

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

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## *Clover Connection*

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It's almost Christmas and I'm a sheep gal at heart. When I came across this this piece I knew it was a perfect one to share. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

### HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS (*Baxter Black, DVM*)

So how do you know it's Christmas?

'Cause the sheep can always tell.

They follow a little tradition and have for quite a spell.

On Christmas Eve around midnight, the sheep, wherever they are  
All rise in quiet unison and fixate on a star.

And from their stirring comes a sound, a chuckling tra, la, la  
That weaves and builds itself into a soft melodious baaa  
Which carries like a dove's lament when nights are very still  
As if they're calling for someone beyond a yonder hill.

The legend herders passed on down attributes this tradition

To one late night in Bethlehem. A heavenly petition

Wherein a host of angels came and lured them with a song.

The herders left in haste, they say, and stayed gone all night long.

Well, sheep don't do too well alone. They've never comprehended  
That on that night they waited up, the world was upended.

So, now when daylight shortens up and nights get long and cold

I make my check at midnight like we've done since days of old.

And if I find the flock intent and standing all around

I listen for the heavenly host above their throaty sound

And scan the dim horizon in an effort discern

The sign the sheep are seeking, that their shepherds will return.

And I am but a watchman in this drama that replays

Around the earth this time if year, and so I stand and gaze

And though I see no special star or hear no sweet noel.

I know it must be Christmas, 'cause the sheep can always tell.

*Kate Pittack is the Henderson County Extension Agent – 4-H & Youth Development for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Contact her at: [kate.pittack@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:kate.pittack@ag.tamu.edu) & visit our webpage at <http://henderson.agrilife.org>*