

My name is Matt Morgan, and I along with my wife and 2 daughters, own and operate Grace & Joy Farms, in Bloomfield, KY. I am a current director with SCHSB and former officer, and I have had the pleasure to serve our membership in this current role now for several years. In my time, I have had the occasion to participate in and help plan several annual meetings, to work as liaison to our web host for our online presence, needs and member communications, and have been a contributor to our newsletter. More so than that, I've had the privilege to work alongside and in supportive roles to our other directors and officers. I would be honored to continue to serve in this capacity.

A little about what we do and our management philosophy: We run a 400 acre grass fed operation and take a no nonsense approach to the expectations of our animals. We are not a confined, overstocked 24/7 feedlot, or a backyard hobbyist. While we like our sheep, they are not pets. Our livestock must work for us, and not the other way around. It is an all-natural approach. Our St. Croix are not wormed or vaccinated. They are not fed out, instead they are all grass, all the time (grass in the form of hay about 2 months in the winter) using only mineral and salt as added supplements. We lamb in the pasture, unassisted. The sheep are the fields 24/7.

Our sheep are bred for type and function, large deep-bodied and maternal ewes, and good growth and masculinity in the rams. In last decade working with this great breed, we feel we have crafted an incredibly hardy and functional flock. I am a firm and vocal advocate for letting the sheep simply be sheep, and will never mask a deficiency by propping up an animal. We have lambed from as many as 75 mamas, and will lamb from about 40 this coming spring. Separately, we also run a Katahdin and St. Croix crossed Katahdin flock for an on farm total of about 150 sheep. With the St. Croix, we are in a retention and rebuilding mode at the moment, growing back the numbers following a thinning last fall of the 8,9 and 10 year old ewes. We have met quite a few of you, in person, or by phone, for sheep sales, or at annual meetings and always enjoy making new acquaintances.

I look forward to the future of SCHSB. We are collectively a great group of breeders, and we all get to enjoy working with a remarkable breed of sheep. It would be an honor to continue to serve you, the members, as one of your directors.