



NEWS & VIEWS

The official newsletter of St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders, Inc.

President's Message:

Join us at the Annual Meeting!

Jason Webster

This year's [Annual Meeting](#) has been scheduled to coincide with the Annual Midwest Hair Sheep Sale so that producers can attend both events in a single weekend. Last year, there were over 100 people in attendance at the sale. If you are interested in consigning sheep, be sure to obtain your [consigner's packet](#) and submit it by September 3rd.

The Annual Meeting kicks off with a catered banquet following the sale on Saturday. Once our bellies are full, we will hold the official annual meeting to report on the board's activities, financials, and plans. We will also discuss nomination and election procedures for all open seats.

We lined up a doozy of a speaker for Sunday morning's learning session. Dr. Cynthia Wolf taught veterinary students for 33 years at the University of Minnesota. She is the small ruminant representative on the American Veterinary Medicine Association's Animal Welfare Committee, US Animal Health Association, chairs the Student Educational Opportunities committee for the American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners, and is co-chair of the American Sheep Industry Association Animal Health Committee.

Sunday evening, I invite you all to join my family at my home for a relaxing evening by a bonfire with hotdogs and s'mores.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Annual Meeting - 2

Managing Rams - 3

What are Shepherds
Feeding? - 5

Genomics Project
Update - 6

Health: Hoof Care - 7

Elections - 9

New Members - 10

Membership Report - 11

Upcoming Events - 11

Annual Meeting and Midwest Hair Sheep Sale

October 1 & 2, 2022

Washington County Fairgrounds, Salem, Indiana

Saturday Schedule

- 11:00am Consigned Sheep Must be Pened & Ready for Inspection
- 1:00pm Midwest Hair Sheep Sale
- 6:00pm SCHSBI Participant Registration
- 6:30pm SCHSBI Members' Banquet
- 7:30pm SCHSBI Annual Meeting

Sunday Schedule

- 8:00am Breakfast/Registration

9:00am Plenary Session



The Big 5 Iceberg Sheep Diseases

Prevention, Detection, Management, and Effects on Productivity

Dr. Cynthia Wolf, DVM

- 12:00pm LUNCH
- 1:00pm New Member Orientation/Current Member Refresher on Accurate Registration
- 1:45pm BREAK
- 2:00pm HANDS-ON BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- 4:00pm Closing
- 6:00pm Bonfire with Hot Dogs and S'Mores at Green Pastures Farm with Jason Webster and family

**REGISTER
NOW**

[Register now! SCHSBI
Banquet, Annual
Meeting, & Educational
Sessions are FREE!](#)

[To sell sheep in the
Midwest Hair Sheep
Sale, complete required
paperwork by 9/3/22.](#)

MORE INFO





Your Ram Lamb and You

Lori Marion

Many St Croix shepherds start with lambs, often a small flock of ewe lambs and a ram lamb. It's important to know that ram will require some additional management. St Croix sheep mature very early – for the ram, as early as 14 – 16 weeks. If you want to know and plan when your lambs will be born, it's important to separate the ram lamb from the ewes. Since St Croix sheep will breed year round, there is no 'safe period' when the ram can remain in the ewe flock without breeding being a possibility.

But keeping a ram alone for much of the year can result in an anxious, and possibly aggressive ram. One solution is to keep a wether with your ram – 2 sheep are enough to form a flock, or, if your situation allows, another ram. Usually a wether and a ram, or 2 rams, can safely be kept together, especially if no ewes are kept close by. Another solution for the 'lonesome ram' problem is sharing a fence line with the ewe flock – as long as the fence is ram-proof – capable of withstanding the attentions of a ram dedicated to going over, through, under or around the fence to get to the ewes.

It's very important to remember that an adorable, friendly little ram lamb will become a big, potentially aggressive, mature ram very quickly. Never allow a ram lamb to become dominant over a person, and be especially watchful of children interacting with ram lambs.

Raising a ram lamb to be respectful of humans can prevent problems from ever happening.



Your Ram Lamb and You (continued)

Don't let the ram push anyone around, butt a person even in play, search pockets for a treat or nibble clothing. If you use a food treat to move or catch your ram, feed it from a bucket, not by hand. If you really want to pet your ram/ram lamb, try scratching the neck, not the head, and through a fence rather than in the pen.

Don't try to push the ram around by its head. A stout staff can be used to move a ram lamb, pushing the shoulder or chest. Some suggest a spray bottle of water, with or without a teaspoon of vinegar in a pint of water, sprayed in the eyes to instill some caution in an overly-friendly ram. A ram, even a lamb, that was docile and well-behaved on one farm, may test his limits at a new farm, or when ewes are introduced. Be especially aware of your ram's behavior then.

