

St. Croix
Hair Sheep
Breeders,
Inc.



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www.stcroixsheep.org

News & Views

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE *THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF BREEDING SHEEP*



We all make decisions that affect the future of our flocks each time we buy sheep, sell sheep, select breeders or cull sheep. I am not an Einstein to be able to discuss the four dimensional theory of relativity but I can talk sheep. There are four dimensions for us to consider.

Dimension #1 is mental – Plan your work and work your plan. What do you want your sheep to do, where do you want your flock to be in 5 years, have you written down the target for your efforts? Daniel Boone was asked one time if he had ever

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ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

There were no nominations for the director positions up for re-election. The incumbents, Matt Morgan, Yates Colby and Billy Hearnberger have agreed to stand again for another term. Please make your votes heard by emailing your ballot choices to secretary@stcroixsheep.org. Your email can be as simple as, for example:

I, John Doe, vote for Matt, Yates and Billy.

All votes must be received by 2/20.



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NEWS & VIEWS

News & Views is the membership news letter 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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been lost in the wilderness. Daniel thought and said, "I was never lost but I was a mite bewildered for a few days". We all know that he had no map in new territory. Don't let a lack of planning or mapping out your future bewilder your flock's progress because you have no set goals. "Just owning sheep" is not a goal that helps the breed. Once you get the goals set you then know if you need additional equipment, training or education to make it happen. The other three dimensions are all successful options or combinations if you start properly with #1.

Dimension #2 is to decrease something in the flock – DECREASE! What do you mean **DECREASE?! In American agriculture the goal is to increase, right?** What if you could decrease culls based on their lack of mothering ability or decrease the return buyers who ask you if you have any meatier sheep? What if you could decrease the number of single lambs from ewes? What if you could decrease the numbers of parasite eggs in FECs? **To decrease is not all bad.** How can we get to the point of making progress in this dimension?

Decrease? Keep things the same? Increase?

Dimension #3 is to keep things the same in the flock – But we just talked about decreasing! Look at your sheep and your records and see if you can find your ideal sheep. There should be one or more; hopefully "our best" have increased in number in recent years. We all should want more of our functionally best sheep. That can be a side-

ways type effort where we stay the same, so to speak. Find the sheep that does all things the best and make more of them. This is seldom extolled as the mantra, like in the dislike of Dimension #2, is to always to yell, "more, more, more"! Here is the same question: How can we get to the point of making progress in this dimension?

Dimension #4 is to increase something in the flock – Many of us have been taught that bigger is always better, more is the goal and less is defeat. But do any ask, "Is there an upper limit?" before a lot of harm has occurred in a breeding population or a flock's overall function from extreme selection? You have heard my basic goal in prior times: return the St. Croix sheep in our flock to the level of the original imported sheep. I do not want more than that. Those sheep came with great traits and usefulness. I honestly do not see those same great traits and overall usefulness in all current St. Croix sheep. I will not belabor this point of increasing traits but selective increases of a specific trait(s) in a flock can create an antagonistic response in other traits in the flock and specifically in the opposite sex of the selected gender. Example: ever see a dairy breed bull that sires the top end milkers? To get the daughters to be the best, the bull can look awful (ugly as sin) and still the cows are great dairy cows. Ever think about the old and smart sheep folks who figured out the historic use of white faced wool sheep for maternal benefit and black faced wool sheep for terminal use? The exceptional growth of a black faced ram was somewhat antagonistic to the total maternal usefulness of his black faced half-sisters. The exceptional maternal values of a white faced ewe were

