
Spotlight on Youth

Dorper Report ~ Volume 13 Issue 4

Colton Thoreson

Zumbrota, Minnesota



This is the second year for Colton Thoreson of Zumbrota, MN to exhibit his White Dorper sheep in the FFA Show at the Minnesota State Fair. Being of smaller numbers and like most county fairs, Dorpers / White Dopers are co-mingled in with the ‘all other meat breeds’ class at the MN State Fair. This year, Colton’s White Dorpers held their own.

Colton showed 12 head. This year was different, he had overall Champion Ram, 1st and 2nd place Fall Ram Lambs, 1st and 2nd place Fall Ewe Lambs and 1st place Spring Ewe Lamb in the “other meat breeds class” showing against

Texels, Shropshires and Montadales.

Colton is a junior member of the ADSBS and lives on a farm in southeast Minnesota with his parents, Jim and Taryn and big brother, Blake. He is a sophomore at the Zumbrota/Mazeppa High School and the second Vice President of the Zumbrota/Mazeppa FFA chapter .

Three years ago, Colton purchased two White Dorper ewe lambs and a ram lamb from Doug Van Well. Currently, he has 10 White Dorper ewes in his flock and plans on expanding. He hopes to show at the National Show and Sale in June, 2010. His goal is also to earn the

State and Regional FFA Sheep Proficiency Award and sell White Dorpers to help pay for college.

Colton’s family owns Thoreson Sheep Farm of Zumbrota, Minnesota. Last fall, Jim and Doug Van Well went into partnership moving Doug’s top White Dorper ewes to Minnesota. This gave Colton and his dad access to some great White Dorper genetics. Colton’s brother, Blake, has a small flock of Polypays. The Thoreson’s have used the two breeds to create a commercial ewe flock. Colton looks forward to future opportunities in the White Dorper breed.