



Karin Flatøy Svarstad, Norway

Founder of North Atlantic Native Sheep and Wool Conference. Karin works as a textile artist, cultural mediator and for district development.

Karin has been working with wool as a textile artist for more than 35 years, and more than 30 years with focus on wool from Norwegian native sheep (villsau). She has been actively involved in district development in Norway and around the North Atlantic Sea for several years. She teaches farmers and others who want to learn more how to use their wool.

Karin had seen a lot of wool from the Native Sheep, as well as other breeds, been thrown away, farmers have not been paid much for this quality of wool. The wool for them was a problem and they did not get paid for it.

Karin wanted to do something with this and when she was invited to the island North Ronaldsay in Orkney to come and teach, she saw the opportunity to get something done. This was the very first start of the North Atlantic Native Sheep and Wool Conference. The first conference and building up network around the North Atlantic Sea started on the island in 2011 organized by Helga Tullock Scott and people on the island. The conference has traveled around the North Atlantic Sea since.

Karin is talking about the «Heritage after the VIKINGS» The Vikings brought their sheep around the North Atlantic Sea. Each place has developed their own sheep based on the sheep and the cultural heritage we have together around the North Atlantic area in: Norway, Shetland, Orkney, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Outer Hebrides and Isle of Man. It is about the Native Short tail Sheep, their Wool, the coastal landscape and small-scale business regarding sheep and wool around the North Atlantic.

Title: North Atlantic Native Sheep and Wool Conference