



The Ram and Ewe

Phone (403) 337-2800 * Fax(403)337-2418 * E-mail pat@pasu.com

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Aug 2012

Volume 50C

PaSu Farm

Ewe Who! A matter of matriarchal status in the flock.

This is adapted from a very old news letter and is what I would like to say to anybody who thinks we as humans are so much cleverer and superior to animals. Again, I warn readers who have problems with words like manhole, chairman and chicken breast that they will find this article to be politically incorrect. Bear with me, as we have not all been enlightened on the impact words have on sensitive readers.

First, in defense of sheep, let me tell you that they are not stupid. This is an unfair misconception held by some of us who have never dared to look at farm animals as anything more than a commodity. Sheep are submissive, yes. They also have a strong flocking instinct. They had no choice. Did you know, that after the dog, sheep were the next animal to be domesticated? Man purposely bred his sheep to stay close together so that he could move them around. Those that showed any initiative to stray were earmarked as the next sacrificial feast-day roast. The point that I am trying to make is that sheep, by natural selection and breeding, have become timid animals with many human characteristics. What really annoys us is the similarity between humans and sheep. Hey, I am not the first one to arrive at this conclusion. The Big Guy upstairs kept calling us sheep whilst He was the shepherd. Now that I have made my point let's get on with the story.

Ewes spend all their time in the company of other ewes and their lambs. As a flock they move around together, sleep in a tight bunch, breed and have their lambs at about the same time. To the untrained eye they all look the same. This is not so. They are as individual as the members of the Parish Women's Institute and as altercative. Now it is commonly assumed that sheep

just move around in a flock. However, do not be deceived. There is a strict and very rigid social system that governs the life of every ewe in the flock. Firstly, every ewe has a close friend. Usually they are pairs of animals that have been raised together and form very strong bonds of friendship. They stay close to each other whilst grazing, going for a drink or sleeping. This close bond means that they usually cycle and have their lambs at about the same time. If you were to separate a friendship pair, the remaining ewe will bleat mournfully for its mate up to six weeks.

Pairs combine with several others to form groups with similar characteristics. The flock is comprised of social circles each with a strong identity of its own. For example, group A might be the renegades. This group, usually led by a cunning old Cheviot, will always break fences and get into the neighbours field. No matter what you do, they defy all the boundaries and test the patience of the farmer to the limit. These are the first to be sold to another farmer as breeding stock.

Group B, on the other hand is an assembly of all the fat and lazy sheep who appear to be mild-mannered and very contented. They prefer to keep some where near the center of the flock where it's safe and chew their cud. However, their sedentary life style means that they have a lot of pent up energy that needs to find some expression. They use this energy up by consistently having arguments amongst themselves that last for hours and sometimes days on end.

It begins like this. Everyone in the group is settling down to chew the cud. Regrettably, one ewe wishes to occupy the space in which an other has already settled herself. She will go up to the resting animal and paw her flank. Well the ewe that has been relentlessly pawed gets up mad as hell, swings round, head held low and connects her

aggressor with a head jab to the udders. "Well I never! How dare you!" And the fight's on. In no time their respective mates get into the fight and before you can say, "knit my woolly wool" the whole bunch is divided into two camps bashing away at each other.

Every now and again a particularly spectacular bout takes place. When that happens the others stop their bashing and form solid groups behind the two combatants and sort of cheer them on. If the action is not fast enough the supporters will nudge them in the rear to urge them on to a lustier fight. Even the Rams stand in awe when this type of contest takes place.

Eventually, everything appears to settle down and they are all peacefully selecting their spot when some old biddy has to have the last say by bunting a rival up the rear end until her eyeballs just about pop out. And the whole thing starts again. Does this sound familiar? I think sheep have been around humans too long.

Well there are individual pairs, groups and then the flock as whole. As you have well assumed, there is a supreme matriarch supported by a group of lead ewes. Major decisions like leaving the safety of the corral in the morning for the grazing grounds is her prerogative. Observing them, we notice that she always leads the way with the rest following in single file behind her. Caution is the key issue here as Mr. Coyote might be lurking behind the next knoll. So the Matriarch will progress prudently stopping every now and then to test the wind.

Well this is all fine for the first ten or so ewes who are equally wary and observant. However, it causes problems with those ewes who are not yet fully awake and are lumbering along with their heads down. The sudden stops means that they invariably rear end the ewe in front. This can cause a chain reaction with adverse effects that invariably lead to the head bashing scenario described earlier in the story.

Once at the grazing grounds, the various groups split up. In our flock the composition of each group is often determined by the breed or similar interests. For example "Cheviot Renegades" might have one or two mean Suffolk's in their group. The "Fat Suffolk Chew the Cud" group might include a couple of old and toothless Cheviots and so on. Of course the faster moving animals drift to the farthest corners of the pasture

Victorian Christmas Dinners

Sat. 30th Nov.

Fri. 7th, 14th, 21st Dec. and Sat. 22

5.30pm Cocktails 6.45pm Dinner

Once again we will be presenting our elegant eight course, plate service, English Victorian Christmas Dinner. The entrée will be a choice between Roast leg of Lamb and Prime Rib. To create a warm hospitable atmosphere our staff will be dressed in Victorian garb, candles and crackers will be placed on the table and the plum pudding will be flamed for all to see.

\$85 per person. Service included in price.