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NEW EXPERIENCE

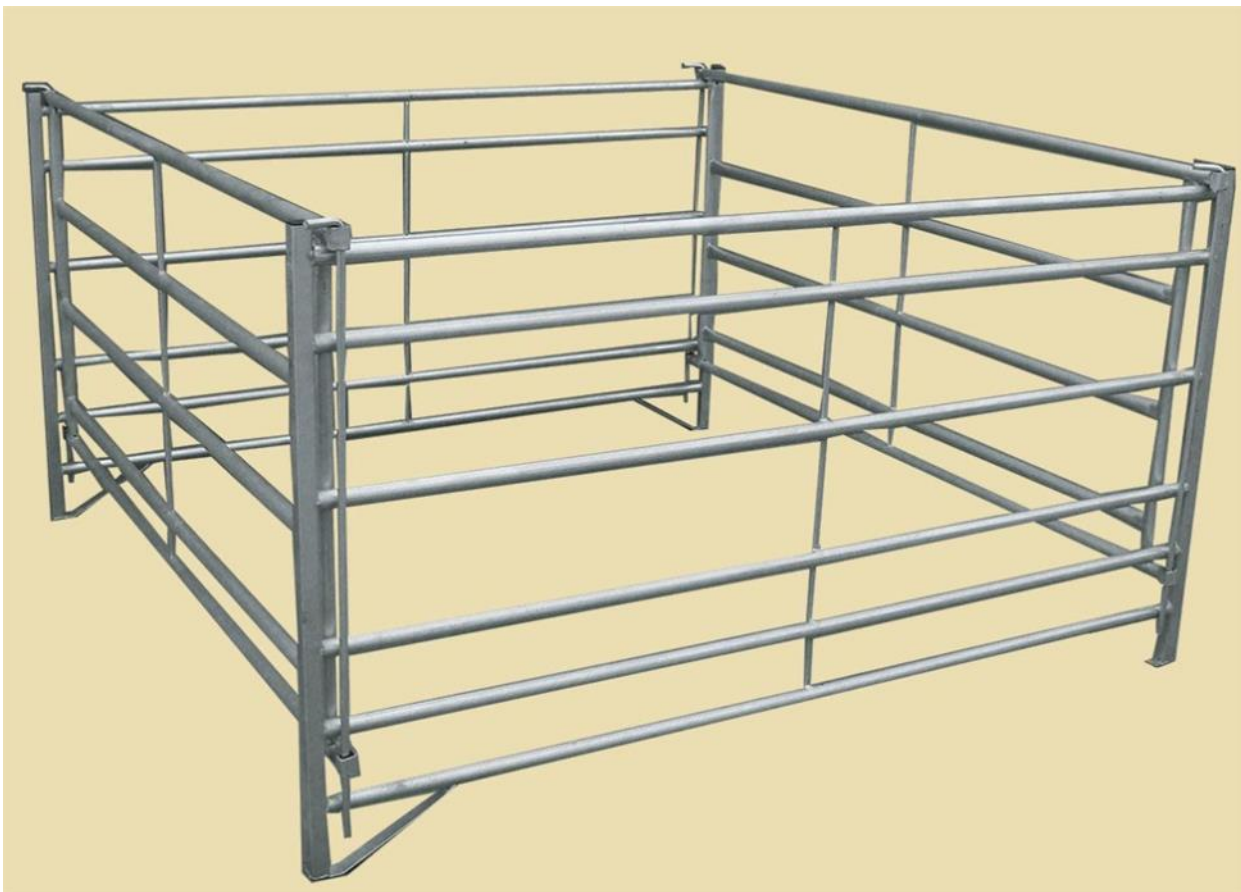
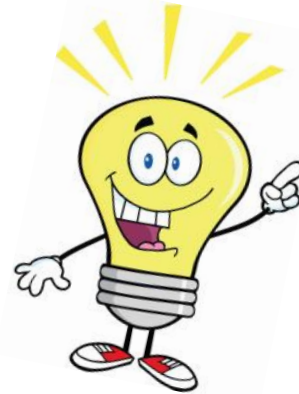
We bought several of these hay feeders from a fellow who went out of business. I did not think that they would do that much good as we had “perfected” the big bale feeding and safety of the sheep with a pallet on the ground to avoid water damage, the bale placed on the flat end on the pallet, sections of cow panels around the bale and a tarp on top to keep down water damage. What could be better?

Note: feeding hay in this manner with the bale set on the round edge was the cause of several sheep being killed by the bale tilting after being eaten into an unstable “mushroom” and crushing them.

I was wrong. These feeders allow the hay to be on the round edge, the sheep eat it much

easier and no tilting occurs. And the panels are easy to move. Hope this helps someone in a decision to make life easier.

Eddie



PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE...

(Continued from page 2)

somewhat detrimental to the terminal qualities of her half-brothers. But together, more money was to be made with less effort. You and I are dealing with one breed and none of us want it to wreck due to extreme choices. Once again, here is the same question: How can we get to the point of making progress in this dimension?

