

## 2011 Lambs

### Rainbow Apple Farm

(with photos)



In the photo above I'm holding two of our first four lambs of the year. They are two of Blue Mountain Gazelle's triplets. We've never had triplets before, so we're watching the situation closely. So far, Gazelle is doing well with all three lambs, but we're ready to step in if things start going down hill. Gazelle is a big girl and if any ewe can handle three lambs, she would be the one. We're supplementing with lots of alfalfa as well as the usual good quality timothy.

It may be that Gazelle really didn't throw triplets this time. She and Asrae gave birth at the same time in the loafing shed, and by the time we got out there and found them the four lambs born to Gazelle and Asare combined may have gotten shuffled. They may each have had twins and Asrae may have had a lamb "stolen" from her. If it becomes an issue we'll have the lambs genetically tested to determine who is whose.

The black lamb on the left is a ewe lamb. We know Gazelle carries black and we bred all our ewes this year to Blue Mountain Hercules, who is a self-black ram. We have high hopes for the ram lamb on the right. We're looking for a new flock sire, and this boy could have a future with us.



Gazelle's third lamb is a brown mouflon ewe. Asrae's lamb is a brown mouflon ram.

We've since had one other lamb born to Blue Mountain Piper. I don't yet have a picture of that lamb, but she's a standard brown mouflon ewe. Her distinguishing feature is that she's the biggest newborn lamb we've ever produced here at Rainbow Apple. Piper is one of our favorite breeding ewes, who usually gives us twins. We can see why she had a singleton this year. Gazelle's ram may have a companion for the future herd. It's likely we'll keep both lambs for breeding stock.