

Sarah Garvin

I am Sarah Garvin, Co-Owner of Shephards Bluff Dairy Gaots, located in Southern, Indiana. We have been raising registered St. Croix hair sheep for about 10 years. We started with a small 3 ewe 1 ram flock and have built to having around 80 head a few years ago when we scaled back just a bit. We raise sheep on the 50 acre farm my parents bought in the late 70's. They still live on the farm along with my husband and 4 children, who are also very involved in daily care of the livestock on the farm. We also raise American Dairy Goat Association registered Nubian and Nigerian dwarf dairy goats. We also have chickens, rabbits and 4 horses. We are very involved in 4-H as a family. My kids show all of their livestock at our county fair, including our St. Croix hair sheep. I was fortunate enough to be a 10 year 4-H member and continue to volunteer as a leader and Extension Board member.

I am also a founding member of the Washington County Goat Association, which was founded 2 years ago to fill the need for education and resources for goat owners in the Southern Indiana and surrounding areas. I am the current standing President.

My family has been a member of the Washington County Sheep Association since we have had our sheep, participating in the many learning opportunities they offer each year. Including selling some of our St Croix at the Mid-West Hair Sheep Sale that they sponsor each fall.

The current focus for our flock is to maintain a smaller flock to focus on the best attributes of the St. Croix. Maintaining a smaller flock will allow us to acquire flock data to prove St. Croix are an asset to any flock. The data we are looking for are birth weights, weaning weights, bio-security testing, as fecal tests. And because I'm a dairy person, I want dual purpose sheep that are milkable and can raise their own lambs. We all talk about how wonderful the St Croix are in these areas, so my goal is to prove that in our flock. We have a small lab set up at our home now that will allow us to perform our own fecal tests to prove parasite resistance and not just resilience to them. Many others have done this in their flocks and we feel this is an important step for our flock.

We have also brought in a beautifully bred, registered Dorper ram as a terminal sire. We are working on a crossbred line, F1 first generation crosses for the quicker grow out and faster finishing time of market lambs. We maintain a registered St. Croix sire also for replacement ewes and to offer a few starter flocks each year.

If elected to the Board of Directors for the St. Croix Association, I look forward to working with others in ways to help promote this awesome breed to the sheep world, provide education opportunities to those who are interested in raising sheep. And, continue work on creating the St. Croix crossbred registry.

Thank you everyone, have a blessed day. Sarah