

Icelandic Sheep – Colourful All-Rounders

Ever seen a sheep that you can train to turn left, right, or go straight on at your command? Or that you can send to the next farm with the flock happily following it? No? Then you've never come across Icelandic Leadersheep.

Ever wondered what 40 year old soft cheese tastes like? No? Nor have I, but foolhardy or desperate farmers have tasted this "delicacy" in Iceland.

Ever realised there are 3 "different" yarns in an Icelandic sheep fleece? Well, maybe 3 different fibres from the one fleece. From each of the types of fibre, or combination of fibre, you can create items as diverse as hardwearing rugs to embroidery threads, lopi wool to super-soft baby clothing.

These, and many other unlikely facts, both historic and present day, are included in a fascinating new book **"Icelandic Sheep – Colourful All-Rounders"** by **Caroline Kerstin Mende (Karólína)**. (ISBN 978-3-9817239-4-6)

The author lives with a dog, horses, and sheep in Skagafjörður in Northern Iceland, where nearly every farm has sheep. She also offers workshops about Icelandic sheep on her Farm.

"For more than 1000 years the Icelandic sheep has been the unsung hero of Iceland. Until around 1910 the sheep was the main milk producer. Practically all clothing was made from wool, and shoes were usually made of sheep leather. The meat was, and is, an important source of nutrition. Even the innards, bones, and horns were (and are) used, as well as the pelt and leather. Even though white dominates, there is a great diversity of colours. There are sheep without horns and sheep with four horns... and leadersheep of outstanding intelligence.

The economic significance of the sheep to the people of Iceland is still enormous. As every tourist to Iceland discovers, one meets small groups of sheep time and again along the way. There were indeed attempts to import other breeds, but all sheep in Iceland today are ultimately descendants of animals which arrived with the first settlers in the 9th and 10th centuries.

This small book offers a compact and nevertheless well-founded introduction to the specifics of Icelandic sheep in the past and present. A multitude of historic and current photographs, maps, and diagrams make it a treasure trove for fans of Iceland as well as for sheep experts. A glance beyond the island ("Icelandic Sheep Overseas") completes the work."

I can recommend this book! Ok, I'm biased because I am owned by Icelandic sheep already, and because my husband and I were involved in this English version of Caroline's book (previously published in German in early 2015). But even though I've bred Icelandic sheep for 29 years, I still learned some new facts about them. This English version of the book contains extra pages on processing of the fleece.

If you want to be amongst the first to own this book, it can be ordered direct from Caroline by emailing her at: info@verlag-alpha-umi.de Price: 12 Euros, 1800 ISK, 14 USD (shipping excluded). Quantity discount available. It will also be available from Amazon UK shortly, and is already available from Amazon Germany. <http://www.amazon.de/Icelandic-Sheep-Colourful-All-Rounders-sheep-lovers/dp/3981723945>