

2012 Annual Meeting of the St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders, Inc. Minutes

Saturday, June 16, 2012

The 2012 Annual Meeting of the St. Croix Hair Sheep Breeders, Inc. convened at Hemmer Hill Farm near Louisville, KY at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 16, 2012.

The following individuals were present: Glen and Terri Wettle (KY), Rob and Joy Bass (TX), Bill and Marilyn Wire (CA), Douglas Lemster (IN), Cletus and Linda Weber (IN), Charles Bedinger (IL), Pearce and Alice McKinney (IN), Kaleb and Lindsey Kahl (IL), Richard and Liz Pomeroy (MO), Elvin Barksdale (IN), Billy and Tam Hearnberger (TX), David and Laurie Finley (KY), Craig and Kim Milburn (TN), Matt and Kelli Morgan (KY), Gary and Joyce Keibler (KY), Wayne and Elizabeth Metheny (TN), Eddie and Pam Martin (SC), Richard and Kathy Bennett (OR).

CALL TO ORDER: President Eddie Martin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions: E. Martin welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves and state where they were from. Nine states were represented by those in attendance.

Report of Officers:

Secretary's Report: See the Association web page to access this report.

Treasurer's Report: See the Association web page to access this report.

Old Business:

None

Agenda Items:

Association Status: President Eddie Martin explained the liability issues connected with the former association, which prompted the dissolution of that entity. The new organization is totally distinct and separate from one that existed before, and that is reflected in the name change. The current organization is a 501-C5, meaning that members cannot deduct dues and registration fees as a charitable expense but can deduct them as a business expense.

Director Nomination Process: There was general discussion about the election process. Various members expressed a desire to retain the concept of regional divisions to ensure equal representation of all parts of the country. The question arose about whether officers were to be elected separately from directors. As the By-Laws read now, officers are chosen by and from the elected directors. This is a somewhat confusing concept that could be changed in the future by amending the By-Laws. The following nominations for director positions were presented at the meeting: Lynne Vanderlinden (OR), Malia Miller (CO), Bob Bokma (MD), Yates Colby (WA), Billy Hearnberger (TX), Rob Bass (TX), Richard Pomeroy (MO), Richard Bennett (OR), Kathy Bennett (OR), Eddie Martin (SC), Joyce Keibler (KY), and Bill Wire (CA). A motion was made that the membership elect 6 regional directors and 3 at-large directors. The motion was seconded and passed.

Registrar: registration process, payments, service: Eddie Martin explained that there are incomplete lineage records in a number of St. Croix registrations. It was also mentioned that the registry is able, for a fee, to send out dues statements to members. Richard Pomeroy

volunteered to contact the registrar's office to obtain their St. Croix database and discuss how they resolve situations where complete registration history is not available for an animal. He will also find out what other services the registry might provide to our association.

Johnes Disease: Eddie Martin explained that Johnes Disease is found in all breeds of sheep. It is a fatal disease that can remain dormant for years before being expressed when the animal is under stress, usually late gestation. There is no effective vaccination against it nor any effective treatment of it. Buyers might purchase seemingly healthy younger animals that carry the disease, and they could contaminate the entire flock before any sign of the disease was expressed. He said that there have been confirmed Johnes deaths in at least 3 flocks in the eastern U.S. and one in the PNW. A breeder's story about Johnes in her flock was distributed for members to read along with photos of a ewe before and after she contracted the disease. Animated discussion followed the report regarding the position of the association regarding this disease. Because it is found in all breeds of sheep, there was concern that it not be seen as a "St. Croix" problem and adversely impact sales. Some members voiced opposition to federal government involvement in the situation. Others expressed concern that because St. Croix numbers are relatively small, if we lose flocks and satellite flocks to this disease, the breed could be destroyed. There was agreement that the directors should undertake a study of the problem and determine what, if any, position the association should take. The following link gives an overview of Johnes Disease:

HYPERLINK "http://www.in.gov/boah/files/Johnes_Sheep_QA_booklet.pdf" http://www.in.gov/boah/files/Johnes_Sheep_QA_booklet.pdf

Breed Standard: size of color spots and scurs in rams Eddie Martin said he had received questions about why the association only allowed colored spots the size of a quarter and did not allow animals with scurs to be registered. Members at the meeting shared various perspectives, with mention being made that the original St. Croix sheep on the islands had color, horns, and scurs. Since the gene pool carries these characteristics, why not accept them? Others said they feared allowing animals with color to be registered could change the image of the breed. There was discussion of putting a designation for color or scurs on registration. A motion was made and approved that the directors undertake a thorough discussion of this issue.

Location/Time/Host of 2013 Annual Meeting: There were no volunteers from the present members, so Eddie said he would contact a breeder in TX who has expressed interest in hosting the meeting in the past.

Agenda items added from the floor: None

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

Submitted by Kathy Bennett