTC in school, I shook President Reagan's hand and we played golf together. He had his own golf course. I like coming out to Oak Creek Farm, and I keep an eye out for everyone there. I want everyone to read my article and get a kick out of it."

The Great OUTDOORS *with Jake*



Josiah gave us a choice to go straight or to turn left to go see some horses on our hike. So the Explorers voted that we wanted to go left. Cyd and I were petting some horses, and the horses were losing their winter coats. There was a lot of hair coming off when we were petting them. We also have to take precautions around the horses because the horses could kick. We see Nibbler the horse a lot. Cyd named him Nibbler because he loves to nibble, that's how he got his name. So far his friend has been the tractor! The other horses don't really like him, so he is always by himself. We found an awesome tree to take a picture on. We always take a rest at the top of our hike. It was also really high up. Cyd found a lizard on our hike. He was a cute little guy.



Jacob Dolan
Santa Maria Explorer
& Columnist



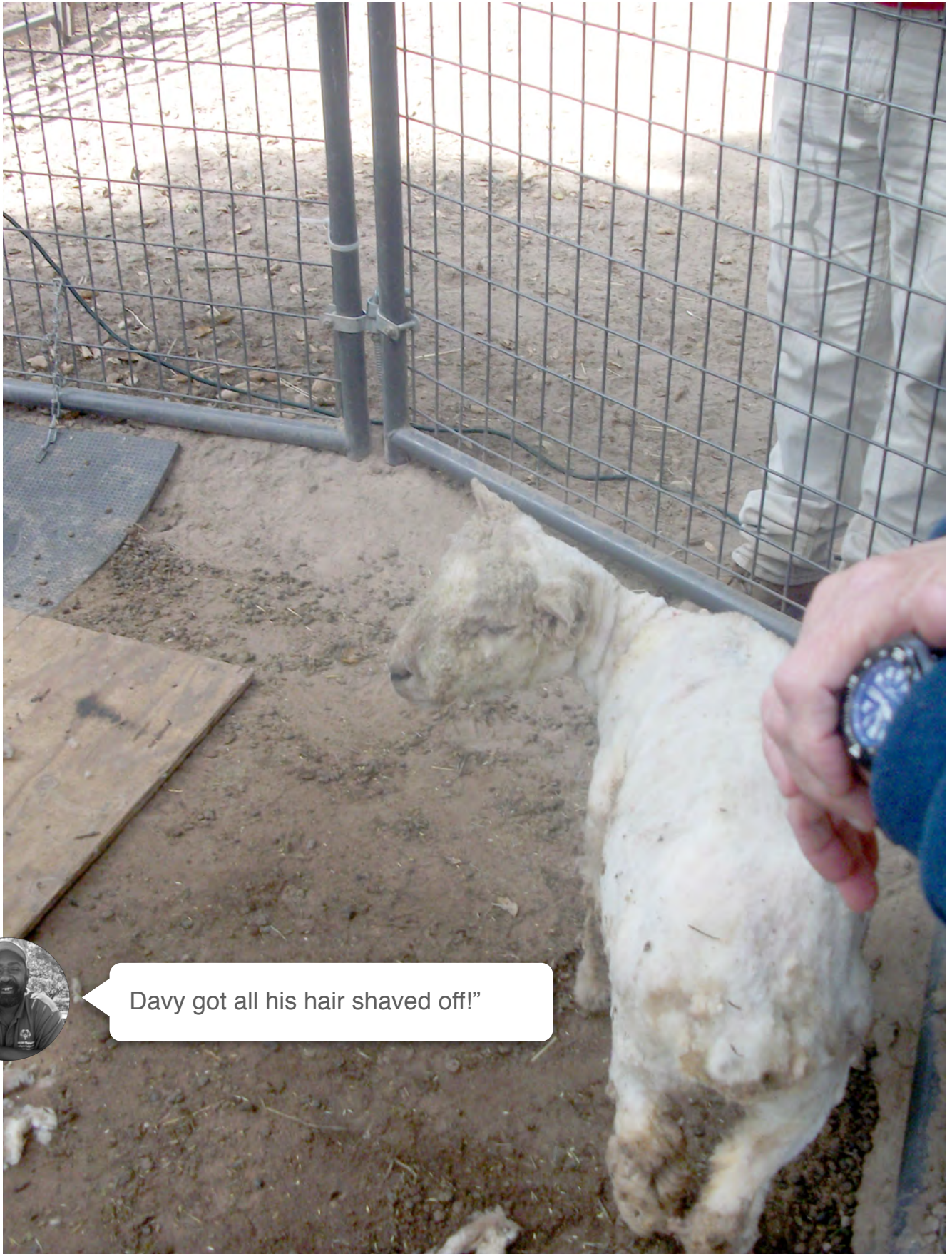


Life On The Farm



“Hans is eating Tilly’s board. He already ate his board. Now he’s working on Tilly’s board. Hans is a bad boy. He tries to eat everything! We block him off of the shed with a red bucket.”