There are many ways suggested by many folks on how to deal with a ram that has become a problem. But even better, raising a ram lamb to be respectful of humans can prevent those problems from ever happening.





What are Shepherds Feeding this Summer?

There is really no right or wrong management in most cases; rather, there is a **best** way for a specific set of circumstances, perspectives, and goals. Feeding is no different. Let's see how our directors prefer to manage nutrition.

Matt Morgan, Grace&Joy Farm, KY

Grass - it's what the good Lord designed them to eat.

Ryan Ridgley, Good Harborage Farms, MI

Grass!

Crystal Criswell, Melwood Farm, OH

My sheep are on pasture year round, with loose minerals and a protein tub available. The rams' paddocks are extremely weedy and wet due to excessive rain. They have had a rough time because of those conditions. The ram lambs' digestive systems are working overdrive to process that rich forage and they've had loose poo for some time now, even though their fecals have been good. For that reason, I have been supplementing them with a round bale these last two weeks to help dry them up.

Lori Marion, Shasta Ranch, OR

In our high desert environment, during August and September, only dry vegetation is in our pastures.

All the standing cereal rye forage has been eaten. Dry ewes and early pregnancy ewes are eating the brown weeds and grasses, and have a protein lick to help them stay in good body condition for breeding and for early pregnancy growth of the lambs. Lactating ewes and young lambs graze the same dry brown vegetation but also get about 1/3 to 2/3 of their calorie, protein and nutrient needs from hay. A little rain for the short fall growing season and the for the longer spring season will bring back green vegetation, and the protein lick and hay supplement won't be necessary then.

Matt Mintmier, Beulah Land Farm, NC

I feed a 16% creep between 30-90 days old and ewe get same 16% feed last 30 days of gestation and first 30 days in milk. Grass from April-until gone...then hay through winter.



St. Croix Genetic Fingerprint Project Update

Lori Marion, Shasta Ranch

The St Croix Hair Sheep Breeders Inc is moving forward with the genetic fingerprinting project. Samples have been obtained from flocks located in Indiana, Ohio, Oregon, California and Idaho. Producers in Kentucky, Michigan, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia have committed to participate and several have already obtained samples that have not yet been submitted.

The project managers are continuing to contact producers across the nation, gathering nearly 100 samples representing as much diversity of St. Croix genetics as possible. If a project manager contacts you about taking tissue samples from some of your flock, we hope you'll contribute to this valuable genetic research! If you have any questions about this project, please contact the secretary.

Stay tuned for further progress reports on this project. If you have a particular interest in assisting or participating, please contact directors [Lori](#), [Beth](#) or [Crystal](#).





Health Brief: Hoof Care

By Susan Schoenian, Sheep 101 (reprinted with permission)

Hoof care is an important aspect of sheep production and management. Hoof diseases can affect the health and welfare of sheep and have a negative effect on productivity. Hooves should be regularly checked for disease and excess growth. Animals which have excessive hoof growth, recurrent hoof problems and/or fail to respond to treatment should be culled.

Hoof trimming

Hoof growth—and thus, the need for hoof trimming—is affected by many factors, including breed and genetics, soil moisture and characteristics, management and nutrition. Sheep grazed on rocky, dry soil may not require the extent of hoof care as sheep that are maintained on soil that is free of rocks and higher in moisture content. Sheep in high rainfall areas will need to have their hooves inspected more regularly than those on dry ground. Housed sheep usually require more hoof trimming than pastured animals. Sheep on a higher plane of nutrition usually require more frequent hoof trimming.

Proper shears are essential to doing the job properly. The ordinary, manual shears are not expensive and make the task so much easier. Air compressor driven shears are an option for people with large numbers of sheep. A sharp paring knife is needed to remove pockets and do a more thorough job of hoof trimming, especially when disease organisms are present.

Foot trimming can be back-breaking work if there are a lot of sheep's feet to trim. There are various types of sheep handling equipment that can restrain the sheep for easier access and trimming. A tilt or turn table will hold the sheep upright or on its side. There are manual and automatic (electric) tilt tables available.

Health Brief: Hoof Care (continued)

An elevated platform with a head gate can also restrain a sheep for hoof trimming, as well as other management tasks. A sheep or deck “chair” is a less expensive way to restrain a sheep for hoof trimming. When specialized equipment isn’t available, the sheep is usually tipped onto its rump for hoof trimming.

