

## 6<sup>th</sup> North Atlantic Native Sheep and Wool Conference, Lofoten 21.-25.september 2016

### Presenters:

#### **"Why keep "villsau", what is special about Gammel Norsk Sau and the husbandry". Hilde Buer, Værlandet. (N)**

Farmer with Gammel Norsk Sau/ villsau, agronomist with MS in Animal Nutrition and author of Villsauboka. She worked as an advisor and bureaucrat while keeping Longtailed sheep for 15 years . The last 17 years enjoyed the pleasures of Old Norwegian Sheep. Hilde and her husband Anders Braanaas live with and of the old Norse sheep, at the island Værlandet, Sogn og Fjordane.

[villsauliv.no](http://villsauliv.no)

<https://villsauliv.wordpress.com/>

#### **"The Network North Atlantic Native Sheep and Wool"**

**Karin Flatøy Svarstad, Sommerakademiet, Sogn og Fjordane (N)**

International Coordinator of the conference, cultural mediator and textile artist with wool from native sheep as her specialty. Karin has traveled with tourists in "vesterled" for many years and knows the wool and short tail sheep situation there better than many .

<http://www.sommerakademiet.com/>

#### **"Norwegian wool and wool from the old sheep breeds "**

**Sissel Berntsen, Professional Services for wool, Animalia. (N)**

Leader in Professional Services for wool, engaged in training wool classifiers, wool quality, courses in wool treatment, professional / technical questions around the theme of wool and Norwegian wool standard towards international market.

<http://www.animalia.no/Husdyrproduksjon/Fagtjenesten-for-ull/>

#### **"Norse Sheep Association – organization, goals and role concerning Norse Sheep as a viable gene pool and a supplementary way of sheep farming"**

**Alv Ottar Folkestad, chairman of the board of Norse Sheep Association (NVL)**

*Norse Sheep farmer and retired nature management adviser at Sunnmøre - biologist. (N)*

Norse Sheep Association by its regional divisions is aiming to develop hill-sheep farming as a natural and traditional part of Norwegian sheep farming. «Hill-sheep from the Coast of Norway» is licenced Trade Mark. The Norse Sheep Race Standard is the breeding guide-line.

<http://www.villsau.no/>

#### **Green growth through white gold: the KRUS project (Grønn vekst i hvitt gull)**

**Ingun Grimstad Klepp, forsker Forbruksforskningsinstituttet SIFO og**

**Tone Skårdal Tobiasson, redaktør [nicefashion.org](http://nicefashion.org) (N)**

The research project KRUS financed by the Norwegian Research Council aims to enhance the value chain of Norwegian wool, and specifically wool from some of the old breeds that have fallen outside the industry fold and now also have lost the Government subsidies. The two speakers cooperate with the international wool industry through the International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO) and Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), and will talk about how work with rare breeds is progressing in other areas of the world and implications for the North Atlantic region. They are also the authors of the book 'Ren ull' (Pure wool) about the Norwegian value chain for wool.

<http://nordicfashionassociation.com/project/krus>

### **"Start with what you have, where you are"**

**Roy Eilertsen**, *rural life appetizer, Laukvik, Lofoten.* (N)

Raised in a fish and farming family, engineer, cook, cabinetmaker, carpentry, college degrees in fields such as entrepreneurship and innovation, and keen on utilization of farm resources. Today manager of the company Marmel AS where a number of his professions are combined in a sustainable enterprise that deals with animal husbandry, experience tourism, food service and processing of farm resources. We get a general insight into the operations of the recycling farm Livland, with special focus on their 130 sheep of the breed Old Norwegian Sheep (GNS).

[www.livland.no](http://www.livland.no)

[www.facebook.com/Matlysthuset-706844216097691/](https://www.facebook.com/Matlysthuset-706844216097691/)

### **"Local wool as base for beautiful products"**

**Ragnhild Lie**, *Professional artist and university lecturer. Stamsund, Lofoten.*

*Manager of this years conference.* (N)

After 17 passionate years in Lofoten doing fine art, theater and teaching work, she now has started a new business and produces yarn and finished products from carefully selected wool from the region. Building products with identity with values and attitudes from natural materials and resources, sustainability creativity and quality.