Davy got all his hair shaved off!"



"Alex is shaving the sheeps hair off. Davy went first. That is a big old machine that he uses! He has been doing this for a long time."





“Steve’s holding the sheep. Marco is waiting for his turn. Larry is taking pictures. He takes good pictures.”





We bow to the American and Korean Flag before every class. The Flags are called "Gook-kee" in Korean. It is a sign of respect. It's what they do in Korea just like in the United States when we salute the flag. We have started singing the United States national anthem as a sign of respect. We are trying to get down the tune. Grand Master and Master Bower lead us with that. I feel like I am helping people when I do it. I enjoy singing the National Anthem in a big group. I throw a little bit of Garth Brooks in there when I sing!

I am also preparing to help the other students with their forms one through eight. That testing is coming up soon. I will keep you posted.



Cory Culmer
Santa Maria Explorer
& Columnist





Let's Talk Painting!

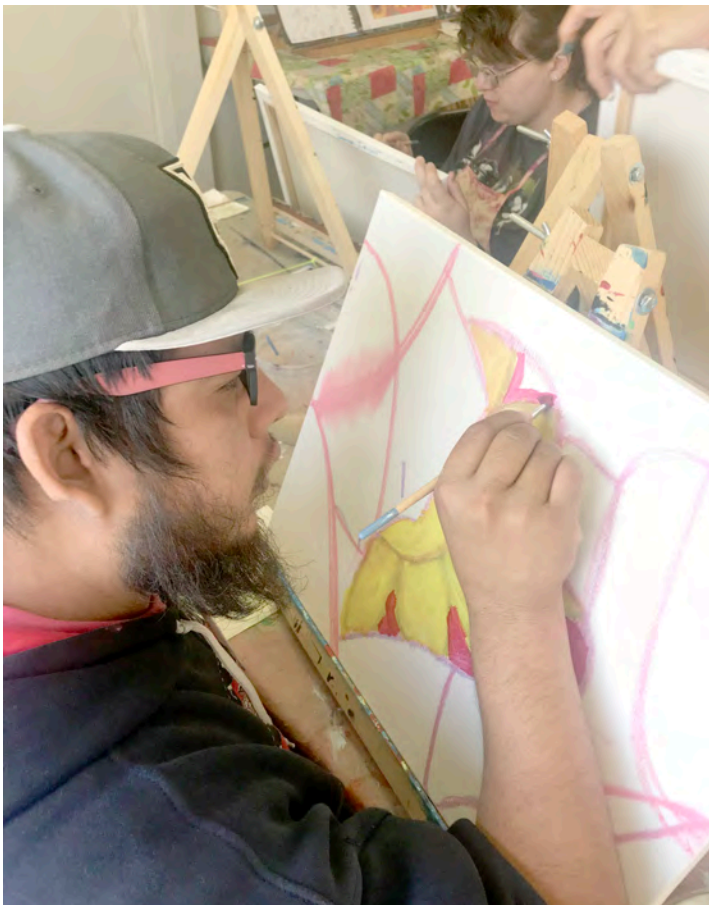
by Antoinette Ellis



I painted flowers in my painting. I used the colors pink, green, purple, blue, and red. Red was my favorite color to use this time. Matt taught me how to paint my flowers. I liked painting with my friend Jeannie, she helped me. I hung my painting in the art room.



Antoinette Ellis
Santa Maria Explorer
& Columnist





Let's Chisel This Out With Steve

Now we are putting all the pieces together to make the coat rack with wood glue and dowels. We put the glue in the holes and then we slowly tap the dowels in. After that, we put the legs on and slowly tap it in with the glue and we used a hammer to tap it together. We had some extra glue that came down the sides of the project. We used a wet towel to clean off the glue. I am excited to put my coat rack in my room! I am going to paint my coat rack. This was a fun project to make with everyone.



Steve Salutan
Santa Maria Explorer
& Columnist





FARM COOKING

with Jeannie



The BBQ Chicken was my favorite. My friends Cydney and Savannah cooked the chicken and they did a good job! I cut bell peppers and I helped my friend Bob cut up his peppers. I also cut up tomatoes. We were a good team. This was a good recipe.



Jeannie Matter
Santa Maria Explorer
& Columnist

Cowboy Caviar

Serves 12

Ingredients:

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1/3 cup white wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- Juice of 1/2 a lime
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 pound Roma tomatoes seeded and diced
- 15 ounces can black-eyed peas, drained and rinsed
- 15 ounces can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 11 ounces can sweet corn, drained
- 1 red onion diced
- 1 cup red bell pepper diced
- 1 cup fresh cilantro chopped



Directions:

In a large bowl, blend the olive oil, white wine vinegar, chili powder, cumin, lime juice and salt together. Add the tomatoes, black-eyed peas, beans, corn, red onion, bell peppers and cilantro. You can also throw in any additional fresh vegetables from your garden. We threw in spinach and carrots!





