Subject: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by jmeadows on Sun, 12 Feb 2012 01:08:14 GMT
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a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by jmeadows on Sun, 12 Feb 2012 01:10:57 GMT
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Baby sheep!
Baby sheep! Baby sheep! Baby sheep!
Baby sheep! Baby sheep! Baby sheep! Baby sheep! Baby sheep!
Baby sheep! Baby sheep! Baby sheep! Baby sheep! Baby sheep! Baby sheep! Baby sheep!

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by shalea on Sun, 12 Feb 2012 01:35:34 GMT
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squeeeeeeeee

<ahem>

And a very nice story too -- I am glad Lily's heartache was salved and Imogen got a proper four-legged mum.

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by Melissa Mead on Sun, 12 Feb 2012 02:01:54 GMT
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Oh, that's so sweet.
And so cute!

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by elizabeth on Sun, 12 Feb 2012 04:16:47 GMT
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What a sweet story! So adorable!

[Full disclosure: as a city girl I think lambs/sheep in general are super cute until I'm close enough to smell them. Then... well, then I'm thrilled that other people enjoy farming and raising livestock. I love teaching kids, especially ages 10-14. To each her own, right?]

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by Diane in MN on Sun, 12 Feb 2012 04:55:21 GMT
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Great pictures, and I love happy-ending stories. Bravo Lily and Imogen!

These are very handsome sheep. But why is this breed now uncommon in Australia? And am I correct that Lily has horns? I don't remember seeing horns on the ewes I've seen at fairs, but I don't know whether that was because of the breed or because the horns had been removed.

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by EMoon on Sun, 12 Feb 2012 12:33:51 GMT
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Awwwww....(yes, teh cute!)

I've read about the trick of using the dead lamb's pelt to fool a ewe, but never known anyone who used it...hurray for the good news that it actually does work in real life. And for both Imogen and Lily being happy. And for you not having to bottle-feed another lamb.

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by Mrs Redboots on Sun, 12 Feb 2012 14:09:31 GMT
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It does work! My brother is a shepherd and over the years has got very good indeed at matching off spare lambs to spare ewes. When he started out, over 30 years ago now, there were often several orphan lambs in the greenhouse or the orchard who had to be fed so many times a day, but now it's rare that he can't match up the third of triplets, or an orphan, with a mother. Mind you, one of his orphan lambs became a house pet - well, a garden pet, anyway - who rejoiced in the name of Mower (because it mowed the lawn for them, see) and I got Mower's fleece to spin that year! I don't have time to spin any more, but it was lovely having the fleece of a sheep I knew to spin, and then knit up into a sweater for my then sister-in-law!

Of course, once the lamb has fed and pooed, there's no difficulty (what Horsehairbraider was saying in her post the other day); it's just the first 24 hours.

I don't know when he expects his lambs this year, but I hope we will be able to get down to see them while they are still in the cute, jumping around stage, and before they become too sheeplike!

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by Fake Frenchie on Sun, 12 Feb 2012 14:50:19 GMT
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I'm glad that Lily's heart was soothed, and Imogen got a new mom.

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by Black Bear on Sun, 12 Feb 2012 16:51:57 GMT
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Well done, B-twin! How long did Imogen have to wear her "disguise" for the plot to take hold?

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by Mockorange on Sun, 12 Feb 2012 17:39:44 GMT
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Dies of cute Gratuitously! Those are incredibly gorgeous lambs and sheep. And I love that story. *Dabs eye with hanky*

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by AJLR on Sun, 12 Feb 2012 18:28:26 GMT
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Eeh, there's a clever farmer, getting them matched up like that. :) Love the pictures, and the story.

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin

Posted by b_twin_1 on Sun, 12 Feb 2012 21:13:12 GMT
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Quote:These are very handsome sheep. But why is this breed now uncommon in Australia? And am I correct that Lily has horns? I don't remember seeing horns on the ewes I've seen at fairs, but I don't know whether that was because of the breed or because the horns had been removed.
This is a horned breed and, yes, the ewes have horns as well. It is linked in with the coarse wool they produce. Attempts were made to breed them as a poll (ie. no horns) like their Romney ancestors but it failed. The breed as a whole is pretty rare here now because the price of carpet wool collapsed a few years ago. Nowadays, in the absence of specialty carpet wool most wool carpets contain a lot of (cheap) crappy wool... :p (This is where I long for a ranting and raving emoticon...!)

