

Viewpoint: Hunting cloned sheep? What weird things might happen as our bio-engineering skills improve?

Sheep have been [domesticated](#) for roughly 12,000 years. Sheep have also been [cloned](#) since 1996; Dolly was the first mammal to suffer that indignity. But this news was featured in the March 14 issue of *Business Insider*.

Montana rancher paid \$4,200 to clone a dead sheep and launched a farm of super hybrids worth up to \$550,000

Some people — not just Montanans but Texans too and probably others — pay to indulge in “captive hunting,” and large sheep make excellent targets. Neither the cloning nor the sale nor the hunt would be illegal per se, except that the “franken-sheep” as the [Daily Mail](#) inevitably dubbed them, are native to Kyrgyzstan and covered by the US Endangered Species Act.

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Humans have [cross-bred](#) several species — Tigons, Ligers, Zebroids, Beefalo, Geep and more — but the most ambitious such undertaking is pursued by the [media-savvy](#) Colossal Biosciences, which is trying to “de-extinct” the dodo and the woolly mammoth.

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Meanwhile, some rich people elect to experiment on themselves, pursuing [immortality](#) rather than resurrection. [Bryan Johnson](#), a techie entrepreneur who cashed out in his late thirties with an estimated \$400 million, is the most active proselytizer. He is now 46 and spends [\\$2 million a year](#) on his own healthcare. [Time](#) profiled him at length last September and described his obsession with reducing his “biological age.”

[This is an excerpt. Read the full article here](#)