Gst not included



Ladies Night



An entertaining evening.
Fabulous Buffet. Fashion show
And Guest Speaker

To be Announced

Friday Nov. 3

Cocktails from 5.30 pm Dinner at 6.30pm

\$35.00 (Includes Service, not GST)

Reservations essential

Summer South African BBQ's
WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE WEATHER
MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE
RESERVATIONS ESSENTIAL

Let us do your
**PRIVATE FUNCTION OR
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

PaSu can customize a special menu and include entertainment of your choice. We would be glad to discuss your needs. For your convenience we offer out of house catering.

where the grass is lush but with the constant threat of a surprise attack by a coyote. These fleet-of-foot animals are often the most mischievous. All of a sudden they will call a false alarm and dash back to the barn as if a pack of hungry coyotes were after them. The whole flock suddenly becomes galvanized into action and they all head off towards the barn with the fat ladies panting in pursuit. Once the mischief makers are satisfied that they have caused enough of a hullabaloo they will return to their grazing spot. It takes some time to call a halt to the stampede and for all the ewes to resume what they were doing.

Being a flock leader depends on your physical attributes as well as heredity. A lamb born to the leader of the flock is, by right of birth, groomed for that position. The leader's position is always tenuous and she is being constantly being challenged.

But you know, in every group there is always someone who is at the bottom of the pecking order. These misfits always hang on to a group, never really being accepted. Always a sad sight, they don't have a friend or anyone to champion them and they get pushed away from the feed trough. As a result they tend to be smaller and abject looking. It would seem natural to cull these ewes from the flock but experience has taught me not to be too hasty.

Come lambing season, this little forlorn ewe becomes increasingly excited as she senses that soon her wretched loneliness is about to become an altered state. When she delivers that first lamb she becomes a demon possessed as far as motherhood is concerned. No one, and nothing, is going to get between her and her lambs. They change completely, and in order to ensure the survival of their offspring, they now assert themselves at the feed trough and vigilantly guard their progeny. These are some of the best mums in the lambing barn as they are fiercely proud of their lambs and become aggressive to insure their survival.

Having had the opportunity of working with sheep, I have a great deal of respect for these animals. They are not stupid. An astute observer will draw many parallels between their behavior and those of the human species. It is little wonder that one of the greatest philosophical works, the Bible, constantly compares us to this humble creature.

On this I rest my case.

CHRISTMAS PARTY, FUN AND EXCELLENT DINNER

Carousel Productions

**In conjunction with
Pasu Farms presents a
nostalgic Variety Show**

Called

**Variety is the spice of
PaSu Farm**

**Remember those old Vaude-
villian shows with music, hu-
mour, quick wit and entertain
sketches? Well we want you
to laugh, sing and go home
having had a fulfilling and
wonderful evening.**

Sat. Dec.01,08 and 15

Tickets are \$85.00

Includes Gratuities on Meal and Show.

Gst not included

Advance booking and ticket purchase essential.

Cocktails from 5.30pm

Dinner served at 6.30pm

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SORRY NO E-MAIL RESERVATIONS

DON'T FORGET.

**You can order on line or by phone. Yes, you
can order by phone or on line and we will ship.
Orders over \$100 FREE SHIPPING. Gift wrap-
ping? No Problem!**

Check our catalogue.

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Phone 403 337 2800

Shopping Notes Christmas

EXTRA SHOPPING HOURS

For your convenience we will be open in December on Fri. nights for shopping till 8 pm.

ALSO

The Mondays in December before Christmas we will be open from 11 am to 5 pm

The restaurant will not be open on these Mondays

OTHER LOCATIONS

As usual we will be at

AG TRADE RED DEER

7th to the 10th November

And do not forget

Spruce Meadows Christmas Market

Nov. 16th, 17th & 18th— 23rd, 24th & 25th

Kingsland Farmers Market

South of Chinook centre and north of Heritage drive on McLeod Trail on the West side.

THIS WILL BE OUR YEAR ROUND LOCATION IN CALGARY MAKING IT EASIER FOR EXCHANGES & PICK-UPS.

Parking is easy and free and there are lots of other wonderful attractions without the hype of Malls.

And of course

CHRISTMAS TRADITION AT PaSu Farm

Years ago, before we had a shop, we used to have an OPEN HOUSE at the farm on the weekends in December. This tradition still continues and we offer FREE Christmas cake and hot cider in the boutique only. Let us take the stress out of your shopping by pampering you in a relaxed environment far from the maddening crowd.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

We are madly unpacking our Fall/Winter collection of products. It is like Christmas with the CanPar and UPS trucks delivering boxes and boxes of new and exciting merchandise. The assortment is eclectic, thrilling, unique and affordable.

Our line of sheepskin coats are fashionable and gorgeous. We have sweaters and cardigans from all over the world that will not only make you feel good but keep you warm and toasty. You can match these with toques, woolen or sheepskin gloves. How about warm mitts, wool socks, soft slippers or a smart hemp shirt for men. Our customers are really special and come from all age groups and genders.

Stumped what to buy for your wife? Ask our team. They will advise and wrap whilst you enjoy a hot cup of cider. Make life simple and enjoyable. Shop where you are treated like a VIP.

SPECIAL SEA-FOOD EVENING

20th October

Dinner at 6.30

Fresh raw oysters on the shell Pasu style.
Lobster and Shrimp Bisque with sizzling croutons.

Fried Calamari with a Greek salad
Mango lime sorbet

Wild salmon with a Japanese sauce
Roasted garden beets and potatoes.

Crepes with an apple/saskatoon compote
and ice-cream with a dash of Calvados.

\$67.50 Gratuity included, GST extra.

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