

St. Croix
Hair Sheep
Breeders,
Inc.



Volume 21
Issue 1

www.stcroixsheep.org

News & Views

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE "AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT ALL"



Hello St. Croix sheep fans in 2021

We ended 2020 with a bang using innovations: a new way to vote for directors, a virtual meeting and a great speaker. That's the recent past but now we have almost 12 months of 2021 ahead of us. Together, what will you and I accomplish in 2021?

Let me back up and thank all members who voted. It was as big of a response as we can remember. Thank you for taking the time to express your wishes for directors. The change to an email prompted, and electronic voting system, was a unanimous choice

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PHOTOS PLEASE

All of us enjoy seeing photos of the great St. Croix sheep we raise. **Would you please help us by sending us some of YOUR pictures?** Don't be shy! We **WANT** to see them. **Meet Oreo, instagram star for SCHSB members Justin and Allison Bremer.**



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NEWS & VIEWS

News & Views is the membership newsletter of the SCHSB, published three times per year.

If you are not a member and are interested in becoming one, please contact us using the information on the back cover.

HAPPY READING!

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE...

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by the board. There is a great spirit of unity within the current directors. That means a lot when we all pitch in to serve. It is truly a service from the heart for all of us in our dedication to the breed and the association. All directors are available and open to help you. Please contact any of us and let us help if we can do that.

What did we learn from guest speaker, Phil Sponenberg?

The study and promotion of the St. Croix breed never ends. There are always new things to learn, new ears to hear about our favorite breed and old things to remember. A Facebook discussion of a few weeks ago discussed the past type, or specifically, the phenotype of the original imports. Later, a couple of pictures were posted of St. Croix rams from around 2001 from the USDA-ARS archive. We are getting some older documents and we'll get that information available to all of you. I hope that there are good pictures in them for us all to sharpen our mind's eye of the desired type we need to target.

Dr. Phil Sponenberg was our featured speaker at the annual member's meeting. We will have audio, at least, of his presentation. It should be posted on the SCHSB website in a few days for all of us to hear the first time or to enjoy again. A Word document copy of his presentation was sent to each member's email before the meeting. The paper is a great reference as it discusses diversity within a breed. I did not know what the long term effects of selecting for either white and polled or colored and a choice of polled/ scurred/ horned sheep meant for the total effects of a flock. Take a look at the paper or let us know if you cannot find your copy. We

double and triple checked email addresses to assure that all of you were reached.

The question and answer session after Dr. Sponenberg's talk gave even more information. What does scrapie resistance testing really mean? What is the true identity of the St. Croix sheep? Is there a danger to focusing on seeking color only? Why do other breeders have and raise St. Croix sheep and much more? He was quite a great speaker and educator.



To highlight how this all worked out internally and behind the scenes is very important. Jason Webster helped set up the technical links we enjoyed using for both the program and voting. The technician, Jody Hammond, was a great help and is a true friend of SCHSB from his kind and efficient efforts. Matt Morgan kept the website up to date, as he always does, with biographies of candidates, meeting info and such. Matt Mintmier, along with the duties of treasurer, and several other directors keep things going and clear on the SCHSB, Inc. Facebook page. Matt Brewer is more off the grid but pitches in when he can. Beth Hall, besides her normal duties of secretary, cleaned up issues on emails and contacted members when the members' computers did not seem-

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PHOTOS PLEASE...

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AESTHETICS, SECURITY, ECONOMICS OR FUNCTION?



These are the questions we all deal with on fencing. I visited a man one time who wanted to put a corner post in a solid granite rock outcrop. I knew some options but I did not have his final answer. There was more there than a phrase could answer or a checklist could fix. It's actually the same on every fence and farm. We'll cover a few thoughts and I hope it will generate some progressive thoughts for you.

Aesthetics: Ah, to ride along the Blue Ridge Parkway and see the split rail fences. Beautiful, no doubt, but expensive and a maintenance issue. But they set the tone. Portable nets are the other side of the coin – no permanent input, flexible, and so inexpensive. But a high labor, low security and a patience killing option for me. I could not deal with that. You might see it differently.