<http://www.lofoten-wool.no/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/545784368884082/>

### **"Traditional sheep husbandry in Lofoten in relation to climate change "**

**Odd Nicolaysen**, *Lofoten Korthalesaulag, and Leader in Lofoten Farmers and Smallholders. Bøstad, Lofoten.* (N)

Odd keeps ecological spælsau and nordland cow and now he builds a brewery in the farm shop Mormors Hus ("Grandmothers House"). How can we today use uncultivated land and grass resources better and extend the season? And how does climate change and what about the official regulations in this kind of animal husbandry?

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1084870298225134/>

### **"Leader Sheep, unic in the world"**

**Daniel Hansen**, *Information Center for Leader Sheep, Þórshöfn, Iceland* (I)

*Retired head teacher, now Director of Information Center for Leader Sheep.*

Daniel runs the Information Center for Leader Sheep, teach about Leader Sheep, collect wool and have it spun and knitted, collect bones and horns and have worked all kind of things out of them. Assist people who are interested in Leader Sheep and send informations all over the world.

[www.forystusetur.is](http://www.forystusetur.is)

### **"Vatnsdælar saga as embroidered tapestry"**

**Jóhanna Erla Pálmadóttir**, *Textilsetur Íslands, Blönduós, Iceland*

*Director for the The Icelandic Textile Center /Textilsetur Íslands.*

*Projectmanager for the conference in Iceland i 2014.* (I)

Textilsetur aims to promote or develop Icelandic and international textiles and to encourage research as well as education in the field of textile art and design. The current long term Icelandic work in residence is the Vatnsdælar Tapestry by Jóhanna Pálmadóttir. A 46 metre embroidered tapestry that illustrates the local Vatnsdælar saga. The work is open for visiting artists and the public to contribute to the ongoing embroidery work under the guidance and teachings of Jóhanna Pálmadóttir.

<https://www.facebook.com/IcelandicTextileCenter>

<http://textilsetur.com/about/>

### “Since last time”

**Dorthea Joensen**, *Functionary in Búnaðarstovan /Agricultural Agency, Færøylene. Runs family farm of 240 Faroese sheep, and ponies of the old Faroese breed " Føroyska Rossið". Manager of the North Atlantic Native Sheep And Wool Conference 2015, Tórshavn, Færøylene (F)*

Tradition says last year's conference manager tells about the aftereffects of last years conference. Have the various communities and network participants seized on good ideas or started new partnerships ? Signals says yes!

Dorthea also tells about life in the Faroes and their sheep.

<http://www.bst.fo/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Signabøgarður-233343333362451/>

### ”From Shetland’s Heritage to the catwalk 2016”

**Minnie Mouatt**, *Shetland Heritage Center, Unst, Shetland, Britain’s most northerly island.*

*Trustee of Unst Heritage Trust and keeps a small flock of Shetland sheep, knit for pleasure and income. (SH)*

Using the natural resources of the island, which includes Shetland sheep and wool production, Unst Heritage Trust tells the history of the island including its renown for producing fine spun yarn and fine lace knitting. The aim is to motivate the younger generation in the possibility of this industry continuing in a modern environment. Creating enthusiasm and inspiration is the key.

[www.unstheritage.com](http://www.unstheritage.com)

[www.shetlandmuseumandarchives.org.uk](http://www.shetlandmuseumandarchives.org.uk)

[www.shetlandwoolbrokers.co.uk](http://www.shetlandwoolbrokers.co.uk)

[www.shetlandartsandcrafts.co.uk](http://www.shetlandartsandcrafts.co.uk)

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### “Shetland Sheep – Past, Present and Future”.

**Derek Jamieson**, *Sheep Farmer, Unst, Shetland, Britain’s most northerly island. (SH)*

Derek look after around 750 breeding ewes, around half of which are Shetland breed and the other half are Shetland crossed with Cheviot. The sheep are on the island of Unst and small flocks of Shetland sheep on 18 ha and 9 ha small isles. They produce lambs for the store trade on the Scottish Mainland and also quality wool. 18 breeding cattle and 20 Shetland ponies. The farm is part of the socio-economic fabric of the Shetland Islands.