The repeated question and the quest for the successful use of the four dimensions lead us all to the same point – manageable flock records. You might have the best flock records ever had in the USA. You might keep papers in a shoebox. You might have numbers in your memory. You might have a program on your computer or a notebook in your shirt pocket. **What are your records telling you?** Are you one of the folks I admire who have “the eye” to know good sheep? And if I have records and you have records can we relate or are we like two folks trying to communicate in two different languages? Hopefully, help is coming for all of us.

“..some SCHSB flocks plan to enroll in NSIP.”

In the future, there will be an optional SCHSB program where we can tie registration data and flock data into a program where we can all catalog our own flock information to let us compare and document and allow us to have our in-flock ratio options. This is to be **totally voluntary** and a personal choice and yet it is a tool that will allow us clearer choices within our flocks. You might not need it or want it. That is fine. I have pages and notebooks and

folders here, there and everywhere and I can tell you that if I could get them all hemmed into one system I would be a happy camper. This will only be available to members of SCHSB. **It will be a flock tool and not a breed tool.** It is a tool for the brighter future for the St. Croix flocks that choose to use it. Please consider using it when it becomes available.

Starting in 2019, some SCHSB flocks plan to enroll in NSIP. This will be a step to allow genetic comparison of sheep between flocks and also build second party creditability to our sheep which we know but cannot totally prove have superior traits. This will allow commercial breeders to know more about the sheep we offer and lets us make scientific type selections if that is our desired means of planning and sorting sheep. This will be an optional breed tool that also can help within the private flock. Consider if you'd like to try this and we can set up a teleconference to get us all coordinated.

We all start in the first dimension. Where we go from there is a totally personal choice. But to keep the breed successful, it will take the other three dimensions and some better flock records and breed data to put us all on the path to success.

Eddie

NEW YEAR, SAME ACTIVIST TACTICS

It may be a new year, but the Animal Agriculture Alliance is expecting business as usual from animal rights activists. They are likely to protest at any venue where they can garner attention and anywhere animals are present - farms, ranches, processing plants, fairs, expos and even truck stops. Here are a few pieces of advice to help those working in animal agriculture prepare.

Do **not** engage. Whether you encounter a protester at an event or on a farm or if an activist approaches a truck transporting animals at a truck stop, it is always best to ignore them and immediately contact law enforcement. Keep your cool and always assume you are being recorded or livestreamed online in your interaction, regardless of what you are told or whether a camera is visible. In one incident, the activists falsely claimed they were not recording the conversation at a poultry plant as they were livestreaming on Facebook.

Make sure employees at every level know how to handle unexpected and unauthorized visitors. Activists often approach farm or plant employees first when arriving at a facility. In one instance, activists entered a dairy processing plant office and demanded the receptionist tell them where the dairy farms producing for that plant were located. In another situation, a woman brought a young child to the gate of a plant and pleaded to be let in for the child to use the restroom. Once they were inside, she began running around taking pho-

tos and trying to access secure areas.

One group has started demanding animals be released to them from farms, emboldened by a police officer who let them take one chicken in an October protest, and a farm who gave them 100 animals in November. While it might be tempting to try to get the group to leave by allowing them to take an animal, it is vitally important you do not give in to their demands. Giving the group an animal significantly weakens attempts to convey why their actions are unacceptable. Negotiating with an organization who wants to see animal liberation and the end of animal agriculture will not be productive.

Proactively build relationships with law enforcement and first responders in your community. Let your local police department know about the protests targeting animal agriculture across the country and get advice from them on preparing.

Like most things, it's best to be prepared. If you haven't done so already, use the new year as an opportunity to update or create a crisis plan. The Animal Agriculture Alliance has more in-depth resources for Alliance members in its online resource library as well as information available to anyone about animal rights activism at AnimalAgAlliance.org/Protect.

Source: Animal Agriculture Alliance

ARTICLES FROM MEMBERS

SCHSB welcomes member submitted articles. Please feel free to submit and share any interesting tidbits, learning experiences, pearls of wisdom, management philosophies that work for you, etc.

Please send your document with any appropriate high resolution pictures 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 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.