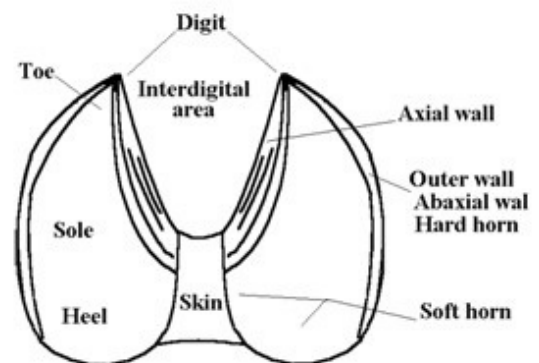
To trim the feet, securely hold the leg of the sheep. Inspect the hoof and remove any mud, manure, or small stones between the walls of the hoof. A rotten smell is usually indicative of foot rot. Clean all the junk and crud out of the hoof using a knife or the point of the shears. After cleaning the hoof, begin trimming around the perimeter of the hoof.

Avoid cutting off large chunks of hoof. Stop at the first sign of pinkness. A pink color means you are getting close to the foot blood supply. The foot should be trimmed from the heel to the toe to remove excess growth of the “horny” portion of the hoof. To learn what a properly trimmed hoof look like, study the feet of a newborn lamb. Its hooves are flat on the bottom and have a boxy look.

When trimming feet, avoid stressful times such as hot weather or late gestation. It’s a good idea to combine hoof trimming with other management tasks, such as shearing or vaccinating. It will be easier to trim hooves that are soft from heavy dew or rain.

Diseases affecting the hoof

Lameness should never be ignored. It can be a sign of several foot diseases – some of which are very serious – as well as some other problems. To learn more about possible disease of the hoof, access the full article [here](#).





Help Wanted: Board Members!

The 2022 Elections for the [SCHSBI Board of Directors](#) is scheduled for early December. As in past years, voting will be conducted via an email invitation to a secure voting site. Please make sure your email address is current in your membership information in the [GLM registry](#), so that you will receive your invitation to vote.

Please consider running whether you have the commitment to the St Croix breed and the time to volunteer and lend your expertise to the future of the breed. Currently, 2 board seats are scheduled for election this cycle, and the term of office is 4 years. A nominating committee will form in mid-September, to guide any interested members to becoming a candidate. Nominations generally close after about 15 October.

We welcome all member's interest in running for election to the board of directors, and invite you to participate in the election process. If you have questions, and if you are interested in running for election to the board of directors or in being on the nominating committee, please contact the Vice President, Lori Marion, or the Secretary, Beth Hall, for more information (contact info in this newsletter, or on the [website](#)). The next election for the board of directors is scheduled for December 2024, and elections will be scheduled every 2 years after that.





Welcome, New Members!

Shawn Zoellner - Zoellner Farms - MO
Darren & Jolene Fields - Fields Farm - KY
Davis "Pepper" Allgood - Hoo Shoo Too Farms - LA
Vashni Seitzer - Tiny Flock Farm - WI
Daniel Harshberger - Cripple Creek Farms - IN
Eric Guffey - Gageli Farms - AR
Lexis Julsrud-Wertjes - Tower Ridge Farms - IA
Jayson Cruz Santiago - Santa Cruz Homestead - MS
Emily Jacobson - By The Way Farm - OH
Dean & Jo Mount - Mount Farm - IN
Kathryn Blanchard - Blanchard Properties - MN
Andrea Gomez - Lone Pine Hidden Acres - AR
Justin Campbell - Campbell Ranch - OK
Carlton Wayne Vinson - Vinson Farm - GA
Jesse Rainey - The Rainey Farm - MO
Alyson Rainey (Junior Membership) - The Rainey Farm - MO
Emma Wallis Jones - Comeback Hill - PA
Jessica Kinzy - Red Barn Farm - WV
David & Lydia Ellis - NC





Upcoming Events

- **9/3/22** - [Consignments due](#) for Midwest Hair Sheep Sale
- **9/16-9/17/22** - [UF Small Ruminant Short Course](#)
- **9/26/22** - Showcase the Whole Animal with Value Added Products Panel - Livestock Conservancy [Marketing Monday](#)
- **10/1-10/2/22** - [Midwest Hair Sheep Sale](#) and [SCHSBI Annual Meeting](#) - Salem, IN
- **12/10/22** - News & Views article submission deadline for 1/1/23 issue (contact [Crystal](#))
- **12/31/22** - Membership Renewal

Membership Report

Year to Date

Renewed memberships: 49

New memberships: 36

New sheep registrations: 693

Sheep transfers: 372

Directors

President

Jason Webster - Indiana
jason@greenpastures.farm
812-725-5700

Vice President

Lori Marion - Oregon
lori@shastaranch.net
541-205-4310

Secretary

Beth Hall - Virginia
secretary@stcroixsheep.org
434-251-6495

Treasurer

Matt Mintmier - N. Carolina
treasurer@stcroixsheep.org
336-953-3816

Directors

Matt Morgan - Kentucky
Ryan Ridgley - Michigan
Crystal Criswell - Ohio