The Inside Scoop with Kevin Donaghey

Interview with Alex Karol, Sheep Shearer and Rancher of Outlaw Valley Ranch



Alex, how did you come to be a sheep shearer?

I went to sheep shearing school in Mendocino County because I got some sheep and I wanted to learn how to shear them. Then I realized there was a lot of sheep that need to be sheared and that it was a good business for me.



Alex, are you a Master Rancher and Shearer?

I am a rancher and a shearer. I don't know that I am a master! But, I do try to get a little better everyday.



Alex, you have a ranch called Outlaw Valley Ranch; how long has Outlaw Valley Ranch been open?

We have been open for about two years.





templeton, california
EST. 2017





How many sheep are at Outlaw Valley Ranch on average?

We have about 130 sheep right now including our lambs.



Is meat production your goal at the ranch and were the Navajo-Churro sheep specially adapted for meat purposes?

Yes, meat and wool. Our meat is from 100% grass fed sheep. We also sell sheep skins and wool as well.



Do only Navajo-Churro herds live in the open fields and graze along ravines, creeks, oak trees and shrub bushes traveling near grasslands out in the expansive spaces of Outlaw Valley Ranch?

Yes, they are always on the pastures and grasslands. We don't ever put them in a dirt lot. They do better out grazing in the natural environment.





What is the age for breeding maturity in Navajo-Churro sheep?

About two years old. They can breed at 9 months, but we like to wait until they are a year and a half to two years old before we start breeding.



Is ram leadership lore? Meaning, is there a male leader in a flock?

Not really the ram. We typically only put the ram in for a couple of months to breed with the flock. We do this because we want to know when we will have lambs in the Spring. We like to plan when the grass will be the best. There are definitely some leaders in the group and they would be ewes! A ewe is a female sheep. There are some older ewes that would definitely be leader sheep. They are always the first at the gate.



Is there a difference in rams and ewes life span length?

I think it depends on how their life is. They can both live to be between 15 and 20 years old.







Do natural neighbors such as condors, and tortoises compete for grass use and freedom when seeking shelter from the extremes of weather at Outlaw Valley Ranch?

Not condors and tortoises specifically, but we have deer, grasshoppers, rabbits. We also have predator animals like coyotes and mountain lions. Our guard dog lives with the sheep and protects them from the predators. She is a Pyrenees Anatolian Shepherd named Sasha. That kind of dog is bred to protect herds. We named her Sasha because her name means guardian.



How many years of experience do you have as a shearer of sheep?

I have been shearing for four years.



Are there special clothing items that you employ while shearing and what is the purpose of those special items?

Yes, I use shearing moccasins. They are soft on the toes because the sheep is laying on my feet a lot which keeps the sheep comfortable. I also wear shearing pants that are made with two layers that make them extra durable. They also have a split down at the bottom of the pant leg and are a slim fit. I wear a shearing belt that is almost like a small back brace that gives me a little bit of back support because I am bent over a lot. My friend made it for me that is a 75-year old shearer!







I see you have a motorized modern shearing machine. Can you tell me about this?

It is made by Lister, which is a company out of England. The motor is overhead, and it goes down the drop shaft and then there is a hand piece, this way I don't have to hold the motor in my hand while I am shearing.



How much wool does a sheep yield in a shearing?

I would say between six to ten pounds on average.



I have read that sorting wool in the trade is required by a wool classer. When they are cleaning the wool just to remove burs and twigs, is there a lot of fibers that are lost in the cleaning process?

Yes, quite a bit. I would say almost a quarter of it. First they put it on a table and they skirt just the outside, so depending on how dirty the wool is you can lose 10% in just that process.





What is your biggest marketplace for wool?

For wool, I would say people that do hand-spinning and weaving. The Churro wool is not worth much at all on the commodity market.



Alex, why do you like sheep?

Because they produce meat, wool, they are good for the grass, and they mow the weeds. They are a symbol of sustainability if you do it right. You can live off a flock of sheep really!



What is the funniest thing that ever happened to you as a sheep shearer?

I love watching the lambs race! Imagine 40 lambs running together in the evening and the morning jumping and kicking. They look so happy! They kick their feet out and hop around. I also love watching how our guard dog interacts with the lambs and the sheep. They have their favorites, and the dog will clean their ears and hang out with them. The funniest thing that happened as a shearer was when I was doing a demonstration for a school and a child said, "I would rather be the sheep than the shearer!"





"Explore. Dream. Discover."

- Mark Twain

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