

# OHIO

## FARMER®

www.FarmProgress.com

Serving Ohio agriculture since 1848

June 2013

A day for ag learning *Page 6*

Is your ATV legal? *Page 31*



Keys to success in stocker business *Page 36*

# New approach

### Key Points

- Sheep farmer adjusts to cope with physical limitations.
- Ohio AgrAbility helps farmers with long-term health issues.
- Young helpers learn how to raise sheep and do farm work.

By GAIL C. KECK

**A** PHOTO hanging in Harold Heidlebaugh's kitchen shows a lineup of smiling young shepherds leading their prize-winning lambs. Pictured are the champions and class winners from the county born-and-raised competition six years ago, when lambs born on Heidlebaugh's East View Farm made a clean sweep of the contest at the Allen County Fair.

Despite that success, Heidlebaugh decided four years ago to replace his flock of Suffolks with Polypays.

"I don't want to badmouth the Suffolks, but they aren't the easiest sheep to raise," he explains.

His own health problems, including fibromyalgia, degenerative disc disease and a bout with Q fever, convinced Heidlebaugh that he had to make some changes if he wanted to keep farming. Pulling lambs, tube feeding and other labor involved with lambing was getting to be too much to manage, he explains.

After doing some research with Ohio State University Extension sheep specialists, Heidlebaugh realized switching to Polypays could help reduce lambing labor requirements and make it possible for him to keep raising sheep.

"They just have their lambs, and they take care of them," he says.

### AgrAbility assistance

In addition to switching sheep breeds, Heidlebaugh has made several other changes on his farm to adapt to his physical limitations. "I finally accepted there are some things in life you can't do anymore, and that's all right,"



**LEARNING CURVE:** Harold Heidlebaugh has shared his sheep expertise with a long string of young farmworkers. His current helpers are high school sophomore Karen Cline and fourth-grader Seth Teman.

or long-term health conditions. AgrAbility is a nationwide program coordinated by the USDA. In Ohio, AgrAbility programs are carried out by Ohio State University in partnership with Easter Seals.

Heidlebaugh has also relied on the strength and energy of a long string of young farmworkers, who in turn benefit from his experience. His current helpers are Karen Cline, a high school sophomore, and neighbor Seth Teman, who is in fourth grade.

Although many farmers have a hard time finding willing young workers, Heidlebaugh hasn't had that problem because he has been so involved as a supporter of local 4-H and FFA programs. He met Karen when she visited his farm on a freshman farm experience tour through her high school ag class.

Heidlebaugh also works with the local FFA chapter each year to host a farm tour for all the area third-grade classes.

For more information on programs available through Ohio AgrAbility, go online to [agrability.osu.edu](http://agrability.osu.edu).

*Keck writes from Raymond.*

■ To read more about how Heidlebaugh continues to farm, turn to Page 8.

he says.

For example, because of his back problems he can no longer lift anything heavier than 35 pounds, but he's still able to take care of vaccinations and other health care using handling equipment to capture the sheep. He has received both advice and adaptive equipment through the Ohio AgrAbility program, which helps farmers cope with disabilities



Like us on Facebook today!

Facebook.com/BecksHybrids



## Ohio News Watch

# Change brings optimism about future to shepherd

## Key Points

- Switching to Polypays has reduced lambing problems for Delphos farmer.
- Livestock producers can get Q fever from breathing in barnyard dust.
- Young workers provide muscle while gaining knowledge.

By GAIL C. KECK

**T**HESE days Harold Heidlebaugh, who farms near Delphos, still sells a few lambs to 4-H and FFA members, but he's no longer lambing in January and February to produce lambs the right age for summer shows. Instead, his 80 ewes lamb mostly in March and April, when the weather is warmer.

Heidlebaugh sells most of the ewe lambs as breeding stock and raises the wethers for meat. A few are sold locally as freezer lambs, but most are sold through another producer who finishes them and markets the meat through a grocery chain. Although wool prices no longer even cover the cost of shearing, the demand for lamb has been growing, Heidlebaugh points out.

"I'm optimistic about the sheep industry," he adds.

