

# MORMON PIONEER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA (MPNHA)

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in partnership with

## Discovery Road releases “Sheep Count,” the story of sheep farming in central Utah

**What:** MPNHA releases new Discovery Road episode: “Sheep Count”

**Where:** Central Utah community TV stations and Utah Educational Network-TV

**When:** In the coming weeks

“Sheep Count,” the newest episode of “Discovery Road,” the MPNHA series that grew out of a desire to tell the stories of the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area and its people, will begin airing in the next two weeks on central Utah community television stations.

“Sheep Count” provides an educational and entertaining visit to the sheep farms in central Utah and explores the industry’s history from the glory days of the early 20th century to today.

“One of the themes articulated in the MPNHA management plan centers on the interaction of people with the land,” said MPNHA Executive Director Monte Bona. “The story of sheep demonstrates how the pioneers adapted economic, social and cultural goals to the land they were called upon to colonize.”

In 1930, sheep production in Utah reached a peak of nearly three million sheep and lambs. At that time Sanpete County boasted the largest sheep herds in Utah. But by 1994 that state number had dropped to 445,000 sheep and lambs.

“Sheep Count” introduces viewers to big-sheep operations and offers unprecedented insight on how the wool is removed from the herds.

Co-host Maryda Nicole Gallo shows viewers how stray or orphaned lambs are cared for and takes a look at the working dogs that keep sheep in line.



*Amy Jorgensen with the Neil and Diane Jorgensen family farm in Mt. Pleasant and television co-host Maryda Nicole Gallo show off a new litter of puppies during recent taping of the Sheep Count episode of Discovery Road. The black and white pups will grow into sheep dogs and become an important part of the Jorgensen Farms operation.*

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Along the way, the program tells the story of LaVor Taylor who sheared more than a half-million sheep in his lifetime and made it into the Guinness Book of World Records for that accomplishment.

Co-host James Nelson also visits with Nancy Long who lives in the Rush Valley in Tooele County. Long has dedicated years to finding, preserving and promoting the sheep wagon in western American history and hopes to make them popular and accessible to the general public.

For a different perspective, in “Sheep Count” sheep herders from several foreign countries share their feelings about the work they do in and around the ranch.

Conceived in 2012, “Discovery Road” is an ongoing series of half-hour shows featuring a ‘55 Pontiac (owned by Manti residents Chad and Tammy Moore, and affectionately named “Love Me Tender”) which travels along U.S. Highway 89, All-American Road State Route 12, and Scenic Byway State Route 24. As the car drives along these roads, viewers will discover the things that make the MPNHA worth driving to themselves.

For more information, contact MPNHA Director Monte Bona at 801-699-5065.

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The Mormon Pioneer Heritage Area is a federally designated area of central and southern Utah running along the beautiful and historic U.S. Highway 89 — including the All-American Road Utah State Route 12, and Capitol Reef Scenic Byway Utah State Route 24, which both intersect with U.S. 89 and together form the MPNHA’s Boulder Loop. The area includes the counties of Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Wayne, Garfield and Kane.



*These orphaned lambs need to be fed three times a day. On occasion lucky guests, such as television co-host Gallo, are allowed to assist in the daily routine. Amy Jorgensen (left), shows Gallo how to do it. Our Discovery Road Show taped the late afternoon feeding for the documentary. The lambs stole the show! Sheep Count will be airing in August on all community TV stations in central Utah and on UEN later.*