

St. Croix
Hair Sheep
Breeders,
Inc.



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www.stcroixsheep.org

News & Views

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE *THIS, THAT & ALL IN BETWEEN*



We constantly face change. We either adapt, bend, break, move on or worse. This has been a stressful summer with extra duties and activities on the farm and family. But one of the blessings has been the resilience of the sheep and cows. They have truly been low need critters. I am not talking about abuse, no care, almost starve to death or ignored. They have made their way with the minimal amount of my personal input. **I like animals which have positive traits. They make the hard times and the good times to be easy times.**

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PAPERS OR NOT?

We get questions at times about the value of registration papers. Folks apparently said that they did not need them when they bought their ewes. Then they call you in a few years and want to know if a ram is available that is not kin to their ewes.

"Do you know the bloodlines of your ewes?" "No".

I like Antiques Roadshow and have probably mentioned this before. Someone pulls out a book, a letter, a ball, a painting and it is certainly old or rare and has value but the same question often comes up;....

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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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What are some positive traits that we can see in herds and flocks? The easiest one is the will to live. They either do or don't. They either can or they cannot. There is no room for "half dead" or "almost alive". How do we get to this point? I think it is based on genetics. Like "The Little Red Hen" or "The Little Train that Could", these animals face difficulty with the desire to live through it. That is a lot like us, too. A keynote trait for St. Croix sheep is always the inherent parasite resistance. I still do not think that my statements of parasite resistance with most visitors or random conversations with sheep folks of other breeds are believable for them. That is too bad for them. But the St. Croix breed offers much more than that one trait. If not, we would still have too much to do to care for them at all times.

Like "The Little Red Hen" or "The Little Train that Could", these animals face difficulty with a desire to live through it.

Some advantages in regional purchases is the genetic programming for adaptation which some describe as fetal programming. After several generations raised on the farm, in the area, with the given feed and a given level of management, the individual animals which have genes most suited will shine. That does not mean we should eliminate long distance purchases but we should research the background of potential breeding stock for more than a side view in a picture. An easy example of this is the graph or chart we have all seen

in magazines and web sites with 3 headings:

1. Forages that cattle eat
2. Forages that sheep eat
3. Forages that goats eat

Please do not tell our sheep here that they are eating the wrong stuff. They browse woody plants and weeds like goats, they eat what cows would prefer and eat what sheep would eat, too. To me, that makes them more useful. An example is based on a too common plant that is a pest here: Carolina Horsenettle. It is a very durable foe with roots which can go 4' deep (deeper than annual herbicides can conquer) which allows regrowth beyond plowing, spraying, pulling or dirty words. It has spines, is listed as a poisonous plant for livestock and is a noxious weed in some states. Entire programs of herbicide presentations have been given on how to control this weed. Walk out in the sheep pastures and the weed is there but not thriving. It actually looks like bonsai: sickly and sad. The sheep keep it clipped, eat the seedpods, when they are green, on pasture rotations and suddenly the weed is a forage. Somehow one sheep learned that it could eat some of the plant and not die, others took note and followed with a taste and weed control is established.

Somehow I wandered away from the topic again (and again and again!). Changes. They make us or break us. But change never ends. We had a change that we did not enjoy this year with the resignation of Billy Hearnberger, his sale of their farm and flock driven by a tornado that came through and wrecked his farm. He will be missed as both a Director and as Treasurer. The Board of Directors vot-

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PAPERS OR NOT...

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“Do you have any documentation to prove that the ____ (item) belonged to ____ (famous person) and if you do it will increase the value to ____ (a whole lot more money)?”

The officer turns on the blue light, does a U turn and you pull over with him behind your truck. You roll down your window and the officer says, “May I see your license and vehicle registration number?”

*The same type of things occur in banks, stores, hospitals and the list goes on. Documentation is a part of society and allows a level of order and knowledge. Sheep with registration papers are not as critical as a birth certificate, a Social Security number, a marriage license or many other things but if you have sheep that you plan to breed in order to sell lambs to others **please consider that there is a full market available for registered sheep and a partial market available for sheep without registration papers.***

You have a flock of sheep and begin to notice that part of them have less parasite resistance than the others. You want to identify the common ancestor that had the problem genetics. How do you trace it back through the pedigrees? **You use the registration papers and the SCHSB registry information.**

Sheep without a history in the form of registration papers are not going to help perpetuate our breed. I am still concerned for folks who still have not tried to get all of their sheep transferred from another association to the SCHSB registry. SCHSB is the original registry with complete data. At some point in the future, sheep from other sources will be impossible to trace back to all verified SCHSB ancestors shown and will no longer be accepted. It's like the little plaque on the bathroom wall that some have hung there for a joke says, **“The job's not done until the paperwork is finished”**. Don't sell yourself and your sheep short by avoiding the registration process. The benefits outweigh the costs. The only “do not”: Do not register and do not sell sorry sheep. You do no one a favor. Document, retain and sell the best.



Eddie

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE...

(Continued from page 2)

ed to fill Billy's position with the election of member Matt Mintmier of NC. He has been a trooper to face the changes and challenges needed to transfer fiscal responsibilities from person and place. The BOD now faces a new challenge in this change: three Directors named Matt! Sheep! Magazine will no longer be published. The current Sheep! SCHSB advertisement will change into the Countryside magazine which is absorbing the subscribers of Sheep! I hate to see us lose a publication targeting our species but I hope that Countryside will pick up the slack and we can still read and learn.

The **SCHSB Facebook page** has had tremendous changes in 2019 with the addition of a lot of new members. It is a lively place of discussion and sheep buddies. Take a look if you have not been there lately.

SCHSB will be offering a spreadsheet to members later this year to make flock records a bit easier. Matt Mintmier is putting the finishing touches on it and we'll keep you informed.

A new SCHSB ad is coming in the next **Hobby Farms** magazine. Look for it if you are a subscriber or are in a store, like Tractor Supply, that has it on the sales rack. It also announces that SCHSB is going to start a second registry for percentage St. Croix sheep. There is a strong demand for both sheep with St. Croix influence and commercial producers are looking to buy and sell St. Croix influenced sheep with documented breeding information. Look for upcoming details on that new leg of the association. It has been often requested and the Board of Directors have spent a lot of time and effort to be sure that it will be good for the current registry of pure St. Croix sheep. **SCGHSB is the original registry database and will remain as it is currently operating to assist members and to insure the breed purity and use.**

The last change I'll mention will be a change for the SCHSB annual meeting. We will rotate back to an online meeting format later this year. The 2018 meeting in Springfield, MO was great and I enjoyed meeting new folks and visiting with those I already had met. The actual meeting was quite energetic and full. We'll get more information out for the online meeting a bit later but if you have suggestions for topics or someone to present new information to the members, please let a Director know of your thoughts and ideas. They really are appreciated.

Eddie

DIRECTOR?

Ever thought about being one or know of an active member you would like to recommend to the Board of Directors? Please get their permission first and then either just email or call a current Director and let them know that you or your friend might be willing to put a name in for the election which will take place before the end of 2019. Director positions have staggered years of filling and/or reelection so that there is always connectivity with the ongoing activities. Either way, give it a thought!



THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™

HERITAGE LIVESTOCK MICROGRANT PROGRAM

The Livestock Conservancy will offer competitive small grants to heritage breed enterprises. Funds may be used for improvements for farm animals and infrastructure, promotion and marketing, improved production efficiency, or farmer education, processing, milk, meat and egg production and sales, agri-tourism, wool milling, promotions and marketing.

Check out this link for more information!

<https://livestockconservancy.org/index.php/resources/internal/micro-grant-program>



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 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.