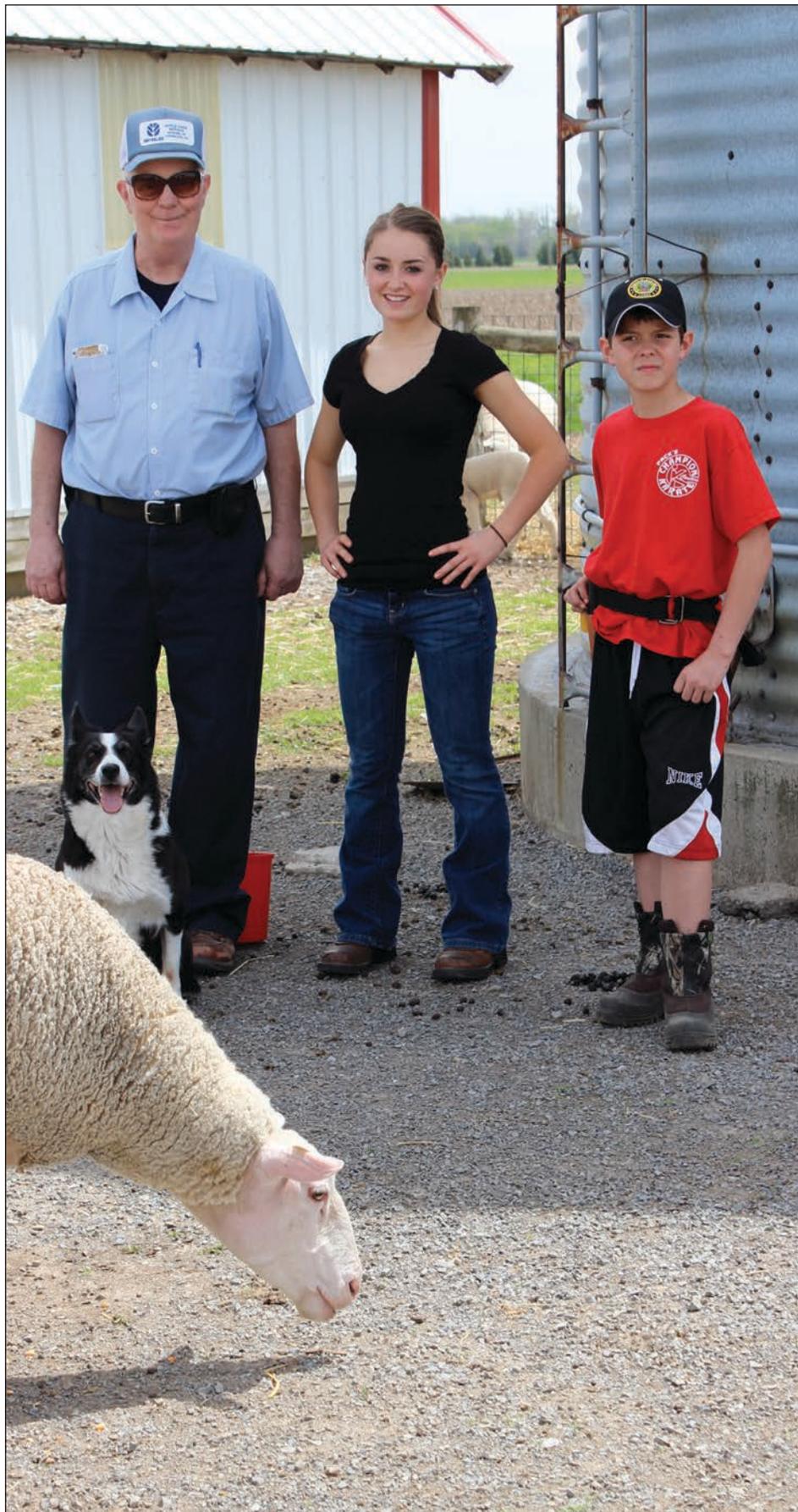
Heidlebaugh raises Polypays, a breed that was developed in the U.S. starting in the 1960s. It combines the hardiness of the Targhee and Rambouillet, the carcass quality of the Dorsets, and the tendency toward multiple births from Finnsheep. Polypays tend to have twins frequently, and the ewes milk well so they can easily raise twins, Heidlebaugh says. When they're born, the lambs might not look as stout as black-faced newborns, but they are vigorous and fill out quickly. They also have good feed conversion and growth rates, he notes.

## Q cure

Livestock producers expect to rely on their veterinarians to diagnose sick animals, but sometimes a vet can help with human health problems, as well. Five years ago, after Heidlebaugh came down with a mysterious illness that stumped his doctors, his veterinarian, John Jones, was the one who identified the sickness: Q fever.