### “Uist Wool, -Our Story”

**Dana MacPhee**, *Uist Wool, Isle of North Uist, Outer Hebrides, Scotland*

*Director of Uist Wool. Before starting with Uist Wool she did a degree in Textiles and professional training as a Curator and worked in several Museums & Galleries. (OH)*

Uist Wool is based on the principles of People, Planet, Profit: seeking to benefit the many, establishing sustainable practices and creating a viable enterprise to support the communities of the Outer Hebrides.

The Uist Wool Mill will spin local and other fleece into desirable, unusual yarns to supply weavers, craftspeople, and visitors alike. It will help to revitalise this traditional island industry through creating employment, training and workspace using a local asset – wool. Uist Wool will also become a Centre where skills, ideas, design and inspiration are shared by young and old, novices and experts, islanders and visitors alike, through training programmes, workshops and education.

<http://makeworks.co.uk/companies/UistWool/>

<https://www.facebook.com/UistWool/>

<https://www.ruralnetwork.scot/case-studies/uist-wool-transforming-islands-through-textile-tradition>

***“Manx Loaghtan Sheep, unique amongst the Northern Short Tailed sheep”***

**Dr Jenny Shepherd**, a doctor, part time dermatologist in hospital and a Manx Loaghtan Sheep farmer. **(IM)**

Jenny will talk about the breed, the history and how lucky we are to still have these sheep as 3 times in the last 120 years they have come close to extinction. While they share the typical characteristics of all the other Northern Short tail sheep they do stand out with a number of differences, they are the only sheep that are multi-horned with 2-6 horns and they are only one colour. The meat has a unique flavour, the wool is naturally a rich dark brown, hard wearing and surprisingly soft. In the last 10 years the numbers of Loaghtans on the Isle of Man has dropped dramatically, without the flocks now being kept in England these sheep would be heading for extinction yet again.

<http://manxloaghtanproduce.com/>

***"An Island of Contrasts and Beauty"***

**Nicky Pattinson**

*Lecturer in History and local guide for Sommerakademiet tours on Isle of Man.*

**and Pat Kelly,**

*Retired veterinary and farmers wife.*

*Pat has been diligent in its efforts to preserve the old breed of sheep called Manx Loaghtan. She is textile artist working with dyeing and felting locally sourced wool.*

*Pat is among the hosts who organized the conference on the Isle of Man in 2017. (IM)*

Together, Pat and Nicky will tell us about the beauty of the Isle of Man and what delegates may see when they come to the Conference in 2017.

Pat will give a brief introduction to the talk and at the same time will show pictures of the beautiful Island scenery.

Nicky will follow with interesting information about the history, culture and customs of the Isle of Man.

**Workshop, 3 hours as a part of the conference:**

***“Atlantic Heathlands - the burning land of wool and honey.”***

**Mons Kvamme**, Bergen, (N)

*Botanist, scientific adviser The Heathland Centre.*

*Mons Kvamme has worked with research, protection and management of heathlands since 1975.*

- 1) Atlantic heathlands, ecology and history, variation and distribution.*
- 2) International perspectives on heathlands, threats and possibilities.*
- 3) How to burn the heathlands and why.*

Atlantic heathlands are man made and found in western Europe from Portugal to Northern Norway.

They are the result of traditional farming methods, starting in the mist of prehistory.

Everywhere, and in all time periods, they have been grazed by livestock and managed by fire. Today, this ancient cultural landscape is threatened by extinction all over Europe.

Such anthropogenic heathlands can only be maintained by livestock grazing combined with controlled burning of the heather at regular intervals.

*The Heathland Centre* is situated on the island Lygra, about 25 km northwest of Bergen, Western Norway. The Centre include 1,5 sq. km of heathlands, maintained as authentic as possible by traditional farming methods. The area is organized for landscape interpretation, education, outdoor life and research. The centre also includes a visitor building with

exhibitions and café.