Quote:How long did Imogen have to wear her "disguise" for the plot to take hold?
I think it was only overnight. Lily took to her amazingly quickly. (Which was good... it was going to get awfully stinky otherwise!!)

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by Stardancer on Mon, 13 Feb 2012 02:00:52 GMT
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How sweet! Though I've never before heard that a pregnant ewe might try to STEAL another's lamb. What on earth is that about?

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by b_twin_1 on Mon, 13 Feb 2012 02:09:17 GMT
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Stardancer wrote on Sun, 12 February 2012 21:00How sweet! Though I've never before heard that a pregnant ewe might try to STEAL another's lamb. What on earth is that about?
When the hormones are all surging about just prior to delivery (sometimes even a day or two before they actually lamb) some ewes get a weensy bit confused and see a lamb and think it is theirs - forgetting that they actually haven't HAD theirs yet. And once they have licked it all over the real mother says, "eeewww well it's not mine."
The licking/saliva is a real bond marker. All mammalian species need a version of that I suspect

with the mother/offspring bonding. (Alpaca are better at the visual bonding compared to sheep. I can walk off with a newborn cria and the mother will 99% of the time follow me. But they can't lick as effectively as sheep can. Tongue length differences....)

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by Diane in MN on Mon, 13 Feb 2012 06:53:01 GMT
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b_twin_1 wrote on Sun, 12 February 2012 15:13The breed as a whole is pretty rare here now because the price of carpet wool collapsed a few years ago. Nowadays, in the absence of specialty carpet wool most wool carpets contain a lot of (cheap) crappy wool... :p (This is where I long for a ranting and raving emoticon...!)

This is interesting, because wool carpets (here, at least) are quite expensive, so one would think they were made with expensive fiber. I imagine that the predominance of synthetics in carpet manufacture is related to the rarity of a breed that produces carpet wool.

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by b_twin_1 on Mon, 13 Feb 2012 07:10:08 GMT
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Diane in MN wrote on Mon, 13 February 2012 01:53b_twin_1 wrote on Sun, 12 February 2012 15:13The breed as a whole is pretty rare here now because the price of carpet wool collapsed a few years ago. Nowadays, in the absence of specialty carpet wool most wool carpets contain a lot of (cheap) crappy wool... :p (This is where I long for a ranting and raving emoticon...!)

This is interesting, because wool carpets (here, at least) are quite expensive, so one would think they were made with expensive fiber. I imagine that the predominance of synthetics in carpet manufacture is related to the rarity of a breed that produces carpet wool.
Yes.. and no. :)
There are quite a few breeds that produce "carpet wool". Carpets are usually made up of a variety of different grades of wool. Naturally, we thought we produced the best, cleanest and most consistent... ;) The advantage of the specialty carpet wool breeds is that they produce a fibre that is excellent for giving strength and "wearability" (ie.prevent wearing out rather than to wear them as clothing LOL) For a while we were getting a premium for that type of wool and they were using about 10% of it in their blend.
Wool carpets are more expensive to actually produce than synthetic. Give me wool carpet any day -- I don't need the extra cancer-and-allergy-causing chemical load from treated synthetics... ;)

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by Birdreader on Mon, 13 Feb 2012 14:45:04 GMT
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What wonderful pictures. I am glas Lily adopted the baby. Thank you for the great post.

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by Angelia on Tue, 14 Feb 2012 17:38:16 GMT
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I do have one that is all over the place though. Literally. I had ordered a nice, tame climber to grow up near the front porch and give some summer shade. I thought the location would be reasonably challenging for a rose so when it reached around 7’ high in only three months I became … nervous. Then it flowered and I had no doubt that it was not what was ordered. I had, in fact, received the very rose I had thought about and decided against because it was a house eater.

Little may you have thought that this passage from your recent guest post (Part 1) would be an inducement--but I read "house eater" and knew I wanted it! I had a heck of a time finding it here in the states, but finally did. Now, in April, they will ship me my very own House Eater!

I had been planning to buy ramblers for a fence in my backyard, so your post was right on time. Thanks!

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by b_twin_1 on Tue, 14 Feb 2012 19:19:35 GMT
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LOL Good luck... :)

Subject: Re: a few of my favourite things, part 2 – guest blog by b_twin
Posted by Besunami on Wed, 15 Feb 2012 15:08:47 GMT
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Thankyou for the cuteness! I forwarded this one to my mom. :) I'm glad the shepherd trick worked! I also followed the link to your livejournal and shared the koala post with my parents. It had us all laughing!