Q fever is a zoonotic disease caused by the bacteria *Coxiella burnetii*. It can be passed to humans from sheep, goats, cattle and other animals, but it doesn't typically cause symptoms in those animal species. The bacteria can be excreted in the urine, manure or milk of infected animals, and is also found in amniotic fluids. It can survive for long periods in dried manure, so humans can become infected by breathing in a little barnyard dust. In serious human cases, Q fever can lead to permanent heart damage and even death.

At first, Heidlebaugh thought he had the flu, but his fever, fatigue and rash didn't go away, and he developed congestion in his lungs, as well. He felt better after four days in the hospital on intravenous antibiotics, but the symptoms came back after he went home. Finally, after Jones suggested he be



**HELPING HANDS:** Switching to the Polypay breed has reduced lambing labor, allowing Harold Heidlebaugh to remain in the sheep business despite health problems. He also relies on the assistance of young employees Karen Cline and Seth Teman. Heidlebaugh's border collie, Ellie, helps with herding, as well.

tested for Q fever, Heidlebaugh was treated with doxycycline, which is extremely effective against the disease. He quickly recovered.

Today Heidlebaugh relies on students who help him farm. He also counts on his border collie, Ellie, as a valuable part of his

farm team. He demonstrates with a "move 'em on" command, and she rounds up the flock and funnels them into the barn. When it's time to put lambs on a trailer, Ellie does most of the work, he explains. "When it comes to loading, she's a big help."

Keck writes from Raymond.

## Advertisement

### Trait Stewardship Responsibilities Notice to Farmers

Certain statements contained in this presentation are "forward-looking statements," such as statements concerning the company's anticipated financial results, current and future product performance, regulatory approvals, business and financial plans and other non-historical facts. These statements are based on current expectations and currently available information. However, since these statements are based on factors that involve risks and uncertainties, the company's actual performance and results may differ materially from those described or implied by such forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, among others: continued competition in seeds, traits and agricultural chemicals; the company's exposure to various contingencies, including those related to intellectual property protection, regulatory compliance and the speed with which approvals are received, and public acceptance of biotechnology products; the success of the company's research and development activities; the outcomes of major lawsuits and the previously announced SEC investigation; developments related to foreign currencies and economies; successful operation of recent acquisitions; fluctuations in commodity prices; compliance with regulations affecting our manufacturing; the accuracy of the company's estimates related to distribution inventory levels; the company's ability to fund its short-term financing needs and to obtain payment for the products that it sells; the effect of weather conditions, natural disasters and accidents on the agriculture business or the company's facilities; and other risks and factors detailed in the company's most recent periodic report to the SEC. Undue reliance should not be placed on these forward-looking statements, which are current only as of the date of this presentation. The company disclaims any current intention or obligation to update any forward-looking statements or any of the factors that may affect actual results.

This information is for **educational purposes only** and is not an offer to sell **Roundup Ready 2 Xtend™**. This product is not yet registered or approved for sale or use anywhere in the United States.

**Commercialization is dependent on multiple factors**, including successful conclusion of the regulatory process. **The information presented herein is provided for educational purposes only, and is not and shall not be construed as an offer to sell, or a recommendation to use, any unregistered pesticide for any purpose whatsoever.** It is a violation of federal law to promote or offer to sell an unregistered pesticide.

**Roundup Technology®** includes Monsanto's glyphosate-based herbicide technologies. **Individual results may vary**, and performance may vary from location to location and from year to year. This result may not be an indicator of results you may obtain as local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible.

**ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS.** Roundup Ready® crops contain genes that confer tolerance to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup brand agricultural herbicides. Roundup® brand agricultural herbicides will kill crops that are not tolerant to glyphosate. Warrant® Herbicide is not registered in all states. Warrant® Herbicide may be subject to use restrictions in some states. The distribution, sale, or use of an unregistered pesticide is a violation of federal and/or state law and is strictly prohibited. Check with your local Monsanto dealer or representative for the product registration status in your state. Roundup Ready PLUS®, Roundup Ready®, Roundup Technology®, Roundup WeatherMAX®, Roundup®, Roundup Ready 2 Xtend™, Xtend™, and Warrant® are registered trademarks of Monsanto Technology LLC. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. ©2013 Monsanto Company. MDIC-FP-13020 CWL