Security: From what? Thieves? Coyotes? Bears? You have to know the enemy. BB guns are not used in major world wars for a reason. Army tanks are not used for squirrel hunting. There is a secondary cost/loss element here that is often overlooked: what are you losing by going cheaper on fences? It can be losses from predation. It can be less sales of registered sheep because you cannot control your ram(s) during breeding season or prior to breeding season. We do not have the heavy snow events here in our part of South Caroli-

na. We have freezing rain and sleet as a general rule. Want to see a polinet or strands of poliwire holding livestock in on those days? Stay in bed! And are you home and available 365 days a year? And breeding season – do not expect a 5 or 6 strand HT electric fence to sway a love sick ram from his ventures. If you are in an area with wild hogs and do not already know – plan to keep them out or suffer big time issues such as disease and major destruction of pastures and crops.

"You have to know the enemy."

Economics: This is key but we seldom ask all of the questions. Will a better fence last longer? Will a better fence mean less farm labor and costs each year? Will a better fence mean better grazing utilization? Can I graze areas that used to be unsafe for livestock? Like it or not – can I get USDA-NRCS to pay on the construction? It's not all about saving today. We're in this for the long haul.

Function: This is biggie. The answer is definitely "YES". We need proper and top end function no matter if we are old or young, dry or wet, hot or cold. I cannot prescribe your type of fence but I can tell you some things to consider. Buzzards and coyotes target lambs. Fences do nothing for buzzards but you can

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AESTHETICS, SECURITY, ECONOMICS OR FUNCTION...

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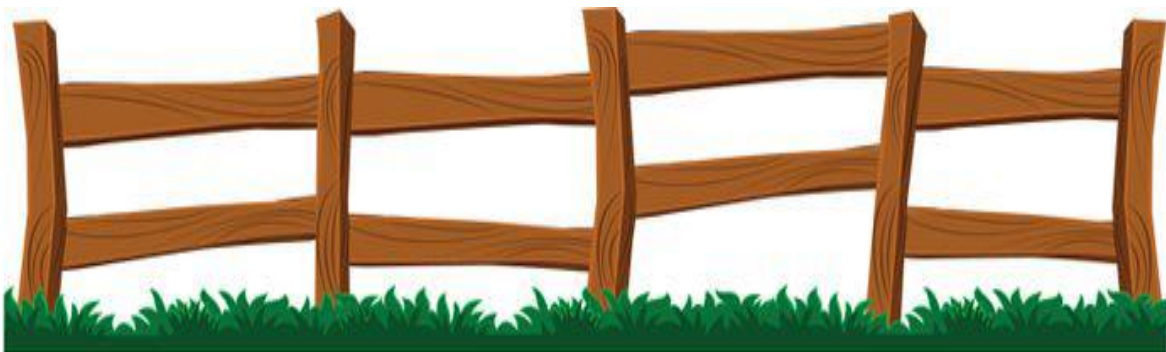
keep sheep out of areas more prone to buzzard losses: tree areas, out of sight from you and such. Weaned sheep, in their own group and often with adults, will veer off to be a group to themselves (like teenagers). This is a deadly thing to do when predators are about. The wild hogs: either a hot bottom wire 24/7/365 or a better fence is the answer. Nobody probably needs all of one type of fence. For example, I'd still like to have a more decorative farm entrance than I currently have (typical farm fence). There are fences to go up on the farm in 2021 of various types and each has a particular reason. I can build HT woven fences quicker than I can build multi wire smooth HT fences and I still have security during an ice storm, when the charger gives up the ghost and there is less predation from coyotes when the weaned sheep are protected. But the reduced price of labor and the higher level of security comes with some extra cost of materials. But there is also middle

ground on materials, wire type and such. I'll be glad to share my experiences.

One more for no cost: Sanity. This is about handling facilities. Matt Mintmier has a set up that is working well and he has shared that several times with us. Please look, learn and ask about a decent system of pens, gates, chute and such. If you do not have adequate and tight fenced working facilities you will quickly learn to hate working your sheep. Don't do that to your sheep or to yourself. It does not have to be fancy and it does not have to be new. It just needs to work well.

Fences do not stand alone. They still tie to the farm goals, your available labor supply, the losses you are willing to make and such. But don't let the "one size fits all" or "my favorite farm sales catalog said ..." keep you from the best options for you.

Eddie



PHOTOS PLEASE...



PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE...

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ingly accept SCHSB emails. Lori Morgan did quite a bit ahead of time and then topped it off with being a co-host at the annual meeting to assure that the speakers could all be heard clearly, all members were connected and had equal access to the meeting. Sarah Garvin is coming on as a director in the recent election and she is "RWA" from old government days: "ready, willing and able" to serve and help. She is already pitching in to help and direct your association.

I used the quote recently, **"A living is made from what you earn and a life is made from what you give"**. I know that your board is living to serve you, the members. Your board is honestly a well-oiled machine and it makes serving you quite a pleasure. Happy 2021.

Eddie

ARE YOU READY?

Come visit Salem, Indiana for our tentative 2021 SCHSB annual meeting. The Washington County Sheep Association has hosted the Midwest Hair Sheep Sale for over 10 years. The exact date and time will come later, however it is usually on a Saturday in the beginning of October.

PLEASE NOTE that plans are contingent on Covid. We plan to participate in the sale then have a meeting afterwards. There are a couple of hotels in Salem. Scottsburg IN is right off the interstate about 20 miles from Salem, and has more options for lodging. Stay tuned for more details!

Jason Webster

HELP!

We need your help! This is a volunteer organization and we need to receive your ideas for articles to include in this publication. If you have an idea or want to write something, please let us know. We'd also be delighted to get pictures of your flock for inclusion. Just send an email to secretary@stcroixsheep.org.

SCHSB MISSION STATEMENT

Establish a central organization (within the United States) to register, promote, and develop the growth of the St. Croix breed of sheep.

Define the distinguishing characteristics of the breed and establish specific minimum standards for registering individual animals

Insure that individual animals meet specified criteria in order to be registered as members of the St. Croix breed

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ADVERTISING

All N&V publications are emailed to every member on the dates below. You have the option to purchase a mailed copy of N&V (3 editions per a year) for \$15 if you prefer.

Publications will be sent on 2/1, 6/1 and 10/1. Cut off dates for articles and ads are: 1/15, 5/15 and 9/15.

The full color ad sizes available for the publication are as follows:

Name,	Size(s),	Single	Year (x3)
Business Card	3.5" x 2"	\$15	\$40
Quarter Page	3.25" x 4.5"	\$30	\$75
Half Page	7" x 4.5" or 3.25" x 9.5"	\$55	\$140
Full Page	7" x 9.5"	\$90	\$240

Please note these prices assume you have acceptable artwork available for publication. If you do not have artwork available one can be created for you for free (business card text format only) or a fee (see below). Artwork should be one of the following formats: jpg, tif, tiff, png, pdf, ai, cdr, doc, docx, pub, eps. Art should either be in vector graphics format or stored with at least 300DPI. The publication is in color and images will be converted to RGB for web publication and CYMK for paper production. There should be no passwords on any files submitted. We do not accept any responsibility for any errors in your artwork. **Scanned ads are not acceptable!**

You have a couple of ways to request ads. You may use the online form available on our website. This is the easiest way as it also allows

you to pay online using check, debit or credit card via Paypal (you do not need to have a Paypal account). The form is located at: <http://stcroixsheep.org/ad-request>. Alternatively you may send an email to ads@stcroixsheep.org with your request and artwork. If your artwork is too big, we have a Dropbox that you can use to upload your file. When you request an ad by email you will need to send a check and will receive a reminder to do so (with the correct address) via email.

Creation of Artwork for Ads

We can prepare your artwork for you for a fee. Artwork for a business card sized ad will be created for **free** if you only want text. There will be no images and we reserve the right to edit your text to fit. You have room for a short phrase or sentence to describe your business along with your farm name, your name and address a phone number and your email. If your text is too long we will edit it as necessary without contacting you.

If you want a business card ad with images or a larger sized ad created, then there will be a one off charge. Just let us know you want artwork created (using the ads@stcroixsheep.org email or [online form](#)) and the editor will contact you to discuss your requirements. The artwork created can be used as many times as necessary without another charge (even in other publications). The additional one off fees are as listed (Prices may vary depending on your requirements with the additional fee being charged separately):

Our editor also provides website creation and hosting for farms and businesses at a reasonable fee. If you have any questions about these services please contact them directly at richard@chventures.com.